

IWO JIMA AND THE BOMBING OF TOKYO

■ **Feb 19, 1945:** U.S. troops land on heavily defended island of **Iwo Jima**

■ **Mar 9-10:** B-29s launch first low-altitude night raids on Japan, using napalm firebombs. **First mission destroys 25% of buildings in Tokyo, killing over 80,000 people**

■ **Mar 25:** Iwo Jima captured after 72 days of intense fighting. 6,800 U.S. Marines and nearly all 20,000 Japanese defenders die



Marines raising U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi would become iconic image of victory over Japan

OKINAWA

■ **Apr 1:** U.S. 10th Army, backed by largest amphibious assault of Pacific War, invades **Okinawa** – seen as last stepping-stone towards main islands of Japan

■ **Apr 6:** First major Japanese counterattack involves first large-scale attack by **kamikaze** planes. **Yamato** – world's most powerful battleship – sent on one-way suicide mission

Yamato sunk by U.S. bombs Apr 7. Over 3,600 killed



■ **Apr 12:** **Franklin D. Roosevelt** dies – **Harry Truman** sworn in as president

■ **May 3:** Allies recapture Burmese capital, **Rangoon**

■ **May 8, 1945:** **Germany surrenders unconditionally. World War II in Europe is over**

■ **May 19:** Japanese forces abandon port of **Foochow** in strategic withdrawal from southern China

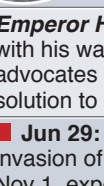


■ **May 27:** **General MacArthur** – forced to retreat in March 1942 – recaptures Philippines

■ **Jun 21:** U.S. captures Okinawa after 82 days of bloody battle and 12,000 American lives. Japanese losses exceed 100,000

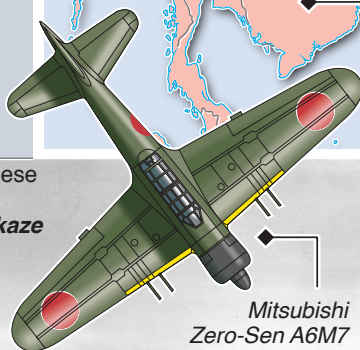
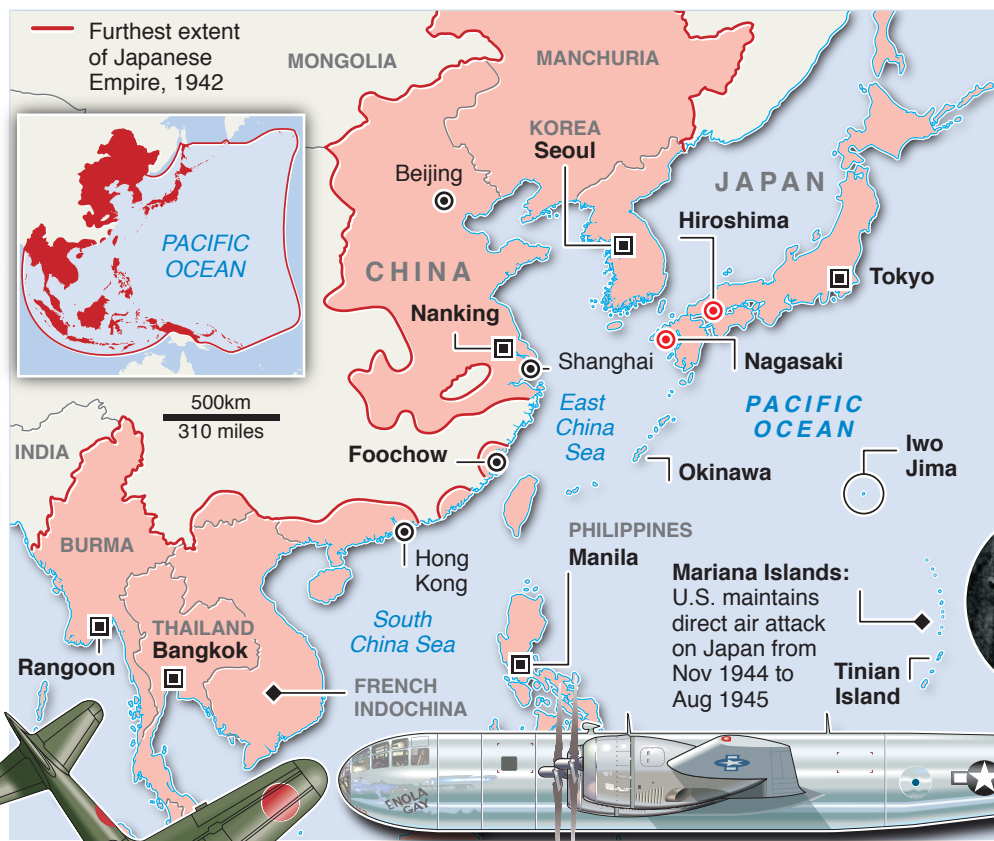
■ **Emperor Hirohito** meets with his war cabinet and advocates diplomatic solution to war

