

1939-1945



# From Versailles to Pearl Harbor

U.S. Isolationism: 1919 -  
1941

# I. America during the 1920's



- A. Many Americans were disillusioned by WWI and wanted to “return to normalcy”.**
- B. “The Business of America was business!”**
- C. The U.S. embraced isolationism in the face of prosperity.**

## II. America During the 1930's

- A. The Great Depression re-enforced a policy of isolationism.
- B. FDR and Congress pass a series of four Neutrality Acts in the late 1930's to re-enforce this.

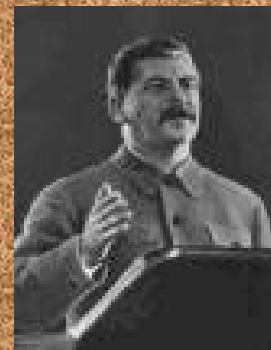


### III. Global Conditions between WWI and WWII

- A. After WWI, countries looked to America for economic help
- B. The stock market crash started a global depression.
- C. There was a 50% decrease in world trade during the 1930's.
- D. Totalitarianism, fascism, and dictatorships are on the rise in Europe and Asia as a result of these hard times.
- E. Strong leaders thrive in these conditions.

# IV. The Rise of the Dictators in Europe

Joseph Stalin



1929-1953

Francisco Franco



1939-1975

1933-1945



Adolf Hitler

1922-1945



Benito Mussolini

# Hitler's Rise to Power Included the Use of...



- Scapegoating
- Extreme Nationalism
- Propaganda
- Fear tactics

# Timeline of German Aggression

- 1921 - takes control of the National Socialist Party (a.k.a. the Nazis)
- 1923 - attempts Putsch (seizure of government) and fails; lands in jail, where he writes *Mein Kampf*
- 1933 - becomes Germany's Chancellor
  - Begins passing restrictive laws for Jews
  - Germany leaves League of Nations
  - Dachau opens
- 1934 - German president dies; Hitler takes over
- 1936 - Takes back the Rhineland (forbidden!)
- 1937 - Hitler renounces Treaty of Versailles
- 1938 - Munich Pact - gives Hitler Czechoslovakia
- 1939 - Non-aggression Pact with USSR



# Mussolini's Rise to Power and a “New Roman Empire”



- Originally disliked Hitler (viewed Germany as competition in his conquest)
- 1935 - retakes Ethiopia easily (tanks vs. rifles)
  - Germany fully supports
- 1936 - Germany and Italy form “an axis around which all European states animated by the desire for peace may collaborate”

# Franco's Rise to Power and the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)



The famous painting *Guernica* by Pablo Picasso

# Franco and the Fascists vs. The Republic

- Nationalists = rebels
- Conservative
- Strongly supported by Germany and Italy
- Loyalists = current government
- Liberal
- Had a little support from the US, USSR, and the International Brigade, but not much (British/French/US isolationism)

# V. Japanese Imperialism during the 1930's

Emperor Hirohito



- A. Japan wanted to reduce their reliance on foreign imports so in 1931 they invaded China to have resources available closer to home.
- B. By 1937, Japan had launched an all out war with China (which the League of Nations disapproved of)

# VI. Signs of Conflict

## A. Munich Conference

(Sept. 1938) - Britain and France appease Hitler by giving him the Sudetenland.

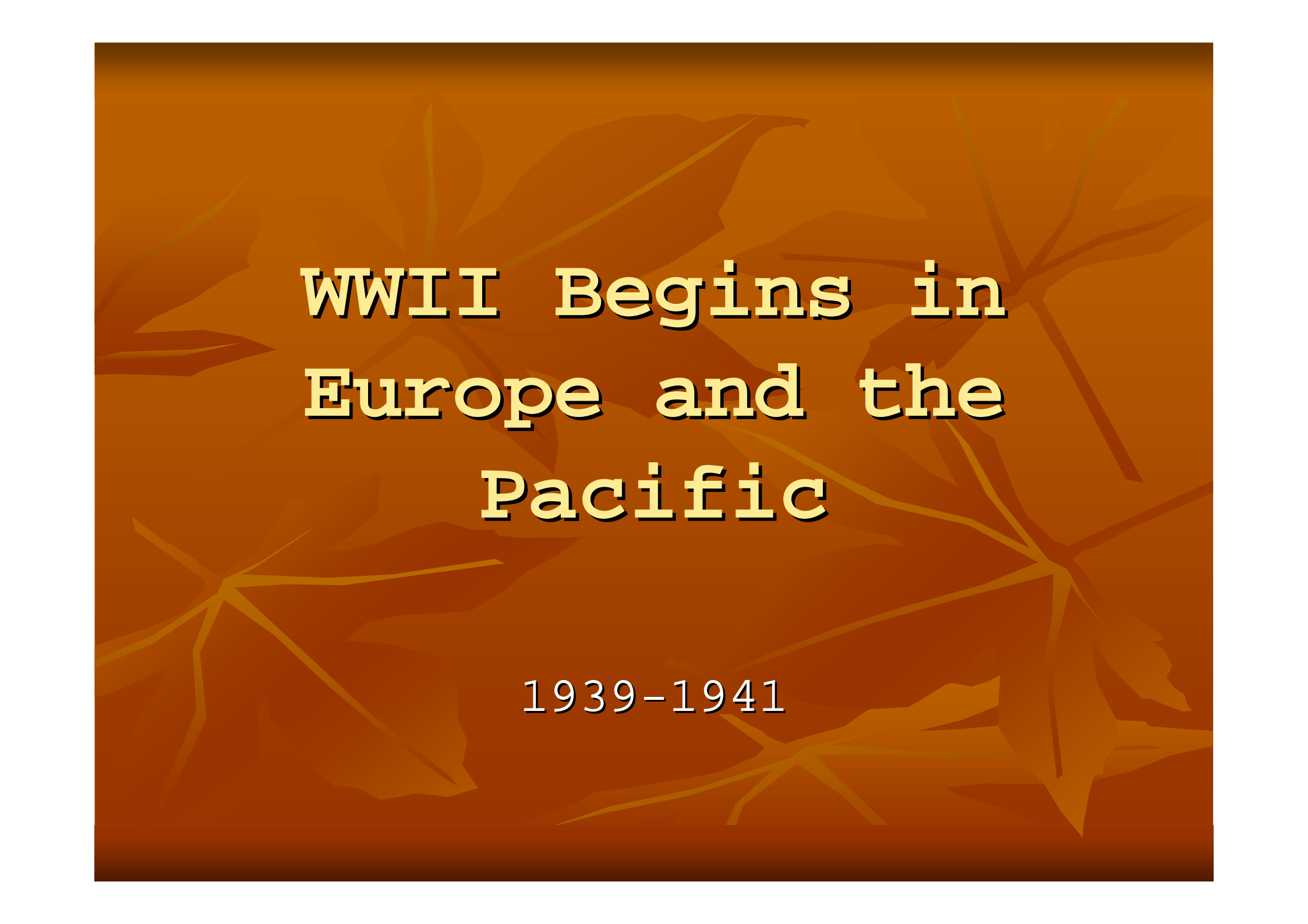


## B. Non-aggression Pact

(Aug. 1939) - once the Stalin and Hitler agree not to invade each other, Hitler invades Poland in Sept. of 1939.





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# WWII Begins in Europe and the Pacific

1939-1941

## I. The Axis Take Control

- A. Germany invades Czech. and Poland and war is declared in 1939.
- B. Germany is relentless in it's BLITZKRIEG, or lightening warfare and focuses on the Western front.
- C. France falls to Germany in June of 1940.



- D. Hitler breaks the Non-Aggression Pact and invades the Soviet Union.
- E. Japan extends much of its control into southeast Asia and begins planning an invasion of the U.S.
- F. The United States still maintains its isolationist stance, but gives aid under the “Cash and Carry System” and later under the “Lend Lease Act”.

## II. The Alliances of WWII



In September 1940, Japan, Italy, and Germany sign the Tripartite Pact.

Photo: AP/Wide World

**1940 TRIPARTITE PACT  
SIGNED**

- A. Axis Powers -  
Germany, Italy,  
Japan
- B. Allied Powers -  
Great Britain,  
France, Soviet  
Union (After Hitler  
breaks the Non-  
Aggression Pact),  
and the United  
States (after 1941)

Photo # 80-G-32640 View down "Battleship Row", Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec. 1941

Attacked:

- A. Isolationism No More!
- B. U.S. declares war on Japan
- C. Germany declares war on the U.S.

Sunday  
December 7th, 1941

*"A day that will  
live in infamy"*

-FDR





IV. The U.S. is Fighting a  
Two Front War!!!

The AXIS Powers 1942

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# The United States Home Front

1941-1945

# I. Mobilization of Industry

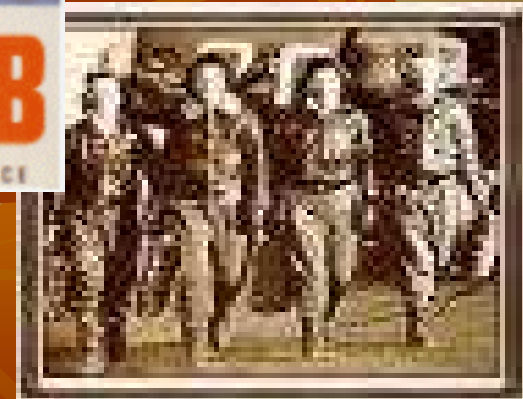


- The War Production Board converted factories to meet the necessities of war.
- Tanks, jeeps, guns, ammunition, uniforms, and food rations were produced in full force.



## II. U.S. Troops Prepare to Go

### III. Women performed a variety of military jobs.

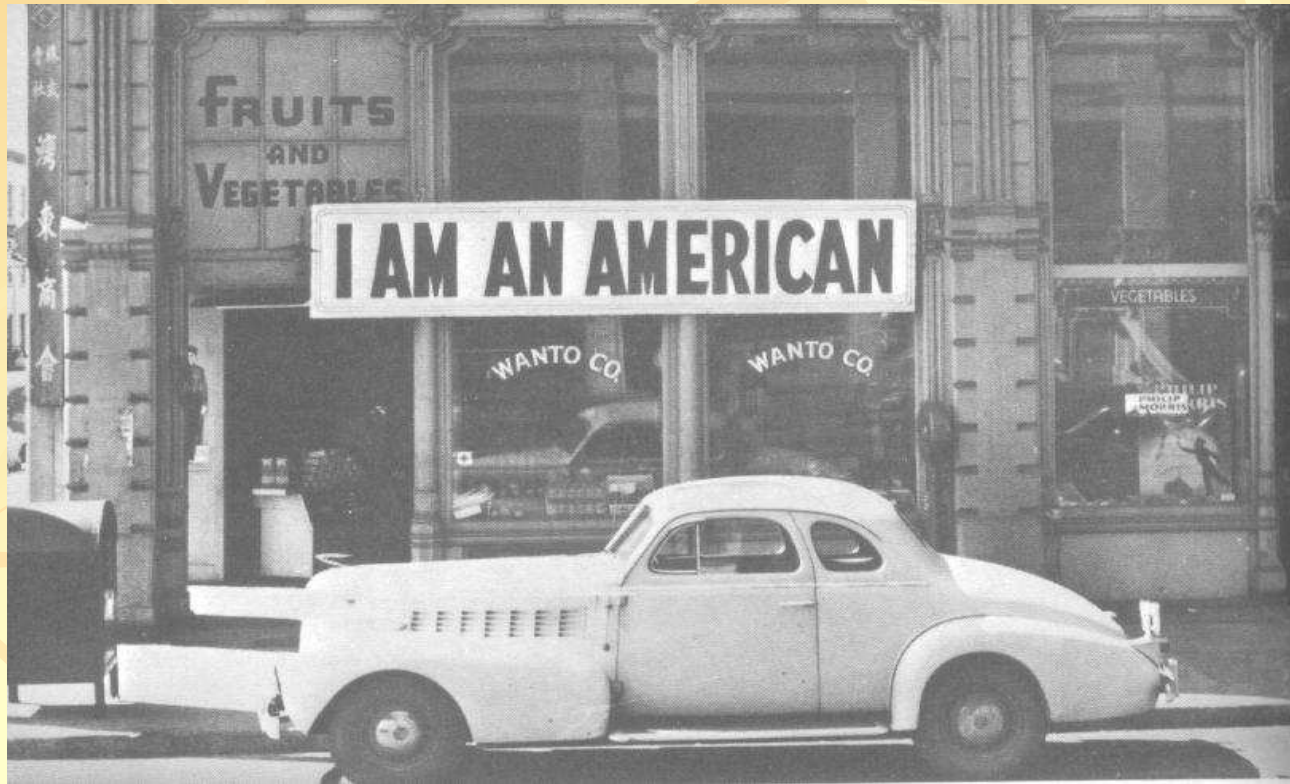




## IV. Violation of Civil Liberties

- A. Japanese American Internment
- B. American Hatred for the German / Italian Enemy was different than the hatred for the Japanese Enemy
- C. While the Army was not yet desegregated, more and more minorities were proving their equality on the battlefields of WWII

Discrimination of the Japanese Americans was widespread



“A Jap is a Jap.” - Lieutenant General John L. Dewitt

## The Epitome of American Hypocrisy

1932 - FBI and military lists of “potentially dangerous”  
Japanese Americans

Dec. 1941 - West Coast Japanese must hand over radios and  
cameras

Spring 1942 - 11,700 of West Coast Japanese put into camps  
(most are U.S. citizens)

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# The United States at War

The European Front



# I. Allied Campaigns :North Africa and Italy

- A. FDR and Churchill agreed to defeat Germany first
- B. The Allies push the Axis forces out of North Africa
- C. Then succeed in taking Italy (the “soft underbelly” of the enemy) by April 1945

## II. Major Turning Points in the European War

- A. Battle of Stalingrad - Using the cold weather to their advantage, the Soviets managed to stop Germany's advance into their country.
- B. Operation Overlord - Led by General Eisenhower, the Allies landed on the shores of Normandy France to re-take France from German control (aka D-Day, June 6th, 1944)

- C. The Battle of the Bulge - Allied forces break Germany's ability to be offensive
- D. "East Meets West" - The German's are now on the run from the Soviet forces on the Eastern Front and from the Anglo-American forces on the Western Front. Eventually Berlin is taken by the Soviets.



# III. Victory in Europe (V-E Day) and Consequences of War

- A. Hitler commits suicide on April 30th, 1945
- B. German officers surrender on May 8th, 1945
- C. Americans rejoice for a brief period, then focus on ending the war in the Pacific against the Japanese
- D. The Holocaust of the Jews in Europe under the Nazis became more real with every concentration camp uncovered during the Allied liberation of Nazi territory



# Major Concentration Camps

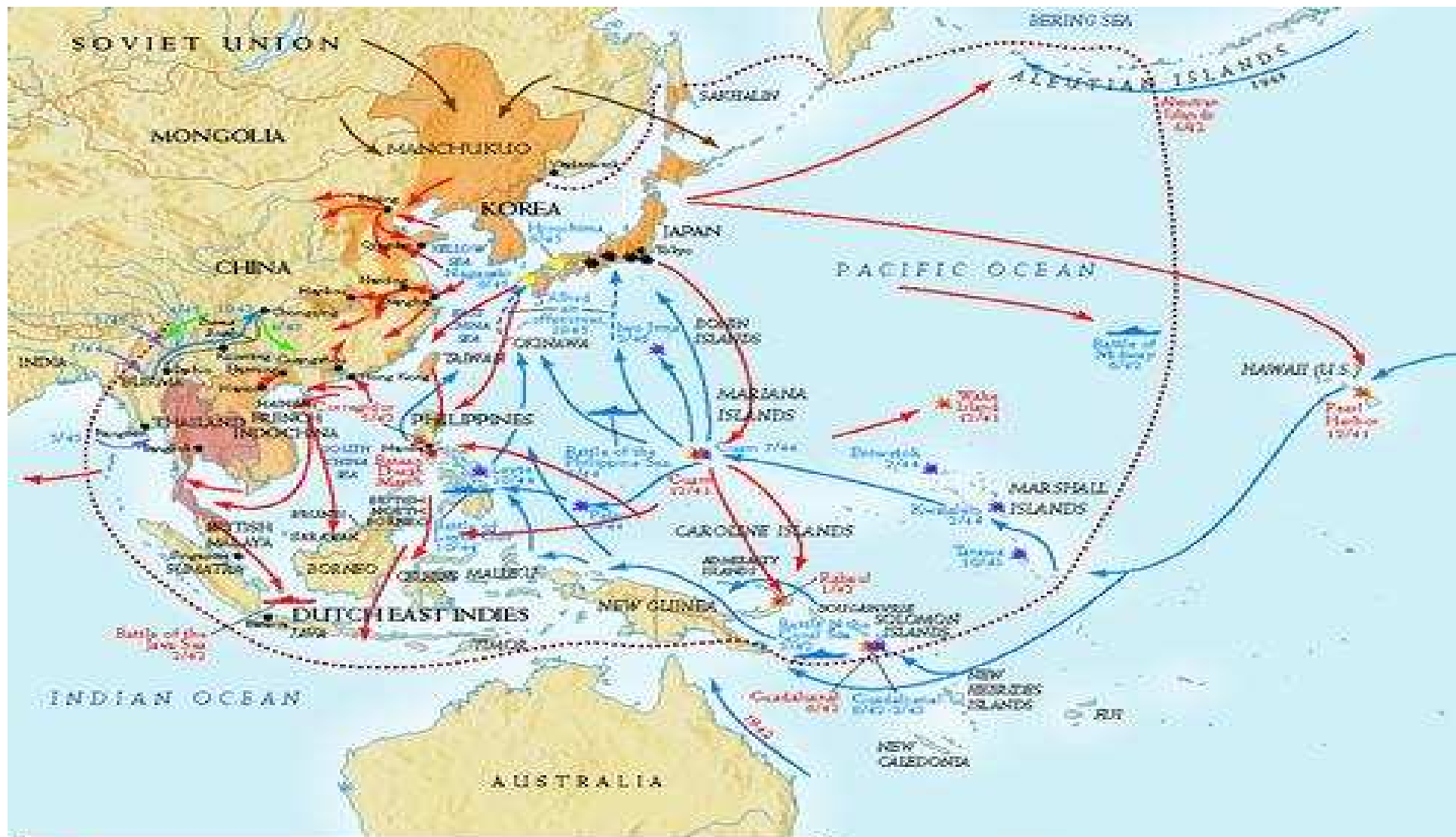


“Paint him black and bring him here.” - The response of an African-American girl, when asked how she’d punish Hitler

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# The United States at War

The Pacific Front



Japanese Empire, 1 Dec. 1941	Chinese offensive
Ally of Japan	Soviet offensive
Furthest line of Japanese advance, July 1942	Japanese naval victory
Japanese attack or capture	U.S. naval victory
Allied attack or capture	Conventional bombing
Allied offensive	Nuclear bombing
Japanese offensive	Japanese battle victory
British offensive	U.S. battle victory
Chinese-U.S. offensive	



# I. Japanese Forces Expand into the Pacific

- A. Japanese forces quickly expanded into the Pacific Ocean after Pearl Harbor
- B. They boldly captured Allied possessions (including U.S. controlled Guam and the Philippines, British controlled Hong Kong, and much of French and Dutch controlled Indochina.)

## II. Major Turning Points in the Pacific War

- A. The Battle of Coral Sea - Thanks to a broken code, the U.S. destroyed several vital Japanese carriers
- B. The Battle of Midway - Involved planes trying to sink the other's battleships; a victory and turning point for the Allies; Japan was now on the defensive!
- C. As the U.S. got closer to the main island of Japan, fighting got more brutal as was seen in Okinawa

# III. Victory in the Pacific (aka V-J Day) and the Consequences of War

- A. “Island Hopping” - the U.S. moved closer to the main islands of Japan with every battle won
- B. Japan’s Military Code of Honor and *Kamikazes* - dying in war was a glorious death, so Japanese pilots would crash planes into U.S. ships in suicide missions
- C. After V-E Day - Americans feared the loss of life that a homeland invasion of Japan would cause and looked to the Atomic Bomb as an answer.



- D. After some debate, the U.S. decided to use the atomic bomb developed in the secretive Manhattan Project
- E. Harry S. Truman (the new president after FDR's death) was the one to make the decision, and historians / Americans still debate this heavily today
- F. Two atomic bombs forced the Empire of Japan to surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.

# Atomic Bombs



“It is hard to understand why our town must be destroyed to make a bomb that will destroy someone else’s town that they love as much as we love ours.” - sign on outskirts of Ellentown, SC, which had to be evacuated due to H-bomb plant

- August 6, 1945, 8:15 AM - “Little Boy” explodes 2000 feet over Hiroshima
  - 80,000 killed immediately
  - Most buildings within 1.5 miles of the detonation site destroyed
- August 9, 11:02 AM - “Fat Man” hits Nagasaki
  - 40,000 killed
  - Bomb more powerful, but less damage because of geography

# First-hand Accounts

- Co-Pilot of the Enola Gay (plane that dropped Little Boy) could actually taste the nuclear fission
- “I was in my office. I had just entered the room and said "Good morning." to colleagues and I was about to approach my desk when outside it suddenly turned bright red...I felt very hot on my cheeks. I felt weightless as if I were an astronaut. I was then unconscious for 20 or 30 seconds. When I came to, I realized that everybody including myself was lying at one side of the room. Nobody was standing. The desks and chairs had also blown off to one side. At the windows, there was no window glass and the window frames had been blown out as well.” - Dr. Hiroshi Sawachika, 4.1 km from epicenter

- “When I was rescued, my hair was burned; my face was inflated like a balloon. Though my mother did not say, I knew it. I wondered why my shirt had been burnt and hanging around my arms, I soon realized they were pieces of my skin. It was hell. I saw people looking for water and they died soon after they drank it.” - Ms. Yamaoka

# Legacies of World War II

Genocide

Civilian Bombing

Atomic Warfare

The issues of War Crimes

The United Nations

The Cold War