

World War II, 1939–1945

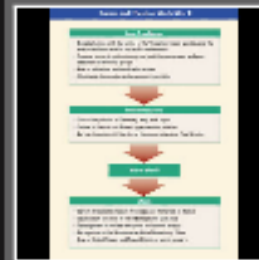
The Allies defeat the Axis powers, the Jewish people suffer through the Holocaust, and Europe and Japan are devastated by World War II.



General Dwight D. Eisenhower addresses troops preparing to invade France (June 1944).



European and African Battles, 1939–1945



Causes and Effects of World War II

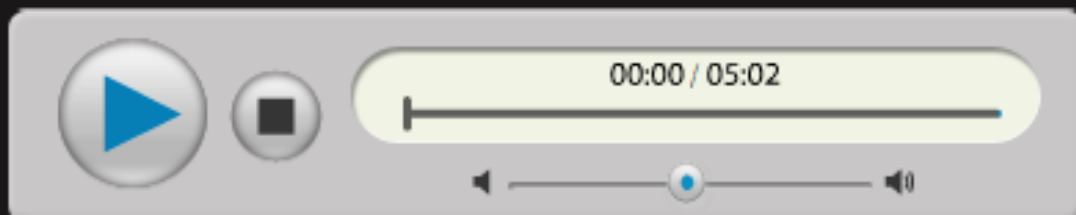
Voices From the Past

Navajo Code Talkers: The Top Secret Weapon of World War II

During World War II, using their unwritten language as an unbreakable code, Navajo soldiers sent and received secret radio messages about battles in the Pacific.



Navajo 'code talkers' relaying a message in the Pacific during World War II.



Section 1

Hitler's Lightning War

Using the sudden, mass attack called the blitzkrieg, Germany overruns much of Europe and North Africa.

Germany Sparks a New War in Europe

Secret Agreement

- **Nonaggression pact**—Germans, Soviets agree not to fight each other *[Visual]*
- Agreement includes secret deal to split Poland

Germany's Lightning Attack

- September 1, 1939—Hitler launches invasion of Poland
- Britain, France declare war on Germany but Poland falls quickly
- **Blitzkrieg**—lightning war—Germany's new military strategy
- Planes, tanks, infantry used to surprise enemy and quickly conquer



Joseph Stalin (*second from right*) looks on at the signing of the German-Soviet nonaggression pact (August 1939).

Germany's Lightning Attack

The Soviets Make Their Move

- Soviets capture Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, resistance met in Finland
- Finland surrenders in March 1940

The Phony War

- French, British mobilize along French border, wait for German attack
- Many months of no action—the “phony war”
- In April 1940 Hitler attacks and quickly captures Denmark, Norway



German Advances, 1938-1941

German Advances, 1938–1941



The Fall of France

Further Gains

- May 1940—Germany conquers Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
- Soon after, German army reaches French coast

Rescue at Dunkirk

- German forces trap British, French on coast at Dunkirk
- British Navy, civilians take ships across Channel to rescue soldiers

The Fall of France

France Falls


- June 1940—France surrenders to Germany
- **Charles de Gaulle**, French general, organizes opposition to Germany

The Battle of Britain

Threat to Britain

- **Winston Churchill**—Becomes British prime minister, vows no surrender
- Germany plans invasion of Britain; begins with air attacks in 1940
- British use air force, radar, code-breaking to resist Germany
- **Battle of Britain**—Air war over Britain that lasted until May 1941 *[Visual]*
- Stunned by British resistance, Hitler calls off attacks



 The Battle of Britain, 1940-1941

The Mediterranean and the Eastern Front

Axis Forces Attack North Africa

- Mussolini, Italy at first neutral
- Mussolini declares war on France, Britain after German victory
- September 1940—Mussolini attacks British in North Africa

Britain Strikes Back

- December 1940—British attack and drive Italians back
- **Erwin Rommel**, German general, battles British in North Africa
- In 1942, Rommel first retreats then succeeds against British

The Mediterranean and the Eastern Front

The War in the Balkans

- Hitler plans to invade Soviet Union; moves to take Balkan countries
- Hitler invades Yugoslavia, Greece in April 1941; both fall quickly

Hitler Invades the Soviet Union

- Germany invades an unprepared Soviet Union in June 1941
- Soviet troops burn land as they retreat; Germans move into Russia
- Germans stopped at Leningrad, forced to undertake long siege
- Germans almost capture Moscow, but forced to pull back

The United States Aids Its Allies

American Policy

- Most Americans want to avoid war
- Roosevelt fears that if allies fall, U.S. would have to fight
- He hopes to strengthen allies so they can resist Germany
- Lend-Lease Act—U.S. loans weapons to countries fighting Germany
- Roosevelt and Churchill meet, issue statement of principles
- **Atlantic Charter**—supports free trade, right to form own government

Section 2

Japan's Pacific Campaign

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and brings the United States into World War II.

