

World War II in Japan: 1939 - 1945

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The Japanese Empire

- ▶ Japan wanted to expand to obtain more raw materials and markets for its industries/population
- ▶ 1931: Japan seized Manchuria
- ▶ 1937-40: Japan seized most of E. China
- ▶ Sept. 1940: Japan joins the tripartite pact, becoming an ally of Italy and Germany.

America gets closer to war

- ▶ Mid 1941: Japanese forces seized French territories in Indochina.
- ▶ In response, the US froze Japanese assets in the US and cut off all trade with Japan.
- ▶ **Americans began to crack the Japanese secret code and intercepted messages saying that Japan was planning to seize more islands in the Pacific.**

Problems in the Pacific

- ▶ October 1941: General Tojo became Prime Minister of Japan and wanted war with the US.
- ▶ Nov. 1941: The US intercepted messages showing that a Japanese force was moving towards SE Asia to take more land.
- ▶ FDR demanded that it be recalled and that Japan withdraw from conquered territories.



WAR

- ▶ Dec. 8, 1941: FDR delivered a war message to Congress. Within 4 days, the US was at war with Japan, Germany, and Italy.



A Grim Future for the Allies

- ▶ In Jan. 1942, the Axis powers had a big advantage in Europe. By then, Britain was almost defeated, the Axis controlled almost all of continental Europe, and German troops had captured most of North Africa.
- ▶ German subs were trying to keep food and supplies from reaching Britain.

