Chapter 20

Section 4  Pushing the Axis Back
Chapter Objectives

Section 4: Pushing the Axis Back

• Describe the goals of the two major offensives the Allies launched in Europe in 1943.

• Explain the American strategy for pushing the Japanese back in the Pacific.
Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The Allies slowly pushed back the German and Japanese forces in 1943 and 1944.

Key Terms and Names

- Casablanca Conference
- Operation Overlord
- D-Day
- Omar Bradley
- amphtrac
- Guadalcanal
- kamikaze
Striking Back at the Third Reich

- In January 1943, President Roosevelt met with Prime Minister Churchill to plan the next stage of war.

- During the Casablanca Conference, the decision was made to increase the bombing of Germany in an effort to destroy its military, industrial, and economic system and to hurt the German morale.

- They decided to attack the Axis on the island of Sicily.
Striking Back at the Third Reich (cont.)

• The new massive bombing campaign by the United States and Britain against Germany did not destroy the German economy or undermine its morale. ↓

• However, the bombing caused a severe oil shortage and destroyed irreplaceable railroad and aircraft in Germany. ↓

• As a result, Allies landing in France had total control of the air and could not be bombed.
Striking Back at the Third Reich (cont.)

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower was the overall commander of the invasion of Sicily. 

- General Patton and British General Montgomery were in charge of the forces on the ground. 

- By August 18, Germans had evacuated the island. Mussolini was placed under arrest by the king of Italy.
Striking Back at the Third Reich (cont.)

- On September 8, 1943, the Italian government announced Italy’s surrender.

- Hitler sent German troops to seize control of Italy and put Mussolini back in power. In May 1944, the Germans retreated.

- Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill met in Tehran, Iran, and reached several agreements about the plans for the rest of the war and after the war.
Striking Back at the Third Reich (cont.)

Discussion Question

What agreements did Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill reach when they met in Tehran, Iran?

Stalin made a promise to begin an offensive against the Germans when the Allies invaded France in 1944. It was agreed that Germany would be broken up after the war so that it could never threaten world peace again. Stalin promised that once Germany was defeated, the Soviet Union would help the United States defeat Japan. Stalin accepted Roosevelt’s proposal to create an international organization to help keep the peace after the war.
Landing in France

• **Operation Overlord** was the code name for the planned invasion of France by the Allies.

• General Eisenhower was selected to command the invasion.

• The Allies had the advantage of surprise—the Germans did not know when or where they would strike.
Landing in France (cont.)

- The Germans were fooled into thinking the attack would occur in Pas-de-Calais, when in fact the invasion was planned to take place in Normandy.

- The date for the invasion became known as **D-Day** because Eisenhower’s planning staff referred to the day of any invasion with the letter D.
Landing in France (cont.)

• The invasion of Normandy began shortly after midnight on June 6, 1944.

• The Allied forces had little trouble capturing Utah Beach and moving inland.

• The American forces at Omaha Beach met intense German fire.
Landing in France (cont.)

• American commander General Omar Bradley planned an evacuation of Omaha Beach, but the American troops moved forward against the Germans.

• The invasion succeeded.
Landing in France (cont.)

Discussion Question

What was Operation Overlord?

This was the code name for the Allied planned invasion of France at Normandy. General Eisenhower was the commander of the invasion. The date for the invasion was called D-Day.
Driving the Japanese Back

- American military leaders created a plan to defeat Japan that called for a two-pronged attack.
- Admiral Nimitz and the Pacific Fleet were to hop from island to island to get close to Japan.
- General MacArthur’s troops would advance through the Solomon Islands, capture the north coast of New Guinea, and retake the Philippines.
Driving the Japanese Back (cont.)

- The island-hopping campaign began in the central Pacific in the fall of 1943.

- Although many U.S. Marines died while wading ashore at the Tarawa Atoll, the LVT—a boat with tank tracks, also called an "amphtrac"—was able to cross the reef and get troops to shore.

- The attack on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands went much smoother, with all troops getting to shore via amphtracs. U.S. Marines captured the island.
Driving the Japanese Back (cont.)

- B-29 bombers were used to invade three of the Mariana Islands, which were captured by American troops by August 1944.

- A few months later, the B-29 bombers began bombing Japan.

- General MacArthur’s troops began a campaign in the southwest Pacific with the invasion of Guadalcanal in August 1942.
Driving the Japanese Back (cont.)

• In early 1944, MacArthur’s troops had captured enough islands to surround Rabaul, the main Japanese base in the region.

• MacArthur ordered his troops to travel 600 miles past Rabaul to capture the Japanese base at Hollandia in New Guinea.

• Securing New Guinea, the troops headed to the Philippines to take it back.
Driving the Japanese Back (cont.)

- Japanese warships headed through the Philippine Islands into Leyte Gulf and ambushed American ships. ↓

- The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest naval battle in history and the first time the Japanese used kamikaze attacks. ↓

- Kamikaze pilots deliberately crashed their planes into American ships, killing themselves and causing severe damage to the ships.
Driving the Japanese Back (cont.)

• The Japanese commander ordered a retreat, fearing additional American ships were on the way. 📖

• The battle to recapture the Philippines left Manila in ruins and over 100,000 Filipino civilians dead.
What was the plan by the Americans to defeat Japan?

It was a two-pronged attack. Admiral Nimitz and the Pacific Fleet island-hopped through the central Pacific, moving closer to Japan. General MacArthur’s troops advanced through the Solomon Islands to capture the north coast of New Guinea and then launched an invasion to retake the Philippines.
1. an amphibious tractor used to move troops from ships to shore

2. during World War II, a Japanese suicide pilot whose mission was to crash into his target

A. amphtrac
B. kamikaze
Checking for Understanding (cont.)

**Q**

Explain why D-Day’s success was so vital to the Allied victory.

**A**

It would force the Germans to fight on two fronts.
What was problematic about the Allied invasion at Omaha Beach?

Under intense German fire, the American assault almost disintegrated.
Why were the victories on Iwo Jima and Okinawa so vital to the Allies?

It gave Americans landing areas within striking distance of Japan.
CHAPTER
Maps & Charts

Island-Hopping in the Pacific, 1942–1945

Japanese Empire and conquests
Farthest extent of Japan's conquests, July 1942
Allied forces
Allied victory
Atomic bombing

Map showing islands and key events in the Pacific Theater during World War II.
World War II in Europe and Africa, 1939–1945

- Major Axis powers
- Greatest extent of Axis control
- Allied or Allied-controlled
- Neutral powers
- Allied advance
- Supply line
- International boundary, Jan. 1938

- D-Day June 6, 1944
- German concentration armies destroyed May–July 1944
- Supply line to Soviet Union from the Middle East
Interpreting a Bar Graph

Directions: Answer the following question based on the bar graph.

In mid-1942, American army aircraft joined the Allied forces bombing Germany. What effect did American involvement have on the bombing effort?

A. It slightly increased the amount of explosives dropped on Germany.

B. It caused a significant reduction in the amount of explosives dropped on Germany.

C. It made no change in the amount of explosives dropped on Germany.

D. It caused a dramatic increase in the amount of explosives dropped on Germany.