

The War Against Japan

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Intro.

Meanwhile, fighting was **raging in the Pacific** and in Asia. After its successful attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan had **taken over the Philippines and other territories on Asia and the Pacific.**

The War Begins to Turn Against Japan

In **1943**, the **tide began to turn** against the Japanese when the **strength of the US Navy began to overpower them** in the Pacific.

American forces began **freeing Pacific islands from Japanese control**. Once Germany was defeated, the US **prepared for a massive invasion of Japan**.

The Atomic Bomb and the Japanese Surrender

The US had begun **development of an atomic bomb** even before it entered the war. American leaders had **feared Nazi Germany might develop an atomic bomb first**. Although the bomb was expected to be a weapon against Hitler, **Germany surrendered** before it could be used.

When President Truman learned that an **invasion of Japan might result in a million American casualties**, he decided to use the new bomb against Japan.

The Atomic Bomb and the Japanese Surrender cont.

Truman selected the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as targets, since both of them were centers of military production.\

Nearly 100,000 people were killed by the enormous ball of fire at Hiroshima; 36,000 died at Nagasaki.

Thousands of others died later from burns, wounds and radiation sickness. As a result of these bombings, and the fact that the US agreed to let the Japanese Emperor remain on his throne as a symbol, Japan surrendered.

The Occupation of Japan

American forces occupied postwar Japan. Japan's overseas empire was taken away, and her military leaders were put on trial.

General Douglas MacArthur was assigned the task of rebuilding the Japanese government and society.

Under his leadership. Important changes were introduced. A new constitution went into effect in May 1947 making Japan a democracy. Japan was forbidden from having a large army or navy. Japan renounced the use of nuclear weapons.