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Unit Eight, Section Four: World War Two Ends

On December 22, 1941, just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill and FDR met at the White House to develop a joint war policy. Stalin asked his allies to relieve German pressure on his armies in the east by opening a second front in the west.

 In August 1942, German forces captured Stalingrad. As the Battle of Stalingrad raged, Stalin urged British and Americans to invade France. In January 1943, FDR and Churchill decided to attack Italy first. Their conquest of Sicily toppled Mussolini from power and on September 3, Italy surrendered. Fighting in Italy would continue, however, until Germany officially fell in May 1945.

**Allied Victory in Europe**

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D-DAY:

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**Germany’s Surrender**

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**Victory in the Pacific**

Although the war in Europe was over, the Allies were still fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. With the Allied victory in the Pacific, however, the Japanese advances had been stopped. For the rest of the war, the Japanese retreated before the counterattack of the Allied powers.

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KAMIKAZE:

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**Decision to Drop the Bomb**

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AUGUST 6, 1945:

AUGUST 9, 1945:

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**Europe in Ruins**

Allied victory in the war had been achieved at a high price. World War II caused more death and destruction than any other conflict in history. It left 60 million dead, 50 million uprooted from their homes, and property damage costing billions of dollars.

 By the end of World War II, Europe lay in ruins. Close to 40 million Europeans had died – two-thirds of them civilians. Constant bombing and shelling had reduced hundreds of cities to rubble. The ground war had destroyed much of the countryside and displaced persons struggled to return home.

**Post-War Politics**

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**Effects of Defeat in Japan**

 The defeat suffered by Japan in World War II left the country in ruins. Two million lives had been lost in the war. The country’s major cities had been largely destroyed by Allied bombing raids, including Tokyo, the capital. The atomic bomb had left Hiroshima and Nagasaki as blackened wastelands. The Allies had stripped Japan of its colonial empire and even took away areas that had belonged to the Japanese for centuries.

 In September 1951, the US and 48 other nations signed a formal peace treaty with Japan – officially ending the war.