

4 The Allies Are Victorious

TERMS & NAMES

- Erwin Rommel
- Bernard Montgomery
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Battle of Stalingrad
- D-Day
- Battle of the Bulge
- kamikaze

MAIN IDEA

Led by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, the Allies scored key victories and won the war.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The Allies' victory in World War II set up conditions for both the Cold War and today's post-Cold War world.

SETTING THE STAGE As 1941 came to an end, Hitler said, "Let's hope 1942 brings me as much good fortune as 1941." Despite the Führer's hopes, Germany's victories slowed considerably during 1942. The United States had entered the war, boosting the Allies' morale and strength.

The Allies Plan for Victory

On December 22, 1941, just after Pearl Harbor, Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt met at the White House to develop a joint war policy. Stalin had asked his allies to relieve German pressure on his armies in the east. He wanted them to open a second front in the west. The second front would split the Germans' strength by forcing them to fight major battles in two regions instead of one. Churchill agreed with Stalin's strategy: The Allies would weaken Germany on two fronts before dealing a deathblow. At first, Roosevelt was torn, but ultimately he agreed.

The Tide Turns on Two Fronts

Churchill urged that Britain and the United States strike first at North Africa and southern Europe. The strategy angered Stalin. He wanted the Allies to open the second front in France. In the meantime, the Soviet Union would have to hold out on its own against the Germans—with the help of some supplies from its partners. Nevertheless, late in 1942, the Allies began to turn the tide of war both in the Mediterranean and on the Eastern Front.

The North African Campaign German forces had been advancing and retreating across the North African desert since early 1941. Finally, General **Erwin Rommel** took the key port city of Tobruk in June 1942. With Tobruk's fall, London sent General **Bernard Montgomery**—"Monty" to his men—to take control of British forces in North Africa. By this time, the Germans had advanced to an Egyptian village called El Alamein (AL-uh-MAYN), west of Alexandria. They were dug in so well that British forces could not go around them. So, Montgomery had to launch the Battle of El Alamein with a massive attack from the front. On the night of October 23, the roar of more than 1,700 British guns took the Axis soldiers totally by surprise. They fought back fiercely, but by November 3, Rommel's army had been beaten. He and his forces retreated westward.

As Rommel retreated west, the Allies launched *Operation Torch*. On November 8, an Allied force of more than 107,000 troops—mostly Americans—landed in Morocco and Algeria. This force was led by American General **Dwight D. Eisenhower**. Caught between the two armies, the Desert Fox's Afrika Korps was finally smashed in May 1943.

Background

Montgomery, like Rommel himself, used dummy regiments built from timber and canvas. They were intended to fool the enemy into thinking that forces were stationed where, in fact, they were not.

HISTORY MAKERS



General Erwin Rommel
1891–1944

On July 20, 1944, a plot to assassinate Hitler by a group of German officers failed. Under torture, one conspirator accused war hero General Erwin Rommel of involvement in the plot. The news shook and enraged Hitler, since Rommel had always been devoted to him.

Was Rommel actually involved? Evidence indicates that he was ready to bypass Hitler and personally negotiate for peace with the Allies. However, many believe that he knew nothing of the plot. Hitler believed that he did. He offered Rommel a choice—a public trial or suicide and a state funeral. On October 14, 1944, Rommel took poison and died.



World War II: Allied Advances, 1942–1945



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Region** Which European countries remained neutral during World War II?
- Movement** What seems to be the destination for most of the Allied advances that took place in Europe during 1943–1944?

Turning Point at Stalingrad As Rommel suffered defeats in North Africa, German armies also met their match in the Soviet Union. They had stalled at Leningrad and Moscow. Germans suffered heavy losses because of the Russian winter. When the summer of 1942 arrived, German tanks were again ready to roll. Hitler sent his Sixth Army south to seize the rich oil fields in the Caucasus Mountains. The army was also to capture Stalingrad (now Volgograd) on the Volga River. With its 500,000 people, Stalingrad was a major industrial center.

The **Battle of Stalingrad** began on August 23, 1942. The Luftwaffe went on nightly bombing raids that set much of the city ablaze and reduced the rest to rubble. The situation looked desperate. Nonetheless, Stalin had already told his commanders to defend the city named after him at all costs. “Not one step backward,” he ordered.

By early November 1942, Germans controlled 90 percent of the ruined city. Stalingrad was an “enormous cloud of burning, blind-

ing smoke,” as one German officer wrote. Then, another Russian winter set in. On November 19, Soviet troops outside the city launched a counterattack. Closing in around Stalingrad, they trapped the Germans zinside and cut off their supplies. Hitler’s commander, General Friedrich von Paulus, begged him to order a retreat. But Hitler refused, saying the city was “to be held at all costs.”

On February 2, 1943, some 90,000 frostbitten, half-starved German troops surrendered to the Soviets. These pitiful survivors were all that remained of an army of 330,000. Stalingrad’s defense had cost the Soviets over 1 million soldiers. The city they defended was 99 percent destroyed. After Stalingrad, however, the Germans were on the defensive, with the Soviets pushing them steadily westward.

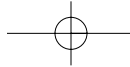
The Invasion of Italy As the Battle of Stalingrad raged, Stalin continued to urge the British and the Americans to invade France. In January 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill met at Casablanca, Morocco, and decided to attack Italy first. On July 10, 1943, Allied forces of 180,000 soldiers landed on Sicily and captured it from Italian

These dazed, freezing, and starved German prisoners were actually lucky to be alive. About 240,000 Germans died during the battle for the city of Stalingrad.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

A. Making Inferences What advantages might a weaker army fighting on its home soil have over a stronger invading army?





Background

As the Allies advanced, the Italian resistance aided them by blowing up bridges, roads, and rail lines; cutting telephone lines; and ambushing German trucks.

and German troops by August.

The conquest of Sicily toppled Mussolini from power. On July 25, King Victor Emmanuel III fired the dictator and had him arrested. On September 3, Italy surrendered. But the Germans seized control of northern Italy and put Mussolini back in charge. Finally, the Germans retreated northward, and the victorious Allies entered Rome on June 4, 1944. Fighting in Italy, however, continued until Germany fell in May 1945. On April 28, 1945, as the Germans were retreating from northern Italy, the Italian resistance ambushed some trucks. Inside one of them, resistance fighters found Mussolini disguised as a German soldier. The following day, he was shot, and his body was hanged in the Milan town square.

Life on Allied Home Fronts

Wherever Allied forces fought, people on the home fronts rallied to support them. In war-torn countries like the Soviet Union or Great Britain, civilians lost their lives and endured extreme hardships. Except for a few of its territories, such as Hawaii, the United States did not suffer invasion or bombing. Nonetheless, Americans at home made a crucial contribution to the Allied war effort. Americans produced the weapons and equipment that would help win the war.

Mobilizing for Total War Defeating the Axis powers required mobilizing for total war. In the United States, factories converted their peacetime operations to wartime production and made everything from machine guns to boots. Automobile factories produced tanks. A U.S. typewriter company made armor-piercing shells. By 1944, almost 18 million U.S. workers—many of them women—were working in war industries.

With factories turning out products for the war, a shortage of consumer goods hit the United States. From meat and sugar to tires and gasoline, from nylon stockings to laundry soap, the American government rationed scarce items. Setting the speed limit at 35 miles per hour also helped to save on gasoline and rubber. In European countries directly affected by the war, rationing was even more drastic.

To inspire their people to greater efforts, Allied governments conducted highly effective propaganda campaigns. In the Soviet Union, a Moscow youngster collected enough scrap metal to produce 14,000 artillery shells. Another Russian family, the Shirmanovs, used their life savings to buy a tank for the Red Army. In the United States, youngsters saved their pennies and bought government war stamps and bonds to help finance the war.

