

Chapter 27

The World War II Era

(Textbook Pages 772-805)

1935-1945



Bombing of Pearl Harbor

Click on the purple title to see a timeline of events preceding WWII



American Troops come ashore in Normandy

1. The Gathering Storm

After Lenin's death in 1924, [Joseph Stalin](#) gained power in the Soviet Union. Stalin ruled as a totalitarian dictator. In a totalitarian state, a single party controls the government and every aspect of people's lives. Stalin took brutal measures to modernize Soviet industry. Farmers were asked to turn over their farms. If the farmers resisted they were executed.



[Joseph Stalin](#)



Viewing History

Soviet Propaganda Poster



The Soviet totalitarian state was built on the glorification of Stalin (left). This poster celebrated the adoption of a new Soviet constitution in 1937.

Evaluating Information

What emotions did this propaganda poster try to stir in the Soviet people?

Fascism in Italy



Totalitarian leaders came to power in Italy and Germany. Unlike Stalin, these dictators were Fascists. Fascism was rooted in militarism, extreme nationalism, and blind loyalty to the state. Communists drew their power from the working class. Fascists drew their allies among business leaders and landowners.

In 1922, [Benito Mussolini](#) and his Fascist party seized power in Italy. Once in power Mussolini outlawed all political parties except his own. He controlled the press and banned critic on the government. Critics were jailed or simply murdered. In schools, children recited the motto “Mussolini Is Always Right!”





AS YOU
READ

Benito Mussolini

Use Prior Knowledge

List five words or ideas that come to mind when you hear the word *dictator*.

In the 1930's Mussolini used military aggression against Ethiopia. Aggression is a warlike act by one country against another without cause. The Ethiopian emperor, Haile Selassie asked the League of Nations for help but the League responded weakly. Ethiopia fell to the invaders.



Haile Selassie

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



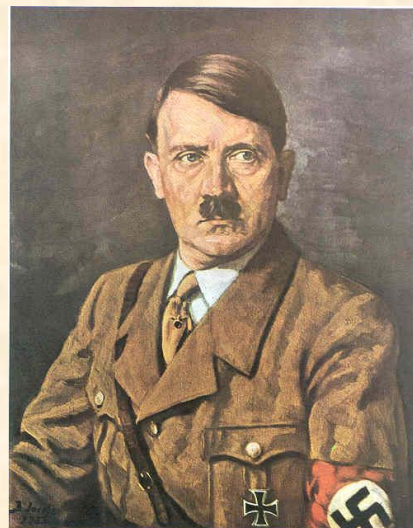
SOCIETE DES NATIONS



In Germany, Adolph Hitler brought the National Socialist German Worker's Party, or Nazis, to power. Hitler blamed the Versailles Treaty for their heavy war costs. He claimed that Jews and other traitors had stabbed Germany in the back. The argument was false but Hitler was eager to find a scapegoat, or person to blame the countries problems on.



The symbol for Nazism



When the German depression hit the people looked to Hitler for the answer to their problems. In 1933 Hitler became the chancellor, or head of the German government. In Nazi Germany, the government controlled the press, the schools, and the religion.



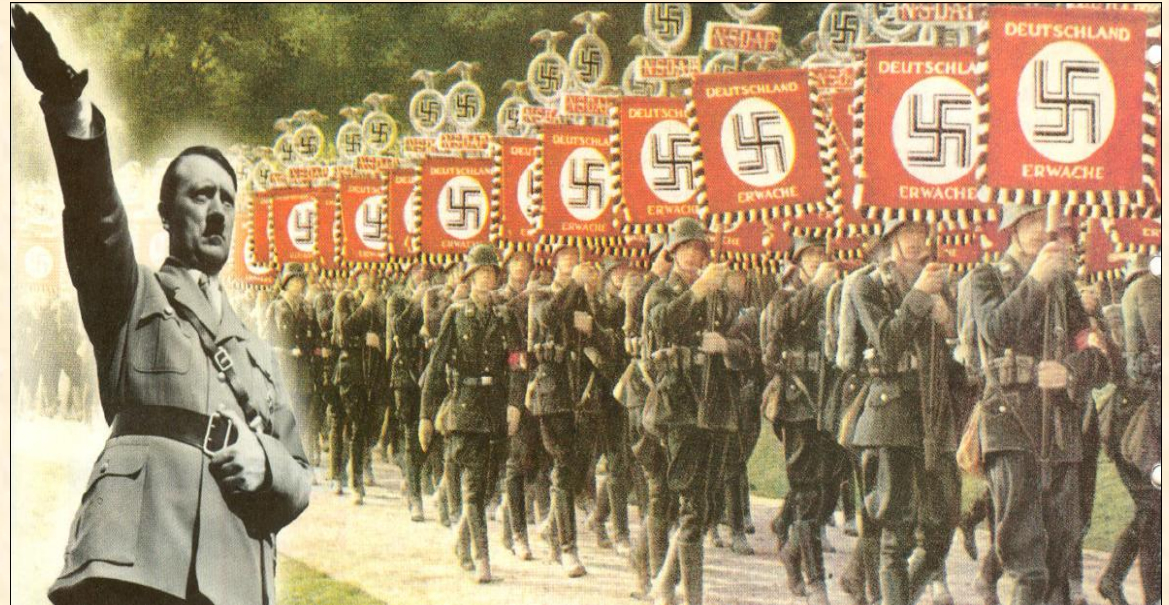
Viewing History

Nazi Germany

Adolf Hitler (left) was

determined to build a mighty military machine. Here, lines of German troops march at the 1934 Nuremberg rally. Their banners display the swastika, symbol of the Nazi party.

Drawing Conclusions *What impact do you think pictures like these had on Germans? On people in neighboring countries?*



Hitler preached that Germans belonged to a race that was biologically superior to Jews, Gypsies, and other peoples. The Nazi government singled out Jews for special persecution. Jews were deprived of their citizenship, forbidden to use public facilities, and driven out of almost every type of work.



Star of David, symbol of Judaism



Auschwitz gas chamber



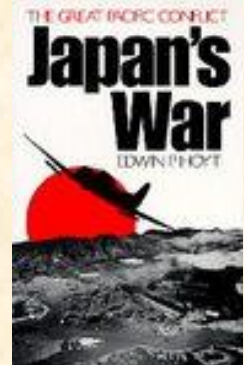
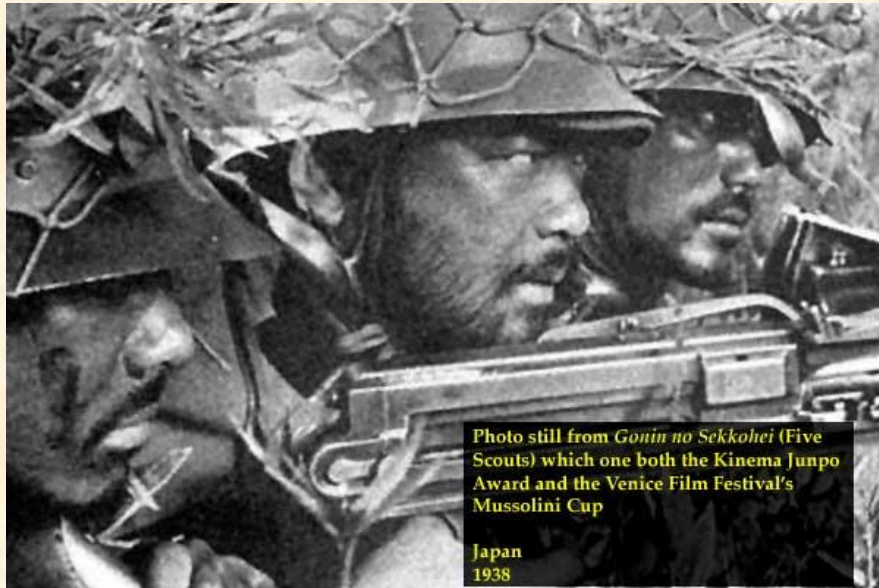
Jews were rounded up and placed in concentration camps, prison camps for civilians who are considered enemies of the state. Hitler would unleash a plan to kill all the Jews in Europe.



Hitler claimed that Germany had the right to expand to the east. in 1936 German troops moved into Rhineland, near the border with France and Belgium. France and Britain protested but took no action.



Japan's economy suffered severely in the Great Depression. Military leaders took power over the country. The Japanese preached racial superiority. They believed the Japanese were purer and superior to all other Asians as well as non-Asians.



In the United States, Congress passed the [Neutrality Acts](#), which banned arms sales or loans to countries at war. Franklin Roosevelt worked hard to build friendlier relations with Latin America. Under the Good Neighbor Policy, FDR withdrew American troops, from [Nicaragua](#) and [Haiti](#), He also cancelled the [Platt Amendment](#), which limited the independence of Cuba.

This Picture was taken just after the signing of the Platt Amendment



2. World War Two Begins

In 1937 Japan began in war against China. Japanese planes bombed China's major cities. Thousand people were killed. The Japanese advance into China alarmed the American leaders. America did not get involved with the war in China and Japan.



Click
on the
picture
to learn
more

Viewing History

Japan Attacks China



The baby shown here miraculously survived the Japanese bombing of a train station in Shanghai, China. This famous photograph was widely circulated in the United States.

Drawing Conclusions *Why do you think this photograph became so well known? What effect do you think it had?*





What does this political cartoon tell you about America's involvement in World War II?

Day in Europe, Hitler continued his plans for European expansion. Hitler annexed Austria. Later that year Hitler claimed the [Sudetenland](#) and Western [Czechoslovakia](#). In 1938, at the Munich Conference Hitler promised that Germany would signal for the territory wanted acquired Sudetenland. The practice of giving in to aggression in or to avoid war is known as [appeasement](#).

Hitler invaded Poland and next and September, 1939. He signed the Nazi Soviet pact with Stalin. The two dictators agreed not to attack each other under the pact. It had a large to blitzkrieg, or lightning war, against Poland. The Polish people quickly surrendered.



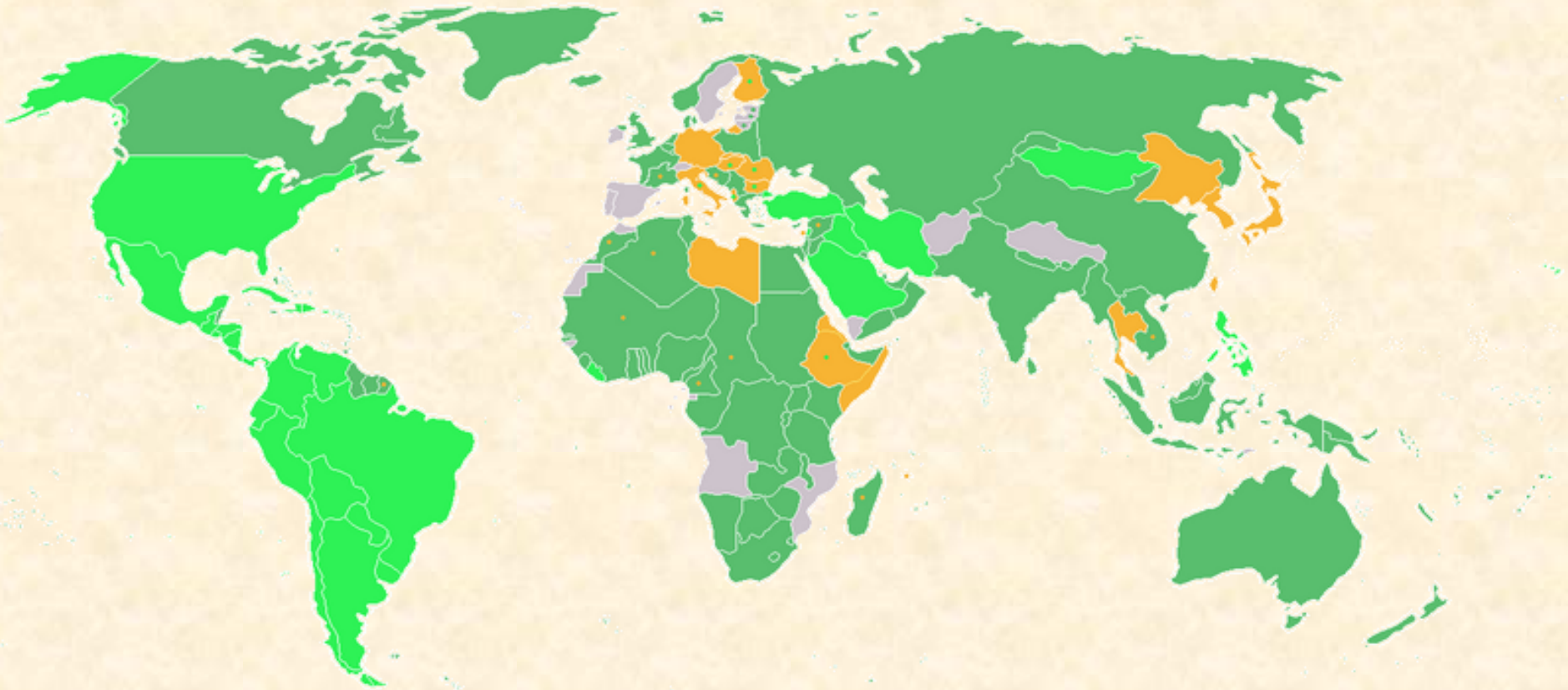
Click on the picture to learn more.

