World War II Ends
Chapter 14 Section 5

The Yalta Conference
- **Battle of Bulge**: crushing defeat for Germany
- FDR elected 4th time in 1944: felt he needed to see the nation through the war
- **Yalta Conference**: The Big three (FDR, Churchill, and Stalin) met to discuss what to do with Germany.
- They agreed to divide **Germany and Berlin into 4 zones**:
  Each zone would be occupied by an ally. France, Russia, United States and England.
- Fate of Poland and other Eastern European countries: Stalin agreed to allow elections after the war, this was a promise he **did not keep**
- Stalin agreed to **declare war on Japan** after they defeated Germany.
- There were tensions between allies and the Soviet Union.

The Rhine and Berlin
- Historically the Rhine River was the key barrier to Germany
- Hitler ordered his forces to defend it instead of falling back to better positions: A key Hitler mistake
- Allied passed the river and captured 250,000 German troops.
- This cleared the way for troops to enter Berlin
- Planes bombed Germany freely now
What to do with Berlin

- Allies wanted to get their soon because they knew the Soviet Union would claim any land they won.
- Berlin would be a bloody fight.
- Eisenhower decided to move slowly so he could save lives for the war against Japan.
- As the Allies and Soviets surrounded Berlin, on April 30th, 1945: Hitler commits suicide.
  - Germany surrenders shortly after.
  - May 8th V-E Day: Victory Europe.

Essential Questions

1. What happened at the Yalta Conference? What tensions were beginning to surface?
2. Why was FDR elected a 4th time?
3. Why was defending the Rhine a mistake for Germany?
4. Why did Eisenhower decide not to rush in and take Berlin before the Soviets got it?

Winning the Pacific

- Okinawa was won at a horrible cost of life.
- Some estimated 1-2 hundred thousand lives would be lost on an invasion of Japan.
- Americans began to bomb Tokyo.
- The defeat of Okinawa and the bombing of Tokyo was hard for the people, but they vowed to fight on.
The Atomic Bomb

• Manhattan Project declared the atomic bomb would be ready by 1945
• President Harry S. Truman decided to use it without warning the Japanese.
• Before using the bomb, America gave Japan one last chance to surrender.
• Enola Gay flew over Hiroshima and dropped the bomb
• Japan did nothing, 3 days later U.S. dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki.
• 6 days later, V-J Day, Japan had surrendered.

Essential Questions

1. What was the estimate on how many lives America would lose invading Japan?
2. Why do you think America came to the decision to use the atomic bomb?
3. Why did America drop the second bomb?
4. What cities were bombed?

The Challenges of Victory

• After the war, over 50 countries met in San Francisco to form the United Nations (U.N.) Like the League of Nations it was meant to stop future wars.
• Potsdam Conference in Germany: Truman could not get Stalin to live up to his agreements at Yalta.
• The United States would take on the difficult task of rebuilding and trying to start democracies in Germany and Japan.
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<td>2. Did the Soviets keep their promises that they made in Yalta?</td>
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<td>3. What difficult tasks did the US take in Japan and Europe?</td>
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