



Key People:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt – president of the USA during WWII. Elected to 4 terms

President Harry S. Truman – replaced FDR, authorized the use of nuclear weapons, integrated the military

General Dwight D. Eisenhower – American general of the European front

General Douglas MacArthur – American general of the Pacific front

Tuskegee Airmen – group of African-American pilots who flew with distinction during WWII, nearly ½ were from NC

Rosie The Riveter – became a symbol for the war effort on the home front, particularly for women in factories

NC's Contribution To The War:

Played key role in the production of bedding, parachutes, shipbuilding & cigarettes, Sent large number of citizens to fight in the war & opened military training bases, Many women and African Americans filled the job vacancies in NC during the war, **Camp Lejeune** – opening in 1942 to train Marines on the ground, **Cherry Point** – established to train Marine airmen, **Fort Bragg** – expanded their artillery training into the sand hills and became one of the largest in the country

On The Home Front:

The Government created programs to help returning veterans with education (GI Bill), health care and low cost homes. As Americans went to war and work, the Great Depression ends and the economy begins to grow again. Japanese-Americans faced discrimination and abuse in America and consequently forced into internment camps. American inventions/advancements such as: the atomic bomb, radar, ciphers, aircraft carriers, tanks, jeeps, subs greatly influenced the outcome of the war.

Events Leading Up To Hitler Invading Poland in 1939:

Germany believed lands given to Poland after WWI belonged to them, Attacking Poland would draw their closest allies (England & France) into a war, Germany had an alliance with USSR and agreed to split Poland into 2 further getting even with UK & France, Germany needed to split the strength and main force of Allied military action

The USA & The Lend-Lease Act:

Created March 11, 1941 by President FDR to allow America to declare neutrality while still helping our allies overseas, Permitted the President of the United States to sell, transfer, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of military goods and monies to any country whose defense of America the President deemed vital.

Why Different Countries Entered The War:

Mussolini/Italy – Border issues in the Mediterranean and alliance with Germany, control of all Mediterranean lands

Hirohito/Japan – Already at war with China, German alliance offered support for that war, control of Pacific region

Hitler/Germany – Revenge for WWI & reestablishment of German dominance in Europe

Roosevelt/USA – Attacked by the Empire of Japan

Stalin/USSR – Attacked by Germany in Operation Barbarossa

Churchill/England - Treaty with Poland & France (Germany), treaty with Ethiopia (Italy)



Significant Events & Military Engagements:

Nazi invasion of Poland – Germany starts WWII by invading, League of Nations fails to react, Sept 1, 1939

Nazi invasion of France – Capture of Paris, revenge for WWI, recapture Alsace/Lorraine regions, force England into war, 12/5/40

Battle of Britain – Germany begins air raids and missile bombing of England from across the English Channel, showed Hitler that England was not going to just surrender and that a long war may be at hand, 1940

Operation Barbarossa – Germany's secret plan to attack USSR, June 21, 1941

Attack on Pearl Harbor – Japan's surprise attack on a US military base in Hawaii entering the USA into WWII, 12/7/1941

Battle of Midway – Considered the turning point in the war with Japan, huge USA naval victory, allowed for "Island Hopping" to begin June 4-7, 1942

Bataan Death March – Japan moves 75,000 POW's by foot killing many along the way, forced death march, 1942

2nd Battle of El Alamein – German forces are defeated in Northern Africa cutting off their oil supply, Oct-Nov 1942

Battle of Stalingrad – 1st major defeat of German troops on land while attempting to invade USSR, Aug 1942-Feb 1943

D-Day/Operation Overlord – The allied invasion of Europe, June 6, 1944

Battle of the Bulge – Crushing Allied victory which is also Germany's last major attempt to win WWII, Dec.-Jan. 1945

Battle of Okinawa – America's final push to get close enough to Japan that our planes could start bombing missions, considered the final blow for any chance of victory Japan may have, April-June 1945

Battle of Iwo Jima – Japan's "unsinkable aircraft carrier Island", USA had to take to keep Japanese long range bombers from hitting our airfields in the pacific region, Feb-March 1945

Hiroshima & Nagasaki – 1st use of atomic weapons used on these Japanese cities, Fat Man & Little Boy, Enola Gay

VJ Day – Victory over Japan Day Sept 2, 1945 and **VE Day** – Victory in Europe Day May 8, 1945

Hitler's Final Solution: After taking over Poland, **Adolf Hitler** had another three and a half million Jews under his control. For a time there was talk of deporting all Jews to Madagascar or keeping them confined to a small area in Poland. The number of Jews under Hitler's control grew as German forces advanced deeper into the Soviet Union. Over 2,000,000 Jews lived in the Soviet Union and most of them lived in the areas under German occupation. It was while the SS were rounding up the Jews in the Soviet Union that Hitler decided on what became known as the Final Solution. In 1942, **Joseph Goebbels** wrote in his diary about Hitler's plans: "The Fuehrer expressed his determination to clean up the Jews in Europe. Not much will remain of the Jews. About 60% of them will have to be liquidated; only about 40% can be used for forced labor." Special units from the SS were set up under the control of **Heinrich Himmler** to carry out this extermination. **Josef Mengele** was allowed to conduct the most horrible of medical atrocities on live patients, targeting twins and pregnant women. It was decided to make the extermination of the Jews a systematically organized operation. Extermination camps were established in the east that had the capacity to kill large numbers including Balzec (15,000 a day), Sobibor (20,000), Treblinka (25,000) and Majdanek (25,000). It has been estimated that between 1942 and 1945 around 18 million Jews were sent to extermination camps. Of these, historians have estimated that between 5,000,000 & 10,000,000 were killed.

The Nuremberg Trials: The USA, USSR & England had agreed to punish those responsible for war-crimes during World War II. Some 200 German war crimes defendants were tried at Nuremberg. The prosecution entered indictments against 24 major war criminals and six "criminal organizations" - the leadership of the Nazi party, the SS and SD, the Gestapo, the SA and the High Command of the army. The indictments were for: Conspiracy to commit crimes against peace, Planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression, War crimes & Crimes against humanity. List of convictions can be found at:

http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/nu/Nuremberg_Trials

The Spread of Communism: At the end of WWII, Turkey, Greece, Japan and Germany are utterly destroyed. They are very vulnerable to the impending advancements of Stalin and communism. The USA offers to rebuild these countries physically and



financially to gain their allegiance. President Truman issues the Truman Doctrine which states "where ever communism goes, America will go to stop it".