

Nazi Anti-Semitism

- Anti-Semitism is hostility or prejudice against Jewish people
- Hitler rose to power by promising to bring Germany back to its former glory and using the old idea that Germans descended from the “superior” mythical Aryan people while giving Germans someone to blame for their problems since WWI – the Jews who he said were an “inferior” race
- Hitler and his Nazi government passed several anti-Semitic laws beginning in 1933 to drive the Jews out of Germany and identified anyone with a Jewish grandparent as being a Jew
- Discrimination and violent attacks against Jews continued during Hitler’s time in power with anti-Jewish riots breaking out in 1938 known as Kristallnacht (night of broken glass) where thousands of Jewish businesses and places of worship were damaged and almost 100 Jews were killed
- Hitler blamed the Jews for the damage and sent more than 26,000 Jews to concentration camps to hold these “enemies of the state” and fined the Jews over 1 billion marks for the damage
- Over 100,000 Jews were able to leave Germany in the following months, but many were unable to escape as they had no money or property, and most countries were unwilling to take in poor immigrants

Kristallnacht



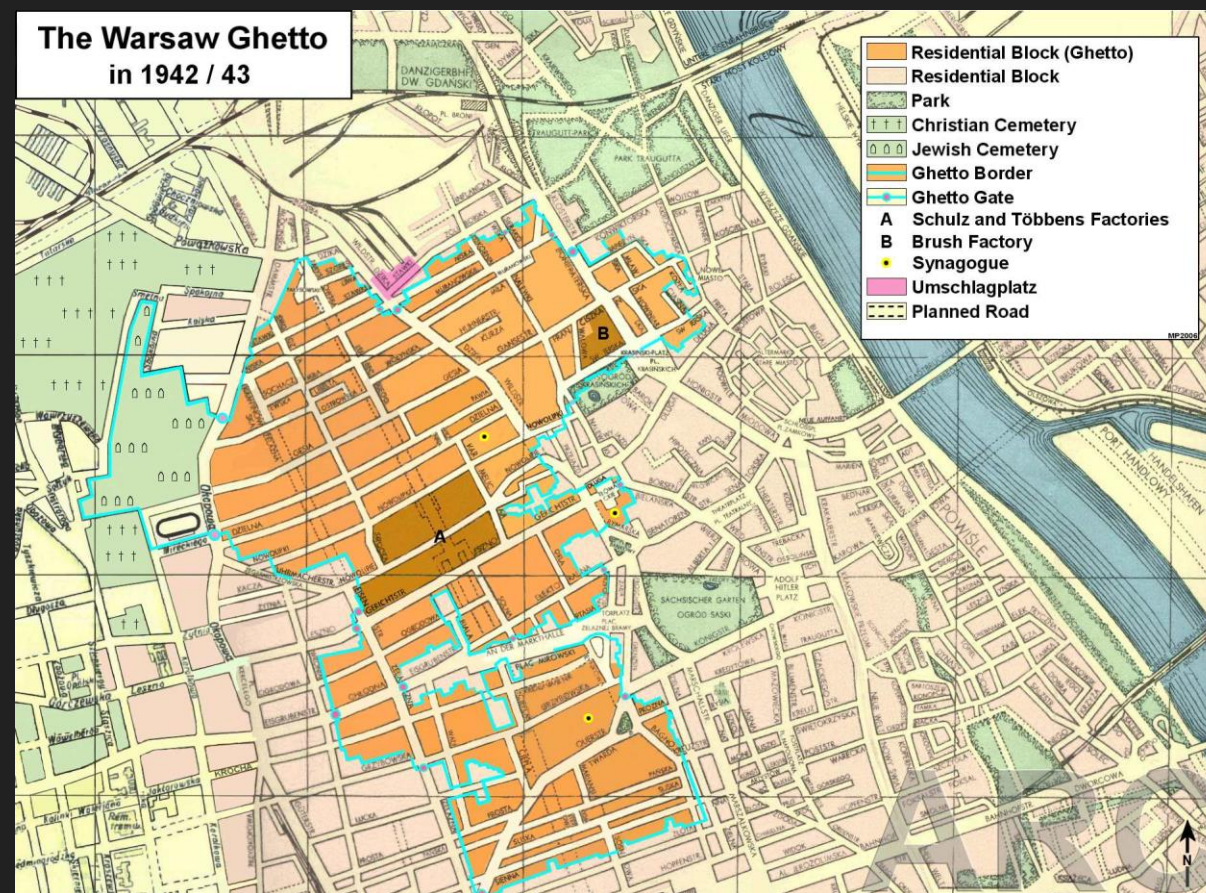
Toward the Final Solution

- Europe was home to over 9 million Jews when Hitler came to power and as he invaded European countries, many of these people came under the control of the Nazi SS (the police and military force of the Nazi government)
- The first concentration camps were set up in Germany to imprison the Jews, others seen to be enemies of the state, and prisoners of war, but more were set up in Poland, France and other countries as Hitler expanded his political power across Europe
- Neighbors would often help hide their Jewish neighbors from the SS as Hitler took over countries but if found the Jews were sent to concentration camps and those hiding them were often killed – *The Diary of Anne Frank* is an example of one family being hidden by neighbors
- Conditions in the concentration camps were designed to kill – food was scarce and hard manual labor left many overworked and starving, punishment for any minor offense was death
- Ghettos were also created to concentrate Jews while awaiting transport to a concentration camp – food was scarce, disease spread quickly, and anyone trying to escape the walls was shot
- The worst ghetto was in Warsaw, Poland where 500,000 Jews were crammed into a 1.5 square mile area and were given thin soup and a slice of bread each day, 43,000 died in 1941 in the Warsaw ghetto
