

## Key Questions for Discussion:

What challenges did the two-front war present to the Allied War effort? What strategy did the United States employ when fighting the Japanese in the Pacific?

Evaluate President Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb. Was his decision appropriate or inappropriate?

What role did the United States play in bringing World War II to an end? How important was the addition of U.S. troops to the Allied efforts in ending the war?

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## Peace at Great Cost

### Topic Essentials: Outlines

## European Theater of War

### Germany

- 1939: blitzkrieg attack on Poland
- 1940: forced evacuation of French, British at Dunkirk
- 1940: Battle of Britain—massive bombing attack
- 1941: invaded Soviet Union, played out until end of war

### U.S.

- Drawn into war in 1941
- Involved in war in Pacific, Europe

### U.S., British forces

- 1942: Operation Torch—defeated Germans in northern Africa
- 1943: pushed into Italy
- 1943–1944: pushed by Soviets to open western front

### 1944: "D-Day"

- Operation Overlord: Invasion of French coast
- British, U.S. pushed inland
- Helped Soviets in east

### Battle of Stalingrad

- Deep in Soviet Union, key turning point
- Soviets outlasted, pushed back Germans

### 1944–1945

- Soviets pushed Germans back from east
- British, U.S. pushed Germans back from west
- May 1945: Germans forced to surrender
- 2-front war hurt Germans

## Pacific Theater of War

### Pearl Harbor

- Japanese attack created outcry, push for war in U.S.

- Scientists successfully developed atomic bomb
  - Left Truman with choice: invade Japan or use super weapon
- 1945: Hiroshima, Nagasaki
- Dropped 1st bomb on Hiroshima, then Nagasaki
  - Japan surrendered unconditionally
  - Bombs created devastation, ended war without invasion
  - Use of bomb demonstration to Soviet Union

## Impact of the Big Three

1941: Atlantic Charter (1941)

- Drawn up by Churchill, FDR
- Laid out goals for peace after WWII
- Became basis for United Nations

1943: Casablanca Conference

- Churchill, FDR met again
- Agreed on unconditional German surrender to end war

1943: Tehran Conference

- 1st true meeting of Big Three
- British, U.S. to open front on west, relieve Soviets: D-Day

1944: Yalta Conference

- Big Three met again
- Discussed plans for post-war Germany
- Soviets promised to assist in invasion of Japan
- Significance: Plans for Germany important in Cold War

1945: Potsdam Conference

- New Big Three: Truman replaced FDR, Churchill voted out
- Agreed on Soviet occupation of postwar Eastern Europe
- Agreed on reorganization of Germany into 4 zones
- Outlined terms of surrender for Japan

Relationship of Big Three

- Important to Allied efforts in WWII
  - Set stage for Cold War
  - Took place of official peace agreements
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- Thrust U.S. into 2 wars in Europe, Pacific
- Pacific
- Japan gained control of Philippines
  - Douglas MacArthur vowed to return
  - Japan seized rest of western Pacific
  - Battle of Midway (1942): U.S. crippled Japanese fleet
- U.S. island-hopping campaign
- Strategy to regain Pacific island-by-island
  - Started with aerial, battleship bombardment
  - Marines sent ashore to remove Japanese soldiers
  - Difficult conditions, Japanese propaganda made civilians fear U.S.
  - U.S. retook Philippines in 1944
- Iwo Jima, Okinawa
- Strategically important to weaken Japanese
  - Iwo Jima: image of Marines raising U.S. flag
  - Okinawa: kamikaze activity
  - U.S. secured upper hand
- End for Japanese
- 2 choices: nuclear bomb or massive invasion of Japan
  - U.S. chose to use atomic bombs on Hiroshima, Nagasaki
  - Japanese army surrendered August 1945

## From D-Day to Hiroshima

By 1942

- Germany fully engaged with Soviet Union on eastern front
- Soviets wanted U.S., British to engage Germans on western front
- Germany set up Festung Europa: defenses along coast

D-Day

- Launched June 6, 1944
- British, U.S., Canadian troops landed at Normandy

Allies pushed inland

- Worked with special forces to secure objectives
- Liberated Paris
- Moved into Belgium: Battle of the Bulge
- Pushed into Germany, met with Soviets

Importance of D-Day

- Soviets closed in from east, U.S., British from west
- Hitler committed suicide, Germany surrendered
- Success key to end of WWII in Europe

Manhattan Project

- Secret project