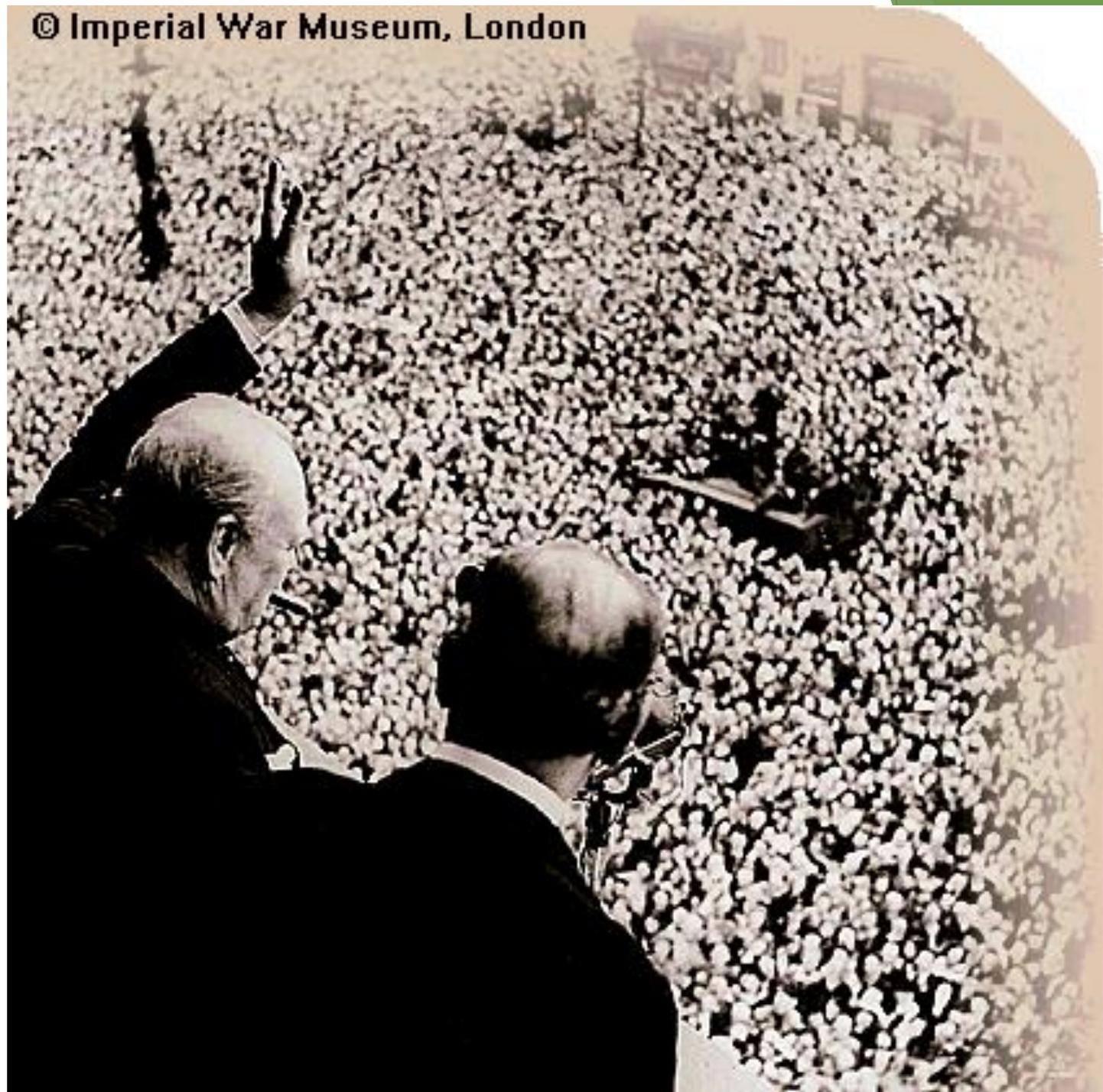
Casablanca Conference

- ▶ January 1943: FDR and Churchill met in Casablanca, Morocco.
- ▶ They agreed to win the war in Europe before concentrating on the Pacific.
- ▶ They agreed to demand only an unconditional surrender from all of the Axis powers.



May 8,
1945: V-
E Day

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War in the Pacific

- ▶ On Dec. 22, 1941, Japanese invade the Philippines.
- ▶ January 1942, MacArthur withdrew to the Bataan Peninsula on Manila Bay.



The Philippines

- ▶ By March, 1942, FDR ordered General MacArthur to escape to Australia. He left with the words: “I shall return.”
- ▶ On May 6, 1942, 11,000 Americans and Filipinos surrendered. When the Bataan Peninsula fell, approx. 76,000 Filipinos and Americans became prisoners of war.

Bataan Death March

- ▶ Japanese soldiers split the prisoners into groups of 500-1000 and marched them 60 miles
- ▶ About 10,000 prisoners died during the 6 day march
- ▶ Those who survived were shipped to prison camps





Japanese Expansion

- ▶ Japanese forces continued to expand and were not stopped by allied forces until the Battle of the Coral Sea in May, 1942.
- ▶ This battle fought entirely with planes from aircraft carriers. Enemy ships never came within sight of one another.

Battle of the Coral Sea

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- ▶ Although both the US and the Japanese navy lost about 1/2 of their forces, this battle stopped the Japanese from establishing the bases they needed to invade Australia.





The Battle of Midway

- ▶ June 4, 1942: This battle was also fought entirely from the air.
- ▶ The US destroyed 3 of the 4 Japanese aircraft carriers while they were still loading bombs in their planes. This carried with it the loss of 250 Japanese planes.
- ▶ This was the last Japanese offensive.

Battle of Guadalcanal

- ▶ 1st US offensive of the Pacific war.
- ▶ August 1942: 11,000 US Marines landed at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands
- ▶ about 2,200 Japanese fled into the jungle. They fought there for 3 months.
- ▶ Feb. 1943: Japan abandoned Guadalcanal.

The Philippines

- ▶ Mid-October 1944: US forces invaded the Philippine island of Leyte.
- ▶ The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest in Naval history
- ▶ **engaging more than 280 warships. As a result of the battle, the Japanese navy was virtually destroyed.**



Japanese Kamikazes

- ▶ Japanese kamikazes were suicide pilots who crashed their planes which were heavily loaded with bombs into allied ships.
- ▶ During the war, the US experienced about 4,900 kamikaze attacks which destroyed 57 American ships and damaged about 650 others.

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A Kamikaze Pilot



The Philippines

- ▶ After securing Leyte, the US invaded Luzon in an attempt to capture Manila, the capital city of the Philippines.
- ▶ In one month's time, 100,000 Filipinos died, 80,000 Japanese died, and 27,000 Americans also perished.
- ▶ The US did not fully secure the Philippines until June, 1945.

The Battle of Iwo Jima

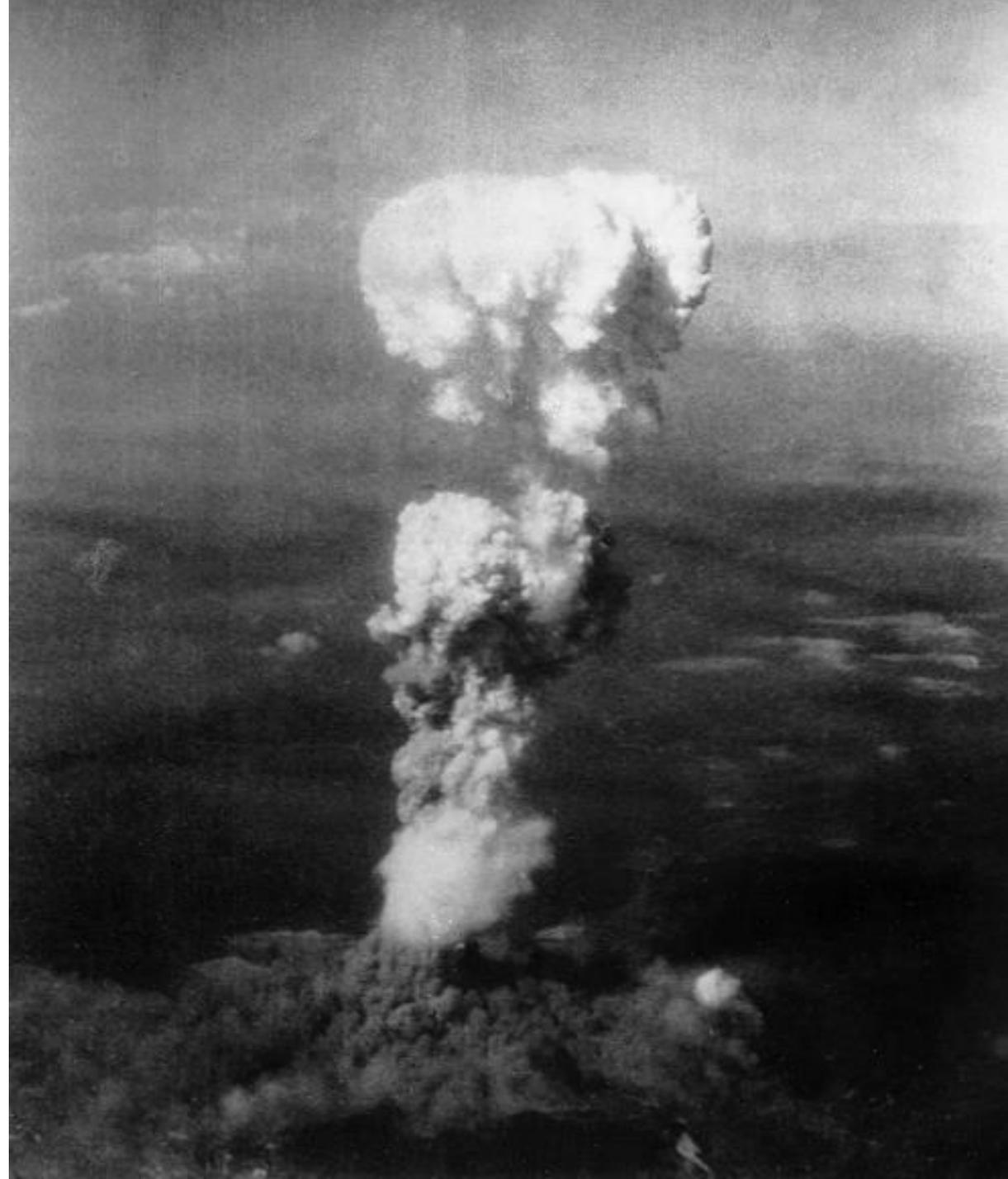
- ▶ The 14 square mile island was one of the bloodiest battles of the war.
- ▶ 25,000 Japanese protected the small rocky island and it took over 110,000 Americans to defeat them.
- ▶ Only 216 Japanese surrendered--the rest died.
- ▶ More US medals of honor were given for this battle than any other single battle of the war.

Marines Raising the US Flag at Iwo Jima

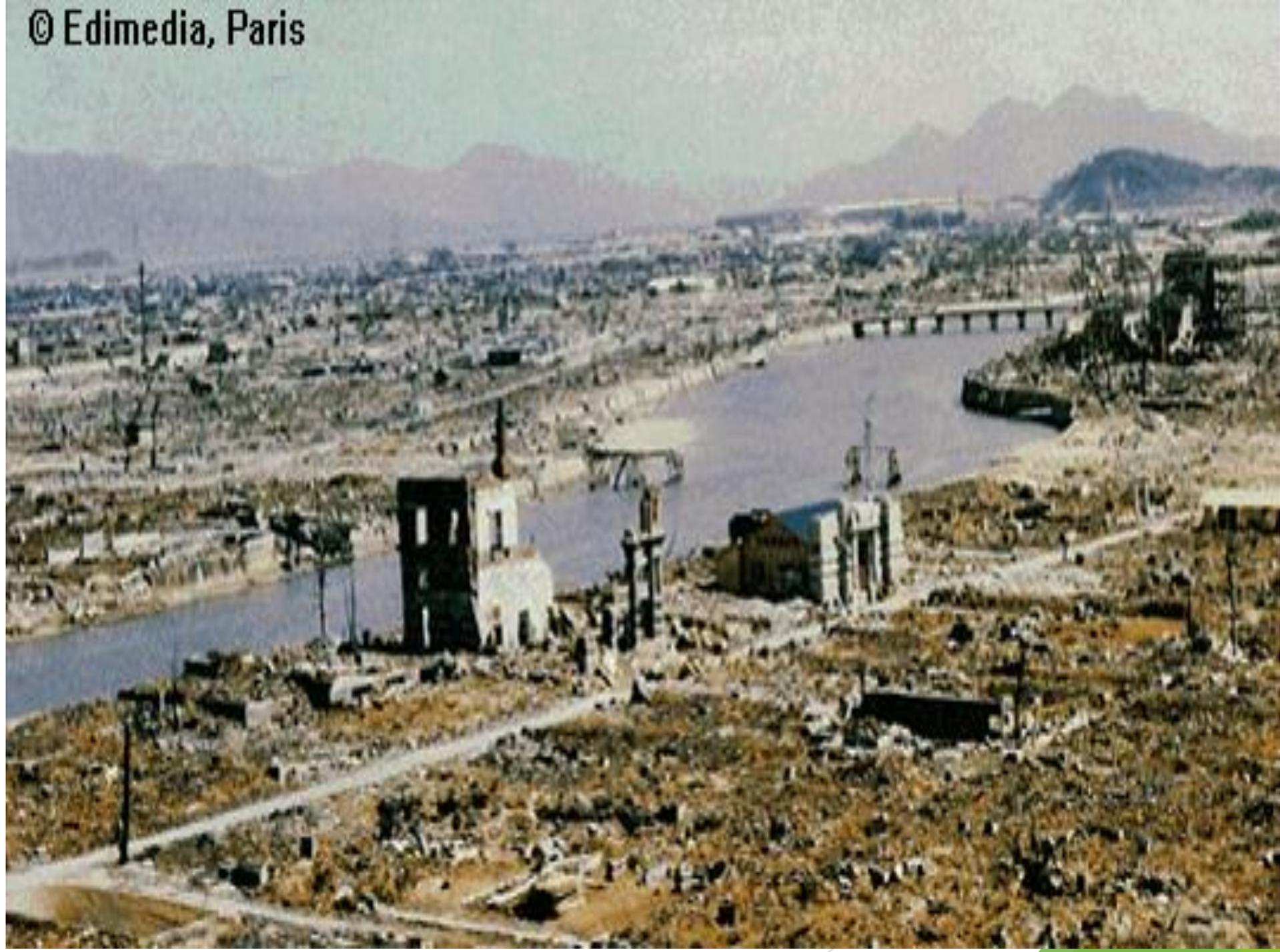


The Bombing of Hiroshima

- ▶ August 6, 1945: the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima.
- ▶ It destroyed about 90% of the city and killed about 140,000 people.