- The Jewish Fighting Organization attempted an uprising to fight back against the Germans, but they were defeated after a month and they were killed or shipped off to concentration camps

Warsaw Ghetto



The Warsaw Ghetto
in 1942 / 43



Final Solution

- Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units) carried out the killing of Jews in the early days of Hitler's invasions into nearby countries but Nazi leaders felt the killing was moving too slowly
- Hitler announced the total destruction of all European Jews in 1941, what he called the "Final Solution" – he was planning genocide (the killing of an entire people)
- Six new camps were established and designated as extermination camps, unlike concentration camps, nearly all inmates were murdered upon arrival
- Although most were killed immediately by poison gas in specially built gas chambers, some were selected for cruel medical experiments which often ended in death
- 3 million Jews died in extermination camps, 3 million were killed by Nazis by other means, and an additional 5 million prisoners of war, disabled people, and the Romany (an ethnic group also known as Gypsies) were killed by the Nazis

JEWISH LOSSES IN THE HOLOCAUST			
	c. 1933	c. 1950	Percent Decrease
Europe	9,500,000	3,500,000	63
Selected Countries			
Poland	3,000,000	45,000	98.5
Romania	980,000	28,000	97
Germany	565,000	37,000	93.5
Hungary	445,000	155,000	65
Czechoslovakia	357,000	17,000	95
Austria	250,000	18,000	93
Greece	100,000	7,000	93
Yugoslavia	70,000	3,500	95
Bulgaria	50,000	6,500	87

American Response

- In the 1930s and early 1940s America was not allowing large numbers of immigrants into the US due to economic hardships and the outbreak of the war
- News of Kristallnacht and Hitler's Final Solution plan spread and the Soviet troops began to come across the Nazi camps in Poland as they pushed toward Germany and reached the extermination camps at Auschwitz giving the US proof of the horrors of Hitler's plan
- In 1944, FDR created the War Refugee Board to "take all measures to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death" and was able to help 200,000 Jews escape the Nazis
- American troops came across concentration camps in 1945 as they pushed into Germany and found many to be abandoned by the Nazis but the prisoners were still there, many were too ill to be saved and died after being set free
- Following WWII, many Nazis faced trial for their role in the Holocaust in Nuremberg, Germany known as the Nuremberg Trials – 22 Nazis were tried for war crimes, 12 were sentenced to death and several others served long prison terms
- Several Nazis were captured and tried in other courts after the Nuremberg Trials as well

