



WORLD WAR II

World War II, also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945, although related conflicts began earlier. It involved the vast majority of the world's nations - including all of the great powers - eventually forming two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis.

October 25–November 1, 1936

Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy sign a treaty of cooperation on October 25; on November 1, the Rome-Berlin Axis is announced.



September 1, 1939

Germany invades Poland, initiating World War II in Europe.



July 10, 1940–October 31, 1940

The air war known as the Battle of Britain ends in defeat for Nazi Germany.



December 7 & 8, 1941

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. The United States declares war on Japan, entering World War II.



June 28, 1942–September 1942

Germany and her Axis partners launch a new offensive in the Soviet Union. German troops fight their way into Stalingrad (Volgograd) on the Volga River by mid-September and penetrate deep into the Caucasus after securing the Crimean Peninsula.



June 6, 1944

British and US troops successfully land on the Normandy beaches of France, opening a "Second Front" against the Germans.



December 16, 1944

The Germans launch a final offensive in the west, known as the Battle of the Bulge, in an attempt to re-conquer Belgium and split the Allied forces along the German border. By January 1, 1945, the Germans are in retreat.



CASUALTIES

75 Million People Died

US 322,000

USSR 25 Million

Cost 288 Billion



SOVIET INVASION

- April 16, 1945
The Soviets launch their final offensive, encircling Berlin.
- April 1945
Partisan units, led by Yugoslav Communist leader Josip Tito, capture Zagreb and topple the Ustasa regime.
- The top Ustasa leaders flee to Italy and Austria.
- April 30, 1945
Hitler commits suicide.



V-E DAY

May 7, 1945
Germany surrenders to the western Allies.

May 9, 1945
Germany surrenders to the Soviets.



V-J DAY

September 2, 1945
Having agreed in principle to unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945, Japan formally surrenders, ending World War II.



ATOMIC WEAPONS USED

August 6, 1945
The United States drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

August 8, 1945
The Soviet Union declares war on Japan and invades Manchuria.

August 9, 1945
The United States drops an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.



World War II altered the political alignment and social structure of the world. The United Nations (UN) was established to foster international cooperation and future conflicts. The victorious great powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, the United Kingdom, and France—became the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The Soviet Union and the United States emerged as rival superpowers, setting the stage for the Cold War, which lasted for the next 46 years.

AXIS POWERS - GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN
ALLIED POWERS - US, GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, SOVIET UNION

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MR. H
CORE 3