



# I. Last Years of the War

A. By the beginning of 1943, the tide of battle had turned against Germany, Italy, and Japan.

1. The Allies invaded Italy, an area that Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain, called the "soft underbelly" of Europe.

B. After Sicily fell, King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy arrested Mussolini.

C. The Germans set up defense lines in the hills south of Rome.

1. The Allies took Rome on June 4, 1944.



D. June 6, 1944 (D-Day), Allied forces under U.S. general Dwight D. Eisenhower landed on the Normandy beaches in history's greatest naval invasion.

1. Within three months, the Allies had landed 2 million men and 500,000 vehicles.
2. Allied forces then began pushing inland to break the German defensive lines.



E. Allied troops liberated Paris by the end of August 1944.

1. In March 1945, the Allied forces crossed the Rhine River and advanced into Germany.
2. At the end of April 1945, Allied armies in northern Germany moved toward the Elbe River, where they linked up with the Soviets.

F. Soviet forces began a steady advance westward.

1. Reoccupying the Ukraine by the end of 1943.
  - a. Warsaw in January 1945
  - b. Berlin in April.

G. By January 1945, Adolf Hitler had moved into a bunker under the city of Berlin.

1. Hitler committed suicide on April 30.
2. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Italian partisans, or resistance fighters, shot Mussolini.
3. On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered.



## H. The war in Asia continued.

1. Beginning in 1943, U.S. forces went on the offensive and advanced across the Pacific.
  - a. Continued their island-hopping campaign.
2. At the beginning of 1945, Iwo Jima and Okinawa helped the Allied military power draw even closer to the main Japanese islands.

## I. Harry S. Truman became president after Roosevelt died in April of a cerebral hemorrhage, with a difficult decision to make.

1. Truman was informed of a top secret project called the Manhattan Project.
  - a. Their efforts led to the development of the atomic bomb.



## J. Truman decided to use the bombs.

1. The first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6.
  - a. 190,000 died
2. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
3. The devastation led Emperor Hirohito to accept the Allied forces' demands for unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945.



# Hiroshima

8/6/1945



K. World War II was finally over.

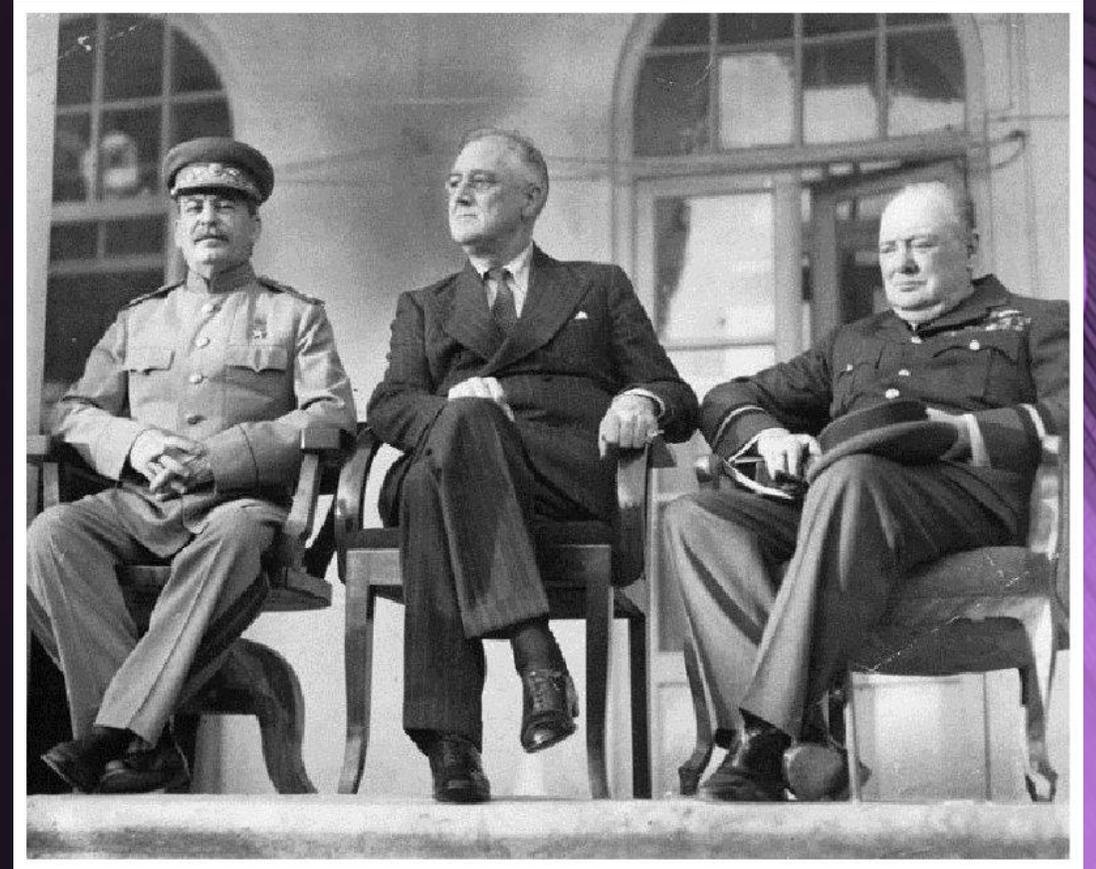
1. Seventeen million had died in battle.
2. Perhaps 20 million civilians had perished as well.
3. Some estimates place total losses at 60 million.

L. The dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan marked the beginning of the Nuclear Age.

1. Other countries raced to build their own nuclear weapons.
  - a. In August 1949, the Soviet Union set off its first atomic bomb.

## II. Peace and a New War

- A. The Cold War followed the total victory of the Allies in World War II.
  - 1. The Cold War dominated world affairs until the end of the 1980s.
- B. Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill were the leaders of the Big Three.
  - 1. They met at Tehran in November 1943 to discuss strategy.
    - a. American-British invasion through France scheduled for the spring of 1944.
  - 2. The Allies also agreed to a partition of postwar Germany.



**Tehran  
Conference**

# Post World War 2 Partition of Germany



- C. The Big Three powers met again at Yalta in southern Russia in February 1945.
  1. The defeat of Germany was assured.
  2. Stalin wanted a buffer to protect the Soviet Union from possible future Western aggression.
    - a. He wanted pro-Soviet governments along the Soviet Union's borders.
    - b. Roosevelt favored the idea of self-determination for Europe through free elections.
    - c. Soviet Union would help with Japan and would receive.
      - i. Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands.
      - ii. Two warm-water ports and railroad rights in Manchuria.
  3. The creation of the United Nations.
    - a. The United Nations proposal was accepted and set the first meeting for San Francisco in April 1945.
  4. After Germany surrendered, the Big Three agreed to divide Germany into four zones.

## D. The Potsdam Conference of July 1945.

1. President Harry S. Truman, having succeeded Roosevelt, demanded free elections in Eastern Europe.
2. The Allies agreed that trials should be held of leaders who had committed crimes against humanity during the war.



- E. In March 1946, in a speech to an American audience, the former British prime minister Winston Churchill declared that "an iron curtain" had "descended across the continent," dividing Europe into two hostile camps.
1. Stalin branded Churchill's speech "a call to war on the USSR."
  2. Only months after the world's most devastating conflict had ended, the world seemed to be bitterly divided once again.

