

# Intro Question -

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- Why aren't atomic weapons used more often?

## 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.*



## 16.4 The Allied Victory

Text pg. 506-513

# Italian Campaign

- Summer 1943: Allies capture Sicily
  - ▣ Italians were weary of war
- July 25, 1943: **Mussolini was arrested** and Italians began celebrating the end of the war.
- **Hitler responded by seizing control of Italy**
  - ▣ Reinstalled Mussolini as its leader & ordered German troops to dig in & hold firm.
  - ▣ Took 18 months of fighting for the Allies to drive the Germans from Italy

# Italian Campaign

- April 28, 1945: partisans ambushed a Nazi convoy near Lake Como, Italy
  - ▣ **Found Mussolini disguised as a German soldier in a truck**
    - Was attempting to escape to Switzerland
  - ▣ **Mussolini was shot** & transported to Milan where he was hung up by the heels in the main square

# Battle of Normandy

- Germany began retreating by 1943.
- In England, U.S. General Eisenhower organized **“Operation Overlord”** – **The recapture of France**



# Battle of Normandy

- June 6, 1944: D-Day
  - Troops parachuted down behind German lines during the night
  - **Largest land-sea-air operation in history**
    - 156,000 troops
    - 11,000 planes & 4,000 landing craft
    - 600 warships



# Battle of Normandy

- **Allies won the beaches**
- Landed a million troops, 567,000 tons of supplies & 170,000 vehicles in France
- **Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>: Liberated Paris** from 4 years of German occupation



# Battle of Normandy

- In a desperate gamble, Hitler decided to counterattack in the **Battle of the Bulge**, which was Hitler's last attempt to win. Although the Germans broke through the weak American defenses that were caught off guard, eventually the Allies pushed the Germans back and won. **Germany is defeated.**
- 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
- April 25, 1945: the Soviets surrounded the capital
- April 29: Hitler married his long-time companion Eva Braun
  - April 30: **Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide** in an underground bunker beneath the crumbling city. Their bodies were carried outside and burned.



# Germany's Surrender

- 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 was **Harry Truman**.
  - ▣ **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, 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

# The Pacific



- Allies were still fighting the Japanese in the Pacific
- Oct. 1944: Allied Forces take **the island of Leyte in the Philippines**
  - ▣ **Led by General Douglass MacArthur**
- **March 1945: U.S. Marines took Iwo Jima**

# The Manhattan Project

- ▣ Secret development of a new weapon, **the atomic bomb** in program came to be know as the **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.

- ▣ **The Goal – To end the war quickly, saving as many American lives as possible.**

Truman later wrote:

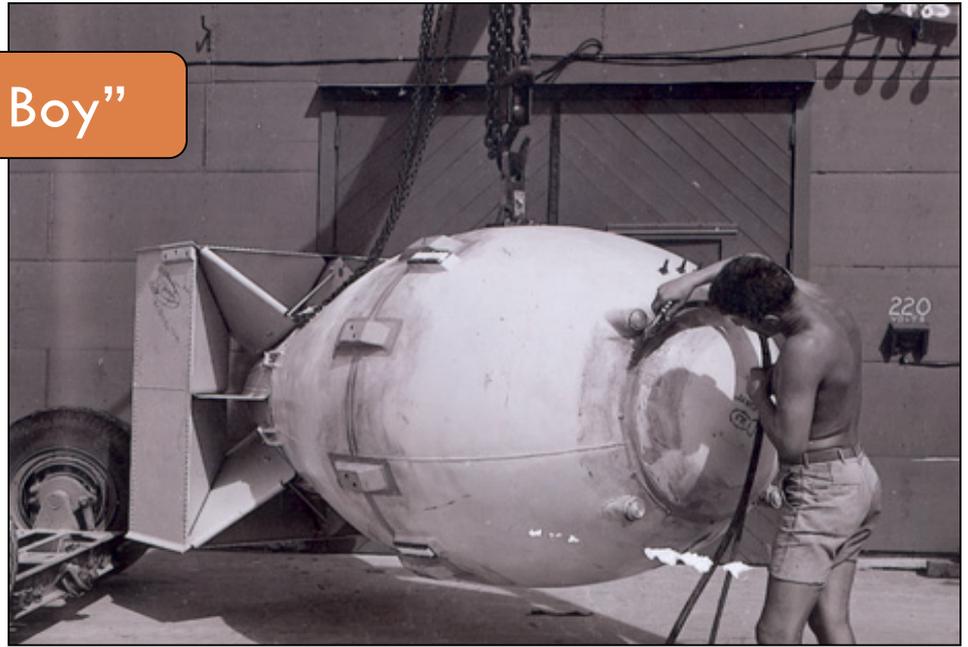
*“The final decision of where and when to use the atomic bomb was up to me. Let there be no mistake about it. I regarded the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubt that it should be used.”*

