U.S. History
World War II

Dr. Donnelly
The Rise of Dictators: Stalin’s Soviet Union (#7)

- Josef Stalin took over the Soviet Union after Vladimir Lenin’s death in 1924.
- Lenin hadn’t trusted Stalin and had wanted him removed as USSR’s General Secretary – Lenin preferred Leon Trotsky.
- Ironically, Stalin later used Lenin’s image to create a cult of personality around himself and Lenin, claiming he’d always been Lenin’s favorite.
- Stalin allied with Lev Kamenev & Gregory Zinoviev – together, they expelled Trotsky from the Communist Party & then the USSR.
Stalin’s Friends & Enemies

- Besides Kamenev & Zinoviev, Stalin also allied with Nikolai Bukharin.
- But all these allies later quarreled with Stalin and were expelled from the Politburo or from the Party entirely.
- Political rivals were often killed – the two most famous being Leon Trotsky & Sergei Kirov, who were assassinated (Kirov in 1934, Trotsky in 1940).
- Trotsky was killed even though he’d left the USSR years before & was living in Mexico City.
The USSR: “Godless Communists”

- Communist states like the Soviet Union (USSR) are atheist – the state replaces God – hence the term “Godless Communists.”

- In the Soviet Union, thousands of Russian Orthodox bishops and priests, and at least 95,000 religious lay people, were executed.

- From 1917-1935, the Soviet government arrested 130,000 Russian Orthodox priests – again, thousands of these were then executed.
Stalin’s Economic Plans

- Total government control over industry and agriculture with 5-year plans (had to meet government goals for production, etc., by end of each 5-year period).
- Millions died of starvation (Stalin withheld their food if they didn’t cooperate with his plans) or were imprisoned in labor camps.
- However, the Soviet Union did become an industrial power by 1940.
Stalin’s Reign of Terror

- Stalin was very paranoid – saw threats to his rule everywhere.
- In the 1930s, over 7 million Soviet citizens were arrested in political purges to get rid of anyone Stalin saw as a political enemy.
- Over 1 million were executed.
- Stalin invited foreign journalists to witness trials for the accused, but these were just “show trials” – if you were accused by Stalin, you were already considered guilty.
Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party in Italy in 1919. Before going into politics, Mussolini had been a teacher, a journalist, and an Italian soldier in WWI.

Major issue for Mussolini was that since Italy was on the winning side in WWI, it should have gotten more new territories after the war – but it had not.

Mussolini used his fascist (black-uniformed paramilitary thugs) to intimidate opponents.
Mussolini takes over Italy (#5)

- After threatening to march on Rome with his black shirted fascisti in 1922, Mussolini was named Prime Minister of Italy by King Victor Emmanuel.
- As Prime Minister, Mussolini established a one-party Fascist government with himself as dictator, taking the title, *Il Duce* (“The Leader”).
- Italy’s economy greatly improved under Mussolini’s leadership and Mussolini won international praise – he was very popular in America in the 1920s.
  - American humorist Will Rogers visited Italy in 1926 and said of Mussolini: “Dictator form of government is the greatest form of government; that is, if you have the right dictator.”
Mussolini’s Fascist Party agenda actually called for many things similar to what progressives in America wanted: an 8-hour work day, a voting age of 18, women’s suffrage, a minimum wage, old age pensions, and secular (non-religious) public schools.

But Mussolini also denied freedom of speech and press, and allowed no political opposition to himself or the Fascist Party.

Mussolini hated the Catholic Church, but since almost all Italians were Catholic, Mussolini accepted the Church’s presence and didn’t take any action against it.
An Empire for Italy (#34)

- Mussolini promised Italians a return to Italy’s glory days as the center of the Roman Empire.
- In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia (then called Abyssinia), conquering it in 1936 – the Ethiopians were hopelessly outgunned by Italy’s modern army.
- This gave Italy its first new colony under Mussolini & also avenged Italy’s defeat by Ethiopia in a previous war.
- Ethiopia’s ruler appealed to the League of Nations for help, but it could only condemn Mussolini’s action & put trade restrictions on Italy – it had no military to force the Italians out of Ethiopia.
Totalitarianism (#33)

- Totalitarianism occurs when a government seeks total control over all aspects of life – people have no freedom of speech, press, or religion; no legal rights to protect them from the government at all.
- Totalitarianism can be fascist or communist.
- Totalitarian dictators use all types of propaganda to promote themselves as heroic leaders who are always right.
- Examples: Hitler in Germany, Stalin in the USSR, Mussolini in Italy. A modern example would be Kim Jong Un in North Korea.
Hitler’s Rise to Power in Germany

- The National Socialist, or Nazi Party was formed in Germany after WWI.
- Adolf Hitler joined the Nazis in 1919 and quickly rose to leadership due to his excellent public speaking ability.
- Hitler admitted that his strength wasn’t his ideas, but his speaking ability – and a major criticism he had of others was often that they were not good public speakers.
Hitler’s Failure

- On November 8, 1923, Hitler attempted to overthrow the German Weimar government in a rebellion called the Beer Hall Putsch (it began in a beer hall in Munich called the Burgerbraukeller).

- This was supposed to be just like Mussolini’s March on Rome that allowed him to take over Italy.

- Hitler had secret support from Bavarian governor Gustav Von Kahr, but Von Kahr pulled his support at the last minute.

- Hitler’s rebellion was quickly defeated & the German government sentenced him to 5 years in prison.
While in prison, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*, which described his Nazi philosophy, views on Germany’s problems, and his plans for Germany.

In short, Hitler said that Germans were the master race, their problems came from the Weimar government (stabbing them in the back by surrendering at the end of WWI), and that his plan was to lead Germany back to glory and begin the Third Reich (Empire) – which he said would last 1,000 years.

