

World War II

Understanding Goal:
War has consequences

Panel 1: NOW THAT WE'VE SHAKELONG THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL HAVE A DETERMINING INFLUENCE ON HIM.

Panel 2: HE'LL NEVER GET THE HOLD ON GERMANY THAT MUSSELENI HAS ON ITALY.

Panel 3: EVERYBODY WHO'S BEEN HERE HAS BEEN INSIDE GERMANY. HE WON'T BRING A HOPE OUTSIDE THE REICH.

Panel 4: IT'LL TAKE HIM A LONG TIME TO ASSIMILATE WHAT HE'S STUMBLED ON.

Panel 5: HE CAN'T MOVE HIM — HEEN'T THE MONEY ON THE RESOURCES.

Panel 6: HE PLAYS A DARING DIPLOMATIC GAME BUT IT'S A MILITARY MATTER NOW.

Panel 7: WHEN THE GERMAN PEOPLE REALIZE WHAT HE'S GOT THEM INTO ITS RECONSTRUCTION.

Panel 8: THE WAR WILL STAY ENGLISHED AND HE'LL BE STARVED OUT.

Investigative Question:
Was WWII inevitable?

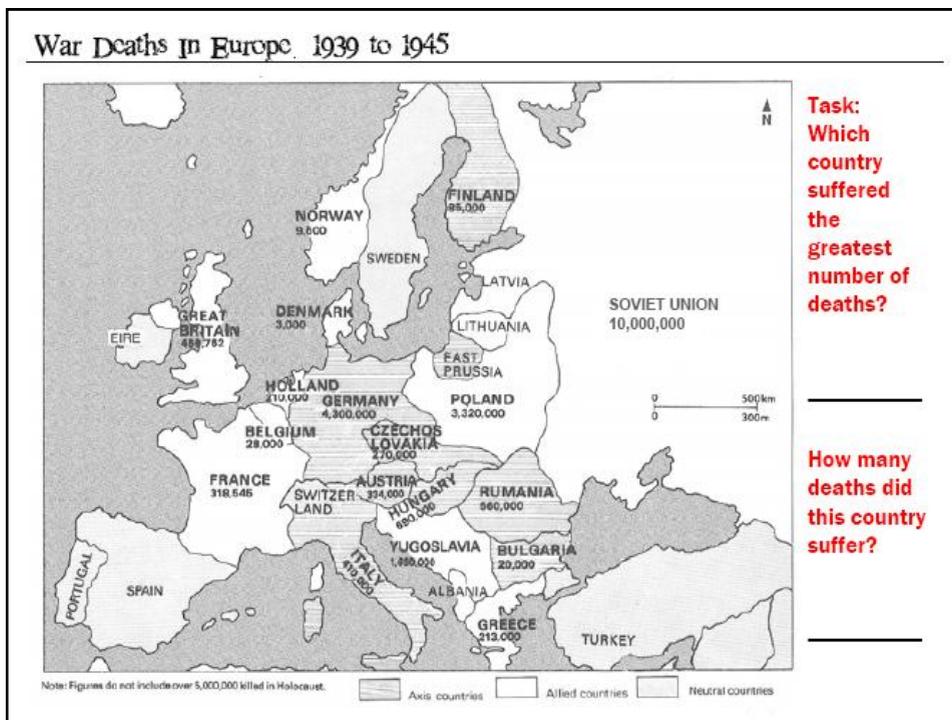
Explore:
What infamous 20th century political leader is portrayed in the cartoon on the left? What is ironic about the depiction?

Connect:
Based on the images below, do you think WWII was a just war? Explain.

Learn:
Go to LOC.gov to find further examples of WWII photographs and newspaper articles, such as those found in the exhibition, [Women Come to the Front: Journalists, Photographers, and Broadcasters During WWII](#).

Nuremberg Trials
This is most famous for the prosecution of notorious members of the political, military, and economic leadership of Nazi Germany.

Second atomic bombing of Japan



Cost of War

- **Germany** - 3 million combat deaths (3/4ths on the eastern front)
- **Japan** – over 1.5 combat deaths; 900,000 civilians dead
- **Soviet Union** - 13 million combat deaths
- **U.S.** – 300,000 combat deaths, over 100,000 other deaths
- When you include all combat and civilian deaths, World War II becomes the most destructive war in history with estimates as high as **60 million**, including 25 million Russians.



