

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ALLIED VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II

World War II in Europe began in September, 1939. The United States did not enter World War II until December, 1941. During those two years, several things took place that were very important if we are to understand why the **ALLIES** won the war. They were:

1. In June, 1940, France surrendered to Nazi Germany. This meant that the only country left fighting the Nazis was England. The new Prime Minister of England was Winston Churchill. He promised to fight on and to never surrender. It was his leadership during World War II that **RALLIED** British and helped to defeat the Nazis. Churchill also was friendly with the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Even though the United States was neutral, Roosevelt did send England supplies.
2. In June, 1941, Hitler made his biggest mistake of the war. He thought England was beaten (but not invaded) and ordered his army to invade the Soviet Union. Finally, after two years of war, Stalin and Hitler, the bitterest of enemies, were fighting each other. This meant England no longer stood alone. But without help from the United States, it seemed as if the Nazis would still win the war.

On December 7, 1941 everything changed. Without warning, while the two nations were at peace, the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii. The U.S. suffered a great loss. Thousands of men were killed and many U.S. ships were sunk. Within four days the United States was at war with Japan, Germany and Italy.

The Big Three (United States, England and the Soviet Union) led by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin, led the world in the defeat of Fascism. In Europe (see the map on the next page) Nazi Germany was attacked from the south and west by the U.S., England (and later, France) while the Soviet Union advanced from the East. In Asia, China (under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek) continued to fight the Japanese. However, after Pearl Harbor, the United States joined in the war. By August, 1945, the greatest war in history, finally ended.

World War II was different from other wars for many reasons.

1. It was a total war. This means that not only did armies fight each other, but whole countries fought. Every factory, every person, all the wealth of the country, went to war. Also, millions of people were killed as cities were bombed.
2. World War II was a Global War. More than 60 nations were involved. Up to 40,000,000 were killed.

3. There were new scientific inventions that changed warfare forever. Some examples were radar, guided missiles, jet airplanes and the Atomic Bomb. The war against Japan ended in August, 1945 when the United States dropped Atomic Bombs on two Japanese cities first Hiroshima and three days later, Nagasaki.
4. The Holocaust. This refers to the murdering of millions of innocent people by the Nazis in death camps. You will read more about this in the next lesson.

As a result of the Second World War Fascism was soundly defeated. Germany, Italy and Japan were destroyed as was much of Europe and Asia. The two new great powers that **EMERGED** from the war were the United States and the Soviet Union. Finally, to prevent another war, the **VICTORIOUS** Allied nations started the United Nations.

QUESTIONS:

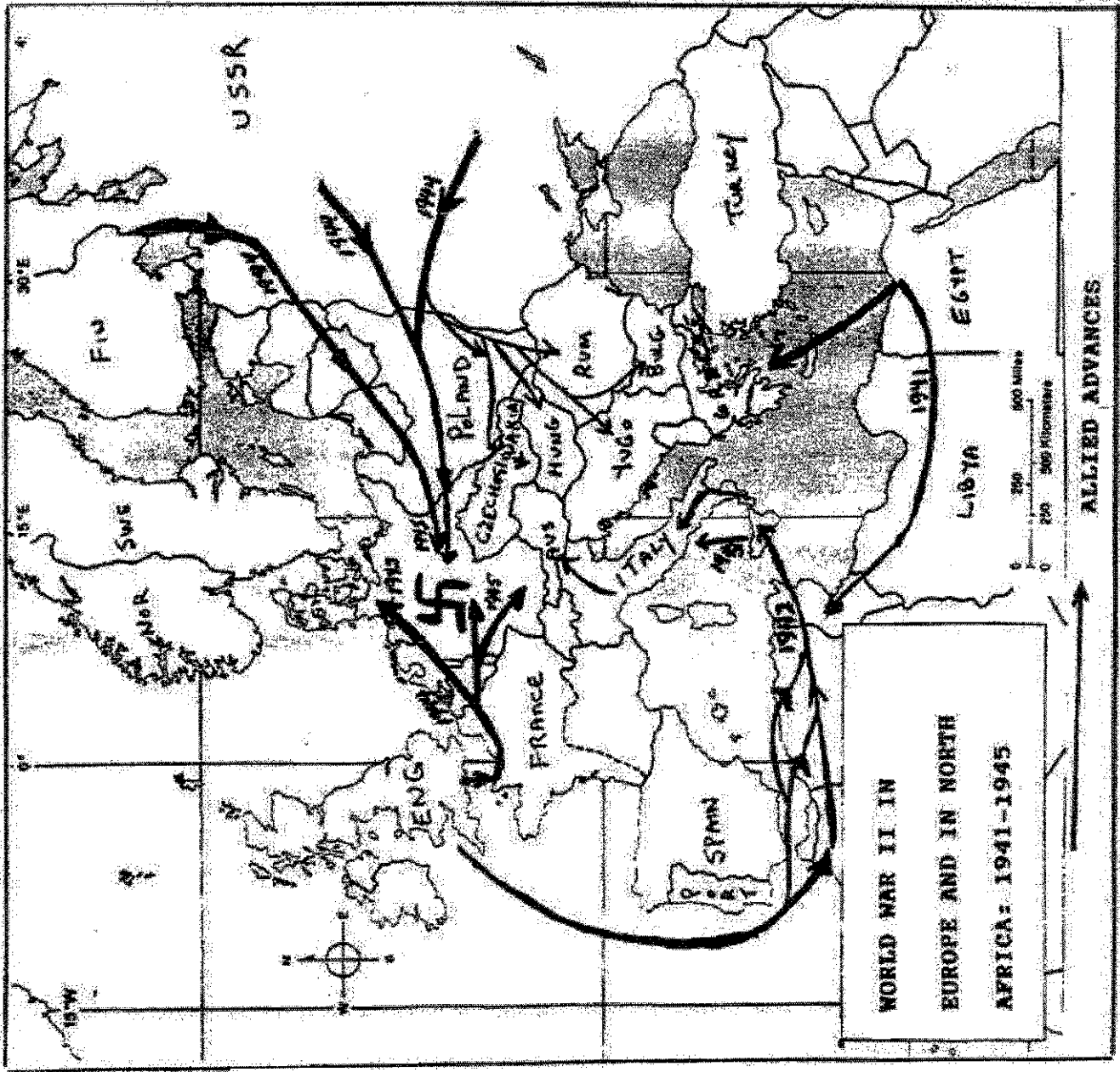
1. List three reasons why the Allies won World War II.
2. List three ways World War II was different from other wars.
3. How has World War II affected the world we live in?



"The Big Three"—Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin—meeting at Yalta, 1945

