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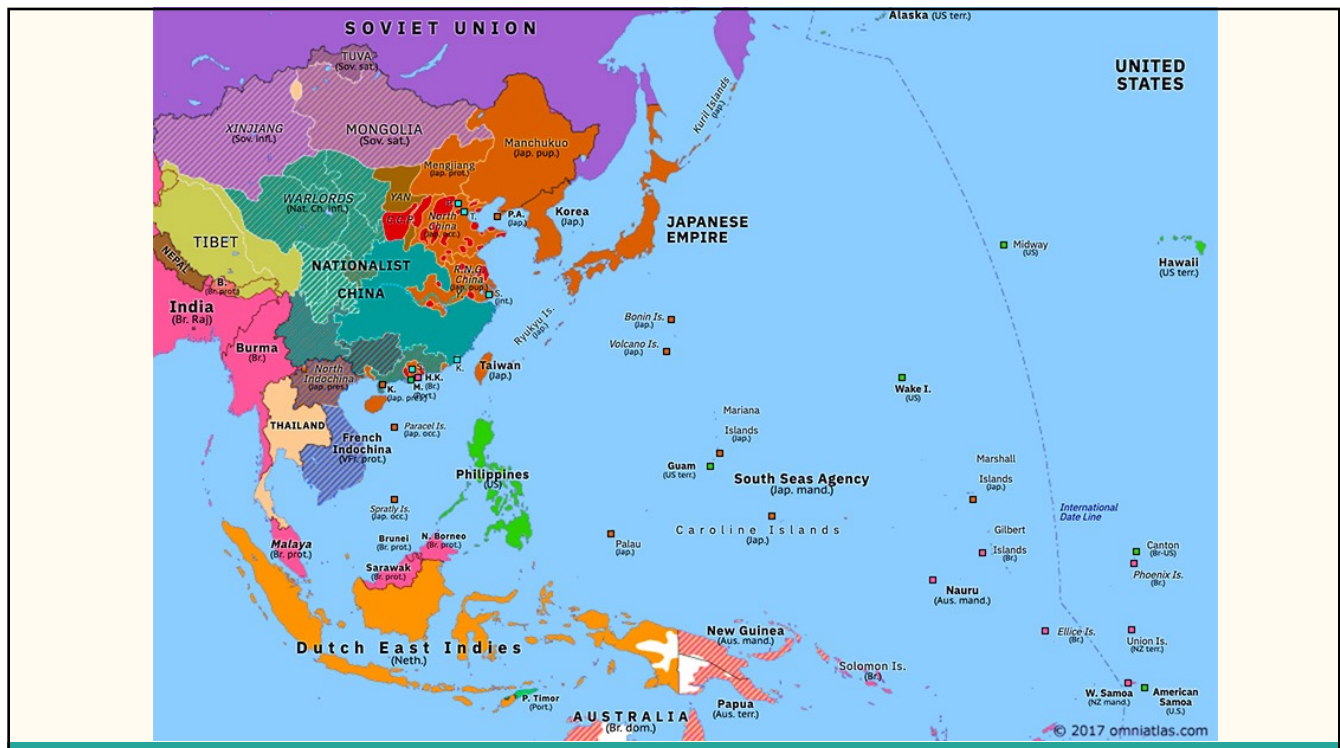
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Japan

- Before attacking Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japan was an imperialist nation expanding its empire in Asia and the Pacific, which led to increasing conflict with the United States.
- Japan invaded Manchuria (northeastern Asia) in 1931 for raw materials like oil and rubber.
- They formed an alliance with Germany and Italy in the Axis powers in 1940.



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Japan

- Naturally, the Japanese aggression in China (July 1937) and expansion were seen as a threat to American interests in the Pacific.
- In response to Japan's invasion of French Indochina (modern-day Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) in 1940, the U.S. imposed a complete oil embargo, which significantly limited Japan's access to oil.
- The U.S. provided military and financial aid to China through the Lend-Lease program, and strengthened its military presence in the Pacific.



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Japan

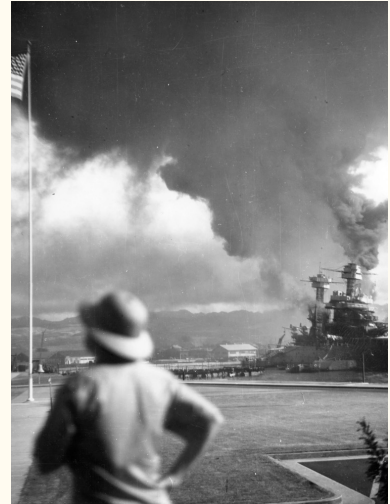
- Facing a severe shortage of oil, which threatened Japan's ability to continue its war with China, Japan decided to seize the oil fields in the Dutch East Indies by force.
- Military leaders concluded that this would inevitably provoke an American military response. Hence, Japan planned a preventative strike on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor to cripple American naval power and temporarily secure their expansion. Japan planned the attack in early 1941.



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Attack on Pearl Harbor

- On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, using aircraft launched from six aircraft carriers.
- A two-wave assault of 353 planes, including torpedo planes, dive bombers, and fighters, targeted U.S. battleships and airfields.
- The first wave began just before 8:00 a.m., targeted airfields to reduce the ability of U.S. fighters to respond, and then attacked the warships moored on "Battleship Row." The second wave began about 15 minutes after the first departed.



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Attack on Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor Losses	
Personnel	2,403 killed (including 68 civilians); 1,178 wounded
USS Arizona	1,177 crew members killed; 334 survived the attack
USS Oklahoma	Lost 429 lives
Ships	All eight U.S. battleships were sunk or severely damaged, but all except USS Arizona were repaired.
Aircraft	188 aircraft were destroyed; 159 were damaged

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Attack on Pearl Harbor

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through absolute victory.

~Franklin D. Roosevelt

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Attack on Pearl Harbor

Silver Lining for America

Aircraft Carriers	The USS <i>Enterprise</i> , USS <i>Lexington</i> , and USS <i>Saratoga</i> were all out at sea and thus survived.
Fuel Oil Storage Facilities	Japan's destruction of the oil depots would have forced the U.S. Pacific Fleet to retreat from the Pacific.
Dry docks and repair facilities	The dry docks and repair yards were left untouched. If destroyed, damaged ships moved to mainland.
Submarine facilities	The Japanese did not attack the submarine base, which would have crippled the U.S. submarine force and its ability to conduct reconnaissance.

