

# America in World War II

The US gradually abandoned neutrality as events in Europe and Asia pulled the nations toward war.



# Totalitarian Governments

## A. Italy and Benito Mussolini

1. Formed fascist party, dictatorship
2. Fascism is a military dominated government
3. Invades Ethiopia (Africa) 1935

## B. Germany and Adolf Hitler

1. Formed Nazi Party (National Socialist German Workers' Party)
  - a. Blamed intellectuals, Jews, communists for nations problems
  - b. Led to antisemitism (hatred of Jews)
2. Began invasions in 1936 of France, Austria, and Czechoslovakia

# Germany Invades the Rhineland (western part of defeated Germany that was occupied by the French) March 7, 1936



Rhineland (demilitarised zone)	
Austria	
Sudetenland	
German territory	

# Rome-Berlin *Axis*, 1936



The "Pact of Steel"

# The "Problem" of the Sudetenland



# Appeasement: The Munich Agreement, 1938



British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain

*Now we have "peace in our time!" Herr Hitler is a man we can do business with.*

**Czechoslovakia Becomes Part of the Third Reich:  
1939** (Czechoslovakia and Poland were new countries after  
WWI and Hitler felt as if that land belonged to Germany)



# France Surrenders June, 1940

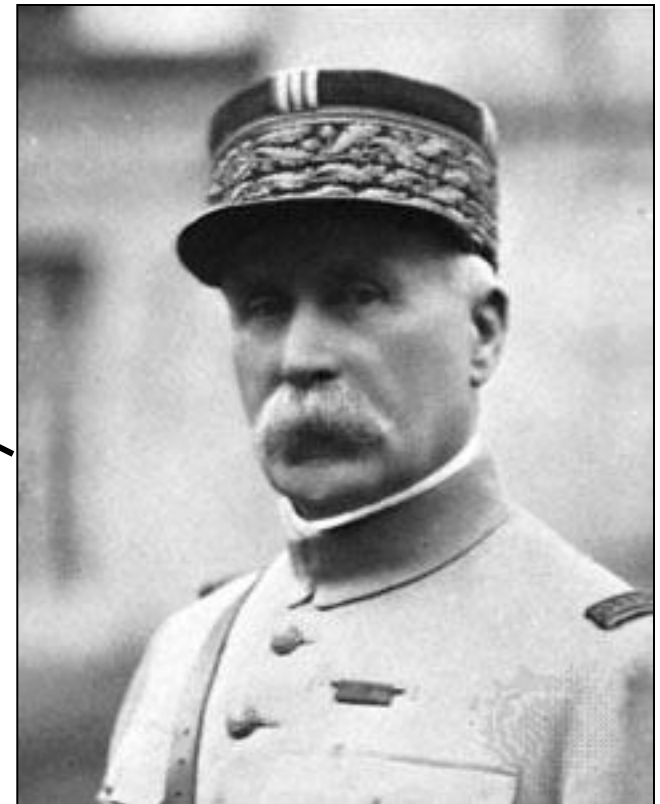




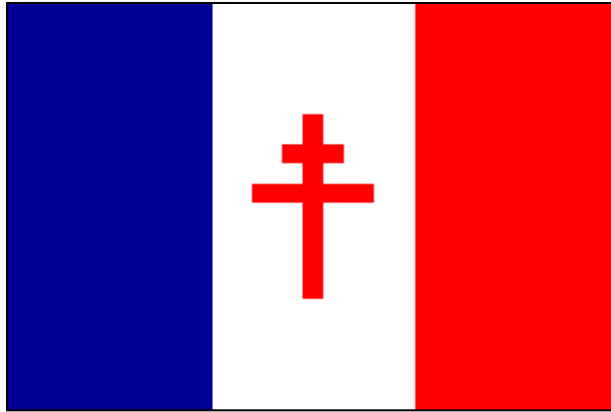
**A Divided France—southern France is allowed a sense of independence as a puppet state.**



**Henri Petain**



# The French Resistance continues within northern France



The Free French



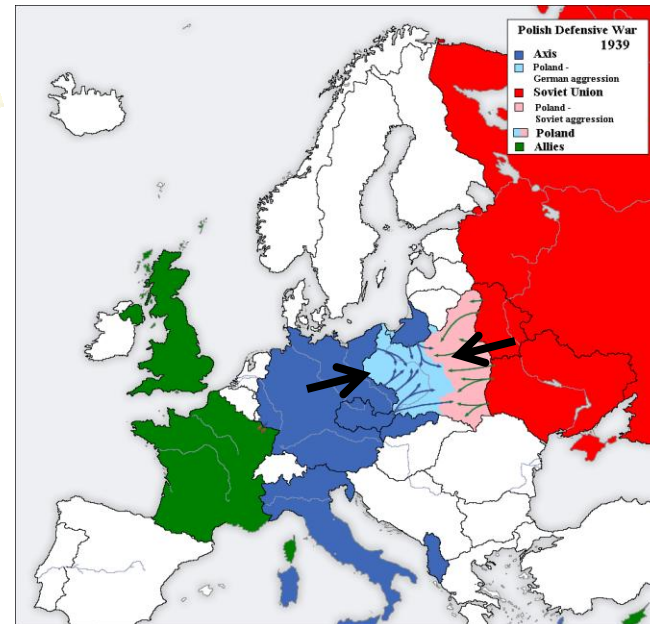
The Maquis



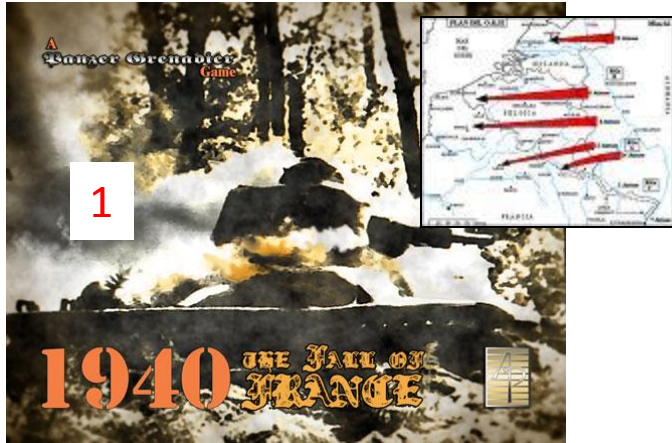
General Charles DeGaulle

# The War in Europe

WWII **began** in Europe **when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939**, followed by the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland and the Baltic countries from the eastern side.



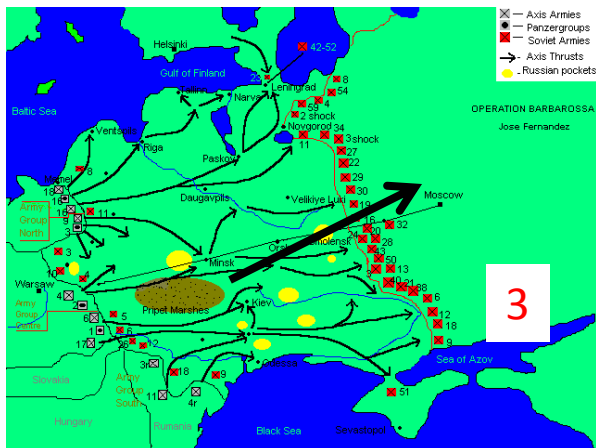
# The War in Europe



#1 Germany **overran France** and most of Europe. By June of 1940, only Britain remained free.



#2 Germans pounded England from the **air** in the **Battle of Britain**. Thanks to the Royal Air Force (RAF), Britain remained free.



#3 In mid-1941, **Hitler invaded** its former ally, the **Soviet Union**.

# Now Britain Is All Alone!



# US Response to Hitler's Aggression

Despite **strong isolationist** feeling, the US increasingly helped Britain.



First, by giving them war supplies and old **naval warships for bases** in Bermuda and the Caribbean. Soon, the **Lend-Lease Act** gave the President the power to sell or **lend equipment for defense**

against the Axis powers. FDR said it is like **“lending a garden hose to a next-door neighbor whose house is on fire.”**



# Rome-Berlin-Tokyo *Axis*, 1940



The Tripartite Pact

# The War in Asia



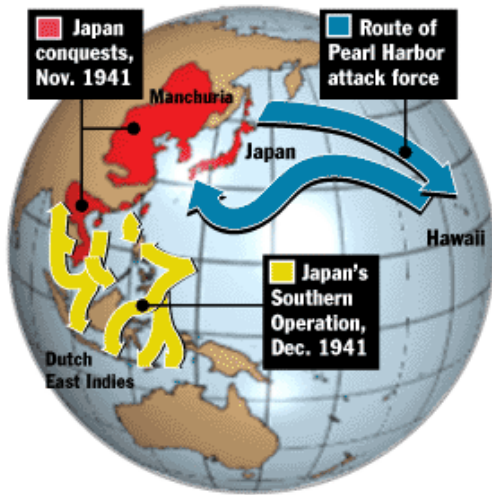
During the 1930s, a **militaristic Japan invaded** and brutalized **China and Manchuria** seeking economic domination of Asia

The **US** refused to recognize Japanese conquests and imposed an **embargo on exports of oil and steel to Japan**. Tensions mounted.





# The War in Asia



While negotiating with the US and **without warning**, Japan carried out an air **attack at Pearl Harbor** Naval Base on **Dec. 7, 1941**. “A date that will live in infamy,” said Roosevelt.

**Germany** honored its pact with Japan and **declared war**—US isolation ends!



# Pearl Harbor - Dec. 7, 1941

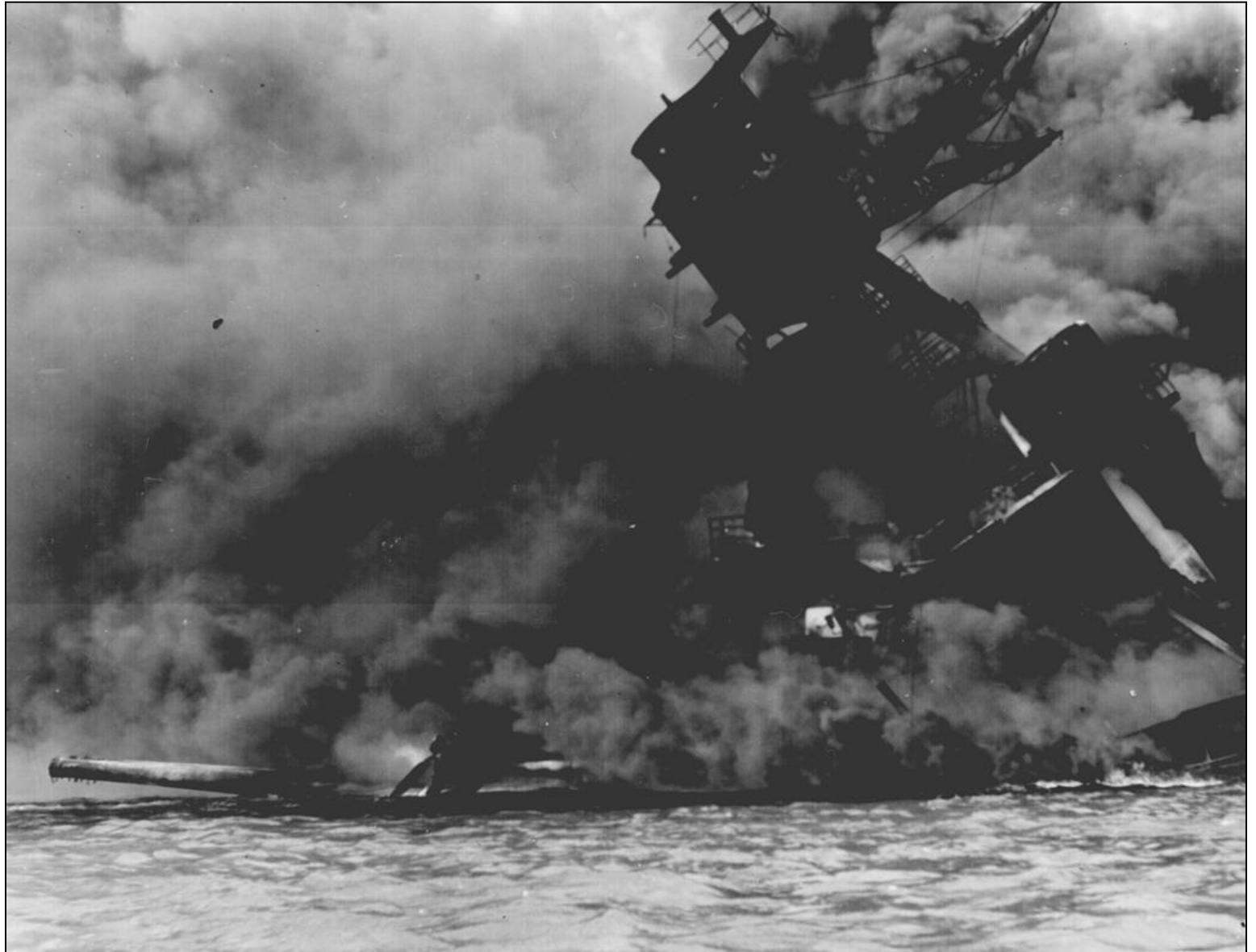


*A date which will live in infamy!--  
FDR*

# President Roosevelt Signs the US Declaration of War against Japan



# USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor



# Pearl Harbor Memorial



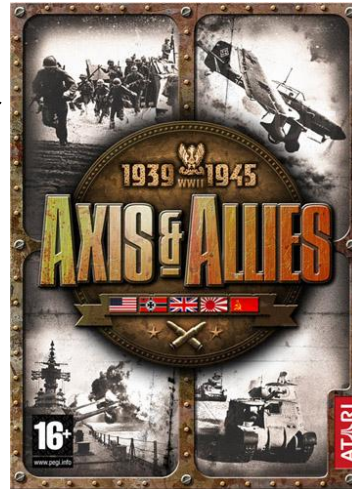
**2,887 Americans Dead!**

# Wartime Strategy

Wartime **strategies reflect** the political and military **goals** of alliances, **resources** on hand and the **geographical extent** of the conflict.

**Axis** = Germany, Italy, & Japan

--**defeat Soviets** fast  
to gain oil fields  
--**force Britain out**  
through bombing and  
submarine warfare **before**  
**America's** industrial and  
military strength **could turn**  
**the tide.**



**Allies** = US, Britain & Soviet Union

--**Defeat Hitler First**  
resources to Europe  
-- In Pacific "**Island Hopping**" to gain  
bases closer and closer to  
Japan and **cut off Japanese**  
**supplies** through submarine  
warfare.

# Allied Counter-Offensive: "Island-Hopping"



# "Island-Hopping": US Troops on Kwajajalien Island





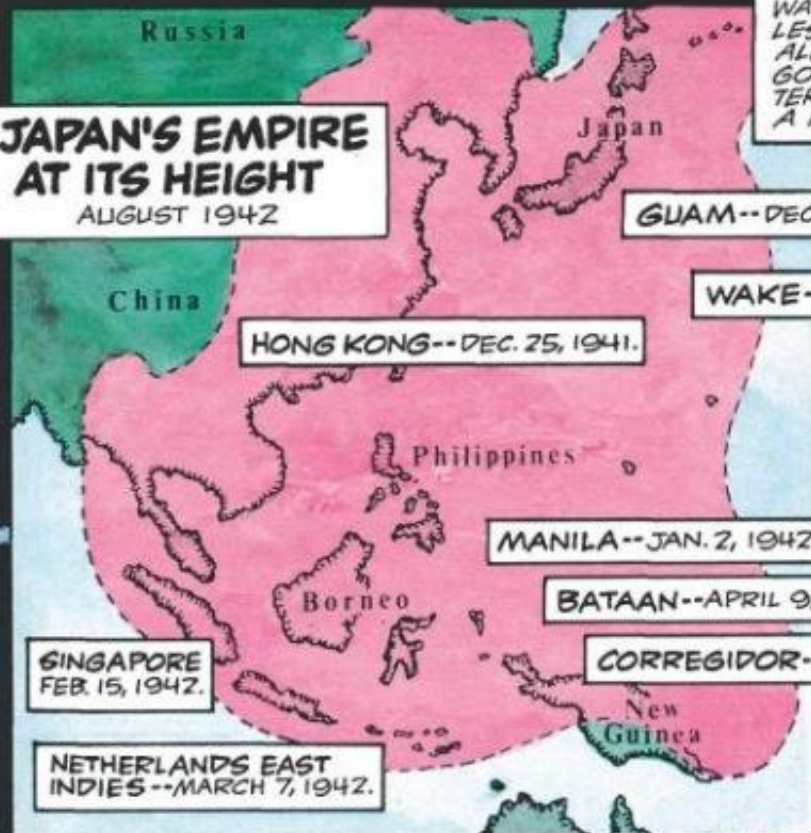
# Wartime Strategy

Following Pearl Harbor, **Japan invaded** the **Philippines** and **Indonesia** and planned to invade Australia and Hawaii. The leaders **hoped** the **US** would **accept Japanese dominance** in SE Asia and the Pacific rather than carry out a costly war to reverse Japanese gains.



## JAPAN'S EMPIRE AT ITS HEIGHT

AUGUST 1942



THAT YEAR OF WAITING (1941-1942) WAS FILLED WITH A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS CHAIN OF DEFEATS FOR THE ALLIES IN THE PACIFIC. JAPAN GOBBLED UP ISLANDS AND TERRITORY LIKE PAC-MAN ON A RAMPAGE.

GUAM--DEC. 10, 1941.

WAKE--DEC. 23, 1941.

HONG KONG--DEC. 25, 1941.

MANILA--JAN. 2, 1942.

BATAAN--APRIL 9, 1942.

SINGAPORE  
FEB. 15, 1942.

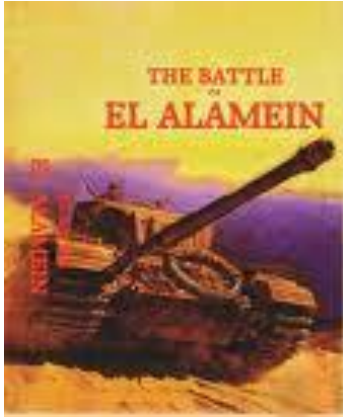
CORREGIDOR--MAY 6, 1942.

NETHERLANDS EAST  
INDIES--MARCH 7, 1942.

HALF OF OUR PACIFIC FLEET HAD BEEN DESTROYED AT PEARL HARBOR, WITH NO STRONG OFFENSIVE FLEET, GIVEN THE OVERWHELMING SUPERIORITY OF THE JAPANESE THE ALLIES COULD ONLY REACT, OR BE CONTENT TO HIT AND RUN AND HIDE.



# Major Battles—North Africa

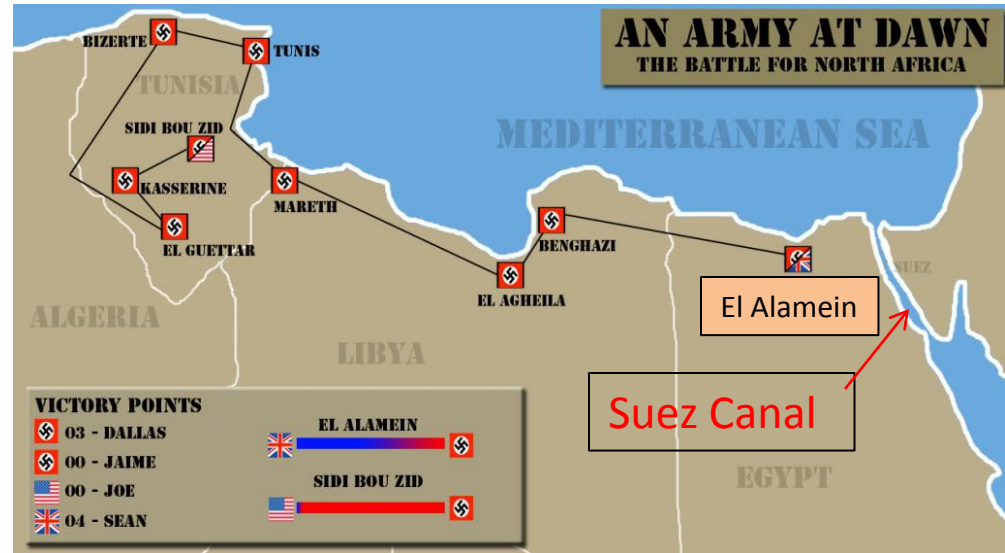


**El Alamein** May 1943

**German forces** threatened to seize Egypt and the Suez Canal were **defeated by the British and US** forces.

This kept Hitler from Middle East oil and attacking the Soviet Union from the South.

The next move was invasion of Sicily in preparation to the invasion of Italy.



# Major Battles—in Europe



Hundreds of thousands of German soldiers were killed or captured in a **months-long siege** of the Soviet city of Stalingrad. This defeat prevented **Germany from seizing Soviet oil fields** and **turned the tide** against Germany on the **eastern front** in Europe.



# Battle of Stalingrad (Operation Barbarossa): Winter of 1942-1943



<b>German Army</b>	<b>Russian Army</b>
1,011,500 men	1,000,500 men
10,290 artillery guns	13,541 artillery guns
675 tanks	894 tanks
1,216 planes	1,115 planes

# Major Battles—in Europe

D-Day Normandy Landing June 6, 1944

American and Allied troops under Eisenhower landed in German-occupied France.

Despite intense German opposition and heavy American casualties, the landings succeeded and the liberation of western Europe had begun. This opened the second front the Soviets had wanted to take some pressure off of them.



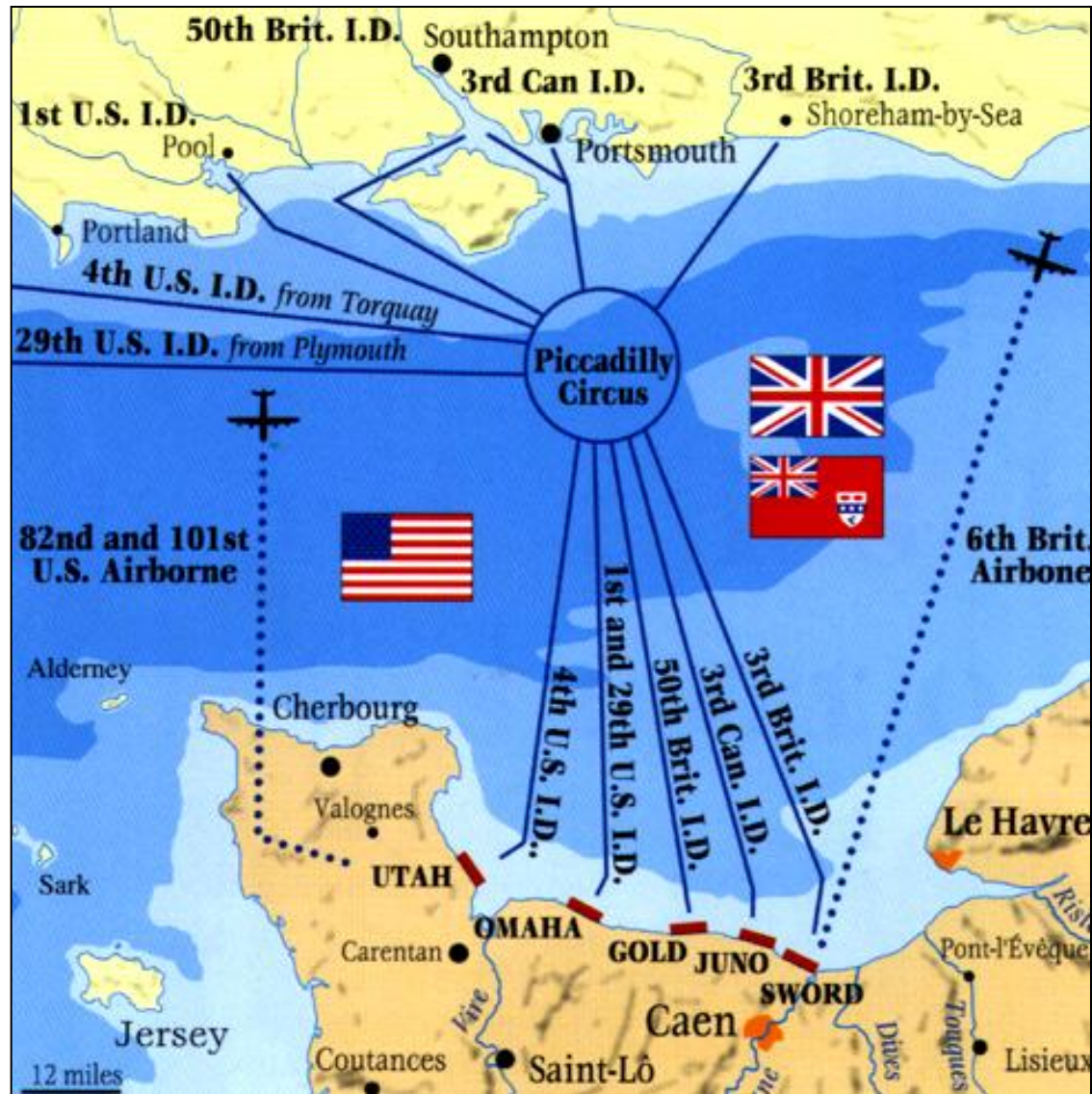
- The greatest amphibious assault in the history of the world.
- More than 4,000 Allied ships landed more than 176,000 troops.
- 10,000 aircraft dropped more than 10,000 tons of explosives.
- We didn't break out of the beachheads until around August.

# Gen. Eisenhower Gives the Orders for D-Day ["Operation Overlord"]





# D-Day (June 6, 1944)



# Normandy Landing (June 6, 1944)



**German Prisoners**



**Higgins Landing Crafts**

# The Liberation of Paris: August 25, 1944

De Gaulle in Triumph!



# U. S. Troops in Paris, 1944



# French Female Collaborators





**Mussolini &  
His Mistress,  
Claretta  
Petacci  
Are Hung  
(after being  
shot and beat)  
in Milan, 1945**

# US & Russian Soldiers Meet at the Elbe River: April 25, 1945



# Hitler Commits Suicide

## April 30, 1945



The Führer's Bunker

Cyanide & Pistols



Mr. & Mrs. Hitler



# V-E Day (May 8, 1945)

**VICTORY  
IN EUROPE**

**London Herald**

**RULE  
BRITANNIA**

No. 31368

WEDNESDAY 9th MAY 1945

1st

## REJOICING CROWDS CELEBRATE VICTORY IN EUROPE

Queen Elizabeth, The Queen, Mr Winston Churchill, The King and Princess Margaret salute the Crowd from the balcony at Buckingham Palace.

### End to German War Declared

Royal Family and Mr Churchill Chanted

The biggest crowds ever seen in London packed the city yesterday for the first anniversary to celebrate our victory over the German forces in Europe.

Across the country and across the world, the intensity and character of our work together as citizens sank in the hearts, be it in our cities, white and black, to mark the triumph of the Allied armies in a time of hope, sunlight and flowers.

Mr Churchill and the King both broadcast messages to the nation and the Prime Minister and the Royal Family were greeted by millions of people in Whitehall and in their respective homes.

**John Bull**  
Churchill began to speak at Whitehall early in the morning and a huge mob gathered the Churchill as he was driven to the end of the Palace to meet with the King. The jubilation which had given a thrill to those in the frontiers of the

### The King's Victory Broadcast

at 10.15 on 8th May

The King's broadcast a message to his people throughout the world, a message of which we are proud to be a part.

**Celebration**  
Late in the evening in the party atmosphere which had been given the young Princess Elizabeth and Mr Winston, the King, Queen and the young Princess Elizabeth were seen to walk down the Whitehall steps to their homes.

### The Prime Minister's Broadcast

at 10.15 on 8th May

Mr Churchill broadcast a message to his people throughout the world, a message of which we are proud to be a part.

There is great rejoicing in Whitehall. The King and Queen, Mr Winston Churchill and the young Princess Elizabeth were seen to walk down the Whitehall steps to their homes.

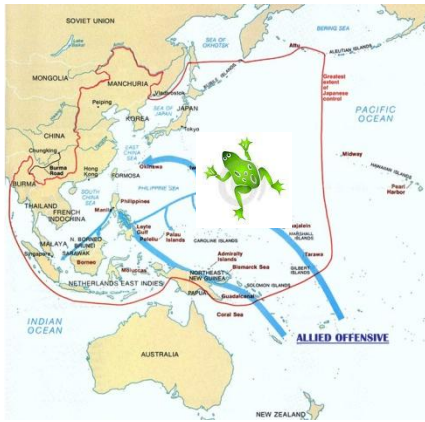
### OTHER NEWS

**AMSTERDAM** - The British Government has announced that it will accept the terms of the German surrender in Europe. The British Government has accepted the terms of the German surrender in Europe.

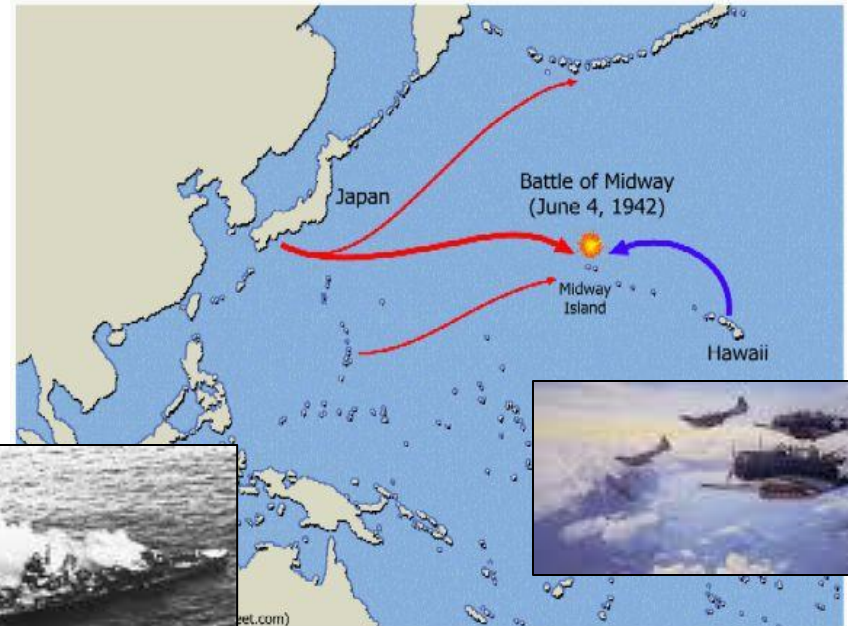
# Major Battles—the Pacific

“Miracle of Midway” June 4-7, 1942

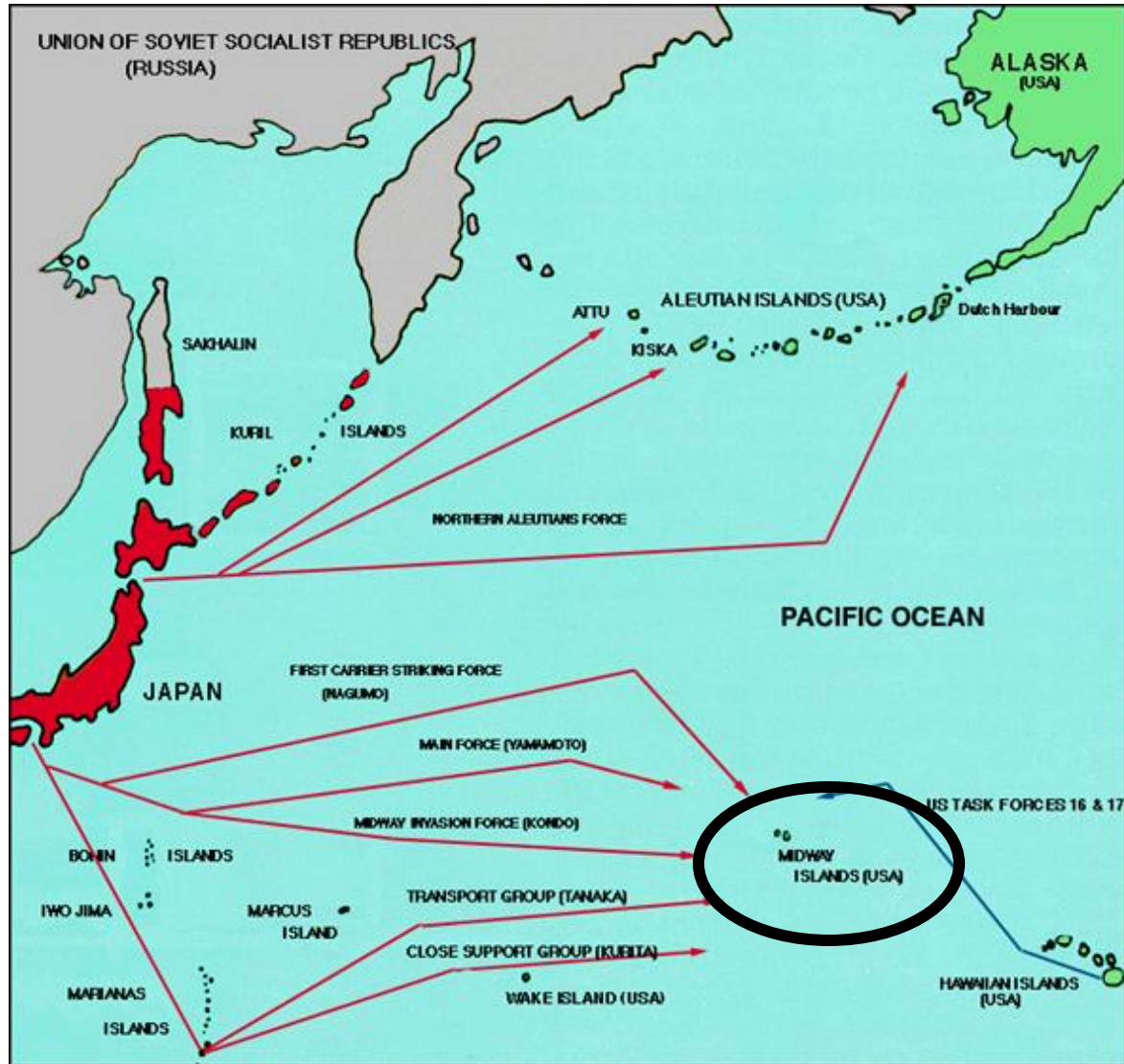
American naval forces defeated a much larger Japanese force. A Japanese victory would have enabled Japan to invade Hawaii and Australia.



Island hopping campaign begins.



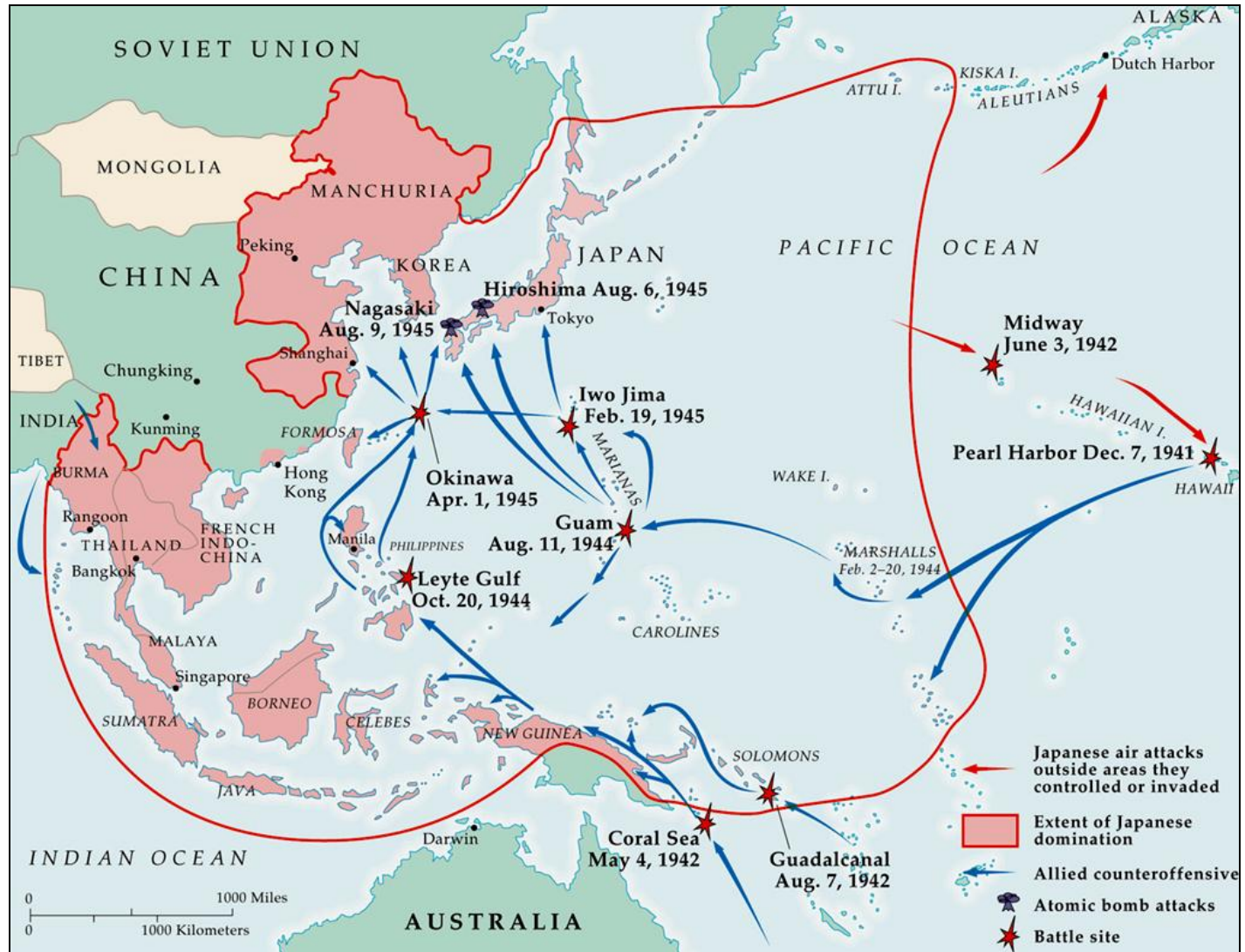
# Battle of Midway Island: June 4-6, 1942



# Battle of Midway Island: June 4-6, 1942



# Allied Counter-Offensive: "Island-Hopping"



# Major Battles—the Pacific



Iwo Jima and Okinawa invasions brought American forces closer than ever to Japan, but both cost thousands of American lives and even more Japanese

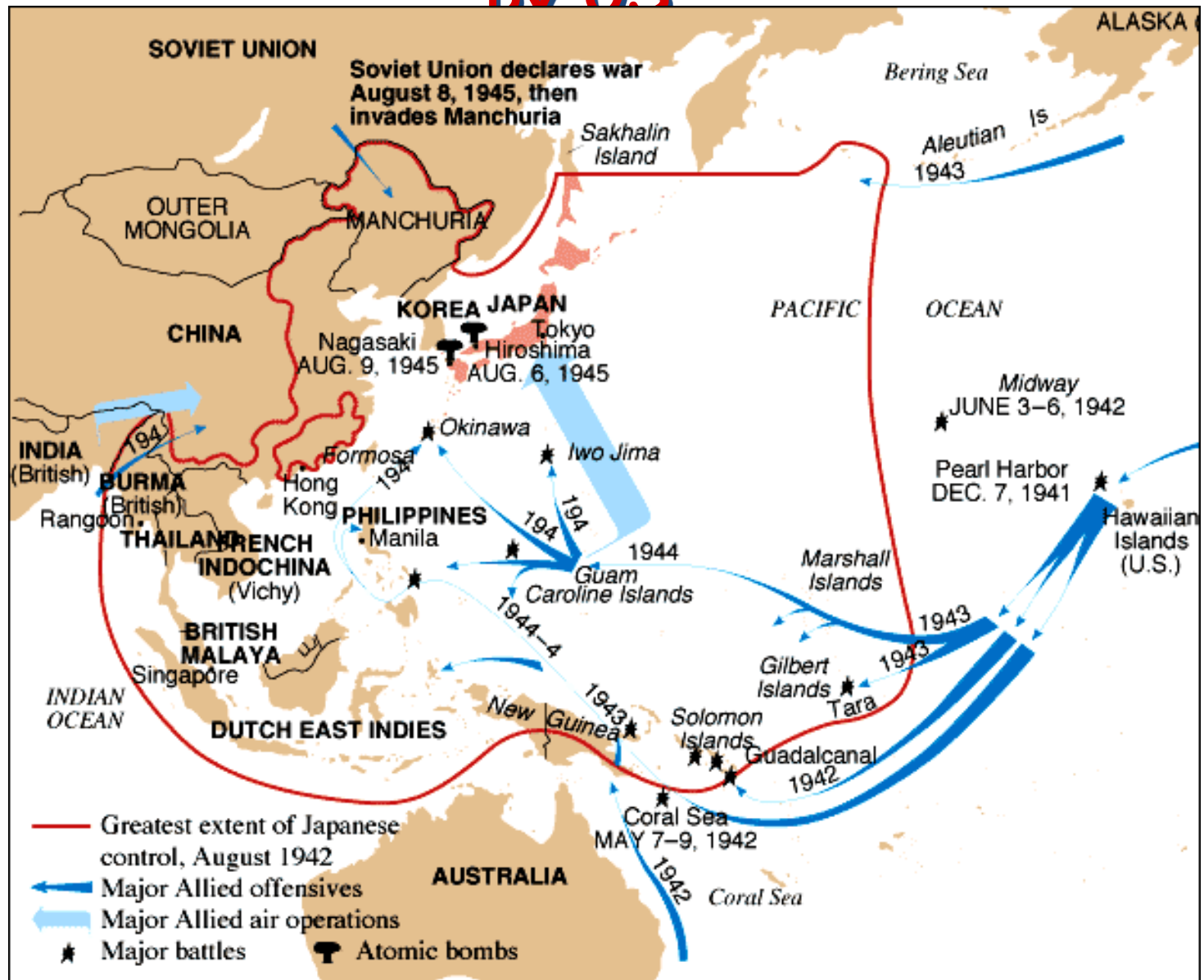


lives. The Japanese fought fiercely over every square inch and civilians and soldiers committed suicide (kamikaze) rather than surrender.