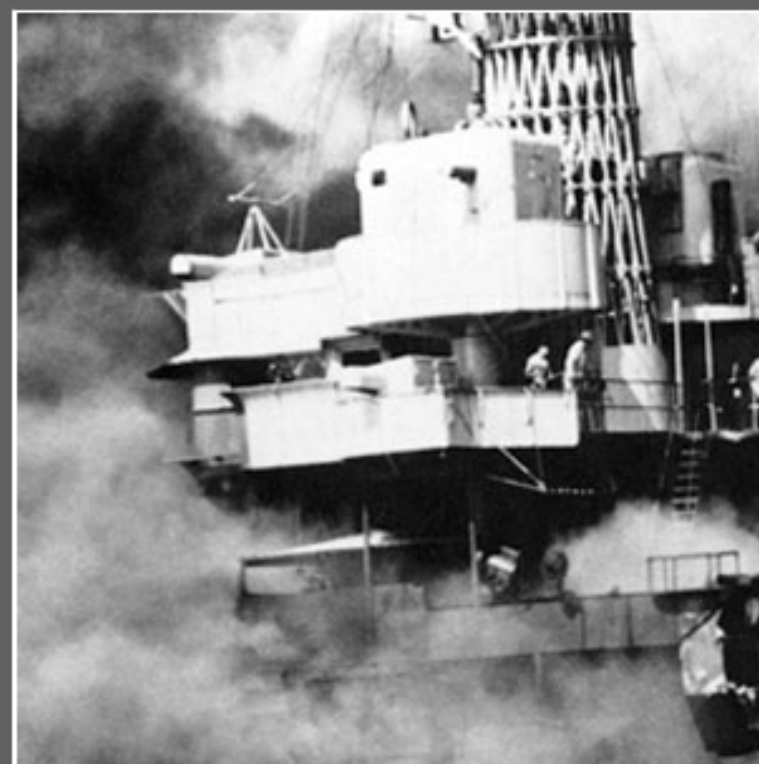
Surprise Attack on Pearl Harbor


Japan and the U.S.

- Japan develops plan for attacks on European colonies, U.S. bases
- In 1941 Roosevelt cuts off oil shipments to Japan
 - Admiral **Isoroku Yamamoto** plans attack on U.S. fleet in Hawaii

Day of Infamy

- Japan attacks **Pearl Harbor**—U.S. naval base in Hawaii—on December 7, 1941 *[Visual]*
- U.S. declares war on Japan
- Japan also attacks Hong Kong, Thailand, and other islands



 The U.S. battleship *West Virginia* in flames after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Japanese Victories

Gains in Many Places

- Japanese attack Philippine Islands defended by U.S., Filipino troops
- Philippine islands fall to Japanese in 1942
- Japan captures British holdings, including Hong Kong, Singapore
- Also conquers Dutch East Indies, rich in minerals
- Capture of Burma threatens India, Britain's main possession in Asia
- Japanese forces treat conquered peoples, prisoners of war brutally

The Allies Strike Back

Stunning Raid

- U.S. bombers attack Tokyo, other Japanese cities in April 1942
- Raid does little damage, but shows that Japan is vulnerable

The Allies Turn the Tide *[Visual]*

- Battle of the Coral Sea—Americans stop Japanese advance, May 1942
- New kind of naval warfare—ships launch planes to fight each other



World War II in Asia and the Pacific, 1941–1945

The Allies Strike Back

The Battle of Midway

- Japanese send powerful fleet to capture Midway Island
- **Battle of Midway**—U.S. destroys Japan's naval fleet, Japan retreats

An Allied Offensive

MacArthur's Plan

- **Douglas MacArthur**—American army commander in Pacific
- Plans to “island-hop” past strongholds, attack weaker Japanese bases
- **Battle of Guadalcanal**—hellish battle that ends in Allied victory

Section 3

The Holocaust

During the Holocaust, Hitler's Nazis kill 6 million Jews and 5 million other "non-Aryans."

