

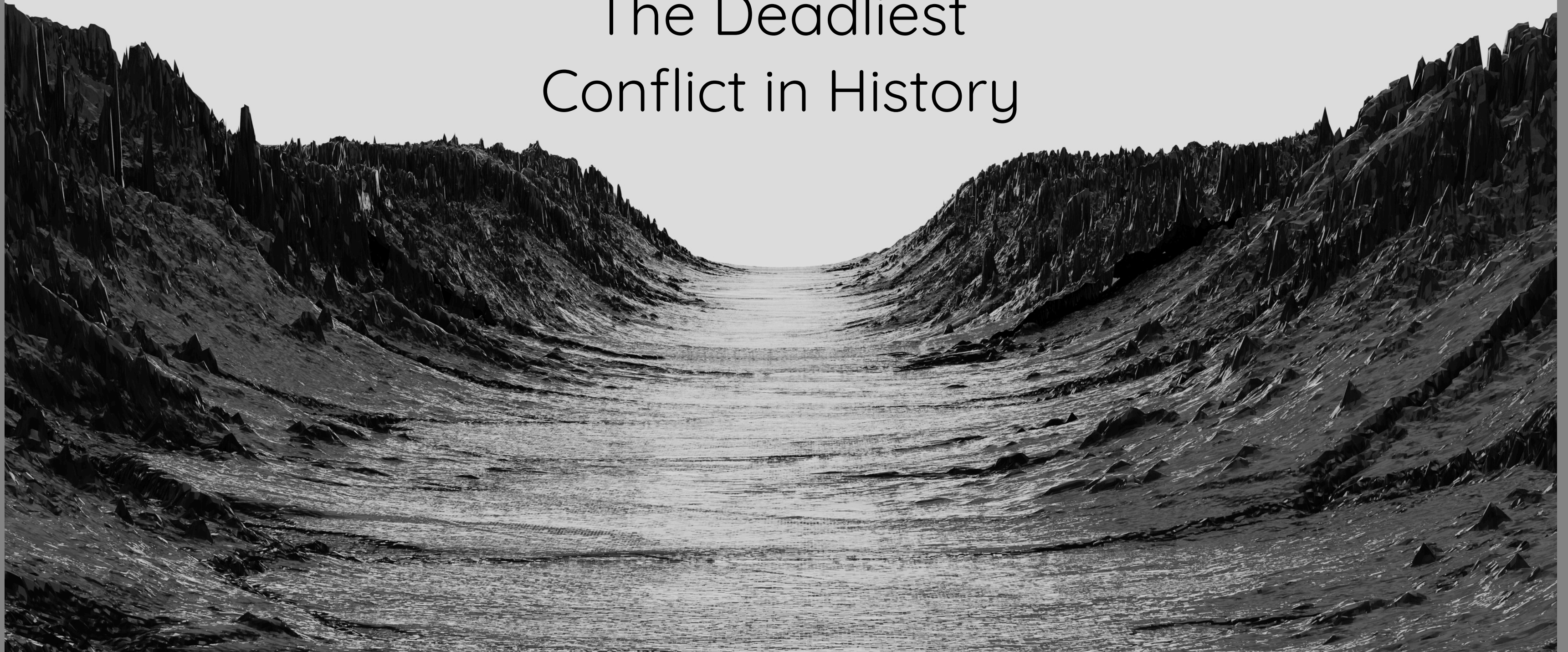


# World War II

Key Events Timeline

# 1939-1945

The Deadliest  
Conflict in History





# Overview

World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945. It involved more than 30 countries across the world.

Over 70 million people died: it was the largest and deadliest war in history.

# Causes

- Harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles (after WWI)
- Rise of dictators like Hitler, Mussolini, and militarists in Japan
- Appeasement; countries letting Hitler take land to avoid war
- Failure of the League of Nations to stop aggression



**1939**  
Germany invades Poland; WWII begins

**1940**  
Fall of France; Battle of Britain

**1941**  
Pearl Harbor; U.S. enters the war

**1942-1943**  
Midway victory; Stalingrad battle

**1944**  
D-Day landings in France

**1945**  
Germany and Japan surrender; War ends



# 1939

September 1:  
Germany invades Poland.

September 3:  
Britain and France declare war  
on Germany.

# 1940

April–June:

Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, Belgium, and France.

