



# America and World War II

## Lesson 1 War Clouds Gather

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**  
*Why does conflict develop?*

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. *What events led to the rise of dictators in Europe?*
2. *Why did other nations allow Germany to expand its territory?*

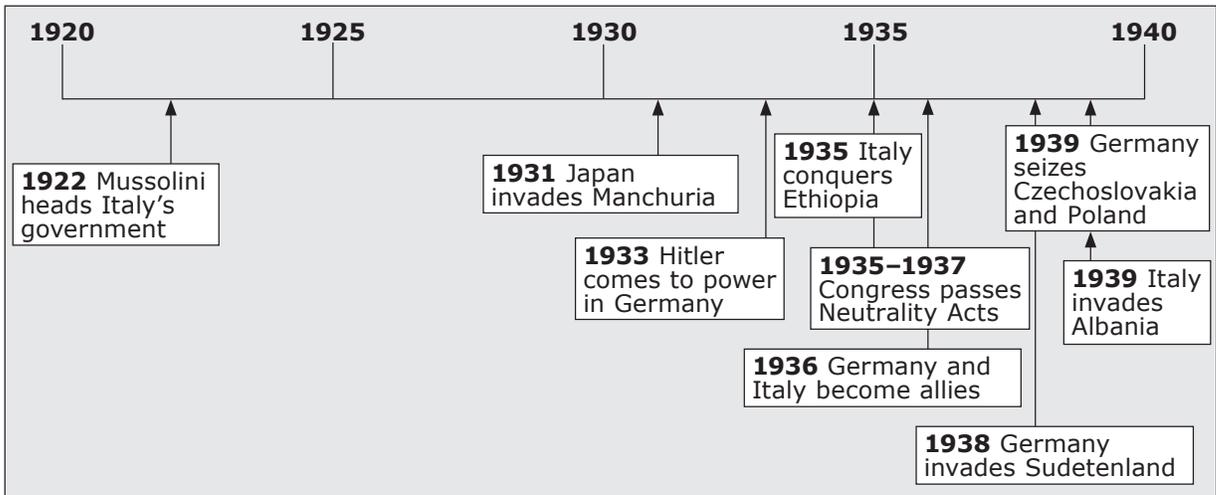
**Terms to Know**

- dictator** leader who controls by force
- anti-Semitism** dislike of or discrimination against Jews
- totalitarian** seeking to control all aspects of life through dictatorship
- appeasement** giving in to demands of others in order to keep peace

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



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## America and World War II

### Lesson 1 War Clouds Gather, *Continued*

#### The Rise of Dictators

Several **dictators** came to power in the 1920s and 1930s. A dictator is someone who rules by force. The dictators came to power at a time when people were angry and worried.

The Treaty of Versailles ended World War I. Many Europeans did not like what the Treaty of Versailles had done. Then, in the 1930s there was an economic depression. Because of the depression, many people did not have jobs. They did not know when they were going to get jobs, either.

Leaders like Adolf Hitler made promises to the people. They promised the people that they would have enough money again. They promised that their nations would be great again. Leaders made promises so people would want them to be in power. After they were in power, the leaders became dictators. They ruled by force.

Benito Mussolini came to power in Italy. He was the first dictator in Europe after World War I. Italians were upset that Italy did not get much from the Versailles Treaty. They wanted order in their lives because things in Europe were unsettled.

Mussolini was a fascist (FASH-ist). Fascism is a non-democratic form of government that stresses the greatness of a race or nation. By 1922, the Fascist Party forced Italy's king to say Mussolini was the head of the government.

Mussolini was called *Il Duce* (DOO-chay). *Il Duce* means "the leader." Mussolini outlawed all other political parties. He took away people's rights. He stopped newspapers from reporting any news he did not like. He built up the military and attacked other countries. In 1935, Mussolini's army took over Ethiopia. The League of Nations protested weakly. Italy quit the League of Nations. In 1939, Mussolini's army invaded Albania. Albania is Italy's neighbor.

Adolf Hitler took advantage of people's feelings. Germany had suffered much in the Great Depression. Businesses had closed. People had lost their jobs.

Hitler knew that Germans were afraid. They were also angry about the terms of the Versailles Treaty. They did not like the fact that the treaty gave all the blame for World War I to Germany. Germany also had to give up some land after World War I. Germans did not like the fact that land had been taken from Germany.

#### Reading Check

1. What plans did Mussolini and Hitler share?

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#### Mark the Text

2. Underline the names of the dictators of Italy, Germany, and the Soviet Union.

#### Explaining

3. How did the Treaty of Versailles hurt Germany?

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## America and World War II

### Lesson 1 War Clouds Gather, *Continued*



#### Paraphrasing

4. What reason did Hitler give for invading Austria?

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#### Critical Thinking

5. Why did Japan invade Manchuria?

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Hitler was the head of the Nazi (NAH-tzee) Party (the National Socialist Party). The Nazis believed that Germans were better than other people. Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany's problems. Hitler's **anti-Semitism**, or hatred of Jews, had many terrible results.

