

Contrary to the hopes of President Woodrow Wilson, The Treaty of Versailles that ended WWI did not create a “just and secure peace.”

Germans saw nothing fair in a treaty that blamed them for starting the war. Nor did they find much security in a settlement that stripped their country of territories they had long seen as German.



Similarly, the Russians resented the carving away of parts of Russia to create an independent Poland and the nations of Finland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The end of WWI saw the sudden rise of new democracies. From 1914 to 1918, Europe's last absolute rulers had been overthrown. The dynasties in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia & the Ottoman empire all ended. But because these countries had monarchies for so long, they had problems forming new democracies. Some countries had a dozen or more political groups, which made it almost impossible for one party to win enough support to govern effectively.

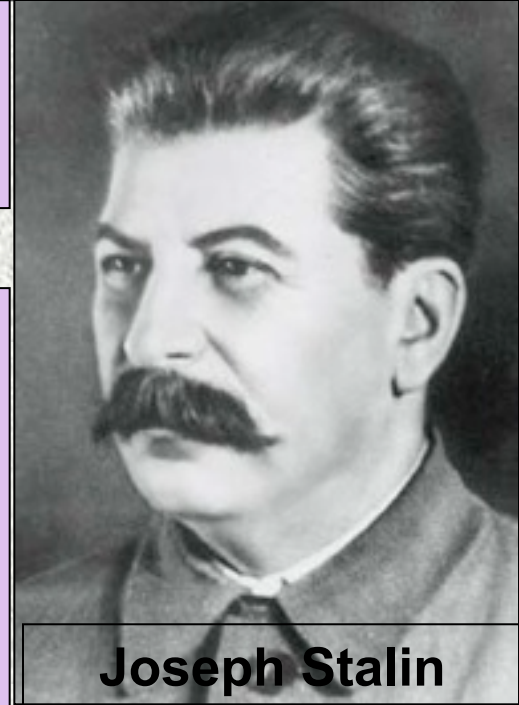
When no single party won a majority, a coalition government or temporary alliance of several parties, was needed to form a parliamentary majority. Because the parties disagreed on so many policies, coalitions didn't last long. And because they didn't last long, it became hard for these countries to develop strong leadership & move toward long-term goals. Voters in several countries were then willing to sacrifice democracy for strong, totalitarian leadership.

Totalitarianism:

A government that maintains complete control over its citizens. In a totalitarian state, individuals have no rights and the government suppresses all opposition.

In Russia, hopes for a democracy gave way to civil war, resulting in the establishment of a Communist state - the Soviet Union - in 1922.

When Lenin died in 1924, Stalin took control of the country. In 1925, Stalin renamed the city of Tsaritsyn after himself ("Stalingrad"), The tyrannical and brutal Stalin imposed collectivization of agriculture and the forced industrialization of the predominantly rural country. He wanted to transform the Soviet Union into a great industrial power. To accomplish the first he engineered a famine targeted at Ukrainians who objected to his collectivistic plans. This resulted in the death by starvation of an estimated five to six million people. His brutal industrialization plans resulted in millions of more deaths, mostly of forced laborers. After implementing famine and forced labor, the increasingly paranoid Stalin turned his attention to ridding the nation of "enemies of the people." This resulted in a tremendous purge of the government, the Communist Party, and Soviet intellectuals that culminated in the imprisonment, exile, or deaths of those perceived as enemies.



Joseph Stalin

Stalin, whose last name meant "man of steel," was as iron-willed as his name implied.

Why Totalitarianism/Communism is such a threat to the U.S.

Totalitarianism challenges the highest values prized by Western democracies – reason, freedom, capitalism, human dignity & the worth of the individual.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini was establishing a totalitarian regime. In 1919, Mussolini had begun his rise to power by advertising for war veterans to fight the politicians, who, in Mussolini's view were destroying Italy. This was the beginning of Fascism – a political movement that consisted of a strong, centralized government headed by a powerful dictator. Fascism was rooted in the nationalism that had reshaped Europe over the past century.

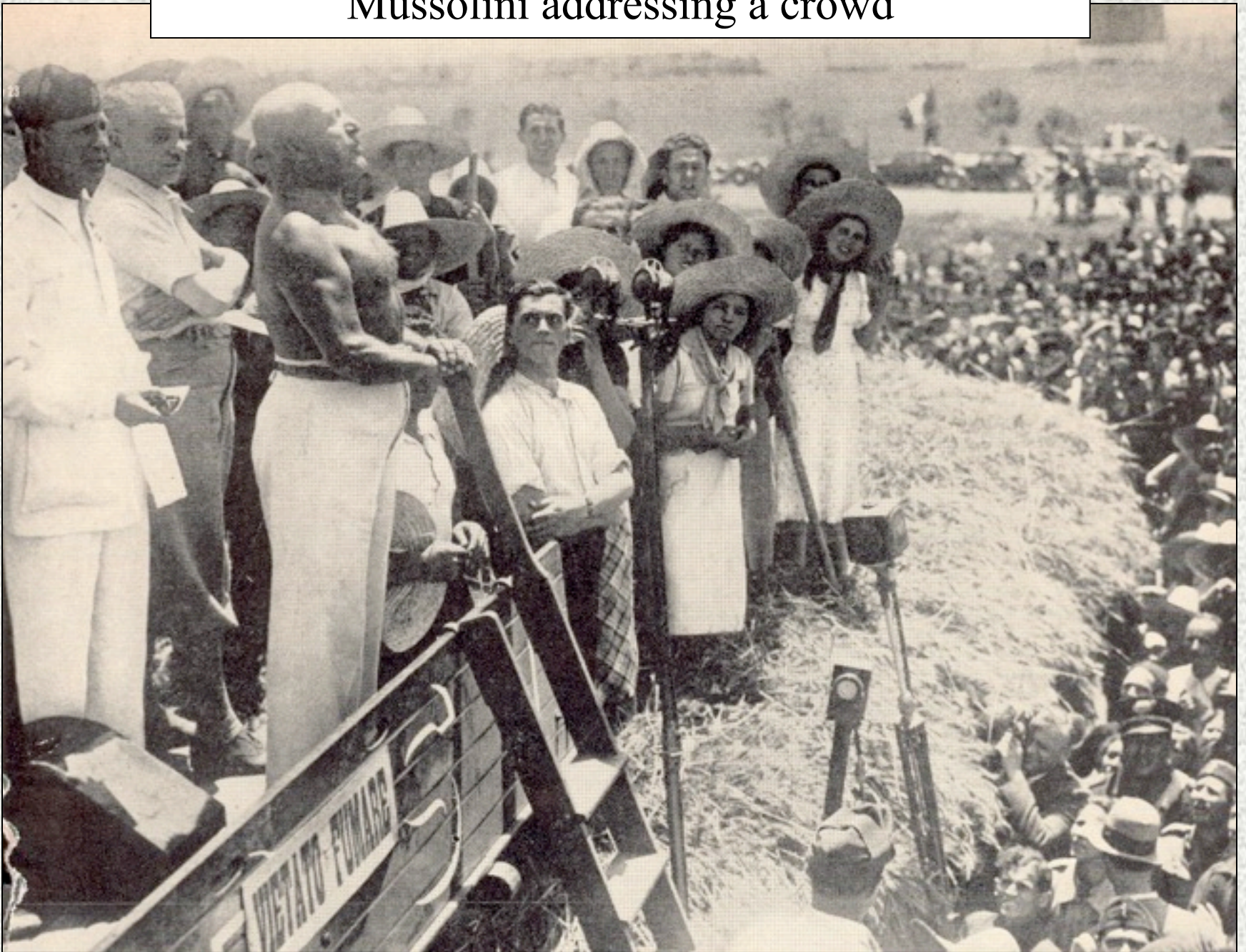


Unlike Stalin's Communist regime, Mussolini's Fascist state did not attempt to control farms & factories. Actually, many Italians feared the spread of communism to Italy & they became firm supporters of Mussolini.

In 1921, Mussolini established the Fascist Party, which then won 35 seats in the Italian parliament. A year later, after he staged a march on Rome with thousands of followers, the Italian king allowed him to form a new government.

Calling himself Il Duce "The Chief", he gradually extended Fascist control to every aspect of Italian life. He achieved this by crushing all opposition and by making Italy a totalitarian state.

Mussolini addressing a crowd



During the 20's, the Japanese government became more democratic being ruled by a prime minister, similar to that of Great Britain. Japan also signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact renouncing war.

As long as Japan remained prosperous, the civilian government kept power, but when the Great Depression hit in 1930, the government was blamed and military leaders gained support & soon won control of the country.

They wanted to restore traditional control of the government to the military and not try to establish a new system of government. Instead of having a forceful leader like Mussolini or Hitler, the militarist made the emperor the symbol of state power.

Japan kept Hirohito as the head of state which won support for the army leaders who ruled in his name. Similar to Germany & Italy, Japan's militarists were extreme nationalists.



- They wanted to solve the country's economic problems by foreign expansion:
- They planned a Pacific empire that included a conquered China.
- The empire would provide Japan with raw materials & markets for its goods.
- It would also give Japan room for its rising population.



Japan Invades China

Japanese businesses had invested heavily in China's northeast province, Manchuria. It was an area rich in iron & coal. In 1931, the Japanese army seized Manchuria, despite objections from the Japanese parliament. The army then set up a puppet government. Japanese engineers & technicians began arriving in large numbers to build mines & factories.