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Japanese Mentality

- The mentality of Japan during World War II was shaped by a potent mix of militarism, extreme nationalism, and the resurgence of Bushido or the Samurai code.
- Bushido was a modern, militaristic interpretation of the Samuri code. The code emphasized loyalty, courage, and honor, but was adapted to demand absolute obedience to the Emperor and the state.
- It fostered a culture of extreme bravery, self-sacrifice, and a willingness to die for one's country, seen in tactics like banzai charges and kamikaze attacks, and the abhorrence of surrender, even leading to ritualistic suicide in cases of defeat. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the imperial Japanese government and military leaders interpreted and codified Bushido as a universal moral framework for all citizens.

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Japanese Mentality

- **Glorification of death:** Bushido glorified death in battle as the ultimate act of honor, viewing it as a higher ideal than survival.
- **Total War and aggression:** The ideology was used to justify Japan's aggressive expansionism, framing it as a sacred mission to achieve dominance in Asia. Japan's nationalism led it to believe that Japan had a special mission to dominate Asia and a resentment of racial slurs and Western dominance.



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Japanese Mentality

- **Unquestioning obedience:** The code fostered a strict hierarchy demanding absolute loyalty and obedience to superiors, which contributed to the military's discipline and ferocity.
- **Rejection of surrender:** The concept of "death before dishonor" was so strong that surrender was seen as the worst disgrace, leading to inhumane treatment of victims of armed conflict, including prisoners of war, soldiers, and civilians.



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Japanese Mentality

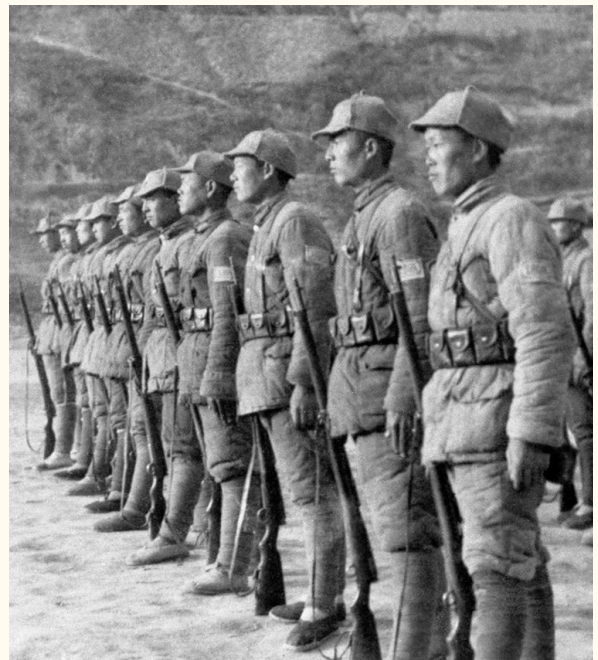
- **Banzai charges:** American and Allied forces faced suicidal, "banzai" charges where Japanese soldiers would knowingly charge into overwhelming enemy fire, a direct result of the emphasis on death before defeat.
- **Kamikaze attacks:** Kamikaze pilots willingly flew their planes into Allied ships, believing it to be a noble sacrifice for the Emperor and country.



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Japanese Mentality

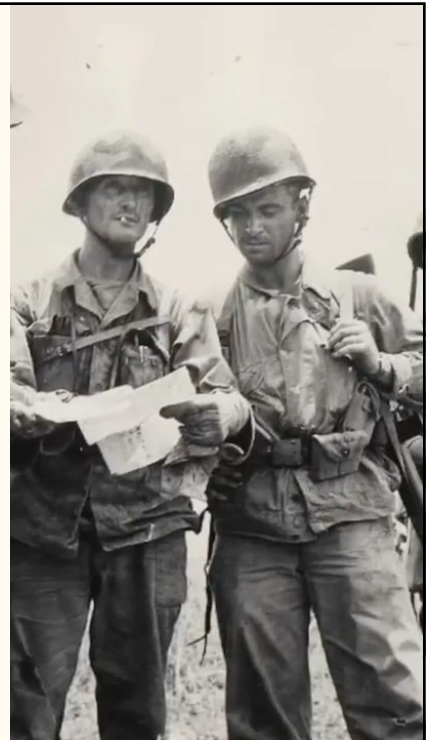
- **Ritualistic Suicide:** Commanders and soldiers would commit ritualistic suicide (seppuku) rather than face capture or admit defeat, with some commanding officers committing suicide and leading their troops to do the same.
- **War crimes:** The ideology contributed to extreme violence and war crimes, such as the Nanking Massacre and the Bataan Death March, because it devalued the lives of enemy combatants and civilians.



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Japanese Mentality

- The radically different fanatical code of honor took a psychological and physical toll on American troops.
- American soldiers faced brutal combat, with a high percentage of POWs dying in Japanese captivity.
- The Japanese military's interpretation of Bushido led to extreme brutality, torture, and neglect of prisoners.
- This resulted in a staggering death rate of approximately 40% for American POWs in Japanese hands, compared to about 1% in German POW camps.



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Japanese Mentality

- For example, the **Bataan Death March** was a brutal forced march of approximately 75,000 to 76,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war (POWs) conducted by the Imperial Japanese Army in April 1942, following the Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during World War II.
- The event, which involved a march of 65 miles and another 7 – 9 mile rail journey in cramped unsanitary railcars, included severe physical abuse, starvation, and thousands of deaths that took 5 - 10 days to complete. Thousands died in Camp O'Donnell, a Japanese prison camp in Capas, a Philippine military base.



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Japanese Mentality

- American soldiers perceived the Japanese as a different kind of enemy, one driven by a code that prioritized honor and sacrifice above all else, including life.
- This was compounded by Japanese propaganda that dehumanized Americans and Pacific Islanders, further fueling the ferocity of the conflict.
- The intensity of this fighting was a stark contrast to other theaters of the war, forcing American forces to adapt their strategies and mindsets.



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Japanese Mentality

“Do not live in shame as a prisoner. Die, and leave no ignominious crime behind you.”

~Line from the Field Service Code,
issued by General Hideki Tojo in 1941

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Pacific Theater Overview

- The Pacific theater of World War II was a major theater of the war fought primarily between Japan and the Allies. It was led by the United States from 1941 to 1945.
- It began with Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and other Allied Territories, leading to a rapid Japanese expansion across the Pacific.
- The turning point was the Battle of Midway in June 1942, after which the Allies adopted an "island-hopping" strategy.
- The war concluded with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Japan's unconditional surrender on September 2, 1945.

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Pacific Theater Overview

- According to the National WWII Museum, the Pacific theater of WWII resulted in an estimated 25 million deaths, with approximately 6 million military casualties and 19 million civilian deaths.
- Major powers like China, Japan, and the United States suffered heavy losses:
 - Japan had an estimated 3 million deaths;
 - The United States had over 110,000 deaths and over 250,000 wounded;
 - China experienced 4 million military and 18 million civilian deaths.

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Battle of the Coral Sea

- The Battle of the Coral Sea was fought in May 1942 between the US/Australia and Japan, was the first naval battle where ships never sighted each other, as all attacks were carried out by carrier-based aircraft.
- Though Japan achieved a tactical victory by sinking the USS *Lexington*, it was a strategic Allied success as it halted the Japanese invasion of Port Moresby, which kept Australia's supply lines open and secured the South Pacific for the Allies.
- The battle was a major turning point in the Pacific theater and had a direct impact on the following Battle of Midway, as the damaged Japanese carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* were unable to participate.

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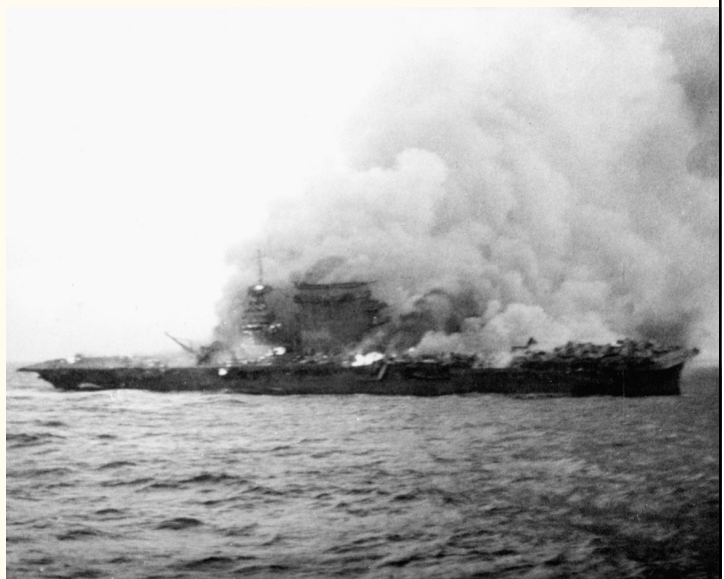
Battle of the Coral Sea



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The USS *Lexington*

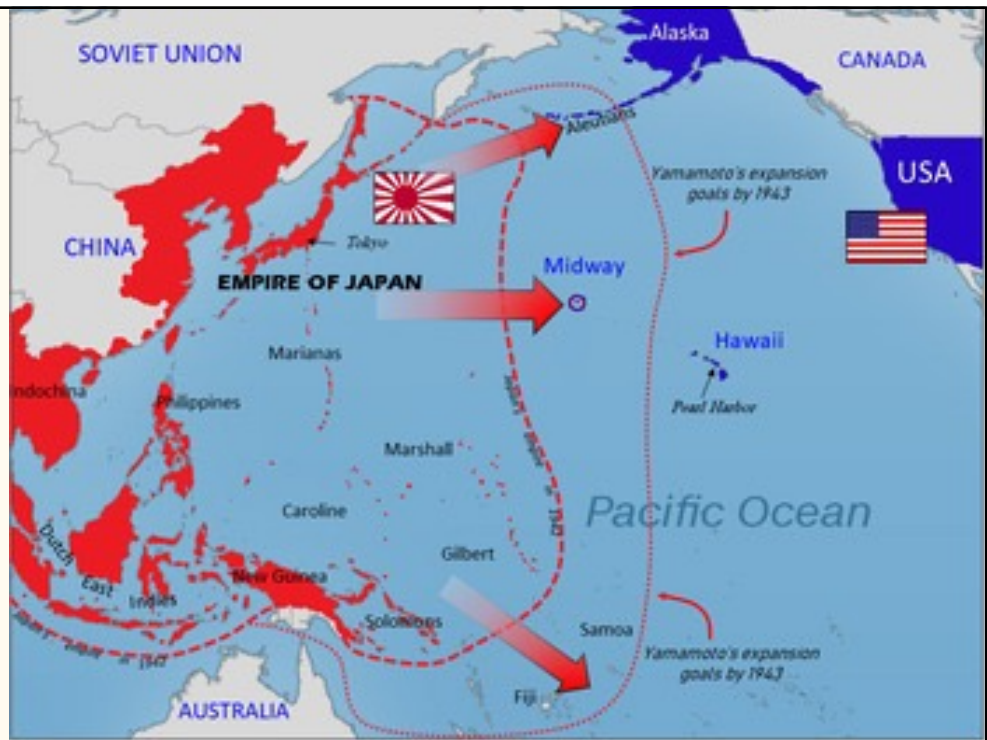
- The USS *Lexington* was hit by Japanese torpedoes and bombs.
- Following internal explosions and out of control fires, the crew was evacuated.
- The ship was scuttled by the USS *Phelps* with five torpedoes to prevent it from being captured by the enemy. It was the first U.S. Navy aircraft lost in World War II.



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Island of Midway

- The island of Midway Is located north of Hawaii.
- Consists of three islands, Sand, Eastern, and Spit.
- U.S. took possession in 1867; Navy in 1903.



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Battle of Midway

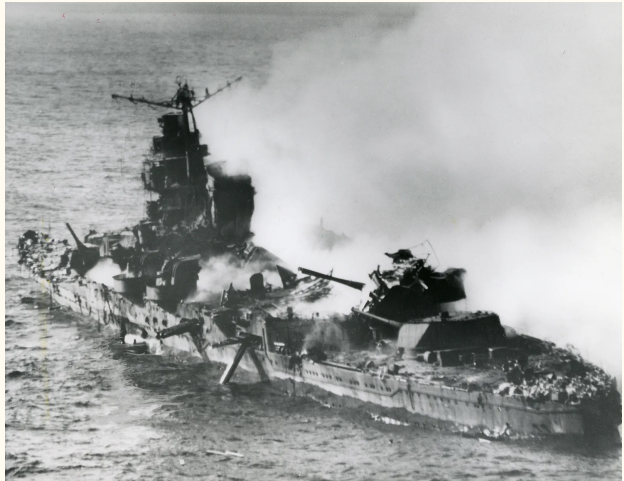
- The Battle of Midway was a decisive naval battle in the Pacific theater of World War II.
- It was fought from June 4–7, 1942, resulting in a major American victory that marked a turning point in the war.



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Battle of Midway

- The U.S. Navy, aided by intelligence that broke Japanese codes, defeated the Japanese Imperial Navy near Midway Atoll, sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers and crippling their naval air power.
- This victory stopped Japan's expansion in the Pacific and allowed the U.S. to take the offensive.



