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English A

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Research Paper

**World War II**

World War II, often abbreviated as WWII, from 1939 to 1945, was a global dispute between many nations, with major battles in Europe and the Pacific. It started with Germany’s invasion of Poland and ended with the defeat of Nazi Germany and Japan. The war had severe consequences that reshaped the world’s political landscape and caused lots of human suffering.

The effects of World War I had destabilized Europe, and many said that World War II grew out of issues that were left unresolved by earlier conflicts. (World War II, 2009). After becoming Chancellor of Germany in 1933, Hitler swiftly fused power and appointed himself as Fuhrer in 1934. (World War II, 2009). Hitler’s idea was to make to the German race pure “Aryan”. He believed that the war was the only way to gain living space for the German race to expand. His open aggression went unchecked as the United States and Soviet Union were focused on internal politics at the time of his invasion and neither France nor Britian were eager for conflict (World War II, 2009).

Hitler and Nazi Germany had invaded several countries. One of the countries is Austria. Austria had been a part of the German Confederation until Prussia, with is now called Russia, pushed it out in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. There has been an attempt to include Austria into a larger Germany in 1918 but other countries opposed of this decision. Hitler taking over Austria was simply an expansion to Germany and its borders. (Knighton, 2016).

Another Country that was invaded by Hitler and Nazi Germany is Poland. Because Hitler brought most of the Germans together, Hitler wanted more space for his people to live in. His idea was that the German people had rights to a greater territory to support them and ensure their growth. Poland, which is a large country with lots of farmlands, posed as an easy target and lots of space. (Knighton, 2016).

Another country the Nazis fought in was the Soviet Union. At the start of this war, Germany and the Soviet Union were allies, but it never lasted. The Nazis were opposed to the Communist ideas which run the Soviet Union. Hitler believed that he could defeat the Soviet Union, (Knighton, 2016), but that would be hard to do because the Soviet Union was consisted of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and many more.

Due to World War II, there were devastating consequences to the families and countries. The war has contributed to an estimated total of 39 million people being killed and half of them were civilians. (RAND Corporation, 2014). According to hmh.org, six million Jewish people were killed in the holocaust, and sources said that out of the six million Jewish people that were killed, only 1.5 million children were victims of this deadly genocide. (25 FACTS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST, n.d.). Jewish people were not the only set of people that the Nazis killed. They also killed people with disabilities because they did not contribute to rise of Germany, homosexuals because they were not right in their minds, Soviet prisoners of wars and Jehovah’s Witness. (25 FACTS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST, n.d.).

The execution of these people was not an easy thing that could be imagined. The SS Soldiers murdered hundreds of prisoners because such killings were not covered by law. Normally these killings were covered up. The Nazi leadership used the camps as execution sites for political and criminal suspects who had been condemned without regular trials. ( Birkbeck, University of London, n.d.). In 1941, the Camp SS launched two programs of mass killings, months before the holocaust victims entered the camps. The first program singled out the weak, ill and disabled prisoners who were selected by doctors and were deported to special killing centers across Germany. By summer, 1942, about 6,500 prisoners had been murdered by this crucial act of war. ( Birkbeck, University of London, n.d.). The second program also singled out the Soviet prisoners of war. In summer 1942, 40,000 soviet soldiers were transported to these camps for execution. ( Birkbeck, University of London, n.d.). The SS experimented with methods such as poison gas.

There has been a shocking new revelation that has came out with black people were also persecuted by the Nazi in the Concentration Camps. The persecution of black and mixed-race people by the Nazi Germans was often contradictory. The Nazi Party believed that black people were non-Aryan and were racially inferior and poses a danger to the health of the German Aryan population. (Bath & Baker, 2020). Some black and mixed-race people were imprisoned in concentration camps and forced labor. Although black and mixed-race people survived the 3rd Reich, they were subjected to persecution, discrimination, and horrible living conditions throughout this time period. (Bath & Baker, 2020).

Another major contender in WWII is Japan formally known as Imperial Japan. Japan played a major role in WWII participating in the conflict from 1937 to 1945. In December 1941, Guam, Wake Island and Hong Kong fell in the Japanese. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,, n.d.). Other countries that were close to Japan were also invaded around the first half of 1942. The Japanese troops invaded Thailand and pressured its leaders to declare war on the United States and Great Britian. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,, n.d.).

The United States wanted to remain neutral to the war, but Japan has pushed their buttons and placed economic sanctions which caused a severe shortage of natural resources that the Japanese needed for their war efforts. (Facing History, 2016). To prevent American interference in the Pacific war, they decided to bomb Pearl Habor which is a US naval station in Hawaii in a surprise attack on December 7, 1941. This made the US angry because they killed over 2000 people and destroyed 19 US Navy ships. (The National WWII Museum, n.d.). In retaliation, the American Forces conquered Okinawa in mid-June 1945.

On August 6th, 1945, the US Air Force dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Thousands of people died from the explosion and many more died later from radiation exposure. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,, n.d.). The president of the United States, Harry Truman said to the people of Japan, “The only way to avoid complete destruction of family, home, economy and nation is to immediately cease all military activated and surrender unconditionally.” As expected, the Japanese Forces did not listen to the warning, so the US, 3 days later, decided to drop another bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. It was estimated that at least 120,000 civilians died because of the two blasts. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,, n.d.). Seeing this devastation, Japan agreed to surrender on August 14th, 1945, and American forces began to occupy Japan. Japan formally surrendered to the United States, Great Britian, and the Soviet Union on September 2, 1945. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,, n.d.). This led to the end of World War II.

In conclusion, World War 2 was a global conflict that reshaped the world order, marked by unusual destruction and loss of life. The war’s end brought about significant geopolitical changes, the rise of new superpowers and the establishment of international institutions aimed at preventing future conflicts. The lessons learned from this devastating part of history focus attention on the importance of diplomacy, corporation and the pursue of peace on a global scale.

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