When Japan attacked Manchuria it was the first direct challenge to the League of Nations and the first act which brought the world closer to war. The League condemned Japanese aggression, but it had no power to enforce its decisions. Japan ignored the protests & withdrew from the league in 1933.

Since the League failed to stop the Japanese, Mussolini became encouraged to plan an aggression of his own. He had his eye on Ethiopia which was ruled by Haile Selassie.

Mussolini dreamed of building a colonial empire in Africa like that of Britain & France.



Mussolini



Haile Selassie

The Ethiopians had successfully resisted an Italian attempt at conquest during the 1890's. To avenge that defeat, Mussolini ordered a massive invasion of Ethiopia in October 1935, which was no match for the Italian army and which was the second act which brought the world closer to WWII.

In May 1936, Mussolini told a cheering crowd that "Italy has at last her empire...a Fascist empire."

The Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie urgently appealed to the League for help. Although the league condemned the attack, its members did nothing. Britain continued to let Italian troops & supplies pass through the British controlled Suez Canal on their way to Ethiopia. By giving in to Mussolini in Africa, Britain & France hoped to keep peace in Europe.

The Emperor's speech to the League of Nations denouncing the Italian invasion is remembered more than the aggression itself. It prompted essentially ineffectual international trade sanctions against a European nation but, like the Battle of Adwa four decades earlier, represented in a tangible way one of the few occasions in the modern era that an African nation defied the arrogance of a European one. There were very few world leaders of the post-war era who had actually led troops in combat. Haile Selassie and Dwight Eisenhower were exceptional in this respect, which partially accounts for their close friendship.



“It is us today, it will be you tomorrow” - Haile Selassie states during his address to the League of Nations.



In Germany, Adolf Hitler followed a path to power similar to Mussolini.

Hitler had long pledged to undo the Versailles Treaty. One of the provisions of the treaty was that it limited the size of Germany's army. In March 1935, Hitler announced that Germany would not obey these restrictions. In fact, Germany had already begun rebuilding its armed forces.

The League issued only a mild condemnation. Banners throughout Germany announced, "Today Germany! Tomorrow the World!"

The league's failure to stop Hitler from building up its armed forces only convinced him to take even more greater risks. Hitler decided to have the German troops move into the Rhineland on March 7, 1936, which according to the treaty, they were forbidden to enter.



The French were unwilling to risk war. Hitler later admitted that he would have backed down if the French & British had challenged him.

The German reoccupation of the Rhineland was the 3rd act which brought the world closer to WWII.

- First it strengthened Hitler's power & prestige within Germany.
- Second, the balance of power changed in Germany's favor.
- Third, the weak response by France & Britain encouraged Hitler to speed up his military & territorial expansion.

According to the treaty, German troops were forbidden to enter a 30-mile wide zone on either side of the Rhine River. It formed a buffer zone between Germany & France. It was also an important industrial area.

Hitler's growing strength convinced Mussolini that he should seek an alliance with Germany. In October 1936, the two dictators reached an agreement that became known as the Rome-Berlin Axis. A month later, Germany also made an agreement with Japan. Germany, Italy & Japan came to be called the *Axis Powers*.



LVCE



On Nov 5, 1937 Hitler announces to his advisors his plans to absorb Austria & Czechoslovakia into the third Reich (German Empire).

In March 1938, Hitler sends his army into Austria and annexed it, which was in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles, which prohibited a union between Germany & Austria. Many Austrians supported unity with Germany.

Hitler next turns to Czechoslovakia, who had developed into a strong democratic country with a strong army & a defense treaty with France. About 3 million German-speaking people lived in the western border regions of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland, which formed the Czechs' main defense against Germany. In 1938 Hitler demands that the Sudetenland be given to Germany. The Czechs refuse & ask France for help.

To avoid war, Germany, France, Britain & Italy meet in Munich, Germany (which was proposed by Mussolini) in what was called the Munich Conference. They met on Sept. 29, 1938. The Czechs were not invited. During the conference Britain & France agree that Hitler could take the Sudetenland; in exchange, Germany would respect the Czechs new borders. On Sept. 30, 1938, they sign the Munich Pact, giving Hitler what he wants. Less than 6 months after the conference, Hitler's troops take Czechoslovakia. Soon after, Mussolini takes nearby Albania. Hitler then demands that Poland returns the former German port Danzig. The Poles refuse & turn to France & Britain for aid.

Britain & France ask the Soviet Union (Russia) to join them in stopping Hitler's aggression. Negotiations proceed slowly because France & Britain do not trust the Communist government of Russia & Stalin resented having been left out of the Munich Conference.

While Stalin talked with France & Britain, he also bargained with Hitler. Both Hitler & Stalin reached an agreement. They publicly commit to never attack one another. On Aug. 23, 1939, they sign a nonaggression pact.

With Russia out of the way, Hitler decides to invade Poland. WWII officially begins when Germany invades Poland on September 1, 1939, with the help of the Russians. Germany invades from the west and Russia invades from the east.

2 years later, in 1941, Hitler's army invades Russia despite signing the non-aggression pact.

Hitler & Mussolini again test the will of the democracies of Europe in the Spanish civil war. Spain had been a monarchy until 1931, when a republic was declared. The government, run by liberals & socialists, held office amid many crises. In July 1936, army leaders, favoring a Fascist-style government, joined General Francisco Franco in a revolt. Thus began a civil war that dragged on for 3 years. Hitler & Mussolini sent troops, tanks & airplanes to help Franco's forces, where were called the Nationalists.



The Western democracies remained neutral, however some 3000 volunteers from the U.S. responded by forming the Abraham Lincoln Brigade & traveled to Spain to fight Franco. Among the volunteers were American Blacks who were still bitter about the Italian invasion of Ethiopia a year earlier. Only the Soviet Union sent equipment & advisors to aid the Spanish Republicans. Early in 1939, after a loss of 600,000 lives and a cost of \$15 billion, Republican resistance collapsed. Franco became Spain's Fascist dictator.



NATIONALIST FLAG



REPUBLICAN FLAG

The U.S. follows an isolationist Policy: Many Americans resisted accepting the nation's new position as a world leader. They believed that political ties to other nations should be avoided – **Isolationism**. They argued that entry into WWI was a costly error & they were determined to prevent a repeat of this mistake.

Beginning in 1935, Congress passed 3 Neutrality Acts. These laws banned loans & sale of arms to nations at war. The isolationists believed this action would keep the U.S. out of another foreign war.

Roosevelt was finding it impossible to remain neutral when Japan launched a new attack on China in July of 1937. The U.S. sent arms and supplies to China. A few months later, Roosevelt spoke out strongly against isolationism in a speech delivered in Chicago.

"The peace, the freedom and the security of 90% of the population of the world is being jeopardized by the remaining 10% who are threatening a breakdown of all international law and order. Surely the 90% who want to live in peace under law and in accordance with standards that have received almost universal acceptance through the centuries, can and must find some



Shortly after, isolationist newspapers exploded in protest and letters flooded the White House accusing the president of leading the nation into war. Roosevelt backed off. For the moment, the conflicts remained "over there."

The Holocaust

The systematic murder of 11 million people across Europe, more than half of whom were Jews.

Jews were not the only victims of the Holocaust, but they were at the center of the Nazis' target. For decades, many Germans looking for a scapegoat, or someone to blame for their failures & frustrations had targeted the Jews. As a result, when Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany's defeat in WWI & for its economic problems following the war, many Germans were more than ready to support him.



In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their civil rights & property if they tried to leave Germany. To make identification easier, Jews over the age of six had to wear a bright yellow Star of David on their clothing

On November 9, 1938, a night that came to known as Kristallnacht, or “crystal night” - the night of broken glass. Hitler's Nazis burned synagogues all over Germany and Austria, smashed shop windows, looted stores, ransacked Jewish homes, and killed dozens of Jews. Twenty thousand Jews were arrested.



Two days later, the German government imposed an "atonement fine" of a billion marks on the Jews to pay for the property damage and, several weeks after that, announced that Jewish assets would be confiscated. A few days later, the government forbade Jews to drive cars or use public transportation, visit public parks and museums, or attend plays or concerts. It was a prelude to the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps to come and is often considered the beginning of the Holocaust.

Beginning in 1933, about 60,000 refugees – including such distinguished people as Albert Einstein – fled to the U.S. More could have come if the U.S. had been willing to relax its strict immigration quotas. This was not done, partly because of widespread anti-Semitism among Americans and partly because many Americans feared that letting in more refugees during the Great Depression would mean competition for scarce jobs. Americans also feared that this might open doors to “enemy agents”

The Final Solution

Unable to rid Germany of its Jews by forcing them to emigrate, the Nazis adopted a new approach following Kristallnacht. Jews healthy enough to work were sent to labor camps to perform slave labor. The rest sent to extermination camps, which amounted to genocide, or the deliberate and systematic killing of an entire people.

A pile of the victims shoes at Maidanek.





After stripping their victims of life and dignity, the Nazis took whatever articles of value the victims had possessed , such as wedding rings & gold fillings from teeth. This is a pile of glasses.



German soldiers cutting the beard of an elderly Jew in Poland.



Children subjected to medical experiments in Auschwitz.

In addition to Jews, Nazis had concentrated on silencing their political opponents – Communists, socialists, liberals and anyone else who spoke out against the government.