Hitler came to power in 1933. He ended democracy in Germany. He set up a **totalitarian** government. A totalitarian leader gets rid of anyone who opposes him. A totalitarian government controls every part of life.

Hitler thought Germany had a right to take more territory. The Versailles treaty said Germany could not rebuild its army, but Hitler did it anyway. He formed a partnership with Italy in 1936.

The Soviet Union was a dictatorship too. In the 1920s, Joseph Stalin became the leader of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. He killed his enemies and sent "disloyal" people to labor camps.

In Japan, people suffered during the Great Depression. Not enough people had jobs. There was not enough food. Military leaders like Hideki Tojo wanted more land and more resources. In 1931 Japan invaded northeastern China. This region is called Manchuria. There are many minerals in Manchuria.

The League of Nations criticized Japan for invading China, but they did nothing else.

In 1937 Japanese soldiers invaded China. Japan joined Italy and Germany in 1940 to form a group known as "the Axis."

Dictators rose to power, but the United States did not take sides. Congress passed Neutrality Acts. These laws said the United States could not lend money or sell weapons to nations that were at war.

### Germany Pushes the Limits

In March 1936, Hitler ordered his soldiers into an area of Germany called the Rhineland. The Treaty of Versailles said that Germany could not have soldiers there, but Hitler sent them anyway.

Two years later, Hitler invaded Austria. He insisted that Austria should be part of Germany.

Next, Hitler focused on the Sudetenland (soo-DAY-tuhn-land). This was a part of Czechoslovakia (CHECK-oh-slo-VAH-kee-uh). Many people there spoke German. Hitler





## America and World War II

### Lesson 2 World War II Begins

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**  
*Why does conflict develop?*

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. *How did World War II begin?*
2. *Why did the United States gradually become involved on the side of the Allies?*
3. *What happened as the result of the attack on Pearl Harbor?*

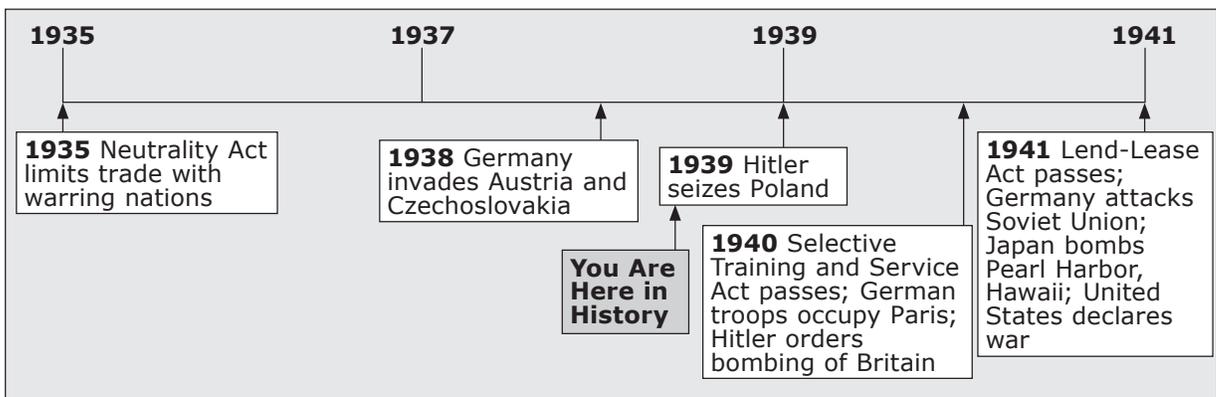
**Terms to Know**

- blitzkrieg** "lightning war"
- disarmament** giving up military weapons

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



## America and World War II

### Lesson 2 World War II Begins, *Continued*

#### War in Europe

On September 1, 1939, Hitler sent German soldiers into Poland. The attack was fast and fierce. The Germans called it a **blitzkrieg**, (BLIHTS-kreeg) or "lightning war." Poland was quickly defeated. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. There was little they could do to help Poland, however. The attack had happened too fast.

Hitler and Stalin divided Poland between them in late September 1939. Stalin also set up army bases in other countries. He set up bases in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. He also tried to set up an army base in Finland, but the Finns fought back. They fought until March 1940. Then they had to surrender.

France and Britain were known as the Allies. They believed Germany would attack France after it attacked Poland. Allied soldiers waited at the border between Germany and France. That part of the border is called the Maginot (mah-zuh-NOH) Line. The soldiers were there to defend France from a German attack.

