

## NATION: World War II is Over

# Atomic Bomb Ends World War II: Japan Surrenders

Washington, D.C.

August 14, 1945 (V-J Day)

World War II is over! U.S. atomic bombs finally made Japan surrender [give up].

Japan was the last Axis power still fighting. Italy and Germany had both surrendered. But Japan would not give up. So President Truman had two choices:

■ Send U.S. troops into Japan. But the fighting would kill thousands of U.S. soldiers.

■ Bomb Japan with the atomic bomb. But the bomb would kill thousands of innocent men, women, and children in Japan.

Truman chose to drop the bomb. On August 5, the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb on the city of **Hiroshima**, Japan. The bomb killed almost 100,000 people.

When Japan still would not surrender, the U.S. bombed the city of **Nagasaki** on August 9. Over 40,000 were killed or hurt. Japan finally agreed to Allied peace terms.

**Dr. Albert Einstein**, a German scientist, talked President Roosevelt into developing the atomic bomb. Dr. Einstein said the Nazis would take over the world if they got the atomic bomb first.

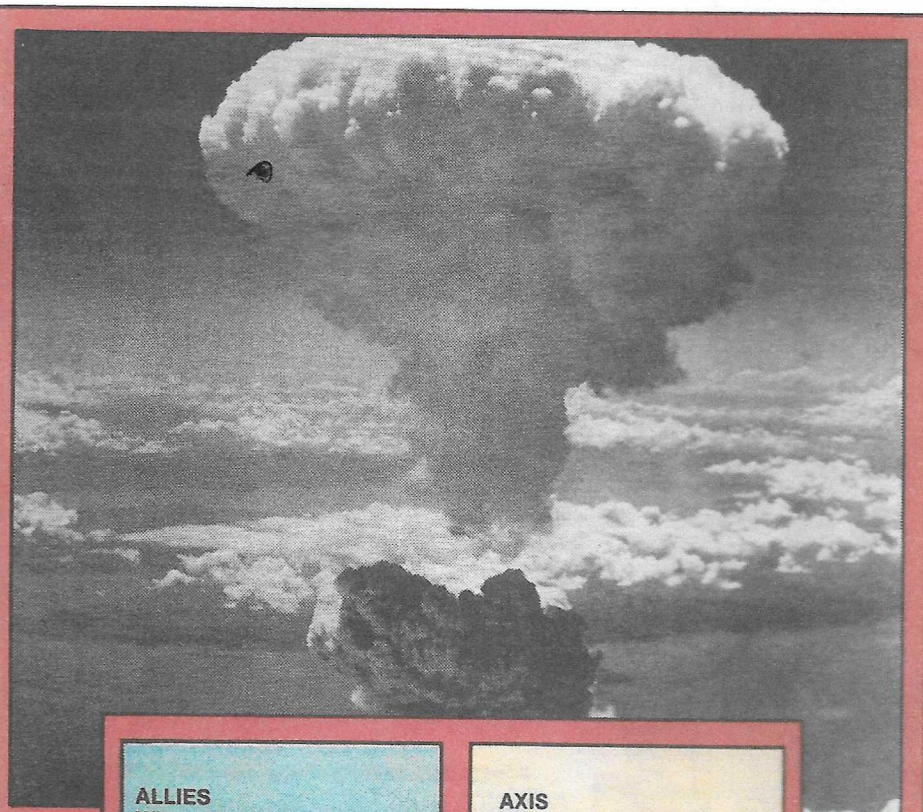
So, in 1940, Roosevelt told some scientists to start developing a bomb in secret. Developing the bomb was code-named the "**Manhattan Project**." By 1945, the Manhattan Project had two bombs ready.

In July 1945, Truman met with the Allied leaders at Potsdam, Germany. From there, he sent Japan the **Potsdam Ultimatum**. This ultimatum [demand] said the U.S. would use its secret weapon on Japan if Japan did not surrender.

Japan would not give up. So the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb ever used in war.

### A look back on World War II:

- How the U.S. mobilized for war, p. 44.
- The war in Europe, p. 45.
- The war in the Pacific, p. 46.