July–October:

Battle of Britain: Britain defends against German air attacks.

September:

Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact (Axis Alliance).





# 1941

June:

Germany invades the Soviet Union (Operation Barbarossa).

December 7:

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor: U.S. joins the war.

December 8: U.S. declares war on Japan; Germany declares war on the U.S.

# 1942-1943

Battle of Midway (June 1942):  
U.S. defeats Japan in the Pacific.

Battle of Stalingrad  
(Aug 1942-Feb 1943):  
Soviet Union defeats Germany.

North Africa Campaign:  
Allies push Axis powers out of Africa.





# 1944

June 6: D-Day

Allied forces land in Normandy, France. Massive push to liberate Europe from Nazi control.

August:

Paris is liberated.

# 1945

April 30:  
Adolf Hitler's death.

May 7:  
Germany surrenders: V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day).

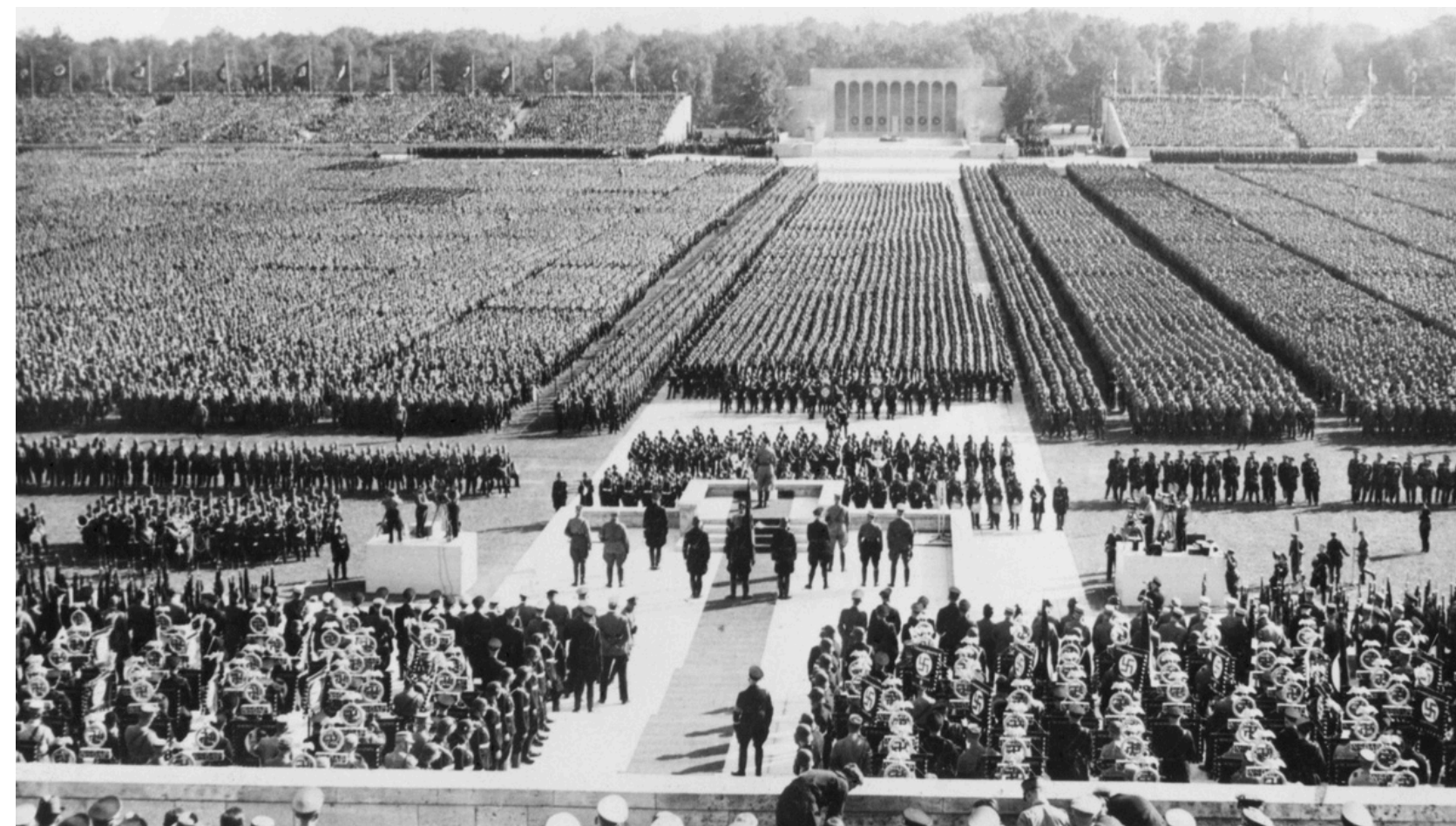
August 6 and 9:  
U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

September 2: Japan officially surrenders: V-J Day (Victory over Japan).