Pacific Theater

- After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the US needed to rebuild its Pacific Fleet that was badly damaged in the attack and decided to turn their focus on the Axis powers in Europe first
- Japan continued attacking other Allied held islands in the Pacific such as Wake Island, Guam, Hong Kong, and Singapore while also attacking Indonesia, Burma, and caused heavy Allied damages during the Battle of Java Sea
- Japanese soldiers were well-trained and their equipment was equal to or better than Allied equipment, which gave the Japanese an advantage early in the war
- The Japanese attacks on these islands were part of a large offensive that would include the American-controlled islands of the Philippines



The Philippines

- US General Douglas MacArthur led the defense of the Philippine Islands with a small force of American soldiers and poorly trained and poorly equipped Filipino soldiers
- In December 1941, the Japanese attacked the Philippines and MacArthur's forces were no match – he planned a retreat to the Bataan Peninsula where he hoped to hold off the Japanese and send for help
- After intense fighting, the US decided that sending help was too risky and by March 1942 MacArthur was ordered to leave his starving and ill men, but he promised to return to help them
- Within a month, 10,000 American and 60,000 Filipino troops surrender to the Japanese and were forced to march for five days and nights through the forest to a prison camp along what came to be called the Bataan Death March
- Those that dropped out of line were beaten or shot, those that fell were left for dead – those that survived the march faced starvation and illness in the prisoner of war camp where hundreds more would die

Allied Progress in the Pacific

- Colonel James Doolittle led a bombing raid on several cities in Japan in early 1942 that did little damage but led the Japanese to fear an attack and begin to make mistakes – known as the Doolittle Raid
- May 1942, undamaged aircraft carriers from Pearl Harbor were sent to attack Japanese and stop their attack on British-controlled New Guinea – the Battle of the Coral Sea was a success for the Allies, they stopped the advance of the Japanese, but the US suffered damage



Battle of Midway

- Japan tried to lure the US into a naval battle that would destroy their fleet so that they would not be able to attack mainland Japan again, the Japanese had more ships and aircraft carriers, but the US had an advantage – they had broken the Japanese code
- The US knew the date of the attack, the location, and the plan that the Japanese would follow, this knowledge was used to plan a defensive strategy around the island of Midway and then launch a counterattack against the Japanese fleet
- The US was able to defend against the air raid and then followed the Japanese planes back to the ships and destroyed three of the four Japanese aircraft carriers – major Allied victory as the Japanese naval advantage was wiped out