Germany did not attack France then. Instead, Germany attacked Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, and Belgium. After Belgium surrendered, the Allied soldiers pulled back. They went to a port in northern France, called Dunkirk. The soldiers were trapped between the Germans and the English Channel. The British sent 800 warships, ferries, and fishing boats back and forth across the English Channel. The ships rescued more than 300,000 French and British soldiers.

In June 1940, the Germans invaded France. Italy joined with Germany against France. On June 14, German soldiers marched into Paris, the capital city. France surrendered a week later.

By the summer of 1940, Hitler had captured almost all of Europe. England was the only country he did not have. England got ready to be attacked. First, Germany sent planes to bomb England. They bombed air bases, shipyards, factories, and cities. Many people were killed in the bombing raids. The attacks went on from August to October 1940. Britain never surrendered. The British Royal Air Force shot down many German planes. Finally, Hitler gave up his plan to invade Britain.

In 1941 Hitler broke his treaty with Stalin and attacked the Soviet Union. He wanted Soviet resources and land. At first, the Germans were successful. Then, Stalin ordered the Soviets to burn everything. They destroyed their own



#### Mark the Text

- Underline in the text the meaning of *blitzkrieg*.

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#### Visualize It

- Describe how the Allied troops escaped from Dunkirk.

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#### Reading Check

- Why did Hitler end plans to invade Britain?

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## America and World War II

### Lesson 2 World War II Begins, *Continued*

**ABC** **Mark the Text**

4. Underline the sentence that tells what the word *neutral* means.

**✓** **Reading Check**

5. Why did isolationists oppose the Lend-Lease Act?

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**?** **Critical Thinking**

6. Why do you think Roosevelt helped Great Britain?

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crops, cities, and dams. The Germans found it hard to supply their troops.

### The United States and the War

Most Americans wanted the Allies to win. However, they did not want America to fight. A small group wanted America to stay completely out of Europe's problems.

Roosevelt promised to remain neutral. Neutral means not taking either side in an argument. Roosevelt kept on getting ready for war, just in case. In 1939, Congress passed a new Neutrality Act. It said that nations at war could buy U.S. goods. Roosevelt made a deal with Britain. He gave them 50 warships in exchange for leases on eight British army bases. Roosevelt then signed a new draft law. The law said that American men, ages 21 to 35, could be called to serve in the military.

In 1940, Roosevelt ran for a third term as president and won. He was the first president to go beyond two terms. He promised Americans, "Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars."

In March 1941, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act. This law allowed America to provide weapons to countries that were important to America's safety. Isolationists did not like the Lend-Lease Act. They said it brought America closer to war.

Roosevelt took other steps to help the Allies without fighting. He told the American Navy to protect British ships that were near America's shores. After German soldiers fired on American ships, Roosevelt said Americans could shoot at German and Italian ships in certain areas.

In August 1941, President Roosevelt and Britain's Winston Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter. It set goals for the world after the Nazis were defeated. The two leaders urged **disarmament**—giving up weapons.

### The Japanese Threat

The Germans and Italians advanced in Europe. At the same time, Japan advanced in the Far East. After France fell to Germany, the Japanese captured French-ruled Indochina. They also planned to capture the Philippines, an American territory, the Dutch East Indies, and British Malaya.

Roosevelt responded to the threat. The Japanese could not get any of their money that they had in American





## America and World War II

### Lesson 3 On the Home Front

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why does conflict develop?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did the United States refocus its economy to provide supplies for the war effort?*
2. *Why did Americans unite to help the war effort?*

