



# World War II (1939-1945)

Events & Effects

By: Marleny Ramirez



# The beginning of WWII

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- ❧ Germans signed Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939)
  - Agreement of no interference between Germany & Soviet Union
- ❧ Eastern Europe was divided among Germany & Russia
- ❧ German forces invaded Poland
- ❧ Britain declared war on Germany
  - France joined war as well

# Adolf Hitler / Germany

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- ∞ War tactic: “blitzkrieg” (lightning war)
- ∞ Germany & Russia divided Poland
- ∞ Germany invaded Holland & Belgium (1940)
- ∞ German forces entered France
- ∞ Axis power controlled majority of continental Europe

# Adolf Hitler

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# Britain & Germany

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- ✧ Winston Churchill refused a deal with Germany
- ✧ Battle of Britain: large air bombing campaign launched by Hitler
- ✧ British successful in keeping German army out
- ✧ Pressure on Britain was reduced
- ✧ German invasion of Soviet Union
  - Agreement was no longer in effect

# U.S. involvement

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- ↪ The U.S. remained neutral in war up until:
- ↪ U.S. froze Japanese assets
- ↪ Imposed sanctions
- ↪ Japanese bombed U.S. naval station (Pearl Harbor)
- ↪ U.S. declared war against Japan
- ↪ Germany declared war against U.S.

# After Pearl Harbor

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- ∞ Churchill & President Roosevelt discussed joint war policy
- ∞ Stalin relieved German pressure in the east
- ∞ The Allies strategized to weaken Germany on 2 fronts
- ∞ Battle of El Alamein –Rommel's army was defeated
  - British caught Axis soldiers off guard
- ∞ Allied force landed in Morocco & Algeria
- ∞ Rommel's Afrika Korps abolished (1943)

# The Battle for Stalingrad

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- ✧ Hitler's army set out to capture Stalingrad
- ✧ City was bombed and left in ruins
- ✧ Germans controlled 90% of ruined city
- ✧ Soviet troops outside city attacked
- ✧ Germans were trapped & many died
- ✧ Soviets pushed Germans westward



# Victory in Europe

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- ☞ Allies plotted an attack against Germany/France
- ☞ Invasion of Normandy- June 6, 1944 (D-Day)
  - Largest sea & land attack in history
  - Allies weakened Germany defenses
  - France, Belgium, Luxembourg liberated
- ☞ Battle of the Bulge- Hitler faced war on 2 fronts
  - Germans retreated
  - Allies continued to show success

# Germany surrenders

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- Approx. 3 million Allied soldiers approached Berlin from SW
- Approx. 6 million Soviets from the east
- Hitler committed suicide
- His death implied surrender of 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich from German military
- War in Europe officially ended after 6 yrs.

# Victory in the Pacific

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- ☞ Allies moved in on Japan
- ☞ Truman threatened to bomb Japan unless they surrendered
- ☞ 1<sup>st</sup> bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- ☞ Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur

# Effects- Europe

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- ☞ Europe was generally ruined
- ☞ Large amounts of land left in ruins
- ☞ Many people had to move elsewhere
- ☞ Nearly 40 million of Euro. Population died
- ☞ Terrible living circumstances
- ☞ Famine & disease

# Effects- Europe

## (continuation)

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- ❧ Communist Party membership was popular up until...
  - Political takeover
  - Violent strikes
- ❧ Communist Parties declined
- ❧ Altered political landscape of Europe
- ❧ Nations struggled w/ economic + political recovery
- ❧ Also faced to deal with war crimes

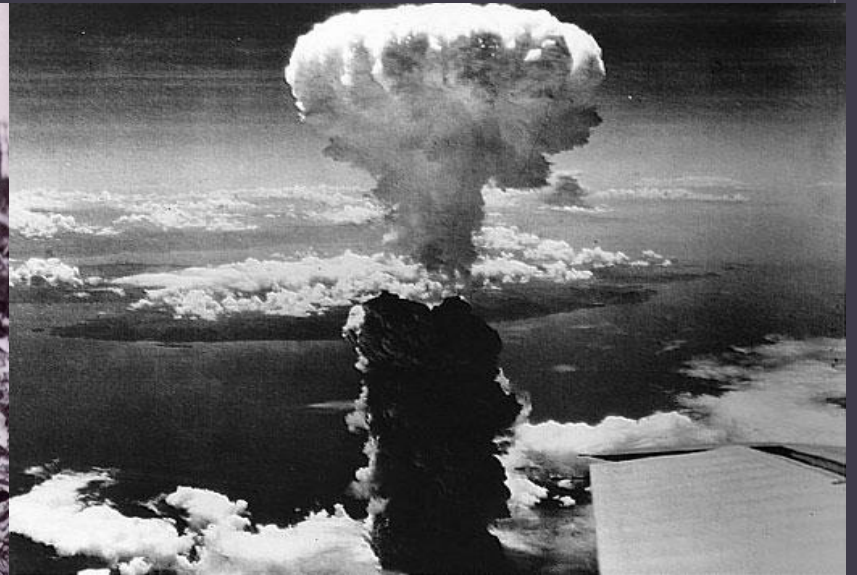
# Effects- Japan

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- ↪ Major cities left in ruins due to bombings
- ↪ 2 million lives lost
- ↪ Hiroshima & Nagasaki were wastelands
- ↪ Allies stripped Japan of its colonial empire

# Hiroshima & Nagasaki

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# End of WWII

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- ❧ Treaty between Japan & U.S. officially ended war
- ❧ The U.S. & Japan were now allies
- ❧ Soviet Union & U.S. became world's 2 major powers
- ❧ Enemies became allies (vice versa)