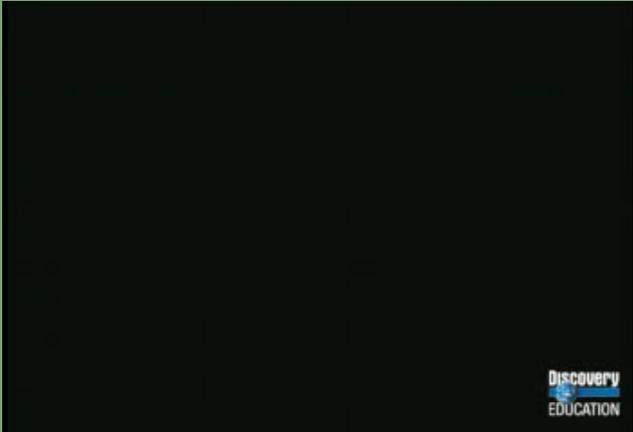
Postwar Efforts at Revenge



- **The Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46**
 - After, WWII the Allied powers place on trial the highest-ranking Nazi officers for “crimes against humanity”
 - Hitler, Goebbels, and Himmler were dead; but, 22 Nazi leaders (including Goring) were tried at an international military tribunal at Nuremberg, Germany. 12 were sentenced to death. Similar trials occurred in the east and throughout the world.
 - **The Tokyo Trial (1946-48)** — Japanese war criminals were placed on trial.



Justice at Dachau: The Trials of an American Prosecutor (14:21)



Pay attention! You need to complete the video quiz!



Quiz: Justice at Dachau

1) What type of trials took place at Dachau after World War II? (Choose only one answer)

- A) McCarthy-style trials to find communists
- B) Japanese trials of Americans for internment crimes
- C) International military tribunal trials for Nazi chieftains
- D) American tribunal trials for Nazis who worked in the concentration camps

2) A precedent for persecuting large-scale war crimes existed prior to the Nuremberg and Dachau trials. true false

3) What was Colonel William Denson's role at Dachau? (Choose only one answer)
A) judge B) head of defense C) chief prosecutor D) assistant prosecutor

4) Ilse Koch was found guilty of _____. (Choose only one answer)

- A) running a concentration camp
- B) performing harmful operations on prisoners
- C) being associated with the commander of a concentration camp
- D) beating prisoners, sending them to death, and collecting their skin

5) Who could be found guilty of a war crime at Dachau? (Choose only one answer)

- A) only those who commanded others to harm prisoners
- B) anyone who helped or participated in harming prisoners
- C) only those who directly participated in harming prisoners
- D) only those who knew harsh treatment was taking place but did nothing to stop it



Quiz continued....

6) In trial, how did Denson respond to the defense that Nazis were simply following orders? (Choose only one answer)

- A) He proved that criminal orders were never issued.
- B) He pursued convictions for crimes that were not direct orders.
- C) He argued that that defense would only hold in times of peace.
- D) He established the concept of personal responsibility in wartime.

7) Why wasn't Denson received as a hero when he returned from the trials at Dachau? (Choose only one answer)

- A) He had a low conviction rate.
- B) The press did not cover the Dachau trials.
- C) Americans were unwilling to sympathize with the Jewish people.
- D) The United States wanted Germany's support against the Soviet Union.

8) What eventually happened to the criminals convicted at Dachau? (Choose only one answer)

- A) They were freed.
- B) They were hanged.
- C) They spent their lives in prison.
- D) They had to pay reparations to the Holocaust survivors.

9) William Denson's accomplishments show all of the following, EXCEPT _____. (Choose only one answer)

- A) that one man can set lasting precedents in law
- B) that a lawyer can win a case with little hard evidence
- C) that people can be held accountable for their mass criminal actions
- D) that international law and tribunals are effective means of investigating war crimes



Extension Assignment on Sentencing Nazi War Criminals:

Directions: Read “Inside a Nazi Death Camp” and “The Sentencing and Execution of Nazi Criminals.” In at least 200 words, defend or oppose the decision to sentence and execute these criminals.



American Experience: The Nuremberg Trial (52 minutes)



The End of World War II

Task: What type of peace should be established with Germany and Japan? Why?

