

World War II Engulfs the World

World War II was the most devastating war in history. It was fought between two groups of countries—the Axis and the Allies.

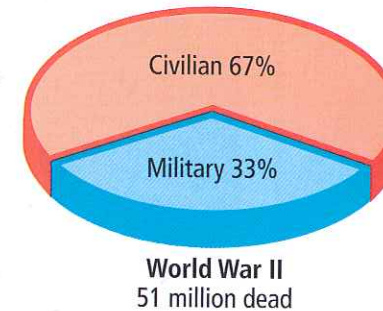
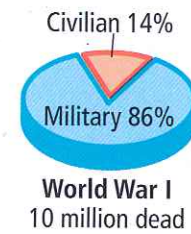
- Before the war, the Axis nations extended their territories by seizing nearby countries. Japan went into China, Italy into Albania, and Germany into Austria. Other nations joined forces as the Allies and tried to stop them.
- Early in the war, the Axis powers defeated every country they attacked. By 1940 only the United Kingdom was left to oppose Germany in Western Europe.
- In 1941 Germany attacked the Soviet Union, and Japan attacked the United States, causing these two powerful nations to join the Allies.
- By the time the Allies had defeated the Axis, Japan and much of Europe were in ruins.

Axis vs. Allies

Axis Powers	Allied Powers
Germany Japan Italy	United Kingdom United States Soviet Union China Australia Canada
Six other nations were allies of the Axis during the war.	There were 50 Allied nations from around the world.

A The Allies had greater resources than the Axis. The United Kingdom used troops and supplies from its colonies. The United States had vast industrial power.

Lives Lost in World Wars



C Worldwide, World War II took the lives of more people, mostly civilians, than any other war.



D Winston Churchill, center, inspired the British to continue fighting. During the Battle of Britain, the country withstood nightly German air raids.

What was the "final solution"?

The Nazi government of Germany locked up all the Jews and Gypsies they could find. The Nazis considered them inferior and evil: a "problem" to be solved. Their so-called "final solution" was to kill them. Six million Jews and two million Gypsies died in the genocide known as the Holocaust.

World War II
1939–1945

- Axis control in 1942
- Allied control in 1942
- Neutral power
- Extent of Japanese control
- Allied advance
- ✳ Major battle
- ☄ Atomic bombing

Map shows boundaries of 1942.

B Unlike the Allies, the Axis was prepared for war and had conquered huge areas by 1942. But the Allies recovered and attacked by land, sea, and air.