# Atomic Bomb

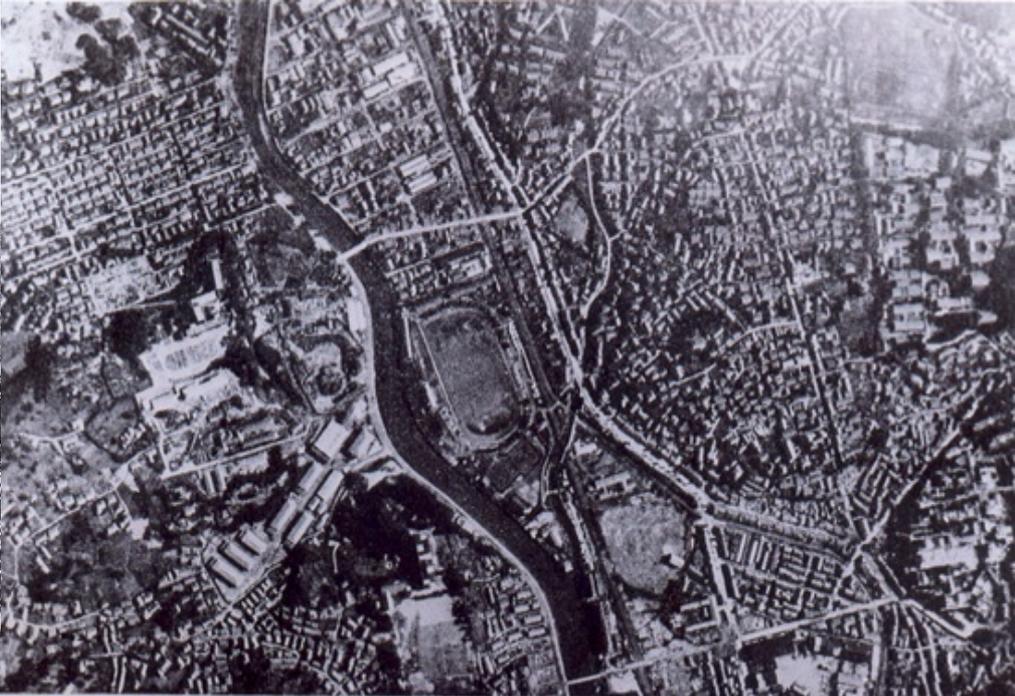
- Aug, 6<sup>th</sup>: U.S. dropped an atomic bomb (**Little Boy**) over **Hiroshima**
  - ▣ 43 seconds later, almost every building in the city collapsed into dust
  - ▣ Hiroshima had ceased to exist
  - ▣ Japan's leaders hesitated to surrender
- Aug 9<sup>th</sup>: a second bomb (**Fat Man**) **was dropped on Nagasaki**
  - ▣ Levelled half the city
- **Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Japan surrendered** to General MacArthur onboard U. S. battleship *Missouri*



“Little Boy”



"Little Boy" in the pit ready for loading into the bomb bay of Enola Gay.



**Before and after photo of Nagasaki**

