Summary: World War II

The Road to War
After the Great Depression, millions of people were unemployed all around the world. They wanted strong leaders. In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the dictator of Germany. Hitler blamed Jews for Germany’s problems. Nazi soldiers arrested many Jews and sent them to prison.

Mussolini was Italy’s dictator. Italy was Germany’s ally. They were the Axis Powers. Poland, Britain, and France formed the Allied Powers. In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. The Allies declared war on Germany. World War II began. At the beginning of the war most Americans did not want to fight in Europe again.

America Goes to War
In 1940, Japan joined the Axis. Japan wanted to expand its empire in Asia. In 1941, Japan destroyed U.S. Navy ships at Pearl Harbor. Thousands of Americans died. The United States declared war on Japan.

The United States joined the Allied Powers. The Axis Powers declared war on the United States. Many Americans joined the military. Americans supported the war. They bought war bonds. Women worked in factories. Americans collected metal to make war supplies.


Fighting the War

As the war ended, Allied troops found out that Nazis had forced millions of Jews and other people into concentration camps. Over 12 million people died in the camps. About six million of those people were Jews. This mass murder is known as the Holocaust.