Lesson #7: The Holocaust & The Bomb

Hitler’s Dislike of Jews

• Hitler blamed Jews for Germany’s problems
• This was easily ignored by other nations, as racism against Jews was common.
• In his book, Mein Kampf, Hitler claimed that Jews were responsible for Germany losing the First World War, they were predominantly communists, and they were a threat to the German people.
• Once in power, Hitler began the systematic intimidation and subjugation of Jewish people.

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The Holocaust: Defined

- The Holocaust was a systematic and deliberate action by the Nazi state.
- It resulted in the mass murder of 6 million Jews and 6 million “undesirables”
- It was carried out between 1933 and 1945 via isolation, persecution, separation, elimination and extermination.
Pre-war Developments (examples)

- 1933: Nazis define Jews as “Non Aryan”
- 1934: Jews are banned from unions
- 1935: Nuremburg Race Laws passed: Jews lose citizenship
- 1937: Jews banned from many professions
- 1938: ID cards mandatory, Jewish passports stamped with red “J”.
- 1938: “Kristallnacht” - businesses and synagogues destroyed.
- 1939: Silver & gold confiscated, relocation begins.
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The Holocaust 1940-42

• **1940**: Nazis start Auschwitz, first prisoners arrive
• **1941**: German Jews used as forced labor, the SS began a mass murder campaign in the east, gas is first used in Auschwitz
• **1942**: Zyklon-B first used at Auschwitz, the bodies are buried in mass graves in a meadow, The “Final Solution” starts, open pit burning of bodies begins at Auschwitz
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The Holocaust 1943-45

1943: New gas chamber/crematory opens at Auschwitz (daily capacity of 4,756 bodies).

1944: Auschwitz-Birkenau records highest daily number of persons gassed & burned at over 9,000, Soviet troops liberate Majdanek (~79,000 deaths).

1945: Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz (~1.2 mil. deaths), US troops liberate Buchenwald (~56,000 deaths).

1945-46: the Allies prosecuted many Nazi war criminals at the Nuremburg Trials.
The Pacific Theatre

• Japanese forces were successful through the first half of 1942.
• June 1942: American forces began to gain momentum, utilizing a method called “Island Hopping.”
• As Japan became more desperate, they used Kamikaze attacks—suicide missions.
• For the next three years, US progress resulted in high casualties.
Attacks From Japan

• 1942: A Japanese submarine shelled a wireless station & lighthouse at Estevan Point on Vancouver Island.
• No damage or casualties, but it increased fears of attack.
• Coastal defenses included gun batteries on Vancouver island.
• 1944- Japan launched ~9,000 balloon bombs against North America to start fires and panic.
• More than 80 reached Canada, with no casualties.
Preparation for Invasion

- Invading mainland Japan would cost many US lives.
- US scientists had been working on a new weapon - an atomic bomb.
- Canada contributed labs in Montreal & Chalk River, heavy water made in Trail, as well as uranium from the NWT.
- This secretive plan was called the Manhattan Project.
- After a successful test, the US planned to use the bomb instead of invading mainland Japan.
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The Atomic Bombs

- Aug 6, 1945 - the US drops the first atomic bomb (Little Boy) on the city of Hiroshima.
- Aug 9, 1945 - a second bomb (Fat Man) was dropped on Nagasaki.
- Aug. 15, 1945 - Japan surrendered
World War Two 1939-1945

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• Hiroshima Peace Memorial (dome): then & now

• Arial view of Hiroshima
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• The destructive power of the bomb was overwhelming.
• The bombs left over 220,000 people dead (blast and subsequent illness).
• Initial survivors suffered severe burns, then radiation poisoning, which killed many.
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![Graph showing surface detonation cloud height vs yield, with various altitudes and yields marked.](image)

- Stratosphere
- Troposphere
- Top
- Bottom

Yield:
- 1 Kiloton
- 10 Kilotons
- 100 Kilotons
- 1 Megaton
- 10 Megatons
- 30 Megatons

Altitude x 1000 ft:
- 0
- 20
- 40
- 60
- 80
- 100
- 120