#### ALLIES

**Who:** U.S., England, Russia, China (plus 45 other countries that joined by the end of the war).  
**Goal:** To stop the Axis countries from taking over the world.

#### AXIS

**Who:** Germany, Italy, Japan  
**Goal:** To take over other countries in Europe and the Pacific.



### The Big Four

**WHAT:** Leaders from the most powerful Allied countries

- WHO:**
- U.S.—Harry Truman
  - England—Winston Churchill
  - China—Chiang Kai-Shek
  - Russia—Josef Stalin

# NATION: How the U.S. Got Ready for World War II

## Government Takes Over Everything—War Production Comes First

Washington, D.C., 1942

**President Roosevelt has been getting ready for war since 1938.** To get the U.S. ready to fight, Roosevelt:

- Built a bigger Army by drafting men.
- Built a bigger Navy by adding ships.
- Gave scientists money to develop new weapons.
- Asked factories to make 50,000 planes a year.

By December 7, 1941, the country was only partly ready. But with war declared, the president got power over everything.

The government took control of labor, business, and farming. Roosevelt set up many new government departments to oversee war production.

Here is a look at what the president did to fight the war at home.

### Office of War Mobilization:

**WHAT IT DOES:** Runs all other war departments to make sure they work together.

### War Manpower Commission [WMC]:

**WHAT IT DOES:** Makes sure there are people to carry on the war work.

**HOW IT DOES IT:**

- Runs Selective Service, which has drafted 10 million Americans to fight in the war.
- Brings workers from other parts of the country to work in war factories.
- Makes workers stay in their wartime jobs.

### War Production Board [WPB]:

**WHAT IT DOES:** Makes sure the country has enough supplies to fight the war.

**HOW IT DOES IT:**

- Gives raw materials [iron, coal, rubber] to the factories making war supplies.
- Gets Americans to save tin, fat, and iron to use over again.
- Sets clothing styles to save on cloth.

### Office of Scientific Research and Development [OSRD]:

**WHAT IT DOES:** Makes sure new products and new weapons are developed faster than the enemy can develop them. OSRD has come up with:

- Radar
- Penicillin
- DDT
- Atomic Bomb



### Office of Price Administration [OPA]:

**WHAT IT DOES:** Keeps prices from getting too high.

**HOW IT DOES IT:**

- Tells factories how much they can charge for goods.
- Tells landlords how much they can charge for rent.
- Sets up **rationing** [telling people how many goods they can buy]. The OPA gives people a small number of ration stamps to use when buying hard-to-get goods—sugar, coffee, shoes, gasoline, butter. When the stamps are gone, people cannot buy any more of these goods.

### War Labor Board [WLB]:

**WHAT IT DOES:** Makes sure workers are treated fairly.

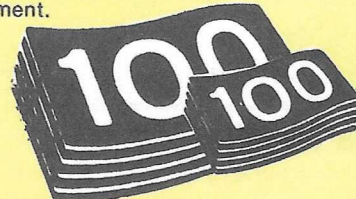
**HOW IT DOES IT:**

- Gets equal pay for women and blacks.
- Tells factories how much to pay workers.

World War II is costing more money than the U.S. is taking in—almost \$8 billion a month. The national debt [money the U.S. owes] is getting larger. Here's how the U.S. is getting money to pay for the war:

### Raising Taxes:

- Corporations pay up to 90% tax on profits [money they make].
- People's income taxes are higher and more people pay taxes.
- Taxes are held out of people's pay. Companies send this money to the government.



### Borrowing Money:

- The government sells "bonds" [pieces of paper] to the people.
- The people hold the bond for a set amount of time, for example, 10 years.
- After this time, the government pays back the bond with interest [added money].

# WORLD: A Look Back on World War II

## Minorities During the War



### Japanese-Americans: Put in Prison

**WHO:** Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast of the U.S.

**WHAT:** Sent to live in relocation centers [guarded camps].

**WHEN:** 1942-1945

**WHY:** Some Americans were afraid Japanese-Americans would give war secrets to Japan.

**THE GOOD:** Most Japanese-Americans sided with the U.S., even after this unfair treatment. Japanese-American soldiers fought bravely for the U.S.

**THE BAD:** Many Japanese were U.S. citizens. By putting them in camps, the government took away their rights as citizens.



### Women: Put in Men's Jobs

**HOW:** Took over men's jobs so men could go off to war.

- Joined the military where they worked in offices and drove trucks. This freed men to fight.

- Worked in factories that made ships, bombs, shells, and tanks.

**THE GOOD:** Proved women can do the work men can do.

**THE BAD:** Family life torn apart. Men away fighting the war. Women working outside the home. Children left alone.



### Blacks: Some Progress

**THE GOOD:** Blacks:

- Got good jobs in factories that needed workers.

- Proved they were brave and good military leaders.

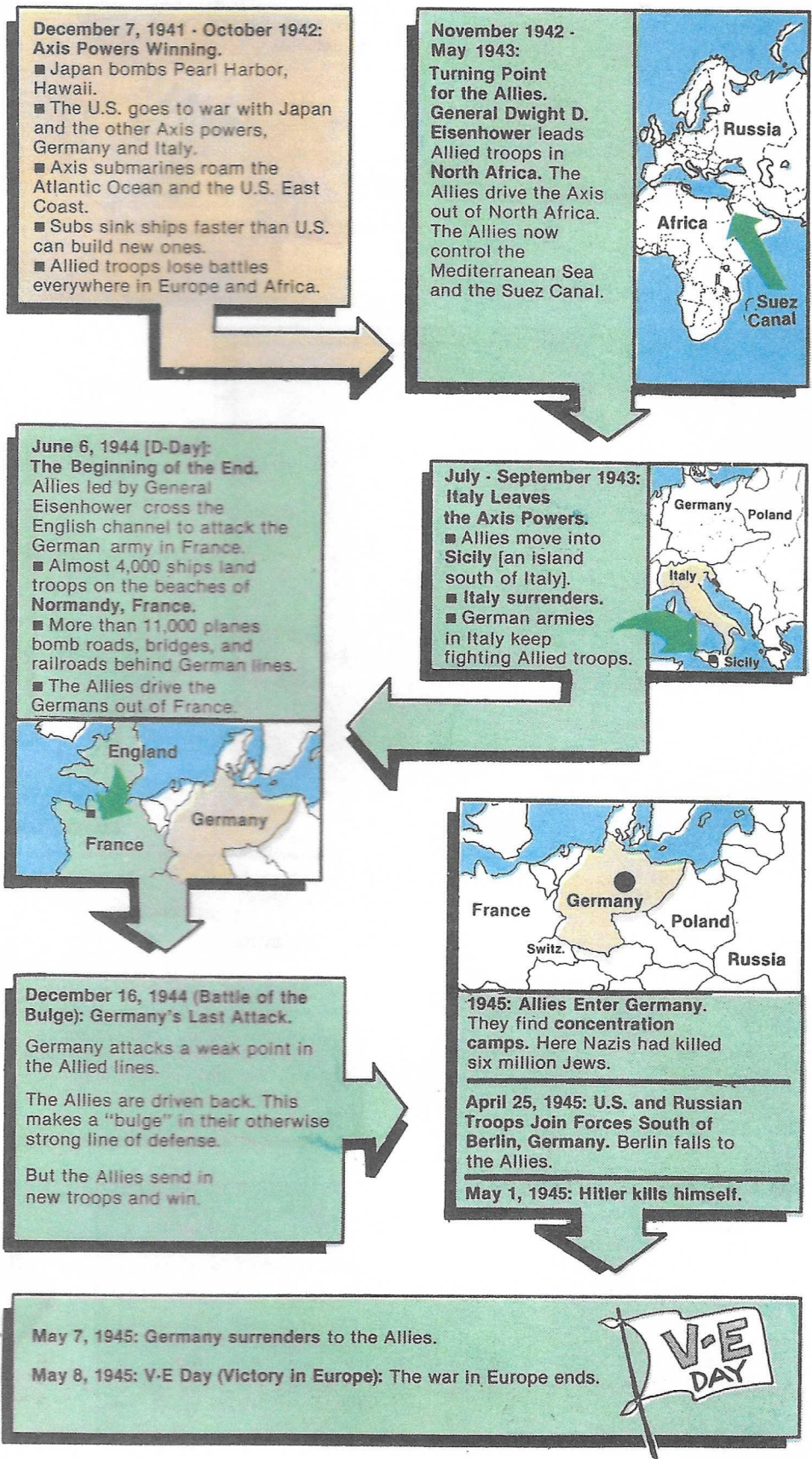
**THE BAD:**

For at least the first two years of the war, blacks:

- Were turned away from wartime jobs.
- Were segregated [kept apart] from whites in the military.

## The War: Battleground Europe

Below, a look at highlights of World War II battles in Europe.

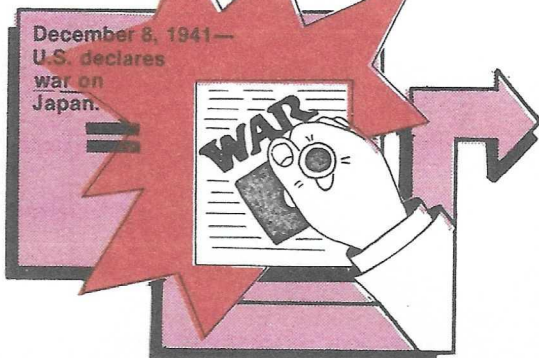


# WORLD: A Look Back on World War II

## The War: Battleground Pacific

Below, a look at the highlights of World War II battles in the Pacific Ocean.

**December 7, 1941—Japan bombs U.S. naval and air base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. At the same time, Japan attacks U.S. islands—Wake Island, Guam, and the Philippines.**



**December 8, 1941—U.S. declares war on Japan.**

**May 1942—Japan takes the Philippines. U.S. General Douglas MacArthur gets away but promises, "I shall return." Japan forces U.S. soldiers there to walk 85 miles to a prison camp. Most died on the way. It comes to be known as the Bataan Death March.**

**February-March 1945**  
The U.S. takes the island of Iwo Jima. The U.S. is now only 750 miles from Japan.

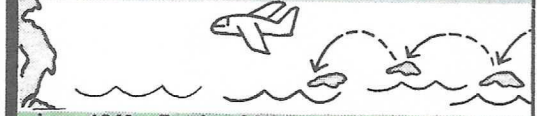


**General MacArthur becomes leader of Allied troops in the Pacific.**

**April-June 1945—U.S. takes Okinawa.** Okinawa is a Japanese island only 300 miles from mainland Japan. Japanese fight hard to keep Okinawa. Japanese kamikaze pilots fill planes with bombs. They dive their planes into U.S. ships and blow them up. Kamikaze pilots sink 36 U.S. ships. Many other ships are so damaged they cannot fight. **The Allies now are close enough to bomb Japan.** But the kamikaze pilots have made the Allies see that Japan will not give up easily.

U.S. soldiers raise the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima after their victory there.

**Island Hopping: The Allied Attack Plan.** Japan holds islands all over the Pacific Ocean. The Allies plan to take a few key islands one by one. They will use each island as a naval and air base to attack the next island. The Allies will "hop" from island to island until they get close enough to Japan to bomb it.



**June 1942—Battle of Midway Island.** Japan tries to take Midway Island. From there, it plans to destroy U.S. Navy and Air Force in Hawaii. Small U.S. Navy stops Japan's navy. Allies win. Hawaii safe.



The powerful atomic bomb has a mushroom-shaped cloud.

**July 1945—Potsdam Ultimatum:** Leaders of the U.S., Russia, and England meet at Potsdam, Germany. President Truman gets word that the U.S. has made an atomic bomb. Allied leaders send Japan the Potsdam Ultimatum: Surrender or be destroyed. The Japanese army will not surrender, even though the Japanese government wants to.

**August 6, 1945—U.S. drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima.**  
**August 9, 1945—U.S. drops atomic bomb on Nagasaki.**  
**August 10, 1945—Japan surrenders.**  
**August 14, 1945—V-J Day (Victory in Japan):** War in the Pacific ends.