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Battle of Midway

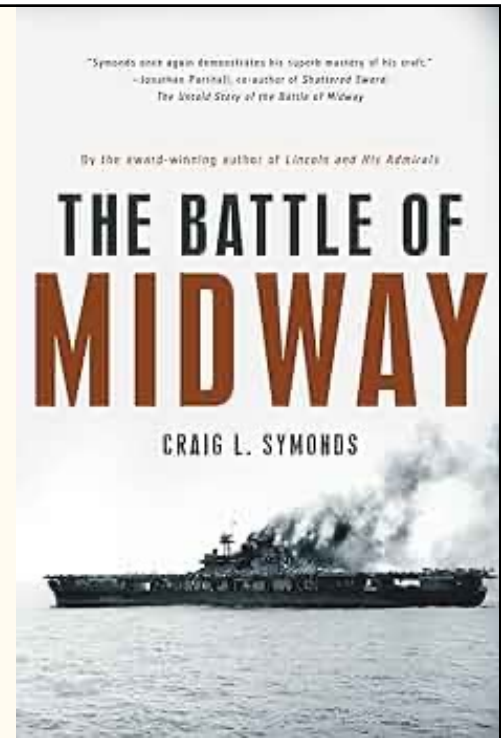
- The Japanese wanted to capture Midway Atoll to use as a base for future attacks on Hawaii and to lure the U.S. Pacific Fleet into a decisive battle, hoping to destroy the carriers and force the U.S. to negotiate an end to the war.
- American forces sank four of Japan's six carriers. The Japanese lost some of their best pilots. The U.S. lost one carrier and destroyer.



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Battle of Midway

- **Turning point:** The Battle of Midway is considered the turning point of the war in the Pacific because it halted Japanese expansion and shifted the balance of naval power.
- **Strategic shift:** Following the battle, the U.S. was able to take the offensive and began its advance toward Japan.



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Island Hopping

- **Capture key islands:** Following the Battle of Midway, the goal was to seize islands that could be equipped with airstrips and used as military bases, which would help bring B-29 bombers within range of Japan.
- **Bypass fortified islands:** Instead of attacking every fortified Japanese position, U.S. forces would "hop over" them to capture lightly defended islands that could support the next advance.



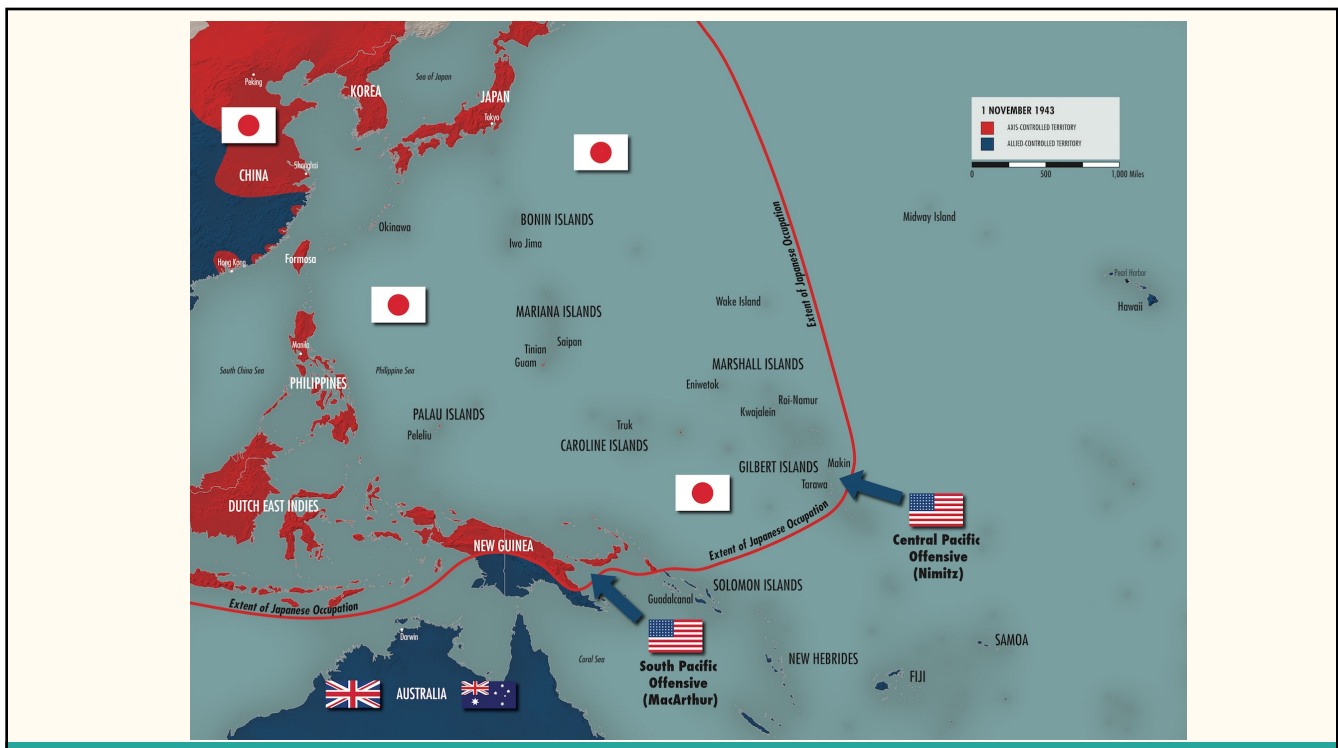
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Island Hopping

- **Isolate and neutralize strongholds:** The bypassed, heavily defended islands were cut off from supplies, weakening them over time from starvation and disease, a tactic sometimes described as "withering on the vine."
- **Advance across two fronts:** The campaign was fought on two main fronts: Nimitz's forces advanced through the central Pacific, while MacArthur's forces moved through the southwestern Pacific.



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Guadalcanal Campaign

- Guadalcanal was the location of the Battle of Guadalcanal, a pivotal and grueling six-month campaign fought in 1942-1943 between Allied and Japanese forces.
- It was one of the first major Allied offensives and marked a turning point in the Pacific War. The island is known for its tropical rainforests and mountainous interior.



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Guadalcanal Campaign

- **Guadalcanal Campaign** (August 1942 – February 1943): The first major Allied offensive against Japanese forces, involving intense land, sea, and air battles to secure key airfields and prevent the expansion of Japanese influence.
- It was a brutal and strategically significant conflict, marked by harsh jungle terrain, a tropical climate, and high casualties from both combat and disease. 7,000 Americans and over 30,000 Japanese lives were lost.



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Central Pacific Campaigns

- **Battle of Tarawa** (November 1943): A costly battle in the Gilbert Islands where U.S. forces suffered heavy casualties but ultimately secured the island as a stepping-stone for future operations.
- Betio island is only 2 miles long and 800 yards wide, total area of about 0.59 miles. U.S. forces secured the island, but the battle was exceptionally costly, with 1,009 Marines killed and 2,101 wounded. 4,500 Japanese killed with only 17 soldiers surviving.



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Central Pacific Campaigns

- **Saipan and the Battle of the Philippine Sea (June–July 1944):** The capture of Saipan put the Japanese mainland in range of U.S. bombers.
- The subsequent naval battle, often called the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," wherein the U.S. Navy used superior technology and training to decisively defeat the Japanese navy, destroyed over 400 Japanese aircraft while losing far fewer of its own.



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Southern and Western Pacific Campaigns

- **Peleliu** (September–November 1944): A strategically important but highly costly battle that secured airbases for the upcoming liberation of the Philippines.
- **Battle of Leyte Gulf** (October 1944): The largest naval battle in history, where the U.S. decisively defeated the Japanese fleet, effectively ending its capacity for large-scale naval operations.



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Southern and Western Pacific Campaigns

- The objective of the **Battle of Leyte Gulf** was to liberate the Philippines from Japanese occupation.
- The battle included the first organized use of kamikaze attacks by the Japanese and decisively weakened Japan's ability to continue the war. Its navy was rendered ineffective for the rest of the war.
- General MacArthur waded ashore and famously announced, "People of the Philippines, I have returned!"



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Southern and Western Pacific Campaigns

- The **Battle of Manila** was a brutal, month-long urban battle in February and March 1945 that resulted in the liberation of the Philippine capital from Japanese occupation by American and Filipino forces.
- It was the largest urban combat of the Pacific theater marked by fierce room-to-room fighting, and resulted in the destruction of most of the city and the deaths of over 100,000 Filipino civilians.



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Southern and Western Pacific Campaigns

- **Destruction of Manila:** The city was left in ruins, with most of its infrastructure and cultural heritage destroyed.
- **Precedent for future conflict:** The experience in Manila raised concerns among American leaders about the potential for high casualties in future urban combat, which influenced planning for the eventual invasion of Japan.



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Final Assaults on Japanese

- **Battle of Iwo Jima** (February–March 1945): A brutal battle for a small island that provided a critical airbase for American bombers and was the site of iconic U.S. flag-raising.
- **Battle of Okinawa** (April–June 1945): The largest amphibious assault in the Pacific, it was a major and bloody campaign fought on the island closest to Japan. It was planned as the final staging point for the invasion of the Japanese home islands.



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Battle of Iwo Jima

If hell looked like anything, it looked like Iwo Jima. You were either going to kill or be killed.

~World at War Documentary

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46

Battle of Iwo Jima

- **Battle of Iwo Jima:** American forces invaded the small volcanic island to capture its airfields, which were strategically vital for the ongoing bombing campaign against mainland Japan during World War II.
- After months of preliminary air and naval bombardment, approximately 70,000 U.S. Marines landed on the black volcanic ash beaches on February 19, 1945.



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Battle of Iwo Jima

- The initial lack of resistance was a trap; once the beaches were crowded with men and equipment, the Japanese unleashed a devastating barrage of mortar and machine-gun fire.
- Progress was slow and arduous, with Marines having to root out defenders from caves and strongholds in brutal, close-quarters combat using flamethrowers and grenades.



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Battle of Iwo Jima

- **The Iconic Flag Raising:** On February 23, 1945, Marines captured Mount Suribachi, the island's highest point, and raised an American flag.
- A second, larger flag-raising a short while later was captured by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal in an image that became one of the most iconic of the war, symbolizing American perseverance and sacrifice.



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Battle of Iwo Jima

- **U.S. Casualties:** Nearly 7,000 Marines and Navy personnel were killed and another 20,000 wounded. Japanese defenders dug into fortified positions, leading to high American casualties fighting “yard by yard” through volcanic terrain.
- **Japanese Casualties:** The Japanese forces suffered even higher losses, with over 18,000 killed and only 216 captured during the 36-day battle.



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Battle of Iwo Jima

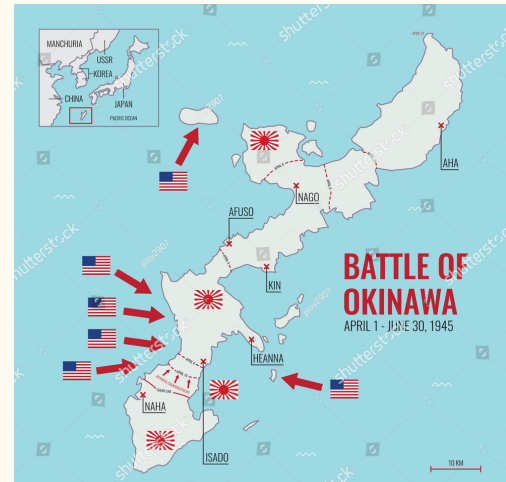
“Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

~Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.
Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet

52

Battle of Okinawa

- The **Battle of Okinawa** (April 1 to June 22, 1945) was the last and bloodiest major battle of the Pacific theater during World War II, involving the largest amphibious assault of the conflict.
- Codenamed "Operation Iceberg," the goal was to capture Okinawa, a large island in the Ryukyu chain, to use as a staging point for the planned invasion of mainland Japan.



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Battle of Okinawa

- **Initial Landing:** On April 1, 1945 (Easter Sunday), over 60,000 U.S. Army and Marine Corps troops of the Tenth Army landed on the Hagushi beaches on Okinawa's west coast, facing minimal initial resistance.
- As with Iwo Jima, the Japanese had deliberately withdrawn to heavily fortified inland positions, primarily the elaborate cave and tunnel systems to negate the effects of American naval and air bombardment.



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Battle of Okinawa

- **Fierce Ground Combat:** The American advance soon stalled in the rugged, hilly terrain of southern Okinawa.
- The fighting became a series of bloody, close-quarters battles for control of ridges and fortified positions, such as Kakazu Ridge and Hacksaw Ridge.
- Heavy monsoon rains in May turned the battlefield into a quagmire, further impeding progress and creating horrific conditions.