Two days after Hitler's invasion of Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany. The new world war had begun. Japan and six other nations joined Germany to form the Axis powers. Opposing powers were the Allies. The Allies included Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and 45 other countries.

Hitler
invading
Poland



Participants in World War II



- **Dark Green:** Allies before the attack on Pearl Harbor, including colonies.
- **Light Green:** Allied countries that entered the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
- **Orange:** Axis Powers

The Germans invaded France. On June 22, 1940, barely six weeks later, France surrendered in Paris. The fall of France shocked the world.



Hitler in Paris after the surrender

German planes then dropped bombs in London and other British Cities during the Battle of Britain. By late in 1940, after months of bombing, Hitler gave up his planned invasion of Britain.

**A
bombing
of London
in 1940**



President Roosevelt sought ways to help the Allies. America still remained neutral in the war. Americans sold arms to the allies to help support them. The United States took steps to prepare for the war. Congress approved greater spending for the army and navy.

**President
Roosevelt**



POLITICAL CARTOON

Skills

The Nazi Threat

Dr. Seuss is best known for his children's books, but he also drew many political cartoons. This one appeared in an American newspaper in 1941.

1. Comprehension

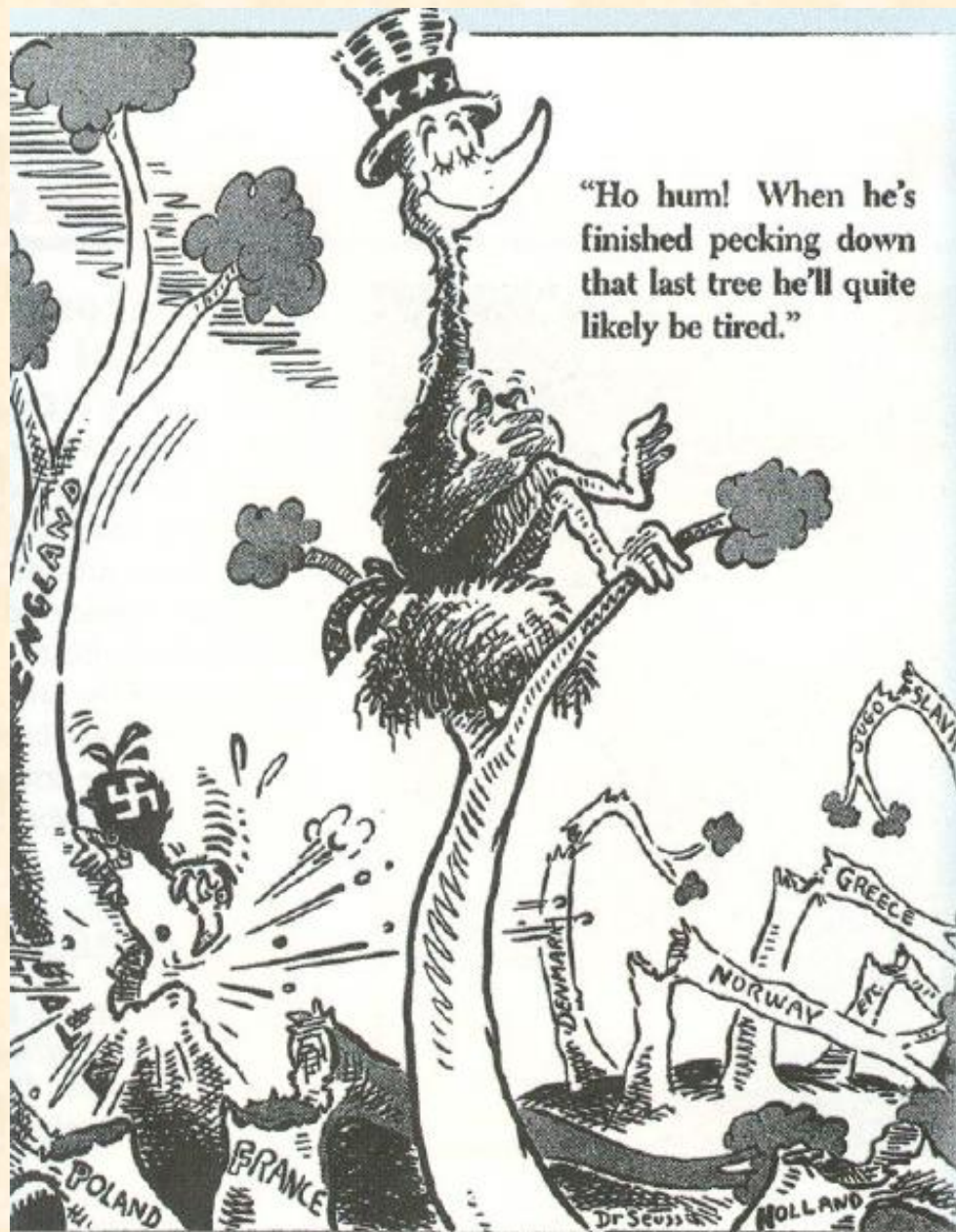
(a) What do the two birds represent? (b) What do the trees represent?

2. Understanding Main Ideas

What is the attitude of the large bird toward the events going on around him?

3. Critical Thinking

Identifying Points of View Do you think Dr. Seuss favored American neutrality in World War II? Explain.



"Ho hum! When he's finished pecking down that last tree he'll quite likely be tired."

FDR ran for a third term as president as was elected. This broke George Washington's precedent of a President only serving two terms. Congress Passed the [Land Lending Lease Act](#) in order to provide more money for Britain's fight against Hitler and the Nazi's.



FDR signing the [Land Lending Lease Act](#)



A battle
near
Moscow,
1941



In 1941 [Hitler launched a surprise attack on the Soviet Union.](#) The Soviets now joined the Allied side in fighting, although Roosevelt condemned Stalin. In August of 1941, Roosevelt and Churchill signed the to Atlantic Charter which set goals for the post war world. Both leaders pledged not to seek any territory from the war.

To Roosevelt, Japanese aggressions in Asia where is alarming as Germany's advances in Europe. The United States tried to stop Japanese aggression by refusing to sell oil and scrap metal to Japan. This embargo the angered in the Japanese people .



Japanese aggression



Japanese soldier



[The attack on Pearl Harbor](#)

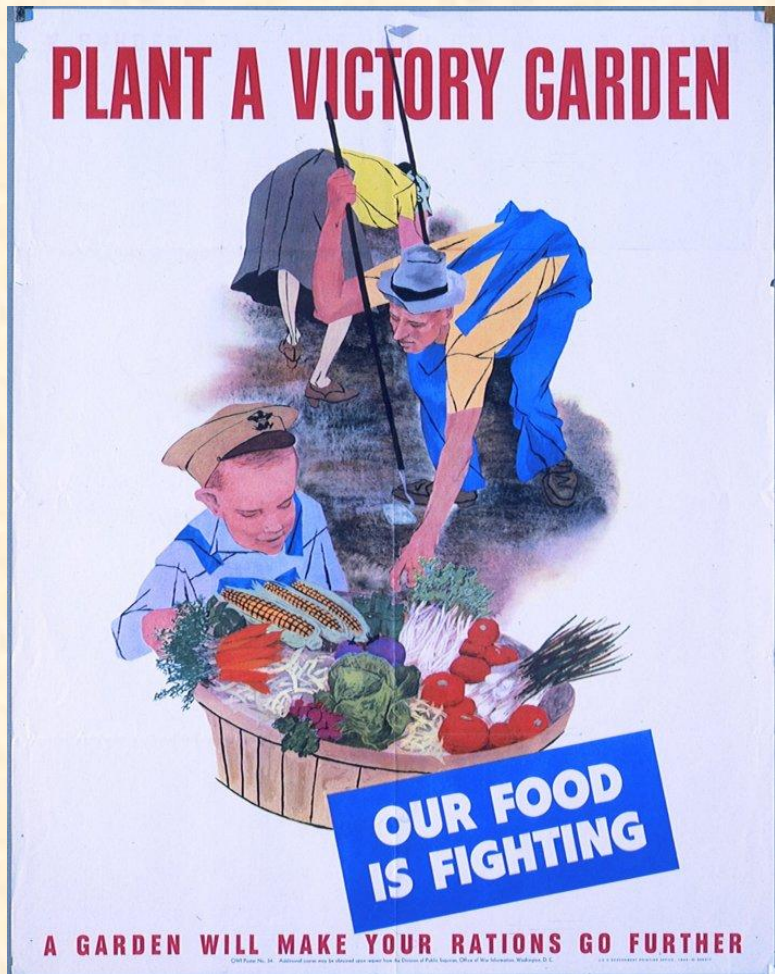
On Sunday morning, on December 7 , 1941, the American Pacific fleet was peacefully anchored and [Pearl Harbor](#), Hawaii. Suddenly, Japanese planes swept through the sky. In less than two hours, they say sank or seriously damaged nineteen American ships, destroyed almost 200 planes, and killed about 2,400 people. Congress then declared war on Japan.

3. Americans in Wartime

In 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor Americans were sent for combat training. Army, navy and air bases were set up. Recruits were trained to fight in the jungles of the Pacific.



**Training during
World War II**



The War Production Board helped factories shift from making consumer goods to making guns, ships, aircraft, and other war materials. As production to war goods, consumer goods became scarcer. The government imposed rationing, or limitations on the amount of certain goods that people could buy. Americans planted victory gardens to produce vegetables to feed the troops.

victory gardens



Women responded to the war effort by replacing men in their regular jobs at home. Women kept the factories running. Some welded and ran huge cranes. Others became bus drivers and gas station attendants.

Rosie the Riveter became the symbol for American women.



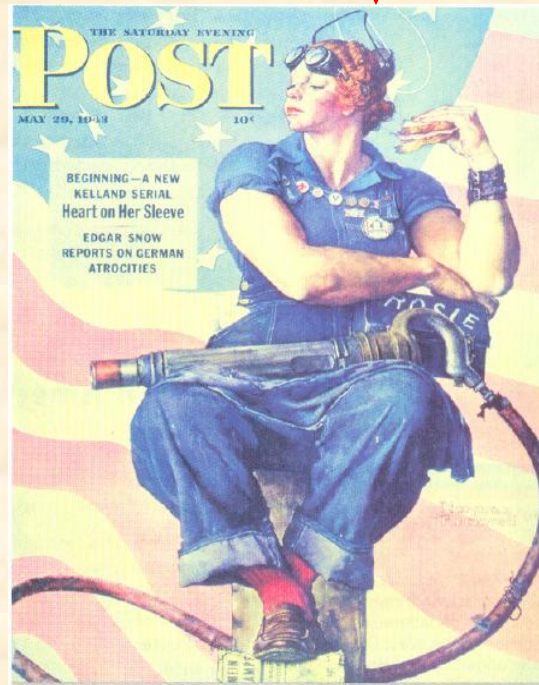
What does this poster of Rosie the Riveter say?

Viewing History

Rosie the Riveter

Rosie the Riveter became one of the most familiar images of World War II. In this magazine cover by popular artist Norman Rockwell, Rosie treads on a book written by Adolf Hitler.

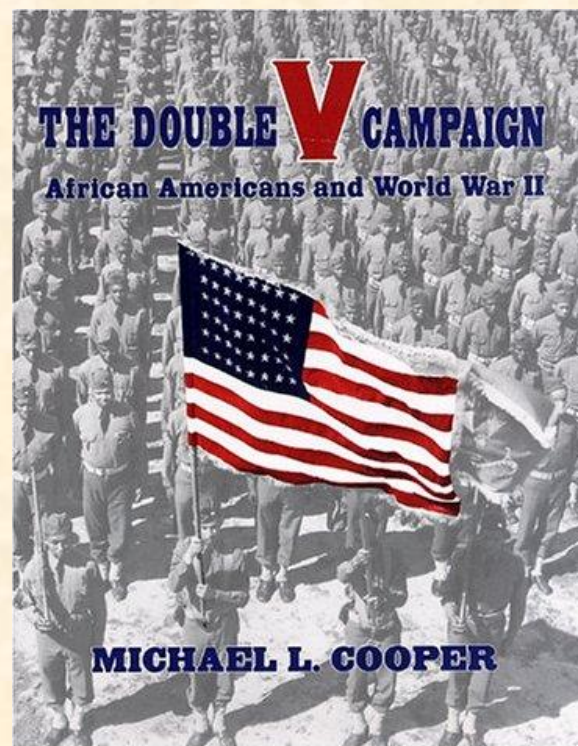
Applying Information How does this image reflect what you have read about women's contributions to the war effort?



Many women joined the military to support the troops. Women were not allowed to fight in the front lines.



Many African Americans decided to persevere a **“Double V” Campaign**, or victory over the enemy abroad and victory over discrimination at home. As industry geared up “Help Wanted:” signs were replaced with help Wanted, White” signs. As a result, the unemployment of black workers doubled during the war. As unemployment increased, so did racial tensions.





Nearly a million served in World War II. They had to serve in all-black units commanded by white officers. President Roosevelt spoke outwardly against the segregation of America's military. [Dorie Miller](#), an African American sailor served on the battleship West Virginia. During the attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller dragged his wounded comrades to safety. Miller was awarded the Navy Cross.



An American Profile



Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
b. 1912

Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., had a history-making career. During World War II, he organized and took command of the Tuskegee Army Airfield. Davis flew 60 combat missions but rarely took credit for any victory. "The mission was always the dominating factor," he said. "It was a life and death operation, and it was important to our nation."

After the war, Davis helped end segregation in the Air Force. He flew combat again in the Korean War, and in 1959 he became the first African American to be awarded the rank of Major General.

What attitude did Davis have toward duty?

In the army, African American soldiers formed artillery and tank units. The Tuskegee Airmen were African American fighter pilots who destroyed more than 400 enemy aircraft.



Pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group, Tuskegee Airmen the elite, all-African American 332nd Fighter Group

After the attack on Pearl Harbor many Japanese Americans were moved to relocation camps, suspected of being spies.

Viewing History

Relocation of Japanese Americans



Here, American troops oversee the movement of Japanese American families on the West Coast to relocation camps. "Herd 'em up, pack 'em off" was the reaction of one newspaper columnist.

Identifying Points of View

How do you think the families shown in this picture felt about what was happening?



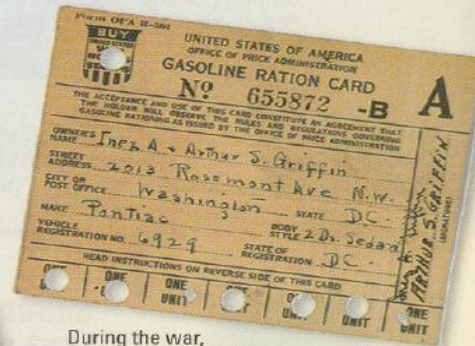
A **WARTIME** Economy

With the outbreak of World War II, the nation geared its economy to one goal: victory. The home front was alive with patriotic enthusiasm. Everyone, young and old, was expected to do his or her part.



ACTIVITY

You are a young person during World War II. Working in a small group, make a list of things that you and your friends could do at home and in the community to help win the war.



During the war, the government rationed essential items such as sugar, gasoline, coffee, meat, and even ketchup. Citizens were given ration books to keep track of the “points” allotted to each family.

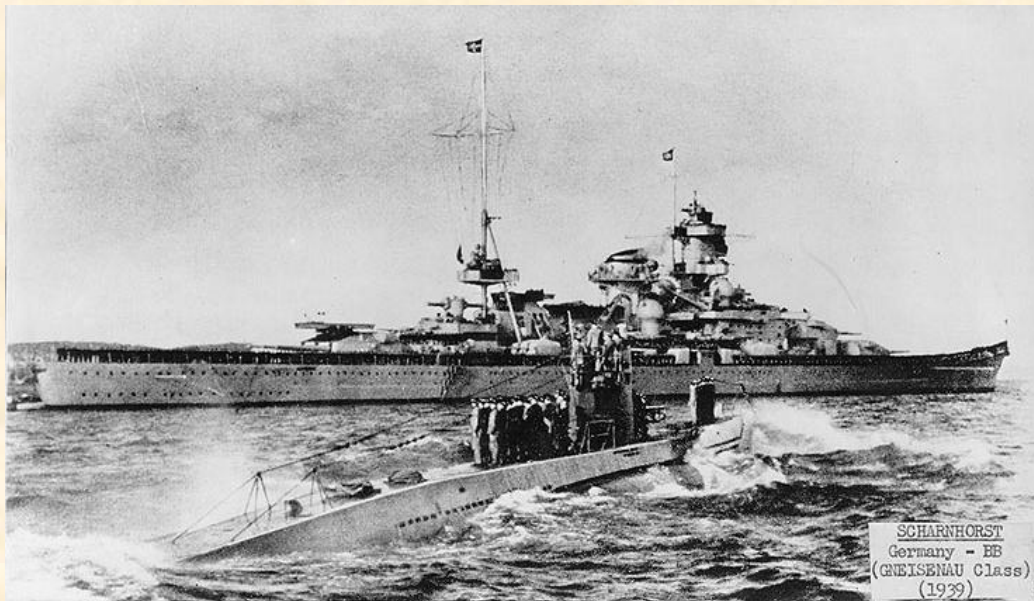
SAVE ...	CAN BE MADE INTO ...
30,000 razor blades	50 machine guns (.30 caliber)
30 lipstick tubes	20 ammunition cartridges
2,300 pairs of nylons	1 parachute
1 pound of fat	$\frac{1}{3}$ pound of gunpowder
2,500 tons of tin and 190,000 tons of steel	5,000 tanks

Source: The National D-Day Museum

Children went to the streets to collect scrap metal, paper, rubber—anything that could be recycled to help win the war. At left, members of New York’s Tin Can Club Number One wash their day’s haul. The chart (above) shows how some everyday products were turned into needed war materials.

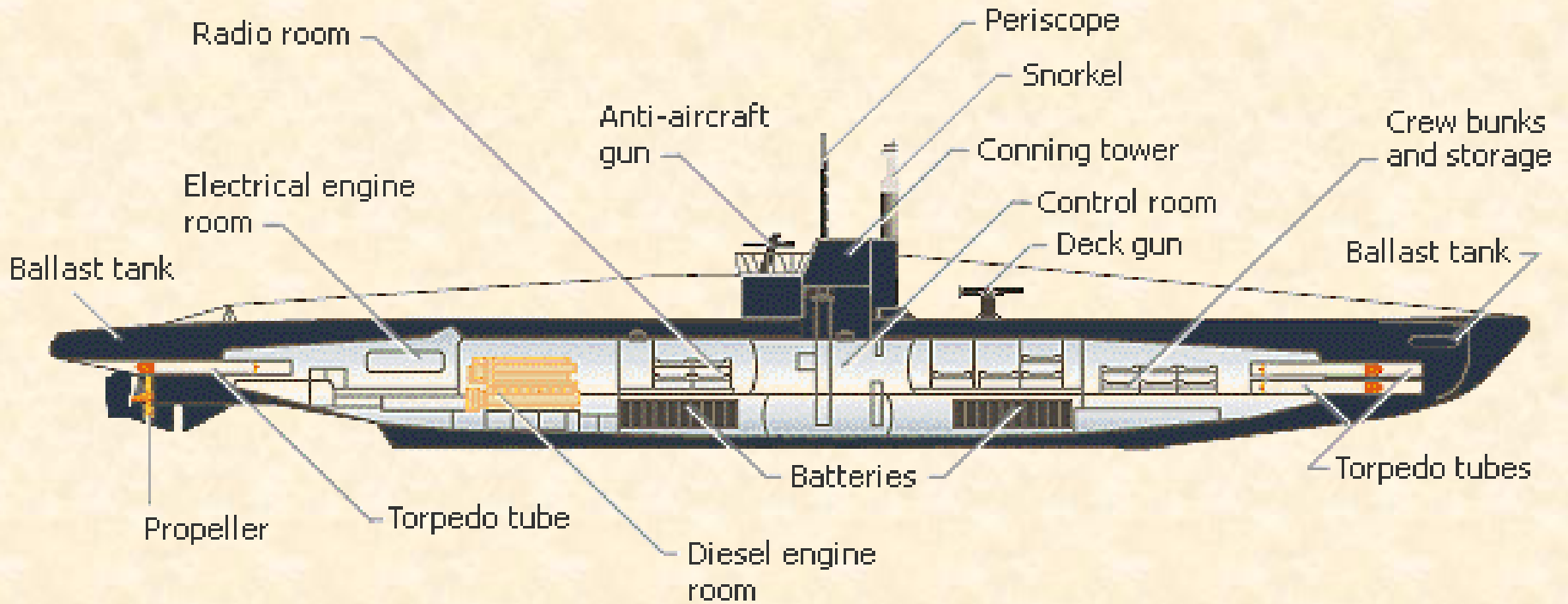
4. Allies Turn the Tide

In early 1942, the situation looked bleak for the Allies. The German war machine seemed unbeatable. German submarines were sinking allied ships quicker than they could rebuild them. See the next slide for a diagram of a U-Boat or German submarine. More than one million Russian men, women, and children died in the 900 day siege at Leningrad.



German U-boat or
submarine

U-Boat





[General Douglas MacArthur](#)

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese seized Wake Island, Hong Kong and Singapore. [General Douglas MacArthur](#) commanded the U.S. forces in the Pacific. MacArthur was unsuccessful and had to retreat at [Bataan](#). Meanwhile the Japanese presses on and captured [Malaya](#), [Burma](#), and the Dutch West Indies. Soon the U.S. Navy met the Japanese in the [Coral Sea](#), near Java in May 1942. After a three day battle the Japanese turned back.

World War II in Europe and Africa

way of the Spanish-French border?

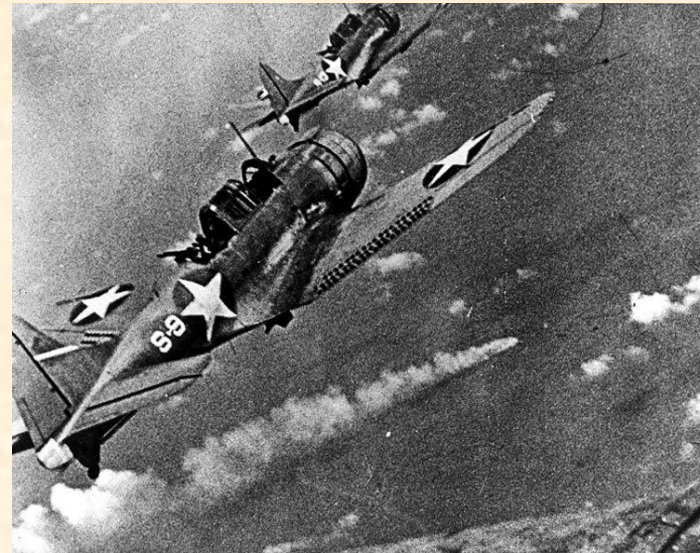


GEOGRAPHY Skills

Early in the war, the Axis powers gained control of much of Western Europe and North Africa. The tide later began to turn in favor of the Allies.

- Location** On the map, locate (a) El Alamein, (b) Stalingrad, (c) Sicily, (d) Normandy, (e) Berlin.
- Movement** In what year did Allied troops first enter Italy? Germany?
- Critical Thinking Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the Allies did not attack France by way of the Spanish-French border?

One month Later the United States won the [Battle of Midway](#). In this battle American planes sank four Japanese aircraft carriers. Allied forces began to push back the Germans in North Africa. American troops under the command of [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#), [Omar Bradley](#), and [George Patton](#) forced many surrenders and victories in Northern Africa for the United States.



American planes at the [Battle of Midway](#)



[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)



[Omar Bradley](#)



[George Patton](#)

In Italy, Mussolini was overthrown. The Germans took over the capital city of Rome. Allied troops marched into Italy and in June 4, 1944 they freed Rome from Nazi control.



American troops in Italy in 1944

Winston Churchill and Roosevelt urged the United States and Britain to send armies into France to free the country from German control. Soon Operation Overload, or the invasion of Europe had begun. General Eisenhower was appointed the commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Soon on June 6, 1944, D-Day as it was known 4,000 allied forces invaded France.



Winston Churchill the
Prime Minister of Britain



D-Day

The Allies Advance



1 Battle of Midway, 1942

United States Navy sinks four Japanese aircraft carriers and destroys hundreds of airplanes. Major Japanese offensive is turned back.



2 Battle of Stalingrad, 1942–1943

Germans try to take Stalingrad. Russian troops and freezing weather force their surrender.



3 Battle of El Alamein, 1942

British drive back German advances. This leads to German surrender of African lands.



5 Invasion of Normandy (D-Day), 1944

Allied troops land on beaches of Normandy. They go on to free France from German control.



4 Invasion of Italy, 1943

British and American forces land in Sicily and go on into Italy. Hitler is forced to send troops to help Italy fight the Allies.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Skills

Several key victories helped the Allies turn the tide against the Axis powers.

- 1. Comprehension** Which of the military actions described above was a turning point in the Pacific war?
- 2. Critical Thinking Sequencing** Describe how one of the victories was a necessary first step to another.

On August 24, 1944 the Allied forces freed Paris from German control. At the [Battle of the Bulge](#), [Audie Murphy](#) helped to single handedly hold off the German troops.



American soldiers taking up defensive positions in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge.



[Audie Murphy](#)

In April 1945 FDR complained of a headache when his portrait was being painted. Hours later he died. [Harry Truman](#), then became the new President of the United States.



FDR's funeral procession leaves Union Station, Washington, D.C.
April 14, 1945



[Harry Truman](#)



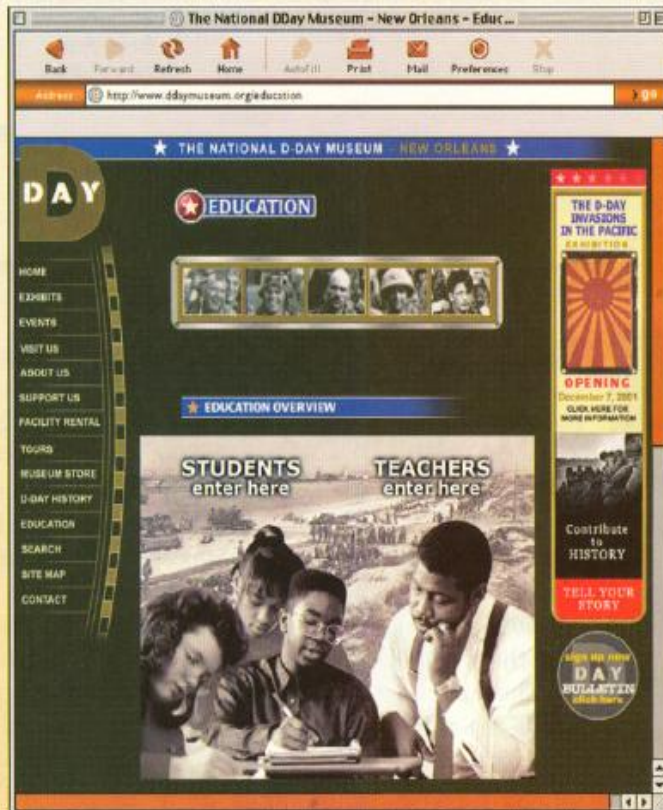
Churchill waves to crowds in Whitehall on the day he broadcast to the nation that the war with Germany had been won, May 8, 1945.

By April of 1945 Germany was collapsing for the attacks from the Allied forces. Hitler hid in an underground bunker. Unwilling to accept defeat Hitler committed suicide. On May 8th the Allies V-E Day or Victory in Europe.



Evaluating the Validity of Internet Sources

Today, there are dozens of Internet sites devoted to World War II, as well as to other historical topics. As a student of history, it is important to evaluate the different Web sites to determine how valid the information is. The page below is from a Web site devoted to the D-Day invasion of France.



Source: The National D-Day Museum, 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA

Learn the Skill To learn how to evaluate Internet sources, use the following steps:

1. **Determine the Web site's purpose.** Does the Web site provide information? Is it trying to sell something or to promote a particular point of view?
2. **Examine the information.** Does the site include visuals? Does it include firsthand accounts and other primary source materials?
3. **Compare the information to what you already know.** Does the information agree with what you have read in a textbook or other reliable print source? What other information is provided?
4. **Evaluate the source.** Is the source an established organization? Can you tell who provided the information?

Practice the Skill Use the information given above to answer the following questions:

1. What seems to be the purpose of this Web site?
2. (a) What kinds of information can you access from this page? (b) What other features and links does it include?
3. What additional information does this Web site provide to the facts given in your textbook?
4. (a) Who is the provider for this site? (b) If you were writing a paper about D-Day, do you think you could use the information provided on this Web site? Why or why not?

Apply the Skill See the Chapter Review and Assessment.

(297)
15/11-jwa

HEADQUARTERS,
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET,
CAMP ELLIOTT, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

March 6, 1942

From: The Commanding General.
To: The Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.
Subject: Enlistment of Navaho Indians.
Enclosures: (A) Brochure by Mr. Philip Johnston, with maps.
(B) Messages used in demonstration.

1. Mr. Philip Johnston of Los Angeles recently offered his services to this force to demonstrate the use of Indians for the transmission of messages by telephone and voice-radio. His offer was accepted and the demonstration was held for the Commanding General and his staff.

2. The demonstration was interesting and successful. Messages were transmitted and received almost verbatim. In conducting the demonstration messages were written by a member of the staff and handed to the Indian; he would transmit the messages in his tribal dialect and the Indian on the other end would write them down in English. The text of messages as written and received are enclosed. The Indians do not have many military terms in their dialect so it was necessary to give them a few minutes, before the demonstration, to improvise words for dive-bombing, anti-tank gun, etc.

3. Mr. Johnston stated that the Navaho is the only tribe in the United States that has not been infested with German students during the past twenty years. These Germans, studying the various tribal dialects under the guise of art students, anthropologists, etc., have undoubtedly attained a good working knowledge of all tribal dialects except Navaho. For this reason the Navaho is the only tribe available offering complete security for the type of work under consideration. It is noted in Mr. Johnston's article (enclosed) that the Navaho is the largest tribe but the lowest in literacy. He stated, however, that 1,000 — if that many were needed — could be found with the necessary qualifications. It should also be noted that the Navaho tribal dialect is completely unintelligible to all other tribes and all other people, with the possible exception of as many as 28 Americans who have made a study of the dialect. This dialect is thus equivalent to a secret code to the enemy, and admirably suited for rapid, secure communication.

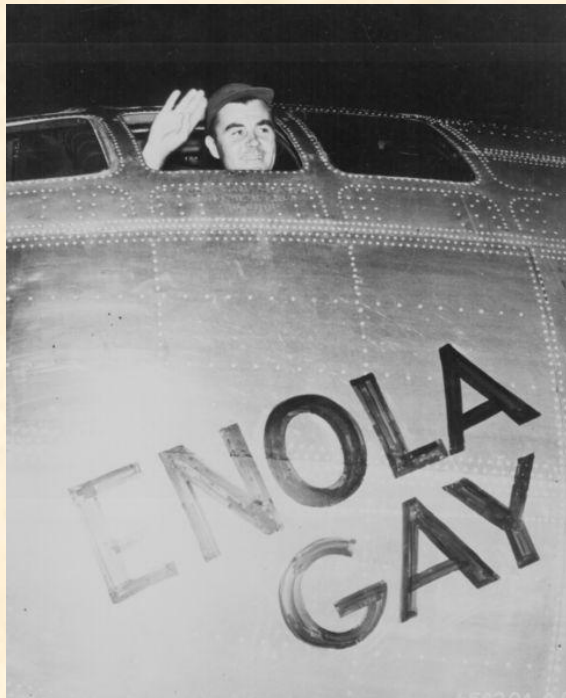
- 1 -

Page one of Navajo
recommendation
letter, 1942.

