WWII

New War in Europe

* Stalin and Hitler signed a non-aggression pact.
* A part of the pact divided Poland between Germany and Soviet Union.
* Sept. 1 1939, Germany attacked Poland and began bombing Warsaw.
* France and Great Britain declared war on Sept. 3
* Hitler’s use of Planes, Tanks, and massive infantry was called blitzkrieg or

Lightening war.

* Stalin moved in to take Eastern half of Poland, he then took Estonia, Latvia,

and Lithuania easily but Finland resisted.

* Finns fought valiantly in the snow as they fought on skis but the Soviets force them to surrender.
* France, Great Britain sat on one side as the Germans looked from the other in what was called the sitzkrieg or the Phony war.
* Hitler attacked suddenly and after 4 hours of fighting Denmark fell.
* Germans began to build bases along the coast for an invasion of Great Britain.

Fall of France

* French and British forces were outnumbered and pounded from the air.
* Allies were forced to the port city of Dunkirk.
* Where the British used every available boat to take soldiers back across the English Channel to safety.
* Germans took control of the northern part of France while a puppet government was set up in the south at the city of Vichy.
* Charles de Gaulle, a French general set up a govt. in exile in London.
* He made radio broadcasts telling the people of France to resist the Germans.

Battle of Britain

* The new British Prime Minister Winston Churchill vowed to never surrender.
* Hitler was planning on knocking out the RAF then landing troops on the coast.
* Germans targeted airfield and factories but then targeted cities like London.
* The use of radar and a code breaking machine called enigma turned the tide of the battle for the British.
* The Luftwaffe started to bomb at night.
* People fled to the subway or other air-raid shelters for protection.
* In May 1941 Hitler called off the attack, stunned by the British resistance.

Mediterranean and Eastern front

* Hitler had to step in and save his ally, Italy.
* He sent General Rommel or the “Desert Fox”.
* Rommel was able to push the British almost out of North Africa.
* Hitler forced most Balkan countries to submit to the Axis powers, but Yugoslavia and Greece resisted and they fell in 11 and 17 days respectively.
* Hitler moved ahead with Operation Barbarossa or his invasion of the Soviet Union.
* Soviets were not prepared, their troops were not ready.
* Germans tried to starve the city of Leningrad out and the people ended up eating anything that would move.
* Hitler tried to conquer Moscow, the Capital of the Soviet Union.
* German troops were wearing summer uniforms and Hitler refused to allow a retreat and it cost 500,000 German lives.
* He ignored the loss that Napoleon had had 130 years earlier.

U.S.

- Most Americans felt we should not get into the war.

- Congress passed the Neutrality acts which made it illegal to sell guns to a nation at

War.

- President allowed cash and carry, then under the lend-lease act, we could send weapons to any nation vital to us.

* Britain and the U.S. met and signed the Atlantic charter which allowed for people to choose their own govt.
* German subs started firing on our boats and the President ordered German subs to be shot on sight.
* We were in the war without being declared at this point.

Pearl Harbor

* U.S stopped selling oil to the Japanese in response to their actions in the Pacific.
* Japanese Admiral Yamamoto called for an attack of the U.S. fleet.
* Dec. 7 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and killed 2,300, 1,100 wounded.
* President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war.
* The Japanese took Guam and Wake and then took the Philippines.
* They treated prisoners of Bataan cruelly.
* They considered it dishonorable to surrender so they had contempt for the prisoners.
* 70,000 prisoners started the Bataan Death March only 54,000 survived.

Allies Strike Back

* Doolittle bombed Tokyo and other Japanese cites to prove that Japan was vulnerable to attack.
* Two turning points in the Pacific, Battle of the Coral Sea which was the first carrier based battle ever stopped the Japanese advance south and the Battle of Midway where the Japanese fleet was crippled.

Allied Offensive

* American commander MacArthur developed the Island hopping idea where Americans would take the lightly defended Japanese islands instead of taking them all.
* First big target was the island of Guadalcanal where the Japanese were building a base. Fighting was fierce but the Japanese lost 24,000 of 36,000 men.

Holocaust Begins

* Nazis proclaimed that Germanic peoples or Aryans were the master race.
* Nazis claimed that non Aryans were inferior and would lead to the holocaust.
* Many Europeans had always blamed the Jews for their problems.
* The Nuremburg laws were passed in 1935 deprived the Jews of their rights to German citizenship, forbade marriages between Jews and non Jews.
* Germans used the murder of a German diplomat in Paris as an excuse to attack the Jews.
* Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues.
* This became known as the night of the broken glass or kristallnacht.
* Jews began to flee to other countries, which Hitler favored but Countries such as France, Britain, and the U.S. shut their doors to the Jews.
* Hitler began to ship Jews to cities that were dismal, overcrowded ghettos or segregated Jewish areas.
* The Nazis sealed off the ghettos with barbed wire and walls hoping they would starve to death or die from disease.

Final Solution

* Hitler grew impatient waiting for Jews to die.
* He called for his “final solution”, which was a program of genocide which is the systematic kicking an entire group of people.
* Nazis targeted Gypsies, Poles, Russians, homosexuals, the insane, the disabled, and the incurably ill.
* The S.S. went from town to town and rounded up Jews and took them to isolated areas and dug pits and killed them there.
* Jews in areas not reached by the death squads were taken to concentration camps, Hitler hoped they would die faster.
* The Final Solution reached is last stage in 1942 when Nazis built extermination camps equipped with huge gas chambers that could kill 6,000 humans a day.
* 6 million died with 4 million surviving.

Tide Turns on Two Fronts

* Stalin wanted a second front opened up in France, but the Allies decided on North Africa.
* British General Montgomery won the battle of El Alamein.
* While on the other side of North Africa General Eisenhower landed his troops.
* With the combined effort they crushed Rommel’s Afrika Korps.
* At Stalingrad, the Soviets held out under tremendous pressure as a Russian winter set in and Stalin used this to cut off German supplies.
* Hitler refused to allow a retreat and 90,000 Germans were captured out of a 330,000 man force.
* From this point on, Germany was being pushed back as the Soviets advanced.
* British and Americans decided to attack Italy next.
* They captured the island of Sicily and the King of Italy had Mussolini arrested.
* Mussolini was rescued when the Germans took control of Northern Italy.
* Germans kept retreating though.
* Mussolini was captured near Milan and shot and hung in the street for everyone to see.

Home Fronts

* Soviets and British lost lots of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives while except for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Americans were untouched.
* In the U.S., factories converted from peacetime production \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ production.
* A shortage of consumer items led to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ program.
* Prejudice against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Americans arose.
* Some Japanese on the west coast were rounded up and put in internment \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or relocation camps.
* 2/3 were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Native born Americans with Japanese parents.

Victory in Europe

* An invasion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was planned but to keep the Germans guessing, the allies set up a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ army and made it look like an attack was coming at Calais.
* Codenamed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it was the largest land, sea invasion in history.
* Began on \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The allies landed on five beaches in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Despite heavy losses the allies held the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* General \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ liberated Paris a month later.
* Germans last ditch effort came at the battle of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, named for the bulge in the Americans line.
* Hitler and his new wife \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ committed suicide and the Nazis surrendered on May 7th known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day.
* President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ died though before the war in Europe was over and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ became the new President.

Victory in the Pacific

* The Japanese were digging in instead of retreating and took heavy casualties.
* Used Kamikaze or suicide pilots as a last resort.
* Heavy losses in Iwo Jima and Okinawa showed how difficult it would be to win the war.
* Truman decided to use the atomic bomb in order to save American lives.
* The Americans dropped the first bomb on the city of Hiroshima, three days later the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
* The Japanese surrendered to General MacArthur on Sept. 2 in Tokyo bay on the U.S.S. Missouri.

Devastation

* 40 million people had died.
* Cities and country sides were reduced to rubble which left millions homeless.
* London, Warsaw, and Berlin were almost completely destroyed.
* People suffered through famine and disease in the period after the war.
* Countries like Germany and Italy and did want to return to their old governments.
* War crimes trials were held at Nuremburg in 1945-46.
* 22 Nazis were put on trial for “crimes against humanity” and waging a war of aggression.
* SS chief Himmler and minster of propaganda Goebbels had committed suicide before the end of the war.
* Hess was given life in prison, Goring committed suicide while in jail.

Postwar Japan

* 2 million Japanese were killed with its major cities being destroyed and its colonies being stripped.
* MacArthur demilitarized Japan, which meant disbanding its military.
* He set up war crimes trials, where 7 including former Prime Minster Tojo were hung.
* He turned to democratization or bringing a democracy to Japan.
* He and his advisors drew up a new constitution which the Japanese accepted.
* He also tried to divide up large estates and sell land to peasant farmers.

Occupation

* Japanese had thought the Emperor was a god and now the emperor had to tell the people he was not a God.
* Real power in Japan now rested with the people not the emperor.
* Japan was not allowed to make war or create an army, so they relied on the U.S. for their security.
* The U.S. and the Soviet Union were allies during the war and now it became clear they were to be enemies.