In addition to Jews, these groups included:

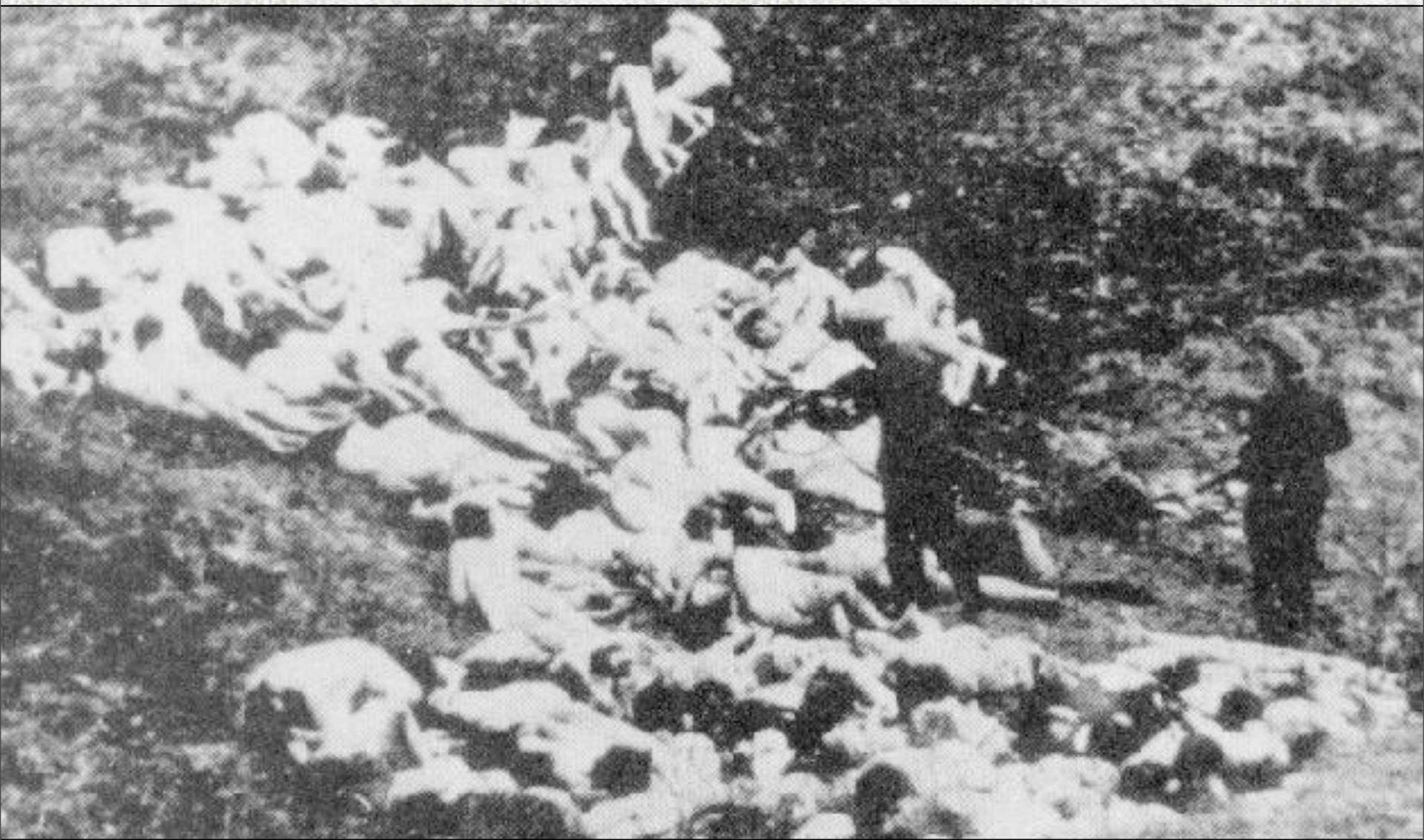
- Gypsies – Nazis believed them to be an inferior race
- Freemasons – Whom the Nazis charged to be supporters of the “Jewish conspiracy” to rule the world.
- Jehovah’s Witnesses – who refused to join the army or salute Hitler.
- Homosexuals
- The mentally retarded
- The insane
- The disabled
- The incurably ill

All of which they found to be unfit to be part of the “Master Race”.

The gas chambers of Krema IV in Auschwitz. As opposed to Kremas II and III, these gas chambers were above ground, and the Zyklon-B was introduced through small openings in the wall, which had shutters on them (visible in the photograph).

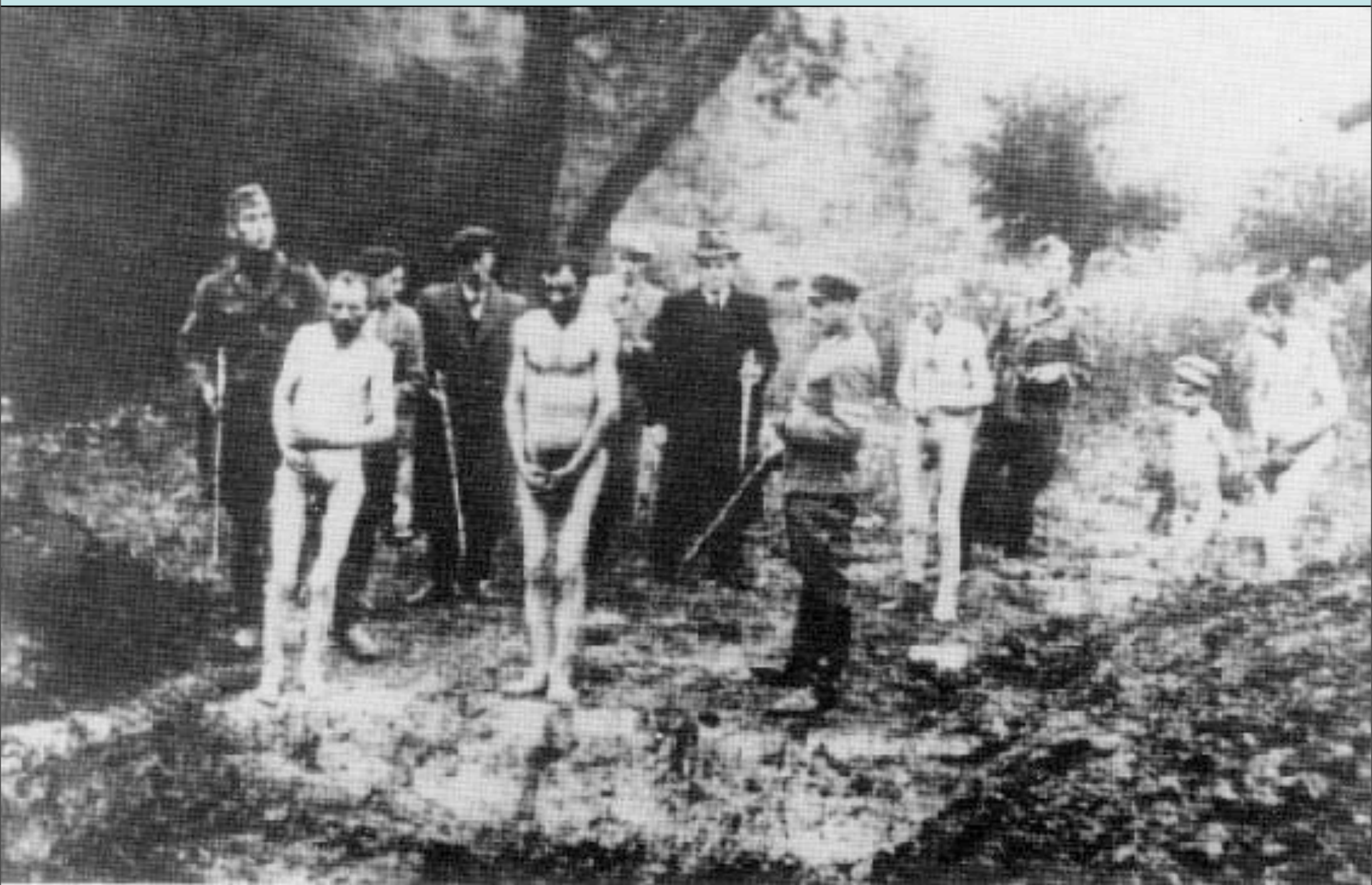


In the camps the Germans used various killing tactics on the prisoners. They shot, hanged, gassed, injected with poison, burned alive, used medical experiments & starved the prisoners. After which, they used huge crematoriums to burn the bodies or they simply threw the bodies into pits and burned them.



A mass execution of Jews in Nazi occupied Soviet Union. The SS man is firing at a Jewish woman who is wounded and trying to get up.

A mass execution of Jews in Nazi occupied Soviet Union. Naked Jews, including a young boy, just before their murder.





A mass execution of Jews in Nazi occupied Ukraine.



Scenes of horror at Nazi concentration camps, where people were subjected to medical experiments.

Thousands of unburied bodies found by U.S. soldiers





Survivors found by American soldiers



The First U.S. army found skeleton-like bodies when they entered Dora



Wednesday, October 26, 2011



Victims moving towards the gas chamber in Auschwitz



This is the crematoria at Buchenwald. The remains left inside are women who were murdered.