# US Marines on Mt. Surbachi, Iwo Jima [Feb. 19, 1945].



# Pacific Theater of Operations will begin by US





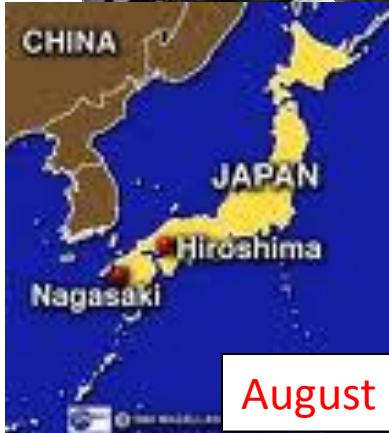
# The Atomic Bomb

Facing horrendous casualties of both American and Japanese if the US had to invade Japan,

President Harry Truman ordered the use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force the

Japanese to surrender. Tens of thousands were killed in both cities.

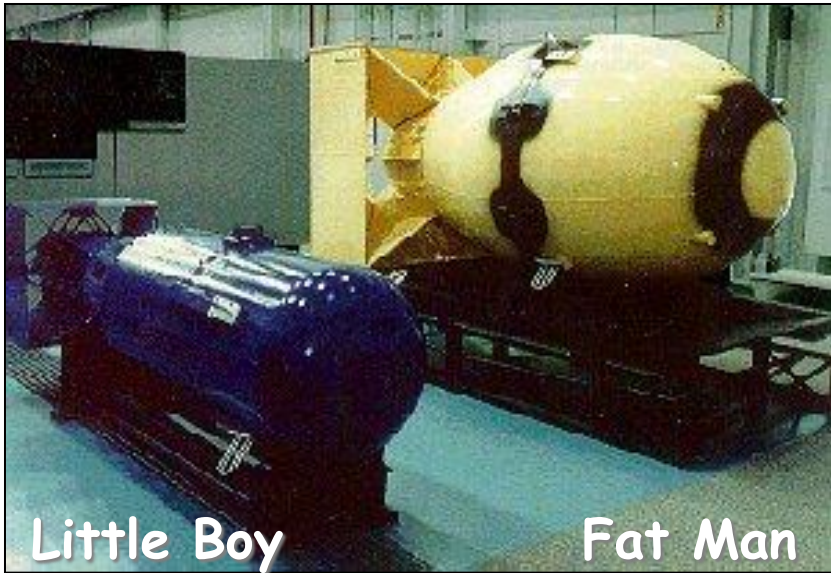
Shortly after the bombings, the Japanese surrendered.



