In this chapter, you will learn about the dictatorships that came to power in Italy, Germany, Spain and Japan and how their aggressive policies led to the outbreak of war in Asia and Europe. Then you will learn how Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war. Finally, you will learn how World War II was fought both overseas and on the home front. Americans helped secure an Allied victory in the most destructive conflict in human history.
A. Conditions in Europe after World War I were favorable to the rise of dictatorships. The Russian Revolution led to the world’s first Communist state in the Soviet Union. The dissolution of the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires led to the creation of fragile new democracies in other parts of Europe.

B. Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party, which took power in Italy in 1922. Adolf Hitler took power in Germany in 1933 after the high unemployment caused by the Great Depression. These new dictatorships glorified violence, obedience to leaders, and extreme nationalism. They arrested, imprisoned and often killed their opponents. Hitler’s Nazi Party condemned Jews and others.

C. Hitler had an expansionist foreign policy. He re-armed Germany, helped Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, annexed Austria, and demanded the Sudentenland in Czechoslovakia in 1938. The League of Nations failed to stop aggressors. British and French leaders gave in to Hitler’s demands in an attempt at appeasement. Hitler took the rest of Czechoslovakia, and then demanded part of Poland in 1939. This time, British and French leaders refused to give in. After signing a non-aggression pact with Stalin, Hitler attacked Poland, starting World War II in Europe. In Asia, Japanese military leaders had already occupied Manchuria in 1931 and had invaded eastern China in 1937.

D. The German army developed a new form of offensive warfare — the Blitzkrieg. Rapid coordinated movements of airplanes, tanks, mechanized troop carriers and infantry made it possible to advance at rapid speed. Germany quickly conquered Poland, defeated France, and controlled most of Europe by 1940. In 1941, Germany violated its non-aggression pact and invaded the Soviet Union.

E. Americans at first tried to stay neutral in the war. After World War I, there had been a return to isolationism. Congress passed the Neutrality Acts, prohibiting Americans from traveling on ships of nations at war, or selling arms to nations at war. They could only sell non-military goods on a “cash-and-carry” basis.

F. President Roosevelt was concerned at the rise of totalitarian states and the threat it presented to democracy. When Japan attacked China in 1937, he proposed that peaceful states quarantine aggressive nations. American volunteers also formed the Flying Tigers, a squadron of airplanes that helped keep supply lines to China open. After Germany occupied France, Congress passed the first peace-time draft. In 1941, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act in order to sell, rent or lend wartime equipment to Britain, which stood alone in facing the terror of Nazi Germany. In 1941, Roosevelt secretly met Churchill and they agreed to the Atlantic Charter, laying the foundation for the future United Nations.

G. Surprisingly, events in Asia rather than Europe brought the United States into the war. Roosevelt threatened an embargo to force Japan to give up some of its conquests. Japanese leaders wanted to seize Indonesia for its oil. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes launched a surprise attack on the U.S fleet at Pearl Harbor. The next day Roosevelt asked for a declaration of war against Japan.
H. To pay for the war, the federal government sold war bonds. Factories converted from peacetime to wartime production. The government rationed food and other goods so that it had a sufficient supplies for armed forces overseas. Many Americans planted Victory Gardens to grow their own fruits and vegetables. The Office of War Information controlled radio broadcasts, made posters and newsreels, and tried to promote unrest in Germany, Italy and Japan. Women and minorities filled in the workforce for men overseas, and some women enlisted in the WACS, or Women’s Army Corp. Tens of thousands of Japanese Americans were forcibly moved to internment camps as a result of Executive Order 9066. In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the order in Korematsu v. U.S.

I. Large numbers of men enlisted in the armed forces, and others were drafted. African Americans were restricted to segregated units and kept from combat until later in the war. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American pilots who served as bomber escorts. In the Battle of the Bulge, African-American units were used for combat. Vernon Baker was awarded the Medal of Honor 52 years after he had heroically faced combat in Europe.

J. Because Nazi Germany was the greater threat, Roosevelt focused on the war in Europe first. Stalin wanted the allies to open a second front in Western Europe, but the British felt the Americans were not prepared. American and British forces landed in North Africa in 1942 and moved to Sicily and Italy in 1943. General George Patton was one of the most successful U.S. commanders. General Dwight Eisenhower commanded the invasion of Normandy, known as D-Day. Allied troops advanced rapidly through France and retook Paris, but were surprised when Germany counterattacked at the Battle of the Bulge. After the German attack collapsed, Allied troops crossed into Germany.

K. The end of the war came when Soviet troops invaded Germany from the east and the other Allies from the west. Hitler committed suicide in 1945. U.S. troops were shocked when they liberated the concentration camps and found the survivors of Hitler’s attempt to exterminate Jews and others in the Holocaust.

