**Chapter 25, Section 5: The War Ends**

**I. The Third Reich Collapses** *(pages 764–766)*

**A.** President Roosevelt and other Allied leaders promised to punish the Nazis after the war. Roosevelt felt destroying the Nazi regime would put an end to the concentration camps.

**B. Hedgerows,** or dirt walls several feet thick and covered in shrubbery, were used by the Germans to defend their positions in Normandy, France. The battle of the hedgerows ended with American bombers blowing a hole in the German lines, allowing American tanks through. The Allies liberated Paris on August 25. Three weeks later, they were just 20 miles from the German border.

**C.** Hitler attempted one last offensive to cut off Allied supplies coming through the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The **Battle of the Bulge** began on December 16, 1944, catching American troops off guard. As Germans raced west, their lines “bulged” outward, resulting in the battle’s name. The United States won the battle and on January 8, Germans withdrew with little left to stop the Allies from entering Germany.

**D.** The Ludendorf Bridge across the Rhine River was still intact, allowing American troops to cross and force the German defenders back. Adolf Hitler, realizing the end was near, killed himself. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz tried to surrender to the Americans and the British while still fighting the Soviets, but he was forced to unconditionally surrender on May 7, 1945. The next day was proclaimed **V**-**E Day,** for “Victory in Europe.”

**Discussion Question**

Why was the American victory at the Battle of the Bulge devastating to the Germans? *(The Germans suffered more than 100,000 casualties and lost many tanks and aircraft. There was* *little left to prevent the Allies from entering Germany. American forces attacked Germany’s western* *border.)*

**II. Japan is Defeated** *(pages 766–771)*

**A.** President Roosevelt died a month before the defeat of Germany. Vice President **Harry S Truman** became president. Although Germany surrendered a few weeks later,Truman needed to make many difficult decisions regarding the war as the battle withJapan intensified.

**B.** On November 24, 1944, American bombs fell on Tokyo, but missed their targets. American military planners decided to invade **Iwo Jima** because it was closer to Japan and would make the bombings more effective.

**C.** On February 19, 1945, 60,000 American Marines landed on Iwo Jima, and 6,800 lost their lives before the island was captured.

**D.** General **Curtis LeMay,** commander of the B-29s based in the Marianas, changed strategy to drop bombs filled with **napalm,** a kind of jellied gasoline. These bombs not only exploded but also started fires. The risk of killing civilians made this very controversial. The Tokyo firebombing killed over 80,000 people and destroyed more than 250,000 buildings. Japan’s six most important industrial cities were firebombed.

**E.** Japan refused to surrender. American military planners chose to invade Okinawa, 350 miles from Japan, to stockpile supplies and build up troops.

**F.** On April 1, 1945, American troops landed on Okinawa. On June 22, 1945, Okinawa was captured with more than 12,000 American soldiers, sailors, and marines losing their lives.

**G.** Japan would not surrender unconditionally because they wanted their emperor to remain in power. Americans wanted him out of power, and Truman was reluctant to go against public opinion.

**H.** The American program to build an atomic bomb was code-named the **Manhattan Project** and was headed by General Leslie R. Groves. On July 16, 1945, the first atomicbomb was detonated near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

**I.** President Truman felt it was his duty to use every weapon available to save American lives. The Allies threatened Japan with “utter destruction,” but received no response. On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, one of Japan’s important industrial cities. Tens of thousands of people died instantly, and thousands more died later from burns and radiation sickness. On August 9, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. That same day, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing between 35,000 and 74,000 people. On **V**-**J Day,** for “Victory in Japan”—August 15, 1945—Japan surrendered. The war ended.

**Discussion Question**

Why did President Truman decide to drop the atomic bomb on Japan? *(Because Japan refused to surrender, Truman felt it was his duty to use every weapon available to save American lives.)*

**III. Building a New World** *(pages 771–772)*

**A.** To prevent another war, President Roosevelt wanted a new international political organization. In 1944 delegates from 39 countries met to discuss the new organization that was to be called the **United Nations** (UN).

**B.** On April 25, 1945, representatives from 50 countries met in San Francisco to officially organize the United Nations and create its **charter,** or constitution.

**C.** The delegates decided to have a General Assembly, where each member nation would have one vote. Britain, France, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States would be permanent members of the Security Council, each having veto power.

**D.** In August 1945, the **International Military Tribunal** (IMT) was created by the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union to punish German and Japanese leaders for their war crimes. The IMT tried German leaders suspected of committing war crimes at the **Nuremburg trials.**

**E.** In Tokyo the IMT for the Far East tried leaders of wartime Japan suspected of committing war crimes. The Japanese emperor was not indicted.

**Discussion Question**

What was decided at the Dumbarton Oaks conference regarding the United Nations? *(The delegates decided to have a General Assembly, where each member nation would have one* *vote. Britain, France, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States would be permanent members* *of the Security Council, each having veto power.)*