



World War II

The Conflict and the Postwar Diplomacy
1941-1945



Lesson Objectives

- Explain the causes and effects of the victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers.
- Americans viewed the war as a fight for the survival of freedom and democracy against fascist and militarist ideologies. This perspective was later reinforced by revelations about Japanese wartime atrocities, Nazi concentration camps, and the Holocaust.
- Military service provided opportunities for women and minorities to improve their socioeconomic positions for the war's duration, while also leading to debates over racial segregation.
- The United States and its allies achieved military victory through Allied cooperation, technological and scientific advances, the contributions of servicemen and women, and campaigns such as Pacific "island-hopping" and the D-Day invasion. The use of atomic bombs hastened the end of the war and sparked debates about the morality of using atomic weapons.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the consequences of U.S. involvement in World War II.
- The war-ravaged condition of Asia and Europe, and the dominant U.S. role in the Allied victory and postwar peace settlements, allowed the United States to emerge from the war as the most powerful nation on Earth.



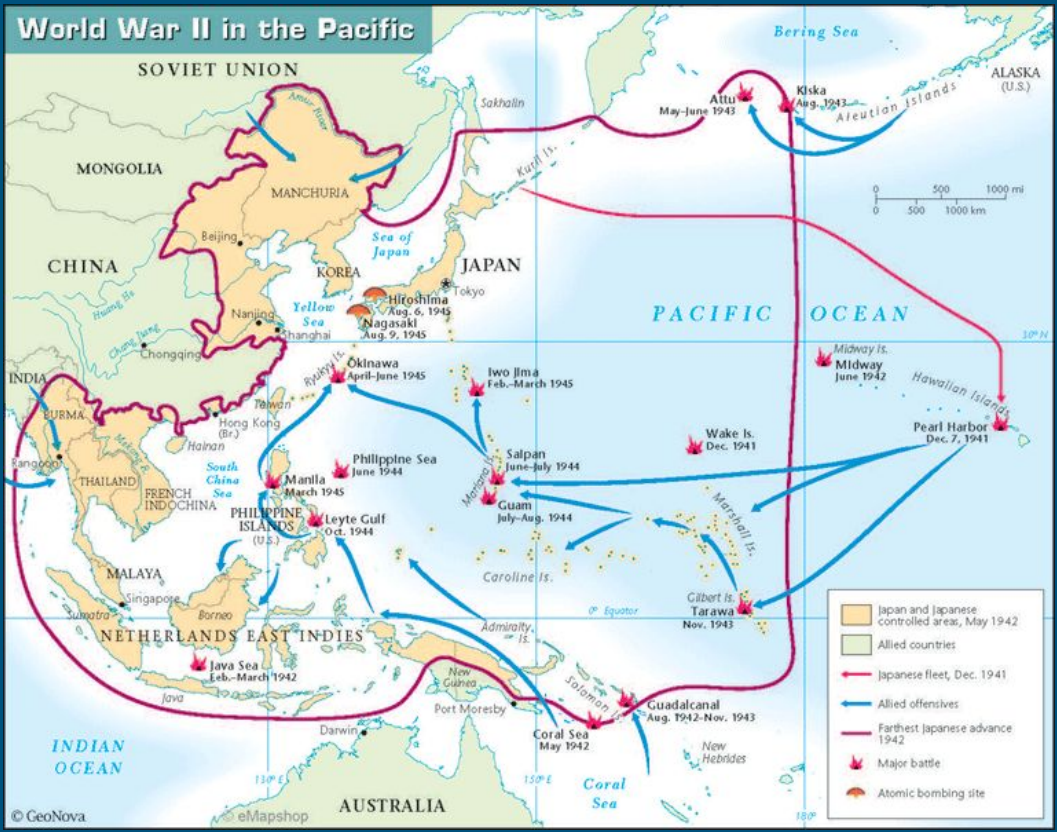
America: The Story US- D-Day (The History Channel)



The Battle of the Bulge- The History Channel



The Holocaust- Image



Map of World War II- The Pacific



Iwo Jima- The History Channel



Okinawa- The History Channel



Hiroshima- Before & After the Atomic Bomb (1945)

Discussion Questions

- a. Name and discuss three reasons for the Allied victory in World War II.
- b. What was the importance of Allied cooperation during World War II?
- c. What was the importance of the following?
 - The use of air power for bombing raids.
 - The push to secure Middle Eastern oil.
 - The use of the island-hopping strategy in the Pacific.
- d. What was the importance of the atomic bomb?
- e. What important role would America play in the development of the postwar world?