L. The United States also fought Japan in the Pacific in this multiple-front war. After Pearl Harbor, Japan took several Pacific Islands. U.S. and Filipino prisoners of war were forced on the Bataan Death March. The tide in the Pacific turned in 1943 when the U.S. Navy, commanded by Admiral Chester Nimitz, defeated a Japanese fleet at the Battle of Midway. Under General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. troops gradually retook the Pacific through the strategy of “island-hopping,” eventually reaching close to Japan’s home islands.

M. President Harry Truman decided to use the new atomic bomb against Japan. After bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, Japan surrendered. World War II, in which over 70 million people died, was over.

N. The war ended with the rise of two Superpowers — the United States and the Soviet Union. Germany and Japan were occupied by allied troops, and their leaders were tried for war crimes. Germany was divided into four occupation zones.
After World War I, Americans had returned to their traditional policy of isolation. They were more concerned with events at home than abroad. They felt safe behind the oceans separating them from Europe and Asia. They raised tariffs, restricted immigration, and even insisted that their wartime allies, France and Britain, pay back the war debts owed to Americans.

There were notable exceptions to this trend towards isolationism. In 1921, President Harding hosted the Washington Naval Conference, in which leading world powers agreed to limit the size of their navies. In 1928, the United States also promoted the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact, signed by 62 nations, renouncing the use of war.

Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt both also tried to improve U.S. relations with Latin America. Under the “Good Neighbor Policy,” the United States agreed not to interfere in the internal affairs of Latin American nations, and relations between the United States and the countries of Latin America began to improve.

**THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR II**

World War I and the Great Depression had profound effects on Europe, just as they did on the United States. Within two decades, Europe was again at war.
THE RISE OF DICTATORSHIPS

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, Russia became the world’s first Communist state, known as the Soviet Union. In the 1920s, Joseph Stalin seized power by eliminating his adversaries. Stalin established a brutal totalitarian dictatorship.

In other parts of Europe, new democracies were established but stood on shaky foundations. Many conservatives feared the rise of Communism and despised democracy. They also held extreme nationalist, racist, and anti-Semitic views. Veterans from World War I had been exposed to the inhumanity of trench warfare, and violence became a part of political life in the years after the war. In Japan, military leaders assumed power with the support of the Japanese Emperor.

New political parties like the Italian Fascists and German National Socialists (Nazis) took advantage of these fears and emotions. In Italy, Benito Mussolini developed a new type of political party and seized power soon after the war. The spread of the Great Depression in the early 1930s led to high levels of unemployment and shook public confidence in the new democratic Weimar Republic, bringing Nazi leader Adolf Hitler to power in Germany. Hitler established a dictatorship as brutal or worse than Stalin’s. He was determined to achieve German domination of Europe. Nazi aggression would be the main cause for the outbreak of World War II.

THE FAILURE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The League of Nations, charged with preventing another war, was too weak to resist these dictators. The idea of collective security — that peaceful nations would band together to stop aggressors — failed when countries like the United States and the Soviet Union failed to become members of the League. Germany and Japan left the League in the 1930s. The League did nothing to prevent Hitler from rebuilding the German army, Italy from attacking Ethiopia, Germany from bombing cities in Spain, or Japan from invading Manchuria and China.

APPEASEMENT FAILS: Munich Conference

Hitler had promised to expand Germany. In 1938, Hitler annexed Austria. Next, he demanded the Sudetenland — a part of Czechoslovakia where many Germans lived. At first, France and Britain promised to protect Czechoslovakia, but when Hitler threatened war, they backed down. At the Munich Conference (1938), British and French leaders, without consulting the Czechs, agreed to give Hitler part of Czechoslovakia to avoid war. This policy of giving in to satisfy the demands of a potential enemy is sometimes known as appeasement. England and France hoped to achieve peace through compromise, but failed. Hitler became convinced that Britain and France were weak, and decided to make more demands.
APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Use the Internet or your library to research American attitudes in the 1930s to the rise of dictators like Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, and the military leaders of Japan.

THE GERMAN INVASION OF POLAND

In 1939, Hitler made new territorial demands in Poland. Fearing Hitler intended to dominate Europe, Britain and France refused to give in. Hitler responded by signing a non-aggression pact with Stalin, in which the two secretly agreed to invade and divide Poland. When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War II had begun.

In Poland, the German army unveiled a new type of warfare — the Blitzkrieg — which consisted of rapid, coordinated movements by airplanes, tanks, troop carriers, and infantry. The Germans quickly defeated the Poles, and before long they had also defeated the French and taken over much of Europe. While the main advantage in battle in World War I had been with the defense, the use of airplanes, tanks and mechanized transport brought the advantage in warfare back to the offense during World War II. The Germans, and later the Allies, also bombed civilians in cities to increase the terrors of war.

AMERICA GOES TO WAR

AMERICA PRESERVES A CAUTIOUS NEUTRALITY

In the early 1930s, Americans were too absorbed with recovering from the Great Depression to be very involved in affairs overseas. As tensions in Europe rose, Congress passed a series of laws to keep the country out of war. Americans had been drawn into World War I when German submarines had attacked American ships. To avoid similar events, the Neutrality Acts (1935–1937) prohibited Americans from traveling on the ships of nations at war. Americans were also prohibited from selling arms to countries at war. Americans could sell non-military goods to Britain and other nations opposed to aggression, but only on a “cash-and-carry” basis.

