

WORLD WAR II

In the 1930s the military aggression of Germany, Italy, and Japan brought war to Europe and Asia. The United States began to turn from isolationism and neutrality toward a policy of aiding victims of especially German aggression. In December of 1941 the United States was brought into World War II as a result of a Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. American manufacturing, agriculture, labor, and transportation were mobilized to support the armed forces sent to war against the Axis powers. By early 1942 representatives from twenty-six Allied nations, including the United States, had signed a declaration pledging joint military action until victory over the Axis was achieved.

Despite elaborate neutrality legislation, the Roosevelt administration moved steadily to prepare the nation for what might become a world war.

Unrest in Europe

Some Americans believed that the Treaty of Versailles had been too severe in the penalties imposed upon Germany. But observing the dictatorship established in 1933 by Adolf Hitler of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party, most Americans came to regard the regime as uncompromisingly despotic in its domestic policies and unjustifiably aggressive in its foreign relations. Italy, since 1922 under the dictatorship of Benito Mussolini of the Fascist Party, was also a threat to world peace.

Germany violated the Treaty of Versailles in 1936 by sending troops into its demilitarized Rhineland area to the west. In March, 1938, Germany forcibly annexed Austria. The following September, at the Munich Conference, Great Britain and France, in the hope of averting a general war, agreed to German annexation of the western part of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland, a region inhabited by German-speaking people. (The Munich Conference soon came to symbolize appeasement.) The following March Germany took over the rest of Czechoslovakia. In August, 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union announced the conclusion of a nonaggression pact. The conditions were now set for World War II. It began on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, the independence of which the British and the French had guaranteed. Two days later Great Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Attempt at Neutrality

With Germany and Italy acting ever more aggressively, the United States Congress tried constantly to minimize the possibility of the nation's becoming involved again in a war in Europe.

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THE NYE COMMITTEE. During 1934-1936 a Senate investigating committee, headed by Republican Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, revealed that enormous profits had been made during World War I by American financiers and munitions makers, and suggested that pressure from those groups had forced the nation into the war. Congress was prompted by the findings of the Nye Committee into passing a series of neutrality acts.

NEUTRALITY LEGISLATION. In an effort to prevent American involvement in war, Congress passed neutrality acts in 1935, 1936, and 1937. Generally speaking these acts prohibited the:

- ★ export of implements of war to belligerents;
- ★ travel by Americans on belligerent ships;
- ★ extension of loans to belligerents.

In addition, the President could prohibit

- ★ the transport of any type of commodity on American vessels to belligerents;
- ★ the use of American ports as supply bases for belligerent warships.

When war broke out with the German invasion of Poland in September, 1939, the Roosevelt administration urged Congress to reconsider the 1937 Neutrality Act. After a spirited debate Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1939, which permitted the export of arms and munitions to belligerents on a "cash and carry" basis.

Roosevelt's Policy. Roosevelt made a diplomatic effort to persuade Germany and Italy to negotiate their complaints rather than make war. Predictably, this tactic was useless. When attempts at peaceful negotiations brought no results, FDR began preparing for war and aiding Britain.

ARMAMENTS APPROPRIATIONS. During 1940 Congress appropriated approximately \$1.8 billion for armaments. The sum was used for the creation of a two-ocean navy superior to the combined naval power of nations unfriendly to the United States and for the purchase of munitions and other supplies for an army that would expand to 1.2 million men. These two branches of the service were to be supported by a fleet of 35,000 airplanes.

THE SELECTIVE TRAINING AND SERVICE ACT. In September, 1940, Congress authorized the first peacetime conscription in the nation's history. Under the terms of the Selective Training and Service Act, all men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five were required to register for possible military service. From the 16.4 million registrants 800,000 were selected by lot for one year's military training. Also, National Guard enlistees were given intensive instruction in modern warfare.

Election of 1940

Although Roosevelt was reluctant to run for a third term in office, he rationalized that it would be detrimental to the nation to leave office during the current worldwide crisis.

DEMOCRATS. Although the delegates at the convention worried about the possible adverse effects of running FDR for an unparalleled third term, they nominated him anyway. The Democratic platform defended the New Deal against its failure to restore a robust American economy. Democrats also touted the party's recent defense policies.

REPUBLICANS. The GOP delegates nominated a newcomer to politics, Wendell L. Willkie, who had recently transferred from the Democratic to the Republican party. Willkie, a business man, had been a critic of New Deal policies. The GOP platform attacked New Deal methods as wasteful, bureaucratic, and dictatorial, and increasingly unsuccessful.

THE CAMPAIGN. The two candidates offered the voters similar positions. Each favored a strong national defense, aid to Great Britain "short of war," and protection of the Western Hemisphere against aggression. Both promised to keep the United States out of the European conflict. FDR promised to extend New Deal social legislation even further. Dewey crusaded against Roosevelt's failure to end the Depression and accused FDR of an eagerness for war. Dewey also accused Roosevelt and his supporters of stirring class antagonism for political advantage.

ROOSEVELT'S THIRD VICTORY. Roosevelt won a third term, and his party, the Democrats, carried both houses of Congress. After the election Willkie promptly called for national unity despite differences of opinion on domestic issues. He was especially insistent that political partisanship play no part in modifying the nation's decision to aid Great Britain and to resist to the utmost totalitarian aggression.

Aid to the Allies

Although most Americans were anxious to avoid any involvement in World War II, they supported Great Britain and France against Nazi Aggression. In 1941, despite a bitter debate between isolationists and interventionists, Congress created policies that supported Britain.

TRANSFER OF DESTROYERS. The British were sorely in need of additional destroyers to fight the German submarines that were attacking their merchant ships in the Atlantic. In September, 1940, President Roosevelt transferred fifty destroyers to Great Britain in exchange for ninety-nine-year leases on eight naval and air bases on British possessions in the Western Hemisphere. President

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Roosevelt defended his action as a sound policy for Western Hemisphere defense.

THE LEND-LEASE ACT. In March, 1941, Congress, over the protests of the isolationist leaders, passed the Lend-Lease Act, authorizing the President to sell, lend, lease, transfer, or exchange arms and other supplies to any nation whose defense he considered vital to the defense of the United States. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June of 1941, American lend-lease aid was promptly extended to the Soviet Union. By 1942 thirty-five countries and their colonies had received lend-lease assistance. The total in lend-lease aid during the course of World War II amounted to more than \$50 billion.

Combat in the Atlantic

Lend-lease assistance was only useful if goods could be safely transported across the Atlantic. The U.S. Navy became more and more involved in the convoys transporting those goods. In response to lend-lease, Germany stepped up its submarine attacks on convoys between the U.S. and Britain. In response to U-boat attacks.

- ★ In September, 1941, President Roosevelt ordered all American naval commanders to "shoot on sight" any submarine entering Western Hemisphere waters.
- ★ In October, 1941, a German submarine attacked and sank the American destroyer *Reuben James* on convoy duty in Icelandic waters, with the loss of seventy-six of its crew. The following month Congress passed an act authorizing the arming of American merchant ships.

Strained Relations with Japan

In the 1930s Japan tried to create an Empire in the Pacific. In July, 1937, Japan invaded China. Although the American people were repelled by Japanese aggression, U.S. leaders were too focused on the situation in Europe to take punitive action in the Far East.

The Japanese were purchasing strategic materials such as gasoline and scrap iron from the United States. But, as Japanese imperialism grew more ambitious, the U.S. increasingly made purchase more difficult.

In late 1940 Japan became a member of the Axis, when it signed a ten year defense alliance agreement with Germany and Italy. Beginning in 1941 Japan became ever more aggressive toward her neighbors in Asia. In addition to her China war, Japanese forces occupied French Indochina. In the summer of 1941, the U.S. government banned the export of aviation gasoline, scrap iron, and other war materiel to Japan.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941, Japanese airplanes made a surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Of the eight battleships at Pearl

Harbor, three were sunk, one was grounded, and four were damaged. A small number of lesser warships were disabled and approximately 175 planes were destroyed. Some 2,300 American soldiers and sailors were killed and 1,100 were wounded. *On the same day*, Japanese forces invaded the Philippines, Guam, the British crown colony of Hong Kong, and the British-controlled Malay Peninsula, including its port city of Singapore.

THE UNITED STATES ENTERS THE WAR

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor President Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress. Asserting that December 7, 1941, was "a date which will live in infamy," he asked for a declaration of war against Japan. Within hours Congress passed a war resolution with only one dissenting vote. On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, which in turn adopted war resolutions against them. The attack on Pearl Harbor quickly ended the debate between isolationists and interventionists over foreign policy and a united America prepared for war.

“G.I.’s”

For the second time in less than a quarter-century, American young men prepared to serve their nation in a foreign war. Military personnel received the title "G.I.'s" (for "government issue"), entered all branches of the military service. In December, 1941, Congress amended the 1940 Selective Training and Service Act by lowering the minimum draft registration age to twenty and raising the maximum to forty four. Some 9.8 million men were conscripted into the various branches of the armed forces. Approximately 5 million men enlisted voluntarily for military service. By the end of the war there were:

- ★over 11 million in the army (including its air force, numbering about 3 million),
- ★close to 4.2 million in the navy,
- ★approximately 675,000 in the marine corps,
- ★and about 250,000 in the coast guard.

Almost 260,000 women enlisted for noncombatant duty in all the branches of the armed forces. In the army they were popularly known as WACs (for Women's Army Corps) and in the navy, WAVEs (for Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service).

The draftees and enlistees received basic training at scores of bases throughout the nation. By the end of the war approximately 12 million men had gone overseas, of whom about 4.7 million had engaged in combat duty.

American War Costs

World War II was for the United States its second (after the Civil War) most costly war in loss of life and by far its most costly in expenditure of money.

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Approximately 293,000 men were killed in battle, while some 116,000 died of other causes (disease or accident). About 670,000 men were wounded in combat. Financial expenditures of the United States amounted to an estimated \$315 billion, about ten times the amount disbursed on all of its previous wars combined.

THE HOME FRONT

Warfare on the scale of World War II required the total participation of the nation. The United States needed to mobilize national resources quickly—manufacturing facilities, food, labor, transportation. By the middle of 1943 the American people had converted their peacetime industrial establishment into the mightiest wartime arsenal that the world had ever seen. The government, following the pattern established by FDR's New Deal administrative state, created agencies to handle the necessary production of war goods.

THE WAR PRODUCTION BOARD. The nine-member War Production Board supervised the construction of new plants for the manufacture of war commodities and switched many existing plants from peacetime to wartime production. Within a year after the Pearl Harbor attack the nation produced more than \$47 billion worth of war materiel, including 32,000 tanks, 49,000 airplanes, and merchant ships totaling 8 million tons. By the end of the war the nation had produced under the War Production Board 85,000 tanks, 295,000 airplanes, and 70,000 warships and 5,500 merchant ships. Although the manufacture of many peacetime commodities was either curtailed or prohibited in order to facilitate the manufacture of war items, the total industrial production of the nation almost doubled during the war.

THE FOOD ADMINISTRATION. Despite excellent harvests during World War II, it was difficult to meet the extraordinary demand for foodstuffs. Food production and distribution was supervised by the Food Administration. In addition to providing food to U.S. troops, the nation shipped more than 7 billion pounds of food to Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China.

THE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION (OPA). Domestic consumption was partly controlled through the rationing imposed by the Office of Price Administration (OPA). Such foods as sugar, coffee, meat, and butter were rationed to the civilian population. The OPA also fixed prices and rationed commodities such as tires and gasoline.

MOBILIZING LABOR. Although the activities of workers were more strictly supervised by the government than at any other time in the nation's history, American laborers escaped the kind of regimentation experienced by workers of most other countries then at war.

