V. The War Ends

A) The Third Reich Collapses

1. Liberation of Paris

July 25, 1944 American bombers blew a hole in the German lines. Tanks raced through

French Resistance staged a rebellion in Paris

Allied forces entered Paris on August 25

2. The Battle of the Bulge

Hitler’s last offensive battle, the goal was to cut off Allied supplies coming into Belgium.

December 16, 1944 in 6 inches of snow, bitter cold, the Germans surprised American

troops.

Surrounded the town of Bastogne and demanded Americans surrender. Replied “Nuts”

Eisenhower sent General Patton to rescue them.

Weather cleared and Allied aircraft began bombing German fuel depots. Troops forced

to halt.

3 more weeks of fighting but U.S. wins. January 8 German troops begin to withdraw,

more than 100,000 casualties.

3. V-E Day: The War Ends in Europe

Massive attack by Soviets on Germany troops in Russia

February- Soviet troops reached Oder River, 35 miles from Berlin

March- American troops fought their way to Rhine River

April- Soviets reached the outskirts of Berlin

April 30, 1945- Hitler killed himself

May7 1945- Germany surrendered unconditionally

May 8- proclaimed (V-E Day) victory in Europe

B) Japan

1. Uncommon Valor on Iwo Jima

United States needed an island close enough to Japan for their B-29 Superfortress

bombers to refuel

Iwo Jima rugged terrain, Japanese fortified it with network of caves and concrete

bunkers connected by tunnels.

February 19, 1945 Marines landed on Iwo Jima, pounded by Japanese artillery

Crawled inland, using flame throwers and explosives to attack Japanese bunkers.

6,800 marines killed.

2. Firebombing Devastates Japan

March 9, 1945 B29 bombers dropped napalm bombs, created firestorms

80,000 killed in Tokyo, 67 cities firebombed

3. The Invasion of Okinawa

Needed base near Japan to launch invasion of Japan.

Troops landed on Okinawa April 1,945. Fought their way up steep slopes against

machine gun and artillery fire.

Allies captured island June 22, 1945 12,000 soldiers, sailors and marines killed.

4. The Manhattan Project

American program to build an atomic bomb, code name Manhattan Project. Team led

by J. Robert Oppenheimer. Created at Secret lab in Los Alamos. July 16, 1945 tested

near Alamogordo

5. The Decision to Drop the Bomb

Truman Believed he was saving soldiers’ lives by dropping the atomic bomb. The

United States would not have to invade Japan.

Threatened Japan with “prompt and utter destruction” if they did not surrender

unconditionally. No reply.

August 6, 1945 B-29 bomber- the **Enola Gay**- dropped a bomb ‘Little Boy’ on Hiroshima

August 9th Soviet Union declared war on Japan. ‘Fat Man’ dropped on Nagasaki

August 15,1945 (V-J Day) Japan surrendered

C. Building a New World

1. Creating the United Nations

1944 United Nations-formed by delegates from 39 countries

General Assembly- every member nation had one vote

Security Council (11 members) Big Five - permanent members - U.S., Britain, France,

China and the Soviet Union. Given veto power. Six other member nations are voted

on by the General Assembly. Its goal is international peace and security.

2. Putting the Enemy on Trial

Nuremberg Trials-

7 Nazis leaders sent to prison

12 sentenced to death by hanging

Lower ranking officials and military officers- 107 prison; 24 executed

Tokyo Trials-

18 sent to prison; 7 executed

Did not put Japanese Emperor on trial. Feared it would lead to an uprising.