Turning Points:
War in Europe & the Pacific
The European Theater

- North Africa 1942-43
- Stalingrad 1942-43
- Sicily 1943
- Italy 9/43 to 5/45
- France 6/6/44 (D-Day)
- 12/44 - Battle of the Bulge
- Germany 3/45 - 5/45
North Africa - Operation Torch

- **11/42** - Allied invasion of N. Af. at Morocco
- German Afrika Korps defeated after 6 mos. of heavy fighting
- Germans surrender at Tunisia 5/43
- Leads to Allied invasion of Sicily & Italy
Allied Troops landing at Morocco
Stalingrad - 9/42 to 2/43

- Germany invaded USSR 6/41
- No 2nd front in West yet
- Hitler diverts troops to capture the “city of Stalin”
  - “Not one step back!”
- 300K German troops sent
  - 91K survive only to surrender
- Red Army on offensive thereafter
Fighting in the ruins of Stalingrad eventually turned to desperate hand-to-hand combat. Neither Hitler nor Stalin would permit surrender.
“Soft Underbelly of the Axis”

- Stalin continued calling for 2nd Front in Europe
- **Casablanca Conference, Morocco (1/43)** - FDR & Churchill meet
  - Decide to invade thru Sicily & Italy
  - Also vow to fight to until unconditional surrender of Axis
Invasion of Italy 9/43

- Allies invade & take Sicily - Summer 1943
- Mussolini overthrown, jailed 9/43
  - later rescued but captured again
- Italy surrenders - Germans remain
- Tenacious German defenses
- Rome taken by Allies 6/5/44
- Germans not fully defeated in Italy until end of war
Teheran Conference

- At Teheran Conference (12/43), Churchill, Stalin & FDR meet
- Invasion planned for 1944
- USSR to fight Japan after Germany defeated
- Continuous bombing gave Allies air superiority & destroyed production
- Soviets pushed toward Germany
- U-boat menace reduced enough for amphibious invasion
D-Day: 
June 6, 1944

- Allied invasion of Normandy, FR
  - Largest amphibious landing in history
    - 2 mos. to liberate Paris
- Beginning of drive to Germany
- Dec. 44 - Battle of the Bulge
  - Last German offensive to West
- March 1945 - Western Allies cross into Germany
Wartime Conferences

- **Yalta** (Ukraine) 2/45
  - FDR, Churchill, Stalin agree to occupation zones in Germany

- USSR granted 1/2 of Poland, & other land in Asia & Europe
  - Viewed as a giveaway to Stalin

- **Potsdam** (Ger) 7/45
  - Truman, Atlee, Stalin
  - Planned rebuilding of Europe
  - Demanded surrender of Japan
Victory in Europe (V.E. Day)

May 8, 1945
The Pacific Theater

- **4/18/42**
  - the Doolittle Raid
- **5/7&8/42**
  - Battle of Coral Sea
- **6/4&5/42**
  - Battle of Midway
- **8/42 - 2/43**
  - Guadalcanal
- **10/44**
  - Battle of Leyte Gulf
- **2/45 - 6/45**
  - Iwo Jima & Okinawa
- **8/6/45**
  - Hiroshima
The Doolittle Raid 4/18/42

By Spring 1942 –
Japanese Empire at its height

Hopes raised by Doolittle Raid

Col. James Doolittle lead 16 B-25’s on raid over Tokyo

Launched from carrier *Hornet* – little damage but showed Japan that they could be hit
The Battle of the Coral Sea

★ May 1942 – Battle of Coral Sea
★ U.S. & Australians vs. Japanese
★ 1st battle fought entirely by carrier-based planes

- Halted Japanese attempt to take Australia
Midway - June 1942

★ Turning point of the Pacific war
★ Japanese wanted Midway Island in prep. for invasion of Hawaii
★ Another carrier battle
  ★ Japanese carriers caught with planes on decks
    ★ Japanese lose 4 carriers vs. U.S. 1
• Sea power now in favor of U.S
  • Threat to Hawaii ended
Guadalcanal 8/42 - 2/43

☆ U.S. couldn’t take every one of 100s of islands held by Japanese

☆ U.S. strategy - Island Hopping
   ★ attacking selected islands & isolating others

☆ Guadalcanal - 6 mos. of land & sea fighting to take island

● 1st island captured in island hopping strategy
Battle of Leyte Gulf
10/44

- Largest naval battle in history
  - 26 Japanese vessels destroyed
- Kamikaze attacks
- Cripples Japanese fleet
  - Enables U.S. to recapture Philippines
- Bombing of Japanese home islands now possible
Iwo Jima & Okinawa

Spring 1945 – Iwo Jima & Okinawa

★ 80K U.S. casualties at Okinawa

★ 30 ships sunk by Kamikaze missions

★ Savage Japanese defense of islands gives U.S. an idea of how bad invading Japan would be

• Some estimates of 1 million American lives
The Manhattan Project

- 4/12/45 – FDR died of stroke
- Truman inherits Manhattan Project – quest for atomic bomb
- 1st bomb test – 7/16/45 in NM
  - Built by a team of scientists – some refugees from the Nazis
  - Led by Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer
- Destructive power of A-bomb incredible

“I am to become Death, the shatterer of worlds…” Oppenheimer
Hiroshima & Nagasaki

- 1st atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan 8/6/45
  - 130K killed or wounded
- 2 days later, USSR declared war on Japan & invaded Manchuria
- 8/9/45 - 2nd bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- Leads to Japanese surrender
The End of the War

Victory in Japan (V.J.) Day!

September 2, 1945