Yamamoto



Nimitz

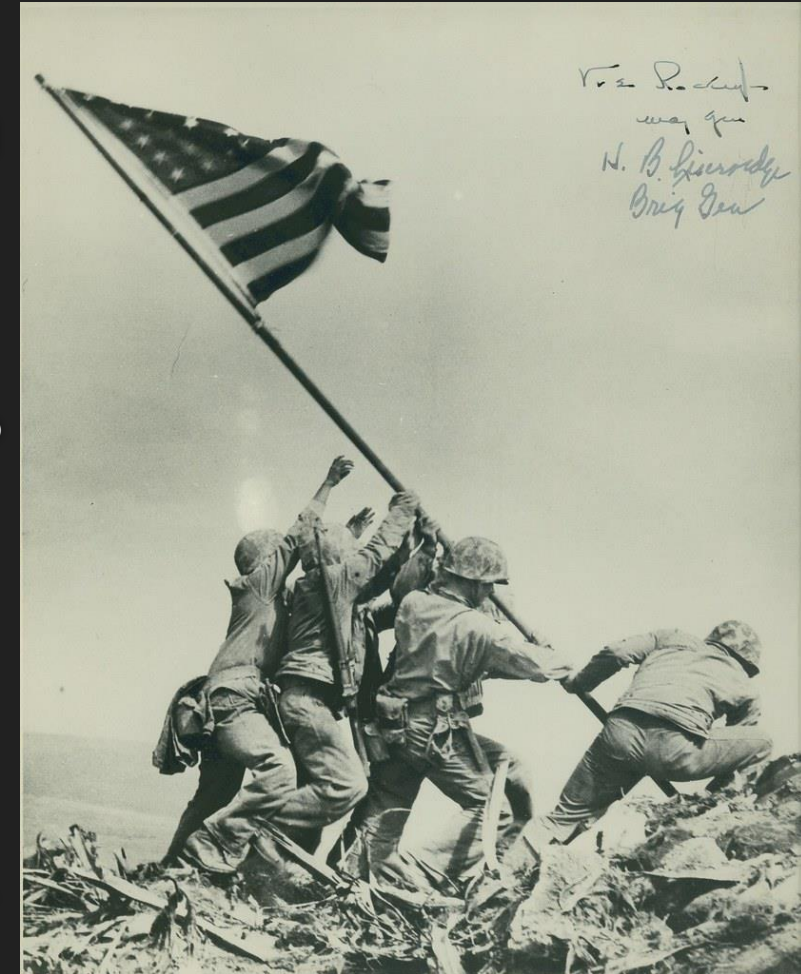


Island Hopping

- With the Japanese naval forces severely weakened, the US and Allies begin their own offensive toward the island of Japan
- The strategy, known as island hopping, is to take over small islands and move the necessary equipment along with the fleet to be better prepared for an attack on Japan
- The first step was to take the small island of Guadalcanal to help protect Australia which was assisting the Allies in the Pacific and then move forward taking over the weakly held islands and skipping over the Japanese strongholds
- American manufacturing was able to replace ships and planes that were lost in battle while the Japanese were not able to replace their equipment, but it was the Navajo Code Talkers that allowed the Allies the advantage of being able to speak and plan in a code that was unbreakable by the Japanese
- General MacArthur was ready to attack the Philippines again by 1944 and began with the Battle of Leyte where the Japanese used a new weapon – the kamikaze – a plane loaded with explosives and purposely crashed into a target to maximize damage

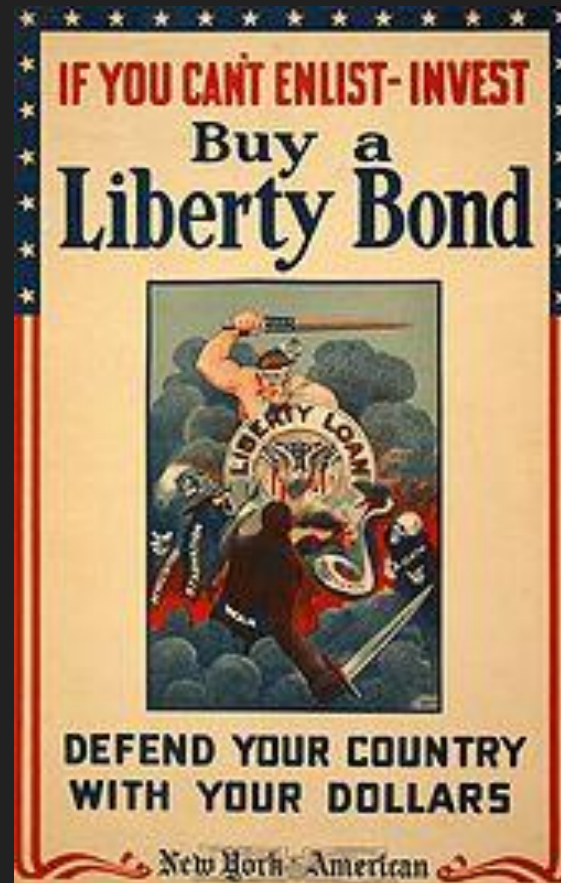
Iwo Jima and Okinawa

- To get close enough to launch a major offensive on Japan, the US needed to control the small volcanic island of Iwo Jima and the even closer island of Okinawa
- Both battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa were intense, long, and extremely deadly for both the US and the Japanese because the Japanese soldiers used underground tunnels and caves to hide and launch attacks and were fighting to the death with no intention of surrender
- At the Battle of Iwo Jima, the marines were able to capture the high point on the island, Mt. Suribachi, and raised the flag but continued fighting for several weeks – 7,000 American and 19,000 Japanese deaths
- After two months of brutal fighting at the Battle of Okinawa, the bloodiest battle of the Pacific theater, the Allies gained control of the island and were ready to launch their final assault on the island of Japan



