16.4 The Allied Victory

Main Idea:

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

Why it Matters Now:

The Allies’ victory in WWII set up conditions for both the Cold War and today’s post-Cold War world.

Essential Question: What were the key battles that lead to the end of WWII in Europe? In the Pacific?
Battle of the Atlantic

- After Pearl Harbor, Hitler ordered submarine raids along America’s East Coast
  - 1942: Germans sank over 680 Allied ships
- The Allies respond by organizing cargo ships into convoys for mutual protection
  - Equipped with sonar for detecting subs
  - Allies were able to find & destroy German U-boats faster than the Germans could build them
- U.S. launched shipbuilding program.
  - Early 1943: 140 ships were being produced each month
  - Mid 1943: Battle of the Atlantic had turned in the Allies favor
The Allies Plan for Victory

- After Pearl Harbor, Churchill and Roosevelt met at the White House to develop a joint war policy
  - Stalin wanted them to open a second front to relieve pressure on his troops in the east.

- The US and Britain agreed to strike first in Northern Africa and the Mediterranean instead of France, where Stalin wanted.
North African Front: Operation Torch

- November 1942: landed in Casablanca, Oran, & Algiers in North Africa
- 107,000 Allied troops – most of them American
  - Commanded by the U.S. general Dwight D. Eisenhower
  - Chased the Rommel’s Afrika Korps east
- May 1943: Afrika Korps surrendered

Message from British General Harold Alexander to Churchill:
“All enemy resistance has ceased. We are masters of the North African shores.”

Italian Campaign

- Summer 1943: Allies capture Sicily
- July 25, 1942: King Victor Emmanuel III summoned the Mussolini to his palace & stripped him of power
  - Mussolini was arrested and Italians began celebrating the end of the war
- Hitler responded by seizing control of Italy
  - Reinstalled Mussolini as its leader
  - German troops dig in
  - Took 18 months of fighting for the Allies to drive the Germans from Italy
Italian Campaign

- April 28, 1945: partisans ambushed a Nazi convoy
- Found Mussolini disguised as a German soldier in a truck
  - Was attempting to escape to Switzerland
  - He was shot & transported to Milan & hung up by the heels
Battle of Stalingrad

- Aug. 23, 1942: Hitler invades Stalingrad
  - A major industrial center
- Nov. 1942: Germans controlled 90% of the city
  - Russian winter set in
  - Soviet troops launched a counterattack
    - Trapped the Germans inside city & cut off supplies
- Feb. 2, 1943: German troops surrendered
Battle of Stalingrad

- Effects:
  - Cost the Soviets over a million soldiers
  - City was 99% destroyed
  - Germans were now on the defensive, with the Soviets pushing them westward
Life on Allied Home Fronts

- Many civilians lost their lives in Russia and Great Britain, while the US avoided invasion or bombing.
- Factories converted to wartime production, and governments often had to ration consumer goods such as gas, rubber, nylon stockings, sugar, etc.
- Almost 18 million workers, many of them women, had to work in war industries.
- Fear of the Japanese resulted in the internment of over 121,000 Japanese Americans in the west who were wrongly seen as the enemy capable of helping the enemy.
Battle of Normandy

- In England, General Eisenhower organized “Operation Overlord”
  - Hoped to take the Axis by surprise
  - Chose the lightly fortified Normandy peninsula as the focus of the assault
- Allies bombed northern France’s supply routes for a month & a half before the planned assault
  - To make reinforcement of German forces more difficult
Battle of Normandy

- **June 6, 1944: D-Day**
  - 3 divisions parachuted down behind German lines during the night
  - Allied troops fought their way ashore along the 60-mile wide stretch of beach
  - **Largest land-sea-air operation in history**
    - 156,000 troops
    - 11,000 planes & 4,000 landing craft
    - 600 warships

http://www.pbs.org/the war/detail_5360.htm
“People were yelling, screaming, dying, running on the beach, equipment was flying everywhere, men were bleeding to death, crawling, lying everywhere, firing coming from all directions. We dropped down behind anything that was the size of a golf ball.”

– Soldier Felix Branham
Battle of Normandy

Allies held the beachheads

- Landed a million troops, 567,000 tons of supplies & 170,000 vehicles in France
- July 25th: General Omar Bradley unleashed massive air & land bombardment at St.-Lo
  - Gave General Patton the gap needed to advance
- Aug. 23rd: Reached Seine River south of Paris
- Aug. 25th: Liberated Paris from 4 years of German occupation
Battle of Normandy

- By Sept. 1944: Allies freed France, Belgium, Luxembourg & much of the Netherlands

- Hitler decided to counterattack in the **Battle of the Bulge**. Although the Germans broke through the weak American defenses that were caught off guard, eventually the Allies pushed the Germans back and won. Germany retreats.