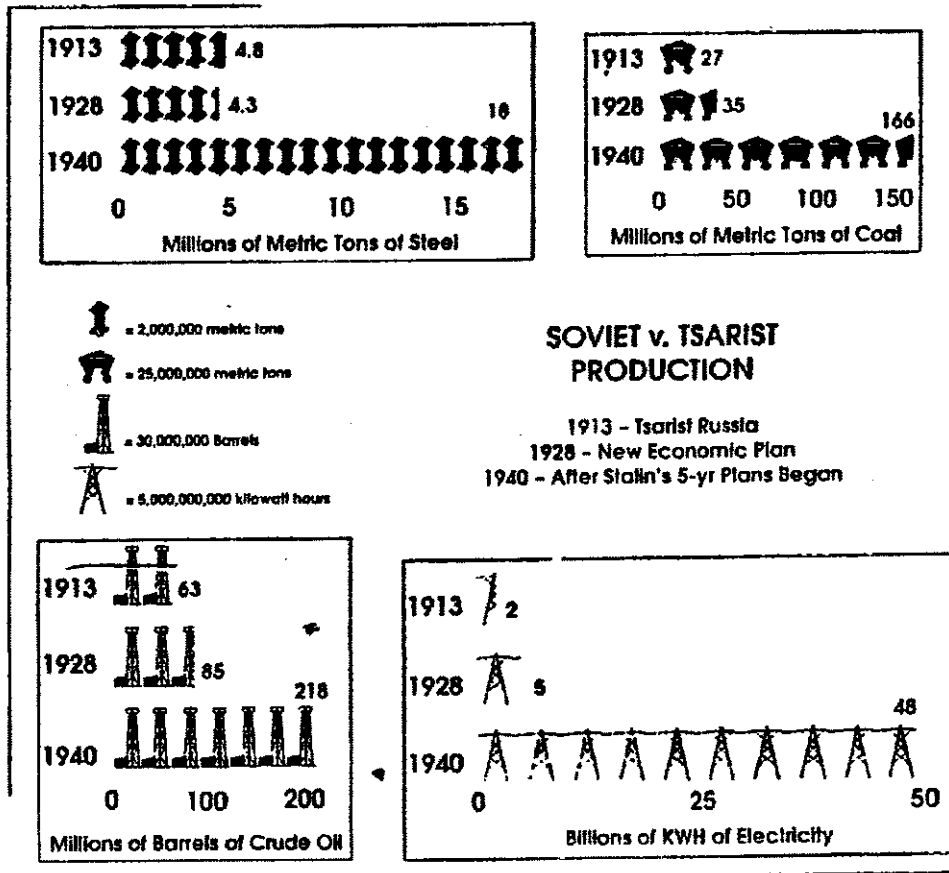
TRUE/FALSE

1. Germany was NOT invaded during World War II.
2. The Soviet Union advanced into Germany as soon as World War II started.
3. The Allies invaded North Africa before they invaded Europe.
4. Nazi Germany had to fight the Soviet Union to their east while they fought the U.S. and England to their west.
5. The Nazis were beaten in eastern European nations by the U.S. and England.



HOW SHOULD HISTORY JUDGE STALIN

DOCUMENT #1



Based on this document, what was the goal of Stalin's Five Year Plans? _____

Compared to the Czars and Lenin (who ruled up to 1926), was Stalin successful? _____ Give two examples to prove your answer _____

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Document #2

“My goal was to improve the level of crop production in the Soviet Union so that we could not only feed ourselves but sell the excess crops to other nations. The money we gained from the export of crops would be used to buy new machinery and technology that the Soviet Union desperately needs. In order to raise crop production, I ended all private ownership of farms. Instead of fifty thousand small farms, we now had 100 large farms which could be harvested more efficiently using machinery instead of hand labor. This is known as collectivization of farms. Joseph Stalin, 1952

Based on this document, what was the goal of collectivization of farms? _____

Document #3

“ The result of the collectivization of farms was rebellion against Stalin's orders in many areas, especially the Ukraine. Stalin's response: A war against his own people from 1928- 1934. Using his secret service, the KGB, he ordered whole towns to be arrested and sent to prison camps in Siberia, where no one survived more than two years in the bitter cold. Those in the Ukraine that had rebelled were slowly starved to death under the watchful eyes of the Soviet army. The final death toll under Stalin? Twenty million people starved to death or froze to death in prison camps (gulags).” *Global History*, pg. 147

Why are the years 1928-1934 also known as the “Great Terror?” _____

Document #4

One former KGB officer wrote in his memoirs “We received a telegram from Stalin's office. It said simply: “Two hundred must go.” We quickly rounded up the first two hundred people we found, women, children, old people... I shot four people ...I felt very proud because I thought that I had done this for my country and for Comrade Stalin. Soon the ditch was filled with all two hundred”.

-Gulag Archipelago by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

What was the purpose of Stalin ordering the random execution of two hundred people? _____