August 6 and 8, 1945

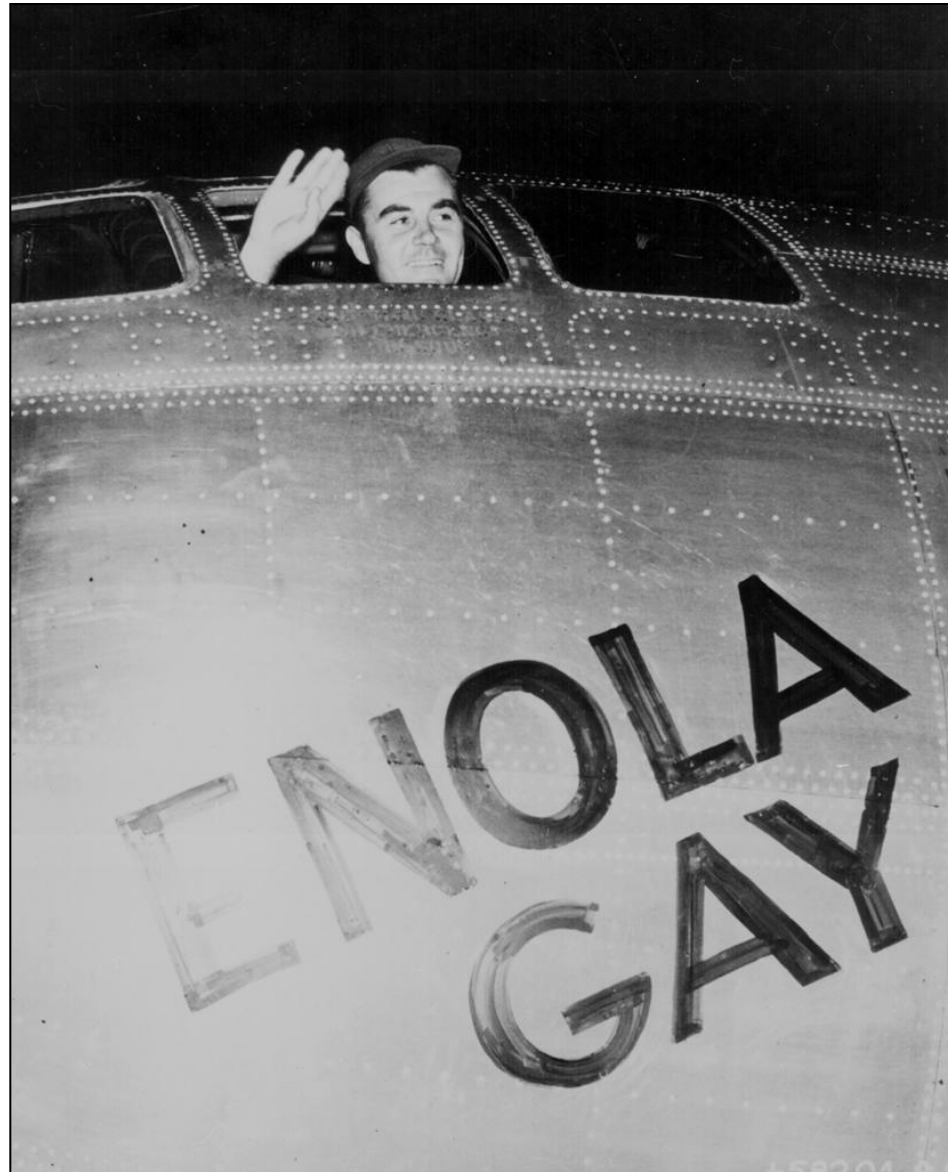


# Tinian Island, 1945

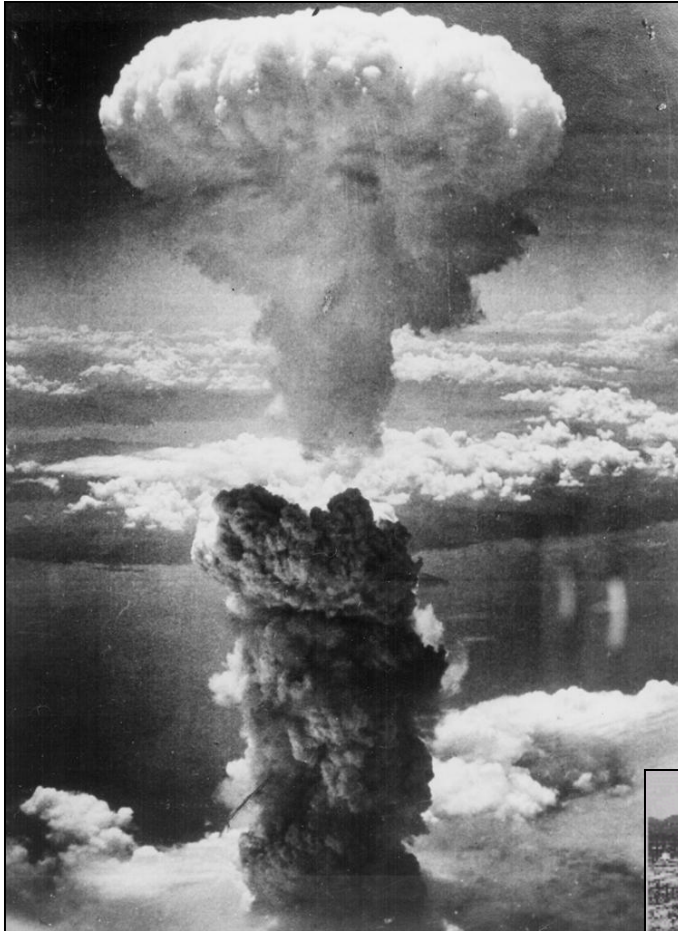


*Enola Gay Crew*

# Col. Paul Tibbets & the A-Bomb



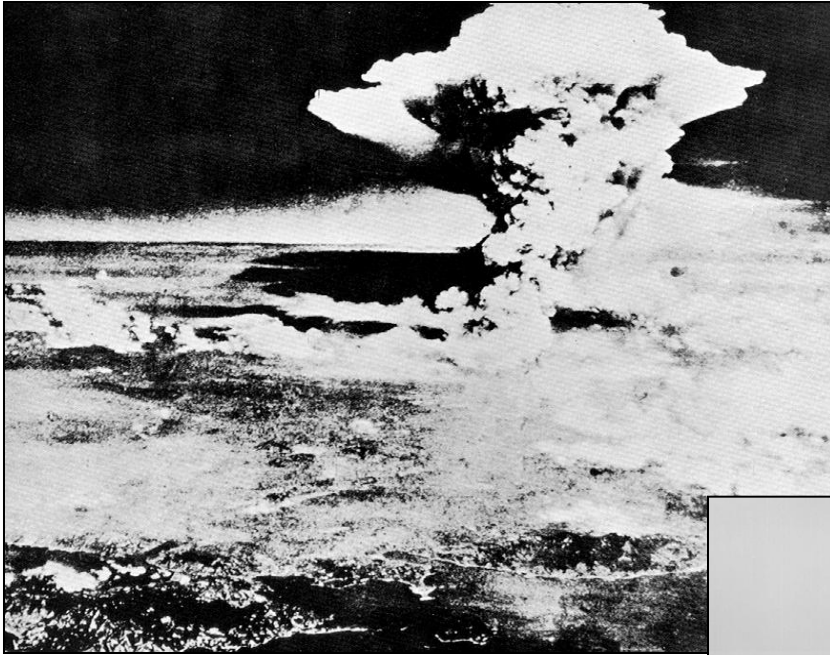
# Hiroshima - August 6, 1945



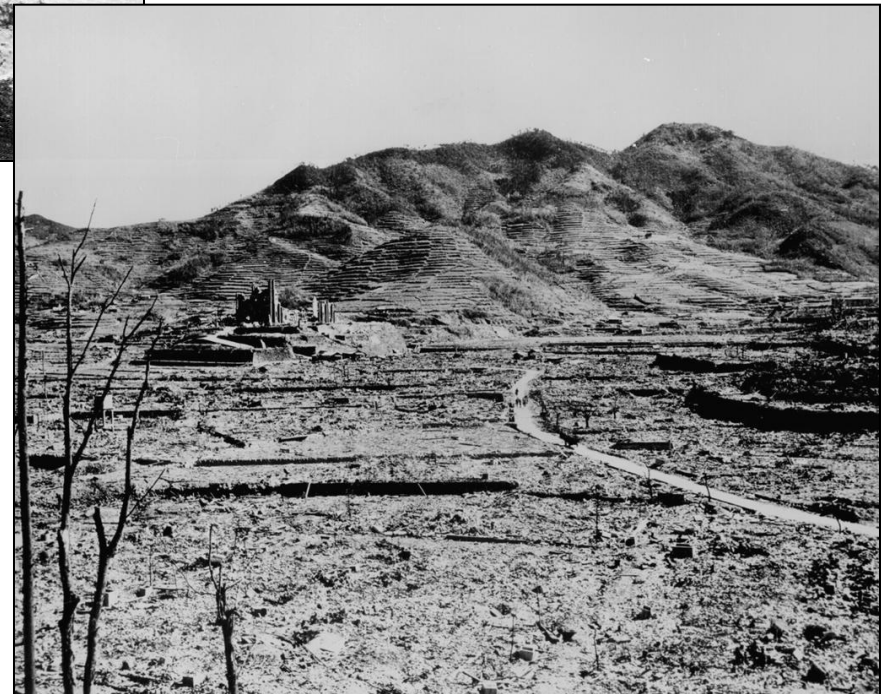
- © 70,000 killed immediately.
- © 48,000 buildings destroyed.
- © 100,000s died of radiation poisoning & cancer later.



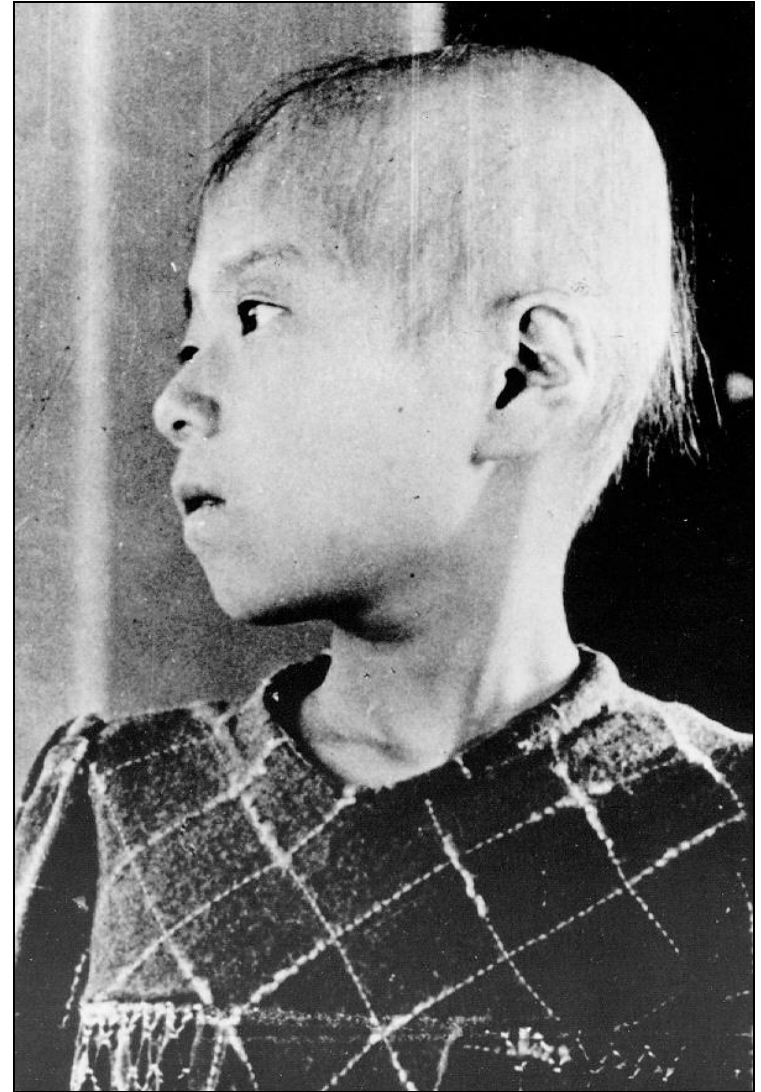
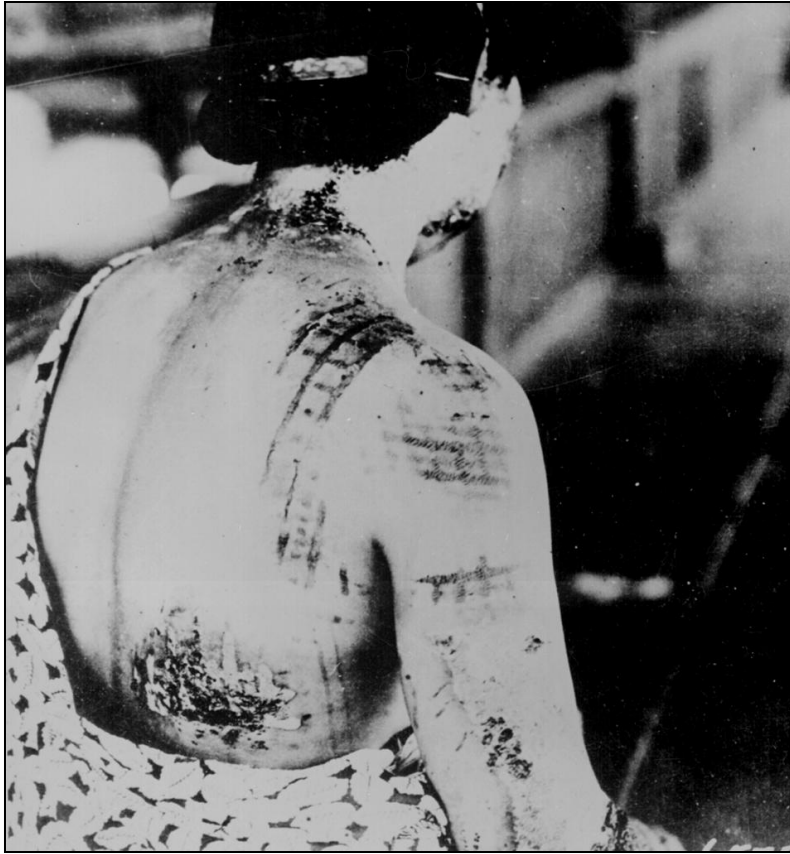
# Nagasaki - August 9, 1945



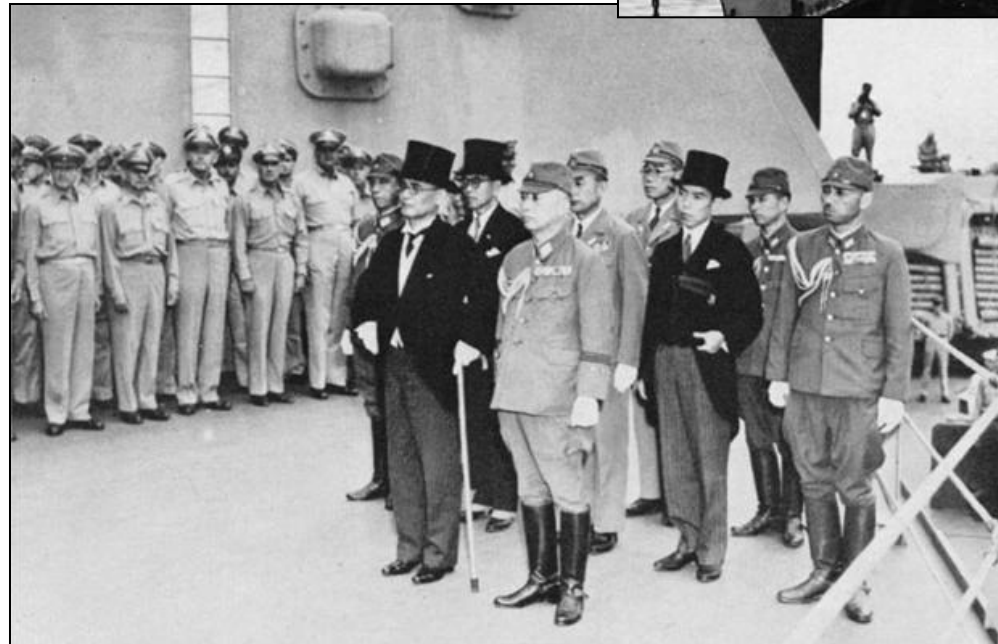
- © 40,000 killed immediately.
- © 60,000 injured.
- © 100,000s died of radiation poisoning & cancer later.