Treatment of Germany

Nuremberg Trials (1945 - 1946) -

-

Ruling:

-

-

Division of Germany -

-

Treatment of Japan

MacArthur supervises rebuilding of Japan -

-

-

-

-



Postwar Efforts at Peace

- The United Nations – An organization created in 1945 to promote international stability
 - A General Assembly where representatives from all countries could debate international issues.
 - The Security Council had 5 permanent members – U.S., Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China could veto any question of substance. There were also 6 elected members.
 - Key: the U.S. joined in contrast to League of Nations



Aims

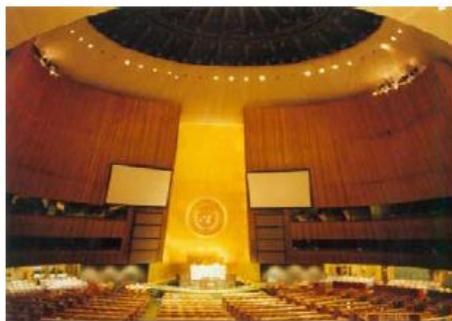
- The UN aims to "maintain international peace and security" and "to ensure...that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest". However, the Cold War made agreement on peacekeeping matters impossible.
- In the social arena, the UN was more successful. It adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and since then it has done a great deal of work in terms of education, refugees, decolonisation and racial equality.

B. Membership and Structure

General Assembly:	All members of the UN meet here on a regular basis to discuss major issues. It will recommend and comment on actions of the Security Council. It needs a 2/3 majority vote for its statements to be official.
Security Council:	This is where the real power lies. The Security Council has 11 members. There are five permanent members (USA, USSR, UK, France and China) and six non-permanent members who are rotated every two years. The Council does not need a unanimous vote to act – a majority vote is enough. Also, member states are expected to provide troops when the Security Council thinks that this is necessary. However, each permanent member of the Council has a veto, which weakens it (by 1955 the veto had been used 78 times, 75 times by the USSR). As well as voting for military action, it can recommend economic sanctions, set up tribunals to investigate issues (e.g. the genocide in Rwanda, war crimes in the former Yugoslavia) and send out weapons inspection teams.
Economic and Social Council:	Deals with working and living conditions around the world. Includes agencies like the WHO (World Health Organisation), ILO (International Labour Organisation) and the IMF (International monetary fund).
Trusteeship Council:	Looked after the mandates which still hadn't achieved full independence by 1946. The final mandate (Palau) was made independent in 1994, after which this council was closed down.
International Court of Justice:	Passes judgements in issues referred to it by the Assembly and / or the Security Council. All members of the UN have to carry out its judgements.
Secretariat:	Is responsible for the day-to-day running of the UN and organising its activities. It is headed by the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly, which in turn makes its choice based on the recommendations of the Security Council. The Secretary General is the main spokesperson for the United Nations.

United Nations**United Nations – 1945****International peace-keeping organization****Goals:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)



Task: Do you believe the United Nations is vital to peace and security of the world today?

4. This diagram summarises the main points of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the UN in 1948). Highlight / circle off what you consider to be the three most fundamental rights listed here. Be prepared to explain your choice by demonstrating how the other rights would not be possible without the ones you have chosen.



5. [Extension / Homework Task]

- Produce an illustrated diagram of how the United Nations is structured.
- Produce a second diagram showing how the League of Nations was structured.
- Aim to demonstrate the strengths, weaknesses, similarities and differences of the two organisations.

Wartime Agreements



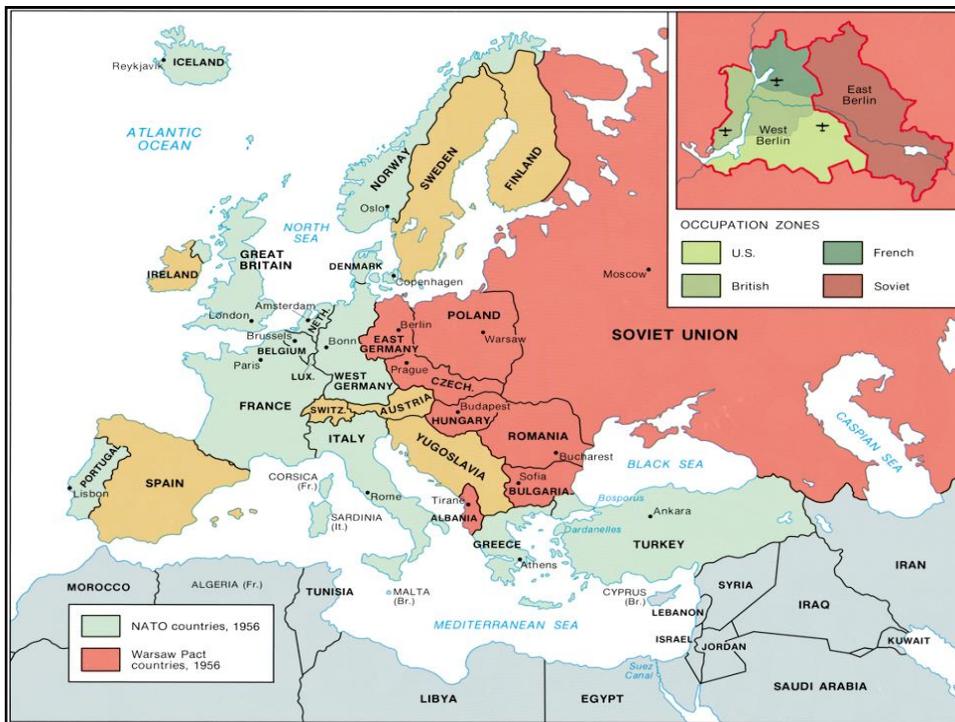
- Unlike WWI, there was no Peace of Paris to reshape Europe.
 - The Yalta agreement (February 1945) signed by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin, turned the prevailing military balance of power into a political settlement.
 - Potsdam Conference (July 1945)—Truman, Stalin, Churchill – Finalized plans on Germany. Germany would be demilitarized and would remain divided.

