

FIGHTING WWII: A TIMELINE 1941-1945

IN EUROPE:

A continuous military campaign from 1939-1945

The Battle of the Atlantic

- FDR + Churchill agreed that _____ was the top priority, but American troops would be deployed to fight _____ at the same time
- To win in Europe, the U.S. had to secure the _____ supply lines against German submarines
- The Allies won the Battle of the Atlantic by breaking Germany's _____

North Africa + the Italian Campaign (1941-1943)

- When the USA entered WWII, Stalin wanted the Allies to open a _____ + divide German army
- Instead, Britain + USA agreed to fight the Axis Powers in _____ (Stalin was _____)
- The Allies defeated Germany at the Battle of _____ in 1942 + then pushed the Axis Powers out of Africa
- American + British troops invaded _____, took Sicily in 1943, seized Rome in 1944
- In 1945, Mussolini was _____ + _____ by the Italian resistance

The Soviet Union + the Eastern Front

- Meanwhile, the Soviet army stopped the German attack at Moscow + Leningrad in 1942
- The Battle of Stalingrad (Aug. 1942-Feb. 1943)**
 - The Soviets defeated the German army at the _____
 - The Soviet victory at Stalingrad was a _____ in World War II because the Russians began pushing towards _____ from the East by 1943

IN THE PACIFIC

1939

1941

1942

1943

1944

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USA _____ to the Pacific theater

The Battle of Midway, June 1942

- The Pacific war revealed a new kind of fighting by using _____
- The _____ in the war in the Pacific came at the Battle of _____
- After Midway, the Allies began to _____ controlled by Japan
- Japan did not play by traditional rules in war
- " _____ " pilots flew planes into _____ + aircraft carriers
- Japanese soldiers refused to _____ + _____ Allied prisoners of war



Operation Overlord (D-Day) June 6, 1944

- By 1944, the Allies decided to open a _____ by invading Nazi-occupied _____
- Operation Overlord (called _____) in June 1944 was the _____ land + sea attack in history
- The _____ invasion was deadly, but the Allied victory created a Western Front...and allowed the Allies to push towards _____ from the West
- At the same time, the _____ pushed from the East
 - Forced to fight a _____ war, Hitler ordered a massive counter-attack at the Battle of the Bulge...but _____
 - By March 1945, the Allies were fighting in Germany + pushing towards _____

Island Hopping Strategy:

- The problem for the Allies was the _____ + _____ it would cost to retake the thousands of islands the Japanese controlled in the Pacific
- The fight for _____ took _____ + cost 25,000 Japanese + 2,000 U.S. lives
- The U.S. developed an _____ strategy to skip the heavily defended islands + seize islands close to Japan
- From 1943 to 1945, the Allies took back the _____ + were moving in on _____



FIGHTING WWII: 1941-1945

IN THE PACIFIC



IN EUROPE



- In **spring 1945**, the Allies won the islands of _____ & Okinawa
- From these islands, the U.S. began _____ Japanese cities
 - Despite losing control of the Pacific & withstanding firebomb attacks, Japan _____ to _____
 - By May 1945, the war in Europe was over & U.S. began preparing for a _____ of Japan

- In February '45, the "Big Three" met at the _____ Conference to create a postwar plan for Europe
- Stalin agreed to send troops to help the U.S. _____
 - They agreed to allow _____ (free elections) in nations freed from Nazi rule
 - They agreed to _____ after the war
 - They agreed to create & join a _____
- As the Allies pushed into Germany & Poland, troops discovered & liberated concentration & _____

Victory in Europe

- In April 1945, the Soviet army _____ Berlin
- On April 30, 1945, Hitler committed _____
- On May 9, 1945, the German government signed an unconditional _____ to the Allies
- The world celebrated _____ (Victory in Europe)



SPRING 1945

The Manhattan Project

- In 1939, _____ wrote U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt about the potential to build a _____ weapon
- FDR created a top-secret program called the _____
- _____ was put in charge of developing the bomb
- From 1942-1945, a number of _____ across the country developed & _____ the bomb
- In **July 1945**, the bomb was successfully _____ at Los Alamos, New Mexico during Project _____
- In April 1945, FDR died & his VP _____ had to decide how to end the war in the Pacific

SUMMER 1945

The Potsdam Conference, 1945

- In July 1945, the Big Three met at the _____ to discuss the end of WWII
- Truman learned the atomic bomb was ready & issued the _____ to Japan: "surrender or face destruction"

Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb

- When Japan refused to surrender, Truman ordered the bombing of _____ on **August 6, 1945**
- After _____ days, Japan did not surrender so a 2nd atomic bomb was dropped on _____
- After the second atomic bomb, Emperor _____ agreed to a _____
- World War II was _____



Conclusions: The Impact of World War II

World War II was the biggest, most _____, & most impactful war in world history:

- _____ was destroyed by the war & lost its place as the _____ in the world
- The _____ & _____ emerged as _____ & rivals competing for influence in the world
- A _____ was formed to replace the League of Nations to help promote peace
- Colonized nations began to demand _____ from Europeans