How did the Allies defeat the Axis Powers?
Planning Germany’s Defeat

- **November 1943**
  - Teheran, Iran
  - The Big Three (FDR, Churchill, and Stalin) meet
    - Stalin
      - Wants U.S. and Britain to attack Germany from the west
    - Churchill
      - Does not want to do so because:
        - Repeat the slaughter of British troops in WWI on Western front
        - U-Boat presence was too great in English Channel
Planning Germany’s Defeat

Declaration of the Three Powers

“We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of operations to be undertaken from the east, west, and south. The common understanding which we have here guarantees that victory will be ours… No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, the U-Boats by sea, and their war planes from the air.”

• December 1, 1943
Eisenhower Plans the Invasion

- **Operation Overlord**
  - **When**
    - June 6, 1944
  - **Where**
    - Normandy France
  - **How**
    - 21 American divisions and 26 British, Canadian, and Polish divisions
      - 4400 plus ships and landing craft
    - 5 beaches
      - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword
"D-Day"
- Objective was to gain a toehold in France
- 11,000 planes first attacked Nazi communication and transport networks as well as defenses on the beaches
- 6:30 AM
  - First troops crossed the English Channel
  - 4 beaches faced light resistance
  - Omaha beach
    - American troops faced tough resistance from Nazi defenses
- Result
  - Achieved objective
  - Took important step to reaching Berlin
Germany faced a war on two fronts

- East
  - Soviet Union
    - Gained control of Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary
- West
  - American and British
    - Had established themselves in Northern France
    - Made their way towards Berlin
August 1944
- Allies Liberate Paris

July 20, 1944
- Plot to overthrow Hitler
  - Who
    - Rommel and others
  - What happened
    - An officer planted a bomb at Hitler’s Headquarters
    - Bomb killed and/or wounded 20 but Hitler survived
December 1944

- Hitler’s plan
  - English speaking German soldiers would cut telephone and change road signs to confuse the Allied forces
  - German tanks would then secure communication and transports stations
- Planned Result
  - Create a wedge between American and British Forces
  - Led to the Battle of the Bulge
December 1944
Germans surprise attacked American lines
Bastogne Belgium

- **Conditions**
  - Snowy, cloudy skies prevented the Allies from providing air support
- **December 23**
  - Skies cleared and Allies were able to bomb key German positions
- **Result**
  - Crippled Germans military reserves and demoralized the soldiers
April 1945
  - Mussolini tried to flee Switzerland but was captured and executed

FDR dies
  - Before the war ended, FDR had died
  - Harry S. Truman became president

April 30, 1945
  - Hitler commits suicide

May 7, 1945
  - V-E Day
    - Germany Surrenders
Advancing in the Pacific

- U.S. Strategy
- **Island hopping**
  - Capturing some Japanese-held islands and ignoring others in a steady path toward Japan
Japanese Troops Fight to the Death

- Rather than surrender many Japanese troops took their own lives
- **Kamikaze**
  - Japanese pilots crashed their planes into American ships
    - More than 3,000 Japanese pilots died in kamikaze missions
    - Prevented Allies from taking the Philippines and saved Japanese ships from destruction
February and March 1945
- Iwo Jima
  - One of the fiercest battles in the island hopping campaign
  - 36 days of fighting resulted in 23,000 casualties to U.S. Marines

April 1945
- Okinawa
  - Important because the island was only 340 miles from Japanese mainland
  - 500,000 troops and 1,213 warships involved in the battle
  - U.S. forces took the island but at a cost of 50,000 casualties
The Atomic Bomb Ends the War

- **Albert Einstein**
  - World’s most famous scientist at the time
  - Signed a letter that alerted FDR about the need to proceed with atomic development

- **Manhattan Project**
  - The program that development of the atomic bomb
Two primary leaders

- General Leslie Groves and J. Robert Oppenheimer
  - Oppenheimer ran the scientific aspect of the project

July 16, 1945

- Bomb tested
- “Now I am become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds.”
  - Oppenheimer
- “The war’s over. One or two of those things and Japan will be Finished.”
  - General Leslie Grove
### Truman Makes His Decision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR DROPPING THE BOMB</th>
<th>AGAINST DROPPING THE BOMB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axis powers had scientists working on the same thing</td>
<td>Ethical issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save American lives</td>
<td>Killing innocent civilians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An invasion of mainland Japan was estimated to cost 1 million American lives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win the war</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Hiroshima and Nagasaki

## HIROSHIMA
- **August 6, 1945**
- **8:15 AM**
  - Bomb dropped and exploded
- **Within 2 minutes 60,000 people were dead or missing**

## NAGASAKI
- **August 9, 1945**
- **Two events**
  - Soviet Union declared war against Japan and invaded Manchuria
    - U.S. dropped the bomb
  - 35,000 residents killed
- **August 15, 1945**
  - V-J (Victory in Japan) Day
- **September 2, 1945**
  - Japan surrenders