Hitler was released from prison after only one year.
The Nazis Regain Popularity

- The Nazis had lost much of their popularity after the Beer Hall Putsch failed.
- But after Hitler was released from prison, and as the German depression grew worse, support for the Nazis increased again.
- In 1930, the Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag (German parliament) at 107 seats (only had 12 seats in 1928).
Hitler Takes Over Germany

- Hitler became Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933.
- The *Reichstag* building burned on February 27, 1933 – Nazis said that communists had started the fire.
- This crisis gave the Nazis an excuse to suspend freedom of speech & press.
- Hitler was given “temporary” dictatorial power due to the crisis.
- In 1934, Hitler combined the offices of chancellor and president & gave himself the title of *Der Fuhrer* (the Leader) – making his dictatorial power permanent.
The Night of the Long Knives

- By 1934, there were two distinct groups in the Nazi Party – the SA (Brownshirts) was the Nazi militia, loyal to the party; the SS was Hitler’s personal bodyguard, loyal to Hitler.
- From June 30-July 2, 1934, Hitler ordered a purge of the SA to kill off his enemies in the Nazi Party.
- SA chief Ernst Rohm was one of at least 85 SA leaders killed by the SS and Gestapo (secret police).
- Gustav Von Kahr (former Bavarian governor who betrayed Hitler during the Beer Hall Putsch) was also killed.
Hitler Rearms Germany

- Hitler rearmed Germany – this violated the Versailles Treaty, but Britain & France took no action to stop Hitler.
- Hitler’s work programs ended the Great Depression in Germany by 1935.
- Hitler wanted *lebensraum* (living space) – made plans for Germany to fight a series of wars to conquer new territory.
- Sent troops into the Rhineland – this also violated the Versailles Treaty, but again Britain & France took no action against Hitler.
Hitler Expands Germany (#21)

- In March 1938, Hitler forced Austria to unite with Germany (the Anschluss) – Britain & France protested that this was wrong, but took no action.
- September 1938: Hitler demanded that the Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia with many Germans) be given to Germany.
- French & British leaders met with Hitler at the Munich Conference and agreed to let Hitler have the Sudetenland if he promised to take no more territory.
  - This strategy – giving the aggressor what he wants – is called appeasement. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain claimed to have won “peace in our time,” but was soon proven wrong.
War grows closer (#25)

- Hitler broke his promise from the Munich Conference by taking over the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939.
- Italy occupied Albania at about the same time.
- Hitler and Stalin signed the Nonaggression Pact in August 1939 – each promised not to attack the other for at least 10 years.
  - This freed Hitler to begin war in Europe without having to worry that the USSR would attack Germany and force it into a two-front war as in WWI.
World War II Begins (#32)

- Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 – this was the start of WWII.
- Britain & France declared war on Germany in support of Poland.
- Blitzkrieg (lightning war): Nazis combined air and land attacks, using planes & tanks to quickly break through Poland’s defenses.
- Poland surrendered in less than a month.
- The USSR seized eastern Poland (this had been agreed to in the Hitler-Stalin pact).
After Poland Fell (#24)

- Germany conquered Poland before Britain & France could even get into action.
- After the Nazis conquered Poland, the war went into a quiet period during the winter months.
- French forces stayed behind the defenses of the Maginot Line, a system of fortifications along the French-German border that France had built after WWI to prevent future German invasions of France.
The Allied Powers (#18)

- The Allies included about two dozen countries, but the “Big Four” were Britain, France, the Soviet Union (USSR), and of course the United States.
- China is sometimes considered a fifth major Allied country because of its war with Japan.
The Axis Powers (#17)

- Hitler had signed an alliance with Mussolini in 1936 – Mussolini said that with Germany and Italy’s combined strength, the world would turn on “an axis between Rome and Berlin.”
- Japan also joined (Tripartite Pact, 1940).
- During WWII, Germany, Japan, and Italy were known as the Axis Powers.
The War in Western Europe

- Germany conquered Denmark and Norway in April 1940 and took the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg in May 1940.
- Germany defeated Britain & France during its drive through Belgium.
- The Germans also went around the Maginot Line to invade France and split the French and British armies there.
Dunkirk

- At Dunkirk, 340,000 British & French troops were trapped against the sea – looked like they would have to surrender or be killed by the Germans.

- Bad weather slowed the German army’s advance on Dunkirk.

- All available British ships & boats rushed to Dunkirk and rescued the trapped soldiers by sailing them to Britain.
The Fall of France

- Germans captured Paris on June 14, 1940.
- Italy declared war on France & Britain.
- France surrendered to Germany on June 22, 1940.
  - Right: Hitler poses in front of the Eiffel Tower with Nazi leaders Albert Speer & Arno Breker.
- Britain was now the only member of the Allies left to face Germany.
The Battle of Britain

Hitler called his planned invasion of Britain Operation Sea Lion – it called for the Luftwaffe (German air force) to destroy Britain’s air defenses, to be followed by German troops landing in England and conquering Britain.

This resulted in the Battle of Britain, which lasted from July to September 1940.
The Blitz

- Massive German bombing raids on London & other British cities was known as the Blitz.
- In response to the Blitz, Britain began sending its RAF (Royal Air Force) to bomb Berlin & other German cities.
- Before WWII, bombing of civilians in cities was considered off-limits, but the Blitz ended that tradition – for the rest of WWII, both sides commonly bombed enemy cities & towns, causing millions of civilian deaths in WWII.
The RAF Saves Britain

- The British had broken German military code, so often knew German plans.
- British also had radar to spot German planes coming to attack Britain.
- Although outnumbered, Britain’s Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses on the Luftwaffe.
- Because Hitler couldn’t knock out Britain’s air defenses, he had to cancel his invasion of Britain.
- This was the first time Hitler had been stopped.
Winston Churchill (#6)

- After Hitler broke his promise from the Munich Conference by taking over the rest of Czechoslovakia, Winston Churchill replaced Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister of Great Britain.
- Churchill became known as one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century.
- He was especially inspirational to the British people during the Battle of Britain.
The Empire of Japan

- After WWI, Japan made political reforms – slowed its expansion into Asia, agreed to limit its military forces, and signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact (which “outlawed” war).
- As the Great Depression hit Japan, the new Japanese government was blamed for Japan’s economic problems and for cutting its military strength.
- Radical nationalist groups, supported by the Japanese military, used assassinations (including assassination of the prime minister in 1930) to force a return to traditional and aggressive government.
The Manchurian Incident

- By 1930, Japan was overpopulated – needed new territory for food, raw materials, & markets.
- Japanese army in Manchuria (northern China) used a fake incident as an excuse to capture several Chinese cities there in September 1931.
- Japan soon took over all of Manchuria & made it a puppet state called Manchukuo.
- When the League of Nations protested this, Japan simply left the League.
Japan vs. China

- Japan invaded the rest of China in July 1937.

- Japan’s superior weapons overcame China’s superior numbers – Japan occupied key Chinese cities and bombed others.

- Japan brutalized Chinese prisoners & civilians in incidents like the Rape of Nanking, in which over 100,000 Chinese were killed, with women & girls raped before being killed.

  - See Hagen, pp. 18-21.
As Prime Minister of Japan during World War II, Tojo was ultimately responsible for the barbaric acts carried out by the Japanese.

After the war, he was sentenced to death as a war criminal and was hanged on December 23, 1948.
China Continues to Fight

- Chinese Communists and Nationalists were enemies, but stopped fighting each other to fight Japan.
- U.S. was neutral at this time, but American volunteers later formed the Flying Tigers to help China fight the Japanese air force.
- USSR & Britain sent supplies to China.
- Although Japan controlled China’s cities, Chinese guerillas controlled rural areas – the war in China was a stalemate by 1939.
Japan Looks Beyond China

- Japan announced the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, promising to free Asian countries that it took over from European control.
  - In reality, Japan just wanted to control Asia’s land & resources.
- September 1940: Japan signed the Tripartite Pact, joining Italy & Germany in the Axis Powers.
- Japan also moved troops into Indochina and the Dutch East Indies.
- After signing a neutrality pact with the USSR in 1941, Japan was ready to challenge the U.S.
U.S. Isolationism

- The U.S. tried to remain neutral as WWII spread in Europe and Asia.
- U.S.-foreign trade was limited by the 1930 tariff.
- Neutrality Acts were passed in 1935, ’36, and ’37: these stated that the U.S.:
  - Wouldn’t provide weapons or loans to nations at war
  - And would only trade with fighting nations for nonmilitary items and only on a “cash and carry” basis.
American Involvement Grows

- As WWII began, the U.S. was still neutral, but saw that terrible things were being done by the Axis Powers.
- To help Britain, the U.S. made the “Destroyers for Bases” deal in Sept. 1940 – sending 50 destroyers (warships) to Britain.
- Some Americans still wanted the U.S. to stay out of it – the America First Committee was a group of isolationists who opposed any further U.S. aid to Britain.
The Lend-Lease Act (#28)

- March 1941: the Lend-Lease Act was passed.
- Under this act, the U.S. sent free aid to Britain and other Allied nations.
- By the end of WWII, $49 billion worth of weapons & supplies had been sent to 40 nations under Lend-Lease (the USSR received the most Lend-Lease aid).
War with Japan grows closer

- To force Japan to end its war in Asia, U.S. began restricting trade with Japan in July 1940.
- Later froze Japan’s assets in the U.S. and cut off oil shipments from U.S. to Japan.
- U.S.-Japan negotiations continued.
- Japan had to choose: back out of China (and lose face), or plan for war against the U.S.
  - See Hagen, pp. 25-27.
Japan Plans for Pearl Harbor

- The U.S. had broken the Japanese code, so knew that Japan was planning to attack the U.S. somewhere – but didn’t know where.

- Japanese Admiral Yamamoto knew Japan couldn’t win a long war vs. the U.S., so hoped to force a settled peace quickly – by knocking out the U.S. Pacific Fleet with a surprise attack.

- If Japan could conquer enough territory at the beginning of the war, the U.S. might choose to make peace rather than fight a long & costly war to defeat Japan.
December 7, 1941: Pearl Harbor

- Incoming Japanese planes were spotted by a U.S. radar base in Hawaii, but mistaken for a flight of incoming American B-17 bombers.
- Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor caught the U.S. completely by surprise – 18 American warships were sunk, including 8 battleships, and 2,400 Americans died.
- Luckily for the U.S., no aircraft carriers had been at Pearl Harbor that day, so we still had them.
Yamamoto’s Reaction (#1)

When he learned that the Pearl Harbor attack had mistakenly started before Japan ended diplomatic relations with the U.S. (relations were to have ended shortly before the attack – so it technically would not have been a “sneak attack”), he said, “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant, and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

The sleeping giant was the U.S., with its unmatched industrial capacity – now filled with a terrible resolve because of the anger over the sneak attack at Pearl Harbor.
The U.S. Declares War (#10, #23)

- Calling December 7, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy” President Roosevelt (FDR) asked Congress to declare war on Japan on December 8, 1941.
- Congress almost unanimously declared war on Japan – only 1 vote opposed.
- The U.S. was now in World War II. The war lasted from 1939 to 1945; the U.S. was in it from 1941-45.
- Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. on December 11, 1941.
Mobilizing the Armed Forces

- Selective Training and Service Act, 1940: all men age 21-36 had to register for the draft; millions also volunteered to serve before they could even be drafted, especially after Pearl Harbor.
- Defense spending increased to $10 billion in 1940 and increased further when U.S. joined WWII.
- American soldiers were called G.I.’s (stood for “Government Issue”) – 16 million G.I.’s served in the U.S. military during WWII.
Diversity in the Armed Forces

- U.S. forces in WWII were primarily white males, but many women & minorities also served.
- 1 million African Americans.
  - Included black pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen.
  - Blacks were segregated from white troops, but some integration took place by 1944.
- 300,000 Mexican Americans.
- 25,000 Native Americans.
  - Included the famous Navajo “code talkers” – U.S. military code using the Navajo language was never broken.
- 350,000 women: performed most duties except combat.
Preparing the Economy for War (#42 a & b)

- War Production Board converted peacetime industry to produce war goods.
  - Example: converting auto factories to make tanks, planes, etc.
  - Also rationed items like gasoline, rubber, paper, etc.
- Office of War Mobilization centralized resources.
- Liberty ships: these merchant ships were mass-produced (2,710 were built!) to carry supplies & troops to war.
The WWII Economy (#42a)

- Companies were motivated to produce war materials – by 1944, U.S. production was double that of Germany and Japan combined!
- Unemployment in the U.S. nearly vanished during WWII; wages & union membership rose greatly.
- Unions rarely went on strike early in the war (it would be unpatriotic to strike during war), but went on strike more often after 1943.
  - Congress then passed the Smith-Connally Act, which limited unions’ ability to go on strike.
Great Falls Does Its Part!

The Anaconda Copper Company smelter in Black Eagle was vital to the war effort as almost any weapon made required copper – for example, a single B-17 bomber had more than a ton of copper in it.

Anaconda Company employees were very patriotic – 100% of them bought war bonds through the company to support the war effort.

The company also won the Army-Navy Efficiency & Excellence Production Award, which was only given to a small number of companies in the U.S. – but the Anaconda Company won it 4 times!

And, the company had a newsletter called The Copper Commando, which reported on its contribution to the war effort.

And Great Falls Air Force Base (later called Malmstrom AFB) trained bomber crews to fight the Axis Powers.
Financing the War

The federal government spent $321 billion on World War II.

This was paid for by:
- Raising taxes
- Selling war bonds (a way of the federal gov’t. borrowing money)

The government spent more than it took in during WWII – this is called deficit spending. Resulted in a large national debt (but this was paid off after the war).
Daily Life on the Home Front

- Nearly 30 million Americans moved during WWII, mostly to take jobs in war-related industries.
- The birthrate increased.
- Shortages and rationing limited what could be bought (and how much).
- People spent a lot on pop culture: movies (60% of Americans went to at least one movie per week), baseball games, records, magazines, books, etc.
Office of War Information (#42c)

- This agency’s purpose was to keep up morale at home so people would continue to support the war effort.
- Worked with magazine publishers, advertising agencies, and radio stations to promote the war.
- Sponsored or encouraged citizens to grow victory gardens, blackout cities at night, participate in Civilian Defense groups, and hold recycling drives for materials needed to make weapons (scrap metal, rubber, etc.).
- Patriotism and morale were high: WWII was (and still is) seen as “a good war,” one that HAD to be fought & won.
The Atlantic Charter

• August 1941: FDR met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to discuss war goals and principles.
  • For example, they agreed that the war was being fought to stop Axis aggression, free countries that had been conquered by the Axis, but NOT to add new territories for the Allies if & when they won the war.
• This agreement (which was made before the U.S. even entered the war) led to the creation of the United Nations after World War II.
The Battle of the Atlantic, 1939-1945

- German battleships like the Bismarck were threats to Allied shipping.
- As in WWI, Allies used convoys for protection from U-boats.
- German U-boats attacked convoys in wolfpacks of up to 20, sinking many Allied ships.
- Port cities in U.S. (like New York) had to be blacked out at night to keep from silhouetting our ships & making them easy targets for U-boats.
- New Allied anti-sub strategies: anti-sub airplanes, use of sonar to detect subs underwater & destroy them with depth charges.
  - These destroyed many German U-boats and limited the U-boat threat.
German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel (the Desert Fox) won several battles against the British in 1941-42.
Turning Point: El Alamein (#30)

- **Battle of El Alamein, October 23-Nov. 11, 1942**: British army led by General Bernard Montgomery defeated Rommel’s Afrika Korps & forced Germans to retreat.

- **El Alamein was one of the three turning points of World War II** – after this battle, the Allies were winning in North Africa.

- **British had roughly 200,000 men and 1,000 tanks vs. 100,000 Germans with 500 tanks.**

- **Rommel was back in Germany on sick leave at the time.**
American Disaster at Kasserine

- In first battle against the Germans, the U.S. was badly defeated.
- Rommel’s Afrika Corps defeated a combined U.S.-British force led by British General Kenneth Anderson & American General Lloyd Fredendall.
  - U.S. & British lost 183 tanks & 10,000 killed & wounded.
  - Germans lost only 34 tanks & 2,000 men.
Patton takes command (#4)

- After the disaster at Kasserine, General Fredendall was replaced by General George S. Patton.
- Patton would become arguably the best general on any side in WWII, and became the only Allied general that the Germans feared.
The Allies Take North Africa

- With Patton in command of U.S. forces in North Africa, the Allies defeated all Axis forces there by May 1943.
- A key victory was the Battle of El Guettar from March 23 to April 7, 1943 – Patton’s U.S. II Corps defeated Rommel’s Afrika Korps and supporting Italian forces.
- Patton was later upset to find out that Rommel had been back in Berlin on sick leave again – he had wanted to beat Rommel personally!
The Allied Invasion of Italy Begins

- Allied plan: capture Sicily first, then drive north into Italy.
- July 1943: Patton led U.S. 7th Army in invasion of Sicily while British army led by Montgomery also invaded Sicily.
- Patton & Montgomery competed to outdo each other and get the glory by capturing the key Sicilian city of Messina.
- Patton won the race and captured Messina – but was soon in trouble with Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower.
Dwight D. Eisenhower: “Ike” (#8)

- Eisenhower was the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.
- Sometimes Patton had difficulty working under Ike because: they were old friends, Patton had outranked Ike for most of their careers (but now Ike was Patton’s boss), and Ike had never actually commanded in combat.
- Ike also had difficulty commanding Patton, because Patton’s combat genius was always needed, but Patton often said & did things that got him in trouble and put pressure on Ike to discipline him.
Patton’s “Slapping Incident”

