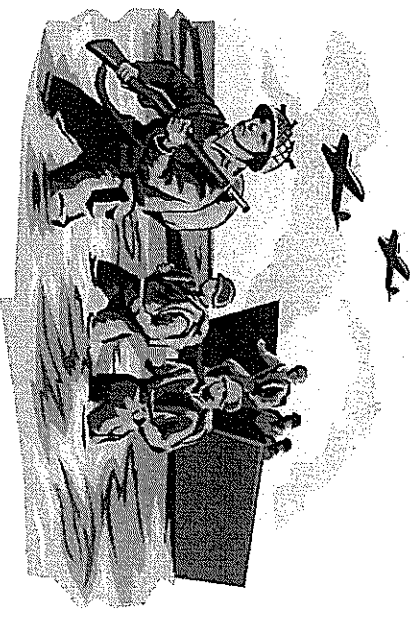


The end of WWII

- May 7, 1945: Germany surrendered
- May 8, 1945: VE Day (Victory in Europe)
- August 6, 1945: Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima (70,000 instantly dead)
- August 9, 1945: Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki (40,000 instantly dead)
- August 10, 1945: Emperor Hirohito forced Japan to surrender
- September 2, 1945: peace treaty signed with Japan



Wartime Conferences

ATLANTIC CHARTER

- Restoration of self determination for those who had lost it
- Access to world trade & resources for all
- Freedom from fear and want

TEHRAN CONFERENCE

- Confirmed Normandy invasion (D-Day)
- Stalin agreed to attack Germany from the east
- Discussed the occupation & demilitarization of postwar Germany
- Plans made for a new international organization to replace League of Nations

YALTA CONFERENCE

- Discussed fate of Poland & Eastern Europe after the war
- Disarmament & division of Germany into occupational zones
- Organization of voting arrangements for the United Nations
- Conditions for Soviet Union's entrance into the war against Japan

POTSDAM CONFERENCE

- Germany to be disarmed, demilitarized & **denazified**
- Plans made to try war criminals
- USSR awarded reparations from its occupation zone in Germany
- Changed boundaries in Eastern Europe

AXIS LEADERS WERE TRIED FOR:

Most of those who were tried were found guilty

Guilty = _____

What did this prove?

Nuremberg Trials

BIRTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS

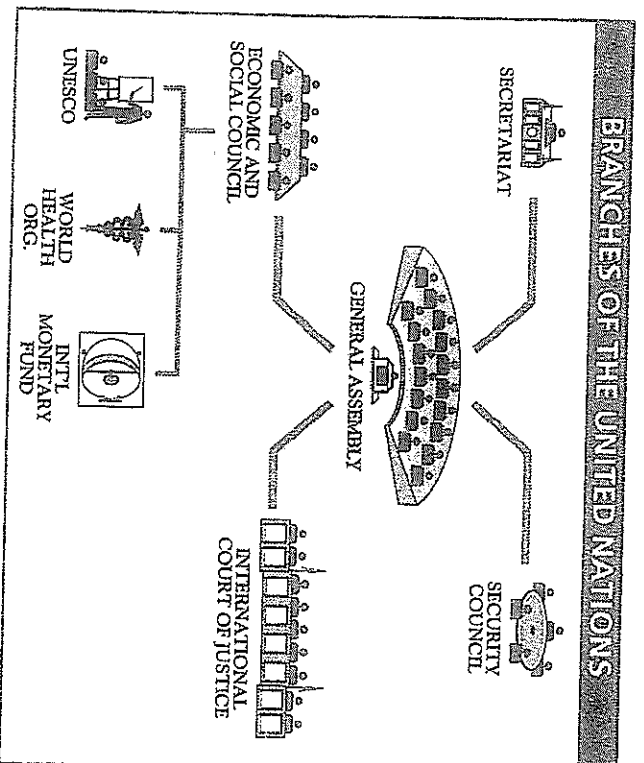
Despite the failure of the League of Nations, the victorious allies launched a new international peace-keeping organization in 1945, known as the United Nations (U.N.). Today, the U.N. has more than 180 members — almost every country in the world.

AIMS

The U.N. Charter seeks to maintain peace in the world, while encouraging friendship and cooperation among nations. Members agree to give up the use of force in disputes, except in self-defense. The U.N. also works to eliminate hunger, disease, and ignorance, and promotes human rights and economic development.

ORGANIZATION

To ensure the participation of the major powers, the Charter gave the United States, Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and China permanent membership on the Security Council. Each permanent member has veto power over U.N. military actions. There are also ten elected temporary members, without veto power. The Security Council is responsible for deterring aggression. It can apply economic sanctions or military power to resolve disputes. Since its founding, the U.N. has sent forces to engage in “peacekeeping” operations in such places as Korea, Cyprus, Congo, and Iraq.



Every member state has one vote in the General Assembly. The Assembly votes on resolutions and makes recommendations to the Security Council. A majority of its members are developing nations. The Economic and Social Council cooperates with the General Assembly and specialized agencies like UNESCO (U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) and WHO (World Health Organization) to promote economic and social development, world health, and education.

Name: _____

Period: _____

Why the Atomic Bomb was Needed or Justified:

"Sixteen hours ago an American airplane dropped one bomb on [] and destroyed its usefulness to the enemy. That bomb had more than two thousand times the blast power of the British 'Grand Slam' which is the largest bomb ever yet used in the history of warfare.