# Japanese A-Bomb Survivors



# V-J Day (September 2, 1945)



# Japanese POWs, Guam

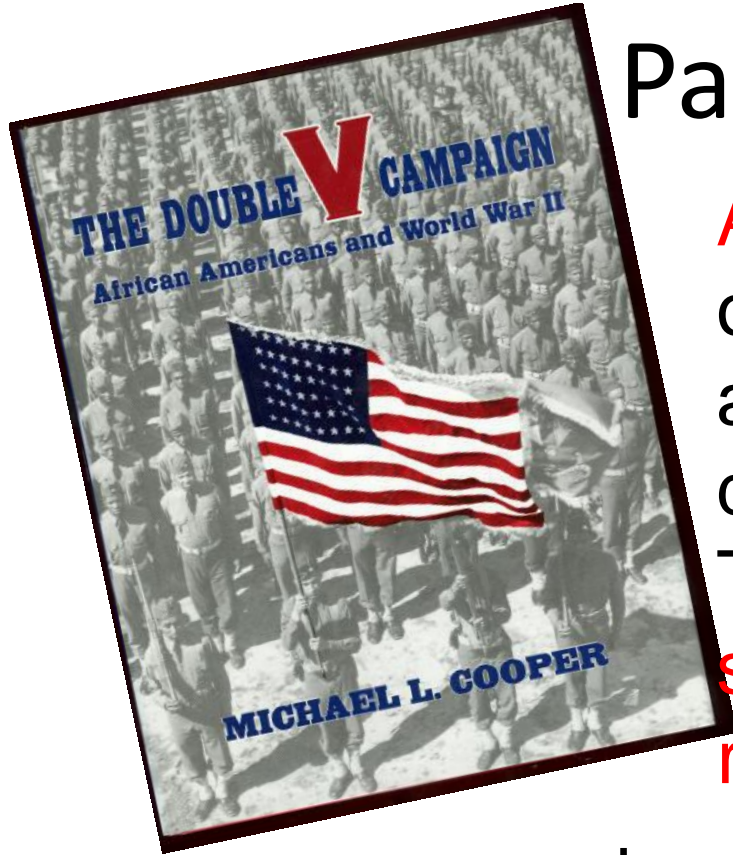




# V-J Day in Times Square, NYC



# Social Conditions and Minority Participation



**African Americans** struggled to obtain desegregation of the armed forces and end discriminatory hiring practices. They generally served in **segregated units in non-combat roles**, but demanded the right to serve in combat rather than support roles.

# All-Minority Units

The **Tuskegee Airmen** (African American) served in Europe with distinction.



In March of 1949, the African American man earned the silver wings of military pilot at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. There were more like him "Tuskegee Airmen," a group of black pilots who served with great distinction during World War II.

The War Department established 488 Central Postal Directory Company, the first of its kind, to provide African American soldiers and the post. Blacked by tradition, many Americans of that time believed blacks could not fly airplanes. In early 1942, the Secretary of War reluctantly approved a plan that set up the first all-black squadron in the Army Air Corps. The plan included the establishment of a training base at Tuskegee Army Air Field, a historically black college. For more facilities of the Tuskegee Army Air Field, which the African American pilots were ordered to be trained, equipped, and all the necessary officers at Tuskegee were white. There were more African American men making up the Air Corps, but only the completed the last training after America entered World War II. In October of 1942, black men applied for admission to the Army Air Corps to larger numbers than ever. Initially, only men were recruited at the Tuskegee Army Air Field. By the end of World War II in 1945, nearly a thousand African American pilots had trained at Tuskegee, and 800 of them had flown in combat.

In 1945, the first squadron of Tuskegee Airmen left for overseas duty. It was stationed in West Africa. This squadron was made up of three main squadrons of Tuskegee Airmen. At first, the job of America's south and the fighter planes in World War II was to escort and protect the harbor and other facilities. Later in the war, fighter pilots were prepared to provide enemy aircraft. In the month of most missions over North Africa and Europe, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first to enter the group in the Army Air Corps could make their claim. Successful bomber crews called the Tuskegee Army the Red Tail Angels because of the red markings on the tails of their aircraft.

The Red Tail Angels also completed an remarkable combat record. They participated in the 31st operation, during many tactical fighter planes in the days following the July 7, 1944, invasion of France. On June 25, 1944, the Tuskegee Airmen made a German bomber with machine gun fire. This was the first time a fighter aircraft had accomplished such a feat. During the war, the Tuskegee Airmen worked many enemy aircraft and destroyed a great number of enemy cultural sites, bridges, tanks, oil and ammunition dumps, buildings, and facilities. They earned 138 Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Legion of Merit, 743 Air Medals, 1624 Purple Hearts, two Soldier's Medals, and German Iron Cross. Many of the Tuskegee Airmen did in combat and had 12 more war stars and captured in possession of war. After World War II, the black squadron were discharged. In 1947, the Army Air Corps had become the United States Air Force and had begun integrating its units. These American heroes for their performance outside of the Tuskegee Airmen helped bring an end to segregation in the military.



**Nisei regiments** (Asian Americans) earned a high

number of decorations.



# Other Minority Contributions



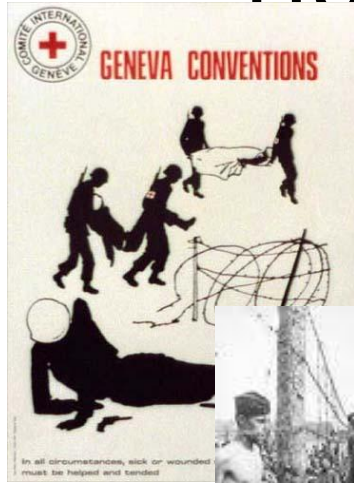
Oral communication of the **Navajo Code Talkers** were used and proved to be **impossible** for the Japanese to **break**.

**Mexican Americans** also fought, but they were **not** in **segregated** units.



Minority units suffered high casualties and won many citations and individual medals for bravery.

# Horrors of War and the Geneva



## Convention

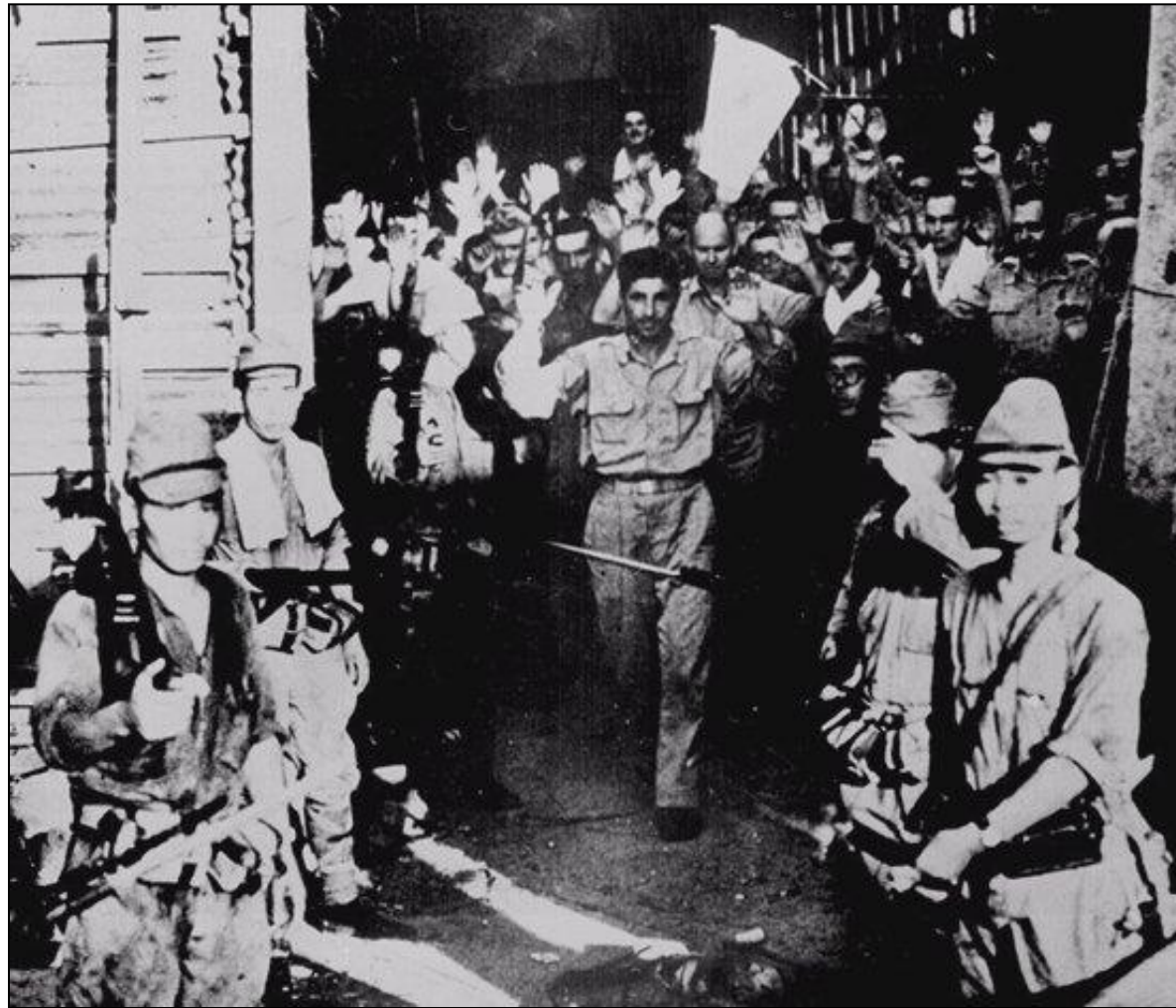
The conduct of war reflects social and moral codes of a nation. The **Geneva Convention** tried to ensure the **humane treatment of prisoners** of war by establishing rules for all nations.

The treatment of prisoners in Europe more closely followed the Geneva Convention but treatment of **prisoners in the Pacific**

Theater reflected the **savagery** of the fighting there. In the **Bataan Death March American** POWs suffered brutal treatment after the surrender of the Philippines.