When Japan invaded China in 1937, President Roosevelt delivered his “Quarantine” Speech. He warned Americans of the growing unrest in the world and told them that peaceful nations had to act together to quarantine (isolate) aggressive nations.
Roosevelt encouraged democratic nations to boycott aggressors. Most Americans, however, remained opposed to U.S. military action in either Europe or Asia.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

Roosevelt’s “Quarantine” Speech called for economic embargoes against aggressors. The speech caused an uproar with isolationists, and Roosevelt later backed down:

“It is my [hope] to pursue a policy of peace and avoid involvement in war. There is an interdependence about the modern world, which makes it impossible for any nation to isolate itself from [the] upheavals in the rest of the world, especially when such upheavals appear to be spreading. It seems that the epidemic of world lawlessness is spreading. When an epidemic of disease starts to spread, the community joins in a quarantine of the patients in order to protect the health of the community against the spread of the disease.”

★ If the free nations of the world had acted as Roosevelt proposed, would World War II have been prevented? Explain your answer.

★ If you had been President of the United States in 1940, would you have supported continued isolationism? Write a speech for a “fireside chat” as your answer.

Not wishing to see all of China fall to Japan, the British used the Burma Road to send supplies. When this 700-mile route was cut off, a group of American volunteer fighter pilots, known as the **Flying Tigers**, were recruited to send supplies and to engage in combat with Japanese pilots. These pilots destroyed almost 300 Japanese aircraft. Their abilities as pilots made possible stirring victories when early news stories in the United States were mostly filled with reports of Japanese forces advancing in the Pacific.

Even after 1939, Americans still hoped to avoid involvement in the war, but they began making preparations just in case they were dragged into the conflict. Congress increased spending on the army and navy, and enacted the first peacetime draft. Roosevelt also took the unusual decision of running for a third term — the first and last President to do so.

In 1941, Roosevelt proposed the **Lend-Lease Act** to sell, lease, or lend war materials to “any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States.” American battleships began protecting British ships crossing the Atlantic with supplies for Britain.

The same year, Roosevelt told Americans he hoped to establish a world based on “Four Freedoms”: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Later in 1941, Roosevelt met with British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** aboard a U.S. warship in the Atlantic. Roosevelt and Churchill announced that their countries sought no territorial gains, freedom of the seas, and an end to war. They signed the **Atlantic Charter**, laying the foundation for the later United Nations.
AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR

President Roosevelt believed that U.S. entry into the war was inevitable. If Hitler defeated Britain, many feared he would later attack the United States. In 1941, armed American merchant ships were authorized to carry supplies directly to Britain. It seemed that U.S. involvement in the war was only a matter of time.

INCREASING UNITED STATES-JAPANESE TENSIONS

Surprisingly, events in Asia, not Europe, finally brought the United States into the war. Just as German ambitions had triggered the war in Europe, Japan’s aggressive designs led to war in Asia.

Japan’s late 19th century industrialization had been remarkably successful. But Japanese leaders needed raw materials and markets for their industries. They also wished to replace European imperialism in Asia with the imperialism of an Asian power. Japan’s military began to influence Japanese national policy. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria. In 1937, Japan attacked the rest of China. When Japan occupied southern Indochina in 1941, Roosevelt reacted by freezing Japanese assets in the United States and cutting off all trade with Japan. Roosevelt offered to resume trade only if Japan withdrew from China and Indochina. Japanese leaders refused.

JAPAN PREPARES A SURPRISE ATTACK

Japanese military leaders decided to attack Indonesia to obtain oil for their war effort. Realizing such a move would bring America into the war, they decided to attack first. Japanese leaders believed a surprise attack would catch the Americans unprepared, temporarily eliminate U.S. naval power from the Pacific, and allow Japan to fortify its positions in the Pacific. The Japanese assumed that before the United States could recover from this surprise blow, Japan would be able to achieve all of its objectives in East Asia and the Pacific.

USS Arizona, one of eight battleships damaged or sunk at Pearl Harbor.
Japanese leaders also believed that Americans would soon tire of the war and negotiate a compromise peace — leaving Japan in control of East Asia. On the morning of December 7, 1941, two waves of Japanese airplanes attacked the U.S. Pacific fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Japanese attack sank or severely damaged 18 U.S. ships. On the airfields, more than 260 airplanes were damaged or destroyed, while the attack killed or injured almost 6,000 Americans.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation, and ... was still in conversation with its government toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the U.S. and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message and while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack."

Should American officials have been surprised by the attack on Pearl Harbor? Use the Internet to research your answer.

