

Chapter 27 Glossary

21 million soldiers, 40 million civilians: Total deaths in World War II

annexation of Austria: March 1938. attempt to reintegrate all Germans into a single homeland. Europe's major powers Britain and France did nothing about it

appeasement: policy of making concessions to an aggressor in the hopes of avoiding war. Associated with Neville Chamberlain's policy of making concessions to Adolf Hitler.

Battle of Midway: 1942. battle between the United States and Japan, a turning point in the war in the Pacific

Battle of Stalingrad: 1942. battle between invading German forces and Soviet defenders for control of Stalingrad; each side sustained hundreds of thousands of casualties; Germany's defeat marked turning point in the war

Blitzkrieg: "Lightning war", type of fast-moving warfare used by German forces against Poland in 1939

The Cold War: period following WWII until the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1991 when much of the world was divided by the communist/non-communist battle for military and political superiority. While the USA and the USSR were unquestionably the world's two superpowers, they avoided direct military conflict. Instead, they sought to bring other countries into their fold.

D-Day: AKA "Operation Overlord"; greatest successful naval invasion on June 6, 1944 led by Dwight D. Eisenhower; troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, with a goal to liberate Paris

December 7, 1941: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

Dunkirk: city in northern France on the North Sea where, in 1940, 330,000 Allied troops had to be evacuated from the beaches in a desperate retreat under enemy fire.

economic exploitation and foreign (slave) workers: What Germany used to increase production

Einsatzgruppen: Nazi killing squad that systematically murdered Jews and buried them into pits or burned their bodies. This squad of police and former soldiers killed more than one million Jews, which is 20% of the total Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Final Solution: "Final" answer to the Jewish question: murder of every single Jew. It had begun with mass arrests, and continued with the trafficking of Jews to the concentration camps, where mass killings occurred, mostly in gas chambers

German Rearmament: 1933. As soon as Hitler gained power he mobilized society, military, and the economy to focus on rearming

Great Patriotic War: what Russia called World War II. Thus their triumph became a symbol of national pride. This was ironic, however, because 20 million Russians were killed in the war, the Russians could not have won the war without help from the other Allied powers.

Harry S. Truman: 33rd President of the United States. Led the U.S. to victory in WWII making the ultimate decision to use atomic weapons for the first time. Shaped U.S. foreign policy regarding the Soviet Union after the war.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Two Japanese cities on which the U.S. dropped the atomic bombs to end World War II – on August 6 and 9, 1945

The Holocaust: The mass murder of 6 million Jews and others in Nazi concentration camps.

Lebensraum: Hitler's expansionist theory based on a drive to acquire "living space" for the German people

Maginot Line: Series of forts built by France to protect against German invasion. Stretched from Belgium to Switzerland. (The German counterpart was the Siegfried Line.)

Manchuria: Province in northeast China invaded by Japan in September 1931

Manhattan Project: secret research and development project of the U.S. to develop the atomic bomb. Its success created the bombs that ended the war with Japan as well as ushering the country into the atomic era

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact: Russian and German non-aggression agreement (also to divide up Poland)

Munich Conference: 1938 conference at which European leaders attempted to appease Hitler by turning over the Sudetenland to him in exchange for promise that Germany would not expand Germany's territory any further

Nazi New Order: Nazi plan for their conquered territories. It included the extermination of Jews and other inferiors, ruthless exploitation of resources, German colonization in the East, and the use of the Poles, Russians, and Ukrainians for slave labor.

Operation Barbarossa: 1941. Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union; Hitler breaks Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact using *blitzkrieg*; initially very successful; fails because Hitler split his army, and troops were unprepared for the cold in the end. This was the largest invasion Germany attempted.

panzer division: armored column supported by airplanes used in *blitzkrieg*; each division was a strike force of about 300 tanks, forces, and supplies

Potsdam Conference: July 1945. Allied leaders Truman, Stalin and Churchill met in Germany to set up zones of control and to inform the Japanese that if they refused to surrender at once, they would face total destruction.

Rhineland, Austria, Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia, Poland: order in which Hitler's annexation of land took place

September 1, 1939: Invasion of Poland, beginning of World War II

Tehran Conference: November 1943. First major meeting between the Big Three (United States, Britain, Russia) at which they planned the D-Day invasion and agreed to divide Germany into zones of occupation after the war

unconditional surrender: announcement by FDR (with Churchill's endorsement) that World War II would end only with this. The conquered governments would be no longer, no compromise could be reached. Later people believe that this stiffened enemy resistance

Vichy Government: French collaborationist government established in 1940 in southern French city of Vichy following defeat of French armies by the Germans.

White Rose Movement: attempt by a small number of German students and their professor to distribute pamphlets denouncing the Nazi regime; its members were arrested and executed.

Winston Churchill: British minister throughout most of World War II and who, along with Roosevelt, planned many allied campaigns. He predicted an "iron curtain" that would separate Communist Europe from the rest of the West.

Yalta Conference: 1945. Meeting with US president FDR, British Prime Minister Churchill, and Soviet Leader Stalin during WWII to plan for post-war