- At the peak of the fighting in Sicily, Patton had slapped two soldiers in field hospitals – they were suffering from “battle fatigue,” which Patton thought was a coward’s excuse to avoid combat.
- When the slapping incidents went public, General Eisenhower (Ike) was pressured to send Patton back to the U.S. for good.
- Instead, Ike removed Patton from command of 7th Army and put him on leave in Britain.
Fighting in Italy Continues

- After the Allies captured Sicily, Mussolini fled to northern Italy.
- The Italian government then surrendered to the Allies in September 1943 – BUT Germany still controlled most of Italy, and the Allies would have to defeat the Germans to really take Italy.
- Allies landed troops at Anzio, but suffered heavy losses – 43,000 casualties (including 7,000 killed). Axis losses at Anzio were 40,000 with 15,000 killed.
Monte Cassino (#39)

- Allies bombed the Abby of Monte Cassino (built in 524 A.D.) because the Germans were using it for a lookout.
- Germans continued to use the rubble as cover to attack Allied troops.
- Allies eventually captured Monte Cassino – battle lasted from January until May 18, 1944 – but losses were very high – 105,000 Allied casualties. German losses are unknown, but there are over 20,000 German graves in the cemetery there.
The Allies Capture Rome

- After Monte Cassino fell, the Allies moved on to Rome.
- Rome was captured by the Allies on June 4, 1944 – just two days before the Allied invasion of Normandy (D-Day).
- Fighting continued in northern Italy – last German forces there didn’t surrender until April 1945.
Hitler Invades the Soviet Union (#27)

- Hitler and Stalin both knew that one would eventually break their 1939 Nonaggression Pact and attack the other.

- Operation Barbarossa: Hitler’s invasion of the USSR, which began on June 22, 1941.

- After failing to invade Britain in 1940, Hitler decided that the British might be forced to surrender later on if they knew they couldn’t get help from the USSR – so he would defeat the USSR both to win new territory for Germany and to weaken Britain.
The Germans won most early battles against the Soviets, and the Luftwaffe controlled the air. Soviet forces retreated – “trading space for time” – while also destroying all resources the Germans might use. German offensive stalled when the Russian winter set in. Stalin asked the Allies to attack western Europe to take pressure off the USSR, but they weren’t ready to do that yet. However, the U.S. sent massive amounts of weapons & supplies as Lend-Lease aid to USSR.
Turning Point: Stalingrad (#31)

- Hitler was determined to capture Stalingrad in the southern USSR – it was close to vital oilfields, and symbolically important because it was the only city named for Stalin.

- Battle of Stalingrad lasted from Sept. 1942 to February 1943 – Germans were winning at first, but attack stalled when winter set in.

- Hitler wouldn’t allow his army to retreat – in the end, the Germans surrendered; 330,000 of them were killed or captured.

- This was the turning point of WWII in the Soviet Union: after Stalingrad, the USSR took the offensive & began driving the Germans back into Europe.
Air War

- The Allied invasion of Europe had to be supported by massive air power.
- U.S. & British planes bombed German factories, bases, & cities both day and night.
- Air raids used hundreds of planes, with both carpet bombing and precision bombing.
Operation Overlord (#35)

- Operation Overlord was the code name for the Allied invasion of Western Europe at Normandy.
- The Germans knew that the Allies would invade, but didn’t know where or when.
- Patton was still on probation in England – the Allies used the Germans’ known fear of Patton by leaking out information that Patton would lead the invasion and the attack would be at Calais.
D-Day

- Because high tides & a full moon were needed, only a few days each month would have the right conditions for the Normandy landings.
- The invasion began on D-Day: June 6, 1944.
- Allies combined bombing, paratrooper landings behind enemy lines, and 175,000 troops coming ashore in landing craft to capture the German defenses at Normandy.
- American, British, and Canadian troops landed at five different beaches.
- They faced 380,000 German troops at Normandy.
Omaha Beach

- The five beaches at Normandy were Gold, Juno, Sword, Utah, and Omaha – the bloodiest fighting occurred at Omaha Beach, which was attacked by the Americans.
- Out of 43,000 Americans who attacked Omaha Beach, 3,000 were killed or wounded.
- But the Americans eventually secured the beach – the Omaha Beach attack is portrayed in the famous opening scene of *Saving Private Ryan.*
Casualties at D-Day

- A total of 10,000 Allied casualties on D-Day (including both killed & wounded) out of 175,000 Allied troops.
- U.S. had 6,603 total casualties, including 2,499 dead.
Overlord Succeeds

Early on D-Day, Hitler had taken a sleeping pill and left strict orders not to awaken him, so he didn’t learn of the Allied invasion until late in the day.

Even when he did learn of it, Hitler didn’t authorize German reinforcements to be sent to Normandy – because he was sure that this attack was just a diversion, and the “real attack” would be led by Patton at Calais, so Hitler kept his troops there – of course, the attack at Calais never came.

By late July, the Allies had landed two million troops in France.
France is liberated

- Patton was finally put back in action as commander of the U.S. 3rd Army.
- Using aggressive tank attacks combined with air cover, Patton annihilated German armies in France.
- Paris was liberated on August 25, 1944 (Free French troops made the final march into Paris after the German retreat).
Hitler’s Ardennes Plan

- Germany was near defeat, but Hitler had one last plan to steal victory – a massive winter offensive to catch the Allies by surprise and push them back out of Europe.
- This was called the Ardennes Offensive because it would hit the Allies in the Ardennes Forest area of Belgium.
- If it succeeded, it would be about 18 months before the Allies could try another invasion like D-Day.
- In the meantime, Hitler expected new German weapons – jet planes, rocket bombs, and maybe even atomic bombs – to give Germany the advantage.
- At the very least, Hitler hoped the Allies would sue for peace and allow him to remain as dictator of Germany.
Operation Greif

