

## Aim #9: What were the effects of World War II?

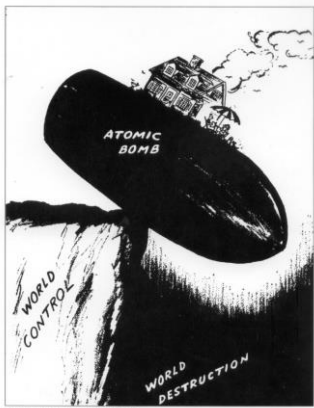


### EUROPEAN NATIONS IN AFRICA AND ASIA AFTER WWII



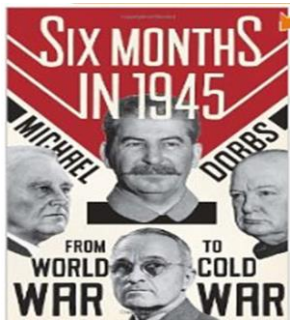
### Mini Lecture

- World War II was a major turning point in world history, which changed modern society in many ways. Probably every aspect of life was influenced by the war. It had many immediate and long-term effects.
- The immediate impact of WWII was devastating. Six years of intense fighting, the use of powerful new weapons, and the willingness of leaders to continue fighting after defeat was certain resulted in suffering & death.
- As many as 80 million people had been killed, which included soldiers & civilians. The Soviet Union was particularly hit hard, with military & civilian deaths numbering as many as 20 million.
- In countries that saw significant ground fighting and aerial bombardment, the damage to building was substantial. Many houses were destroyed, any where from 20-40% in British, Polish, Russian, & German cities. Hiroshima & Nagasaki were leveled by atomic bombs.
- The Allies learned the full extent of the horrors of the Holocaust. War crime trials, such as those at **Nuremberg**, in Germany, held leaders accountable for their wartime actions.
- The **Nuremberg Trials** charged high Nazi officials with **crimes against peace** (starting a war of aggression), **war crimes** (murdering/mistreating civilians & prisoners), and **crimes against humanity** (murdering or enslaving people or persecuting people based on political/racial/religious background). The court yielded seven prison sentences & 12 death sentences.
- In response to the Holocaust, people around the
- One of the war's broadest impacts was to make people around the world aware of how **interconnected** they were. The impact of war on trade, the mobility of ships & planes, and the danger of deadly fallout from nuclear weapons meant that every part of the world was threatened by war. In response, countries formed several international organizations, such as the **United Nations**, to deal with problems on a global level.
- Almost immediately after the end of the war, the U.S. & the USSR became adversaries. This sometimes aggressive, adversarial relationship-global competition for political & military dominance- was known as the **Cold War**. It was called "cold" due to its lack of direct warfare between the two sides.
- The atomic weapons that caused such huge losses of life & physical devastation in Japan have threatened the people of Earth from that time forward. As technology advanced, weapons grew stronger and delivery systems more accurate. The threat of total destruction of the world still hangs over the planet today.
- After WWII, large number of Jews, many of whom were Holocaust survivors, fled Europe for the British mandate of Palestine. This caused tensions & violence with the local Arabs. By 1948, the U.N. had taken over administering the territory & divided Palestine into Jewish & Arab sections- which led to the State of Israel and a war with the Arabs, which Israel won.
- Although most of the fighting of WWII occurred in Europe between Europeans- the people of Africa & Asia also fought because of their colonial masters. WWII showed & inspired those countries to fight for their own independence and drive out their colonial masters- in a movement called **decolonization**.



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### Review Questions:

1. How did Europe look like after WWII?
2. Why were the Nuremberg Trials important?
3. How did the Atomic Age change the world?

**Enduring Issue:** Interconnectedness

## What were the Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials? Why were these trials organized?

**Directions:** Watch this [excerpt from PBS Legacy of War: The Nuremberg Trials](#) and answer the questions below.

The **Nuremberg Trials** were a series of trials most notable for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military and economic leadership of Nazi Germany. The trials were held in the city of Nuremberg, Germany, from 1945 to 1946, at the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. The first and best known of these trials was the Trial of the Major War Criminals Before the International Military Tribunal (IMT), which tried 24 of the most important captured leaders of Nazi Germany. It was held from November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946. The Nuremberg Trials were an attempt to bring to justice those leaders of Nazi Germany who were not only responsible for World War II, but also the Holocaust which was perpetrated against millions of people of Central and Eastern Europe.

Some 200 German war crimes defendants were tried at Nuremberg, and 1,600 others were tried under the traditional channels of military justice. Political authority for Germany had been transferred to the Allied Control Council, which having sovereign power over Germany, could choose to punish violations of international law and the laws of war. Because the court was limited to violations of the laws of war, it did not have jurisdiction over crimes that took place before the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939.

Representatives from four Allied countries, Great Britain, the United States of America, France, and Russia served as prosecutors and judges.

The indictments were for:

1. Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of crime against peace
2. Planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression and other crimes against peace
3. War crimes
4. Crimes against humanity

Death sentences were carried out on Oct 16th 1946, and the prisoners sentenced to incarceration were transferred to Spandau Prison in 1947.

The Nuremberg trials initiated a movement for the establishment of a permanent international criminal court, eventually leading over fifty years later to the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

- The Conclusions of the Nuremberg trials served to help draft:
  - The Genocide Convention, 1948.
  - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
  - The Convention on the Abolition of the Statute of Limitations on War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, 1968.
  - The Geneva Convention on the Laws and Customs of War, 1949; its supplementary protocols, 1977.



German commander of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force), Herman Goering, during cross examination at his trial for war crimes, Nuremberg, Germany, 1946.

1. What was the purpose of the Nuremberg Trials?
2. What were the defendants on trial for?
3. What evidence was brought forth during the trial to support the indictments?
4. What were the effects of the Nuremberg Trials?

**Directions:** Read the excerpt below and respond to the questions.

### International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE)

The lesser-known International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) was created in Tokyo, Japan. The IMTFE presided over a series of trials of senior Japanese political and military leaders "to try and punish Far Eastern war criminals." The **IMTFE** is also called the **Tokyo Trials**. These trials were held between May 1946 and November 1948.

In January 1946, the U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur issued a special proclamation that established the IMTFE. Like the Nuremberg Charter, it laid out the composition, jurisdiction, and functions of the tribunal. MacArthur appointed judges to the IMTFE from: Australia, Canada, China, France, India, the Netherlands, Philippines, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Each of these countries also had a prosecution team.

As with the Nuremberg Trials, the Tokyo Trials had jurisdiction to try individuals for Crimes Against Peace, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity, and the definitions were the same as those from the Nuremberg Charter. The Tokyo trials had jurisdiction over crimes that occurred over a greater period of time, from the 1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria to Japan's 1945 surrender.

The IMTFE presided over the prosecution of nine senior Japanese political leaders and eighteen military leaders. A Japanese scholar also was indicted, but charges against him were dropped during the trial because he was declared unfit due to mental illness. Japanese Emperor Hirohito and other members of the imperial family were not indicted. In fact, the Allied powers permitted Hirohito to retain his position on the throne, albeit with lesser status. The Tokyo Trials found all remaining defendants guilty and sentenced them to punishments ranging from death to seven years' imprisonment; two defendants died during the trial.



1. Who was tried during the Tokyo Trials? Why?
2. What was the punishment for those found guilty during the Tokyo Trials?
3. Explain why the Tokyo Trials were organized and the effects of those trials.
4. What impact did these trials have on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights?