

Chapter 26 Lecture Notes – 3/13/08

Victory in Europe!

Yalta Conference

- Held in Yalta, USSR in Feb... 1945
- Attended by W. Churchill, F. Roosevelt, J. Stalin
- At this point, the Red Army had taken control of Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, and penetrated Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia also; they were camped out 50 miles from Berlin.
- Reason for the meeting was that they needed Stalin's help to defeat the Japanese
- Results of the conference-
 - *USSR would declare war on Japan 2-3 months following Germany's surrender
 - *A postwar commission to divide Germany and plan for its eventual reunification
 - *Free Democratic republics would be set up in Eastern Europe.
 - * United Nations would be created to prevent future outbreaks of war.

Death and Defeat

- Americans cross the Rhine River in March 1945.
- Eisenhower plans to keep fighting along a broad front along the Rhine River, let the Soviets take Berlin, and meet up at Elbe River.
- April 30-Hitler commits suicide as the Soviets were preparing to take his compound.
- May 2-Berlin fell to the Soviets
- May 8-A new German government was set up and victory in Europe (V-E Day) was declared

Other Things

- In capturing Germany, the Allied forces discovered concentration/death camps and were able to liberate the camps and the Jews.
- April 12-F. Roosevelt died. Harry Truman becomes President of the United States.

Island hopping

- American strategy to winning the War in the Pacific involved moving from island to island and removing all Japanese and their military installations.

Major Pacific Battles-

AV-American Victory

JV-Japanese Victory

-Coral Sea-May 1942-AV

-Midway-June 1942-AV

-Guadalcanal-Aug. 1942-Feb 1943-AV

-Tarawa-Nov 1942-AV

-Leyte Golf-Oct 1944-AV-Won back the Philippines for the U.S. liberating the forces that had been on the Bataan Death March

-Iwo Jima-Feb-March 1945-

*Island of Iwo Jima 5,200acres/25sq. km

*Made of volcanic rock

Major allied victory

Japan-21,000 troops

*20,703 killed

United States-110,000 troops

*6,812 killed

*19,189 wounded

*494 missing

Marines and Navy captured Suribachi 2/23

-Okinawa-April-June 1945-

*was going to give the Allies the estimate they needed to take the Japanese mainland

-Capture of Okinawa proved harder than first believed

-Americans needed in excess to 2 million ground forces and to take Japanese mainland

Battle of Okinawa

-United States-

550,000 troops

12,213 dead

38,916 wounded

33,000 non-combat losses

-Japan-

100,000 troops

66,000 dead

17,000 missing

140,000 civilians killed

Manhattan Project

-Project to build the first atomic bomb

-Started in 1941 under the direction of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer

-Tested in 1945 in New Mexico "Trinity test"-Detonation of the "Plutonium Implosion Device"

-Two atomic bombs were built

*"little boy"-Aug. 6 on Hiroshima-dropped by the Enola Gay

*"Fat man"-Aug. 8 on Nagasaki

-Japan surrendered on Aug. 14 (V-J Day)

-Following Japan's official surrender on September 2, 1945 the United States took over control Japan in a military occupation

Post-war Musings

-Germany (and Berlin) is divided into four occupied zones. . . American, British, French, and Soviet Union.

-Americans take control of Japan; establish a military government over the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

-14 million soldiers killed (300,000 Americans) 25 million civilians killed.