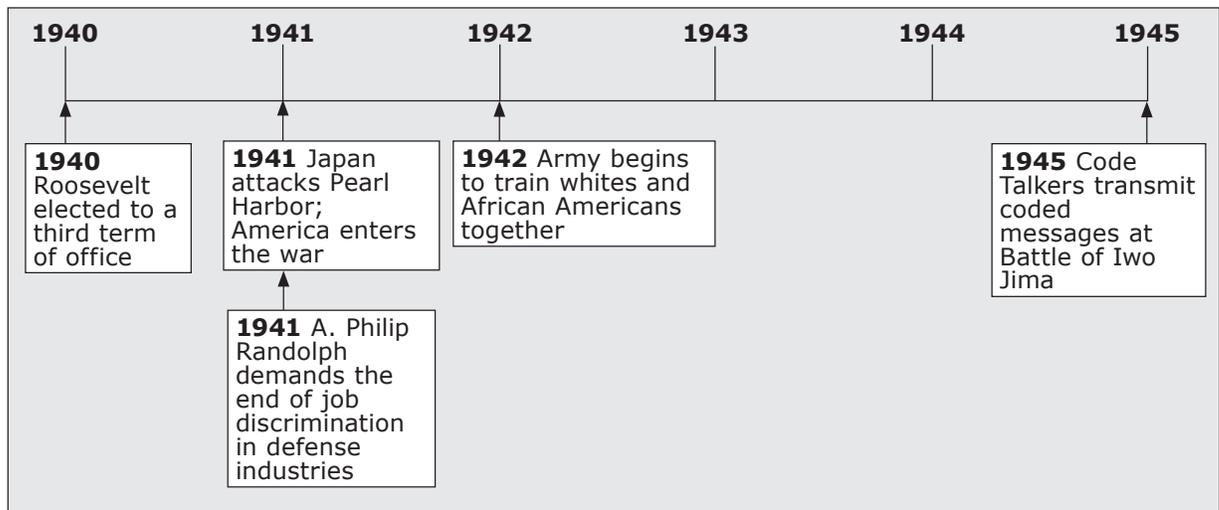
#### Terms to Know

**ration** to limit the number of items that are available to people

**civil defense** protective measures taken in case of attack

**internment camp** place where Japanese Americans were sent during World War II

#### When did it happen?



#### What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	What kinds of goods were rationed?	
	How did industries change during wartime?	

**America and World War II**

**Lesson 3** On the Home Front, *Continued*

**The United States Prepares**

America had been preparing for war even before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States had added soldiers to the armed forces with the Selective Service Act.

Now that the country was at war, more than 15 million more Americans joined the armed forces. They volunteered or were drafted.

People who wanted to join the army had to pass a medical test first. Then they got their uniforms and equipment. Uniforms were labeled "G.I." That stood for "Government Issue." That is why U.S. soldiers came to be called "GIs."

New GIs trained for eight weeks. They learned to handle weapons. They learned to read maps. They learned how to set up tents and dig trenches. They learned to work as a team.

For the first time, large numbers of women served in the military. There was the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and the Women Appointed for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). There were women's units in the Marines, in the Coast Guard, and in the Army Air Corps. Most women worked in offices or as nurses.

Most industries began to make equipment to use in the war. The government set up new departments to help. There was the National War Labor Board. It helped to settle labor disputes. There was the War Production Board. It was in charge of changing factories over to military products. For example, automakers made trucks, jeeps, and tanks instead of cars. By 1942, almost all major industries had changed to war production.

The United States spent more than \$320 billion on the war. That is 10 times as much as the cost of World War I. To raise money for the war, the government raised taxes on businesses. They made most Americans pay income tax. Congress approved a system to take taxes directly out of people's paychecks.

The government also borrowed money from its citizens. As in World War I, the United States sold war bonds. These were like loans that the government would repay. Movie stars and other famous people urged Americans to buy bonds to support the war.

 **Reading Check**

1. How did the United States prepare for war?

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 **Explaining**

2. Why were American soldiers called "GIs"?

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 **Critical Thinking**

3. Name two ways the government raised money for the war.

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## America and World War II

### Lesson 3: On the Home Front, *Continued*



#### Listing

4. Identify three items that people used ration stamps to buy.

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#### Mark the Text

5. Underline the sentence that tells who the code talkers were.

## The United States at War

Americans at home felt the effects of the war. Families worried about loved ones fighting overseas. Americans faced shortages of many goods. The government **rationed** products needed for war. When something is rationed, people can only buy it in limited amounts. People got ration stamps which allowed them to buy their share of certain items. There were ration stamps for gas, tires, sugar, coffee, shoes, meat, and other things.

People found many ways to help the war effort. Children collected scrap metal for industry. Adults worked in **civil defense**, or protective measures taken in case of attack. Volunteers watched for enemy planes. People in cities along the coasts had to keep windows covered or keep the lights off. If an enemy plane was flying overhead, it would not see the city. An Office of War Information urged people to get behind the war effort. It encouraged people to be patriotic.

Life changed for women. Millions of women filled the jobs of men who had gone to war. A famous ad campaign showed a woman called "Rosie the Riveter." She urged women to go to work. Many women had never worked outside of their homes.

The war helped people change their attitudes about minority groups. About 1 million African Americans served in the war. At first, they were in segregated units. They had unpleasant jobs.

In 1942, the army began to train whites and African Americans together. African Americans began to get combat assignments in 1944.

An African American fighter group known as the Tuskegee Airmen destroyed more than 250 enemy planes. Benjamin Davis, Jr. was a commander of one of the units of the Airmen. He went on to become the first African American general in the Air Force. His father had been the first African American general in the Army.

In 1941, a labor leader named A. Philip Randolph demanded that the government outlaw discrimination in certain industries. President Roosevelt signed an order that created the Fair Employment Practices Committee. The order said there could be no discrimination in the government or in defense industries.

Native Americans also worked in defense plants and joined the military. Ira Hayes of the Pima tribe became a hero in the battle for Iwo Jima. During the war, a group of

**America and World War II**

**Lesson 3** On the Home Front, *Continued*

Navajo used a code based on their language. The coded messages were about battle plans. These Native Americans were called "code talkers." The Japanese were never able to figure out the code.

