

1ST  
UNIT  
9

## Europe and Japan in Ruins – Ch. 16.5

World War II cost millions of human lives and billions of dollars in damages. It leaves Europe and Japan in ruins. Visualize the fighting that took place in Europe and Asia in order to defeat the Axis powers. What do you think happened to the countryside where these battles were fought.

Over 60 million people were killed, 50 million were uprooted from their homes, and damages would cost billions of dollars to repair.

## Devastation in Europe

### A Harvest of Destruction

- Many cities across Europe badly damaged by war
- Many people displaced by war and peace agreements

### Misery Continues After the War

- Lack of food, destruction of roads, factories lead to hardship
- Many people suffer from hunger, disease after war



## Postwar Governments and Politics

### Need for New Leaders

- Many conquered countries went back to old governments
- New leaders needed in Germany, Italy, and France
- Communist parties make gains in Italy, France by promising change
- Communist interest fades as economies recover

### The Nuremberg Trials

- Nuremberg Trials—trial by an international court, 22 Nazi leaders for war crimes
- "we were just following orders" was not an excuse – ruling est. personal responsibility
- Some Nazi leaders are executed for their actions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWR7H5Q9d9U>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GwwK5nIM>



## Postwar Japan

### Serious Damage

- In war, Japan loses two million people; severe damage to many cities

### Occupied Japan

- MacArthur takes charge of U.S. occupation of Japan
- Starts process of demilitarization—disbanding Japan's armed forces
- Also launches democratization—creating democracy in Japan
- Japanese people adopt new constitution in 1947
- MacArthur puts economic reforms in place



## Occupation Brings Deep Changes

### Changing Japanese Society

- Emperor kept on, but he loses power and becomes figurehead
- Japanese people elect two-house legislature
- Bill of rights guarantees freedoms, women also have right to vote
- Constitution says Japan cannot attack another country
- In 1951, peace treaty with Japan signed; U.S. occupation ends
- U.S. and Japan become allies



## Unit 9 One Left

- ¼ to ½ page.
- Does military aggression achieve goals? Think about the goals of Germany and Japan. Think about the goals for the US in WW2
- Read Chapter 16.5
- ¾ Page summary on the readings



## Cold War: Superpowers Face Off

17.1

## Yalta Conference

- February 1945 meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt & Stalin
- Agree to split Germany into zones of occupation
- Decide that Germany must pay Soviets for loss of life & property
- Soviet agree to help in the fight against Japan



## The United Nations

- An international peacekeeping organization founded in 1945 to provide security to the nations of the world
- Made up of 48 different countries
- Each country was able to cast a vote on a broad range of issues
- Security Council had the power to investigate & settle disputes
  - U.S., Britain, China, France, USSR



## Differing U.S. & Soviet Goals

| United States  | Soviet Union   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Encourage democracy</li> <li>-Prevent the rise of communism</li> <li>-Rebuild European governments to create new markets for U.S. goods</li> <li>-Reunite Germany</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Encourage the spread of communism</li> <li>-Rebuild its own economy using equipment &amp; materials from Eastern Europe</li> <li>-Take control of Eastern Europe</li> <li>-Keep Germany divided</li> </ul> |

## Potsdam Conference

- July 1945 meeting of Churchill, Truman & Stalin
- Truman asks Stalin to remove troops from Eastern Europe and permit free elections in these countries
- Stalin refuses



## Iron Curtain

- Europe lay divided between Soviet controlled communist East and the democratic West.
- Germany and its capital Berlin were split into 2 occupied zones
- This split became known as the "Iron curtain"



## Containment

- U.S. try to use the policy of containment: blocking Soviet influence and the expansion of communism
- This included alliances with weak countries to help them resist Soviet influence
  - **Truman Doctrine:** Truman gives economic aid to free nations (Turkey, Greece) that may be threatened by communism
  - **Marshall Plan:** U.S. program of economic countries to help them rebuild after World War II
    - Named after Secretary of State George Marshall

## The Berlin Airlift



- Berlin was divided between the eastern Soviet controlled zone and the Western Allied controlled zones
- When the allies introduced a new currency to the western zones, Stalin reacted by creating a blockade
  - He cut off highway, water and rail traffic from the western zones in an attempt to starve the people until the Allies surrendered West Berlin
- American & British officials flew food and supplies into West Berlin for 11 months before the Soviets lifted the blockade

## Rival Alliances

- America and its allies form **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) as a united front against Soviet aggression
- In response the Soviets create the **Warsaw Pact**, an alliance between the Soviets and the communist countries of Eastern Europe



## The Threat of Nuclear War

- The Soviet Union completes their atomic bomb in 1949
- By 1953 the U.S. & USSR complete hydrogen bomb: thousands of times more powerful than the atomic bomb
- Leads to the policy of **brinkmanship**: threatening to go to war in response to enemy aggression
- Led to an arms race: a buildup of war materials by the U.S. & Soviets



## Sputnik



- U.S. & USSR compete over advancements in science education
- 1957 Soviets announce the creation of the first unmanned satellite **Sputnik**
- The U.S. launched their own satellite in 1958