WW II:
The Allies vs. Japan
E. America Enters World War II (1945-Present)
b. Identify the significant military and political aspects of World War II
e. Identify and evaluate the scientific and technological developments in America during and after World War II
Now that Hitler had been defeated, the Allies had to stop the empire of Japan for WW II to end.
Japan took Manchuria from China to gain more resources for their own nation.
The Axis Powers had taken over much of the world by 1942. Germany had taken over Europe and Japan had taken over parts of Asia and areas in the Pacific. On 5/8/1945, Germany was defeated and the Allies focused their efforts on Japan.
The Struggle Against Japan

-On December 7th, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan.

-Japan had taken many areas, such as Hong Kong, French Indochina, the Philippines, and much of China. They were taking land in the Pacific like Hitler did in Europe.

-General Douglas MacArthur led USA troops and thousands of Filipinos to try and force Japan out of the Philippines. Due to their failure to secure the area, FDR ordered MacArthur to leave in 1942.
Arial view of Pearl Harbor today
Various areas that were damaged during the attack on Pearl Harbor.
Japan launched an aerial attack on Pearl Harbor, sunk several battle ships, and killed over 2,000 Americans to try to attempt to ensure that the USA could not stop their Pacific conquest.
President Truman with Douglas MacArthur, the general who oversaw USA operations against Japan.
Doolittle’s Raid

- It was clear that a land invasion of Japan was unrealistic in 1942. Instead, the USA targeted military targets on the island of Japan to be bombed by planes.

- April 18th, 1942, Colonel James Doolittle led “Doolittle’s Raid” on Tokyo, bombing several military targets. This was a psychological victory for the USA.

- Doolittle’s raid proved the USA could strike the mainland of Japan and boosted the morale in the country.
American pilots bombed Tokyo and other targets then landed in China and Russia in Doolittle’s Raid.
Before Pearl Harbor, the Japanese gave “peace medals” to the USA and lied about desiring peace.

General Doolittle fastened these medals to the bombs that fell on Japan in Doolittle’s raid.
A B-25 Bomber takes off to attack Japan in Doolittle’s Raid.
The Battle of the Coral Sea

-In May of 1942, American and Australian forces united to fight Japan and protect Australia.

-USA and Australian forces stopped Japan from taking Australia. This was the first time Japan had been stopped from taking land.

-This was a massive naval and aerial battle. Japanese and Allied pilots experienced intense fighting and took off from aircraft carriers.
At the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Allies successfully defended Australia from a Japanese takeover.
The Allies vs. Japan

- While the USA carried the greatest responsibility in fighting Japan, the USSR, Britain, and China also fought against the Japanese Empire.

- In 1945, the USSR invaded Northern China and Northern Korea. They forced the Japanese to surrender these areas. China had been fighting with Japan since they invaded their area and was also a member of the Allies.

- Britain also assisted the USA by laying mines in Japanese waters, they had battles with the Japanese in various areas, and the British Navy assisted the USA at the Battle of Okinawa.
The Battle of Midway

-At the Battle of Midway, the USA stopped Japan from taking an island near Hawaii. Now, Japan had been stopped twice from advancing and gaining more territory.

- Admiral Chester Nimitz led the forces at Midway. This was the last time America would have to fight a defensive strategy against Japan.

- After this turning point, the Allies began “island hopping.” Now, they were on the offensive and were forcing the Japanese to retreat from their conquered areas.
At the Battle of Midway, the USA defended an island area near Hawaii from Japanese control.
Admiral Chester Nimitz served as a pivotal leader for the USA at the Battle of Midway.
Japan on the Defensive

-In August of 1942, the Allies, led by General MacArthur, initiated “island hopping” tactics to push the Japanese out of various areas they had conquered.

-Japan used suicide bombers called Kamikazes to attack the various ships the Allies had sent to the Pacific. After taking the Philippine Islands back, the Allies took the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

-This campaign, a victory for the Allies, still proved radically violent. It displayed that a land invasion of the mainland of Japan would cost millions of lives.
Instead of directly invading Japan, the USA picked off the various islands and areas Japan controlled one by one. This “island hopping” tactic pushed the Japanese military back to the mainland of Japan.
A Kamikaze Suicide Pilot attacks the USS Columbia
Kamikaze attack on an American ship.
Marines raise the American Flag as they liberate Iwo Jima from Japanese Control.
Creating the Atom Bomb

- The USA created a secret mission to create the world’s first nuclear bomb. **The Manhattan Project** was led by J. Robert Oppenheimer.

- FDR was President through most of the war. Truman did not even know about the weapon until he became president.

- Partially as a desire to avoid a costly land invasion that had the potential to kill over a million people, Truman agreed to unleash a nuclear attack on Japan.
Albert Einstein, a German Jew living in the USA when Hitler took power, stayed in the USA and warned FDR that Germany was trying to pursue nuclear weapons. This led the USA to create the Manhattan Project, led by J. Robert Oppenheimer, to create the first atom bomb. It was called the “Manhattan Project” as a code name. The project took place mainly in Oakridge, Tennessee.
- The USA warned that Japan should surrender or face complete and utter destruction. The persistent Japanese government still refused to comply.

- On August 6, 1945 the USA launched a nuclear attack and Hiroshima was bombed. On August 9, 1945, the Japanese city of Nagasaki was bombed.

- 200,000 people died either through direct impact or leaked radiation. **Emperor Hirohito** finally surrendered.
A nuclear bomb being tested in the western United States.
A picture of the atom bomb being detonated over Hiroshima
Warning: Graphic images of the victims of the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
After WW II, Nazi leaders were executed for war crimes at the Nuremberg Trials.
Before FDR died, he met with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin to discuss the political future of Europe and Japan when the war ended.
WW II Ends

-In February of 1945, at the Yalta Conference, FDR, Churchill, and Stalin met to discuss the “terms of surrender.” According to the agreement, Russia would control East Germany and the Western Allies would control the West Germany.

-At the Nuremberg Trials, Nazi leaders were prosecuted for the Holocaust and other war crimes. Several major leaders were executed.

-General MacArthur managed Japan and helped to rebuild the government. Hideki Tojo was sentenced to death. Japan transitioned their government and became a Democracy.
THE END