

World War Two

Part Three



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



Warfare in the 20th 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.



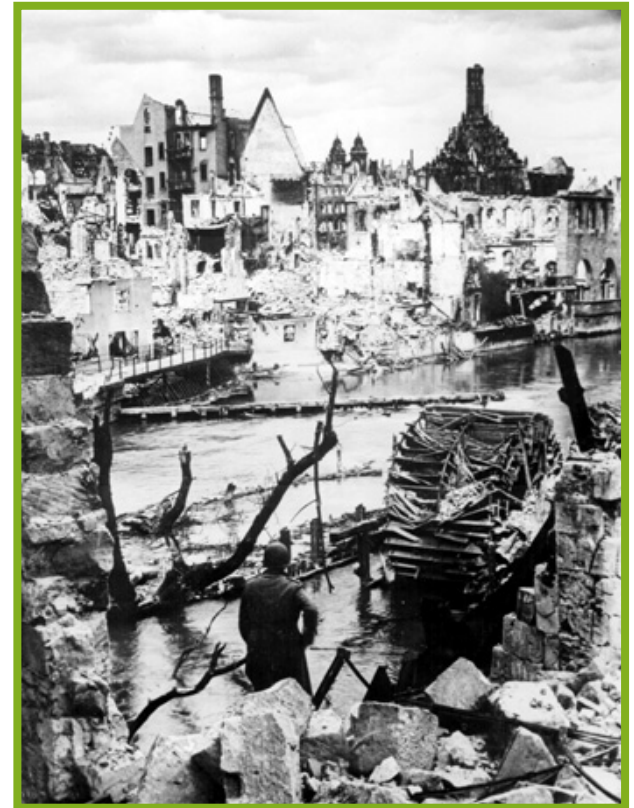
In the case of total war, do you think the ends justify the means?



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.





What role did the U.S. have in the postwar world?



During the late stages of the war in Europe, allied soldiers discovered the true horror of the German Nazi regime.

The **Holocaust**, or Hitler's "final solution," saw the construction of vast concentration camps in occupied Poland.

The largest of these camps was Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Within these camps, around six million European Jews (as well as members of other persecuted groups, such as Gypsies and homosexuals) were murdered.



The allies liberated the concentration camps between 1944 and 1945. Soviet forces liberated the first camp, the Majdanek camp in Poland, in July 1944.

One of the most famous victims of the Holocaust is **Anne Frank**, a German Jew who hid with her family in some concealed rooms in Amsterdam. They were caught and sent to the concentration camps in 1944.



Anne did not live to see the camps liberated, but her story lives on in the diary she wrote. Today, the rooms where she hid have been made into the Anne Frank House museum.





Yalta Conference



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.





Do you think the occupation policies were justified?





