

Day 6



# Starter April 24th

In your opinion, which event in the war in Europe had the most significance in terms of the changing the war?

# D Day

D Day was a major turning point in World War II, some 150,000 Allied troops landed that day on multiple beachheads in France to fight the Nazis, the largest amphibious military landing ever.

This would give the allies a foothold of continental Europe and a location to move tanks, artillery, soldiers, and other essential resources that would assist in the war.

This event led to the beginning of the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany



# The “Final Solution”

The Nazis frequently used euphemistic language to disguise the true nature of their crimes. They used the term “Final Solution” to refer to their plan to annihilate the Jewish people.

It is not known when the leaders of Nazi Germany definitively decided to implement the "Final Solution."

The genocide, or mass destruction, of the Jews was the culmination of a decade of increasingly severe discriminatory measures.

On July 31, 1941, Nazi leader Hermann Goering authorized SS General Reinhard Heydrich to make preparations for the implementation of a "complete solution of the Jewish question."

These senseless killings would take place in Concentration camps, death camps, and killing centers.



# Map of Death and Concentration Camps



# The Holocaust in Popular Culture



# DOCUMENTED NUMBERS OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST AND NAZI PERSECUTION

**Jews:** up to 6 million

**Soviet civilians:** around 7 million (including 1.3 Soviet Jewish civilians, who are included in the 6 million figure for Jews)

**Soviet prisoners of war:** around 3 million (including about 50,000 Jewish soldiers)

**Non-Jewish Polish civilians:** around 1.8 million (including between 50,000 and 100,000 members of the Polish elites)

**Serb civilians** (on the territory of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina): 312,000

**People with disabilities living in institutions:** up to 250,000

**Roma** (Gypsies): 196,000–220,000

**Jehovah's Witnesses:** around 1,900

**Repeat criminal offenders and so-called asocials:** at least 70,000

**German political opponents and resistance activists in Axis-occupied territory:** undetermined

**Homosexuals:** hundreds, possibly thousands (possibly also counted in part under the 70,000 repeat criminal offenders and so-called asocials noted above)

# The Battle of the Bulge

**Battle of the Bulge**, also called **Battle of the Ardennes**, occurred between December 16, 1944–January 16, 1945

This was the last major German offensive on the Western Front during World War II

It was an unsuccessful attempt to push the Allies back from German home territory.

After this loss, German would on the defensive and try to protect Germany Proper



# Yalta Conference

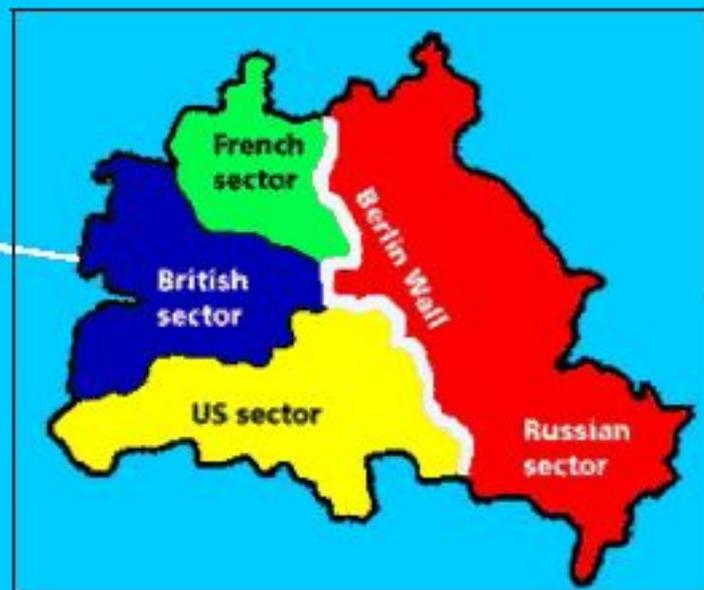
## DECISIONS MADE AT YALTA

1. Created a **United Nations** to promote world peace.
2. Germany and Berlin would be divided into 4 zones controlled by the US, British, France and Soviet Union
3. Eastern European countries under Soviet control would have “free elections”
4. Stalin agreed but kept Eastern Europe under Soviet control after WWII leading to the Cold War



Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met in February, 1945 at the **Yalta Conference** to discuss plans of dividing up Europe anticipating the defeat of Germany

## The division of Germany and Berlin



# The Marshall Plan

Also known as the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948, The Marshall Plan was an aid program established by the United States to aid many of the western European countries financially to help them recover from World War II.

The goal was to:

- Rebuild war-torn countries
- Remove trade barriers
- Modernize industry
- Improve European prosperity
- Prevent the spread of Communism



# Battle of Berlin

The Battle of Berlin was the last major battle in Europe during World War II. It resulted in the surrender of the German army and an end to Adolf Hitler's rule.

The battle began on April 16, 1945 and lasted until May 2, 1945.

