

# World War II

*The Great Depression and  
World War II (1929–1945)*



Origins and causes

The European theater

The Pacific theater

**Aftermath**

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know about the following topics regarding the aftermath of World War II:

- The causes and effects of total war
- The global impact of World War II
- The Yalta Conference
- Postwar Allied occupations.



Warfare in the 20<sup>th</sup> century relied on science, industry and the economy to produce more and deadlier weapons.

In order to defeat an enemy, warring nations needed to destroy the enemy's ability to make war. This concept is known as **total war**.

By the end of World War II, each nation had engaged in widespread attacks on civilian targets.



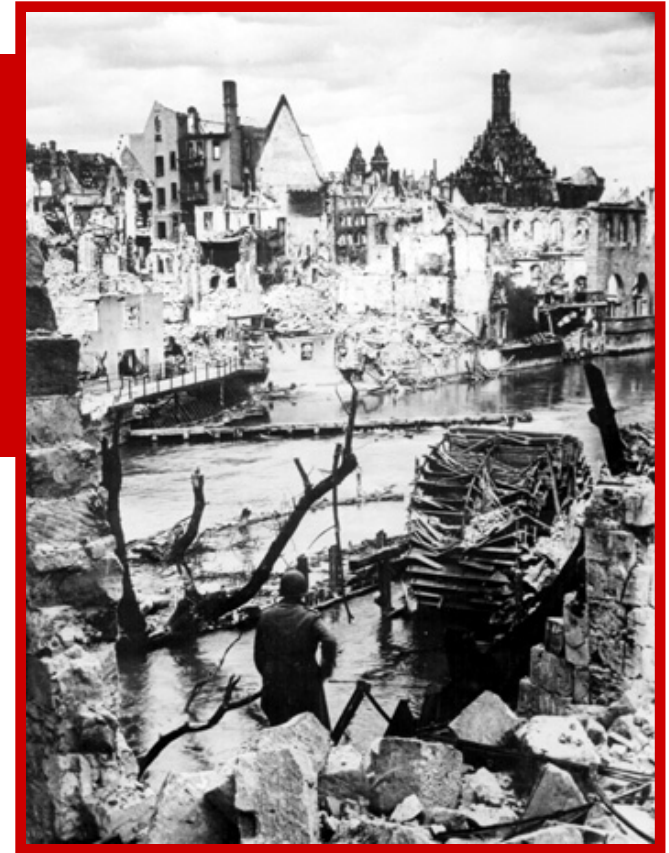
In the case of total war, do you think the ends justify the means?



Over 60 million people died in World War II, making it the deadliest conflict in history. About 40 million of these deaths were civilian casualties.

By the end of the war, Europe had ceased to be the dominant region in the world. Damages incurred by the War led to a long and costly rebuilding process for many nations.

Of the major powers, only the U.S. remained physically unscathed. As the only nation with nuclear weapons, American dominance of the postwar world was clear.





World War II had devastating effects on people around the globe. Press on the camera icons to see a wartime photo from that place.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



What role should the U.S. play in the postwar world?



In February of 1945, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, known as the “**Big Three**,” met in **Yalta** to discuss Europe’s future.

Stalin demanded harsh punishment for Germany, but Churchill very strongly opposed his suggested measures. Roosevelt, hoping for Soviet support against Japan and in the creation of the **United Nations (UN)**, attempted to strike a compromise.



In exchange for the U.S.S.R.’s participation in the Pacific theater and the UN, Churchill agreed to the temporary occupation of Germany.

What lessons had the Allies learned from Versailles?



At the end of the War, the Allies divided Germany into four occupied zones. On the other side of the world, U.S.-led forces occupied Japan.

Press **start** to learn more.

start



Do you think the occupation policies were justified?





Test your knowledge of World War II  
with this quiz.

Choose the correct answer to each  
question to see how much you can  
remember.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of World War II by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary.

Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