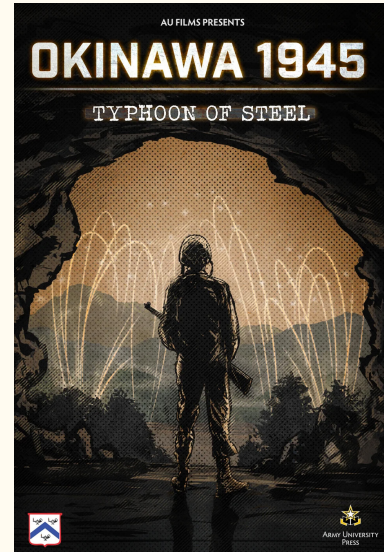
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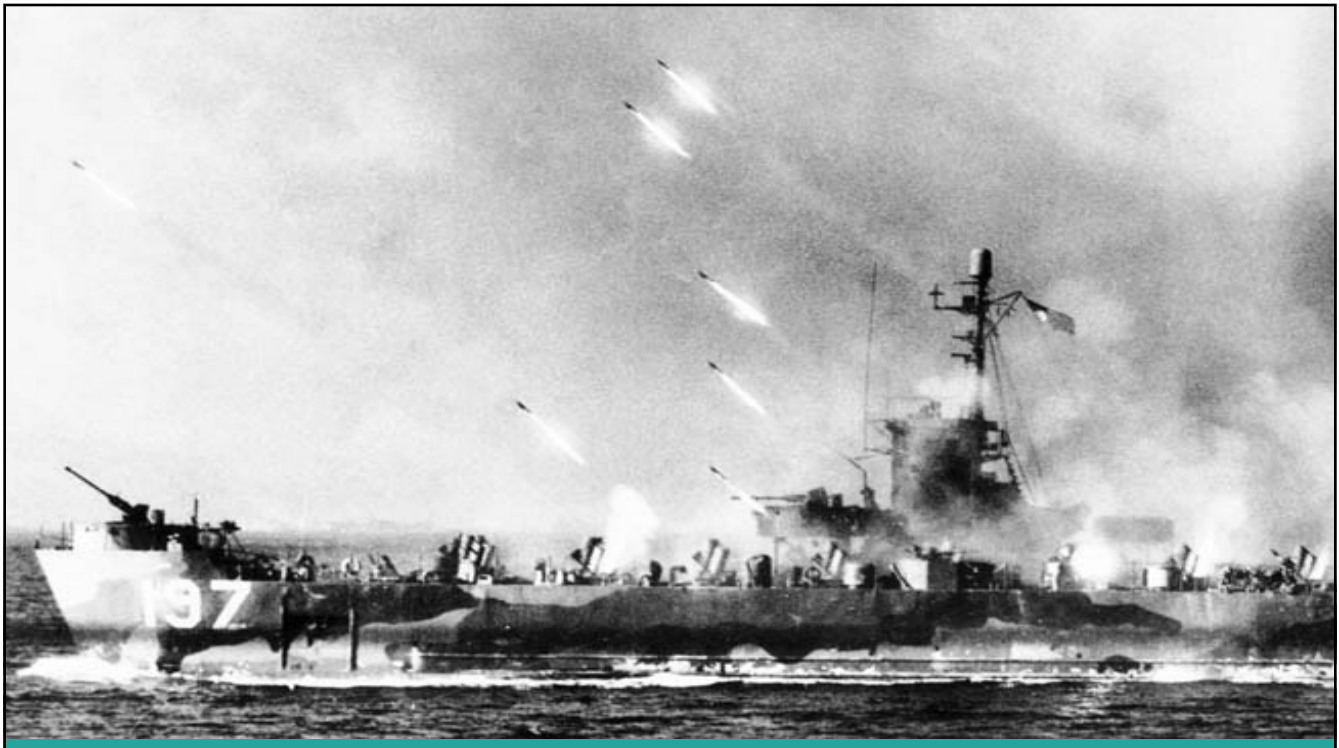
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Battle of Okinawa

- **Naval and Air Battles ("Typhoon of Steel"):** Offshore, the U.S. Navy faced an onslaught of nearly 1,500 Japanese *kamikaze* suicide attacks, a new, desperate tactic to sink the invasion fleet.
- These attacks, which earned the battle the nickname "Typhoon of Steel," sank 36 American ships and damaged hundreds more, resulting in nearly 5,000 U.S. Navy deaths—the Navy's highest single-battle loss in the war.



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Battle of Okinawa

- The battle resulted in staggering casualties:
- **American casualties:** Nearly 50,000 casualties; over 12,000 killed.
- **Japanese casualties:** An estimated 110,000 – 115,000 Japanese soldiers were killed, with few taken prisoner.
- **Okinawan civilian deaths:** Estimates range from 40,000 to over 150,000, a large portion of the island's population.



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Battle of Okinawa

- The sheer brutality and high casualties at Okinawa solidified U.S. military and political leaders' fears about a potential invasion of mainland Japan, which was predicted to cost millions of additional lives.
- This grim assessment was a significant factor in President Harry S. Truman's decision to use atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, which brought a swift end to the war without a land invasion of Japan.



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Firebombing of Tokyo

- The U.S. air raids on Tokyo began on November 24, 1944. They were different from the later, more devastating attacks. These were daytime, high-altitude raids that targeted industrial areas.
- In early 1945, Major General Curtis LeMay, commander of the XXI Bomber Command, changed tactics from high-altitude precision bombing to low-altitude, nighttime area bombing using incendiary bombs (napalm-carrying M69 cluster bombs) to break civilian morale.



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Firebombing of Tokyo

- Operation Meetinghouse (March 9-10, 1945): This raid involved 334 B-29s, flying at low altitudes, dropping 1,665 tons of bombs on the densely populated, working-class Shitamachi district.
- The target area was highly susceptible due to the prevalence of wood-and-paper buildings, and strong natural winds fanned the numerous small fires into a massive firestorm destroying approximately 16 square miles of the Tokyo, consuming over 267,000 buildings and over 100,000 killed.



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Firebombing of Tokyo

- **High Casualties:** The death toll is commonly estimated at around 100,000 people, with over a million left homeless. These figures were higher than the initial casualties from the single atomic bombings of Hiroshima or Nagasaki.
- The raid was deemed a military success by U.S. planners, effectively crippling a significant portion of Tokyo's industrial output and leading to the continued firebombing of over 60 other Japanese cities until the end of the war in August 1945.



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Firebombing of Tokyo

- **Major Debate:** The bombing campaign against Tokyo and other Japanese cities remains a subject of debate regarding the morality of deliberately targeting civilian populations.
- Survivors have established memorials and centers, such as the Center of the Tokyo Raids and War Damage, to ensure the events are remembered.



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Atomic Bomb

- President Harry S. Truman made the decision to use atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.
- The stated primary objective was to force Japan's unconditional surrender and end World War II as quickly as possible, thereby avoiding a costly land invasion of the Japanese mainland.



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Atomic Bomb

Key Factors in the Decision

Projected Casualties of Invasion

A U.S. military land invasion of Japan could have resulted in hundreds of thousands of Americans and potentially millions of Japanese military and civilian deaths.

Prompt Surrender

Truman and his advisors hoped the immense shock value of the new weapon would convince Japan's leaders to surrender immediately, a goal that traditional bombing and a naval blockade had not yet achieved.

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Atomic Bomb

Key Factors in the Decision

Lack of Alternatives	The Interim Committee, a high-level advisory group of scientists and government officials, recommended using the bomb against Japan without specific warning after concluding that no demonstration on an unpopulated area would be convincing enough to force surrender.
Political Considerations	There were also post-war geopolitical considerations, as the U.S. wanted to demonstrate its military power to the world, particularly the Soviet Union, and limit Soviet influence in Asia by securing Japan's surrender before the Soviets advanced further into the region.

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Atomic Bomb

Key Factors in the Decision

Public Opinion	The American public, weary of a long war and angered by the Pearl Harbor attack and Japanese atrocities, largely supported the use of the bomb to achieve total victory and unconditional surrender.
Historical Debate	The decision remains one of the most debated and controversial in history, with opponents questioning whether the bomb was necessary and supporters arguing it was the only viable way to end the war.

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Atomic Bomb

- On August 6, 1945, at 8:15 am, the first bomb, "Little Boy," was dropped on Hiroshima, killing an estimated 70,000 to 80,000 people instantly.
- Developed as part of the Manhattan project, the gun-type bomb was delivered by the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* and detonated with the force of about 15 kilotons of TNT.
- The total death toll surpassed 100,000 by the end of the year due to injuries and radiation effects.



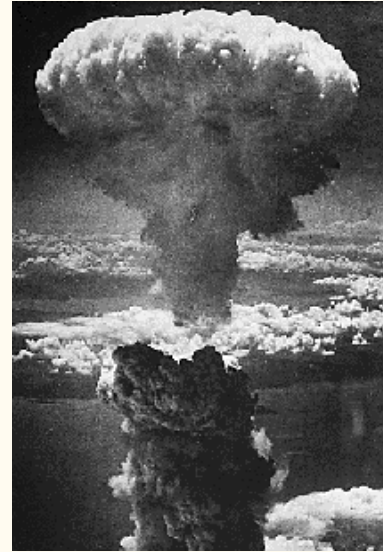
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70

Atomic Bomb

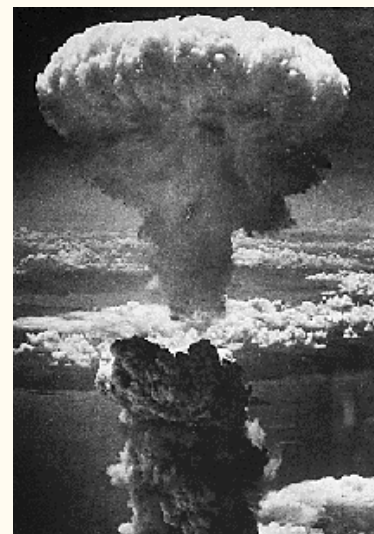
- The second atomic bomb, nicknamed "Fat Man," was dropped on the city of Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945 at 11:02 a.m. It was a plutonium-based implosion-type weapon with a yield of 21 kilotons, deployed by the B-29 bomber *Bockscar*.
- Nagasaki was the secondary target after the primary target, Kokura, was obscured by clouds, leading to widespread devastation and contributing to Japan's unconditional surrender later that month.



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Atomic Bomb

- "Fat Man" was a more complex and powerful plutonium-based implosion-style weapon, weighing nearly 10,000 pounds (4.5 tons). It had an explosive yield equivalent to approximately 21 kilotons of TNT, which was more powerful than the "Little Boy" bomb used on Hiroshima.
- An estimated 40,000 people were killed instantly. By the end of 1945, the death toll reached over 70,000 people.



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Reasons for Atomic Bomb

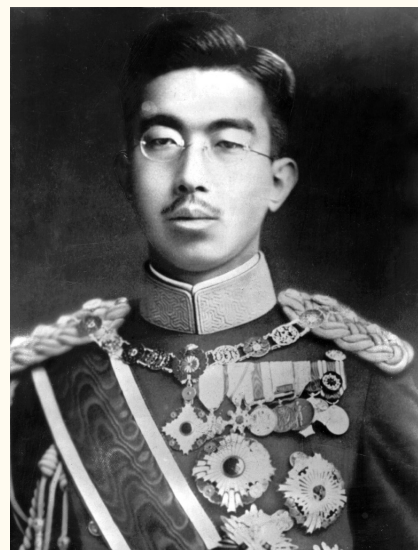
- **Prevent a costly invasion:** U.S. military planners anticipated a land invasion of Japan (Operation Downfall) would result in hundreds of thousands of American and millions of Japanese casualties, due to the fierce Japanese resistance, which included the mobilization of civilians.
- The U.S. wanted to avoid an "Okinawa from one end of Japan to another" scenario.



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Reasons for Atomic Bomb

- **Force Unconditional Surrender:** Japan's military government was deadlocked and refused to accept the Allies' demand for unconditional surrender as outlined in the Potsdam Declaration, hoping to negotiate terms that would preserve their government and military structure.
- The shock of the new weapons was intended to break this political stalemate and force an immediate acceptance of the terms.



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Reasons for Atomic Bomb

- **Speedy Conclusion of the War:** The war in Europe had ended in May 1945, but fighting continued in the Pacific.
- U.S. leaders were determined to end the war as quickly as possible to prevent further loss of life in ongoing conventional bombing campaigns, a naval blockade, and continued fighting in occupied territories.



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Reasons for Atomic Bomb

- **Demonstration of Power (Atomic Diplomacy):** A significant, though often debated, factor was the desire to display the immense power of the new weapon to the Soviet Union, the emerging Cold War rival. Using the bomb served as a warning to deter Soviet expansion in the postwar world and give the U.S. diplomatic leverage.
- **Justify the Cost:** The top-secret Manhattan Project had cost nearly \$2 billion (a massive sum at the time), and there was internal and political pressure to demonstrate the value of this massive investment.



Key: The atomic bombings were the “least bad option” that ultimately saved lives on both sides by preventing a brutal and prolonged invasion.

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Reasons Against Atomic Bomb

- **Immoral and inhumane:** The bombings resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, raising profound ethical questions about targeting non-combatants and violating humanitarian norms.
- **Key:** It is intrinsically evil to kill innocent human beings as the act is seen as inherently wrong regardless of intentions or circumstances. The action itself is never justifiable, and good intentions or beneficial outcomes cannot make it morally good.



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Reasons Against Atomic Bomb

- **Japan was already defeated:** Many historians and some military leaders at the time, including Admiral William Leahy and General Eisenhower, argued that Japan was militarily defeated and the use of the bombs was unnecessary to win the war.
- They believed a naval blockade and continued conventional bombing would have forced surrender.



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Reasons Against Atomic Bomb

- **Alternatives to the bombing:** Critics suggested several alternatives could have ended the war without the use of the atomic bombs:
 - Modifying the "unconditional surrender" demand to allow Japan to retain its emperor, which was a key condition for the Japanese leadership.
 - Waiting for the Soviet Union to enter the war against Japan, an event that many analysts believed would be the decisive shock needed for surrender.
 - A demonstration of the bomb in an unpopulated area to showcase its destructive power without mass casualties.

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Reasons Against Atomic Bomb

- **Prompting the Cold War/Nuclear Arms Race:** Some argue the bombs were used primarily to demonstrate U.S. power to the Soviet Union, rather than solely to defeat Japan. This action is seen as having precipitated the nuclear arms race, making the world a more dangerous place with the ongoing threat of nuclear warfare.
- **Insufficient time between bombings:** Dropping the second bomb on Nagasaki just three days after Hiroshima was seen by some as not providing enough time for the Japanese government to assess the destruction and consider surrender, especially given the communication technology of the time.
- **Elizabeth Anscombe:** She contends that it is always wrong to intentionally kill innocent civilians, a principle she felt was violated by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She argued that the ends (ending the war) did not justify the means (murdering innocents) (contra utilitarianism).

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Japanese Surrender

"I made efforts to swallow tears and to protect the species of Japan."

~Emperor Hirohito

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Key Events to Japanese Surrender

- **Potsdam Declaration:** Allied powers issued an ultimatum on July 28, 1945, demanding the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces.
- **Atomic bombings:** The United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.
- **Soviet declaration of war:** The Soviet Union declared war on Japan on August 8 and invaded Japanese-occupied Manchuria the next day.



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Key Events to Japanese Surrender

- **August 15, 1945:** Emperor Hirohito announced the surrender to the Japanese people in a radio broadcast known as the Jewel Voice Broadcast.
- **September 2, 1945:** The formal signing of the Instrument of Surrender took place on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. The ceremony officially marked the end of WWII.
- **Surrender signatories:** Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and General Yoshijiro Umezu signed the document on behalf of Japan, while General Douglas MacArthur accepted it on behalf of the Allied Powers.



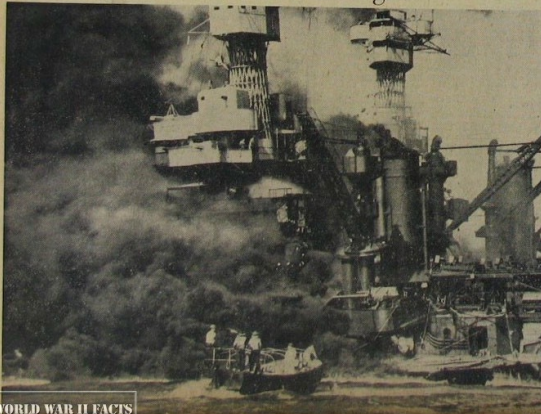
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JAPANESE SURRENDER; WORLD WAR II ENDS

Pearl Harbor Is Avenged!



WORLD WAR II FACTS
www.worldwar2facts.org

AMERICAN POWER OVERWHELMS FOE

Washington, Aug. 14.—President Truman announced at 7 p. m. (Youngstown time) Japanese acceptance of surrender terms.

They will be accepted by General Douglas MacArthur when arrangements can be completed.

Mr. Truman read the formal message relayed from Emperor Hirohito through the Swiss government in which the Japanese ruler pledged the surrender on the terms laid down by the Big Three conference at Potsdam.

President Truman made this statement: "I have received this afternoon a message from the Japanese government in reply to the message forwarded to that government by the Secretary of State on August 11.

No Qualifications

"I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam declaration which specifies the unconditional surrender of Japan.

"In this reply there is no qualification.

"Arrangements are now being made for the formal signing of surrender terms at the earliest possible moment.

"General Douglas MacArthur has been appointed the supreme Allied commander to receive the Japanese surrender.

"Great Britain, Russia and China will be represented

This message expressed Hirohito's "extreme concern" at the "calamity caused by the United States."

White House aids emphasized that on the basis of previously laid plans V-J Day could not come until the latter part of the week. They laid heavy stress on the fact that Japan actually will not have surrendered until responsible Japanese leaders have signed on the dotted line.

There was good reason to believe that had the acceptance not come through today the atomic bomb campaign would have been resumed and one hint of this came in a report from Guam that Superfortresses were again thundering northward against enemy industrial targets. The B-29s were used to make the bomb attacks and had been out of action since Saturday.

And, this was not all that was in store for the enemy. President Truman, it was reported by military authorities, had counted on the use of newly developed weapons in America's secret arsenal to shock and knock Japan out of the fighting at an early date.

The Potsdam demand for unconditional surrender would reduce Japan to her four main islands. The later Allied note would allow Emperor Hirohito to remain as a monarch committed to promulgate any edicts which the victorious Allies handed to him.

Tells of Nipponese Weeping
Dorel, semi-official Japanese news agency, described a scene of weeping Nipponese gathered before the Imperial Palace.

"Aug. 14, 1945, the Imperial decision was awaited in Japan."

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Victory Celebrations

- **Victory in Europe Day (VE Day):** May 8, 1945, millions poured into the streets across Europe and the United States to dance, sing, and rejoice. Major events included crowds in London and New York's Times Square.
- **Victory over Japan (V-J Day):** August 14 and September 2, 1945, there were widespread celebrations, which included public gatherings, street parties, and other forms of public rejoicing.



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Victory Celebrations

- **Alfred Eisenstaedt** snapped an iconic photo of a U.S. Navy sailor kissing a woman in a white dress (dental assistant) amid the jubilant crowds in Times Square to celebrate the end of World War II.
- The photo, published in *Life* magazine, became an instant symbol of victory and the end of the war.
- We owe an extraordinary debt of gratitude to our military soldiers who served in the war, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives, as well as civilians who contributed through prayers, rationing, and working in war industries.



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Future Class

- Ending the War & Lessons Learned

December 9

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