The battle was primarily fought between the German Army and the Soviet Army. The Soviet army vastly outnumbered the Germans. The Soviets had over 2,500,000 soldiers, 7,500 aircraft, and 6,250 tanks. The Germans had around 1,000,000 soldiers, 2,200 aircraft, and 1,500 tanks.

What was left of the German army was ill-equipped for the battle. Many of the German soldiers were sick, wounded, or starving. Desperate for soldiers, the German army included young boys and old men.



# Cont...

The battle began on April 16 when the Soviets attacked along the Oder River near Berlin. They quickly defeated the German forces outside Berlin and advanced on the city.

By April 20th the Soviets began bombing Berlin. They worked their way around the city and had it completely surrounded in a few days. At this point, Hitler began to realize that he was going to lose the battle. He desperately tried to move a German army from western Germany to Berlin in order to save the city.

Once the Soviets entered the city, the fighting became fierce. With the city in ruins and the streets full of rubble, tanks were of little use and much of the fighting was hand-to-hand and building-to-building. By April 30, the Soviets were approaching the center of the city and the Germans were running out of ammunition. At this point, Hitler admitted defeat and committed suicide along with his new wife, Eva Braun.

On the night of May 1st, most of the remaining German soldiers attempted to break out of the city and escape to the western front. Few of them made it out. The next day, May 2nd, the German generals inside Berlin surrendered to the Soviet army. Only a few days later, on May 7, 1945 the remaining leaders of Nazi Germany signed an unconditional surrender to the Allies and the war in Europe was over.

# Fate of the Dictators: Mussolini

After Allied forces invaded Italy in July of 1945, Mussolini was forced from power and captured

On April 25th he fled [Milan](#), where he had been based, and tried to escape to the Swiss border.

Mussolini and his mistress Petacci were shot on April 28th, two days before Adolf Hitler's suicide.

The bodies of Mussolini and Petacci were taken to Milan and left in a suburban square for a large angry crowd to insult and physically abuse.

They were then hung upside down from a metal girder above a service station on the square. The bodies were beaten, shot at, and hit with hammers.

Initially, Mussolini was buried in an unmarked grave but, in 1946, his body was dug up and stolen by fascist supporters. Four months later it was recovered by the authorities who then kept it hidden for the next eleven years.

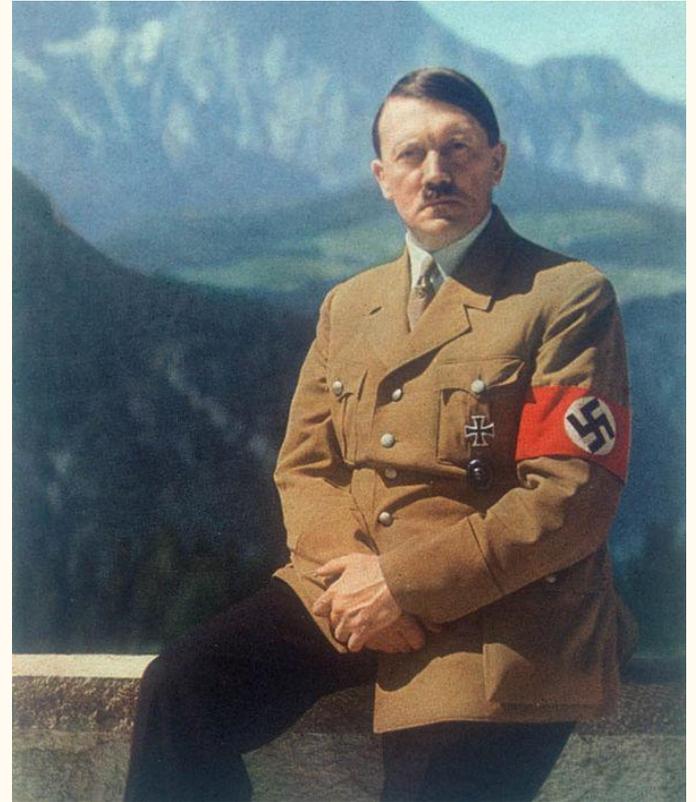


# Fate of the Dictators: Hitler

Warned by officers that the Russians were only a day or so from overtaking the chancellery and urged to escape to Berchtesgarden, a small town in the Bavarian Alps where Hitler owned a home, the dictator instead chose suicide.

It is believed that both he and his wife swallowed cyanide capsules and for good measure, he shot himself with his service pistol.

The bodies of Hitler and Eva were cremated in the chancellery garden by the bunker survivors (as per Hitler's orders) and reportedly later recovered in part by Russian troops. A German court finally officially declared Hitler dead, but not until 1956.



# V-E Day: May 8th, 1945

Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945 marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces.