Japanese Americans Imprisoned Government propaganda also had a negative effect. After Pearl Harbor, a wave of prejudice arose in the United States against the 127,000 Japanese Americans. Most lived in Hawaii and on the West Coast. The bombing of Pearl Harbor frightened Americans. This fear, encouraged by government propaganda, was turned against Japanese Americans. They were suddenly seen as “the enemy.” On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt set up a program of internment and property loss, since Japanese Americans were considered a threat to the country.

In March, the military began rounding up “aliens” and shipping them to relocation camps. Two-thirds of those interned were Nisei, or Japanese Americans who were native-born American citizens. The camps were restricted military areas located away



Armed soldiers stand guard over Japanese Americans in an internment camp. In one camp, some of the occupants used horse stalls as living quarters. In other camps, hastily constructed barracks housed people considered “enemy aliens.”

Vocabulary

rationed: distributed in limited amounts.

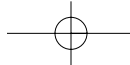
THINK THROUGH HISTORY

B. Analyzing

Motives Why did U.S. government propaganda try to portray the Japanese as sinister?

Vocabulary

internment: detention.



from the coast. With such a location, it was thought that the Nisei could not participate in an invasion. From 1941 until 1946, the United States imprisoned some 31,275 people it wrongly considered “enemy aliens (foreigners).” Most of those prisoners were American citizens of Japanese descent.



General Dwight Eisenhower
1890–1969

In his career, U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower had shown an uncommon ability to work with all kinds of people—even competitive Allies. His Chief of Staff said of Eisenhower, “The sun rises and sets on him for me.” He was also wildly popular with the troops, who affectionately called him “Uncle Ike.”

So, it was not a surprise when in December 1943, U.S. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall named Eisenhower as supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. The new commander’s “people skills” enabled him to join American and British forces together to put a permanent end to Nazi aggression.

Allied Victory in Europe

While the Allies were dealing with issues on the home front, they were preparing to push toward victory in Europe. By the end of 1942, the war had begun to turn in favor of the Allies. By 1943, the Allies began secretly building a force in Great Britain. Their plan was to attack the Germans across the English Channel.

The D-Day Invasion By May 1944, the invasion force was ready. Thousands of planes, ships, tanks, landing craft, and 3.5 million troops awaited orders to attack. American General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the commander of this enormous force, planned to strike on the coast of Normandy, in northwestern France. The Germans knew that an attack was coming. But they did not know where it would be launched. To keep Hitler guessing, the Allies set up a huge dummy army with its own headquarters and equipment. They ordered the make-believe army to attack at the French seaport of Calais (ka-LAY).

Code-named *Operation Overlord*, the invasion of Normandy was the greatest land and sea attack in history. The day chosen for the invasion to begin—called **D-Day**—was June 6, 1944.

At dawn on June 6, British, American, French, and Canadian troops fought their way onto a 60-mile stretch of beach in Normandy. The Germans had dug in with machine guns, rocket launchers, and cannons. They protected themselves behind concrete walls three feet thick. Among the Americans alone, 3,000 soldiers died on the beach that day. Captain Joseph Dawson said, “The beach was a total chaos, with men’s bodies everywhere, with wounded men crying both in the water and on the shingle [coarse gravel].”

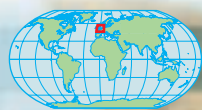
Despite heavy casualties, the Allies held the beachheads. A month later, more than 1 million additional troops had landed. On July 25, the Allies punched a hole in the German defenses near Saint-Lô (san-LOH), and General George Patton’s Third Army raced through.

