

# World War II

## The Rise of Dictators



# Italy

## Benito Mussolini

- Appealed to Italians who thought they did not win enough in the Treaty of Versailles.
- By 1922 his fascist government, extreme nationalism and racism, forced the King of Italy to declare Mussolini the head of government



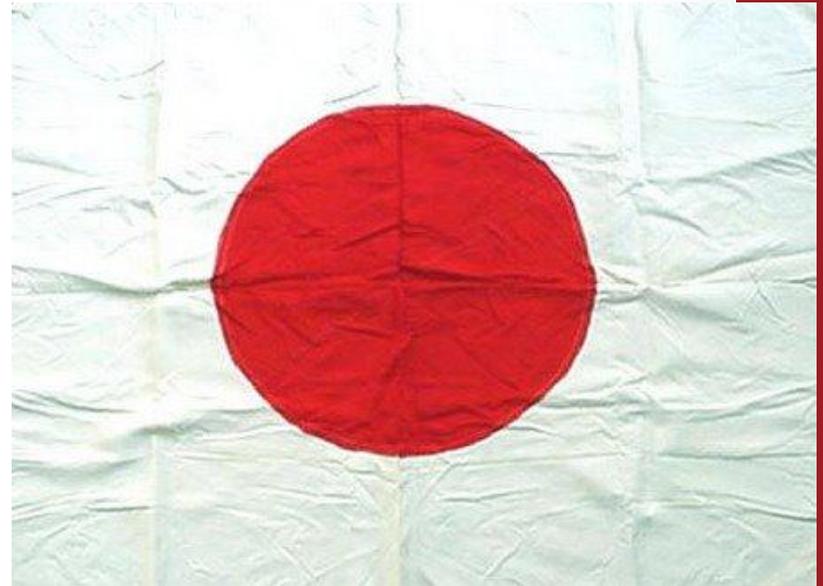
# Fascism

- Ended democracy in Italy.
- Boys and girls of all ages were forced into the army or war material production.
- Mussolini promised to recapture the glory of ancient Roman Empire.
- In 1935 Italy invaded the African Nation of **Ethiopia**, that cried to the **League of Nations** for help.
- The league banned the trading of weapons with Italy, but lacked the power to enforce the ban.



# Japan's Emperor Hiroto

- During the depression, Japanese grew frustrated at the government for not solving economic problems.
- In 1931, Japan attacked **Manchuria**, a province in Northeastern China
- The League of Nations condemned the attack, but took no action.



# Japan and Asia

- Throughout the 1930's, Japan craved the natural resources of China.
- After setting up a government in Manchuria, Japan slowly moved southward and **took over more land.**
- In 1940, Japan would sign an alliance with **Germany and Italy**, and look to take over more territory including French Indochina, in order to acquire goods such as **rubber and oil.**

# Joseph Stalin and Russia



- In the late 1920's **Joseph Stalin** became the **communist leader of the Soviet Union.**
- He demanded complete obedience from the people he ruled
- He executed his rivals, **ordered the deaths of thousands** suspected of supporting his rivals, and sent millions of Russians to labor camps.

# American Neutrality

- During the 1930's, America still had large war debt from World War I.
- They passed a series of **Neutrality Acts**, which banned the sale of weapons to countries at war.
- The laws allowed only trade to nations that could pay in cash.



# The Rise of Germany



- Countries in the early 1930's underestimated the impact of the new German dictator **Adolph Hitler**.
- Hitler believed: *“He who wants to live must fight, and he who does not want to fight in this world where eternal struggle is the law of life, has no right to exist.”*

- Germany suffered greatly after the **Treaty of Versailles**. They lost land they had claimed, and had **severe economic problems**
- Hitler, like dictators in other countries, promised a glorious future to people that were humiliated by losing a war.
- A dictator is **someone who controls their country by force.**



- With the German republic failing, Hitler took advantage of the suffering of the people of Germany.
- He promised a better life for Germans, a realistic goal that only he could achieve.
- He was a dramatic public speaker, and crowds would gather to listen to him discuss how he would end inflation and create jobs.