The Home Front

- Military needs took top priority during the war, victory gardens were grown and other products like butter, sugar, and meat were rationed
- Material shortages led to gasoline rationing and scrap drives led by youth groups to collect waste material like tin cans, broken glass, and women's nylons that could be recycled for the war effort
- Americans were encouraged to purchase war bonds to invest in victory, 85 million people (over half the population) purchased war bonds for a total of \$185 billion



Winning Support for the War

- FDR gave a speech prior to entering WWII about supporting the Allies in the war effort to protect what he called our “four freedoms” – freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear
- After the US entered WWII, FDR created the Office of War Information (OWI) to produce propaganda posters and films that would spread a positive vision of the US and encourage positive actions by citizens such as buying war bonds, men enlisting in the military, and rationing
- The OWI also created propaganda to inspire fear in Americans of the Axis nations and warnings against talking about military information



Executive Order 9066

- People of German, Italian, and especially Japanese descent were feared in America during the war as possible spies
- Germans and Italians had to carry identification cards and thousands were placed in prison camps, but Japanese Americans were treated the worst
- Military officials began to investigate Japanese American communities for signs of spying or other illegal activities, but no evidence was found of wrongdoing – General DeWitt still recommended that all people of Japanese descent be removed from the west coast of the US
- FDR issued Executive Order 9066 in February 1942 which gave the armed forces the power to create military zones and the power to force people to leave those zones

Japanese Internment

- Within weeks, 110,000 Japanese Americans (two-thirds of which were American citizens) were rounded up from California, Washington, Oregon, and Arizona and were forced to relocate to camps to stay for as long as the military deemed it necessary
- People were only allowed to take what they could carry and were forced to sell off or leave behind their homes and businesses, often with only a few days notice of being relocated
- Life in the internment camps was hard, surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards in the barren desert, families lived in cramped quarters, and education and health care in the camps was poor
- Japanese Americans were required to answer questions about their loyalty while in the camps and many tried hard to prove their loyalty to America by enlisting, but not all accepted their internment as peacefully – incidents of violence and resistance occurred
- Fred Korematsu refused the order to relocate and was arrested, his case went to the Supreme Court (*Korematsu v. United States*, 1944) which ruled that the relocation order was justified as a temporary wartime measure

New Role for the Federal Government

- During the 1930s the federal government became increasingly involved in the daily lives of Americans which continued during the war with agencies like the Office of Price Administration (OPA) and the War Production Board
- Aside from rationing products that Americans could purchase, the OPA also set limits for what businesses could charge for products
- The War Production Board ensured the military got the materials it needed to fight the war but also set limits on garment manufacturers like the length of jackets, skirts, and dresses to ensure the military would have enough fabric for uniforms and parachutes
- Increased government spending during the war meant increased taxes and not just for the wealthy, millions of new taxpayers helped to increase the tax revenues from \$7.4 billion in 1941 to \$45 billion in 1945

Yalta Conference

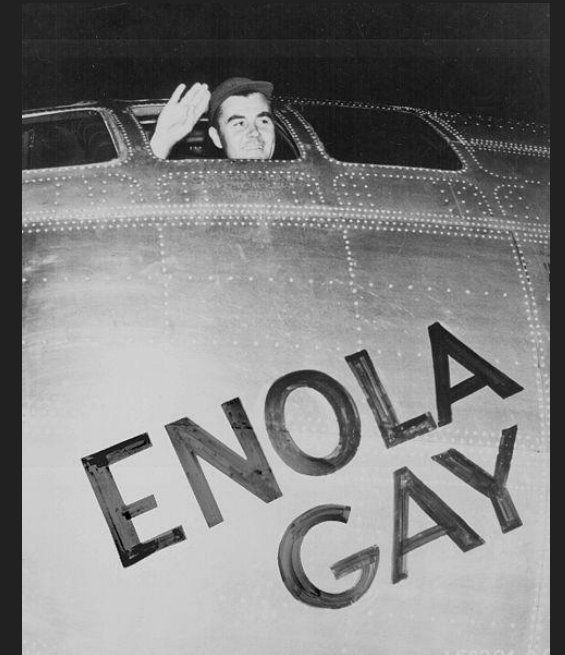
- As the American and British troops moved through Germany from the west, the Soviets were moving through Germany from the east and Germany was all but defeated
- In January 1945, right after FDR began his fourth term as president, he met with Stalin and Churchill at the Yalta Conference to discuss what to do with Germany once it surrendered
- “The Big Three” as these leaders were known decided to split Germany into four occupied zones, the Soviets would take the eastern half of Germany and the Americans, British, and French would split the western half, the capital city of Berlin in the eastern half of the country would be divided the same way
- Stalin agreed to hold elections in the eastern European countries that Hitler had formerly conquered (he did not keep this promise) and he agreed to declare war on Japan to help the Allies fight in the Pacific three months after Germany was defeated
- Although they were allies in fighting the Axis Powers, the tension between Stalin and the other Allied leaders was building