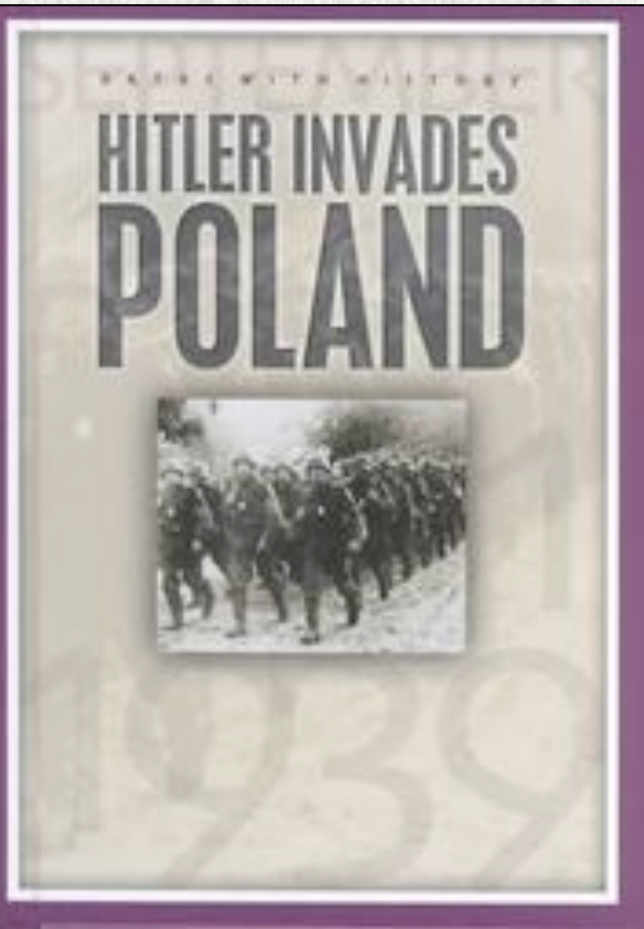
Jews Killed Under Nazi Rule

	Original Jewish Population	Jews Killed	Percent Surviving
Poland	3,300,000	2,800,000	24%
U.S.S.R (area occupied by Germans)	2,100,000	1,500,000	29%
Hungary	404,000	200,000	49%
Romania	850,000	425,000	50%
Germany/Austria	270,000	210,000	22%

America Moves Toward War

In late Aug. 1939, FDR sends Hitler a cable urging him to settle his differences with Poland peacefully. In response, Hitler invades Poland on Sept. 1.

“Hitler is a madman, and his counselors, some of whom I personally know, are even madder than he is.”



On Sept. 8, 1939, FDR announced that he was calling a special session of Congress to revise the Neutrality Acts. When congress met 2 weeks later, the president asked for a “cash-and-carry” provision, which would permit nations to buy U.S. arms as long as they paid cash & carried the goods home in their own ships. FDR believed that providing arms to Britain & France would be the best way to keep the U.S. out of war.

After 6 weeks of heated debate, Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1939 & cash and carry went into effect.

When the U.S. received news that Japan, Germany & Italy signed the pact making them the Axis Powers they were in disbelief. They believed that the pact was aimed at keeping the U.S. out of the war. Under the treaty, each Axis nation agreed to come to the defense of the other in case of attack. This meant that if the U.S. were to declare war on any one of the Axis powers, it would face its worst military nightmare...a two ocean war, with fighting in both the Atlantic & the Pacific.

Hoping to avoid a war on 2 fronts, Roosevelt provided the British with all aid short of war. In 1940 the U.S. sent 500,000 rifles & 80,000 machine guns. The U.S. also traded 50 old destroyers for leases on British military bases in the Caribbean & Newfoundland.

After years of isolationism, the U.S. was militarily weak. Critics pointed out that there were 18 countries that had larger armies. So, FDR asked Congress to increase spending for national defense. Congress boosted defense spending in 1940 & it passed the nations first peacetime military draft.





FDR rides in D.C.



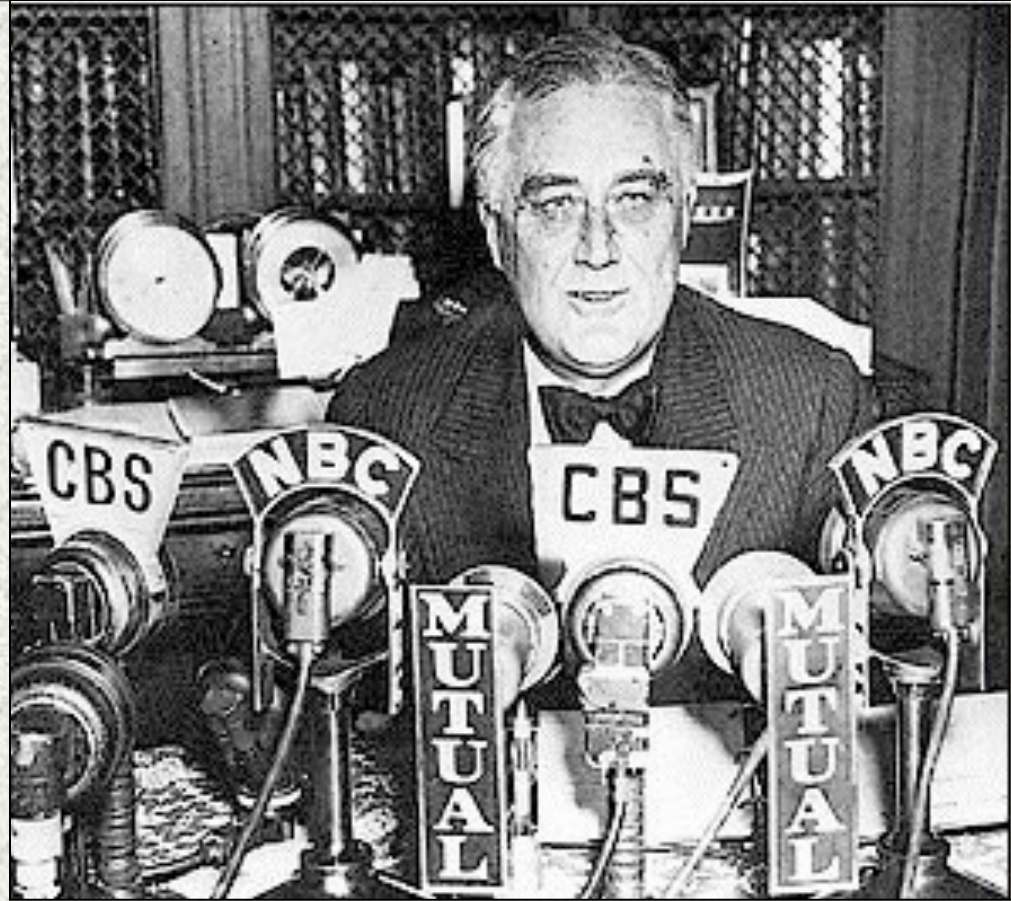
Wilkie Campaign Parade

1940: ROOSEVELT vs. WILKIE

The 1940 election was a historic event because for the first and only time a president, not only was nominated, but also elected for the 3rd time. Roosevelt & the Democrats felt that because of the World War that was brewing in Europe and Asia, he was the only one that could protect the U.S. from the war because of his stature and experience.

Because there was so little difference between the candidates, the majority of voters chose the one they knew best. Roosevelt was re-elected with nearly 55 percent of the votes cast

Not long after the election, FDR held another fireside chat. There was no hope of negotiating a peace with Hitler, he told the nation. ***“No man can tame a tiger into a kitten by stroking it.”*** He also warned that if Britain fell, the Axis powers would be left unchallenged to conquer the world, at which point, he said, ***“All of us in all the Americas would be living at the point of a gun.”*** To prevent such a situation, the U.S. had to help defeat the Axis threat by turning itself into ***“The great arsenal of Democracy.”***



Because Britain had no more cash to spend, FDR suggested replacing cash-and-carry with a new plan that he called lend-lease. Under this plan the president would lend or lease arms and other supplies to any country whose defense was vital to the U.S. After bitter argument, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act in 1941 & supported it with about \$50 billion.

German Wolf Packs

To prevent delivery of lend-lease shipments, Hitler deployed hundreds of German subs or U-boats in the North Atlantic. There, groups of 15 to 20 subs, known as wolf packs, searched shipping lanes for cargo ships.

During 5 weeks in April & May 1941, the Germans sank 1.2 million tons of British shipping. They were sinking ships faster than the British could replace them.

Something had to be done to stop the Attacks, so in June of 1941, FDR ordered the U.S. navy to protect lend-lease shipments as far east as Iceland. He also gave U.S. warships permission to attack German U-boats in self-defense.



Map showing where U-Boats were scuttled in Operation Deadlight; the numbers indicate the U-Boats sunk at each location.



The Atlantic Charter



FDR & Churchill met secretly aboard a warship off the coast of Newfoundland where they settled for a declaration of principles called the *Atlantic Charter*. The charter spelled out the causes for which WWII was fought & what the goals were for opposing the Axis Powers. Later in 1941, the Atlantic Charter became the basis of a new document called "*A Declaration by the United Nations*." The declaration was signed by 26 nations including the Soviet Union & China.

Together observed Churchill, these nations represented 4/5ths of the human race.

"How near is the United States to war?"

That was the question Churchill asked rhetorically after his August 1941 meeting with FDR.