Hundreds of thousands of Latinos served in the armed forces. Thirteen Mexican Americans received the Medal of Honor. This is the nation's highest military honor. With the wartime need for labor, the U.S. started the bracero (brah-SEHR-oh) program. More than 200,000 Mexican workers came to help harvest crops and to build and maintain railroads. Still, they often faced discrimination.

Some Japanese Americans served as fighters. Two of these fighting units won the most medals of any in the history of the army.

However, after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, some military leaders and political leaders were worried. They did not know what these Japanese Americans would do if Japan invaded the United States. As a result, President Roosevelt ordered the Army to send more than 100,000 Japanese Americans to **internment** (ihn-TUHRN-muhnt) **camp**s. Many Japanese Americans lost their possessions when they were moved to the camps, which were crowded and uncomfortable. Many Japanese Americans were kept in camps for the next three years. In 1988, the U.S. government finally apologized for this action.

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**Check for Understanding**

**Write how the war affected any two of these groups: families, women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Japanese Americans.**

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**Why was it necessary to make changes at home while the United States was at war?**

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**Explaining**

- 6.** What happened to many Japanese Americans during the war?

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- 7.** Place a three-tab Foldable on the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Cut each tab in half to make six tabs. Write *How did the war affect* on the anchor tab. Label the six tabs *families, women, African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Japanese Americans*. On both sides of the tabs, describe what you remember about the effects war had on each. Use the information to help you complete the Check for Understanding.



## America and World War II

### Lesson 4 The European Theater of War

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why does conflict develop?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What strategies allowed for a successful campaign against the Axis powers in North Africa?*
2. *How did the two-front war fought by the Allies lead to the defeat of the Axis powers?*
3. *What is the Holocaust, and how did it begin?*

#### Terms to Know

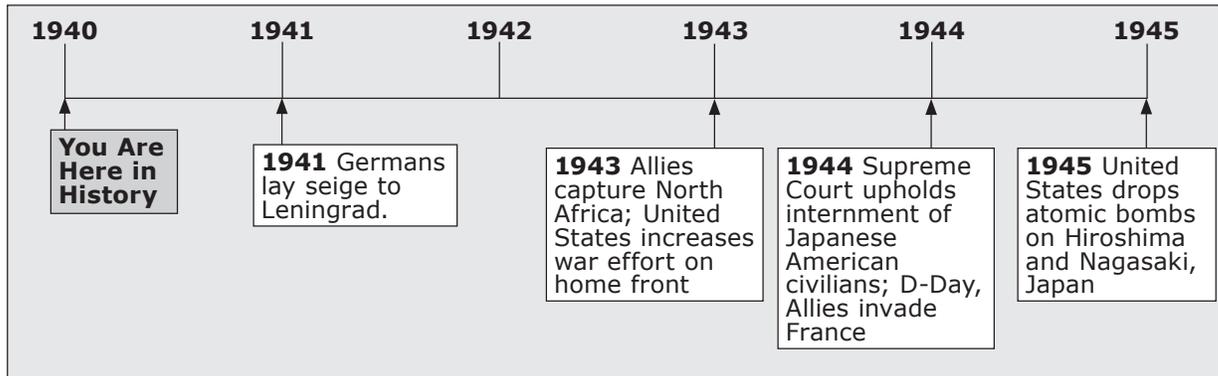
**siege** military blockade

**genocide** killing an entire ethnic group

**Holocaust** the mass slaughter of Jews by Nazis during World War II

**concentration camp** large prison camp used to hold people for political reasons

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	Why did the Allies invade North Africa first?	
	What was Operation Overlord?	

## America and World War II

### Lesson 4 The European Theater of War, *Continued*

#### Focusing on the Nazi Threat

When the United States joined the war, the Axis armies already controlled most of Europe. They also controlled much of North Africa. They were trying to control the Soviet Union. There was a possibility that Germany could win the war.

Stalin wanted the Allies to attack Europe. That would force Hitler to pull soldiers out of the Soviet Union. Churchill and Roosevelt wanted something else. They wanted to attack the edges of German-controlled lands. They decided to invade North Africa. This would give U.S. soldiers time to get used to fighting. It would also help the British, who were already fighting in Egypt against the Axis.

German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was nicknamed "Desert Fox." He led Axis forces in North Africa. He had success fighting in the desert. Then, in November 1942, British forces defeated Rommel's troops at El Alamein (ehl al-luh-MAYN) in Egypt. The British victory stopped the Germans from capturing the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal was important for shipping supplies.

American General Dwight D. Eisenhower was the commander of the American and British forces. The Allied soldiers landed in Morocco and Algeria. The soldiers went east and met up with British soldiers who were moving west from Egypt. In May 1943, the Allies closed in on Rommel. They drove the Germans out of North Africa.

