Focus Question: How did the Allies turn the tide against the Axis?  
List the ways in which the Allies turned back the Axis advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Back the Axis</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In Europe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Battle against U-boats in Atlantic</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Battle of Stalingrad</td>
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<tr>
<td>• British and American bombers batter Germany.</td>
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The attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II. The Allies’ ultimate goal was to fight and win a two-front war. However, their first concern was to defeat Hitler. To do that, it was necessary to get American supplies to Europe. German U-boats sank thousands of supply ships. By mid-1943, the Allies were sinking U-boats faster than Germany could build them.

To prepare for an invasion of Italy, the Allies wanted to push the Germans out of North Africa. American General Dwight Eisenhower led the Allied invasion in February 1942. He put George S. Patton, Jr., in charge of American forces. In May 1943, German and Italian forces in North Africa surrendered. FDR announced that only the unconditional surrender of the Axis Powers would end the war. This meant that they had to give up completely. In July 1943, British and American armies invaded Sicily, off the mainland of Italy. From there, they invaded Italy. In September, Italy surrendered.

In January 1943, the Russians turned back a German invasion at Stalingrad. Stalin demanded that Roosevelt and Churchill open a second front in France. In early 1942, British planes dropped large numbers of bombs on German cities. This was called saturation bombing. American bombers targeted key political and industrial centers. This was known as strategic bombing. An African American squadron known as the Tuskegee Airmen played a key role in the campaign.

The United States did not ignore the Pacific. Japanese forces continued to advance. In June 1942, the Japanese attacked Midway. Midway was an important American naval base in the central Pacific. Losing Midway would drive American defenses back to California. The American naval commander, Admiral Chester Nimitz, was prepared. The United States dealt Japan a decisive defeat. The Battle of Midway ended Japanese expansion.

Review Questions
1. What did the Allies do to weaken Germany?

2. Why was the Battle of Midway an important turning point in the war?
Focus Question: How did the war change America at home?
As you read, identify the major effects of World War II on the home front.

### The Home Front, World War II

#### Economy
- War bonds
- Wage controls
- 
- 

#### Effects on Women
- New relationships
- 
- 

#### Effects on Minorities
- 
- African Americans worked toward equal rights.
- 
-
World War II provided new opportunities for women and minorities. Many women found jobs, especially in heavy industry where they had not worked before. In addition to a paycheck, they gained confidence, knowledge, and organizational skills.

At the same time, few African Americans could get jobs with defense employers. In response, they planned a massive protest march on Washington, D.C. To prevent this, FDR issued Executive Order 8802. It assured fair hiring practices in any job paid for by government money.

People began to move to the South and Southwest to get jobs in wartime industries. To make up for the rural population drain, the United States initiated the bracero program. It brought Mexican laborers to work on American farms. The braceros contributed greatly to the war effort.

After Pearl Harbor, the federal government moved 100,000 Japanese Americans away from the West Coast. They were placed in camps under an internment policy. There they were held in jail-like conditions for the rest of the war. Some Japanese Americans went to court to protest. In the 1944 case of Korematsu v. United States, the Supreme Court said the government had the right to intern people in wartime. In spite of this, the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team fought in Italy. This team became the most decorated military unit in American history.

The war cost Americans $330 billion. To help pay for it, Congress placed a tax on all working Americans. To make sure that there would be enough raw materials for war production, a system of rationing was used. It limited the amount of certain goods people could buy. The federal Office of War Information (OWI) worked with the media to encourage support of the war effort. Americans bought war bonds. They also voluntarily contributed to the war effort in many other ways.

Review Questions
1. What benefits did women gain from work during World War II?

2. What happened to Japanese Americans during World War II?
**Focus Question:** How did the Allies defeat the Axis Powers?

*Identify the steps that led to the Allied victory.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>The Pacific</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Allies land at Normandy on D-Day.</td>
<td>• American forces capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa near Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Allies advance northward in Italy.</td>
<td>• Soviet Union declares war on Japan.</td>
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**Allies Win World War II**
June 6, 1944, is known as **D-Day**. It is the day that British and American forces invaded France from the west. More than 11,000 planes prepared the way. They were followed by more than 4,400 ships and landing crafts. By the end of D-Day, the Allies had gained a toehold in France. By July, more than one million Allied troops had landed.

Germany now faced a hopeless war on two fronts. In December 1944, Hitler ordered a major counterattack, known as the **Battle of the Bulge**. Hitler’s scenario called for German forces to capture communication and transportation centers. The attack almost succeeded. However, Allied bombers came to help, and they successfully attacked German positions. The Allies then continued to push the Germans out of France. By April, the Soviet and United States armies were close to Berlin. On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered.