Background

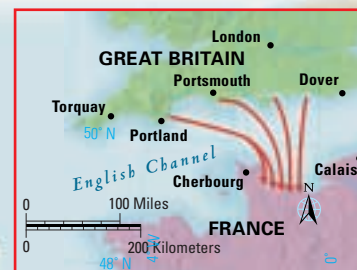
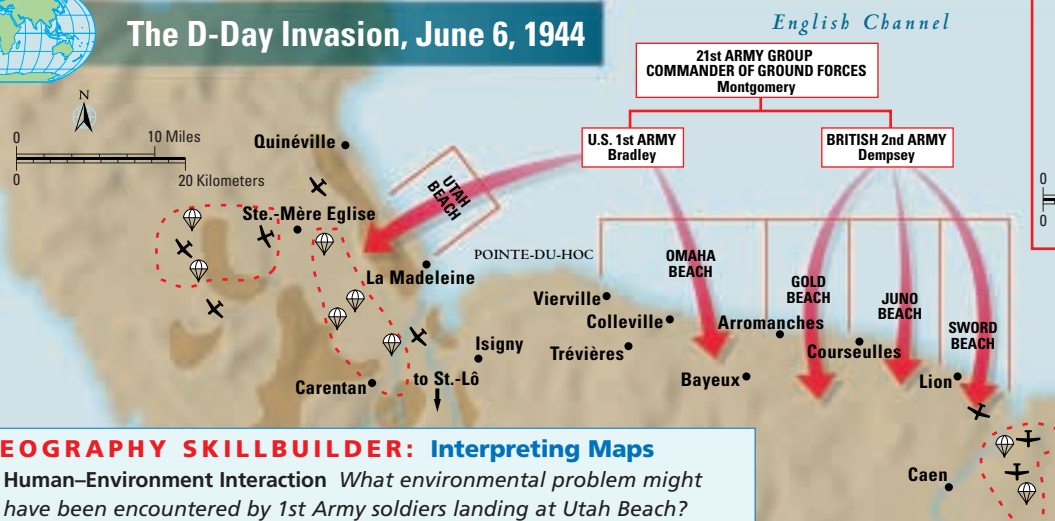
The name *D-Day* came from the words *designated* + *day*.

Vocabulary

beachheads: enemy shoreline captured just before invading forces move inland.

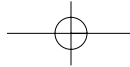


The D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Human–Environment Interaction** What environmental problem might have been encountered by 1st Army soldiers landing at Utah Beach?
- Movement** Looking at the map, what might have been the Allied strategy behind parachuting troops into France?



Soon, the Germans were retreating. On August 25, the Allies marched triumphantly into Paris. By September, they had liberated France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and much of the Netherlands. They then set their sights on Germany.

The Battle of the Bulge As Allied forces moved toward Germany from the west, the Soviet army was advancing toward Germany from the east. Hitler now faced a war on two fronts. In a desperate gamble, the Führer decided to counterattack in the west. The Führer hoped a victory would split American and British forces and break up Allied supply lines. Explaining the reasoning behind his plan, Hitler said, “This battle is to decide whether we shall live or die. . . . All resistance must be broken in a wave of terror.”

On December 16, German tanks broke through weak American defenses along an 85-mile front in the Ardennes. The push into the Allied lines gave the campaign its name—the **Battle of the Bulge**. Although caught off guard, the Allies eventually pushed the Germans back and won. The Nazis could do little but retreat, since Hitler had lost men that he could no longer replace.

Germany’s Unconditional Surrender After the Battle of the Bulge, the war in Europe neared its end. In late March 1945, the Allies rolled across the Rhine River into Germany. By the middle of April, a noose was closing around Berlin. Three million Allied soldiers approached Berlin from the southwest. Six million Soviet troops approached from the east—some of them just 40 miles from the capital. By April 25, 1945, the Soviets had surrounded the capital, as their artillery pounded the city.

While Soviet shells burst over Berlin, Hitler prepared for his end in an underground headquarters beneath the crumbling city. On April 29, he married his long-time companion, Eva Braun. He also wrote his final address to the German people. In it, he blamed Jews for starting the war and his generals for losing it. “I myself and my wife choose to die in order to escape the disgrace of . . . capitulation,” he said. “I die with a happy heart aware of the immeasurable deeds of our soldiers at the front.” Two days later, Hitler shot himself after taking poison. His new wife simply swallowed poison. The bodies were then carried outside and burned.

