

## World War II: Timeline of Major Events

January, 1933	Hitler came to power in Germany
1935-1937	US Congress passes series of Neutrality Acts
<i>July, 1937</i>	<i>Japan invaded China &amp; killed thousands; China asks US to get involved, but US said no</i>
Sept., 1938	Hitler invades Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia; Britain & France agreed to let Hitler keep this b/c Hitler promises to leave rest of Czech alone.
March 1939	Hitler took rest of Czechoslovakia
Sept. 1, 1939	Hitler's forces invaded Poland
Sept. 3, 1939	Britain & France declared war on Germany
1940 (Apr.-June)	Germany conquered: Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, France; all signed a surrender on June 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<i>Sept, 1940</i>	<i>FDR extended an embargo against Japan: US could not sell iron, steel, aviation gasoline, oil, or scrap metal to Japan</i>
Nov., 1940	FDR elected to 3 <sup>rd</sup> term
Jan. 6, 1941	Lend-Lease Act
June, 1941	Germany invaded USSR
<i>July, 1941</i>	<i>Japan conquered more of French Indochina; FDR froze Japanese assets in US. Japan reciprocated.</i>
Aug., 1941	Atlantic Charter
<i>Oct., 1941</i>	<i>General Tojo became Prime Minister of Japan; he supported the military and was determined to conquer China, regardless of US threats.</i>
<i>Nov., 1941</i>	<i>US and Japan negotiated; US thought Japan would attack, BUT that attack would occur in Asia</i>
Dec. 7, 1941	Pearl Harbor; US declared war on Japan
Dec. 11, 1941	Germany & Italy declared war on US
Jan-Apr 1942	Japanese Americans on West coast forced to move to detention camps for remainder of war. 110,000 people detained; 2/3 were American citizens.
1942	America geared up for war: women & blacks had new job opportunities (Rosie the Riveter posters), Depression Era unemployment ended, 15 million men & 250,000+ women served in army

June 1942	<i>Battle of Midway: 1<sup>st</sup> major American victory in naval war against Japan</i>
Aug. 1942	<i>Battle of Guadalcanal: US &amp; Australian forces fought Japanese for control of this island (part of Solomon Islands); battle lasted until Feb 9, 1943</i>
Nov. 1942	FDR elected to 4 <sup>th</sup> term
May, 1943	The Manhattan Project, to build an atomic bomb, formally began
Sept., 1943	Italy surrendered, but nation still filled w/ German soldiers; fighting continued in Italy until 5 days before Germans fell in 1945
Nov, 1943	Teheran Meeting: FDR, Churchill, and Stalin met in Tehran & made several agreements about post-war peace and democratic institutions in several nations; planned invasion of Normandy
June 4, 1944	Allies finally conquered Rome
June 6, 1944	D-Day: Allied invasion of Normandy, France. Almost 2.9 million invading troops! Once over their surprise, Nazis fought back hard; but Allies had Patton's troops from Italy, so they made good progress.
Dec. 16, 1944	Battle of the Bulge: Germans launched a surprise attack on Allied forces in Ardennes forest, France. Allies had 77,000 casualties, but pushed Germans back
Feb, 1945	Soviet offense captured: Finland, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia (mostly from Germans). But now all were (almost totally) controlled by communist leaders.
Feb. 4, 1945	Yalta Conference: FDR, Churchill, Stalin met again. Soviet troops 50 miles from Berlin; no way Soviets would give up territory USSR had captured. All agreed to: partition Germany post-war, trials of war criminals, & United Nations conference.
Mar. 16, 1945	<i>Battle of Iwo Jima: US vs Japan; Us finally took control of island after huge losses</i>
Apr. 12, 1945	FDR died of brain hemorrhage; Harry S. Truman President. Until Truman was Pres., he had no idea about Manhattan Project.
Apr. 25, 1945	US & USSR troops met at Elbe River in Germany
Apr. 28, 1945	Italians captured Mussolini; they killed him and mutilated his body
May 1, 1945	On or near this date, Hitler is believed to have committed suicide
May 7, 1945	Germany surrendered
May 8, 1945	VE-Day: Allied victory in the European theater
June 21, 1945	<i>Battle of Okinawa: US vs Japan. US won island, but Japanese fought to bitter end</i>
Aug. 6, 1945	<i>US dropped 1<sup>st</sup> atomic bomb: Hiroshima. It killed 75,000 immediately &amp; injured</i>

*100,000 more. City had had a population of 344,000. More died from radiation over next weeks & months. Japanese did not surrender.*

- Aug. 9, 1945 US dropped 2<sup>nd</sup> atomic bomb: Nagasaki. Death toll from both bombs: 150,000+. Many of those killed in Nagasaki were forced laborers from Korea.*
- Aug. 10, 1945 Japanese asked for peace on one condition: Emperor Hirohito be allowed to keep the throne. Terms were accepted.*
- Aug. 14, 1945 VJ-Day: Allied victory over Japanese. Official treaty not signed until 9/2/45, but Americans became celebrating victory over Japan on this day.*