

# World War II

Mr. Millhouse  
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## Road to War: Asia 1931-1945

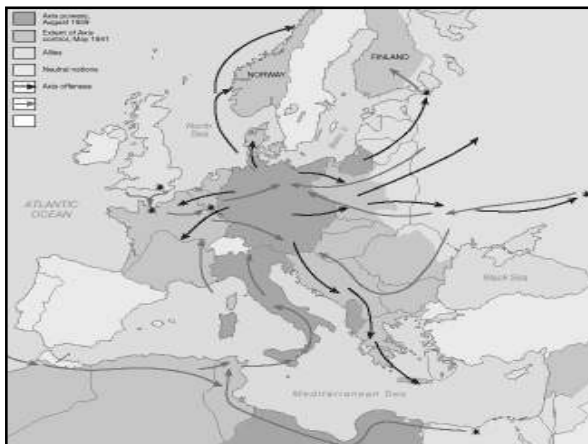
- Japan seizes Manchuria in September 1931
  - Japanese government controlled by militarists
- Mao's Long March occurred in 1934
- Japanese invaded mainland China in 1937
  - Rape of Nanjing occurred winter of 1937-1938
  - Chaing Kai-shek retreated into western China
  - Mao's communist forces led guerilla warfare in East
- Japan occupied French Indo-China in 1940

## Road to War: Europe 1933-1939

- Hitler withdraws Germany from the League of Nations in 1933
- Hitler annexes German inhabited regions of Austria and Czechoslovakia in 1938
  - Europe follows policy of appeasement at Munich Conference in 1938
- Nazi-Soviet Pact signed August 23, 1939
  - Stalin and Hitler agree to divide Poland
- Germany invades Poland on Sept. 1, 1939

## World War II: European Theater

- World War I was a defensive war; World War II was an offensive war
  - *Blitzkrieg* led Germany's easy conquest of Poland, Belgium, France, et al.
  - Mobilized massive amounts of human and natural resources from around the globe
  - Citizens viewed as legitimate targets for war
- War for oil?
  - German army attempted to seize Suez Canal
  - German army besieged Stalingrad



## World War II: Pacific Theater

- After Japan occupied French Indo-China, the U.S. and Britain stopped shipments of steel, iron, and oil to Japan
  - Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941
- Japan quickly conquered Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
- Battle of Midway marked a turning point
  - Japan lost 4 of its 6 largest aircraft carriers
  - Japan's productivity was one-tenth of U.S.



## End of War: European Theater

- Three major allied offensives
  - After victory at Stalingrad, Soviets begin counteroffensive in 1943
  - Allies invaded Sicily in July 1943
  - Invasion of Normandy (D-Day) June 6, 1944
- Hitler commits suicide on April 28, 1945
- Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945

## End of the War: Pacific Theater

- U.S. strategy of “island-hopping” bypassed heavily fortified islands to get closer to Japan
- Bombing raids of Japan began June 1944
  - 40% of Tokyo was destroyed
- U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (August 9)
- Japan surrendered August 14, 1945



## Effects of War

- 60 million dead
  - Six to eight times more than World War I
  - Over half the dead were civilians victims of massacres, famines, and bombs
  - Russia lost 25 million; China 15 million; Poland 6 million; Germany 4 million
- World flooded with refugees
  - 90 million fled China
  - Most refugees never returned home

## War of Science

- New inventions: synthetic rubber, radar, antibiotics
- Military advances: airplanes, tanks, weapons, etc.
  - Nazi V-2 missiles
- Atomic bomb



## The Holocaust

- Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935
- German and Polish Jews eventually moved to ghettos or work camps
- Final Solution starts in 1942
  - Applied modern industrial methods to the slaughter of human beings
- Killed 6 million Jews and millions of Poles, gypsies, homosexuals, physical and mentally handicapped



## Home Front in Europe & Asia

- No clear distinction between “front” and “home front”
- Soviet Union dismantled 1500 factories and rebuilt them in Ural Mountains
- Russian women took over 50% of industrial jobs and 75% of agricultural jobs
- German women were encouraged to stay home and have children
  - Imported 7 million “guest workers”

## Home Front in the United States

- U.S. economy experienced prolonged boom after 1940
- Women and minorities were recruited for factory jobs
  - 6 million women enter workforce
  - 1.2 million African-Americans migrate north looking for work
- Japanese were placed in internment camps

## Women in World War II



## U.S. Propaganda



## U.S. Propaganda

