# The Pacific Theater

The Japanese were winning victories over the US in the Pacific.

## The Doolittle Raid

Col. Doolittle planned to carry bombers on aircraft carriers straight to Japan to bomb the main island then land in China. Meant to send a message to Japan that the US can still reach them. They run out of fuel and land in mainland China. One lands in Russia who is being stupid and arrest them even though they were allies.

## Battle of Midway - 1942

Turning point of the war in the Pacific. Japan loses control to the US. American codebreakers managed to break the Japanese codes and gained intelligence on the Japanese attack. Americans were waiting at Midway. Americans take heavy losses but the Japanese lose more.

## Battle of Guadalcanal - 1943

Americans decide to capture this island before the Japanese can get to it. 6 month battle between the US Marines and the Japanese on land, sea, and air.

## Island Hopping and Leapfrogging

MacArthur and Nimitz lead a leapfrogging campaign to capture islands throughout the Pacific.

## Battle of Tarawa - 1943

Tarawa set the tone for how bloody the island battles would be. Most Japanese thought it was dishonorable to surrender, so they would fight to the death.

## Battle of Leyte Gulf - 1944

Biggest naval battle of WWII, maybe ever. American victory. First sight of the Kamikaze technique that the Japanese used.

## Battle of Iwo Jima

Americans have to take 2 ends of the island, Japanese are well defended. Americans captured a mountain and put up a flag. It’s filmed and the picture is iconic.

# The Yalta Conference

The end of the war is in sight. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet in Yalta and decide how to proceed. Partition Germany into occupations. Everyone gets a piece of Germany and a piece of Berlin. They’re each in charge of their zone. Stalin is going to install puppet regimes loyal to him.

1945, FDR dies. Wasn’t unexpected. Truman (VP) takes over. Truman learns of the atomic bomb.

## Potsdam Conference

Churchill is replaced by Clement Atley. The big 3 meet at Potsdam to talk about the postwar world. The war in Europe is over, but the US is still fighting Japan.

## Atomic Bombing of Japan

Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed by the US in August of 1945.

## V-J Day

1945: Japan’s surrender announced