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Organized labor generally refrained from strikes during the first years of the war. American workers' output from 1942 to 1945 surpassed any previous record for a comparable period of time. At the same time, average weekly earnings rose from approximately twenty-five dollars to about forty-five dollars, while the length of the workweek increased from approximately thirty-eight to about forty-five hours.

THE NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD. The National War Labor Board was established to settle management-labor disputes through mediation and arbitration. When labor strife flared up in 1943, Congress passed over Roosevelt's veto the War Labor Disputes Act (the Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act), which, among other things, authorized the President to seize plants where labor disturbances threatened to impede war production.

Financing the War

Between January, 1940, and January, 1943, the appropriations first for national defense and then for war itself amounted to approximately \$220 billion—slightly more than the cost of government from the inauguration of George Washington in 1789 to 1940. During World War II the national debt rose from approximately \$47 billion to about \$247 billion.

TAXES. By the second year of the war it was estimated that the daily cost of the conflict to the American people was \$1.15 for every man, woman, and child, while revenue to the government from taxes was scarcely forty cents per person. Successive tax bills were designed and passed to pay for the war through taxation as opposed to borrowing. This was accomplished by:

- ★ adding millions of taxpayers to the rolls through lowering the minimum tax-exempt income;
- ★ revising upward the personal income tax rates;
- ★ imposing on corporations a virtual confiscation of income that represented excess profits from the war.
- ★ In 1943 Congress accepted a plan to place collection of personal income taxes on a withholding ('pay-as-you-go') basis.

WAR BONDS. Despite increased revenue from taxes, the federal government borrowed through the sale of war bonds to meet the bulk of the war costs. By July, 1945, the government had conducted seven highly successful war-bond drives, which raised approximately \$61 billion in all.

Election of 1944

The election of 1944 was the first presidential election to take place during wartime since 1864.

DEMOCRATS. President Roosevelt was nominated to run for a fourth term on the first ballot. The party's decision to choose a less liberal vice presidential

candidate caused the choice of Senator Harry Truman of Missouri to be Roosevelt's running mate.

REPUBLICANS. The delegates to the Republican national convention yielded to the apparent popularity of the mildly liberal and internationalist Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York and nominated him with only one dissenting vote.

THE CAMPAIGN. Roosevelt and Dewey held quite similar views on both domestic and war issues. Dewey's campaign speeches argued that it was time for the voters to retire the "tired old men" from the FDR administration. Only as the campaign entered its latter stage did Roosevelt become actively involved by giving some "tough" speeches in his familiar dynamic style.

ROOSEVELT'S FOURTH VICTORY. Out of 47,969,000 popular votes cast, Roosevelt received a plurality of 2,357,000. In the electoral college he carried thirty-six states with 432 votes to twelve states with 99 votes for Dewey. The regard for Roosevelt had held strong.

THE WAR IN EUROPE

During the winter of 1939-1940 there was little military action in Western Europe. In April, 1940, Germany invaded and occupied Denmark and Norway. Early in May the German army overran Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. In the face of overwhelming German military power Luxembourg fell in one day, the Netherlands in five, and Belgium in nineteen.

THE FALL OF FRANCE AND THE RESISTANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN. France surrendered less than two weeks later. The British expeditionary army was then forced to evacuate the continent. Great Britain fought on alone despite extensive bombings by the Luftwaffe (German air force). Prime Minister Winston Churchill vowed that "Britain will never surrender." Britain stepped up its production of fighter planes and challenged Germany in the air over England in an air war called the Battle of Britain. Beginning in the summer of 1940, British defense of the skies was so successful that Hitler decided to cancel an invasion of the island scheduled for late 1940 or early 1941.

INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION. In June, 1941, Germany began a huge surprise invasion of the Soviet Union. Approximately 3 million German troops drove deep into Soviet territory. By December, 1941, they were nearing Moscow. But with the bitter winter of 1941-1942 the German advance came to a halt, and the Soviets began a powerful counteroffensive.

German Setbacks

By the fall of 1942 the Germans controlled an empire that extended from Norway to North Africa and from France to the western reaches of the Soviet Union. In less than two years Hitler's "thousand year" German Empire would collapse.

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THE NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN. From 1940-1943 Allied forces fought German and Italian troops back and forth across North Africa. In November, 1942, an armada of American and British forces landed on the coast of Morocco to take pressure off of the British in Egypt and with the objective of driving the German and Italian troops out of North Africa. Within three days General Dwight D. Eisenhower had gained control of Morocco and Algeria. The Germans, aided by the Italians, fought stubbornly for six months before they were defeated in Africa by the Allies in May, 1943.

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN. During the summer of 1943 the Fifth American Army, commanded by General Mark Clark, and the Eighth British Army, under General Bernard Montgomery, occupied several islands in the Mediterranean, including Sicily, off the south coast of Italy. The invasion of the Italian mainland began in September, 1943, more than a month after the Italian people had ousted Mussolini and his Fascist regime. In order to protect the German Reich from an invasion through Italy, German troops poured into Italy to stop the Allied advance. The Allies finally liberated Rome from German control in June, 1944.

THE BOMBING OF GERMANY. During 1943, the allies bombed German military and urban targets. Gradually, the Luftwaffe was knocked out of the sky; German production facilities were repeatedly demolished; the industrial centers of Germany were paralyzed. The cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, and Cologne suffered even more destruction than the terrible damage English cities had sustained from German air assaults earlier in the war.

THE SOVIET OFFENSIVE. In 1943, Soviet forces launched massive offensives all along the eastern front. By the summer of 1944 the Russians had all but occupied Eastern Europe, pushing the German forces out.

D-Day and France

In the early hours of June 6, 1944, Allied troops crossed the English Channel to storm the French beaches of Normandy. Preceded by paratroopers and protected by an awesome bombardment from a huge naval fleet, they soon established beachheads and, with the aid of the air force, connected their individual landings into one battle front.

Within three months of the D-Day landings, the Allied armies had conquered Normandy. After three months of difficult fighting, the Allies liberated Paris from German occupation on August 25, 1944. The next day, General Eisenhower announced the destruction of the German Seventh Army and liberation of all of France.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. As the Allies pushed toward Germany, in December, 1944, the Germans mounted an offensive that the Allies called the Battle of the Bulge that threatened to break through Allied lines.

After yielding some valuable ground, the American and British troops stood firm. One young American officer, Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe, when the Germans pressed him to surrender, gave the simple but memorable reply: "Nuts!" The Battle of the Bulge ended when the weather cleared and the Allies were able to use their superior air power to destroy the German advance.

In March, 1945, the Allies moved into the interior of Germany. For the next two months the Allied armies in the west advanced steadily, while the Soviet forces closed in on Berlin. Hitler, aware that the end was near, took his own life, and other high Nazi officials either committed suicide or went into hiding. On May 7, 1945, at Reims, France, a representative of the German General Staff accepted the terms of unconditional surrender. May 8 was proclaimed to an expectant world as V-E (Victory in Europe) Day.

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Japanese Conquests

The first half of 1942 was marked by a series of major victories for Japan in the Pacific.

ENGLISH AND DUTCH POSSESSIONS. The world was astonished at the speed of the Japanese military advance after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. Within two months Japan had secured the entire British-controlled Malay Peninsula, with its great naval base at Singapore. Three weeks later the Japanese overran the Netherlands East Indies. Early in May Great Britain retreated from its possession of Burma into India. Japanese bases that had been established to the north on Dutch-owned New Guinea and to the east in the Bismarck and Solomon Islands, which had been controlled from Australia, were growing in strength.

FALL OF THE PHILIPPINES. Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, American and Filipino troops heroically defended the Philippine Islands until resistance was no longer possible. At the order of President Roosevelt, MacArthur transferred his headquarters to Australia in February, 1942, but his troops held Corregidor until the following May. Japanese treatment of U.S. troops after their surrender was brutal and inhumane. It has been estimated that 18,000 of the 72,000 G.I.s and Filipinos who surrendered died during the 60 mile forced march to prison camps. This event is called the Bataan Death March.

THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS. Soon after Japan secured the Philippines, its forces moved into the American-owned Aleutians, a chain of islands that extends

westward from the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. American forces ousted them in the spring of 1943.

Japanese Setbacks

By the late summer of 1942 the Japanese had occupied 1 million square miles in their triumphant advance, but there it ended. Their retreat was humiliating and costly in life and material resources.

THE BATTLES OF THE CORAL SEA AND MIDWAY. In April, 1942, American airplanes commanded by General James Doolittle dropped tons of bombs on Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kobe. This was the first bombing of the Japanese home islands. A few weeks later American naval and air forces in the Coral Sea stopped an invading force aimed at Australia to the west. The first real defeat for Japan took place in June, 1942, with the rout of a strong Japanese naval force proceeding toward the American-owned Midway Islands, to the northwest of Hawaii.

FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND. In August, 1942, the Allies launched their counteroffensive in earnest, when American marines landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. For the next two years U.S. Marines "hopped" from island to island gradually, but at great cost in lives, forcing the Japanese back toward their home island. From the Solomons they moved into the Marshalls, the British-owned Gilberts, and the Carolines and Marianas. The Allies took Guam in August of 1944, and then prepared for the reconquest of the Philippine Islands.

THE BOMBING OF JAPAN. In the spring of 1944 American airplane factories began to produce special bombers called "superfortresses," which were designed for long flights with heavy bomb loads. Based on airfields in China, which Chinese labor had built almost without tools, these airplanes effectively destroyed the industrial centers of Japan.

CHINA. While the Allied forces moved northward and westward across the islands of the Pacific, ever closer to Japan, the Chinese kept up a heroic resistance to the Japanese occupation of their homeland. They were heartened by increasing support from American air forces in China commanded by General Claire Chennault and by the campaign of Chinese and American troops to reopen the Burma Road, a highway first used in 1938 to carry war supplies to Chinese troops and captured by Japanese forces during the war. At the same time forces of various countries within the British Commonwealth of Nations were gradually clearing the Japanese out of Burma.

PREPARING FOR THE ASSAULT ON JAPAN. During the spring of 1945 troops commanded by General MacArthur continued to eliminate pockets of Japanese resistance in the Philippines and elsewhere in the South Pacific. To the north U.S. forces took Iwo Jima and Okinawa, two islands close to Japan proper. By the

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early summer of 1945, Allied forces were preparing for the final assault on the Japanese home islands.

In preparation for the invasion of the home islands, President Truman asked Chief of Staff, George Marshall, to formulate an estimate of casualties, Allied and Japanese, that could be expected in the invasion. Research estimates that Marshall presented Truman with were troublesome to say the least— as many as 1 million American deaths could be expected and nearly 3 times as many Japanese. Truman would have preferred an alternative to an actual invasion; and he found one. In late April or early May of 1945, Truman found out about the existence of a U.S. atomic bomb project — the so-called Manhattan Project.

THE ATOMIC BOMB. Through the cooperative efforts of scientists from many of the Allied nations the atomic bomb was perfected. It was the most devastating weapon that the world had ever seen. On August 6, 1945, American airmen dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Approximately 180,000 people were killed or wounded. Faced with this new and devastating threat, the Japanese high command convinced the Emperor that the U.S. had only one A bomb, so Japan should not surrender in the face of this U.S. “bluff.” Three days later, the U.S. dropped a second atomic device on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. There were 80,000 casualties. The Japanese decided to surrender before further bombs were dropped. Ironically, the U.S. *only had two bombs*.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. During a conference of American, British, and Soviet leaders, which assembled in mid-July, 1945, at Potsdam, near Berlin, Germany, the United States and Great Britain sent Japan an ultimatum demanding unconditional surrender. At the same time Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin informed President Harry S. Truman that the Soviet Union would soon enter the war against Japan. Two days after the atomic bomb was first used, the Soviet Union moved against the Japanese in Manchuria. Promptly the official Tokyo radio broadcasted an appeal for peace. After an exchange of notes between the United States and Japan, President Truman announced, on August 14, that hostilities had ceased. It was agreed that the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers would rule Japan through Emperor Hirohito until militarism was eliminated and democratic reforms were implemented. General MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. On September 2, aboard the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, members of a Japanese delegation signed the surrender documents before the representatives of nine of the Allied nations. President Truman proclaimed that September 2 was to be celebrated as V-J (Victory Over Japan) Day.