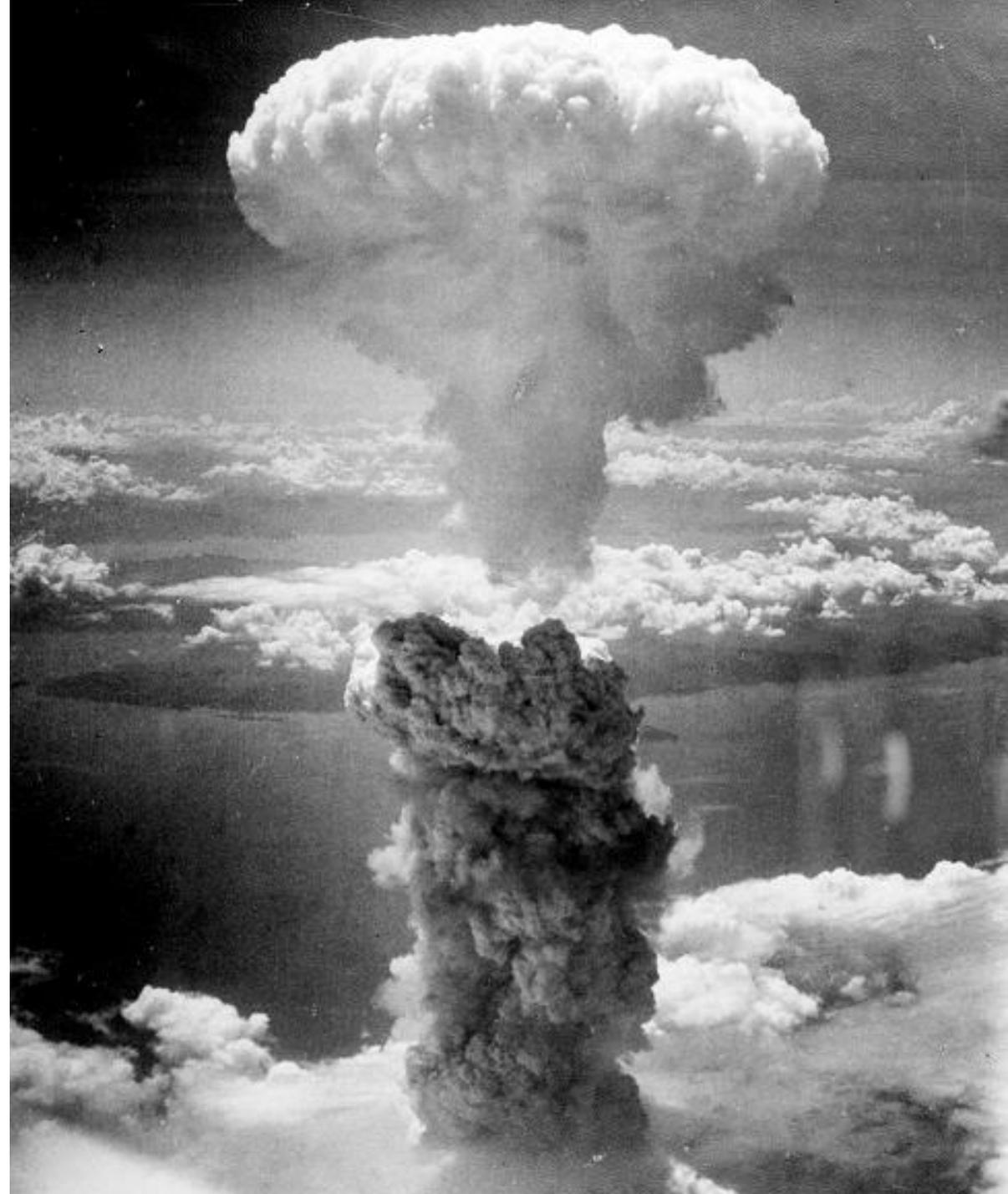


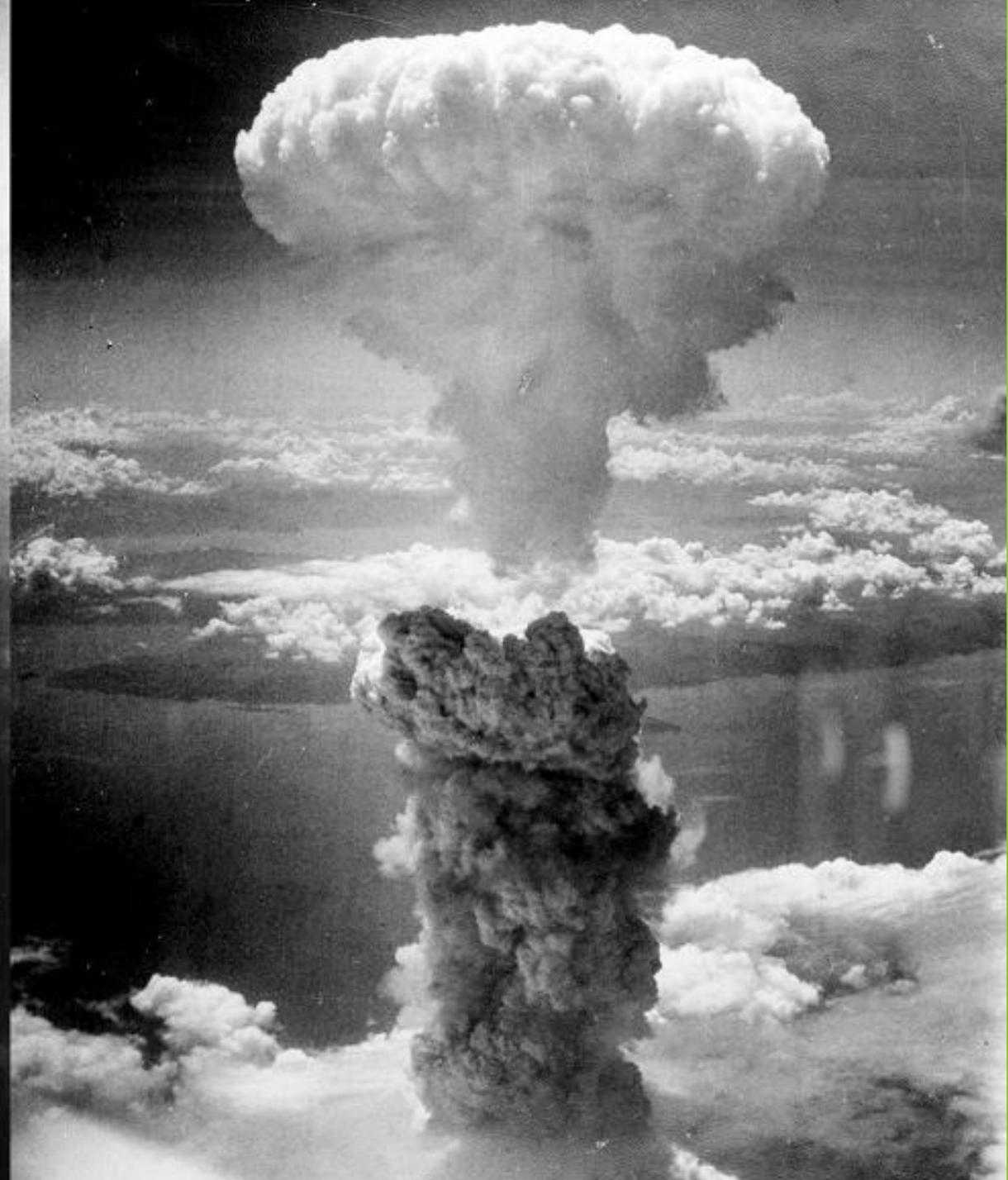
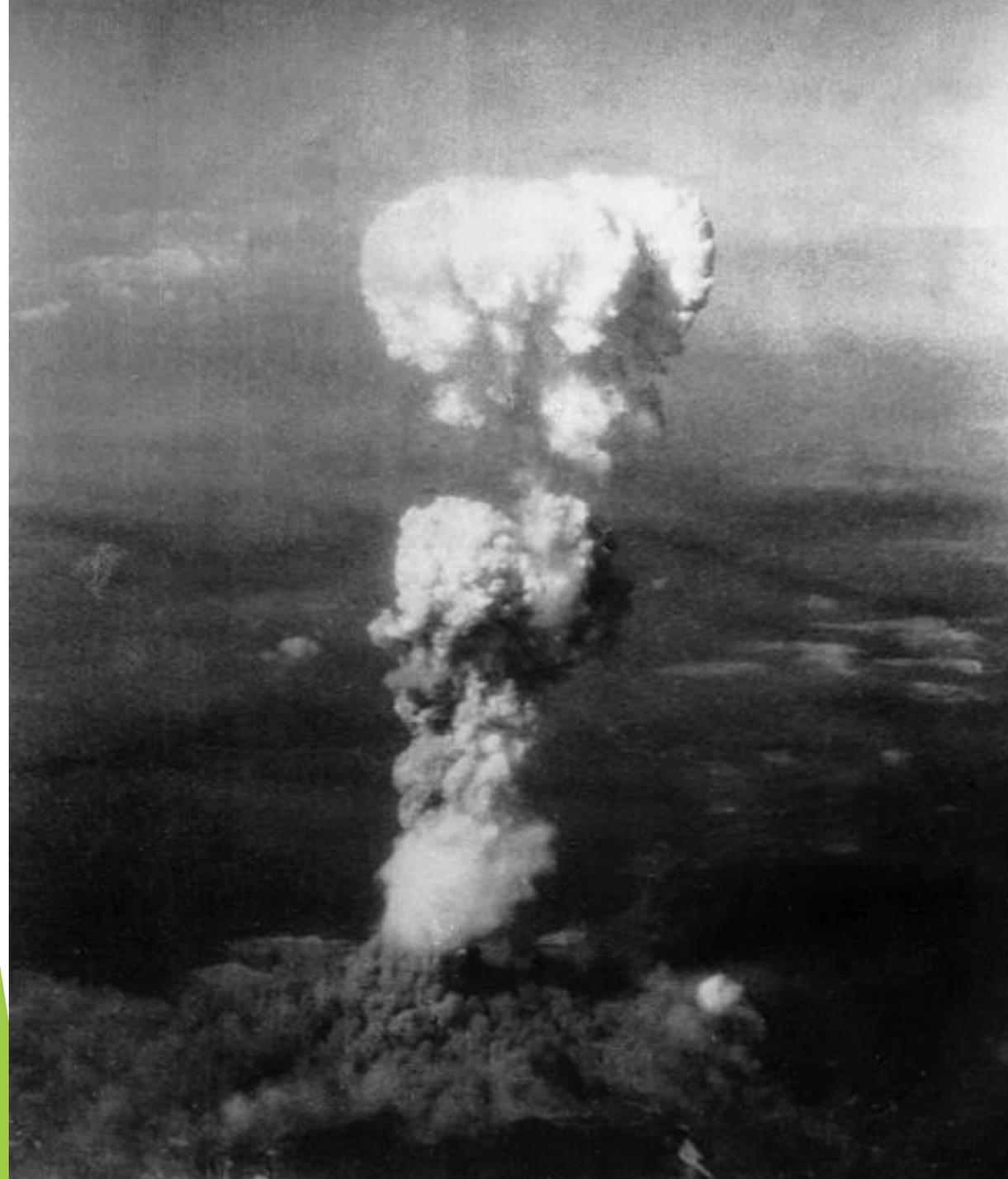
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Nagasaki

- ▶ a 2nd atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 after no Japanese surrender
- ▶ There were 64,000 deaths, and led to a Japanese surrender.







V-J Day



- ▶ August 14, 1945: Japan agreed to an unconditional surrender.
- ▶ The formal surrender was signed on September 2, 1945 on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, officially ending WWII.

The Results of the War

- ▶ All territories that had been taken over by Japan were returned to their pre-war status.
- ▶ All of the German-occupied territories were supposed to be given free elections, but only the W. European nations became democratic.

World War II Allied Deaths

| Nation | Military | Civilian | Total |
|---------|------------|-----------|------------|
| France | 122,000 | 470,000 | 592,000 |
| Britain | 305,800 | 60,600 | 366,400 |
| US | 405,400 | 0 | 405,400 |
| USSR | 11,000,000 | 6,700,000 | 17,700,000 |

World War II Axis Deaths

| Nation | Military | Civilian | Total |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany | 3,250,000 | 2,350,000 | 5,600,000 |
| Italy | 226,900 | 60,000 | 286,900 |
| Japan | 1,740,000 | 393,400 | 2,133,400 |