

Surrender of Japan (1945)

Aboard the USS Missouri, this instrument of surrender was signed on September 2, 1945, by the Japanese envoys Foreign Minister Mamora Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu.

On September 2, 1945, Japanese representatives signed the official Instrument of Surrender, prepared by the War Department and approved by President Harry S. Truman. It set out in eight short paragraphs the complete capitulation of Japan. The opening words, "We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan," signified the importance attached to the Emperor's role by the Americans who drafted the document. The short second paragraph went straight to the heart of the matter: "We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated."

That morning, on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, the Japanese envoys Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu signed their names on the Instrument of Surrender. The time was recorded as 4 minutes past 9 o'clock. Afterward, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander in the Southwest Pacific and Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, also signed. He accepted the Japanese surrender "for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan."

The League of Nations, 1920

The League of Nations was an international organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, created after the First World War to provide a forum for resolving international disputes. Though first proposed by President Woodrow Wilson as part of his Fourteen Points plan for an equitable peace in Europe, the United States never became a member.

US Navy Defeats Japanese Navy

Battle of Midway, (June 3–6, 1942), World War II naval battle, fought almost entirely with aircraft, in which the United States destroyed Japan's first-line carrier strength and most of its best trained naval pilots. Together with the Battle of Guadalcanal, the Battle of Midway ended the threat of further Japanese invasion in the Pacific.

First Atomic Bomb Dropped

On August 6, 1945, during World War II (1939-45), an American B-29 bomber dropped the world's first deployed atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The explosion immediately killed an estimated 80,000 people; tens of thousands more would later die of radiation exposure.

Hitler Persecuted Them

Holocaust victims were people targeted by the government of Nazi Germany based on their ethnicity, religion, political beliefs, and/or sexual orientation. The institutionalized practice by

the Nazis of singling out and persecuting people resulted in the Holocaust, which began with legalized social discrimination against specific groups, involuntary hospitalization, euthanasia, and forced sterilization of persons considered physically or mentally unfit for society. For specified groups like the Jews, genocide was the Nazis' primary goal.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), the Holocaust was "the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by the Nazi regime and its collaborators". In addition, 11 million members of other groups were murdered during the "era of the Holocaust". [1]

The Munich Pact

British prime minister Neville Chamberlain, and French prime minister Edouard Daladier sign the Munich Pact with Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. The agreement averted the outbreak of war but gave Czechoslovakia away to German conquest.

UN Charter

The Charter of the United Nations is the founding document of the United Nations. It was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on 24 October 1945.

Hitler Gains Support

The year 1932 had seen Hitler's meteoric rise to prominence in Germany, spurred largely by the German people's frustration with dismal economic conditions and the still-festerling wounds inflicted by defeat in the Great War and the harsh peace terms of the Versailles treaty. A charismatic speaker, Hitler channeled popular discontent with the post-war Weimar government into support for his fledgling Nazi party. In an election held in July 1932, the Nazis won 230 governmental seats; together with the Communists, the next largest party, they made up over half of the Reichstag.

Prominent Dictators of World War II

World War II started with the rise of three dictators: Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Hideki Tojo. These three dictators came in for Germany, Italy and Japan, because they were having a bad time because of the damages that were caused in World War I. People in these countries didn't have any money, were starving and they wanted someone to make the country rich again. Then the dictators came and said they would bring glory to their country.

Allied and Axis Powers

The main Allied powers were Great Britain, The United States, China, and the Soviet Union. The leaders of the Allies were Franklin Roosevelt (the United States), Winston Churchill (Great Britain), and Joseph Stalin (the Soviet Union).

The main Axis powers were Germany, Japan and Italy. The Axis leaders were Adolf Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy), and Emperor Hirohito (Japan).

Objectives of the IMF

The IMF has three critical missions: furthering international monetary cooperation, encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth, and discouraging policies that would harm prosperity.

Answer the following questions using the information above.

1. When did the Japanese formally sign their surrender?
 - a. 2 September 1945
 - b. 2 October 1945
 - c. 15 August 1945
2. Where was the Japanese surrender signed?
 - a. Tokyo
 - b. On the USS Missouri
 - c. In Germany
3. Who signed the Japanese surrender for Japan?
 - a. Neville Chamberlain and Hitler
 - b. Franklin Roosevelt and Chamberlain
 - c. Mamora Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu.
4. Who signed the Japanese surrender for the United States?
 - a. General Sherman
 - b. General Douglas MacArthur
 - c. General Hirohito
5. Who first proposed the League of Nations?
 - a. Franklin Roosevelt
 - b. Neville Chamberlain
 - c. Woodrow Wilson
 - d. Alec Baldwin
6. Where was the Japanese Navy defeated by the US Navy?
 - a. Battle of Guadalcanal
 - b. Battle of Midway
 - c. Battle of Leningrad
7. Where did the US drop its first atomic bomb?
 - a. Kavashaki
 - b. Innoshima
 - c. Hiroshima
8. What group did Hitler mainly persecute?
 - a. Russians
 - b. Turks
 - c. Jews
9. Which English Prime Minister signed the Munich Pact with Germany?
 - a. Neville Chamberlain
 - b. Winston Churchill
 - c. Lloyd George
 - d. Stanley Baldwin
10. When was the Charter of the UN signed?
 - a. 26 June 1942

9. How did Hitler get support from the German people?
 - a. The dismal economic conditions
 - b. the still-festerling wounds inflicted by defeat in the Great War
 - c. the harsh peace terms of the Versailles treaty
 - d. all of the above

10. Who were the three prominent dictators of World War II?
 - a. Chamberlain, Roosevelt, Hitler
 - b. Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo
 - c. Lenin, Stalin, Roosevelt

11. Which countries were the Axis powers?
 - a. US, Germany, Spain
 - b. Germany, Italy, Japan
 - c. Japan, England, China

12. Which countries were the Allied powers?
 - a. US, Britain, China, Soviet Union
 - b. England, Spain, France
 - c. Great Britain, Germany, Japan

13. What are the objectives of the IMF (International Monetary Fund)?
 - a. furthering international monetary cooperation,
 - b. encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth,
 - c. discouraging policies that would harm prosperity
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above