On Sept. 4th, a German u-boat fired 2 torpedoes at the U.S. destroyer Greer. FDR responds with the announcement that the U.S. Navy had been ordered to fire on German ships on sight. 2 weeks later, the Pink Star, a U.S. merchant ship, was sunk off Greenland & in mid-October, the U.S. destroyer Kearny was torpedoed near Iceland killing 11. A few days later, German U-boats sink the U.S. destroyer Reuben James in the same waters, killing at least 100 sailors.



"America has been attacked, Roosevelt announced grimly. "The shooting has started & history has recorded who fired the first shot."

As the death toll mounted, the Senate finally repealed the ban against arming merchant ships. But FDR knew that something far more dramatic than German attacks on U.S. ships would be needed to persuade Congress to declare war.

To almost everyone's surprise, the attack that brought the U.S. into the war came from an unexpected country...Japan.

Since Japan dreamed of creating a vast colonial empire including China and the entire south pacific, they felt that the only thing standing in their way was the U.S.

The Japanese began their southward push in July of 1941 by taking over French military bases in Indochina (now Vietnam, Cambodia, & Laos). The U.S. protested this new act of aggression by cutting off trade with Japan. The embargoed goods included the one thing Japan could not live without – oil to fuel its war machine. Japanese military leaders warned that, without oil, Japan could be defeated without its enemies ever striking a blow. The leaders declared that Japan must either persuade the U.S. to end its oil embargo or seize the oil fields in the Dutch East Indies.

In October, the Japanese general Hideki Tojo became the new prime minister of Japan. Shortly after taking office, Tojo met Hirohito (Japan's emperor) and promised that the Japanese government Would make a final attempt to preserve peace with the U.S. If peace talks failed, Japan would have no choice but to go to war.

On Nov. 5th, 1941, the day that Tojo's envoy flew to Washington for peace talks, Tojo orders the Japanese navy to prepare for an attack on the U.S.



The U.S. military had broken Japan's secret communication codes & knew that Japan was preparing for a strike. What it didn't know was where the attack would come, so the nation waited...

The so-called "peace talks" went on for a month. Then late on Dec. 6th, 1941, the president received a decoded message that had been intercepted. This message instructed Japan's peace envoy to reject all U.S. peace proposals. "This means war," said Roosevelt to his friend & advisor Harry Hopkins.



"It's too bad we can't strike first & prevent a surprise," Hopkins replied. "No, we can't do that," said Roosevelt. "We are a democracy of peaceful people. We have a good record. We must stand on it."

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

Early the next morning, a Japanese dive-bomber swooped low over the U.S. naval base in the Pacific. The bomber was followed by more than 180 Japanese warplanes launched from six aircraft carriers. As the first Japanese bombs found their targets, a radio operator flashed this message: "Air raid on Pearl Harbor. This is not a drill."

For an hour and a half, the Japanese planes were barely disturbed by U.S. anti-aircraft guns & blasted target after target. By the time the last plane soared off around 9:30 a.m.

For Japan, the attack on Pearl Harbor was a stunning victory. The Japanese navy all but crippled the entire U.S. Pacific Fleet in one blow. Its own casualties numbered only 29 planes. In Tokyo, the elated Tojo visited a shrine to thank the spirits of his ancestors of the favorable opening of Japan's campaign to rule East Asia.

The surprise raid had sunk or badly damaged 18 ships. About 350 planes had been destroyed or severely damaged. Some 2,400 people had died, & another 1,178 had been wounded. These losses constituted more damage than the U.S. Navy had suffered in all of World War I.





The Next day President Roosevelt addressed Congress.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy," he said, "...the Japanese launched an unprovoked & dastardly attack on American soil." He asked for a declaration of war against Japan, which Congress quickly approved.

Note: Three days later, Germany & Italy declare war on the United States.

After the bombing at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese seized Guam & Wake island in the western Pacific. Then they launched an attack on the Philippines. In Jan. 1942, the Japanese marched into the Philippine capital of Manila, where they overwhelmed U.S. & Filipino defenders on the Bataan Peninsula in April & in May, on the island of Corregidor.



The Japanese also hit the British, seizing Hong Kong & invading Malaya. By Feb. 1942, the Japanese had reached Singapore. By March, the Japanese had conquered more than 1 million sq. miles of land with about 150 million people.

After a string of victories, the Japanese seemed unbeatable. Nonetheless, the Allies, mainly the U.S. & Australians were anxious to strike back in the Pacific. In April 1942, the U.S. wanted revenge for Pearl Harbor. So, the U.S. sent 16 B-25 bombers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle to bomb Tokyo & other major Japanese cities. The bombs did little damage. The attack, however, made an important psychological point, the Japanese could be attacked.



Slowly, the Allies began to turn the tide of war. In the Battle of the Coral Sea, both the Japanese and U.S. fleets fought using a new kind of naval warfare. The opposing ships did not fire a single shot, they used airplanes taking off from huge aircraft carriers to do all the fighting. In the end, the battle was something of a draw. The Allies lost more ships than the Japanese, who claimed victory, but the Allies had stopped Japan's southward expansion for the first time.

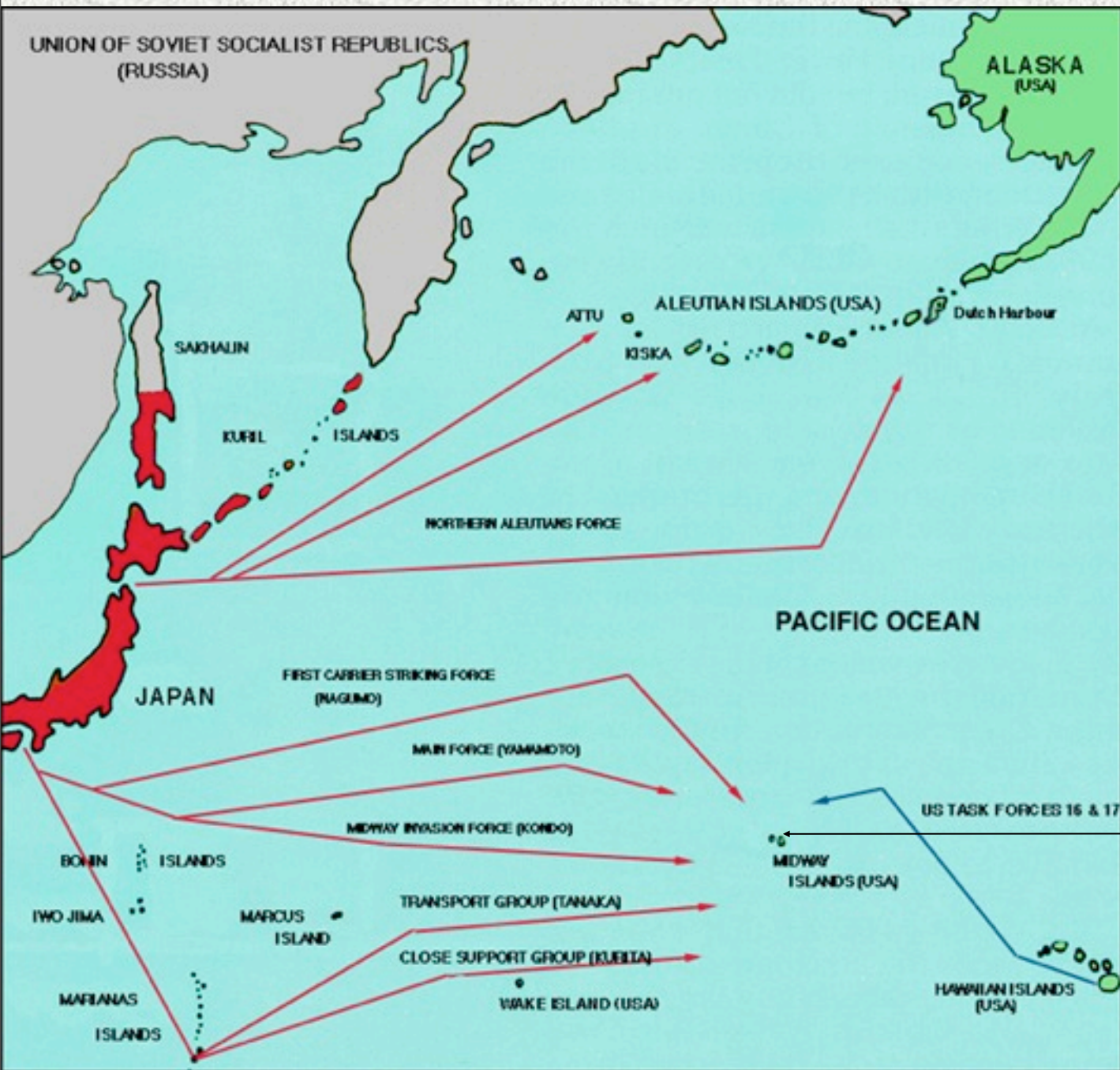
The Battle of Midway: Japan next targeted Midway island, west of Hawaii. The island was home to a key U.S. airfield. By June 1942, a Japanese code had been broken and as a result, the new commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester Nimitz, knew that a force of over 150 ships was heading toward Midway. The Japanese fleet was the largest naval force ever assembled. It could also boast the world's largest battleship, carrying Admiral Yamamoto himself.

Yamamoto planned to seize Midway & finish off the U.S. Pacific Fleet. He hoped the U.S. force would come from Pearl Harbor to defend the island.

