**World War II Study Guide**

**Treaty of Versailles- Demanded Germany pay for war damages that occurred during WWI.**

* **It forced many countries to turn to strong and powerful leaders, called dictators, to help get them out of the depression.**

**World Leaders**

* **Adolf Hitler- German dictator who ruled the Nazi Party. (Axis)**
  + **Claimed German people were the master race.**
  + **Promised to restore Germany’s position in the world.**
* **Benito Mussolini – Italian dictator who was Hitler’s ally. (Axis)**
* **Joseph Stalin – Dictator of the Soviet Union (Allied Powers)**
  + **Had an agreement with Hitler, but ended when Hitler invaded his country**
* **Hirohito – Emperor of Japan (Axis)**
  + **His country bombed Pearl Harbor**
* **Winston Churchill – British Prime Minister (Allied Powers)**
* **Franklin Delano Roosevelt – American President who declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941. (Allied Power)**
  + **Died while in office as president**
* **Harry S. Truman – became American President when FDR died**
  + **Decided to use atomic bombs to force Japan to surrender**

**Axis Powers**

* **Germany, Italy, and Japan agreed to work together**
* **Fought against the Allied Powers in WWII**

**Allied Powers**

* **Great Britain, United States, France, Soviet Union**
* **They landed on the beaches of Normandy, France - sea invasion**

**Poland was invaded by Germany in 1939 – start of WWII**

* **Caused Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany**

**Major Events**

* **Holocaust – means Widespread Destruction**
  + **Jews and other minorities were sent to concentration and labor camps.**
  + **Hitler was responsible for the mass murder or more than 6 million Jewish people, and an additional 6 million non-Jewish people between 1933 and 1945**
* **Pearl Harbor – United States Navy Base was attacked by Japan in December 7, 1941**
  + **This attack caused the United States to join World War II.**
* **D-Day (June 6, 1944)– Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France**
  + **An important turning point & victory for the Allies**
  + **The largest sea invasions in history**
* **Iwo Jima – A fierce battle in the Pacific took place here in 1945**
  + **Nearly all the Japanese soldiers at this battle died**
* **VE Day (May 8, 1945)– Victory in Europe – Germany surrendered to the Allies on. May 7, 1945**
* **VJ Day (August 6, 1945) – Victory in Japan, ended World War**

**Americans Changing Roles**

* **Rosie the Riveter – Symbolized the many women who joined the work force during the war**
  + **During WWII, women stepped forward in large numbers to fill jobs such as factory workers, pilots, and mechanics**
* **Tuskegee Airmen – African American pilots during WWII**

**Atomic Bombs – US President Harry Truman decided to use this technology during WWII in order to end the war quickly and save American lives.**

* **Killed 140,00 Japanese people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

**United Nations**

* **Signed by 50 nations dedicated to promoting world (global) peace in 1945**
* **Purpose is to solve international disputes peacefully rather than by war and to protect human rights**