Four days later, Germany and Italy, allies of Japan, declared war on the United States. Americans were now engaged in a war on **two fronts** — the Atlantic and Pacific.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

Who was to blame for Pearl Harbor? After the attack, some critics blamed U.S. policies for forcing Japan to take action:

★ In 1944, Oliver Lyttelton, a British government minister, said that: “Japan was provoked into attacking the Americans at Pearl Harbor. It is a travesty to say that America was forced into the war. Everyone knows where American sympathies were. It is incorrect to say that America was ever truly neutral even before America came into the war on a fighting basis.”

★ Even after Pearl Harbor, some Americans believed that the United States should have done more to “appease” Japan. Just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. Senator Vandenberg wrote that “the United States would have had to yield relatively little to pacify Japan.” He concluded that “we may have driven [Japan] needlessly into hostilities through our rigid diplomatic attitudes. We asked for it, and we got it.”

Write a letter to either the British minister Lyttelton or U.S. Senator Vandenberg explaining why you agree or disagree with his opinion.
APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Prepare a class play, containing three brief acts:
(1) Roosevelt and his advisors prepare to submit demands to Japan;
(2) Japanese military leaders plan the attack on Pearl Harbor;
(3) American sailors discuss their experiences at Pearl Harbor just after the attack.

LEARNING WITH GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Complete the graphic organizer below by describing some of the more significant developments that led to American entry into World War II.

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<th>Rise of European Dictatorships</th>
<th>Failure of the League of Nations</th>
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CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

- Germany’s Invasion of Poland
- Japan’s Attack on Pearl Harbor
The U.S. government now faced the giant task of mobilizing American manpower and production to meet its enormous wartime needs. The demand for labor for the war effort brought an end to the lingering effects of the Great Depression.

**PAYING FOR THE WAR**

To raise the enormous amounts of money needed to pay for the war, the government issued **War Bonds** and encouraged citizens to buy them. The sale of war bonds also reduced the amount of currency in the economy, helping to keep inflation rates down. During World War II, 85 million Americans bought bonds, bringing $185 billion into the federal treasury. In the end, the war cost $350 billion — ten times the cost of World War I. World War II marked a shift for the United States as it changed from a creditor to a debtor nation.

The successful sale of war bonds also illustrated the high level of volunteerism during the war — the willingness of millions of Americans to help in the war effort.

**INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND RATIONING**

U.S. industries switched rapidly from peacetime to wartime production. Automobile factories converted to making tanks. Special advisory boards managed the war economy. They instituted rationing to control the use of raw materials. Americans were asked to conserve anything that could be used in the war effort. **Rationing** regulated the amount of goods that a consumer could obtain. It was introduced to avoid public anger over shortages and to share in the sacrifices of war.

The government rationed essential goods like food, coffee, tires, gasoline, and even clothing. **Ration coupons** were issued to each family, based on its size. Americans were generally happy to help in the war effort in order to bring their loved ones home safely. The draft and the expansion of industrial production finally brought an end to the high unemployment of the Great Depression. Women, African Americans, and other minorities filled the gap as other workers went to fight the war.

**VICTORY GARDENS**

During the war, Americans also planted **Victory Gardens**. These vegetable gardens helped to make sure that an adequate food supply was available for both troops and civilians. The gardens helped people in rural and urban neighborhoods grow their own food for their families, making more of the food raised by farmers available to the government for shipment to American soldiers overseas.
THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

A primary focus of the federal government during the war was control of the content and imagery of war messages. In 1942, the President created the Office of War Information (OWI). Among its wide-ranging responsibilities was the production of pro-Allied, anti-Axis propaganda, such as movies and posters, to make citizens aware of how they could help in the war effort. The OWI produced its own radio programs, released its own newsreels, and required that all movies produced during the war contribute in some way to the war effort. OWI messages asked citizens to contribute time and money, to create products, to conserve resources, and to donate to the war effort in personal ways. The OWI also started the Voice of America during the war, sending messages overseas. The OWI tried to stir up distrust of German, Italian, and Japanese leaders, to lower the morale of enemy troops and populations, and to encourage their surrender.

WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE

For many women in America, World War II brought not only sacrifices, but also new jobs, new skills, and new opportunities. Although prevented from enlisting in the regular armed forces, women joined the new Women’s Army Corps, or WACS, in large numbers. After basic training, most of these women took clerical jobs in the military.

In civilian life, many women replaced jobs formerly held by men, such as in shipbuilding and aircraft production. The idea was to have women fill jobs formerly held by men so that more men could be sent into combat. Songs like Rosie the Riveter celebrated women’s new roles, although some private contractors still refused to hire women. Between 1941 and 1945, more than 6.5 million women entered the work force.

ETHNIC MINORITIES: Opportunities and Obstacles

African Americans. Like women, members of minorities filled the workforce to replace men sent overseas. Many worked in war industries and government agencies. African-American soldiers also played a significant role in World War II. More than two and a half million registered for the draft, of whom one million eventually served, even though they were forced to serve in segregated units. African Americans had to battle on two fronts: the enemy overseas and prejudice at home.
African-American leaders demanded and finally obtained permission to form all-black combat units. The Tuskegee Airmen were an African-American fighter group in the Air Corps. Their main job was to provide escorts for pilots on bombing missions. They performed so well in combat that bomber groups often specifically requested their support. By 1944, the army had come under pressure to allow African Americans to engage in combat on the ground and also formed an African-American infantry division.

Native Americans. Native Americans enlisted for military service in higher proportions than any other minority group. More than 25,000 served in combat during the war. Nearly 40,000 Native American men and women left their reservations for the first time to work in defense industries.

Mexican Americans. During the war, Mexican Americans served in both the army and navy, and fought in all of the major campaigns. Despite this, Mexican Americans, especially in California, continued to face segregated housing, high unemployment, and low wages.

THE FORCED RELOCATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

The attack on Pearl Harbor created fear among many Americans, especially along the West coast, that Japanese Americans (or Nisei) might commit acts of sabotage. In part, these fears were racially-motivated, since there was no evidence that Japanese Americans were any more disloyal than German Americans or Italian Americans. Nonetheless, in February 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This order permitted military commanders to require Japanese Americans to relocate to interior internment camps away from Western coastal regions. In these camps, Japanese Americans lived in primitive and crowded conditions.
EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

Executive Order 9066 by President Roosevelt resulted in the internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans in camps for the duration of World War II:

"[A]s President and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action to be necessary or desirable, to [order] military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any persons to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restriction the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion ...."

★ What did Executive Order 9066 authorize?
★ What arguments would you have used either in support of or against this order?

The relocation raised constitutional issues in wartime. Roosevelt justified the measures as a military necessity. The Supreme Court upheld the relocations in *Korematsu v. U.S.* Korematsu was a Japanese American convicted of continuing to remain in a restricted area. He believed his constitutional rights had been violated. The Supreme Court upheld Roosevelt's order on the grounds that constitutional liberties may be limited in wartime. Fifty years later, Congress apologized to the interned Japanese Americans and voted to pay compensation to the families involved.

During the war, a small number of German and Italian resident aliens were also interned. About 2,000 German alien residents were forcibly sent back to Germany. Germans were also sent from Latin America to the United States to be used in prisoner exchanges with Germany.

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED


★ Use the Internet to research conditions that existed in the U.S. internment camps housing Japanese Americans and others.
  - Find two images that illustrate the conditions that existed. Make a copy of these images and describe what they show.
  - Finally, pretend you are a reporter. Write a news article about the conditions you found in your investigation, based on your research.
Complete the graphic organizer below by describing some of the significant events taking place on the home front in the United States.

**Rationing and Wartime Production**

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**Women in the Workforce**

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**Opportunities of Minorities**

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**Relocation of Japanese Americans**

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Although the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt decided to focus American energies on defeating Germany first. By the time the Americans entered the war, Hitler was in control of most of Europe and North Africa. Hitler made his greatest mistake when he invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 and declared war on the United States before defeating Britain. By late 1941, the rapid German advance into the Soviet Union was stopped just short of Moscow. Roosevelt and Churchill promised Stalin they would open a second front against Germany in the West, to relieve pressure on the Soviet army.

The Campaign in Africa and Italy

The Americans and British now began one of the greatest collaborations in military history. Churchill advised delay before invading Europe. In 1942, Allied troops landed in North Africa. After defeating German forces, they crossed the Mediterranean and advanced into Sicily and Italy in 1943.

George Patton was one of the commanders of the forces that invaded North Africa and Sicily. He came from a military family, had participated in the expedition against Pancho Villa, and served under Pershing in World War I. He played an important role in the use of tanks. Patton told American soldiers they must have a “killer instinct” to succeed. An unconventional military leader, Patton was given command of the American Third Army. He was popular among his troops because he had high survival rates, but he could also be harsh in his treatment of those under his command. Under Patton’s leadership, the Third Army would quickly move through Europe, capturing large numbers of enemy soldiers, and freeing a vast territory.
By 1944, the Germans suspected that the Allies would attempt an invasion of France. On June 6, 1944 — D-Day — 156,000 Allied troops under the command of General Dwight Eisenhower began the invasion by landing at five beaches on the northwest coast of France at Normandy. Eisenhower selected General Omar Bradley to lead the first American army to land in France. Prior to the landing, Allied planes attacked Nazi forces. Then the largest amphibious operation up until that time took place as landing craft carried thousands of Allied troops to the beaches of Normandy.

After the landing, the Allies began moving eastward liberating Paris in August 1944. However, the Allies advanced so quickly they were caught by surprise when Germans counter-attacked in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. After this German attack collapsed, Allied troops crossed the Rhine River and General Bradley pushed his troops for the final offensive into Germany. American, British, and Free French forces led the invasion into Germany from the west, while Soviet forces entered from the east. In May 1945, the Soviets captured Berlin. Rather than be taken prisoner, Hitler committed suicide and Germany surrendered. The Soviets had sustained the greatest losses in the conflict. More than 20 million Soviet soldiers and citizens had been killed in the war.