Allied soldiers then went to southern Europe. First they took the island of Sicily, which is part of Italy. In September 1943, they landed on the mainland of Italy. Eisenhower planned this invasion too. Under Eisenhower was U.S. General George Patton and British General Bernard Montgomery. These two generals led the troops.

The Allies moved forward. The Italians overthrew Mussolini. There was a new government, and it surrendered to the Allies. German soldiers who were in Italy kept fighting, but in the end, they lost. In June 1944, the Allies captured Rome, Italy's capital.

#### The Allies Take Control in Europe

The war was fought on two fronts. Allied soldiers fought German troops in North Africa. Germans were also fighting in the Soviet Union. In June 1941, the Germans began a **siege** (SEEJ) of Leningrad. During a siege, nothing can go in or out of a city.



#### Mark the Text

- Underline the name of the general who led the German forces in North Africa. Circle the name of the general who led the Allies.



#### Critical Thinking

- What happened in Italy after the Allies invaded?

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#### Reading Check

- Why did the Allies invade North Africa first instead of Europe?

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## America and World War II

### Lesson 4 The European Theater of War, *Continued*

#### Reading Check

4. Why was the Battle of the Bulge an important Allied victory?

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#### Describing

5. Place a one-tab Foldable under the heading *The Holocaust*. Write *Escalation of Violence Against Jews* on the anchor tab. In your own words, describe how the Jews were treated after Hitler became leader. Draw an arrow from the Bottom of the tab pointing up. Begin your list at the bottom of the Foldable and go up to show the escalation of violence.

The siege of Leningrad lasted almost 900 days. Food ran out, and hundreds of thousands of Soviets died. Even so, they did not surrender. In early 1944, Soviet soldiers were able to end the siege.

The Germans tried to take other cities in the Soviet Union. In 1941, they tried to take the capital city, Moscow. It was slow going. Many Germans died. When the Germans finally reached Moscow, the Soviets fought hard. The Germans had to leave. In 1942, the Germans attacked and captured Stalingrad. After they went into the city, Soviet soldiers surrounded it. The Soviets cut off German supplies. The soldiers inside Stalingrad began to starve. They finally surrendered in February 1943. This was a big turning point in the war. The Soviets started attacking. The German army pulled back.

The Allies planned an attack. The attack was called Operation Overlord. The Allies would invade Western Europe. On June 6, 1944, soldiers landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. Within a few weeks, a million Allied soldiers were there. June 6, 1944 is known as "D-Day."

The Germans could not stop the Allies. The Allies moved across France. They pushed the Germans back. On August 25, French and American soldiers freed the city of Paris.

In the fall of 1944, Germany was fighting to survive. Then they attacked in Belgium. They pushed the Allies back. The German line had a bulge in it. This became known as the Battle of the Bulge. After weeks of fighting, the Allies pushed back the Germans and headed into Germany. The Soviets reached Berlin in February 1945. On April 30, 1945, Hitler committed suicide. Germany surrendered on May 7. The next day became V-E Day which stands for "Victory in Europe."

President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. He did not live to see the end of the war. Harry S. Truman had been vice president. He became president.

## The Holocaust

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As Allied troops freed German-held areas, they discovered proof of Nazi cruelty. After Hitler came to power, the Nazis began to carry out the "final solution," or **genocide** (JEH-nuh-syd). Genocide is to wipe out an entire group of people. Two-thirds of Europe's Jews were killed in the **Holocaust** (HAH-luh-kawst). The total number of Jews the Nazis killed was six million. The Nazis killed millions of

**America and World War II**

**Lesson 4** The European Theater of War, *Continued*

others, too. They killed communists, Roma (Gypsies), disabled people, and others.

Beginning in 1942, the Nazis built death camps and sent the Jews there. It was a crime to be Jewish. Two such camps were Auschwitz (OWSH-vitz) and Treblinka. Jews were killed with poison gas. Many died of starvation. Many others were victims of cruel medical experiments.

Healthy prisoners were forced to do slave labor. Anyone who was sick or weak was sent to gas chambers and killed with poison gas. Then their bodies were burnt in furnaces.

Allied governments knew about death camps as early as 1942. Today, historians wonder how something so horrible could have happened and why so little was done to stop it.

The United States Holocaust Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors the victims. The World War II Memorial honors those who served in the military. It is dedicated to those who served their country in the military, those who died, and those who served on the home front.

**Check for Understanding**

**Explain why fighting a war on two fronts led to the defeat of the Axis Powers.**

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**Why was Operation Overlord a success?**

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**✓ Reading Check**

6. What groups did the Nazi government victimize?

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**? Critical Thinking**

7. Why are the Holocaust Memorial and the World War II Memorial important?

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8. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Two-Front War* on the anchor tab. Label the top tab *West: Europe and North Africa* and the bottom tab *East: Russia*. On the front and back of each tab, list what you remember about the war on each front. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

Glue Foldable here



## America and World War II

### Lesson 5 The War in the Pacific

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**  
*Why does conflict develop?*

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

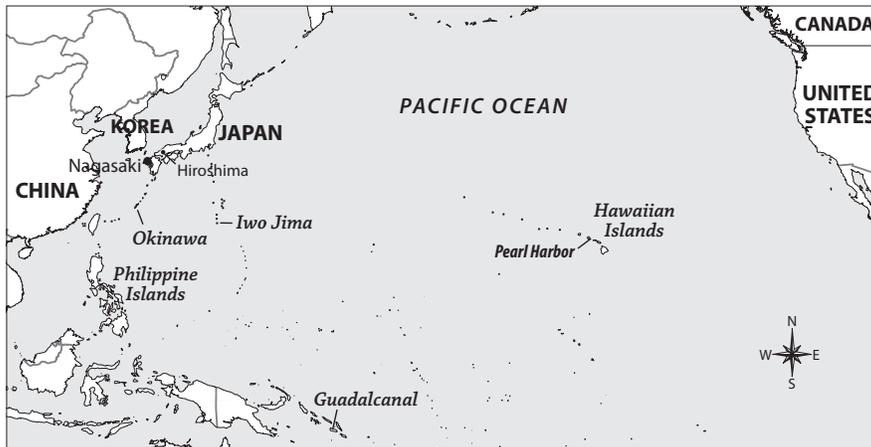
1. *What events occurred on the Pacific front?*
2. *How did the United States' use of the atomic bomb bring about Japan's surrender?*

**Terms to Know**

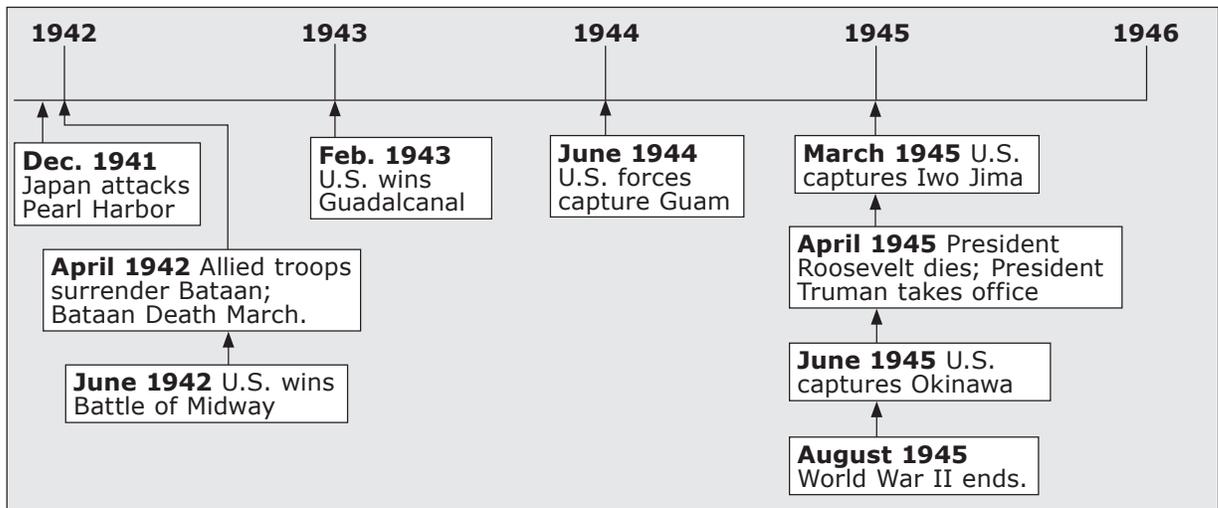
**island hopping** a strategy of capturing an island and using it to leapfrog to the next island

**kamikaze** a Japanese suicide pilot

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



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## America and World War II

### Lesson 5 The War in the Pacific, *Continued*

#### The Pacific Front

The war with Japan was not like the war in Europe. The war took place in the huge Pacific Ocean. There are hundreds of islands there of different sizes. Most of the war had to do with capturing islands.

On the day of the Pearl Harbor attack, Japan also bombed American airfields in the Philippines, Wake Island, and Guam. These were key American bases. Then Japanese troops invaded Thailand and Malaya. Japan captured Guam, Wake Island, and Hong Kong.

In December 1941, Japanese troops landed in the Philippines. They captured the capital city, Manila. Allied soldiers there were forced to retreat. They moved to the Bataan Peninsula and the small island of Corregidor.