# The Nazi Party



- In 1921, Hitler became Chairman of the **National Socialist German Workers' Party**, or the **Nazi Party**.
- The party was openly racist, and declared the German people superior to all races.
- He blamed many of Germany's problems toward many races, but especially **the Jews**.

- Soon after Hitler became Chancellor or Ruler, he ended all democracy in Germany.
- Hitler then rebuilt Germany's military, which was a direct violation of the Versailles treaty, and formed an alliance with **Italy** in **1936**.



# Diplomacy

Hitler was a great politician. In the early 1930's he had charmed many leaders of the Western world at peace conferences, including **Britain and France.**



The weak **League of Nations** was not strong enough to enforce regulations against Germany, when they starting violating the treaty of Versailles.

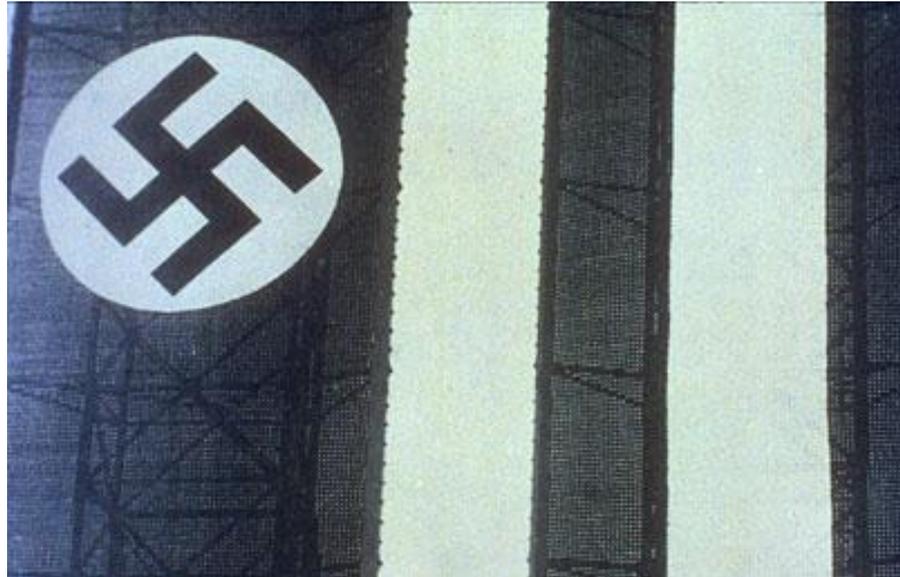
# Germany Begins to Expand



- In 1936 he begins to expand.
- The treaty of Versailles had declared the **Rhineland**, a German territory west of the **Rhine River**, a neutral zone.

Hitler wanted the area returned to Germany, and he sent his new army in to take it.

- Hitler's next victim was **Austria**, a German Speaking nation.
- In 1938, he sent troops in and annexed it to Germany.
- Then he attacked the **Sudetenland**, an area of Czechoslovakia where German speaking people lived. Hitler falsely claimed the people were being persecuted for being German.



# Britain and France

- Czechoslovakia was prepared for war.
- Britain and France feared all out war in the area, and sought peace in **Sept. 1938**.
- They used **appeasement** or **avoiding war by accepting Germany's demands**.
- **Neville Chamberlain**, British Prime Minister, returned home to Britain after the **Munich Conference**, declaring the agreement had *"Preserved peace for our time"*

# The Shattered Peace

- In March 1939, Hitler broke the treaty and sent the army to take the rest of **Czechoslovakia**.
- This showed the world, finally, that Hitler was not to be trusted.
- Meanwhile, Hitler had been making plans to invade **Poland**.



# Soviet-German Pact

- Hitler and Joseph Stalin of Russia were bitter enemies.
- Hitler despised the idea of Communism
- Hitler needed to find a way to invade Poland, without angering the new Soviet Union, which bordered Poland to the East.
- The **Soviet-German Non Aggression Pact** was signed in **1939**.
- This shocked the rest of Europe, for now they could not use the huge Soviet Union as an ally against Germany.
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# War in Europe

- France and England declared war on Germany once Germany invaded Poland.
- The German attack was swift and fierce.
- Germany's war philosophy was called a **Blitzkrieg** or "**lightning war**".
- The Soviet Union attacked eastern Poland, and added it to their territory.



ON YOUR FEET FOR HOURS? Don't Forget The **ZAM-BUK** Sauce For, Soups & Cakes

**Daily Herald**

SAUSAGES GO BETTER WITH H-P SAUCE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1939 ONE PENNY

## WAR DECLARED BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE

*We Have Resolved To Finish It—PRIME MINISTER*

**G**REAT BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY AT 11 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY MORNING.

Six hours later, at 5 p.m., France declared war.

Britain's resolution to defend Poland against Nazi aggression was described by the newly-formed Ministry of Information in one of its first announcements, as follows:—

At 11.22 this morning (Monday) Mr. R. Dunkley, Head of the Foreign Department of the Foreign Office, went to the German Embassy, where he was received by the Consul, the Charge d'Affaires.

Mr. Dunkley handed to the Consul a notification that a state of war existed between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 o'clock A.M. this morning. The notification

**WAR CABINET**

**Unthinkable We Should Refuse The Challenge**

—THE KING  
Breakfasting last evening from his study at Buckingham Palace, the King said:—  
"I have the most loyal and devoted of my people, both at home and overseas, who manage to get up at the same time as I do and who are so ready to do their duty for me."

For the record that in the case of most of us we are

### POLES SMASH WAY INTO E. PRUSSIA

OFFICIALS in Warsaw stated last night that the Polish army has smashed a way across the Northern border into East Prussia, after driving the Germans from several Polish towns in bitter fighting.

The Polish Front has broken through at the Northern Front the Poles are reported to have defeated the German effort to drive a barrier across the upper part of the Gdansk. The German fell back behind their frontiers.

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### London Hears Its First Raid Warning

LONDON was rattle rattled when it heard its first air raid warning.

This is the official statement issued by the Air Ministry:—  
At 11.05 pm a siren sounded in London. It was the first time since the outbreak of the war that a raid warning had been issued in London.

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# German and Soviet Expansion

- England and France could not help Poland because their defeat came so quickly.
- **Stalin** took advantage and forced the nations of **Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia** to accept soviet military bases, and attacked Finland when they refused.
- Hitler proceeded to attack and occupy **Denmark** and **Norway** to the north.

- When spring of 1940 hit, Germany turned and attacked **The Netherlands** and **Belgium**. The two countries immediately asked for help from the allies , **Great Britain and France**
- After terrible bombing raids, the Dutch and the people of Belgium were overrun.



# British Retreat

- British troops were losing and retreated to the **North-West corner of France**, where they were now trapped
- 800 ships – warships, ferries, and even fishing boats, were sent in **to rescue the troops.**
- More than 300,000 troops were evacuated to safety.



# Fall of France

- Germany continued their march through France, while Italy attacked from the Southeast.
- **Germany, Italy** and later **Japan** would form the **Axis Powers** and new alliance system had been formed.
- ON June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1940, German troops marched into Paris. France surrendered a week later, and in 6 months almost **all of Western Europe** had fallen to the **German Blitzkrieg**.

# German Tank in a French Town





# Britain on the Defense

- **Great Britain** was the final Western European nation that had not fallen to Hitler.
- The Germans unleashed an aerial assault, bombing British shipyards, industries, and cities, including **destroying entire neighborhoods in London**, and killing many civilians.
- Hitler wanted to break the British morale before invading.

