

Legacy of World War II



1. Devastating Consequences

- deadliest in history, killing more than 50 million civilians and soldiers.
- Much of Europe destroyed.
- millions homeless.



The Death Toll

Country	Civilian	Military	Country	Civilian	Military
Germany	700,000	3,500,000	USSR	10,000,000	10,000,000
Japan	350,000	2,000,000	China	7,500,000	2,500,000
Romania	160,000	300,000	France	350,000	250,000
Hungary	290,000	140,000	USA	--	400,000
Italy	80,000	330,000	Britain	62,000	326,000
Austria	104,000	230,000	Canada	--	37,000
Finland	2,000	82,000	Greece	140,000	20,000
Poland	5,700,000	100,000	Australia	12,000	23,000
Czechoslovakia	215,000	200,000	Bulgaria	10,000	10,000
Denmark	1,000	400	India	13,000	24,000
Belgium	76,000	12,000	Albania	2,000	28,000
Netherlands	198,000	12,000	New Zealand	2,000	10,000

2. Enforcing Rules of War

- The Nuremberg Trials put 24 surviving Nazi leaders on trial for crimes against humanity.
- Lasting Result: "following orders" can't prevent punishment





Nuremberg Trials

Tokyo Trials



3. Atomic Age

- After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet Union will explode its first atomic bomb in 1949.
- In 1952, the U.S. successfully tests the worlds first H-bomb. The Soviets follow a year later.
- Air raid drills and bomb shelters will become common place during the Cold War.





USAF file, 1952



4. The United Nations is Created

- The charter was signed by 50 nations in 1945.
- The chief mission of the United Nations is to promote world peace and third world development.
- Today, the U.N. has more than 190 member nations.





Accompanied by local children, Portuguese blue helmets serving with the United Nations peacekeeping mission in East Timor, now Timor-Leste, patrol the Becora district of the capital, Dili. (1 March 2000)
UN Photo

Peacekeepers Donate School Supplies to Haitian Children in Need



South Sudan: UN blue helmets deploy to deter ethnic violence in key town

5. Independence and Decolonization

Many countries will gain their independence or be created after WWII.





6. The Beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement

- African Americans (and also Japanese Americans) fought in segregated military units.**
- When they came home, they were unwilling to continue their status as second-class citizens.**



**African American
Tuskegee Airmen**



Navajo Code Talkers



**Japanese American
442nd Regimental
Combat Team**



**Latino soldiers in the
Philippines**

7. The Cold War Begins

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union will emerge as two super powers with major ideological differences.



Vs.



**Government System-
Presidential Democracy**

**Economic System-
Mixed Market**

**Government System-
Dictatorship**

**Economic System-
Command**



Unloading
Marshall Plan aid
boxes in Europe



The 'Truman Doctrine' proposed granting substantial economic and other assistance to governments fighting communist insurgency, beginning in Greece and Turkey.



Review Legacy of World War II

- Devastating human and property loss
- Punishing War Crimes
- Atomic Age is launched
- Birth of the United Nations
- New Nations are Born
- The Cold War Begins
- Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement