

This file presents information on historical events that may serve as inspiration for discussion topics within the game. We assume that the level of knowledge on WWII varies in various players, and the following summary of its events should provide a brief overview of what may come up in the game that all the players should be familiar with to some extent.

Information presented here is what PLAYERS should know – not what their CHARACTERS know. It is only up to you how you adjust and twist the information; however, your characters should work with it in a way that representatives of the given countries could in their day. For an American, Pearl Harbor is a crucial event of the war and a reason for relentless desire for vengeance, but for a German, it may be an insignificant operation in the Pacific. Facts such as numbers of casualties may also be seen differently by different nations...

### HOLOCAUST

A systematic and government-operated persecution and genocide of people marked as Jews (and Gypsies and other minorities) in the Nazi Germany and its allies at the time of WWII. During this mass murder, about 6 million Jews were killed.

### STATE OF ISRAEL

In 1917, Palestine was taken by the British and in 1919 a Protectorate called “the British Mandate for Palestine” was established. Population in the protectorate was mostly Arabian, but Jerusalem was predominantly Jewish.

Between 1919–1929, a hundred thousand Jews came to Palestine. Arabian riots and revolt in Jaffa led to the British putting a stop to the Jewish immigration.

The rise of the Nazi regime in Europe in the 1930s subsequently brought almost 250,000 more Jews; this new wave incited Arabian violence and rebellion during which Arabs took over a significant part of the Protectorate. In the course of the war, there were further huge waves of both legal and illegal immigrants and consequently, the relationship between Jews and Arabs got polarized even further.

In 1945, the conflict between the United Kingdom and Jews escalated when the Jews accused the British of unwillingness to fulfill their duties and of favoring Arabs.

### ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, on the morning of December 7, 1941. The aim of this surprise strike was to disable the American navy at the wake of expansion of the Empire of Japan into overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the United States. In total, 2,402 Americans were killed and 1,282 were injured.

The attack resulted in USA entering into World War II on the side of the Allies and declaring war on Japan on the following day. On December 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war against the United States.

### OPERATION OVERLORD

Landing of Allied troops in Normandy on 6 June 1944. After the landing, Allied forces broke Hitler’s Atlantic Wall (defense line along the Atlantic ocean) and reopened the western front in Northern France. The operation saw participation

of 4 army corps and 3 landing divisions. By the D-Day night, 132,750 men landed on the beach.

#### BOMBARDMENT OF LONDON – THE BLITZ

During World War II, London and other British cities were targets of bombardments by the Nazi air-force. Hundreds of thousands of London children were preventatively evacuated and taken to the country where the danger of bombing was somewhat lower.

London was badly damaged by the bombardments. During the war, 35,000 Londoners were killed, about 50,000 Londoners were injured; tens of thousands of buildings were destroyed and hundreds of thousands of Londoners lost their homes.

#### BOMBARDMENT OF DRESDEN

Bombardment of Dresden by RAF and USAAF bombers between February 13 and 15, 1945 (USAAF performed two further bombings on March 2 and April 17, 1945), 12 weeks before Germany surrendered.

During the night from February 13 to 14, 1945, 805 bombers attacked the city; they dropped 2,660 tons of bombs 45% of which were incendiary. The highly concentrated bombardment in a short period of time resulted in a firestorm which burned the entire city center. There was a high amount of civilian casualties. Total count of casualties was estimated to 25 thousand.

#### BATTLE OF BERLIN – END OF THE WAR

The battle of Berlin represents a culmination of the WWII fighting in Europe. During the battle, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. On May 7, 1945, German leadership signed the terms of surrender with Western Allies in Reims. On May 8, terms of surrender was signed in Berlin in the presence of representatives of the Soviet Union and Western Allies. This day officially marks the end of the World War II on the European continent.

#### THE POTSDAM CONFERENCE

The Potsdam Conference was held in Potsdam, Germany (not far from Berlin) from July 17 to August 2, 1945. Participants were the "Three Heads" – Joseph Stalin for the Soviet Union, Harry Truman for the United States and Winston Churchill for the United Kingdom. The three powers gathered to establish post-war order, post-war administration of Germany and to set up reconstruction of Europe badly damaged by the war.

The conference also held discussions on plans of further advancement of Allies in Germany and other European countries. The Soviet Union undertook to declare war on Japan by the beginning of August. The key document of the conference is the Potsdam Declaration, a statement calling for the surrender of all Japanese armed forces and warning that without the surrender, the United States will attack Japan, which will result in "unavoidable and utter destruction of Japanese armed forces and in unavoidable destruction to the Japanese land." There was no mention of nuclear bombs. On June 28, 1945, Japanese newspapers announced that the Japanese government will refuse the declaration.

#### SITUATION IN THE PACIFIC

The Pacific Ocean is still raging with savage fighting between the Allies and Japan. American forces successfully took over strategically significant islands

Iwojima and Okinawa where they established airports. These airports then served as a springboard for aerial offensive aiming to prepare invasion to actual Japanese islands.

Japanese soldiers were ready to defend the islands with unimaginable determination which had been proven in previous fighting where American soldiers had virtually no captives to take. The Japanese always fight until their last breath; American and European soldiers fighting in the Pacific were alien to the Japanese willingness to self-sacrifice. This willingness became famous mostly by attacks carried out by suicide military aviators.

#### BOMBARDMENT OF TOKYO

While in Germany, bombings industrial areas of cities were mostly successful, it was impossible to replicate the success in Japan, since their production was largely scattered into many small factories that provided sub-supplies. Since most city quarters were built of wood or bamboo, a strategy of setting fires structurally and causing firestorms was adopted because it was able to destroy large areas of cities. During the night from March 9 to 10, a mass aerial bombing was carried out for the first time. The bombers were unarmed, even at the expense of increased risk (and due crew grumbling), in order to increase the bomb payload. Bombers dropped incendiary bombs from low altitudes. Area of 30 km<sup>2</sup> in the middle of Tokyo, where 750,000 workers were working, was burned to ashes. Almost 267,000 buildings were destroyed and the bombing alone caused 110,000 directly to die. It was one of the most destructive bombardments of the World War II. Some pilots claimed to have smelled human flesh burning all the way up in the cockpits of their aircrafts. On the following day, Nagoya suffered severe destruction in similar bombardments, and was followed by Kobe, Osaka, Yokohama... All with large gun factories and mechanical engineering centers as well as another 50 smaller Japanese cities with industrial production.

#### LEADERS

USA – presidents	Franklin D. Roosevelt	until 12 April 1945
	Harry S. Truman	from 12 April 1945

GREAT BRITAIN – King George VI

Prime Minister

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill	to 27 July 1945
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Clement Attlee	until 27 July 1945
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RUSSIA - Joseph Stalin

JAPAN - Emperor Hirohito

Terms that should not appear in the game: Project Manhattan, nuclear bomb, Nuremberg trials, Iron Curtain, Cold War, Nagasaki