# The British Fight Back

- Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** stated Britain would never surrender, and would fight on no matter the cost
- **The Battle of Britain** lasted until October, but the Germans never gained complete control of the skies above Britain.
- Hitler ended the air attacks after heavy losses of German aircraft.



# Another Hitler Double Cross

- Frustrated by failure in Britain, Hitler decided to embark on a lifelong goal, destroy the **Soviet Union.**
- He surprised attacked Stalin and Russia in June 1941, and within months German Armies had moved into Soviet Territory.
- The Soviet Union had now joined the Allied Powers .

# Back in the United States...

- Isolationists back home led a movement to keep **America out of the war.**
- Roosevelt vowed to remain neutral, but started to take the necessary steps toward war.
- He did start trading with the allies, and used the navy to protect ships against German Submarines, which included a “shoot on sight” command when a German sub fired on American Destroyers.

# 1940 Election

- Roosevelt decided to run for a third term, breaking the precedent set by **George Washington**.
- Roosevelt promised to the people, ***“Your boys are not going to be sent to any foreign wars”***.
- Roosevelt won an easy victory.



# The Japanese Threat

- Meanwhile, Japan had been ravaging the countries and islands in Asia.
- They seized French Indochina in Southeast Asia, and planned to take the East Indies, British Malaya, and the American territory of the Philippines for oil.
- Roosevelt responding by **freezing Japanese assets in banks** and stopping the sale **of oil and gasoline to Japan.**

# Japan's Change of Power

- **Fumimoro Konoye**, the Japanese Prime Minister believed Japan could not beat America in a war.
- However, he was replaced by Hideki Tojo, who did not share Konoye's views.
- Members of Konoye's staff warned, **attacking America would awaken a sleeping giant.**

# An Evil Plot

- On November 20<sup>th</sup>, peace negotiations were ongoing between the U.S and Japan to resolve their differences.
- Tojo, confident of their military might, planned a surprise attack on the U.S. to **destroy their entire naval capability in the Pacific.**
- The base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was extremely vulnerable to attack.

# Pearl Harbor



- On **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941**, Japan launched a surprise attack through the air on Pearl Harbor.
- More than 2,300 soldiers, sailors and civilians were killed.
- The navy's three aircraft carriers were away at sea, which was the only good news of the day.

# Pearl Harbor

- Pearl Harbor was the worst defeat in American Military history.
- The attack effectively **ended America's policy of isolationism.**
- FDR asked for a declaration of war from congress, and congress quickly approved the action.



# Allies vs. Axis Powers

- America joined the Allied Powers, now consisting of **America, Great Britain, and the unlikely ally, The Soviet Union**
- **Germany and Italy**, the Axis Powers, along with **Japan** quickly declared war on America.
- The entire cast of World War II was now set.

# Life in America

- Industry soared during the war.
- More than 70,000 ships, 100,000 tanks and airplanes, and millions of guns were made, creating jobs for men who were not drafted, and women.
- The **WAC or Women's Army Core**, did not see combat action, but served in the army in clerical tasks or as nurses.



# War Sacrifices

Cars stopped being made.  
Automobile industries were  
making tanks.

Women could not wear stockings,  
because nylon was imported from  
Asia, and was needed for parachute  
making.

Other goods were rationed including **shoes,  
gasoline, tires, sugar, and meat.**

Cities had blackouts at night, so enemy pilots  
could not bomb them.



# African Americans

- African Americans were segregated, but eventually many did become integrated.
- Back home, workers still faced **discrimination.**
- Racial violence continued to take place. Poet **Langston Hughes** wrote: “ *They say we’re fighting for democracy, then why don’t democracy include me?*”

# Japanese Americans



- After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, they were hated by other white Americans.
- 2/3 of Japanese Americans, were born in the U.S, and had no relationship with Japan, other than how they looked.
- This fact would make little difference to people and lawmakers.