Vernon Baker was one of the first African-American soldiers to see combat in the war. In 1945, Baker slipped through mine fields, barbed wire, and German defenses to single-handedly remove three machine gun nests, two observation posts and two bunkers. Baker emerged as a symbol of the selfless sacrifice and courage of African-American soldiers. Members of his platoon nominated him for the Distinguished Service Cross. It took fifty-two years before President Clinton finally awarded Baker the nation’s highest praise for battlefield courage — the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Vernon Baker (1919–2010)
THE HOLOCAUST

Genocide is an effort to murder an entire people or nationality. Part of Hitler’s Nazi philosophy was his intense hatred of Jewish people, on whom he blamed all of Germany’s problems. The Holocaust refers to the attempted genocide of the Jews during World War II. After the outbreak of the war, Hitler and other Nazi leaders decided to murder all European Jews. He called his plan the “Final Solution.” At first, Jews were machine gunned next to open trenches they had been forced to dig themselves, or gassed in trucks.

When this method of extermination proved too slow for the Nazis, large concentration camps were built across Europe. Jews from Nazi-controlled countries were sent in cramped railroad cattle cars to these camps. When they arrived in the camps, most were killed with poison gas and their bodies were burned in large ovens. Some were spared to do the work of running the camp. These inmates were half-starved and subjected to inhumane conditions. About six million Jews — two-thirds of those living in Europe — were killed during the Holocaust. Six million gypsies, Slavs, political prisoners, elderly, mentally-disabled, and others also died in Nazi concentration camps.

Liberation of the Concentration Camps. During the last months of the war, the Allies advanced into Germany, where the true horror of Nazi brutality was revealed. American army units were the first to liberate concentration camps. They were shocked to see the half-starved, dehydrated, disease-ridden prisoners.

ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

The following account is from Woman Prisoner #T-917 at Lenzing Concentration Camp:

“Now began a frightful time of waiting. We were locked in the camp without food. I was aslepp when my sister wakened me. She reported that in front of the camp were two young men .... They told us that they would get help from the American soldiers who were nearby but had no idea our camp was there .... It took a few hours until they arrived. It was General Patton’s 3rd Army. The soldiers broke open the gate. It must have been a shock for the soldiers when they saw us, emaciated or swollen, pale and dirty creatures. They first provided us with their food rations and soap ....”

Who do you think was more surprised at the meeting: the concentration camp inmates or the American soldiers? Explain your answer.
APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Attempts at genocide continue even in our own day. Use the Internet to find one attempt at genocide in the past 20 years. Compare the steps used with those employed by the Nazis in the Holocaust.

LEARNING WITH GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Complete the graphic organizer below by describing some of the significant events of World War II in North Africa and Europe.

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<th>Campaign in North Africa and Italy</th>
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THE WAR IN EUROPE

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THE WAR IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In these same years, Americans remained at war with Japan. Geography played a critical role in the Pacific campaign during World War II. The United States and Japan were separated by the vast Pacific Ocean. After its attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese achieved quick victories in overrunning Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the Western Pacific Islands. They soon threatened Australia, India, Midway, and Hawaii.

THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH, 1942

The Philippines faced an invasion by the Japanese army on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. A month later, U.S. and Filipino forces surrendered to the Japanese. The Japanese forced their prisoners to undertake a 60-mile march through the jungle, which became known as the Bataan Death March. These prisoners of war faced starvation, disease, exposure to the sun, and no water. About 5,000 of the Americans, almost half, died along the way. Some were bayoneted, shot, beheaded or just left to die along the side of the road.

THE WAR TURNS AGAINST JAPAN

In 1943, the tide began to turn against Japan. The United States regained naval superiority in the Pacific and American forces by “island-hopping” — liberating Pacific islands from Japanese control, one at a time.

THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

One group of Americans who played a key role in the Pacific campaign were the Navajo code talkers. The American military needed an undecipherable code to communicate that could not be broken by the Japanese. The Navajo language is unwritten and extremely complex. By using this language, American forces could transmit messages by telephone and radio in a code that the Japanese were unable to break.

THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

The Battle of Midway was the turning point of the war in the Pacific. The Japanese were using their control of the Western Pacific to protect their home islands and vast new empire. The Japanese Pacific fleet commander had devised a plan to lure the U.S. Pacific fleet into a battle near Midway, a tiny mid-Pacific island, where he believed he could destroy them. However, the U.S. Navy could decipher Japanese secret codes and knew that a surprise attack by the Japanese fleet was at hand.
Admiral Chester Nimitz was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet just after Pearl Harbor. He commanded U.S. forces at the Battle of Midway. During the Battle of Midway, the United States destroyed four of Japan’s aircraft carriers, effectively ending Japan’s superior strength in the Pacific Ocean. This battle halted the Japanese advance in the Pacific.