THE DEFEATED NATIONS

In dealing with Germany and Japan the victorious powers concerned themselves with three major tasks: occupying the conquered territories; conducting trials of war criminals; and drafting peace treaties.

Germany

The job of occupying defeated Germany proved long and difficult. On one point the wartime Allied powers could agree-the punishment of German war criminals. As tensions increased between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union it became impossible to frame a peace treaty with Germany.

THE OCCUPATION. A month after Germany surrendered, the nation was divided into four zones of occupation, with the military forces of the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union each in charge of a specific zone. The United States commanded the southern sector, Great Britain the northwestern, France the southwestern, and the Soviet Union the eastern. Berlin, which lay within the Soviet sector, was itself divided by the Allies into four occupation zones. The United States, Great Britain, and France pursued a policy of allowing German officials to assume increasing authority. In 1949 the three western zones were combined to form the Federal Republic of Germany with Bonn as the capital and the Soviet zone was transformed shortly thereafter into the German Democratic Republic with the Soviet sector of Berlin as its capital. Military occupation then ended in the western zones, but it continued in the three western sectors of Berlin since no peace treaty uniting all Germany had been concluded.

WAR CRIMES TRIALS. Six months after the Germans surrendered, an International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, Germany, brought to trial as war criminals civil and military leaders of the Nazi regime. Judges and attorneys from the four nations occupying Germany participated in the first of a series of trials. Associate justice Robert H. Jackson of the United States Supreme Court served as one of the chief prosecutors. The defendants were variously charged with planning a war of aggression, using slave labor, and exterminating Jews. Twelve of the accused were sentenced to death, seven received prison terms, and three were acquitted. In the American zone approximately 500,000 former Nazis were convicted of war crimes.

THE PEACE TREATY. The drafting of a peace treaty with Germany was impeded by the increasingly deteriorating relations between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union. Finally, in 1955, the Western Allies signed a treaty with the six-year-old Federal Republic of Germany, by then known as West Germany. According to the treaty provisions, West Germany was granted complete independence, authorized to develop its own military force, and required to accept the stationing of Western Allied troops. Later in 1955 the Soviet Union

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declared the six-year-old German Democratic Republic, by then called East Germany, to be fully independent. Thus a general peace treaty with Germany was never concluded. The result was the establishment of two Germanies.

Japan. As was the case with Germany, the victorious powers had to deal with the difficult problems of occupying territory, conducting war crimes trials, and framing a peace treaty.

THE OCCUPATION. A commission based in Washington, D. C., and consisting of representatives from thirteen Allied nations, including the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, was to direct the occupation of Japan. However, the commission's activities were hampered by increasing animosity between the Western nations and the Soviet Union. General Douglas MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. In that capacity he ruled Japan. With the exception of a small number of military forces from the British Commonwealth of Nations, the troops were American. The primary goals of the occupation were to demilitarize and democratize Japan. The occupation ended in 1952. While it lasted, most Japanese were cooperative with MacArthur and his associates.

WAR CRIMES TRIALS. Early in 1946 the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, consisting of representatives from eleven Allied nations, convened in Tokyo to try twenty-five Japanese civil and military leaders for planning an aggressive war and committing crimes against humanity. Seven of the defendants, including former prime minister Hideki Tojo, were hanged; the others received prison sentences. In addition, numerous Japanese army and navy officers were brought to trial for violating the rules of war. Of those accused, approximately 6,000 were found guilty.

So, the Second World War came to an end, but new animosities had grown among the allies. Within a few years of the end of the war, a new kind of hostility would come into existence that would shape the middle years of the 20th century — a Cold War.