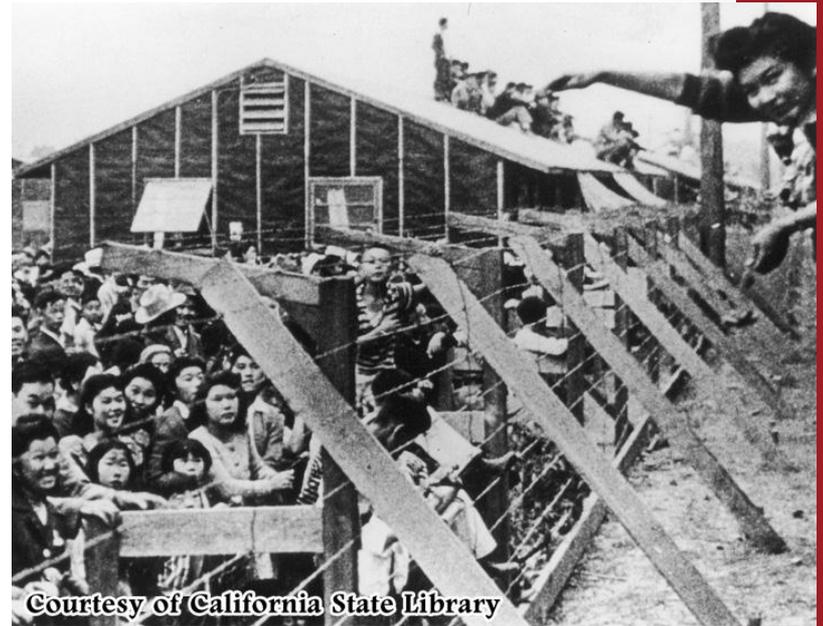
# Internment Camps

- Politicians questioned the loyalty of the Japanese if Japan invaded.
- The president directed the army to relocate more than 100,000 Japanese into detention camps. These were located mainly in desert areas.
- Successful business and home owner had to leave valuable possessions behind. Most stayed in **camps for the next three years.**



# Korematsu v. United States

- In 1944, the supreme court upheld the order providing for the relocation of Japanese Americans.
- In 1988, Americans decided that what they did was wrong, and congress issued an apology and gave each survivor \$20,000, a token of the nations regret.



# The fight to end all fights

- Britain, The Soviet Union, the United States, along with 23 allied nations, were fighting the Axis Powers.
- Leaders decided to attack **Europe first and then Japan.** Allies needed stop Hitler before he took more land and became unstoppable.
- The first targets would be **North Africa and Southern Europe.**

WWII Russian Poster (1944)



# Starting Point

- The allies planned to drive the Germans out of Africa and Southern Europe.
- Generals **Dwight D Eisenhower** and **George Patton** led several attacks, and drove the Germans out of Africa in May 1943.
- The Allies then used bases in North Africa to attack the Italian island of **Sicily**, and prepare an invasion of Italy.

# Invasion of Italy

- The Allies invaded in the winter of 1943, but met fierce resistance from German and Italian forces.
- To the allies surprise, when the army closed in the people overthrew the dictator Mussolini, and the Italians surrendered.
- The Germans in Italy continued to fight.



# Liberating Rome

- The fighting lasted through 1943, into 1944.
- In June, Allied forces broke through the German line and marched toward Rome.
- Rome was liberated in June of 1944.

# Air War

- While the majority of the troops were in the South, the allies launched an Air War in the western front.
- Planes from Britain continually bombed targets in Berlin, which included important war producing factories, along with major cities.
- More than 30,000 civilians died in the port city of Hamburg alone. Although civilians were now being killed, Germany was still determined to win the war.