Nimitz was outnumbered 4 to 1 in ships & planes. Even so, he was preparing an ambush for the Japanese at Midway. On June 3, with U.S. forces hidden beyond the horizon, Nimitz allowed the enemy to launch the first strike. As Japanese planes roared over Midway island, U.S. carrier planes attacked Japanese ships. Many Japanese planes were still on the decks of the ships. The strategy was a success. U.S. pilots destroyed 322 Japanese planes, all 4 aircraft carriers & one support ship.

Yamamoto ordered his fleet to withdraw. By June 6, 1942, the battle was over.

The Battle of Midway had turned the tide of war in the Pacific against the Japanese.



Midway Island



Admiral Chester Nimitz



Admiral Yamamoto

The day after the raid, The *Japan Times* boasted that the U.S. now reduced to a 3rd rate power, was “trembling in her shoes.”

Life on the Home Front

After Pearl Harbor, young Americans jammed the recruiting offices. The already drafted Americans (5 million) were not enough to face the challenge of a war on two fronts, so the Selective Service expanded the draft & provided another 10 million men to meet the needs of the armed services.

The volunteers & draftees reported to military bases around the country for 8 weeks of basic training. In this short period, seasoned sergeants did their best to turn raw recruits into disciplined, battle-ready GI's. (The initials G I meaning “Government Issue” were first applied to government issued uniforms, weapons, & supplies but soon it was used to describe soldiers as well.)

Sgt. Eastman & Draftees
American GI's





Women in the military – On May 15, 1942 the WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Army Corps) was formed. In all, some 250,000 women served in this and other auxiliary branches during the war.

Minorities in the Armed Services — For many minority groups – especially Blacks, Native Americans, Mexicans and Asians, the war created new dilemmas. Restricted to racially segregated neighborhoods & reservations & denied basic citizenship rights, some members of these groups questioned whether this was their war to fight. “Why die for democracy for some foreign country when we don’t even have it here?” asked an editorial in a African-American newspaper.

On receiving his draft notice, one American Black responded unhappily, **“Just carve on my tombstone, ‘Here lies a black man killed fighting a yellow man for the protection of a white man.’ ”**



Still minorities knew that no matter how badly they had been treated in the past, they were likely to be worse off under Axis control. “We know that under Nazism we would have no rights at all; we would be used as slaves,” declared a Native American. The Spanish Speaking Congress agreed, proclaiming that “our liberties, our homes, and our lives are directly threatened by Fascism...We are also children of the U.S. We will defend her.

In response, at least half million Mexican Americans served in the military. All units saw heavy action both in Europe & in Asia, suffering many casualties.

More than a million black Americans also served in the military. They lived & worked in segregated units & were mostly limited to non combat roles. But during the last year of the war, they did finally see combat.

Asian Americans took part in the struggle as well. More than 13,000 Chinese Americans joined the armed forces. In addition, 33,000 Japanese Americans put on uniforms. Of these, several thousand volunteered to serve as spies and interpreters in the Pacific war.

Some 25,000 Native Americans enlisted in the armed services, including 800 women. For many Native Americans, the war provided their first opportunity to leave the reservation and meet non-indians.



Mexican American soldiers during WWII



Japanese-American 442nd
Combat Team



African American
Soldiers



Native-American
Soldier

Just like in WWI, the nation's various industries began producing products for the war; including making ships, planes and tanks.

Ultimately, the war began to put people back to work and the depression of the 30's disappeared. By 1944, nearly 18 million workers were laboring in war industries. 6 million of these workers were women. Defense plants also hired more than 2 million minority workers, who faced strong prejudice. And once hired, many were only given menial jobs, such as janitors.

Also, Like in WWI, propaganda posters began popping up all over the country, urging Americans to do various things.



To protest discrimination in both the military and in industry, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the nation's leading African-American labor leader, organized a march on Washington. Randolph called on blacks everywhere to come to the capital on July 1, 1941, and march under the banner ***"We loyal Colored Americans Demand the Right to Work and Fight for Our Country."***

Fearing the march might provoke white resentment or violence, Roosevelt called Randolph to the White House and asked him to back down. **"I'm sorry Mr. President,"** the labor leader said, **"the march cannot be called off."** Roosevelt then asked, **"How many people do you plan to bring?"** Randolph replied, **"One hundred thousand, Mr. President."** Roosevelt was stunned. Even half that number of black protesters would be far more than Washington could feed, house and transport.

In the end it was Roosevelt, not Randolph, who backed down. In return for Randolph's promise to cancel the march, the president issued an executive order calling on employers and labor unions to:

"provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin."



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH Civil Rights and Labor Activist



The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

When African American porters working for the Pullman Palace Car Company decided to organize in the 1920s, they turned to labor union boss A. Philip Randolph (1889-1969), who had established his reputation as an eloquent orator and cofounder of the NAACP, the "only national Negro magazine in America." Officially founded in August 1925, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, led by Randolph, fought Pullman's union-busting tactics for better jobs, winning the respect of the labor's abolitionist affiliates of the American Federation of Labor in 1937. Randolph finally obtained a contract from Pullman for better wages and working conditions, the first agreement ever negotiated between a major corporation and an African union. Randolph went on to successfully campaign against racial discrimination in the armed forces and defense industries and to organize the historic 1941 March on Washington. He is now regarded as the greatest Black labor leader in American history, and an influential figure in the civil rights movement.

*"Freedom is never given;
it is won."*

—Randolph speech, Second National Negro Congress, 1944



A. Philip Randolph



The United States & Great Britain Join Forces

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Prime Minister Churchill & FDR meet again on December 22, 1941 at the White House. For the next 3 weeks, they work out war plans. Their first major decision was to make the defeat of Germany the Allies' top priority. This decision was made for several reasons:

- FDR had always considered Hitler the #1 enemy of the U.S.
- USSR, who was now one of the Allies, was desperate for help against invading German Forces.
- Only after Germany was defeated could the U.S. look to Britain & the USSR for help in defeating Japan

The second important decision was to accept only the unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.



After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hitler ordered submarine raids against ships along America's East Coast. In the first 4 months of 1942, the Germans sank 87 U.S. ships off the Atlantic shore. 7 months into the year, the Germans sank a total of 681 Allied ships in the Atlantic.

The Allies respond by organizing their cargo ships into convoys, or groups for mutual protection.



The Battle Of The Atlantic

The convoys were escorted across the Atlantic by destroyers equipped with sonar for detection subs underwater & by airplanes that used radar to spot subs on the oceans surface. With this improved tracking, the Allies were able to find & destroy German U-boats faster than the Germans could build them.

At the same time, the U.S. launched a crash shipbuilding program. By early 1943, 140 ships were being produced each month and for the first time in the war, launchings of Allied cargo ships began to outnumber sinkings. By mid 1943, the tide of the Battle of the Atlantic had turned in the Allies favor.

The North African Front

In November 1942, some 107,000 Allied troops – most of them American - commanded by the U.S. general Dwight D. Eisenhower, landed in Casablanca, Oran & Algiers in North Africa. From there they sped eastward, chasing the Afrika Korps led by General Erwin Rommel. After months of heavy fighting, the last of the Afrika Korps surrendered in May 1943.

British general Harold Alexander sent a message to Churchill, reporting that “All enemy resistance has ceased. We are masters of the North African shores.”



The Italian Campaign:

Even before the battle in North Africa was won, FDR, Churchill & their commanders met in Casablanca to decide where to strike next. The Americans argued that the best approach to victory was to assemble a massive invasion fleet in Britain and to launch it across the English Channel, through France, and into the heart of Germany. Churchill, however, thought it would be safer to first attack Italy. The Allies compromised. They would push ahead with plans for the cross-channel invasion; meanwhile, Allied troops would invade Italy.

The Italian campaign got off to a good start with the capture of Sicily in the summer of 1943. By then, the Italians were weary of war. On July 25, 1942, King Victor Emmanuel III summoned the Fascist dictator Mussolini to his palace & stripped him of power. Mussolini was arrested and Italians began celebrating the end of the war.

Hitler responded by seizing control of Italy, reinstalling Mussolini as its leader & ordering German troops to dig in & hold firm. It took 18 months of fighting in the mud & mountains for the Allies to drive the Germans from Italian soil.



King Victor Emmanuel III

One of the hardest fought battles the Allies encountered in Europe was fought less than 40 miles away from Rome. This battle, “Bloody Anzio,” lasted 4 months and left about 25,000 Allied and 30,000 Axis soldiers dead. During the struggle, the Allies were aided by 50,000 Italian partisans – members of underground resistance movements. The partisans harassed the Germans by cutting telephone wires, derailing trains and dynamiting bridges and roads.

On April 28, 1945, partisans who had ambushed a Nazi convoy found Mussolini disguised as a German soldier in one of the trucks.



Mussolini & his mistress, Clara Petacci, as well as other Fascist leaders are caught by partisans near Lake Como as they attempt to escape to Switzerland. They are shot & their bodies transported to Milan and hung up by the heels in the main square, where a mob then mutilates the corpses.

The Allies Liberate Europe

As Allied troops pushed northward through Italy, the Soviet army moved westward into Poland. Meanwhile, in England, General Eisenhower organized Operation Overlord, the planned invasion of Hitler's "fortress Europe."

D-Day: For two years the U.S. & Britain had been building an invasion force of ships, landing craft & nearly 3 million troops to attack Axis forces on the other side of the English Channel. Eisenhower hoped to take the Axis by surprise & pinpointed the relatively lightly fortified Normandy peninsula as the focus of the assault. To make reinforcement of the German forces more difficult once the invasion began, the Allies bombed northern France's supply routes – roads, bridges, & rail lines – for a month & a half before the planned assault.