The Holocaust Begins

Racist Beliefs

- Hitler and Nazis say **Aryans**—Germanic peoples—are “master race”
- They launch the **Holocaust**—systematic murder of Jews and others

Anti-Semitism

- Nazis tap into long-held feeling of many Europeans against Jews
- 1935 Nuremberg Laws take away rights of German Jews

The Holocaust Begins

“Night of Broken Glass”

- *Kristallnacht*—“night of broken glass,” November 9, 1938
- Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues attacked; 100 Jews killed *[Visual]*



Broken windows of a Jewish-owned store in Berlin, Germany, after the *Kristallnacht* attacks (November 1938).



The Holocaust Begins

A Flood of Refugees

- Fearing more violence, many German Jews flee to other countries
- Hitler favors emigration but other countries limit Jewish refugees

Isolating the Jews

- Hitler has all Jews moved to designated cities
- They are forced to live in **ghettos**—separate Jewish areas *[Visual]*
- Hitler hopes that Jews in ghettos will die of disease, starvation
- Despite bad conditions, Jews survive in these areas



🔍 Couple in the ghetto of Budapest, Hungary, wearing yellow stars that identify them as Jews (1944).

- **"Final Solution"**—Hitler's final plan for treatment of Jews
- Chooses **genocide**—systematic killing of an entire people

- Nazis in Eastern Europe, Soviet Union create killing squads
- They shoot men, women, children in mass executions
- Other Jews sent to concentration camps or slave labor prisons *[Visual 2]*

	Original Jewish Population	Jews Killed	Percent Surviving
Poland	3,300,000	2,800,000	15%
Soviet Union Jews occupied by Germans	2,000,000	1,500,000	25%
France	484,000	100,000	45%
Romania	800,000	620,000	10%
Czechoslovakia	270,000	240,000	10%

Source: *Shoah: The Holocaust, The Destruction of Jewry*

[illegible]

The “Final Solution”

The Final Stage

- By 1942, Nazis building huge, efficient extermination camps *[Visual]*
- Camps separate strong from weak people
- Weak (mostly women, children, elderly, sick) killed immediately

The Survivors

- Nazis kill about six million European Jews during the war
- Fewer than four million survive



🔍 Heap of prisoners' shoes at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Section 4

The Allied Victory

Led by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, the Allies score key victories and win the war.

The Tide Turns on Two Fronts

The North African Campaign *[Visual]*

- Rommel takes Tobruk, June 1942; pushes toward Egypt
- British General Montgomery attacks at El Alamein, forces Rommel back
- American forces land in Morocco, November 1942
- General **Dwight D. Eisenhower**—American commander in Morocco
- In May 1943, Rommel's forces defeated by Allies



World War II: Allied Advances, 1942-1945

The Tide Turns on Two Fronts

The Battle for Stalingrad

- German army moves to capture Soviet oil fields
- **Battle of Stalingrad**—Soviets, Germans battle for control of city
- German troops capture city, then surrender after long battle

The Invasion of Italy

- U.S., British forces land on, capture Sicily, in 1943
- Mussolini loses power but Germans keep control of northern Italy
- Allies invade Italy, but Germans keep fighting there until war ends

The Allied Home Fronts


Mobilizing for War

- Fighting the war requires complete use of all national resources
- 17 to 18 million U.S. workers—many of them women—make weapons
- People at home face shortages of consumer goods
- Propaganda aims to inspire civilians to aid war effort

War Limits Civil Rights

- Japanese Americans face prejudice, fear
- Army puts Japanese Americans in interment camps in 1942 *[Visual]*



 Japanese Americans arriving at the Manzanar, California, internment camp (1942).

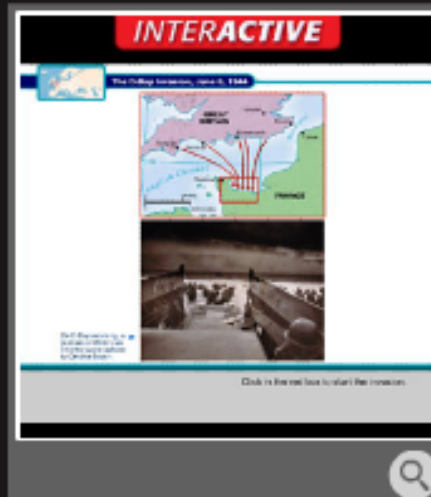
Victory in Europe

The D-Day Invasion *[Visual 1]*

- Allies plan invasion of France; use deception to confuse Germans
- **D-Day**—June 6, 1944; day of “Operation Overlord” invasion of France
- Allied forces capture Normandy beaches; liberate Paris by September *[Visual 2]*

The Battle of the Bulge

- U.S., British forces advance on Germany from west, Soviets from east
- **Battle of the Bulge**—German counterattack in December 1944
- Germans gain early success but forced to retreat



The D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944



British troops landing on a Normandy beach on D-Day (June 6, 1944).

Victory in Europe

Germany's Unconditional Surrender

- By 1945, Allied armies approach Germany from two sides
- Soviets surround Berlin in April 1945
- Hitler commits suicide
- On May 9, 1945, Germany officially surrenders, marking V-E Day
- President Roosevelt dies in April; Harry Truman becomes president

Victory in the Pacific

The Japanese in Retreat

- Allies move to retake the Philippines in late 1944
- Battle of Leyte Gulf leaves Japanese navy badly damaged
- **Kamikazes**—Japanese pilots who fly suicide missions
- In March 1945, American forces capture Iwo Jima
- U.S. takes Okinawa in June 1945; Japan suffers huge casualties

Victory in the Pacific

The Japanese Surrender

- Advisors warn Truman that invasion of Japan will cost many lives
- He has alternative; powerful new weapon called atomic bomb
- Manhattan Project—secret program to develop the bomb
- Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945; about 75,000 die *[Visual 1]*
- Nagasaki bombed on August 9; 70,000 die immediately *[Visual 2]*
- Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945

Hiroshima: Day of Fire	
Impact of the Bombing	
Ground temperatures	7,000°F
Hurricane force winds	980 miles per hour
Energy released	20,000 tons of TNT
Buildings destroyed	62,000 buildings
Killed immediately	70,000 people
Dead by the end of 1945	140,000 people
Total deaths related to A-bomb	200,000 people

The overwhelming destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb, and of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki three days later, changed the nature of war forever. Nuclear destruction also led to questions about the ethics of scientists and politicians who chose to develop and use the bomb.

Hiroshima: Day of Fire



Devastation in Nagasaki, Japan, after the United States' dropping of an atomic bomb on the city.



Section 5

Europe and Japan in Ruins

World War II cost millions of human lives and billions of dollars in damages. It leaves Europe and Japan in ruins.

Devastation in Europe

A Harvest of Destruction *[Visual]*

- Many cities across Europe badly damaged by war
- Many people displaced by war and peace agreements

Misery Continues After the War

- Lack of food, destruction of roads, factories lead to hardship
- Many people suffer from hunger, disease after war

Costs of World War II: Allies and Axis			
	Direct War Costs	Military Killed/Missing	Civilians Killed
United States	\$288.0 billion*	292,131**	—
Great Britain	\$117.0 billion	272,311	60,593
France	\$111.3 billion	205,707***	173,260†
USSR	\$93.0 billion	13,000,000	7,720,000
Germany	\$212.3 billion	3,900,000	2,893,090‡
Japan	\$41.3 billion	1,140,429	953,000

* In 1994 dollars.
 ** An additional 115,187 servicemen died from non-battle causes.
 *** Before surrender to Nazis.
 † Includes 63,000 murdered Jews.
 ‡ Includes about 170,000 murdered Jews and 36,000 foreign civilians in Germany.

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Postwar Governments and Politics

Need for New Leaders

- Many conquered countries went back to old governments
- New leaders needed in Germany, Italy, and France
- Communist parties make gains in Italy, France by promising change
- Communist interest fades as economies recover

The Nuremberg Trials

- **Nuremberg Trials**—trials of 22 Nazi leaders for war crimes
- Some Nazi leaders are executed for their actions

Postwar Japan

Serious Damage

- In war, Japan loses two million people; severe damage to many cities

Occupied Japan

- MacArthur takes charge of U.S. occupation of Japan
- Starts process of **demilitarization**—disbanding Japan's armed forces
- Also launches **democratization**—creating democracy in Japan
- Japanese people adopt new constitution in 1947
- MacArthur puts economic reforms in place

Occupation Brings Deep Changes

Changing Japanese Society

- Emperor kept on, but he loses power and becomes figurehead
- Japanese people elect two-house legislature
- Bill of rights guarantees freedoms; women also have right to vote
- Constitution says Japan cannot attack another country
- In 1951, peace treaty with Japan signed; U.S. occupation ends
- U.S. and Japan become allies

THANKS!