# Eastern Front

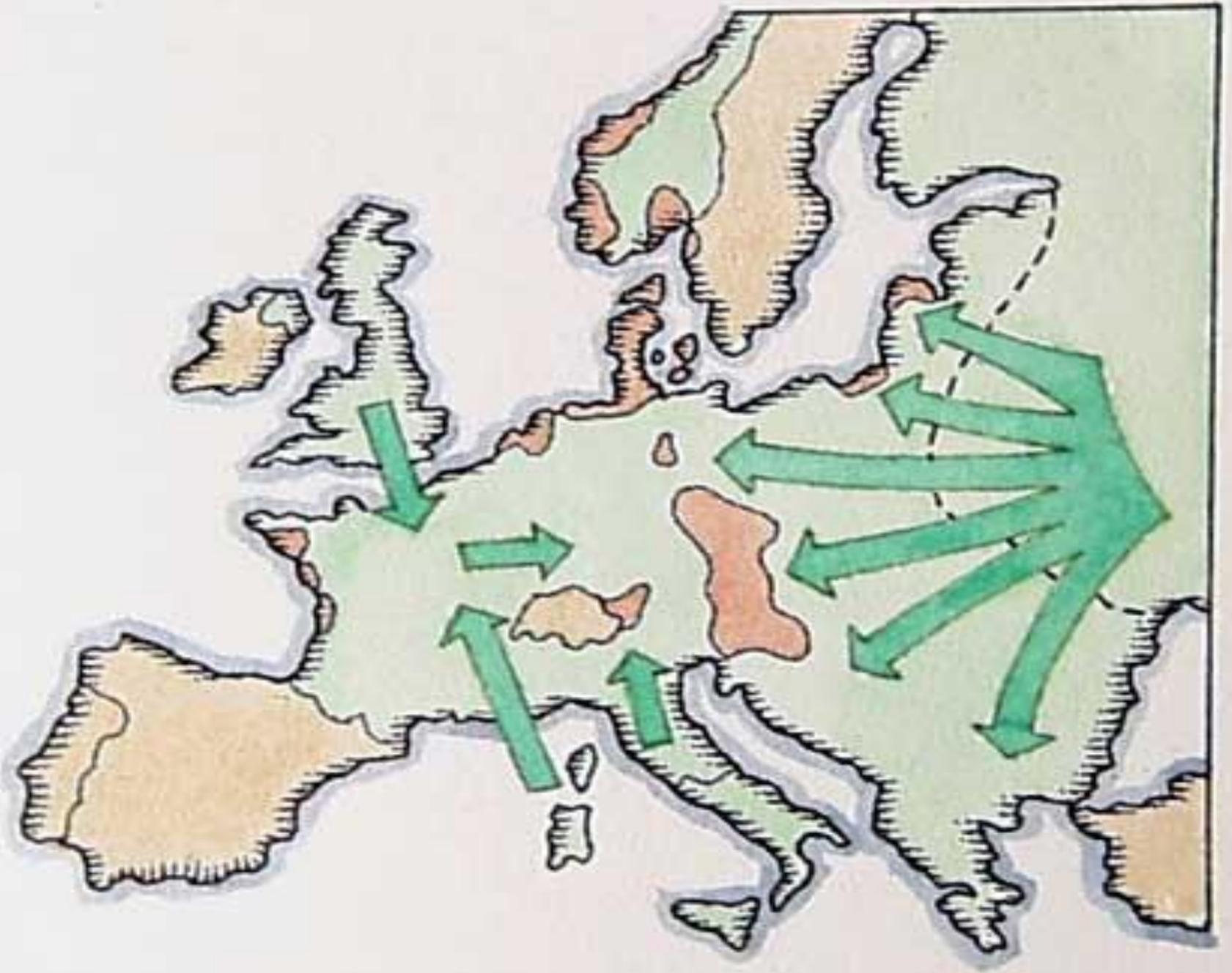
- Meanwhile, Germans and Soviets waged war in the Soviet Union.
- Germans surrounded the city of Leningrad, blockading it for months.
- Civilians without food were forced to eat horses, cats, and dogs. They would not surrender to the Germans.
- In early 1944 the siege was broken, and Soviets began pushing back.