**U.S. Surrenders at Corregidor,  
the Philippines [March, 1942]. Even though we lost  
this battle, we slowed the Japanese down in the  
Philippines.**



# Bataan Death March: April, 1942



76,000 prisoners [12,000 Americans] Marched 60 miles in the blazing heat to POW camps in the Philippines. If they stop for water, they are shot. If they start to fall from exhaustion, they are shot. Sometimes, they might even be beat to death

# Bataan: British Soldiers



**A  
Liberated  
British  
POW.**

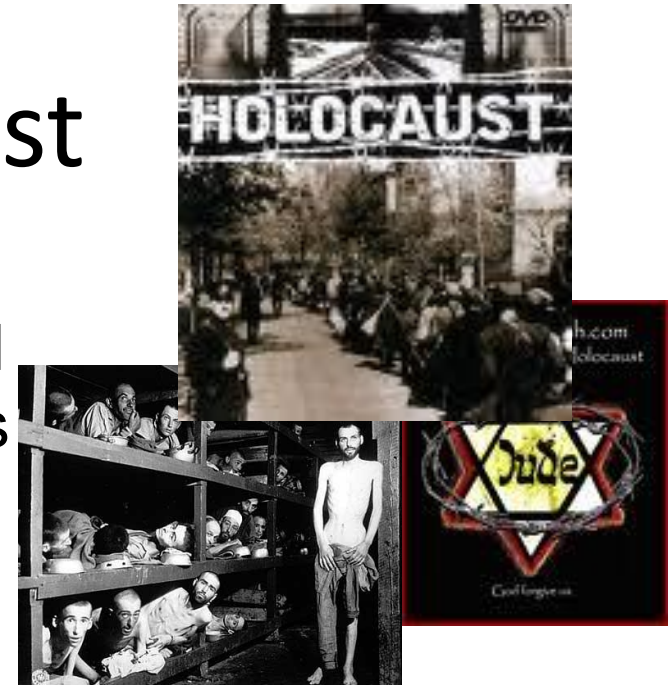


# Gen. MacArthur "Returns" to the Philippines! [1944] in part to help liberate POWs



# The Holocaust

The **Holocaust** represented specific groups targeted as objects of hatred and prejudice. Hitler's "**Final Solution**" was his plan to **eliminate all Jews and other "undesirables"** (Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, mentally ill, homosexuals etc.).



In the **Nuremberg Trials** in Germany following the war, **Nazi leaders** and others were **convicted** of war crimes. They emphasized **individual responsibility** for actions during war.

The trials led to an increased **demand for a Jewish homeland**.

# Holocaust Exposed



# Holocaust Exposed



**Crematoria at  
Majdanek**

**Entrance to Auschwitz:**  
*Work Makes You Free*



# *Horrors* Holocaust Exposed



Slave Labor at Buchenwald. Eli Wiesel will go on to be a famous author—you might have read his work in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English class

# Horrors of the Holocaust Exposed



**Mass Graves at Bergen-Belsen**

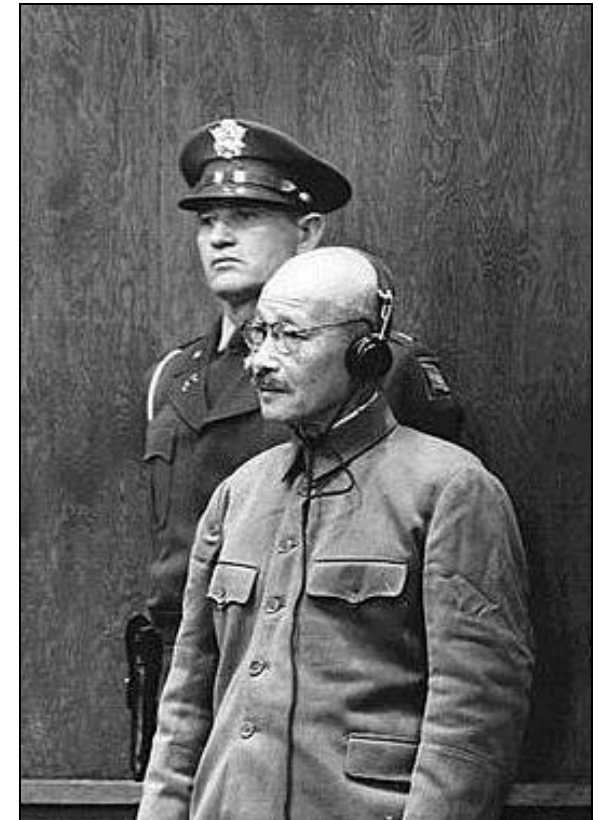
# The Nuremberg War Trials: *Crimes Against Humanity*



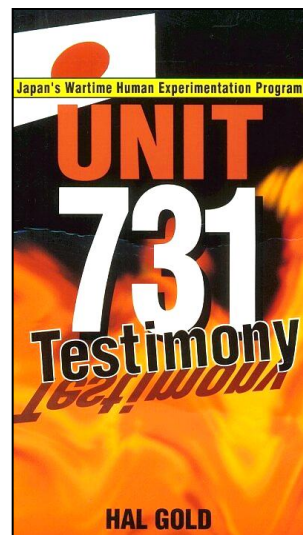
# Japanese War Crimes Trials



General  
Hideki Tojo



Bio-Chemical  
Experiments





# Essential Questions:

1. How did the US respond to increasing totalitarian aggression in Europe and Asia?
2. What caused America's gradual abandonment of its policy of neutrality?
3. What was the overall strategy of America and its allies in WWII?
4. How did America's strategy during WWII reflect available resources and the geographical scope of the conflict?
5. Why were some battles of WWII considered turning points of the war?
6. How did minority participation in World War II reflect social conditions in the United States?
7. How did minorities contribute to Allied victory?
8. What was the purpose of the Geneva Convention?
9. How did the treatment of prisoners differ?
10. What was the Holocaust and who were its victims?
11. What was the short-term and long-term significance of the Holocaust?

# World War II Home Front



Success in the war required the **total commitment of the nation's resources**. On the home front, public education and the mass media promoted nationalism.

# Economic Resources

The **government** and **industry** worked closely together to **allocate resources**.



**Rationing** was used to maintain the supply of essential products for the war effort.

**War bonds** and **income tax** were used for financing the war.



# Economic Resources

Business retooled from peacetime to wartime production. For example, car manufacturing was retooled to the manufacture of tanks.



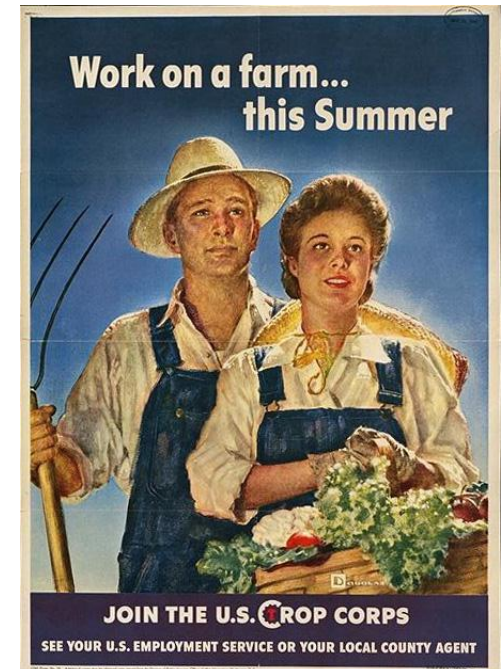
# Human Resources

More **women** entered the labor force.



**Minorities** also took jobs as men entered the armed forces.

**Citizens** volunteered in support of the war.



# Military Resources



The **draft** or **selective service** was used to provide personnel for the military.



# Women during WWII

Women **entered** into the **workforce** to replace men serving in the military



"Rosie the Riveter"



They **joined** the **armed forces** as well, typically in **non-combat** roles.



# Rosie the Riveter





# African-Americans during WWII

African Americans and others **struggled to get desegregation** of the military and **end discrimination** in hiring.



**RACE UNITES FOR DRIVE TO SECURE REAL DEMOCRACY**

To reinforce the policy of The Overseer to fight for the rights of the Negro race, the paper recently started the "Double V" drive for victory at home against prejudice and discrimination as well as victory abroad against the enemies of democracy. See the "Double V" section on page 10.

They worked for **victory in war** and **equality at home**.

Many **migrated to cities** in search of **jobs** in war plants.

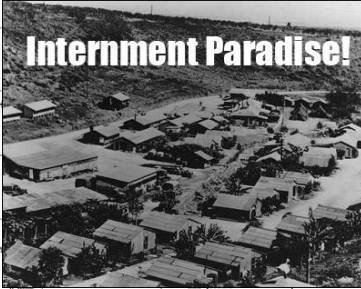
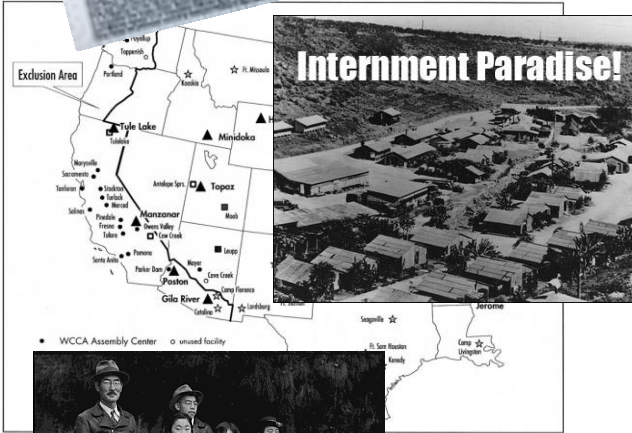


# Japanese Internment

Prejudice, wartime fears, strong anti-Japanese feeling on the West Coast AND the false belief that Japanese were aiding the enemy caused their relocation to internment camps.

The Supreme Court upheld the government's right to limit their civil liberties during wartime.

A government apology and financial payment was issued to survivors in 1990.



# *Korematsu v. United States (1944)*

- On December 18, 1944, the Supreme Court handed down one of its most controversial decisions when it upheld the government's decision to intern of all persons of Japanese ancestry (both alien and non-alien) on the grounds of national security. Over two-thirds of the Japanese in America were citizens, and the internment took away their constitutional rights.

- In 1942, Fred Korematsu, a 22-year-old Japanese American, refused an evacuation order and was arrested, then convicted of a felony. He challenged his conviction in court on constitutional grounds, and the case was appealed to the Supreme Court. Korematsu lost his Supreme Court case in a 6-3 decision, but when new evidence surfaced 40 years later proving the government had withheld evidence, Korematsu went back to federal court to have his conviction vacated. This time, he won.
- From:  
[http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/Files/Documents/LessonPlans/Korematsulesson\\_new.pdf](http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/Files/Documents/LessonPlans/Korematsulesson_new.pdf)

# Media and Communications

The US government kept **strict censorship** of reporting of the war.

Public morale and **ad campaigns** focused on the war effort.

The entertainment industry produced **movies and shows** that **boosted morale** and patriotic support & **showed** the **nasty enemy** stereotype.