- Hitler put SS officer Otto Skorzeny in charge of a deception op called “Operation Greif,” a key part of the German plan to surprise the Allies at the start of the Ardennes Offensive.
- Operation Greif used English-speaking German troops, with captured Allied uniforms & vehicles, to infiltrate the Allied side.
- These “fake Americans” would then change road signs, cut telegraph wires, lead American troops into ambushes, etc.
- This was very effective at first – once U.S. troops realized what was happening, they set up checkpoints and asked all troops trivia questions that only real Americans would be likely to know, such as “Who is Mickey Mouse’s girlfriend?”
The Battle of the Bulge (#22)

- It is usually called the Battle of the Bulge, as the German attack pushed back the Allies at first and created a “bulge” in the Allied lines in Europe.
- The Germans caught the Allies off-guard, attacking with 500,000 troops and 500 tanks.
- Many U.S. troops were cut off.
- This became the largest battle of WWII in Europe and was the last German offensive of the war.
Early in the Battle of the Bulge, the German 1\textsuperscript{st} SS Panzer Division captured the Belgian town of Malmedy – they also captured 84 American soldiers and then machine-gunned them to death in a nearby field.

Meanwhile, the U.S. 101\textsuperscript{st} Airborne Division was trapped at Bastogne, Belgium and was in danger of being captured by the Germans.

If Bastogne could be saved, it could break up the whole German attack; if not, the Allies were in serious danger.
Patton Saves Bastogne

• The only Allied general who believed he could reach Bastogne in time was Patton.
• His 3rd Army had to swing 100 miles north (through freezing cold & snow) in about 48 hours – this was considered impossible, but Patton had already begun planning to do so.
• Patton’s 3rd Army did save Bastogne – this was the high point of all of Patton’s successes.
The Allies Win the Battle of the Bulge

- The Germans also suffered from major fuel shortages, and their offensive failed.
- By late January 1945, the Allies had pushed the bulge back the other way – toward Germany.
- The Germans had lost 100,000 casualties.
- The Allies had also lost 90,000, including 19,000 Americans killed.
- But Germany had spent its last remaining strength – victory for the Allies was now just a matter of time.
Taking the war to Germany

- General Omar Bradley was overall commander of U.S. armies in Europe – under his command, all U.S. armies (including Patton’s 3rd Army) pushed toward Berlin from the west.

- Meanwhile, Soviet armies closed in on Berlin from the east.
As Allied armies moved into Germany and Poland, they liberated concentration camps and death camps, revealing the horrors of the Holocaust.

As Hitler’s “Final Solution” to the “Jewish problem,” the Holocaust was the Nazis’ systematic genocide of Jews and other “undesirables.”

Its goal was to kill every Jew in Europe, and it succeeded in killing 6 million of them.

Another 6 million people, including Russians, Poles, Gypsies, Jehovah’s Witnesses, handicapped people, and homosexuals also died in the Holocaust.
Germany Surrenders

- With Hitler dead, Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, ending World War II in Europe – this date is known as V-E Day (Victory in Europe).
- The war in Europe was over, but the Japanese were still fighting on in the Pacific.
Japan immediately followed up its attack on Pearl Harbor by attacking U.S. & British positions in the Philippines, Wake Island, and elsewhere.

The Japanese also soon cut the Burma Road (which the British had used to supply Chinese forces that fought the Japanese) and captured Burma.
The Bataan Death March

- Japan quickly captured most of its objectives in the Pacific, but its timetable was slowed by fierce American and Filipino resistance, especially on Bataan and the island fortress of Corregidor.

- When the Japanese finally captured the Philippines, they forced up to 80,000 Filipinos and Americans to march 60 miles through the jungle heat – those who couldn’t keep up were killed.
Outcome of the Bataan Death March

- Up to 650 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died during the Bataan Death March – cruelty to the prisoners was a gross violation of the Geneva Convention’s rules for treatment of prisoners.
- After reaching Camp O’Donnell, those who survived the march died at a rate of 30-50 men per day.
- See Hagen, pp. 41-44 & pp. 48-49.
- Some Japanese were exceptions to this kind of cruelty: Japanese Colonel Takeo Imai freed 1,000 U.S. POWs to save them from the Death March.
- The Death March motivated Americans to fight on to defeat and destroy Japan.
War at Sea

- Unlike the war in Europe, fighting in the Pacific heavily involved the Navy.
- Before WWII, it was thought that battleships were the most important warships – but it was soon obvious that aircraft carriers were really the most important.
- Right after Pearl Harbor, it was important for the nation’s morale to strike back at Japan, and aircraft carriers made it possible.
The Doolittle Raid

- April 18, 1942: B-25 bombers from the carrier *Hornet* bombed Tokyo – did little actual damage, but showed that the U.S. could strike Japan itself & boosted American morale.
- U.S. pilots had to crash land in China afterward: 3 were killed; 8 were taken as POWs by the Japanese (4 died); 5 were interred in the USSR.
- Out of 80 crewmen in the Doolittle Raid, 73 survived; also, the Japanese killed 225,000 Chinese civilians while searching for the Doolittle Raid crews that landed in China.
The Battle of the Coral Sea

May 4-8, 1942: U.S. and Japanese fleets faced each other off the northern coast of Australia. First naval battle in history where neither side’s ships ever saw the other’s. This was because all fighting was done by planes launched from aircraft carriers. Tactically, the battle was a tie – both sides lost one aircraft carrier. Strategically, it was a victory for the Allies – Japan had planned to invade Australia, but called it off due to its losses in this battle.
Turning Point: Midway

- Yamamoto’s plan was for Japan to draw the U.S. fleet into battle near Midway Island, destroy the U.S. fleet and capture the island to use as an air base.
- Japan could then easily capture Hawaii and even attack the U.S. west coast.
- This could’ve also changed the war in Europe: if Japan took Hawaii & attacked the west coast, the U.S. wouldn’t have sent troops to Europe to fight Hitler – we’d focus only on Japan.
- And if Hitler had still been defeated, it would have been mainly by the Soviets.
- And in that case, the Soviets might have put all of Europe under communist rule and been much harder for the U.S. to deal with during the Cold War.
Midway: Each side’s advantages