# The Greed of Hitler

- No country in history had invaded Russia during the winter and won.
- Hitler tried, but the weather conditions slowed his army. When the Germans attacked **Moscow**, the capitol, a ready soviet army turned them away and pushed them back.
- In the oil rich city of **Stalingrad**, German troops advanced and took the city, only to be surrounded in the cold by Soviet forces.
- Cold and starving, German troops in the city surrendered, and the remainder of the army was finally on the retreat.

# D-Day

- As soviets advanced , General Eisenhower, with American and British troops planned to take back France.
- All of Southern England was a military base.
- As troops landed in **Normandy, France**, many were shot trying to take higher ground.
- After a few weeks, more than a million troops had landed in France.
- After Normandy, the Allies pushed through France and took **Paris** on **August 25, 1944**
- Germany now fought for survival on 2 fronts.



# Battle of the Bulge

- In mid-December, Germany launched one last surprise attack along a 50 mile front in **Belgium**.
- A bloody, destructive battle took place, and after several weeks, Allied troops managed to drive the Germans back
- More than 100,000 troops were killed in battle.



U.S. soldiers take cover under fire in Germany, WWII

# The European War Ends

- By Mid-April 1945, the Soviets surrounded Berlin.
- Hitler, who was in an underground bunker for the months toward the end of the war, realized the situation was hopeless and committed suicide on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Germany, surrendered a week later, and the Allies declared **May 8<sup>th</sup> VE DAY**, or **Victory Day in Europe**.



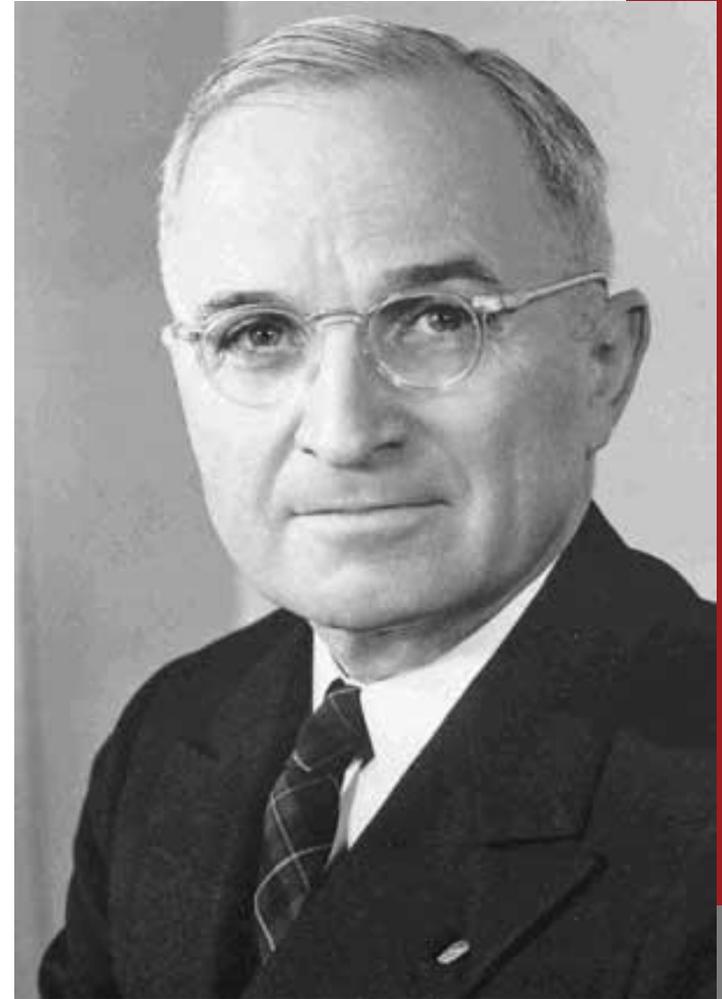
# Death of a President

- President Roosevelt did not see the end to the war in Europe
- After a conference in Europe with **Churchill** and **Stalin**, Roosevelt returned to his vacation home at Warm Springs, Georgia. He died of a Cerebral Hemorrhage.