On May 7, 1945, General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of the Third Reich from the German military. President Roosevelt, however, did not live to witness the long-awaited victory. He had died suddenly on April 12, as Allied armies were advancing toward Berlin. Roosevelt’s successor, Harry Truman, received the news of the Nazi surrender. On May 8, the surrender was officially signed in Berlin. The United States and other Allied powers celebrated V-E Day—Victory in Europe Day. The war in Europe had ended at last.

Victory in the Pacific

Although the war in Europe was over, the Allies were still fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. With the Allied victory at Guadalcanal, however, the Japanese advances in the Pacific had been stopped. For the rest of the war, the Japanese retreated before the counterattack of the Allied powers.

The Japanese Retreat By the fall of 1944, the Allies were moving in on Japan. In October, Allied forces landed on the island of Leyte (LAY-tee) in the Philippines. General MacArthur, who had been forced to surrender the islands in February 1942, waded ashore. He then declared, “People of the Philippines, I have returned.”

Actually, the takeover would not be quite that easy. The Japanese had decided to destroy the American fleet. The Allies could not then resupply their ground troops. To

SPOTLIGHT ON

Dresden

On the night of February 13, 1945, 800 British and American bombers launched a massive air attack on Dresden, a German city southeast of Berlin. During the bombing, some 4,000 tons of explosives were dropped, creating raging firestorms. One author described the city as a “furnace fueled by people,” as its citizens—mostly women, children, and the elderly—burned to death. Estimates of those killed vary from 35,000 to 135,000.

The firestorm reduced Dresden to rubble, accomplishing no important military goals but killing many civilians. Dresden has come to symbolize the strategy of “total war”: massive attacks on both military and civilian targets to break a country’s fighting spirit.

Vocabulary
capitulation:
surrender.



GlobalImpact : Arming for War

The Atomic Bomb

On the eve of World War II, scientists in Germany succeeded in splitting the nucleus of a uranium atom, releasing a huge amount of energy. Albert Einstein wrote to President Franklin Roosevelt and warned him that Nazi Germany might be working to develop atomic weapons. Roosevelt responded by giving his approval for an American program, later code-named the Manhattan Project, to develop an atomic bomb. Roosevelt's decision set off a race to assure that the United States would be the first to develop the bomb.



On the morning of August 6, 1945, the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*, flown by commander Colonel Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., took off from Tinian Island in the Mariana Islands. At precisely 8:16 A.M., the atomic bomb exploded above Hiroshima, a city on the Japanese island of Honshu.

My body seemed all black, everything seemed dark, dark all over. . . . Then I thought, "The world is ending."

An Atomic Bomb Survivor

A boy carries his brother through the leveled city of Nagasaki. This is one of a series of photos taken by Japanese photographer Yosuke Yamahata soon after the atomic bomb devastated the city on August 9, 1945.

Hiroshima: Day of Fire

Effects of the bombing

Ground temperatures	7,000°F
Hurricane force winds	980 miles per hour
Energy released	20,000 tons of TNT
Buildings destroyed	62,000 buildings
Killed immediately	70,000 people
Dead by the end of 1945	140,000 people
Total deaths related to A-bomb	210,000 people

The overwhelming destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb, and of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki three days later, changed the nature of war forever. Nuclear destruction also led to questions about the ethics of scientists and politicians who chose to use the bomb.

Patterns of Interaction

Just as in World War I, the conflicts of World War II spurred the development of ever more powerful weapons. Mightier tanks, more elusive submarines, faster fighter planes—all emerged from this period. From ancient times to the present day, the pattern remains the same: Every new weapon causes other countries to develop others of similar or greater force. This pattern results in a deadly race for an ultimate weapon: for example, the atomic bomb.