- Japan had a much larger fleet than the U.S. at this time, with 8 aircraft carriers vs. only 3 for the U.S.
- But the U.S. had broken Japan’s code and knew where and when Japan would attack.
- Also, U.S. had radar to spot incoming Japanese planes – Japanese ships had no radar.
Midway: America Wins (#29)

- Japan’s four biggest aircraft carriers were sunk by American dive bomber attacks; Japan also lost 250 planes and many of its best pilots; U.S. lost only one aircraft carrier.
- Yamamoto ordered the Japanese fleet to return to Japan.
- Midway was the turning point of WWII in the Pacific – before it, Japan was winning, but after Midway, American victory seemed inevitable.
Midway inspired Americans

- This photo of the Japanese cruiser *Mikuma*, laid waste by American dive bombers at Midway, was republished throughout World War II to encourage Americans to buy more war bonds to help defeat the enemy.
Guadalcanal was the first battle in the Pacific in which the U.S. was on the offensive – recapturing territory taken earlier by Japan.

Began in August 1942 and lasted until February 1943.

Included both naval battles and fierce jungle fighting between U.S. & Japanese forces.

The U.S. finally won, capturing the island and key air base (Henderson Field).

Heavy casualties: out of 60,000 Americans, 7,100 died; out of 36,000 Japanese, only 1,000 lived to be taken prisoner.

Very important: Japan lost most of its best remaining pilots at Guadalcanal.
Sgt. Paige’s Heroism

- At Guadalcanal on the night of October 25, 1942, Sgt. Mitchell Paige & 33 riflemen with 4 Browning machine guns held off an attack by thousands of Japanese troops at Henderson Field.

- All men in Paige’s platoon were killed or wounded during the night – at the end, Paige moved up & down the line alone, placing dead & wounded in foxholes and firing short bursts from the machine guns to fool the Japanese into thinking that a whole force still held the ridge.

- It worked – the Japanese withdrew after taking 2,200 casualties, including at least 975 dead.

- Sgt. Paige was awarded the Medal of Honor.
Death of Yamamoto (#13)

- Japan’s top military officer, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, had planned the Japanese attacks at Pearl Harbor & Midway.

- In April 1943, U.S. decoded a radio message & learned when & where Yamamoto’s plane would be flying.

- On April 18, 1943, U.S. P-38 fighter planes shot down his plane, and Yamamoto was killed.

- This was a major loss for Japan and the closest thing to an assassination carried out by the U.S.
Island Hopping (#26)

- The Japanese held hundreds of islands in the Pacific.
- Instead of capturing every single island, Allied forces attacked & captured only strategically important islands (ones that could be used as air bases and that gradually moved the Allies closer to Japan) – other Japanese-held islands were bypassed and their supply lines cut off.
- Fighting on each island was always bloody & resulted in the death of nearly all Japanese troops (if they weren’t killed, most committed suicide).
The Marianas Turkey Shoot

- The Battle of the Philippine Sea on June 19-20, 1944 near the Marianas Islands was the largest aircraft carrier battle in history, and a dominating victory for the U.S. over Japan.

- Japan lost 3 of its largest aircraft carriers and 645 planes; the U.S. lost no ships & only 123 planes.

- By this time, most Japanese pilots were inexperienced & had little skill – American pilots shot them down so easily, one said it was just like “an old-time turkey shoot down home!” Which led to the famous nickname of this battle. Commander David McCampbell even became “an ace in a day” as he shot down 5 Japanese bombers in one day during this battle.
When U.S. general Douglas MacArthur had been forced to evacuate from the Philippines when Japan captured it in 1942, he had famously promised, “I shall return.”

By late 1944, the U.S. was ready to invade and recapture the Philippines from Japan.
The Battle of Leyte Gulf

- **Battle of Leyte Gulf**: October 23-26, 1944 – the largest naval battle in history.
- **U.S. fleet under Admiral “Bull” Halsey**: had 34 aircraft carriers (with 1,500 planes), 12 battleships, 24 cruisers, & 141 destroyers vs. 4 Japanese carriers with 300 planes.
- When it was over, the U.S. had lost 1 light carrier and 1,500 men; Japan had lost all 4 carriers and over 10,000 men dead.
- After this, Japan’s navy was a non-factor for the rest of the war.
U.S. liberates the Philippines

- Heavy losses on both sides: U.S. lost 14,000 men killed, but Japan lost 336,000 killed (another 12,000 taken prisoner).

- This battle marked the first organized use of suicide weapons – kamikaze planes and kaiten torpedoes by Japan.

- And General MacArthur fulfilled his promise “I shall return” when he landed in the Philippines.
Battle of Iwo Jima (#37)

- February 19-March 16, 1945: 110,000 U.S. Marines liberated the island of Iwo Jima by defeating 23,000 Japanese.
- Japanese hid & attacked from caves & tunnels – the island had 11 miles of tunnels dug into it.
- The U.S. lost 19,000 men wounded and 6,821 killed; Japan lost 18,844 killed & only 216 taken prisoner (3,000 went into hiding).
More about Iwo Jima

- Many U.S. losses occurred because the Japanese tunnels were interconnected – our Marines would clear them out, but within moments more Japanese arrived from adjoining tunnels and attacked again.

- Japanese Lt. Col. Takeichi Nishi, killed at Iwo Jima, had won the gold medal for horse jumping at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles.

- Body of Japanese commander Tadamichi Kuribayashi was never found – he probably died in battle, but possibly by seppuku (ritual suicide).