- Nov. 1944: Roosevelt elected to a 4th term...WHY?
  - News of Allied victory (D-Day)
  - American people’s desire not to “change horses in midstream”
  - New moderate running mate, Senator Harry S. Truman
Germany’s Surrender

- **March 1945:** Allies enter Germany
- **Mid April:** 3 million U.S. soldiers and 6 million Soviet troops approached Berlin
- **April 25, 1945:** Soviets surrounded the capital
- **April 29:** Hitler married his long-time companion Eva Braun
  - **April 30:** They committed suicide in an underground bunker beneath the crumbling city. Their bodies were carried outside and burned.
May 7, 1945: General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of the German military

President Roosevelt had suddenly died due to a stroke and did not see it

His successor, Harry Truman, received the news

May 9th, the surrender was officially signed in Berlin.

The U.S. and other Allied powers celebrated V-E Day

Victory in Europe Day

After 6 years of fighting, the war was over in Europe
V-E DAY

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Battle of Leyte Gulf

- Allies were still fighting the Japanese in the Pacific
- Allied victory at Guadalcanal stopped Japanese advances
  - For the rest of the war, the Japanese retreated before the counterattack of the Allies
- Oct. 1944: Allied Forces landed on the island of Leyte in the Philippines
  - General Douglass MacArthur waded ashore at Leyte with his troops

On reaching the beach, McArthur declared, “People of the Philippines, I have returned.”
Battle of Leyte Gulf

- Japanese planned to halt Allied advance
  - Destroy the U.S. fleet & prevent Allies from resupplying troops
  - Required risking almost the entire Japanese fleet

- Oct. 23rd: Enacted plan
  - Within 4 days, the Japanese Navy had lost disastrously
    - Eliminated as a fighting force in the war

- Only the Japanese Army & the **kamikaze** stood between the Allies & Japan
  - Suicide pilots
Iwo Jima

- **March 1945**: U.S. Marines took Iwo Jima
  - An island 760 miles from Tokyo
  - A month of bitter fighting and heavy losses

On February 23, 1945, during the battle for Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines raised a flag atop Mount Suribachi. It was taken down, and a second flag was raised. Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal captured this second flag-raising. Now part of U.S. Navy records, it is one of the most famous war photographs in U.S. history.

http://www.pbs.org/thewar/detail_5379.htm
Okinawa

- June 21: U.S. troops took Okinawa
- Island about 350 miles from southern Japan
- One of the bloodiest land battles of the war
- Almost 3 months of fighting
- Japanese lost over 100,000 troops and the Americans 12,000

http://www.history.com/shows/wwii-in-hd/videos/battle-okinawa#battle-okinawa
The Manhattan Project

- **1941**: Mobilization of scientists
  - Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD) created to bring scientists into the war effort
  - Made improvements in both radar & sonar
  - Pushed the development of drugs such as penicillin
  - Greatest scientific achievement: secret development of a new weapon, the atomic bomb

  - Program came to be known as the **Manhattan Project**
    - Offices were located in New York City
    - Organized by **General Leslie Groves**
The Manhattan Project

- **1942**: Work on the bomb began
  - More than 600,000 Americans were involved in the project
  - Physicist Enrico Fermi and a group of scientists successfully achieved a controlled nuclear reaction at the University of Chicago
  - General Groves had two gigantic atomic reactors built to produce uranium 235 and plutonium to fuel the explosive device
  - A group of U.S., British, & European scientists worked in a secret laboratory in New Mexico to build the actual bombs
    - Headed by J. Robert Oppenheimer
The Manhattan Project

- July 16, 1945: the first atomic bomb was detonated in an empty expanse of desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico
  - A blinding flash was visible 180 miles away
  - Followed by a deafening roar as a shock wave rolled across the desert
- One scientist on the project described the huge mushroom cloud as a red-hot elephant standing balanced on its trunk
- The bomb not only worked, it was more powerful than most had dared hope

http://www.history.com/shows/america-the-story-of-us/videos/manhattan-project#manhattan-project
• July 25, 1945: Truman ordered the military to make final plans for dropping the only two atomic bombs then in existence on Japanese targets.

• July 26: U.S. warned Japan that it faced “prompt and utter destruction” unless it surrendered at once. Japan refused.

Truman later wrote:

“The final decision of where and when to use the atomic bomb was up to me. Let there be no mistake about it. I regarded the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubt that it should be used.”
Aug, 6th: U.S. dropped an atomic bomb (*Little Boy*) over Hiroshima
- 43 seconds later, almost every building in the city collapsed into dust
- Hiroshima had ceased to exist
- Japan’s leaders hesitated to surrender

Aug 9th: a second bomb (*Fat Man*) was dropped on Nagasaki
- Leveled half the city

Sep. 2nd: Japan surrendered to General MacArthur onboard U. S. battleship *Missouri*
“Little Boy” in the pit ready for loading into the bomb bay of Enola Gay.
A burned school girl

A child with his face arms and legs burnt

A girl who lost her hair to radiation sickness

200,000 people died as a result of injuries and radiation poisoning caused by the atomic blasts

Patient's skin is burned in a pattern from a kimono worn at the time of the explosion