# The New President

- Vice President **Harry Truman** took the oath of office.
- Truman once asked to Eleanor Roosevelt, *“Is there anything I can do for you”*.
- Eleanor replied, *“No, is there anything we can do for you. For you are the one in trouble now”*



# War in Asia

- After Pearl Harbor, Japan quickly attacked the islands of **Wake** and **Guam**, which had key American bases in the Pacific.
- Japan took over **Thailand, Malaya**, and captured **Guam, Wake Island**, and **Hong Kong**
- Americans held the Philippines, but combined American and Filipino forces were forced to retreat to the rugged **Bataan Peninsula**.



# Bataan Death March

- After months of fighting, Allied troops surrendered, and **General MacArthur** escaped to Australia. He promised the Filipinos, *"I shall return"*.
- Japanese made prisoners march to a prison camp more than 60 miles away.
- Only 54,000 of the 76,000 prisoners reached the camp, as those who spoke up or fell along the way were shot and killed.

# U.S Offensive

- Americans had low morale to this point.
- A small raid launched by an aircraft carrier bombed Tokyo, Japan. The raid had little importance, but raised American spirits.
- American then fought at **Midway Island**, in the **Battle of midway**. They were successful in destroying many planes and air craft carriers

# Island Hopping

- **MacArthur** used **island hopping**, or the attacking and capturing of key islands as a way to establish bases on the way to the Philippines, and later Japan.
- The battles were the most gruesome of the war.
- Japanese were trained to fight for honor and death, for surrender was dishonorable to their nation.
- This included suicide pilots known as **Kamikazes**.

# Macarthur Returns

- The largest naval battle in history took place at **Leyte Golf in the Philippines.**
- 282 warships took part.
- America destroyed most of the Japanese Fleet.
- In March, 1945, they seized the islands of **Iwo Jima and Okinawa.** Japanese fought courageously to protect these islands near Japan.



# Truman Faces a Decision

- An invasion of Japan, with many of the Japanese military believing death was a more honorable decision than surrender, would have cost Americans an estimated 300,000 – to potentially millions of lives.
- Truman was torn, because another option had become available.

# The Atomic Bomb

- Through efforts of scientist **Albert Einstein**, Americans developed a weapon harnessing the energy of the atom.
- **The Manhattan Project**, was designed to build this weapon before Hitler in Germany, who was rumored to have been researching the technology.
- The bomb was ready for tested and ready for use on July, 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945.



# The Potsdam Declaration



- Truman warned Japan, if it did not surrender, “*It faced prompt and utter destruction*” .
  - Japan refused to surrender and Truman ordered the use of the bomb.
- On August 6<sup>th</sup> 1945, an American B-29 Bomber, **The Enola Gay**, took off and flew toward the Japanese city of **Hiroshima**. 70,000 people were killed instantly
- Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on the city of **Nagasaki**, killing 40,000 more people.

# Hiroshima



# The War Ends

- After the bombings, the Japanese Government agreed to surrender.
- August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1945, was proclaimed **V-J day**, for Victory over Japan.
- World War II was over.
- In the years after the war, leaders from the Nazi Party and Japan were put on trial, and either jailed for life or killed for the war crimes they committed.

# Hitler's Legacy

- Hitler warned in 1939, that another war would lead to the destruction of Jews in Europe.
- The Nazi leaders developed what they called “*The final solution to the Jewish Question*”
- The solution was **Genocide**, or destroying an entire group of people.
- Millions of others, including Soviet Prisoners, Poles, Gypsies (Romani), Homosexuals, and people with handicaps were also ruthlessly killed.