

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# World War II - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Fascism is generally a military dictatorship based on strong nationalist sentiment, racism, and the suppression of opposition by using force. Fascists come to power by exploiting patriotism, racism, and fear. Benito Mussolini invented the term in 1925 and used it proudly. Mussolini installed himself as Italy's dictator in 1925. He blamed foreigners for Italy's problems and failed to carry out many of his promises. He also built up Italy's military, and in 1935, invaded Ethiopia. Another famous fascist, Francisco Franco, overthrew the Spanish government in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War. Franco and his fascist rebels won the war largely because of military aid from Germany and Italy. Adolf Hitler, also a fascist, took power in 1933 mainly by blaming outsiders for the humiliating position in which Germany found itself after World War I. War reparations, the hyperinflation of 1923, and then the international economic depression all fed the fascist rhetoric of blaming foreigners and Jews.

Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler both {}.

A. believed Germans did not suffer as a result  
of the first World War



**B.**

blamed foreigners for problems in their  
countries

*According to the passage, Mussolini “blamed foreigners for Italy's problems,” and Adolf Hitler blamed “outsiders for the humiliating position in which Germany found itself after World War I.”*

C. thought a strong economy could survive  
periods of inflation

D. fought against the rise of fascism

2. Franklin Delano Roosevelt helped get America out of the Depression by giving people hope that the country could turn itself around. During this time, America practiced a policy of isolationism, totally uninterested in another European war that seemed looming. In Europe, the leaders of some countries were instilling hope in their populaces by blaming foreigners for their countries' woes. The National Socialist (Nazi) Party of Adolf Hitler was starting its intended takeover, but it would take a direct attack on American soil before the United States joined World War II. America continued to stay out of the war as Hitler invaded Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. In 1941, with the Axis now in control of most of Europe, German submarines (U-boats) torpedoed two American destroyers, killing more than a hundred Americans. America was then on the brink of joining the war.

Which of the following events sparked the end of America's isolationist policy?



A.

German U-boats attacked American ships, killing over one hundred Americans.

*According to the text, "German submarines (U-boats) torpedoed two American destroyers, killing more than a hundred Americans. America was then on the brink of joining the war."*

B. Hitler invaded Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France.

C. In 1941, the Axis took control of most of Europe.

D. Europe's leaders blamed foreigners for their countries' problems.

3. The United States had a naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. It was early in the morning on December 7 when two US Army privates saw something strange on their radar screen: dozens of planes appearing out of the Northeast. The men were alarmed and reported the sighting, but they were told that it was probably just a delivery of new B-17 planes; nothing to worry about. What they actually saw was the first wave of 183 Japanese fighter planes. It was a surprise attack on America, and it was amazingly effective: 19 ships were sunk, 292 aircraft were destroyed, and 2,403 Americans were killed. This was the event needed to catalyze America into joining the war. On December 8, the day after the strike, Congress declared war on Japan. On December 11, Germany and Italy joined Japan and declared war on the United States. The United States was now fighting a war in Europe and a war in the Pacific.

Which of these best describes the attack on Pearl Harbor?

A. A false alarm

B. An ineffective strike



C.

A catastrophic ambush

*According to the text, the attack was a "surprise attack on America, and it was amazingly effective: 19 ships were sunk, 292 aircraft destroyed, and 2,403 Americans killed."*

D. A setback to America's war efforts

4. The original concentration camps were built in Germany in 1933 as a place to keep "undesirables." Jews, Catholics, Gypsies, communists, gay people, the mentally and physically disabled, Polish intellectuals, and others were shipped to these prison camps to work in slave labor. Actual extermination camps were built in 1941. These death camps would contribute to the murder of at least six million Jews and four million gentiles (mostly Polish gentiles and gypsies) during the Holocaust.

In 1933, concentration camps in Germany {}.

- A. were death camps where millions of people were killed  
B. did not yet exist  
C. were all closed



D.

held many different groups of people  
prisoner

*According to the text, "Concentration camps were built in Germany in 1933" and "Jews, Catholics, Gypsies, communists, gay people, the mentally and physically disabled, Polish intellectuals and others were shipped to these prison camps to work in slave labor."*

5. The Allies chose to concentrate on Europe before attacking Japan. In 1943 Allied troops invaded Italy and began pushing the Nazi lines back toward Germany. On June 6, 1944, D-Day, the Allies launched the largest sea-to-land invasion force in history. In the middle of the night, thousands of boats landed on French beaches and pushed the Germans back into France after days of bloody battles. It would be more than a year before Germany surrendered, though German ranks were then growing thin thanks to Russian forces attacking from the east. On April 30, 1945, while Russian bombs fell on Berlin, Hitler descended into a bunker with his mistress, Eva Braun, to get married. He then poisoned her and killed himself. Germany surrendered a week later.

Which of the following best summarizes what happened on D-Day?



- A.** In a surprise attack, the Allies invaded France, significantly pushing back the Germans and ultimately contributing to their downfall.
- According to the passage, "In the middle of the night, thousands of boats landed on French beaches and pushed the Germans back into France after days of bloody battles." In part, by pushing the Germans back, Germany lost some of its control, which ultimately led to their surrender*
- B.** The Allies cooperated with the Germans to invade France for what was the most effective invasion in history.
- C.** The Allies secretly invaded Russia to push the Germans back, and after days of brutal battles, Germany was forced to surrender.
- D.** The Allies arrived in Europe in thousands of boats, made their way into Germany, and ultimately forced Hitler to commit suicide.

6. Harry S. Truman became president on April 12, 1945, after FDR died during his fourth term. The war in Europe was nearly finished, but the war with Japan wasn't over yet. US generals told Truman that an assault on Japan could cost the United States between half a million and a million casualties. However, the Japanese refused to surrender--reports indicated that they were arming civilians with sharpened bamboo spears. In 1939 Albert Einstein told Roosevelt that a new type of bomb could be built-- one that had the destructive power of 20,000 tons of TNT. Roosevelt created the Manhattan Project to build this atomic bomb, and two days after Truman became president, he was told this top-secret information. Truman ordered these bombs to be dropped. On August 6, 1945, an American plane dropped the first bomb over Hiroshima, killing more than 70,000 people and injuring just as many. Three days later, America dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing 40,000 and injuring 60,000 people. The same day, Russia's Stalin declared war on Japan and invaded Manchuria. The Japanese surrendered on August 11.

Which of the following best explains why President Truman ordered the atomic bombs to be dropped?



- A.** The Japanese refused to surrender and there were reports that, in addition to their army, their civilians were becoming more dangerous.
- According to the text, "The Japanese refused to surrender—reports indicated that they were arming civilians with sharpened bamboo spears." President Truman chose to drop the atomic bombs seeking a way to end the war.*
- B.** President Truman did not know that an atomic bomb had the destructive power of 20,000 tons of TNT.
- C.** President Roosevelt told Truman that, if given the power of the presidency, he should attack the Japanese.
- D.** President Truman discovered that the Japanese were also developing an atomic bomb.