The day of the invasion, had originally been set for June 5, but bad weather forced a delay. Banking on a forecast for clearing skies. Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for the next day & June 6, 1944, became a day that will live in history.

3 divisions parachuted down behind German lines during the night, & British, U.S. & Canadian troops fought their way ashore at 5 points along the 60-mile wide stretch of beach. With 156,000 troops, 4,000 landing craft, 600 warships & 11,000 planes, it was the largest land-sea-air operation in history.

Despite the massive air & sea bombardment by the Allies before the invasion, German retaliation was brutal, particularly at Omaha Beach. “People were yelling, screaming, dying, running on the beach, equipment was flying everywhere, men were bleeding to death, crawling, lying everywhere, firing coming from all directions. We dropped down behind anything that was the size of a golf ball.” – Soldier Felix Branham



Despite heavy casualties, the Allies held the beachheads. Within a month, they had landed a million troops, 567,000 tons of supplies & 170,000 vehicles in France. On July 25, General Omar Bradley unleashed massive air & land bombardment against the enemy at St.-Lo. Giving General George Patton & his 3rd army the gap they needed to advance. On Aug. 23, they reached the Seine River south of Paris. 2 days later, French Resistance troops & U.S. troops liberated the French capital from 4 years of German occupation.

By September 1944, the Allies had freed France, Belgium, Luxembourg & much of the Netherlands. This good news along with the American people's desire not to "change horses in midstream" helped elect Roosevelt to an unprecedented 4th term in November, along with his new moderate running mate, Senator Harry S. Truman.



Mobilization of scientists – In 1941, Roosevelt created the Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD) to bring scientists into the war effort. They made improvements in both radar & sonar, a new technology for locating submarines underwater. They also pushed the development of drugs such as penicillin, that saved countless lives on &

The greatest scientific achievement of the OSRD, was the secret development of a new weapon, the atomic bomb. Interest in such a weapon began in 1939, after German scientists succeeded in splitting uranium atoms, which released enormous amounts of energy. This news prompted physicist & German refugee Albert Einstein to write a letter to President Roosevelt, warning that the Germans could use their discovery to construct a weapon of enormous destructive power.

Roosevelt responded by creating a National Committee on Uranium to study the new discovery. In 1941, the committee reported that it would take from 3 to 5 years to build an atomic bomb.

Hoping to shorten that time, the OSRD set up a crash program in 1942 to develop a bomb as quickly as possible. Because its offices were located in New York City, the atomic bomb program came to be known as

Roosevelt did not live to see the final battles of the war. On 4/12/45, while posing for a portrait in Warm Springs, Ga. The president had a stroke & died. That night, Harry S. Truman became the nations president.



Harry S. Truman

As the world mourned Roosevelt's death, an inexperienced Truman began to grapple with his new job as president & commander in chief of the armed forces.



Not long after Truman took office, Secretary of War Henry Stimson handed him a memo that began, "**Within four months we shall in all probability have completed the most terrible weapon ever known in human history, one bomb of which could destroy a whole city.**"

Over the next hour, the president learned that the *Manhattan Project* was not only the most ambitious scientific enterprise in history but also the best-kept secret of the war.

The Manhattan Project



Enrico Fermi



At its peak, more than 600,000 Americans were involved in the project, although few of them knew its ultimate purpose – the creation of an atomic bomb.

Work on the bomb began in 1942, after a group of scientists under the direction of physicist Enrico Fermi successfully achieved a controlled nuclear reaction at the University of Chicago. General Leslie Groves, the organizer of the Manhattan Project, had two gigantic atomic reactors built at Oak Ridge, Tennessee & another at Hanford, Washington, to produce uranium 235, a rare form of the element, along with the even rarer element plutonium, to fuel the explosive device. Meanwhile, a group of U.S., British, & European refugee scientists headed by J. Robert Oppenheimer worked in a secret laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, to build the actual bomb.

Categories:

Comprehensive List of People who worked on the Manhattan Project:

Administrators

Bush, Vannevar
Compton, Arthur H.
Conant, James B.
Groves, Leslie R.

Defense **Roosevelt, Franklin D.**
Truman, Harry S.

Government Agencies

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)
Counterintelligence Corps (CIC)
Labor & the MED Manhattan Engineer District (MED)
Military Personnel of Los Alamos National
Research Committee (NDRC)
Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD)

S-1 (Uranium) Committee Special Engineering
Detachment (SED)

Women's Army Corps

(WAC)

Scientists

Becquerel, Antoine British Mission at Los Alamos Chadwick
James Curie
Marie and Pierre
Einstein, Albert
Fermi, Enrico
Fuchs, Klaus
Hall, Theodore
Lawrence, Ernest O.
Meitner, Lise
Oppenheimer, J. Robert
Seaborg, Glenn
T. Szilard, Leo

As the time to test the bomb drew near, the air around Los Alamos crackled with rumors and fear. At one end of the scale were fears that the bomb wouldn't work at all or, if it did, would not produce enough punch to amount to much. At the other end was the prediction that the explosion would set fire to the atmosphere, which would mean the end of the earth.

On the night of July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated in Alamogordo, New Mexico.



A blinding flash, which was visible 180 miles away, was followed by a deafening roar as a tremendous shock wave rolled across the trembling desert.

One scientist on the project described the huge mushroom cloud as a red-hot elephant standing

The bomb not only worked, but it was more powerful than most had dared hope.

On July 25, 1945, Truman ordered the military to make final plans for dropping the only two atomic bombs then in existence on Japanese targets. A day later, the U.S. warned Japan that it faced “prompt and utter destruction” unless it surrendered at once. Japan refused.



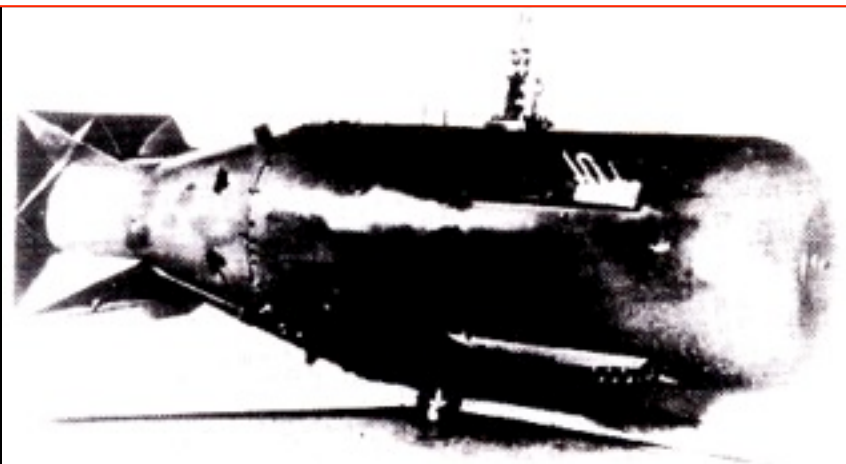
Truman later wrote:

“The final decision of where and when to use the atomic bomb was up to me. Let there be no mistake about it. I regarded the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubt that it should be used.”

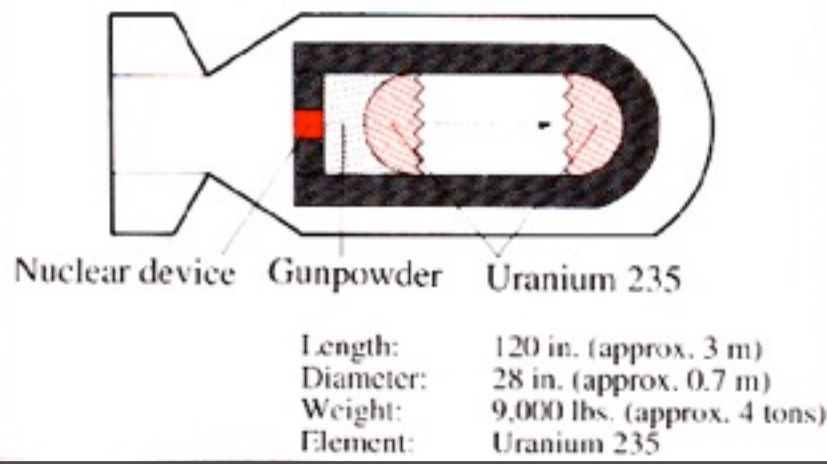
On Aug, 6th, a B-29 bomber named *Enola Gay* released an atomic bomb, code-named *Little Boy*, over Hiroshima, an important Japanese military center. 43 seconds later, almost every building in the city collapsed into dust. Hiroshima had ceased to exist. Still Japan's leaders hesitated to surrender. 3 days later, a second bomb, code-named Fat Man, was dropped on Nagasaki, leveling half the city. By the end of the year, an estimated 200,000 people had died as a result of injuries and radiation poisoning caused by the atomic blasts.



This shows the "Little Boy" weapon in the pit ready for loading into the bomb bay of Enola Gay.