For months the Allies fought on Bataan. Finally, the Allied soldiers were exhausted. On April 9, 1942, they surrendered. However, soldiers on Corregidor kept on fighting. A month later, they had to surrender too.

The Japanese captured Bataan and Corregidor. Allied troops were taken prisoner. They were sick and starving. The Japanese forced the prisoners to march more than 60 miles (97 km) to a prison camp.

About 76,000 prisoners started on the march. Only about 54,000 prisoners reached the prison camp. The other 20,000 prisoners died or were killed.

Americans were discouraged by Japan's victories. Then in April 1942, U.S. planes bombed Tokyo. The attack started from the deck of an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. The attack gave Americans hope.

A month later, in May 1942, U.S. battleships won a battle against Japanese ships. This was known as the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The next month, the United States won another battle against the Japanese. This was the Battle of Midway. The battle took place northwest of Hawaii. The American Navy destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers. They also destroyed hundreds of airplanes. Japan's losses were huge.

The United States began to fight even harder against Japan. General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz were in charge. They made a war plan they called **island hopping**. This meant that they would attack and capture certain islands. They would make each island into a base. They would then attack other islands from that base. In this way, they could move closer and closer to the

#### Reading Check

1. What is significant about the Battle of Midway?

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#### Mark the Text

2. Circle the name given to the march of Allied prisoners to a prison camp. Why was it called that?

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#### Explaining

3. What was the strategy called island-hopping, and how did it work?

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## America and World War II

### Lesson 5 The War in the Pacific, *Continued*

#### Reading Check

4. What was the goal of the Manhattan Project?

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#### Defining

5. Why were kamikaze pilots called suicide bombers?

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Philippines. More importantly, they could move closer and closer to Japan.

The plan worked.

- Between August 1942 and February 1943, U.S. forces captured Guadalcanal.
- In June 1944, U.S. forces captured Guam and other nearby islands.
- In October, U.S. ships destroyed many Japanese ships at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. This was in the Phillipines.
- In March 1945, U.S. forces captured the island of Iwo Jima.
- In June 1945, U.S. forces captured the island of Okinawa.

Iwo Jima and Okinawa were close to Japan. The Japanese fought fiercely to keep them. Thousands of American soldiers died. Thousands more were wounded.

The Allies had destroyed most of Japan's air force and most of Japan's navy. U.S. planes bombed Tokyo and other Japanese cities.

In return, the Japanese sent pilots called **kamikazes** (kah-mih-KAH-zee). Kamikaze pilots were suicide bombers. They crashed their planes into American ships. In this way, they sank several ships. This happened during the battle for Okinawa.

## The Atomic Bomb Ends the War

The battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa showed that the Japanese would keep fighting no matter what. They refused to surrender. Therefore, the United States decided to use a powerful new weapon. That weapon was the atomic bomb.

Six years earlier, in 1939, the scientist Albert Einstein warned President Roosevelt that the Nazis were trying to build "extremely powerful bombs." These bombs used atomic energy. Roosevelt gathered a group of scientists. They told Roosevelt he should start building an atomic bomb for America. Roosevelt created a top secret program called the "Manhattan Project" to build the bomb. On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was tested in the New Mexico desert.

U.S. officials discussed whether to use the atomic bomb. The final decision was up to President Truman. Truman had

**America and World War II**

**Lesson 5** The War in the Pacific, *Continued*

been Vice President. When President Roosevelt died in April 1945, Truman took over.

President Truman decided to use the bomb. He believed it would end the war sooner and save American lives.

President Truman and the Allied leaders first sent a warning to Japan. Japan did not surrender. Truman gave the order to drop the bomb on Japan.

On August 6, 1945, a U.S. plane dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. It killed between 80,000 and 120,000 people. Three days later, the United States dropped a second bomb. This bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. It killed between 35,000 and 74,000 people. Thousands more suffered from illness and burns caused by the bombs.

On August 15, 1945, the Japanese surrendered. This became known as "V-J Day." Japan signed a formal surrender on September 2.

World War II was finally over. It was the most destructive war in history. Millions of people had died. Millions more were left sick or wounded. The Soviet Union lost the most people. There, at least 18 million people died.

Survivors faced many challenges. Countries were faced with a huge job of rebuilding.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

**Check for Understanding**

**Which strategy changed the course of the war in favor of the Allies, and how?**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**What were two main actions that helped the Allies win against Japan?**

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\_\_\_\_\_



**Explaining**

- 6.** Describe what Truman did before giving the order to use the atomic bomb.

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**Identifying**

- 7.** On which two cities were atomic bombs dropped?

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\_\_\_\_\_



- 8.** Use a three-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *The Pacific Front* on the anchor tab. Label the three tabs *Allied Troops Defensive*, *Allied Troops Offensive*, and *Allied Victory*. On the front and back of the tabs, write one thing you remember about each. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.