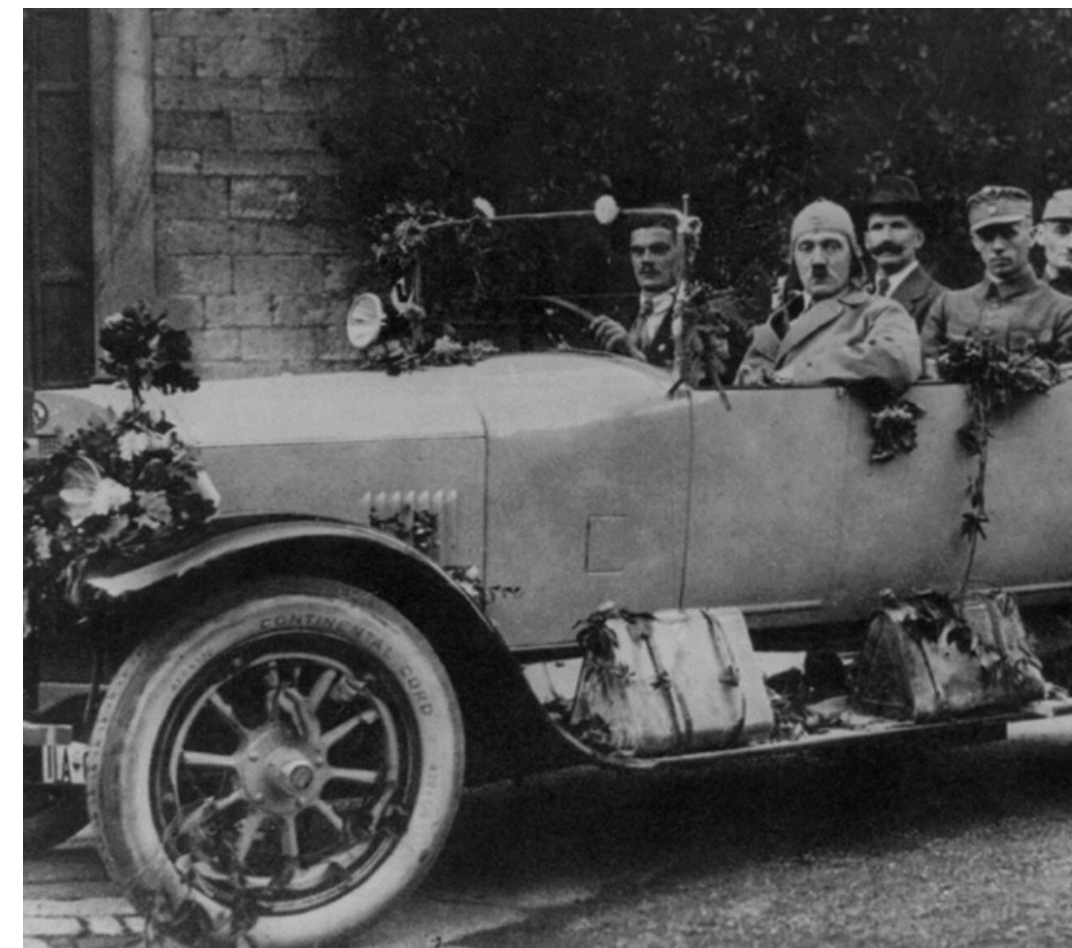
# World War II

in images:



# World War II

in images:



## The Aftermath

- United Nations is formed to prevent future wars.
- Europe and Asia are left in ruins.
- Start of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
- War crimes trials (like the Nuremberg Trials) hold leaders accountable.



# WWII Still Matters

- Redrew borders of countries and empires.
- Led to the rise of the U.S. and Soviet Union as superpowers.
- Created international organizations like the United Nations.
- Shaped the modern world we live in today.