- Joe Rosenthal’s photo of Marines raising the flag at Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima is world-famous & is the model for the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial.
Battle of Okinawa (#38)

- Fought from April 1 to June 23, 1945, Okinawa was the last & biggest battle of WWII in the Pacific.
- Japanese used 2,000 kamikaze plane attacks against U.S. ships & ground forces, and many suicide “banzai charges.”
- As many as 131,000+ Japanese troops and 150,000 Okinawan civilians died; U.S. lost 12,500 killed and 39,000 wounded before capturing the island.
- Both commanding generals died: Simon Buckner (U.S.) and Mitsuru Ushijima (Japan); famous war correspondent Ernie Pyle was also killed at Okinawa.
The Manhattan Project

- The Manhattan Project was the name for the top-secret U.S. project to build the first atomic bomb; this project began in 1939 & continued to 1945.
- General Leslie Groves was the military commander of the Manhattan Project; Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer led the scientific team.
- Employed 130,000 people at 20 different sites.
- Cost nearly $2 billion (about $26 billion in 2015 dollars).
Trinity (#11)

- First successful atom bomb test (codenamed *Trinity*) was July 16, 1945 near Alamogordo, N.M.
- Scientists had bets on whether the bomb would “blow up the whole planet, or just New Mexico” due to possibility that the explosion might ignite Earth’s atmosphere.
- Oppenheimer: “Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.”
- FDR had died in April 1945; Harry S Truman was now president – he hadn’t been told of the Manhattan Project until after FDR’s death, but now had to decide whether to use the bomb.
The Potsdam Proclamation

- After the success of *Trinity*, President Truman, who was at the Potsdam Conference in Potsdam, Germany with Stalin & Churchill, issued an ultimatum to Japan: surrender now, or face “prompt and utter destruction.”

- This was called the Potsdam Proclamation.

- He did not mention the atom bomb.

- The Japanese refused to surrender unless their emperor would be unharmed and allowed to keep his throne.
Truman’s A-bomb decision (#11)

- The moral question of whether to bomb civilians was long gone by 1945 – both sides had been bombing cities since 1940, with millions killed.
- On March 9, 1945, American B-29’s had firebombed Tokyo, killing up to 100,000 people and destroying 17 square miles of the city.
- The A-bomb was only unique in that this time, 1 bomb (instead of thousands) could destroy a whole city.
- Faced with up to 1 million feared American casualties if the U.S. invaded Japan, Truman’s decision was easy: drop the bomb.
Hiroshima (#19)

- August 6, 1945: the B-29 *Enola Gay* dropped the atomic bomb *Little Boy* on Hiroshima, Japan – Hiroshima was the first city ever to be attacked with an atom bomb.
  - See Hagen, pp. 157-158 and pp. 159-161.
- At least 90,000 died instantly – many more of after-effects in months & years that followed.
- Japan still did not surrender.
On August 9, 1945, the B-29 *Bocks Car* dropped a second atom bomb, *Fat Man*, on the city of Nagasaki, Japan.

*Fat Man* was a plutonium bomb, which made it even more powerful than *Little Boy*, which used U-235 (uranium).

Because of the terrain, fewer people died in Nagasaki – but at least 39,000 were killed by the blast.

It is estimated that at least 200,000 Japanese ultimately died due to the Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombings.
Japan Surrenders (#14)

- Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945 (August 14 in the U.S.) – this was celebrated as V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day).
- The U.S. did allow Japan to keep its emperor, Hirohito – but he was required to make a radio broadcast proclaiming himself to be an ordinary man and not a living god (which is what the Japanese had always been told).
February 1945: FDR, Churchill, and Stalin met at Yalta (in the Soviet Union) to decide what to do with Germany after WWII.

They agreed that Germany would be divided into four occupation zones: U.S., British, French, and Soviet.

- Berlin would be in the Soviet zone, but would itself be divided into four zones (U.S., Br., Fr., Soviet).

Germany would also have to pay reparations for WWII – half of the reparations would be paid to the Soviet Union.
Japan’s formal surrender to the U.S. came September 2, 1945, on the deck of the battleship U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

General Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan’s final surrender.

World War II was now officially over.

See Hagen, pp. 303-308.
Stalin’s Demands & Promises at Yalta (#44)

- Stalin demanded that Poland be ruled by a Communist government.
- But promised that Poland would later be allowed to hold free elections to choose its own government.
- Stalin also promised that:
  - The USSR would declare war on Japan after Germany surrendered;
  - The USSR would join the United Nations.
  - USSR would not interfere with countries in eastern Europe.
Did Stalin keep his promises?

- Mostly, no.
- He never let Poland have free elections.
- The Soviets forced all eastern European countries to have Communist governments as Soviet satellite states.
- The USSR did declare war on Japan – but not until after the U.S. had dropped the first A-bomb on Hiroshima.
- The Soviets did join the U.N.
Criticism of Yalta (#44)

- Critics said that FDR & Churchill had sold out by giving Stalin everything he wanted – which is basically true.

Reasons why Stalin was given so much at Yalta:

- FDR & Churchill were afraid Stalin might make a separate peace with Hitler, leaving the U.S. & Britain to defeat Germany without USSR’s help.
- U.S. hadn’t invented the A-bomb yet, so FDR wanted Stalin’s help to defeat Japan.
- Also, Alger Hiss (right) – an advisor to FDR – later turned out to be a Soviet spy (so of course he would’ve encouraged FDR to deal favorably with Stalin).
Women had more job opportunities: they were able to work at jobs traditionally held by men, and when the war was over, more women stayed on the job than ever before.

African Americans gained opportunities in the military and in jobs on the home front. Many more moved to the North to work – as a result, by 1950, 50% of blacks in the U.S. lived in northern states for the first time in history.

Blacks still faced prejudice, especially when competing against whites for jobs.
Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were forced to live in internment camps after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Many lost their homes and businesses while they were interned.

Some Japanese (in all parts of the U.S.) were fired from their jobs.

Hatred and discrimination toward Japanese Americans was widespread.

Still, many Japanese-Americans volunteered for the U.S. Army to prove their loyalty to the U.S. Most of these (over 1,200) fought in the 442\textsuperscript{nd} Regiment – which became one of the most decorated in U.S. history.

Japanese-American troops were only allowed to fight in Europe.