The U.S. Army in the Pacific was commanded by General Douglas MacArthur. With additional American reinforcements arriving, Nimitz and MacArthur began a campaign in the Solomon Islands, which centered on taking Guadalcanal. The series of assaults on these Pacific islands drained Japanese resources. Next, the Americans retook the Philippines and Guam. By June 1945, American forces had captured Iwo Jima and Okinawa, islands close enough to be used as bases to launch attacks against the Japanese home islands. Like the earlier invasion of Europe on D-Day, the assault on Okinawa was a massive amphibious operation.

Throughout the war, General George C. Marshall (1880–1959), acted as Chief of Staff and the “organizer of victory.” He worked closely with President Roosevelt to urge military preparedness before Pearl Harbor, built up and supplied an army of 8 million men, and later helped to oversee the creation of the first atomic bomb.

**THE DECISION TO USE THE ATOMIC BOMB**

In 1939, the famous scientist Albert Einstein sent a letter to President Roosevelt telling him it was possible that Germany might be developing an atomic bomb. In 1942, President Roosevelt sent a team of American scientists, several of them European refugees, to New Mexico, where they developed and exploded the world’s first atomic bomb in July 1945. By then, Germany had been defeated, and America was preparing to invade Japan. President Roosevelt, re-elected a fourth time in 1944, died suddenly of a heart attack in April 1945 — just before Germany had surrendered.
His successor, President Harry Truman, feared that an invasion of Japan might lead to a million American casualties. Truman preferred to use the atomic bomb against Japan rather than to sustain such high losses. He selected centers of Japanese military production as targets.

On August 6, an atomic bomb was exploded over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb was exploded over Nagasaki. About 230,000 people were killed in both explosions combined. Critics argued that Truman could have exploded bombs on unoccupied islands in the Pacific as demonstrations, instead of on heavily populated cities. Japan surrendered shortly after the second explosion, once American leaders agreed to allow the Japanese Emperor to remain on his throne.

ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

Presidents Roosevelt and Truman had different leadership styles. President Roosevelt came from wealth, had an elite education and had an abundance of self-confidence. A lifelong politician, he excelled at communicating with the public. This was sharply different from President Truman, who spent his early years running a small clothing business and served as a local judge before being elected as U.S. Senator. He was chosen by Roosevelt as his Vice President in 1944. Truman was Vice President only 82 days when he suddenly found himself as President. Roosevelt rarely consulted with him, and Truman knew nothing at all about the development of the atomic bomb until after Roosevelt’s death. With limited foreign policy experience, one might think that Truman simply allowed his advisers to make decisions. In fact, nothing better describes his leadership style than the sign on his desk in the White House: “The Buck Stops Here!” Truman chaired morning staff meetings, issued directions and assignments to his advisers, and made all major policy decisions himself. He tended to look at things as they were presented to him, examined both sides of the issue, and then made his decision — much as during his earlier years as a judge.

Select one of these Presidents and evaluate his domestic and international leadership during World War II. Conduct research on the Internet or in your library for information. You might consider how FDR forged a close relationship with Churchill and mobilized Americans for war. Or you might select how Truman reached his decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan.

Then prepare a short report, poster, or oral presentation to communicate your conclusions about the leadership style of the President you researched.
THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN WORLD WAR II

Some historians attribute the Allied victory in the war to its many technological advances. The atomic bomb was not the only technological advance in World War II. The war saw the emergence of many other important technologies.

**Radar**, an application developed during the war, uses electromagnetic waves to detect a moving object’s range, altitude and direction. **Sonar** was improved to detect submarines. **Cryptic code breaking** allowed the Allies to find the meaning of secret encrypted information, and later contributed to the development of computers. Another major technological breakthrough was the invention of the **proximity fuze** — an explosive device that automatically explodes when it is close to its target. This greatly helped American forces fighting Japanese aircraft and ships in the Pacific.

One of the most important developments of the war was the use of new **antibiotics**, such as penicillin, to treat soldiers’ battle wounds. Discovered in 1928, penicillin was only mass-produced for the first time in 1944 to treat soldiers in the invasion of Normandy. **Jet and rocket engines**, similarly developed before the war, now saw their first real applications. The war was won in part by the ability of the Allies to create new technologies, all of which had lasting effects.

THE LEGACY OF WORLD WAR II

World War II was a global disaster of unprecedented dimensions. More than 70 million people lost their lives.

<table>
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<th>SELECTED STATISTICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated number of U.S. soldiers killed in battle: 292,000</td>
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<td>U.S. troops wounded during the war: 672,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 100 million military personnel fought in the war, making it the largest war in history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated number of deaths worldwide: More than 70 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimates of killed/missing from bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: 230,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The majority of people killed were civilians, making this the deadliest conflict in history.</td>
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THE NUREMBERG TRIALS, 1945–1946

The liberation of concentration camps in Europe revealed millions of dead, along with half-starved survivors. With the full extent of Nazi brutality revealed, the Allies put surviving Nazi leaders on trial for “crimes against humanity” in Nuremberg, Germany. Those on trial defended themselves by claiming they had only been following orders. Many were found guilty of committing atrocities and were hanged or imprisoned. The Nuremberg Trials demonstrated that individuals are responsible for their actions, even in times of war.

ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

Read this statement by one of the U.S. prosecutors at the military trials at Nuremberg.

“Germany became one vast torture chamber. Cries of its victims were heard round the world and brought shudders to civilized people. I am one who received most atrocity tales with suspicion and [doubt]. But the proof here will be so overwhelming that I predict these defendants will only deny personal responsibility. The elements of the German population which were both decent and courageous were [reduced to nothing]. Those which were decent but weak were intimidated. The Nazis not only silenced discordant voices, they practiced the [leadership principle] which centralized control of the Party over the lives and thoughts of the German people. This German State is incomprehensible to my people [the United States public] ....

The prosecutor says these Nazi leaders did not deserve mercy. Would you have agreed? Explain your answer.

“DENAZIFICATION” AND THE DIVISION OF GERMANY

After the war, Germany was divided into four zones by the U.S., Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. Each occupied one zone. The occupying powers introduced programs explaining the evils of Nazi beliefs to the German people. Hitler’s attempts to put his racist doctrines into practical effect also played a large role in discrediting racism, anti-Semitism, Social Darwinism, eugenics, and similar ideas worldwide. The Nazi nightmare showed where these ideas could lead. This contributed to the later Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

General MacArthur, Supreme Commander of Allied forces in the Pacific, was assigned the task of rebuilding and reforming post-war Japan. Under his leadership, important changes were introduced to make Japan less aggressive. Japan’s overseas empire was taken away, and her military leaders were put on trial and punished. Japan renounced the use of nuclear weapons and the waging of war.
Japan was also forbidden from having a large army or navy. A new constitution went into effect in 1947, turning Japan into a democracy.

**LEARNING WITH GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

Complete the graphic organizer below by describing some of the significant events of the campaign in the Pacific against Japan during World War II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bataan Death March</th>
<th>Battle of Midway</th>
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**THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN**

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<th>&quot;Island-hopping&quot; Campaign</th>
<th>Use of the Atomic Bomb</th>
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CHAPTER STUDY CARDS

A Return to a Policy of Isolationism
★ U.S. refused to become a member of the League of Nations; passed high tariffs on European goods; put quotas on European and Asian immigrants; and insisted on collecting war debts from Britain and France.

Exceptions to the Policy of Isolationism
★ "Cash-and-Carry" Policy.
★ FDR's "Quarantine" Speech, 1937.
★ Flying Tigers. Volunteer American flyers supplying China with war materials.
★ Lend-Lease Act, 1941.
★ Atlantic Charter, 1941. "Four Freedoms."

The U.S. Enters the War
★ Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor.
  • U.S. Navy attacked December 7, 1941; U.S. enters war against Japan.
  • Germany and Italy declare war on U.S.
★ Home Front:
  • Rationing and the sale of War Bonds.
  • Victory Gardens aided in growing food.
  • Propaganda War: Role of OWI.
  • Women take a larger role in workforce.
  • Minorities: Opportunities and obstacles.
  • Internment of Japanese Americans.
    - FDR issued Executive Order 9066.

Key Individuals in World War II
★ President Franklin Roosevelt. Was President during war; elected to 4 terms; worked closely with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
★ President Harry Truman. President after FDR dies; makes decision to use atomic bombs on Japan to end war with Japan.
★ Vernon Baker. African American who later received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in 1945.
★ Dwight Eisenhower. Supreme Commander of D-Day and Allied invasion of Europe.

The Origins of World War II
★ Rise of Fascism in Europe.
  • Italy. Benito Mussolini seized power shortly after WWI. Glorified action, obedience to leader, and violence.
  • Germany. Adolf Hitler came to power due to shaky democracy and a rise in unemployment. Fascist leaders sought expansion through use of force.
★ Failure of Appeasement.
  • Munich Conference attempts to satisfy Hitler's demands to avoid war.
  • Germany invades Poland in 1939 starting World War II.
★ Japan invaded Manchuria (1931), China (1937), and Indochina (1941).

Fighting in World War II
★ War in Europe.
  • Holocaust: Killing of Jews and others.
  • D-Day: Allies invade Normandy, France.
  • Western Allies and Soviets invade Germany.
★ War in the Pacific.
  • Bataan Death March (1942).
  • Navajo Code Talkers.
  • U.S. defeats Japanese Navy at the Battle of Midway (1943). Becomes a major turning point in the war.
★ Atomic Bombs: Dropped on Japan.
  • Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombed.
  • Japan surrenders; war comes to an end.

Key Individuals In WW II (Continued)
★ General Omar Bradley. Commanded an army that landed in Normandy invasion.
★ Admiral Chester Nimitz. Commander the U.S. Pacific Fleet; commanded U.S. forces in the Battle of Midway.
★ General Douglas MacArthur. Commander of U.S. Army fighting in the Pacific; later was in charge of the U.S. occupation of Japan.