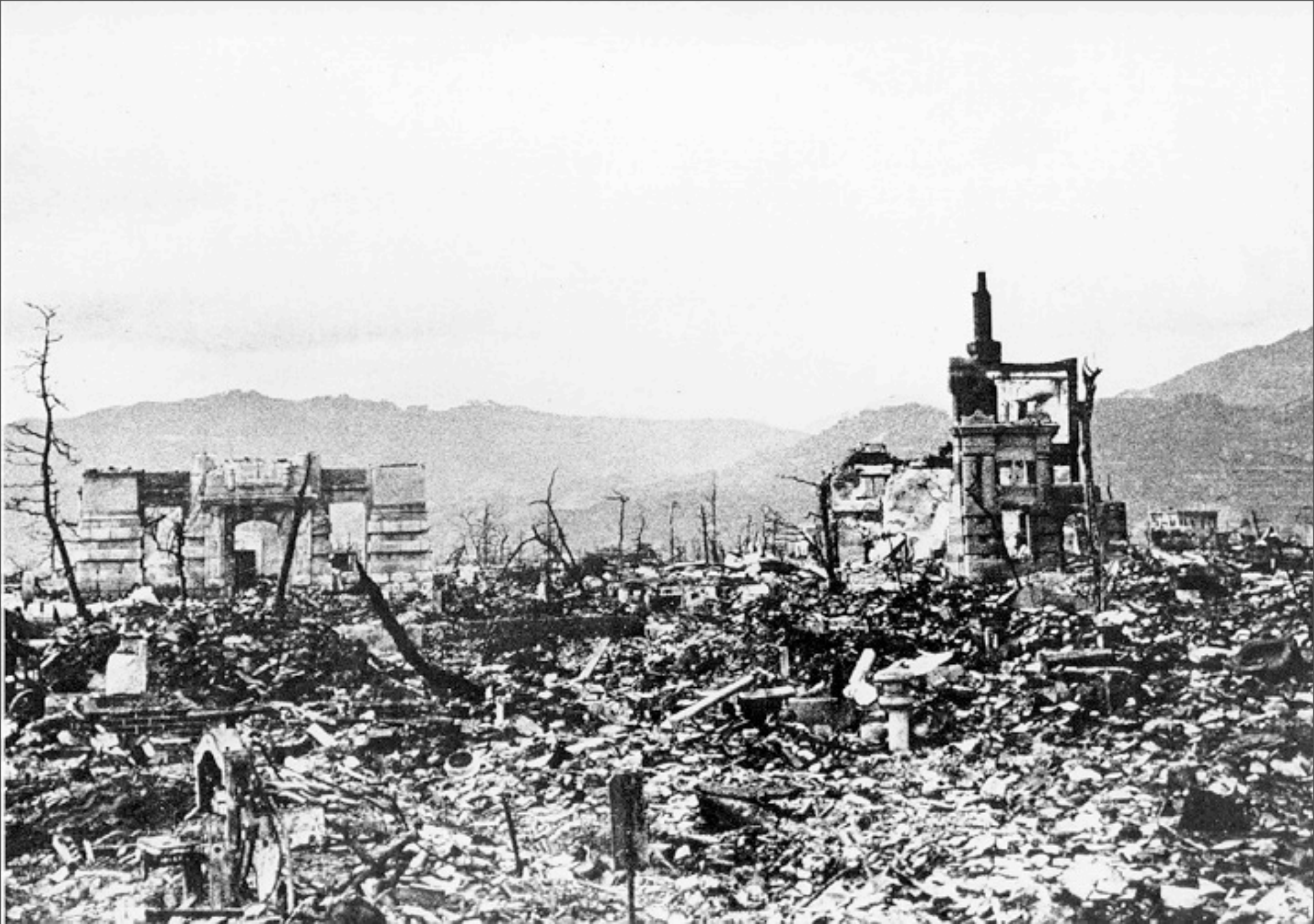
Hiroshima A-bomb





Fat Man

Before and after photo of Nagasaki





Wednesday, October 26, 2011



A burned school girl



A child with his face arms and legs burnt



A girl who lost her hair to radiation sickness



Another burn victim

Hiroshima after the atomic bomb blast



World War II ends with the surrender of Germany on May 8th and the surrender of Japan on Sept. 2nd 1945

Wartime conferences w/ **THE BIG 3** (U.S., Britain, Soviet Union)

Yalta Conference – Feb. 1945

Potsdam Conference – July 1945 - (Began under a cloud of mistrust)

Establishment of the UN (United Nations) First Meeting April 1945,

The first session was convened on January 10, 1946 in the Westminster Central Hall in London and included representatives of 51 nations. 1946 & again in June 1946. By June they had agreed on a charter. The charter created the General Assembly, which was made up of all member nations & was expected to function as a “town meeting of the world.” The charter also set up administrative, judicial, & economic governing bodies.

An 11 member Security Council held the real power, though the 5 main wartime Allies - The U.S., Great Britain, France, China & The Soviet Union were given permanent seats on the Security Council. At the insistence of the USSR & the U.S., each permanent member had the power to veto any council action. The other six seats rotated to countries elected by the General Assembly.

The Devastation of WWII

By the end of WWII, Europe lay in ruins. Close to 40 million Europeans had died – 2/3 of them civilians. Constant bombing & shelling had reduced hundreds of cities to rubble. The ground war had destroyed much of the countryside. Displaced persons from many nations were struggling to get home.

A few of the great cities of Europe (Paris, Rome, Brussels) remained undamaged by war. Many however, had suffered terrible destruction. London was left in ruins by the German Blitz. Eastern Europe & Germany were far worse off. Warsaw, the capital of Poland, was almost wiped from the face of the earth. In 1939, Warsaw had a population of 1,289,000. When the Russians entered the city in January 1945, only 153,000 remained, or 11%.

In Berlin, 95% of the central city was demolished. One U.S. officer stationed in Berlin reported, "Wherever we looked, we saw desolation. It was like a city of the dead."

A City in Great Britain



After the war, many civilians stayed where they were & tried to get on with their lives. Some lived in partially destroyed homes or apartments. Others huddled in caves & cellars beneath the rubble. They had no water, no electricity, and very little food. With factories destroyed or damaged, most people had no earnings to buy the food that was available.

Although many remained in the cities, a large number of city dwellers fled. Many people ended up wandering Europe. These people included the survivors of concentration camps, prisoners of war and refugees fleeing the Soviet army.

Millions found themselves in the wrong country when the postwar treaties changed national borders. They jammed the roads trying to get home, hoping to find their families or to find a safe place

After the war, agriculture was disrupted. Most able-bodied men fought in the war & the women worked in war production, so there were very few to tend to the fields.

Also the transportation systems were destroyed, so the little agriculture that there was often did not reach the cities. Thousands died of famine & disease spread through the bombed-out cities. In August 1945, 4,000 citizens of Berlin died every day! To get a few potatoes, people would barter any valuable items they had left. The first winter after the war brought more suffering as people went without shoes & coats.

Costs of WWII: Allies & Axis

	Direct War Costs	Military Killed/ Missing	Civilians Killed
United States	\$288 billion	292,131	0
Great Britain	\$117 billion	271,311	60,595
France	\$111.3 billion	205,707	173,260*
USSR	\$93 billion	13,600,000	7,720,000
Germany	\$212.3 billion	3,300,000	2,893,000*
Japan	\$41.3 billion	1,140,429	953,000

Note: *Of the 173,260 French civilians that were killed, 65,000 were murdered Jews.

Of the 2,893,000 German civilians who were killed, about 170,000 were murdered Jews & 56,000 were foreign civilians in Germany.

Despairing Europeans often blamed their leaders for the war & its aftermath. Much of the old leadership was in disgrace. In Italy & France, many resistance fighters were Communist & after the war, the Communist party promised change. Millions were ready to listen and Communist party membership skyrocketed.

The Communists made huge gains in the first postwar elections. Anxious to speed up a political takeover, the Communists staged a series of violent strikes. Alarmed French & Italians reacted by voting for anti-Communist parties. Communist membership & influence then began to decline & they began to decline even more so as the economies of France & Italy began to recover.

The Nuremberg War Trials



On 20 November 1945 the first trial against the principal war criminals of the “Third Reich” begins at the International Military Court in Nuremberg. The indictment includes war crimes, “crimes against humanity” & “crimes against peace”. Not all major Nazis could be brought before the Allies: Hitler, Joseph Goebbels and Heinrich Himmler committed suicide.

The trial, which lasts over a year, reveals for the first time the extent of the National Socialist reign of terror.

On 1 October 1946 12 of the 22 accused are condemned to death. Göring escapes the hangman by committing suicide. Seven of the accused receive sentences of many years or life sentences. In only three cases were defendants acquitted. In later trials of lesser leaders, nearly 200 more Nazis were found guilty of war crimes. For the first time in history a nation’s leaders had been held legally responsible for their actions during wartime.

The Occupation of Japan



Japan was occupied by U.S. forces under the command of General Douglass MacArthur. To ensure that fighting would end, he disbanded the Japanese armed forces, leaving the Japanese with only a small police force. In the early months of the occupation, more than 1,100 Japanese, from former prime minister Hideki Tojo, lowly prison guards, were arrested & put on trial. Seven including Tojo, were sentenced to death by hanging. In the Philippines, in China, & other Asian battlegrounds, additional Japanese officials were tried for atrocities against civilians or prisoners of war.

During the 6 year U.S. occupation, MacArthur reformed Japan's economy by introducing free-market practices that led to a remarkable economic recovery. MacArthur also worked to transform Japan's government. He called for a new constitution that would provide for woman suffrage & guarantee basic freedoms. To this day, their constitution is known as the MacArthur Constitution.