VIDEO

Arming for War: Modern and Medieval Weapons

Connect to History

Making Inferences What advantages did the United States have over Germany in the race to develop the atomic bomb?

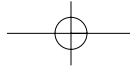


SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE R16

Connect to Today

Contrast If you had to design a memorial to the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, what symbol would you use? Make a sketch of your memorial.

Nagasaki citizens trudge through the still smoldering ruins of their city in another photo by Yosuke Yamahata.



carry out this strategy, the Japanese had to risk almost their entire fleet. They gambled everything on October 23, in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Within three days, the Japanese navy had lost disastrously—eliminating it as a fighting force in the war. Now, only the Japanese army and the feared kamikaze stood between the Allies and Japan. The **kamikaze** were Japanese suicide pilots. They would sink Allied ships by crash-diving into them in their bomb-filled planes.

In March 1945, after a month of bitter fighting and heavy losses, American Marines took Iwo Jima (EE-wuh JEE-muh), an island 660 miles from Tokyo. On April 1, U.S. troops moved to the island of Okinawa, only about 350 miles from southern Japan. The Japanese put up a desperate fight. Nevertheless, on June 22, the bloodiest land battle of the war ended. The Japanese lost 110,000 troops, and the Americans, 12,500.

The Atomic Bomb Brings Japanese Surrender After Okinawa, the next step had to be Japan. President Truman’s advisers had informed him that an invasion of the Japanese homeland might cost the Allies half a million lives. Truman had to make a decision whether to use a powerful new weapon called the atomic bomb, or A-bomb. The A-bomb would bring the war to the quickest possible end. It had been developed by the top-secret Manhattan Project, headed by General Leslie Groves and chief scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer. The Manhattan Project became a major spending item in U.S. military budgets. Truman only learned of the new bomb’s existence when he became president.

The first atomic bomb was exploded in a desert in New Mexico on July 16, 1945. President Truman then warned the Japanese. He told them that unless they surrendered, they could expect a “rain of ruin from the air.” The Japanese did not reply. So, on August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, a Japanese city of 365,000 people. Almost 73,000 people died in the attack. Three days later, on August 9, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, a city of 200,000. It killed about 37,500 people. Radiation killed many more. A Japanese journalist described the horror in Hiroshima:

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Within a few seconds the thousands of people in the streets and the gardens in the center of the town were scorched by a wave of searing heat. Many were killed instantly, others lay writhing on the ground, screaming in agony from the intolerable pain of their burns. Everything standing upright in the way of the blast, walls, houses, factories, and other buildings, was annihilated.

JAPANESE JOURNALIST, quoted in *The American Heritage Picture History of World War II*

The Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur on September 2. The surrender took place aboard the United States battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. With Japan’s surrender, the war had ended. Now, countries faced the task of rebuilding a war-torn world.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

C. Forming an

Opinion Was it necessary to drop the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki?

Section 4 Assessment

1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- Erwin Rommel
- Bernard Montgomery
- Dwight Eisenhower
- Battle of Stalingrad
- D-Day
- Battle of the Bulge
- kamikaze

2. TAKING NOTES

Create a chart like the one below, listing outcomes of the following World War II battles.

Battle	Outcome
Battle of El Alamein	
Battle of Stalingrad	
D-Day Invasion	
Battle of the Bulge	

Which battle do you think was most important in turning the war in favor of the Allies? Why?

3. SUMMARIZING

Based on what you have read in this section, how do governments gather support for a war effort on the home front?

THINK ABOUT

- the economy
- forms of propaganda
- individual participation in the war effort

4. ANALYZING THEMES

Science and Technology Do you think President Truman made the correct decision by ordering the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Why or why not?

THINK ABOUT

- the likely consequences if the atomic bomb had not been dropped
- the destruction caused by the atomic bomb
- World War II after the dropping of the atomic bomb