The Japanese began the war from the air at Pearl Harbor. They have been repaid many fold. And the end is not yet. With this bomb we have now added a new and revolutionary

increase in destruction to supplement the growing power of our armed forces. In their present form these bombs are now in production and even more powerful forms are in development.

It is an atomic bomb. It is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East."

- *President Harry Truman, Press Release by the White House, August 6, 1945*

"The only use for an atomic bomb is to keep somebody else from using one."

- *George Wald*

1. The Japanese had demonstrated near-fanatical resistance, fighting to almost the last man on Pacific islands, committing mass suicide on Saipan and unleashing kamikaze attacks at Okinawa. Fire bombing had killed 100,000 in Tokyo with no discernible political effect. Only the atomic bomb could jolt Japan's leadership to surrender.
2. With only two bombs ready (and a third on the way by late August 1945) it was too risky to "waste" one in a demonstration over an unpopulated area.
3. An invasion of Japan would have caused casualties on both sides that could easily have exceeded the toll at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
4. The two targeted cities would have been firebombed anyway.
5. Immediate use of the bomb convinced the world of its horror and prevented future use when nuclear stockpiles were far larger.
6. The bomb's use impressed the Soviet Union and halted the war quickly enough that the USSR did not demand joint occupation of Japan.

Name: _____

Period: _____

Questions:

1. What does President Harry Truman have to say about the use of the Atomic Bomb on the Japanese Empire?

2. What does George Wald's quote mean?

3. What do YOU think the two strongest factors were in the decision for the United States to drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan?

Name: _____

Period: _____

Why the Atomic Bomb was NOT Needed, or Unjustified:

"I think it made it very difficult for us to take the position after the war that we wanted to get rid of atomic bombs because it would be immoral to use them against the civilian population. We lost the moral argument with which, right after the war, we might have perhaps gotten rid of the bomb.

Let me say only this much to the moral issue involved: Suppose Germany had developed two bombs before we had any bombs. And suppose Germany had dropped one bomb, say, on Rochester and the other on Buffalo, and then having run out of bombs she would have lost the war. Can anyone doubt that we would then have defined the dropping of atomic bombs on cities as a war crime, and that we would have sentenced the Germans who were guilty of this crime to death at Nuremberg and hanged them?

But, again, don't misunderstand me. The only conclusion we can draw is that governments acting in a crisis are guided by questions of expediency, and moral considerations are given very little weight, and that America is no different from any other nation in this respect."

- *Dr. Leo Szilard, a Hungarian physicist who helped launch the A-bomb project*

"The Atom Bomb brought an empty victory to the Allied aims but it resulted for the time being in destroying the soul of Japan."

- *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi*

1. Japan was ready to call it quits anyway. More than 60 of its cities had been destroyed by conventional bombing, the home islands were being blockaded by the American Navy, and the Soviet Union entered the war by attacking Japanese troops in Manchuria.
2. American refusal to modify its "unconditional surrender" demand to allow the Japanese to keep their emperor needlessly prolonged Japan's resistance.
3. A demonstration explosion over Tokyo harbor would have convinced Japan's leaders to quit without killing many people.
4. Even if Hiroshima was necessary, the U.S. did not give enough time for word to filter out of its devastation before bombing Nagasaki.
5. The bomb was used partly to justify the \$2 billion spent on its development.
6. The two cities were of limited military value. Civilians outnumbered troops in Hiroshima five or six to one.
7. Japanese lives were sacrificed simply for power politics between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
8. Conventional firebombing would have caused as much significant damage without making the U.S. the first nation to use nuclear weapons.

Name: _____

Period: _____

Questions:

1. What does Dr. Szliard have to say about the dropping of the Atomic Bomb? Was he for, or opposed to the decision? Why or why not?

2. What do you think Gandhi is saying in his quote? What is the meaning?

3. What do YOU think the two strongest factors were in opposition to the decision for the United States to drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan?

WWII Review Sheet

1. The main purpose for Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931 was to acquire _____.
2. List THREE examples of human rights violations that we discussed in class.

3. What were the causes of WWII? (3 As)

4. What geographic factors contributed most to the Soviet Union's defense against Germany?
5. How did the Treaty of Versailles lead to the rise of Nazism in Germany?
6. What is the significance of the Munich Conference?
7. Which governmental system is the basis of Japan's government today? _____
8. What were the Nuremberg LAWS?
9. What was established during the Nuremberg TRIALS?

10. D-Day was a turning point in WWII because it forced Germany to fight a _____ war
11. What are the characteristics of totalitarian regimes? Give 2 examples of totalitarian leaders.
12. Who was present at the Yalta Conference & what was achieved there?
13. Put the following events in order by numbering them 1 (first) through 4 (last).
 - _____ U.S. bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki
 - _____ Japanese invasion of Manchuria
 - _____ German invasion of Poland
 - _____ Russian defense of Stalingrad
14. Why did totalitarian governments rise to power in Germany, Italy, and Spain?
15. What is the League of Nations? Why is it considered to be a failure?
16. What were Hitler's main goals? _____ & _____
17. Why was the Nazi—Soviet Pact a costly mistake for Stalin?
18. How are Adolf Hitler and Otto Von Bismarck similar?
19. What was the “dress rehearsal” for WWII? _____
20. _____ in Germany & Fascists in _____ promoted policies that emphasized national and racial superiority.