“While American and British military leaders were planning the invasion of France, German soldiers were busy fighting the Soviet armies in the east. After the Soviet triumph at Stalingrad in early 1943, the Soviets eventually pushed the Germans backward. By the end of the year Axis forces had suffered 2 million casualties. Outnumbered, they were unlikely to stop the relentless Soviet advance.”

~*Human Legacy*, page 859.
Soviet Victories

- Soviets end Siege of Leningrad early 1944
- Major offensive in Summer of 1944
  - 500,000 Axis casualties
  - Axis pushed out of the Soviet Union
- January 1945 Soviets within 40 miles of Berlin
- Romania & Bulgaria Surrender
D-Day (June 6th 1944)

• Amphibious Invasion of France

• Preparation
  – Generals George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower
  – Specialized equipment needed to transport troops & equipment
  – Decoy Invasion

• Landing
  – 150,000 troops on day 1
  – 5 beaches (2 British, 2 U.S., 1 Can)
  – Fierce resistance
  – 1 million troops ashore by July
  – Paris liberated in August 1944
The Battle of the Bulge

• **Final German Offensive**
  – December 1944

• **German Plan**
  – Use bad weather to negate Allied air power
  – Attack through Ardennes forest
  – Capture port of Antwerp so that allies cannot be supplied

• **Results**
  – Heavy fighting
  – Weather changes enough to allow allies to use air power
  – Germans defeated
  – Within 2 months the allies have crossed the Rhine
The German Surrender

- Soviets Reach Berlin in April 1945
- Hitler Commits suicide on May 2nd 1945
- Germany surrenders on May 7th 1945
- May 8th proclaimed V-E day
- Hitler’s Bunker in Berlin pictured
War Ends in the Pacific

• “Although the Allies had achieved victory in Europe, war was still raging in the Pacific. The allied Island hopping strategy continued to push back the Japanese, but there were several battles yet to come.”

~*Human Legacy*, page 860.
Final Battles

- **Iwo Jima (February 1945)**
  - 750 miles from Tokyo
  - Month long battle
  - 7,000 Americans die
  - 20,000 Japanese defenders
    - All but 1,000 fight to the death

- **Okinawa (1 April-22 June 1945)**
  - 350 miles from Japan
  - Local populace joins resistance
  - 12,000 Americans die
  - 100,000 Japanese defenders (civilian & military) dies
The Atom Bomb

• Plans for Invasion of Japan
  – 1 Million allied dead estimated

• Manhattan Project
  – Began in 1939
  – Atom Bomb tested in July 1945

• Dropping the Bomb
  – President Truman Makes the decision
  – Hiroshima bombed on August 6th
    • Enola Gay is the plane
    • 70,000 dead
  – Nagasaki Bombed on August 9th
    • 40-75,000 dead
  – Japan Surrenders on August 15th 1945
The Postwar World

- Much of Europe & Asia in Ruins
- Nearly 50 million dead
- Physical devastation of astern Europe nearly 100%
- National economies near collapse
- Scarcity of food, shelter & medicine
- Millions of people displaced
Planning for the Future

• Atlantic Charter
  – Issued by Roosevelt & Churchill in July 1941 (before American entry)
  – Declaration of postwar goals
    • No territorial gain
    • Self-determination
    • Nations work peacefully for mutual prosperity

• Tehran Conference Nov 1943
  – Roosevelt, Churchill & Stalin
  –Agreed on a schedule for the D-Day invasion
  – Agreed to work together for peace after the war
Yalta and Potsdam

• Yalta Conference 4-11 Feb. 1945
  – Reach an agreement on postwar Europe
  – Plans for governing Germany
  – Stalin agrees to respect democratic ideals in Eastern Europe in exchange for keeping part of Poland
  – Agree to the Formation of the United Nations
    • June 1945 Charter formed
    • China, Soviet Union, Britain, France & the United States gain permanent seats on the Security Council

• Potsdam Conference July 1945
  – Growing ill will between the Soviet Union & the U.S.
  – Agree to Trials at Nuremberg for War Criminals
Soviet Plans

- Allies worry about Communism
- Concerned with Stalin’s Plans for Eastern Europe
- Stalin interested in using Eastern Europe as a Buffer zone
  - Wants to use resources from Eastern Europe to rebuild the Soviet Union
The Costs of the War

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>France</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Great Britain</th>
<th>Soviet Union</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Japan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Dead</td>
<td>213,000</td>
<td>1.31 million</td>
<td>264,000</td>
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<td>292,000</td>
<td>3.5 Million</td>
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<td>Military wounded</td>
<td>4 million</td>
<td>1.753 million</td>
<td>277,000</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>672,000</td>
<td>5 million</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civilian Dead</td>
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<td>1 million+</td>
<td>93,000</td>
<td>7 million+</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>780,000</td>
<td>153,000</td>
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