■ **Jun 29:** Truman approves invasion of Japan to begin Nov 1, expected to involve five million personnel



Victory over Japan ends WWII

As the war in Europe came to an end, the Allies were free to focus all their might on Japan. The submarine blockade and intensive bombing of Japanese cities made the fall of the Empire inevitable, but only after some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. The conflict finally ended with the unleashing of a new, terrifying force that would cast a giant shadow over the future



Mitsubishi Zero-Sen A6M7 "kamikaze" aircraft

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

■ **Jul 16:** U.S. Army tests world's first atomic bomb in desert of New Mexico

■ **Jul 17:** U.S., Britain and Soviet Union meet in Potsdam, Germany, to shape post-war world. **Churchill** and **Truman** agree to use A-bomb if Japan refuses to surrender



■ **Jul 26:** Atomic bomb delivered to **Tinian Island**

Japan ignores **Potsdam Declaration**, which demands unconditional surrender or risk "prompt and utter destruction"

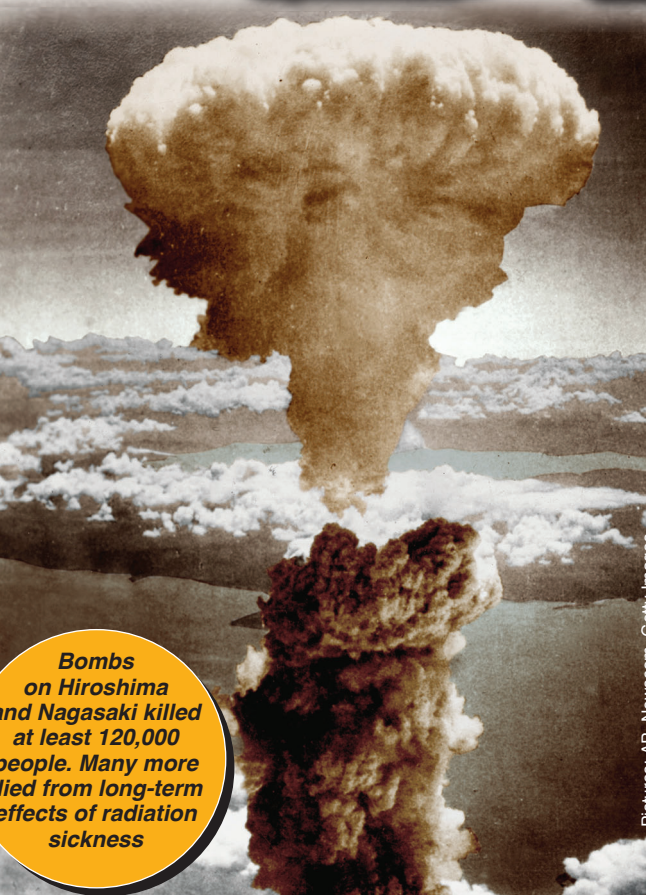
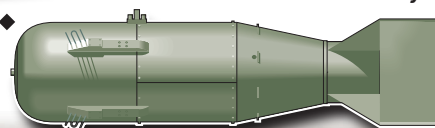
■ **Aug 6:** B-29 **Enola Gay** flies from Tinian to drop first deployed atomic bomb on **Hiroshima**

■ **Aug 8:** Soviets declare war on Japan and invade Japanese-held Manchuria in largest land offensive of Pacific War

■ **Aug 9:** Second atomic bomb dropped on **Nagasaki**

Uranium-fuelled bomb used on Hiroshima

Length: **3 metres**
Yield: **15 kilotons**



Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed at least 120,000 people. Many more died from long-term effects of radiation sickness

SURRENDER

■ **Aug 14:** World War II ends as Japan agrees unconditional surrender. Hirohito relinquishes divine status but is allowed to remain as symbolic head of state

■ **Sep 2:** Formal surrender ceremony takes place on **USS Missouri** in Tokyo Bay



■ **1947:** New constitution, which prohibits maintaining military for warfare, enacted

■ **1948:** Wartime prime minister **General Tojo Hideki**, accused of being largely responsible for Japan's entry into war, executed for war crimes



B-29 "Enola Gay"