The Second World War is Phase III of the American Empire because, as a result of the war, the United States emerged as a Political–Military–Economic Superpower with a global defense perimeter.
Is your Cell Phone Turned On?

• Eva Braun, Adolf Hitler’s Wife says

Turn off your Cell phone so that you might know the naked truth about My husband!
Themes and Topics

**Empire**
- World War II: Military and Political Watershed for the US and the USSR
- Redefinition of National Security, 1938-1953
- Redefinition of Global Economic Management*
- Who is the “Greatest Generation?”*

**Role of Government**
- Managing Wartime Diplomacy: Roosevelt as a Wartime Leader
- Unconditional Surrender as a policy option*
- Strategic Bombing and American Morality*

*New Topic
Central Analytical questions

- How did the Allies diplomatically manage their alliance?
- What was the Allies strategy in defeating the Axis Powers?
- How did the Allies experience the war?
- How did U.S. postwar planning transform the international system?
- Why did the Allies win the war?
U.S. military strategy and war aims
- Germany 1st; Japan 2nd
- Strategy of Annihilation
- Strategy deferred by Diplomacy and Logistics
  - Battle of Atlantic
  - African Campaign
  - Veto of Balkan Campaign
  - Italian Campaign
  - Strategic Bombing
- Strategy enacted with Normandy Invasion
Allied Diplomacy

- **U.S. Diplomatic Strategy and Goals**
  - **Defeat Germany**
    - Maintain alliance through *unconditional surrender* doctrine
    - Open *second front* in Western Europe
  - **Defeat Japan**
    - Get help of U.S.S.R. in defeat of Japan
  - **Plan for Post War Era**
    - Implement Liberal Internationalism through United Nations
    - Implement Military Superiority through “technocracy”
    - Implement Economic Internationalism through new international agencies
      - World Bank
      - International Trade Organizations
Major Diplomatic Meetings

- Consolidating the Anglo-American Alliance
  - Atlantic Charter Meeting, Aug. 1941
  - Casablanca, Jan. 1943
  - Cairo, Nov. 1943
- Effort at Anglo-Soviet Accommodation
  - Moscow, Oct. 1944
- Meetings of the “Big Three”
  - Teheran, Iran, Nov. 1943
  - Yalta, Russia, Feb. 1945
  - Potsdam, Germany, July 1945
Meeting At Teheran, 1943

First meeting of FDR, Stalin, and Churchill

USSR agrees to defeat Germany first

USSR agrees to German zones of occupation

Russia to declare war on Japan after VE

The Big Three: Stalin, FDR, Churchill
Meeting At Yalta, Feb 1945

FDR accepts USSR Domination of East Europe

Gets Declaration on Liberated Europe

German Division and Reparations for USSR

USSR attack on Japan, 90 days after VE

USSR agrees to join United Nations

Note FDR’s deteriorated appearance
Meeting At Potsdam, Aug 1945

Divided Germany
Reparations for U.S.S.R.
Eastern Europe
U.S.S.R war on Japan and Japanese Occupation
Atomic Bomb

Churchill, Truman, and Stalin
(The smiles soon disappeared)
Combat Overview

- Axis Expansion
  - Western Europe
  - Central and South Pacific
  - Southeast Asia
- Limits of Axis Expansion
  - Pacific
  - Atlantic
  - North Africa
  - Russia

- Allied Offensives
  - Air War over Germany
  - Sicily and Italy
  - Central and Western Pacific
  - Russian Front
  - Normandy
  - Japan
European Theater
Not surprisingly, the Germans performed a second attack on France by invading her through Belgium, and so bypassing her substantial defensive fortifications. The German blitzkrieg destroyed the French army in six weeks and drove the British army off the continent.
Invasion of Russia

Germany and the USSR signed a Non-Aggression Pact in September 1939.

But both sides planned and prepared for War against the other.

**Operation Barbarosa**: a three pronged attack toward Leningrad in north; Moscow in center; and toward Crimea in south.
Operation Barbarosa

Hitler continued to drive east and topple the Communist regime in fall 1941.

The northern drive faltered before Leningrad.

The central drive failed to take Moscow.

The southern drive took territory, but did not deliver a decisive blow.
The failure of Barbarossa forced a shift in Hitler’s strategic objectives from blitzkrieg and annihilation to victory through a strategy of attrition and exhaustion and seizure of strategic resources: coals, oil and wheat fields.

This meant an aggressive drive southward into the Crimea.
The German Drive South

This was the only offensive campaign after Barbarosa, everywhere else the army dug in to hold back the Soviets.

The Germans poured 165 Divisions into the campaign (76%) of all German forces but divided their forces.
Hitler and Stalin made Stalingrad Into the biggest battle of WW II

Stalingrad was Stalin’s signature Industrial city on the Volga River and Hitler wanted it taken for symbolic reasons, for the same Stalin would not allow it to be taken

Germany’s 6th army destroyed 99% of the city, but in the end was forced to surrender
Failure to Save the 6th Army

The Soviets surrounded the German 6th army, which went into a Kessel or defensive circle.

Efforts to break into the Kessel by Group A failed in January 1943.

By February 1943, 225,000 out of 260,000 men had lost.
Soviet Armies on the March I

Post Stalingrad Soviet offensive

The Russian military buildup was staggering

By June 1943, it had 6.61 soldiers in uniform
The Russian military buildup along the center and northern lines was staggering.

Russians struck through the Kursk area and along a much broader line pushing the Germans to the Polish border.

By July 1943, the initiative had passed to the allies.
Normandy Invasion, June 44
By early 1944, German armies were in retreat from the USSR, giving up large stretches of land on every front.

The broad front worked to the advantage of the Soviets because it was much harder for the Germans to defend effectively.

Between June 1944 and January 1945, the Soviet army drove through Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, into Czechoslovakia.
Battle of the Bulge
Breaching Germany, Feb 45
Soviet Liberation of Austria

The Red army’s southern Group liberated Austria And Hungary
The Third Reich Ends

The Soviet invasion of Germany, Jan–Apr 45

Victory Europe (VE) Day, May 8, 1945
Pacific Theater
Battle of Coral Sea

- **Japanese Carrier Striking Force (Takagi)**
  - Carriers Zuikaku and Shokaku

- **Port Moresby Invasion Group**

- **Covering Group (Goto)**
  - Carrier Shoho and cruisers

- **Japanese land, establish seaplane base**
  - 0815, 4 May
  - First US air strike on Tulagi

- **JAPANESE OCCUPIED**
  - 3 May 1942

- **TF 17**: Carrier Yorktown
  - 3 cruisers, 6 destroyers

- **TF 11**: Carrier Lexington
  - 2 cruisers, 5 destroyers

- **TF 44**: 3 cruisers, 1 destroyer

- **0900, 8 May**
  - Air attack launched, Shokaku damaged

- **1118, 8 May**
  - Yorktown damaged, Lexington hit and sinks at 1956 hrs

- **Neosho**
  - Sunk; Neosho damaged, scuttled 11 May

- **Task Force 17 (Fletcher)**

- **Task Forces 11 (Fitch) and 44 (Crase) join TF 17**
Battle of Midway

First Carrier Striking Force (Nagumo)
carriers: Akagi, Kaga, Hiryu, Soryu.
Second Fleet - later
2 battleships, 5 cruisers,
8 destroyers, 1 small carrier.

0430, 4 June, 1942
Air strike on Midway launched

0534
Sighted by US aircraft

0500 5 June
Hiryu scuttled

1331
Hiryu launches strikes
don US carriers

1245
1125
Akagi stops. Nagumo transfers to Nagara

1025-1030
Kaga, Akagi and Soryu hit by aircraft
from Yorktown and Enterprise

0755-0839
Midway based aircraft attack

0710-0730
0928, US carrier borne aircraft attack
(no damage)

0918
Nagumo turns north to intercept US task forces

0510, 5 June
Hiryu scuttled sinks about 0900

1700
Hiryu hit by aircraft from Enterprise

1445, Hiryu sighted

1550

TF 17 (Fletcher)
carrier: Yorktown;
2 cruisers, 5 destroyers

0430, 4 June, 1942
search and strike patrols launched

0656
0830
0900
0752
0806
0752
1110
1205
1430
1530
1907

TF 16 (Spruance)
carriers: Enterprise, Hornet;
6 cruisers, 9 destroyers

1205-1215 and 1430
Hiryu’s planes score hits on Yorktown

1500
Yorktown abandoned

1057

Midway 50 miles

OnWar.com
Battle of Leyte Gulf

Major defeat of the Japanese Navy in the Central Pacific

Admiral Nimitz victories

Produced a collapse of the Tojo government
Bombing Campaign

- European Theater
- Pacific Theater
  - AAF uses terror bombing and city bombing without restraint to produce unconditional surrender
    - Strategic bombing means attack civilians
    - Justified by Japanese pattern of land occupation
      - Japan’s populations concentrated in cities
      - Japan’s industries in residential areas
      - Japan’s cities more highly inflammable
    - Shows residue of resentment and bitterness for Pearl Harbor
  - Atomic Bomb takes strategy to absurd point
Could Germany have won the war?
Critical Thinking Question

• Which Country Was Most Responsible for the Defeat of Germany?
Critical Thinking Question

- Why Did the United States Drop the Atomic Bombs on Japan?
- Dates to Keep in Mind
  - August 6, 1945 (Hiroshima Bomb)
  - August 8, 1945 (USSR declares war on Japan)
  - August 9, 1945 (Nakasaki Bomb)
  - August 11, 1945 (Japan surrenders)
Conclusions

• Cost of the War: who really won?
  - On USSR, enormous (27.5 million dead)
  - On Germany, enormous (defeated, occupied)
  - On Britain, enormous (Bankruptcy)
  - On France, enormous (Occupied for five years)
  - On Japan, enormous (defeated, occupied)
  - On U.S.A. (<400K dead, doubled GNP, no fighting on homeland, massive military arsenal)