

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 fall of the Empire was inevitable, but the conflict ended only with the unleashing of a terrifying new force that would cast a giant shadow over the future

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** becomes 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



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

Apr 12: **Franklin D. Roosevelt** dies – **Harry Truman** (right) 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 Douglas MacArthur** (above) – forced to retreat in March 1942 – recaptures Philippines

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

Emperor Hirohito (left) meets with his war cabinet and advocates diplomatic solution to war

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

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

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

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

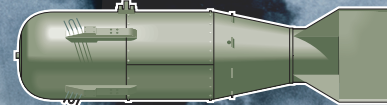


Jul 26: Atomic bomb delivered to **Tinian** island. Japan ignores **Potsdam Declaration**, which demands unconditional surrender or risk "prompt and utter destruction"

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

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

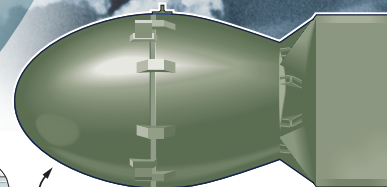
Aug 9: Second atomic bomb – **Fat Man** – dropped on **Nagasaki**



Atomic bombs killed at least 120,000 people. Many more died from long-term effects of radiation

Mariana Islands: U.S. maintains direct air attack on Japan from Nov 1944 to Aug 1945

Little Boy: Uranium-fuelled bomb used on Hiroshima
Length: 3 metres
Yield: 15 kilotons



Fat Man: Plutonium-fuelled bomb used on Nagasaki
Length: 3.3m Yield: 21kt

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