This would be the end of the war for France, Britain, and Russia; however, the United States would shift its focus on the Pacific



# Nuremberg Trials



# Battle of Iwo Jima

The American amphibious invasion of Iwo Jima during World War II stemmed from the need for a base near the Japanese coast.

Following elaborate preparatory air and naval bombardment, three U.S. marine divisions landed on the island in February 1945.

Iwo Jima was defended by roughly 23,000 Japanese army and navy troops, who fought from an elaborate network of caves, dugouts, tunnels and underground installations

Despite the difficulty of the conditions, the marines wiped out the defending forces after a month of fighting, and the battle earned a place in American lore with the publication of a photograph showing the U.S. flag being raised in victory..



# Battle of Okinawa



“The military significance of invading Okinawa was massive. The battle itself was a terribly bloody and drawn-out affair, lasting far longer than anyone had planned. The Japanese defenders were wiped out, but showed the Americans what an invasion of the main islands of Japan would be like - slow, bloody, and more bloody. The kamikazes were brutal and numerous. It provided an even closer base to Japan to continue the bombing raids on Japan, but not requiring the expensive B-29 flights from the Marianas. The 8th Air Force from the European Theater of Operations (ETO) could be moved there and up the rate of bombing what little remained of Japan’s industrial capacity. It effectively blocked off any remaining hope of getting supplies from any of their holdings to the south, so no oil, food, or rubber. This meant that Japan would eventually be a pre-industrial country, if the war continued long enough. And, finally, it was the base of operations for the upcoming invasion of Japan.”

# Potsdam Conference

- The Allied leaders met after the defeat of Germany in July, 1945 at the **Potsdam Conference** to discuss plans for defeating Japan and its unconditional surrender
- The goals of the conference also included the establishment of postwar order, peace treaty issues, and countering the effects of the war.
- President Truman (who succeeded Roosevelt after his death) learned of the successful tests of the Atomic bomb while at the conference



# Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- Led by Robert Oppenheimer, the *Manhattan Project* successfully produced two Atomic bombs at **Los Alamos**, New Mexico (called **Fat Man** and **Little Boy**)
- On August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945 a B-29 bomber called the *Enola Gay* dropped the first Atomic bomb on **Hiroshima, Japan**
- Three days later, a second bomb exploded over **Nagasaki**
- Japan surrendered on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1945—thus ending World War II and beginning the Atomic Age



# The Aftermath

## SHORT TERM

It is estimated that between 60,000 and 80,000 people were killed instantly when the bomb fell for 44.4 seconds before detonating 580 metres above the ground.

Subsequently, a large number of people died from the effects of radiation sickness, putting the final death toll at around 135,000 – although many estimate it to be higher.

It was followed by the attack on Nagasaki on 9 August, 1945. The estimated total death toll for the second attack is around 75,000.

## LONG TERM

The incidence of leukaemia among survivors increased noticeably five to six years after the bombings, and about a decade later survivors began suffering from thyroid, breast, lung and other cancers at higher than normal rates.

For solid cancers, the added risks related to radiation exposure continue to increase throughout the lifespan of survivors even to this day, almost seven decades after the bombings.

Women exposed to the bombings while they were pregnant experienced higher rates of miscarriage and deaths among their infants.

Children exposed to radiation in their mother's womb were more likely to have intellectual disabilities and impaired growth, as well as increased risk of developing cancer.

# Japan Surrenders



On September 2, 1945, Japanese foreign affairs minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signs the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on board USS Missouri.

This would lead to the end of a 4 year conflict between the United States and the Empire of Japan and end World War II

# Terms Of Surrender

1. **There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest**, for we insist that a new order of peace, security and justice will be impossible until irresponsible militarism is driven from the world.
2. Until such a new order is established and until there is convincing proof that Japan's war-making power is destroyed, points in **Japanese territory to be designated by the Allies shall be occupied** to secure the achievement of the basic objectives we are here setting forth.
3. The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and **Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine.**
4. The **Japanese military forces, after being completely disarmed, shall be permitted to return to their homes** with the opportunity to lead peaceful and productive lives.
5. We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as [a] nation, but **stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners.** The Japanese government shall remove all obstacles to the revival and strength[en]ing of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people. Freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought, as well as respect for the fundamental human rights shall be established.
6. **Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and permit the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those industries which would enable her to re-arm for war.** To this end, access to, as distinguished from control of raw materials shall be permitted. Eventual Japanese participation in world trade relations shall be permitted.
7. **The occupying forces of the Allies shall be withdrawn from Japan as soon as these objectives have been accomplished** and there has been established in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people a peacefully inclined and responsible government.

# V-J Day: September 2nd, 1945



# The question still remains

Although the dropping of the two atomic bombs ultimately lead to Japan surrendering, some historians and students of history that the usage of nuclear weapons was unnecessary.

What do you think?



# CENTRAL HISTORICAL QUESTION

*How should we remember the dropping of the atomic bomb?*