

## Section Summary

VICTORY IN EUROPE AND THE PACIFIC

In 1943, the Allied leaders agreed to open a second front in France. On June 6, 1944, known as **D-Day**, British and American forces invaded France from the west, across the English Channel. More than 11,000 planes prepared the way, followed by more than 4,400 ships and landing crafts. By the end of the day, they had gained a foothold in France. By July 1, more than one million Allied troops had landed.

Germany now faced a hopeless two-front war, as the Soviets advanced from the east. In December 1944, Hitler ordered a counterattack, known as the **Battle of the Bulge**. Hitler's scenario called for German forces to capture communication and transportation hubs. The attack almost succeeded. However, with help from their bombers, the Allies managed to push the Germans out of France. By January 1945, the Soviet Army had reached the Oder River outside Berlin, and in April, the United States Army was just 50 miles west of Berlin. Hitler committed suicide on April 30, and on May 7, Germany surrendered.

American forces in the Pacific followed an **island-hopping** strategy in a steady path toward Japan. Japanese troops fought hard, and Japanese **kamikaze** pilots deliberately crashed their planes into American ships. By April 1945, American pilots finally made their way to Okinawa, 340 miles from Japan. From Okinawa, American pilots could bomb the Japanese home islands. American bombers hit factories, military bases, and cities.

Advances in technology helped determine the final outcome of the war. **Albert Einstein**, a famous scientist, had alerted FDR to the need to proceed with atomic development. Physicist **J. Robert Oppenheimer** was in charge of the scientific aspect of the program, known as the **Manhattan Project**. On the morning of July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was tested. In order to save American lives and to end the war, President **Harry S. Truman** decided to use the atomic bomb against Japan. On August 6, 1945, U.S. pilots dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Emperor Hirohito made the decision to surrender, and on August 15, the Allies celebrated V-J (Victory in Japan) Day. World War II had been the most costly war in history. As many as 60 million people—mostly civilians—had died in the conflict.

### Review Questions

1. What was involved in the D-Day invasion of France?

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2. How did the Allies bring about the surrender of Japan?

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### READING CHECK

What was the Manhattan Project?

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### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *scenario* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle any words or phrases in the paragraph that help you figure out what *scenario* means.

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### READING SKILL

**Recognize Sequence** Number the following events in chronological order.

- Japan surrenders.
- The first atomic bomb is tested.
- Germany surrenders.