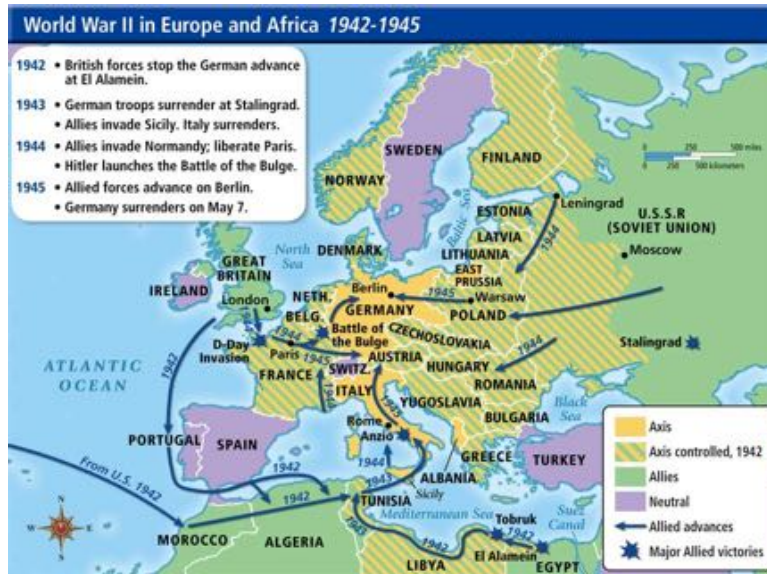


The Soviets Advance from the East

July 1943:
Soviets soundly defeat the Germans at the Battle of Kursk
began steady advance westward



December 1943: Soviets reoccupy the Ukraine
they moved into the Baltic states by early 1944

D-Day: Allies Gain a Western Foothold in Europe



June 6, 1944 landing of Allied forces
on the beaches of Normandy

by early August:
2 million Allied men and 500,000 Allied
vehicles in northern France

Allied troops liberated Paris by the end of
August 1944



The Battle of the Bulge



December, 1944:
Germans launch counteroffensive,
creating a “bulge” in Allied lines
but the Allied lines held

March 1945:
Allied forces cross the Rhine River and
advanced into Germany

April 1945:
Allied armies in northern Germany
link up with the Soviets

Meanwhile, on the Eastern Front:

January 1945:
Soviet troops occupy Warsaw

April 1945:
Soviet troops enter Berlin



The War in Italy



July, 1943:

King Victor Emmanuel III gains control of the Italian military
he dismissed Mussolini as prime minister and immediately
imprisoned him

the new Italian government began negotiations with the Allies

September, 1943:

armistice signed with the Allies

December, 1943:

Germans rescue Mussolini
moves to northern Italy
sets up a new Fascist state

April 28, 1945:

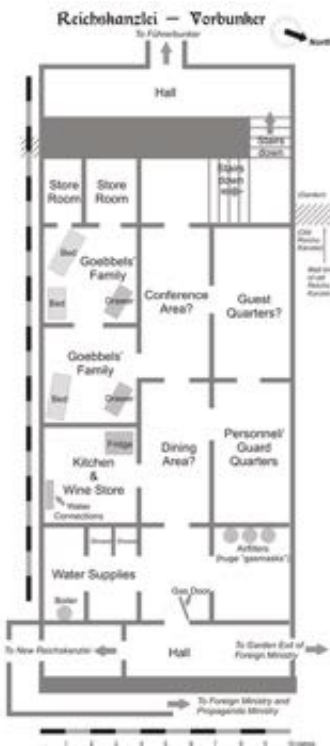
Mussolini captured and killed by the
Italian resistance

May 2, 1945:

German and Italian forces in Italy
surrendered



Hitler's Demise



By January 1945, Adolf Hitler had moved into a bunker 55 feet under the city of Berlin.