Victory in Europe

- Hitler decided to make his last stand trying to prevent the Allies from crossing the Rhine River by blowing up bridges, but the Americans were able to capture a bridge and cross the river where they were able to surround and capture over 250,000 German soldiers
- With German forces weakened, the Allies led bombing raids in Germany as they closed in on Berlin from the east and the west
- President Roosevelt died unexpectedly on April 12, 1945, which saddened the US troops but gave them a new reason to ensure victory
- German resistance was being steadily defeated and Berlin was being bombed heavily in the last weeks of April when Hitler realized that all hope was lost and he committed suicide in his Berlin bunker on April 30th
- News of Hitler's death halted fighting and the leader that took over after Hitler's death, Karl Dönitz, agreed to surrender on May 8, 1945 – which became known as V-E Day (victory in Europe day) in the US

To Drop the Atomic Bomb or Not?

- Fighting in the Pacific continued with heavy bombing raids on Japan which included a new tactic that produced firestorms in the bombed areas but the Japanese vowed to keep fighting
- President Truman, taking over after FDR's death, had no knowledge of the Manhattan Project prior to taking over the presidency and now was faced with the decision of whether or not to use it
- Truman created an advisory group to debate the possibility of using the new atomic bomb and whether the Japanese should be warned or not
- On July 26th the US asked for the surrender of Japan and without a response, the US dropped the first atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, using the B-29 bomber named *Enola Gay*



Victory in Japan

- 80,000 people died instantly and 35,000 more were injured with destruction reaching miles past the blast site
- With no surrender from Japan, the US dropped a second atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki on August 9th with a death toll of nearly 40,000
- Japan's emperor Hirohito wanted to surrender but military leaders resisted, some even tried to overthrow Hirohito to continue the fighting, but Hirohito announced Japan's surrender in a radio broadcast on August 15, 1945 – known as V-J Day (victory in Japan day) in the US



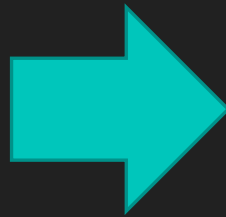
Challenges of Victory

- In June 1945, leaders from 50 countries met in San Francisco to establish a new peace-keeping organization they called the United Nations (UN) which would encourage cooperation and the prevention of future wars
- Leaders of the Allied nations met in July 1945 in Potsdam, Germany (the Potsdam Conference) to pick up the work started at the Yalta Conference
- There was a growing concern in America about communism spreading throughout Europe with a Soviet influence in the area and Truman hoped he could get Stalin to live up to his promise of holding elections in the eastern European countries, but he did not and tensions increased between the US and the Soviet Union during the rebuilding of Europe
- General MacArthur helped to rebuild Japan by assisting in the creation of a new democratic government and a constitution that reflected America's with freedoms and rights for its citizens
- Seven key leaders of wartime Japan were put on trial for war crimes and executed

Causes and Effects of World War II

Causes

- Isolationism had helped lead the US not to resist German, Japanese, and Italian aggression in the 1930s
- Germany invaded Poland, and Japan attacked the US



Effects

- The Allies occupied Japan and parts of Europe
- War led to renewed commitment to the idea of collective security and creation of the United Nations
- Conflict began between the Soviet Union and the other Allies over the fate of conquered European areas
- The US emerged as the world's strongest military power