Yalta and Potsdam: Conclusion	
1. How similar were the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences?	
Similarities	Differences
2. "During the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences, it became clear that the Big Three did not have much in common". Is this true?	
Agreements between the Big 3	Disagreements between the Big 3



Postwar Reality: Soviet Control of Eastern Europe

- Europe was politically cut in half; Soviet troops had overrun eastern Europe and penetrated into the heart of Germany.
- During 1944-1945, Stalin starts shaping the postwar world by occupying SE Europe with Soviet troops that should have been on the Polish front pushing toward Berlin.
- Roosevelt did not have postwar aims because he still had to fight Japan; Stalin did have postwar aims.

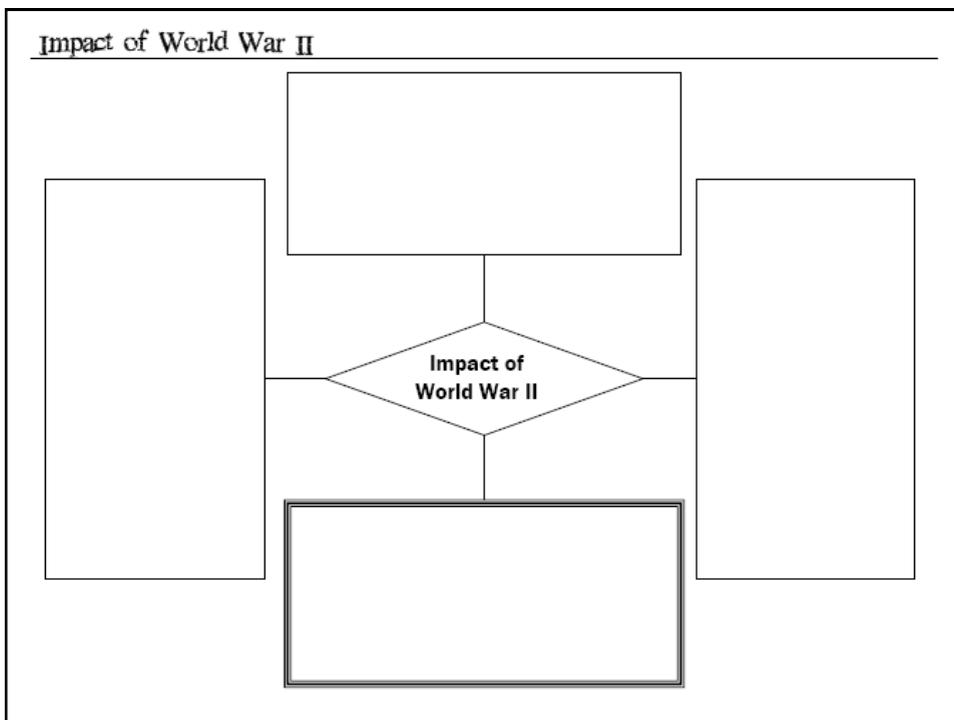




Postwar Reality

Consequences of World War II

- 1) Communist Russia (the Soviet Union) became the new enemy
- 2) Unlike the isolation after WWI, the U.S. was engaged in world affairs
- 3) The triumph of Communists in China
- 4) Decolonization
 - The independence of nations from European (U.S. & Japan) colonial powers.





End?