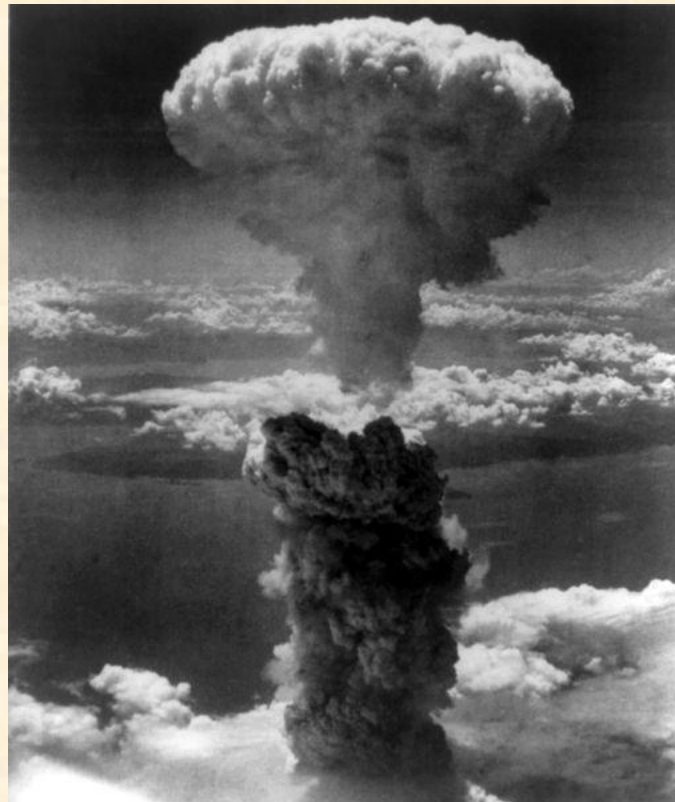
5. End of the War

Even though the Japanese were outnumbered they fought to the bitter end. The United States goal in the Pacific war was to regain the [Philippines](#) and to invade [Japan](#). To gain control of the Pacific Ocean, American forces used a strategy called [island hopping](#). In island hopping the Americans captured one island at a time gradually moving their way to Japan. The Americans shelled an island. Next, troops waded under heavy gunfire. Then in hand-to-hand combat the American soldiers overcame the Japanese. The Navajo soldiers helped the American soldiers. Using their own language they radioed vital messages. The Japanese intercepted the messages. This helped the American soldiers. These people were known as [Navajo code-talkers](#).

On August 6, 1945, the American bomber Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The blast destroyed the city killing at least 70,000 people. On August 9, a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. 40,000 people died from the bombing and atomic. radiation



Colonel Paul Tibbets waving from *Enola Gay's* cockpit before the bombing of Hiroshima.



The mushroom cloud of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, 1945.

Many soldiers felt dishonored to surrender so they crashed loaded planes with bombs into the allied ships. These suicide pilots were called kamikaze pilots.



A kamikaze pilot



USS *Bunker Hill* was hit by Ogawa (see picture left) and another kamikaze near Kyushu on May 11, 1945. Out of a crew of 2,600, 372 personnel were killed.

On August 14, 1945 the emperor of Japan surrendered. V-J Day, or Victory in Japan was celebrated. World War II became the deadliest war in history. Besides the deaths, millions of people were left homeless as a result of the war.



Commemorative paper issued in Bougainville by the RAAF



The famous Life Magazine photograph

GEOGRAPHY Skills

After the Battle of Midway, the United States took the offensive against the Japanese Empire.

- 1. Location** On the map, locate (a) Pearl Harbor, (b) Midway Island, (c) Philippine Islands, (d) Iwo Jima, (e) Okinawa, (f) Hiroshima.
- 2. Movement** Which battle did the United States have to win before moving against Iwo Jima and Okinawa?
- 3. Critical Thinking**
Drawing Conclusions Based on this map, why do you think aircraft carriers were vital to American strategy in the Pacific?

World War II in the Pacific



The Holocaust In the last months of the European war, Allied forces uncovered other horrors. The Allies had heard about Nazi death camps. As they advanced into Germany and Eastern Europe, they discovered the full extent of the **Holocaust**, the slaughter of Europe's Jews by the Nazis. During the war, the Nazis imprisoned Jews from Germany and the nations they conquered. More than 6 million Jews were tortured and murdered.

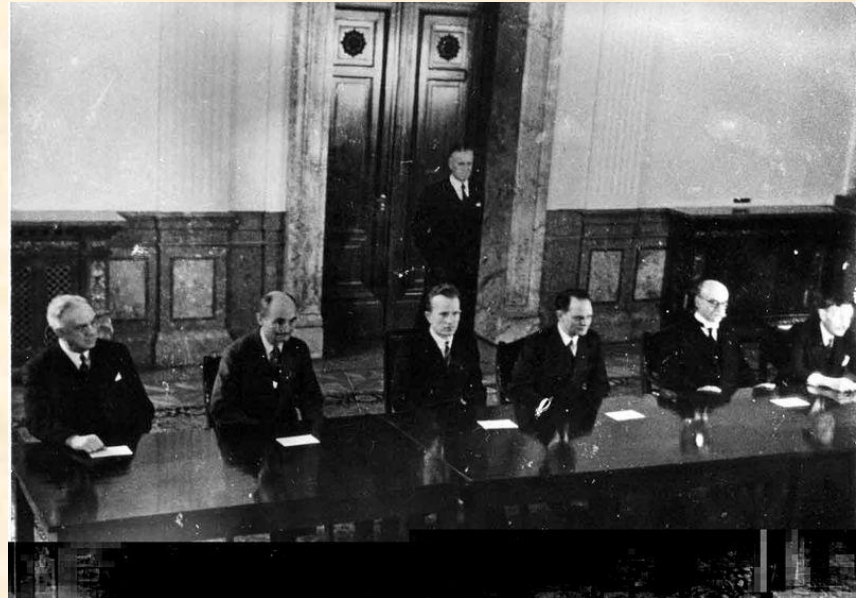
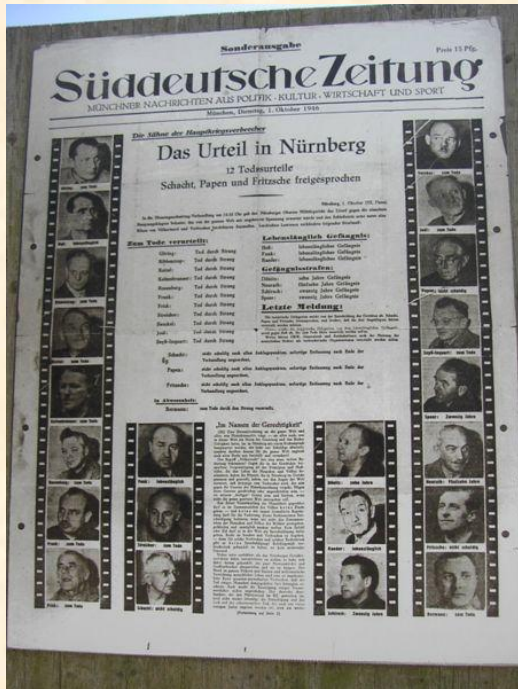
When Allied troops reached the death camps, they saw the gas chambers the Nazis had used to murder hundreds of thousands. The battle-hardened veterans wept at the sight of the dead and dying. After touring one death camp, General Omar Bradley wrote:

“ The smell of death overwhelmed us even before we passed through. . . . More than 3,200 naked, emaciated bodies had been flung into shallow graves. ”

—Omar N. Bradley, *A General's Life*



War Crimes Trials As the full truth of the Holocaust was revealed, the Allies decided to put Nazi leaders on trial. In 1945 and 1946, they conducted war crimes trials in Nuremberg, Germany. As a result of the **Nuremberg Trials**, 12 Nazi leaders were sentenced to death. Thousands of other Nazis were imprisoned. The Allies also tried and executed Japanese leaders accused of war crimes.



The Nuremberg Judges

The End