American forces in the Pacific followed an **island-hopping** strategy. They took a steady path toward Japan. U.S. pilots finally made their way to the island of Okinawa in April 1945. From Okinawa, U.S. pilots bombed the Japanese home islands. They destroyed factories and military bases.

Advances in technology also helped the Allies win the war. **Albert Einstein** was a famous scientist. He had warned FDR of the need for atomic development. The program to develop the atomic bomb is known as the **Manhattan Project**. Physicist **J. Robert Oppenheimer** was in charge of the work. The first atomic bomb was tested on July 16, 1945. To save American lives and to end the war, President **Harry S. Truman** decided to use the atomic bomb against Japan. On August 6, 1945, U.S. pilots dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, the United States dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki. On August 15, Japan surrendered. World War II was over. It had been the most costly war in history. As many as 60 million people had died in the conflict.

**Review Questions**

1. Why was D-Day important?

2. Why did Truman use the atomic bomb against Japan?
Focus Question: How did the Holocaust develop and what were its results?

A. As you read, identify the steps that led to Hitler’s attempt to exterminate European Jews.

1933: Hitler becomes dictator of Germany; begins persecution of Jews.

1935:

1938: Kristallnacht—Nazi officials order attacks on Jews in Germany.

1933–1945:

1945: Awareness of the Holocaust increases demand and support for an independent Jewish homeland.
**Focus Question:** How did the Holocaust develop and what were its results?

B. As you read, identify different ways in which the United States and other nations responded to the treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany before, during, and after the war.
The Holocaust was the Nazi attempt to kill all Jews, as well as other “undesirables,” under their control. It was part of the Nazis’ racist ideology. The Nazis considered white Northern European gentiles to be superior to other people. Hitler began to persecute the Jews as soon as he came to power. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws denied Jews their German citizenship. The laws also segregated Jews at every level of society. Violence against Jews was common. The worst took place on November 9, 1938, which is known as Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass.” Secret police and military units destroyed synagogues and Jewish businesses. They also killed more than 200 Jews and injured more than 600 others.

Hitler’s “Final Solution to the Jewish question” was genocide. He wanted to kill all the Jews living in regions under his control. In 1933, Hitler opened the first Nazi concentration camp. Jews and other “undesirables” were placed in these camps. The camps were supposedly designed to turn prisoners into “useful members” of society. There were no restraints on guards, who tortured and killed prisoners without fear of reprisals. Doctors conducted cruel experiments that killed prisoners or left them deformed. Many concentration camps were death camps. There, prisoners were systematically killed.

Before the war, the United States and other countries could have done more. They could have relaxed immigration policies to let in more Jewish refugees. After war started, news of the mass killings began to reach the West. In early 1944, FDR formed the War Refugee Board. It worked with the Red Cross to save thousands of Eastern European Jews. However, most Americans did not realize the extent of the Nazi crime until Allied soldiers liberated the concentration camps. The revelation of the Holocaust increased American support for a Jewish state in Israel.

**Review Questions**

1. What was the purpose of Hitler’s concentration camps?

2. How did the Americans respond to news about the Holocaust?
Focus Question: What were the major immediate and long-term effects of World War II?

As you read, look for various developments in the postwar world that resulted from World War II.

- United Nations
- War criminals are put on trial.
Japan and Germany kept fighting long after their defeat in the war was certain. This prolonged fighting gave the Allies time to make plans for a postwar world. In February 1945, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met at Yalta on the Black Sea. They discussed final strategy and the future of Germany, Eastern Europe, and Asia after the war. This meeting was called the **Yalta Conference**. A few months later, the Big Three, now composed of Stalin, Truman, and Atlee, met at Potsdam. There they agreed to divide Germany into four zones of occupation. Western domination of the world had ended. Two **superpowers**—the United States and the Soviet Union—became the predominant nations of the postwar world.

The postwar world did not turn out quite as the Allies had planned. Communists and noncommunists clashed in Eastern Europe. In China, civil war began once again. Japan gained a new constitution that abolished the armed forces and enacted democratic reforms. The United States had boomed economically during the war and helped to shape the postwar world economy. The United States also led the charge to establish the **United Nations (UN)**. In 1948, the UN issued the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. This document condemns slavery and torture, upholds freedom of speech and religion, and affirms the right to an adequate standard of living.

During the war, the Axis Powers had repeatedly violated the **Geneva Convention**. This international agreement calls for the humane treatment of wounded soldiers and prisoners of war. At the end of the war, more than a thousand Japanese were tried for war crimes. At the **Nuremberg Trials** in Germany, key Nazi leaders were brought to justice for their crimes.

At the end of the war, Americans saw themselves as democratic, tolerant, and peaceful. The war renewed energy in the fight for civil rights at home. It also ushered in a long period of economic growth and prosperity.

**Review Questions**

1. What happened at the Yalta Conference?

2. How did Japan change as a result of World War II?