

World War II Summary

At the end of World War I in November of 1918 Germany surrendered. A year after World War I ended delegates met in Versailles to come up with a treaty. Britain, France and the United States had the majority of the say in the matter. Germany, Italy, and Japan had their own opinions on the treaty. In the 1920's nations pushed for democracy and freedom. While others moved in the opposite direction. They pushed for dictatorship.

Following World War I Germany was a democracy. Adolf Hitler led the Nazi party. The Nazi's were a group of National Socialist German Workers. Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany in January of 1933. The Spanish Civil War started in 1936 and ended in 1939. It was fought between the Nationalists and Spain's democratic Republican government.

In Chicago on October 5, 1937 President Franklin Roosevelt gave a speech about Japan's aggression. Japan continued to control a lot of china. Many people criticized Roosevelt's speech. Germany started to buildup their military. Hitler's military was strong enough to conquer. Czechoslovakia was a country that Germany took over. The way that Hitler would conquer a country was he would first send in an air raid. After that he would send in tanks to wipe out what was left. Finally he would send out the infantry, just to let them watch the place.

The Axis powers were Germany, Italy, Japan and some other nations. While the Allies consisted of Britain, France, and other nations including the Soviet Union, United States, and China. The smaller nations fell to Hitler's wrath.

Winston Churchill became the prime minister of Great Britain. It only took 35 days for Hitler and his military too take over France. France later became separated into two sections. The north side controlled by the Germans and the south side controlled by the French.

The next country that Hitler targeted was Britain. Winston Churchill was the prime minister at the time. He no longer followed the policy of appeasement. He gave many speeches about Nazi aggression to the people of Britain.

In December of 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The very next day after the bombing the United States declared war on Japan. Since we declared war on Japan, their allies declared war on us. When the attack was over the death toll was brutal. There were about 2,500 people who lost their lives that day. After the attack American's did more for their country like joining the military and other organizations. There was also a women's Army Auxiliary Corps established. It gave women jobs in the Army.

The Japanese had better technology and more advanced weapons than we did. In the Pacific, the Japanese conquered. They were able to transport supplies using the Pacific.

World War II was fought by land, sea and also in the sky. The battle of Stalingrad ended in January of 1943. The German troops surrendered. Approximately only 5,000 German prisoners survived and went back to Germany. In 1941 Germany attacked Russia. They did not conquer the Soviet Union however.

Over in North Africa the British were fighting the Italians and Germans. In October of 1942, British soldiers won a major battle. German General Erwin Rommel was the leader of the Afrika Korps. Rommel and the Afrika Korps didn't have many supplies, so they were forced to fall back.

On June 6, 1944 the Allies stormed Germany. This came to be known as D-Day. The allies sent out more than 11,000 planes. The first of the troops arrived at 6:30 A.M. But before they could land they first had to cross the English Channel. The English Channel had choppy waters

and tides. Omaha was one of the beaches that was assigned to the American forces. It was heavily armed. The beaches included cliffs overlooking the beaches with German troops on them. The Germans had also placed mines on the beaches.

After D-Day, the Germans were fighting a two-front war. The Soviets were moving in from the east. While the Allies were on the move in the west. The Germans decided to counterattack. It was known as the Battle of the Bulge, it nearly succeeded.

American forces in the Pacific have still been advancing. It was a life and death struggle to take island after island. On the island Iwo Jima was the most brutal battle. The battle was lasted from February till March of 1945. The Marines faced 23,000 casualties.

Another thing that occurred during World War II was the Holocaust. The Holocaust was when the Nazi's killed all of the Jewish people in their control. It wasn't only Jewish people the Nazi's killed. It was anyone who they thought was inferior. The first Nazi concentration camps opened up in 1933. That's also when Hitler became Chancellor.

After World War II ended in 1945, the idea about a postwar world was in effect. The borders of Poland shifted to the west. Following World War I, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles. They also did not join the League of Nations. That is my summary of World War II.