He continued to blame the Jews for the war. He wrote:

Above all I charge the leaders of the nation and those under them to scrupulous observance of the laws of race and to merciless opposition to the universal poisoner of all peoples, international Jewry.

from Hitler's Final Will and Testament, April 29, 1945

Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945.

On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered.

The war in Europe was finally over.

Germany is Defeated

Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill had met at Tehran in November 1943 to discuss an Allied invasion through France scheduled for the spring of 1944 (D-Day).



Soviet and British-American forces would meet in defeated Germany along a dividing line.

11 million Soviet soldiers would be taking possession of Eastern Europe.

The Allies also agreed to a partition of postwar Germany.

Yalta Conference: February 1945
the Big Three met again at in southern Russia

Stalin wanted to establish pro-Soviet governments along the Soviet Union's borders, control of the Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, and two warm-water ports and railroad rights in Manchuria this was Stalin's price for military aid against Japan





A Divided Germany

Germany was divided into four zones for the Allied countries to occupy and govern
 US, Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union

July 1945: Potsdam Conference
 Big Three met to discuss the issue of free elections

Roosevelt favored the idea of self-determination

Stalin responded, "A freely elected government in any of these East European countries would be anti-Soviet, and that we cannot allow."



British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, US President Harry Truman and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin at the Potsdam Conference, July - August 1945



The Asian Theater

1943: U.S. began an island-hopping offensive against Japan



early 1945:

US controls the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa

Iwo Jima had two airfields used by the Japanese to attack Allied aircraft

Okinawa would also provide them with a base near the mainland

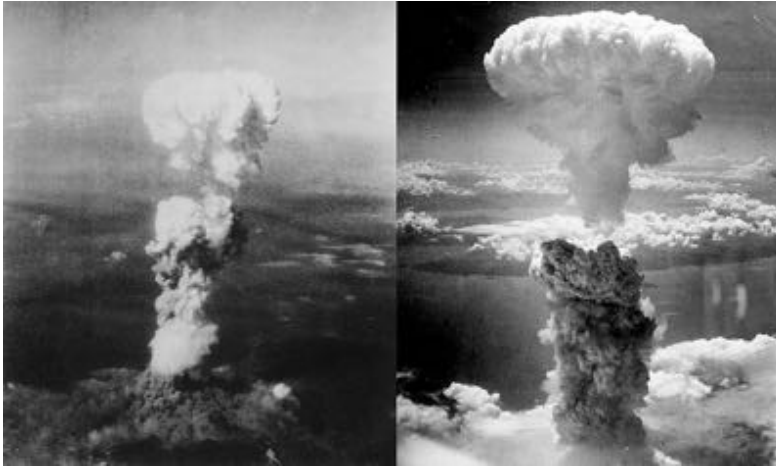


The Allies were victorious in both battles, but casualties were great on both sides.



The Manhattan Project

President Harry S. Truman had been sworn in after Roosevelt died in April
Truman was convinced that a US invasion of Japan would incur heavy casualties



scientists in America had secretly developed the atomic bomb as part of the Manhattan Project

Truman made the difficult decision to use the bombs against Japan

Hiroshima was bombed on August 6 and three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki

Thousands of people died immediately after the bombs were dropped.
Thousands more died in later months from radiation.

Emperor Hirohito accepted unconditional surrender terms on August 14, 1945.

World War II was finally over.



The Cold War Begins

the world had witnessed the deadly potential of nuclear energy
countries raced to build their own nuclear weapons.

August 1949:
the Soviet Union set off its first atomic bomb

Western countries thought Soviet expansionist policy was part of a worldwide Communist conspiracy.

The Soviets viewed Western policy as global capitalist expansionism.

March 1946:

former British prime minister Winston Churchill declared that “an iron curtain” had “descended across the continent,” dividing Europe into two hostile camps.

The Cold War:

period of political tensions between the US and the Soviet Union following WWII, a situation that would dominate world affairs until the end of the 1980s.