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关键词联想辅助
World War II (1939–1945) was a major war fought between two groups: the Axis and the Allied Powers. The Axis Powers were composed of Germany, Italy, Japan, and their supporters. The Allied Powers consisted mainly of Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and France. The Second World War was the deadliest international war in history; millions of people were killed all over the world. One of the most well-known events of the war was the Holocaust, in which the Germans intentionally killed people belonging to a particular racial and cultural group.

There were only a few major participants in the war. However, the conflict spread to many parts of the world, including Europe, Africa, and Asia. Only...
## London Docks Bombed, 7 September 1940

When the Luftwaffe failed to destroy the British Royal Air Force, they began a campaign known as the **London Blitz**.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

Suddenly we were gaping upwards. The brilliant sky was crisscrossed from horizon to horizon by innumerable vapour trails. The sight was a completely novel one. We watched, fascinated, and all work stopped. The little silver stars sparkling at the heads of the vapour trails turned east. This display looked so insubstantial and harmless; even beautiful. Then, with a dull roar which made the ground across London shake as one stood upon it, the first sticks of bombs hit the docks. Leisurely, enormous mushrooms of black and brown smoke shot with crimson climbed into the sunlit sky. There they hung and slowly expanded; for there was no wind, and the great fires below fed more smoke into them as the hours passed.

On Friday and Saturday morning the sky grew darker and darker as the oily smoke rose...
London Docks Bombed, 7 September 1940

Author: Desmond Flower
Date: 2014

When the Germans failed to destroy the British Royal Air Force, they began a campaign bombing the city of London during World War II. Their efforts became known as the London Blitz.

PRIMARY SOURCE

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On Friday and Saturday morning the sky grew darker and darker as the city smoke rose.
THE ALLIED ADVANCE

The Allies began pushing forward in the next few years. In several key battles, they took back territories that the Axis had previously conquered. To further weaken U.S. involvement in the Pacific, Japan engaged the U.S. Navy in the Battle of Midway, only to suffer heavy losses.

Only a few months later, another major battle happened, as German and Soviet forces clashed over the city of Stalingrad in the Soviet Union. The Battle of Stalingrad was the largest and bloodiest battle fought in World War II, but it ended in a victory for the Allies. Other major battles included the 1943 Invasion of Sicily, in which Italy surrendered to the Allies, and the 1943 Invasion of France, in which the Allies drove away the occupying Germans. Operation Neptune, or D-Day, was another major operation, in which the Allies freed Western Europe from German control. It was also the largest seaborne invasion in history. By 1944, the Allies began freeing the Nazi concentration camps, where many Jews were imprisoned and killed.

With Italy defeated and the Allies closing in on Germany, Hitler moved to an underground bunker in Berlin. He committed suicide in this bunker on April 30, 1945. Europe was finally freed from Axis control on May 8, 1945, after Allied troops captured Berlin and obtained Germany's unconditional surrender.

Japan refused to surrender despite the events in Europe. The Allies threatened it with "prompt and utter destruction," but they knew this would not happen if they directly attacked the Japanese mainland. Hoping to quickly end the war, the United States used its most destructive weapon, the atomic bomb, on two Japanese cities. Hiroshima was bombed on August 6, and Nagasaki on August 9. The bombings instantly killed over a hundred thousand people. Many more died later due to the aftereffects of nuclear radiation. Seeing the destructive power of the Allies, Japan formally surrendered on August 15, 1945, ending the war for good.

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

War is often costly in terms of people and resources, so why did each nation participate in World War II despite the risks?

How might the war have ended if the atomic bomb had not been used as a "shortcut"?

What are some of the consequences of remaining neutral in a conflict as widespread as World War II?

What contributed to Germany playing a key role in escalating World War II?

WORDS TO KNOW

Demilitarization:
the reduction of a state's armed forces

Nationalism:
the devotion to one's country

Colonialism:
the practice of one country occupying another and exploiting its resources

Isolationism:
a policy that discourages interference in other countries' affairs
Suddenly we were gaping upwards. The brilliant sky was crisscrossed from horizon to horizon by innumerable vapour trails. The sight was a completely novel one. We watched, fascinated, and all work stopped. The little silver stars sparkling at the heads of the vapour trails turned east. This display looked so insubstantial and harmless; even beautiful. Then, with a dull roar which made the ground across London shake as one stood upon it, the first slicks of bombs hit the docks. Leisurily, enormous mushrooms of black and brown smoke shot with crimson climbed into the sunlit sky. There they hung and slowly expanded, for there was no wind, and the great fires below fed more smoke into them as the hours passed.

On Friday and Saturday morning the sky grew darker and darker as the oily smoke rose and spread in heavy, immobile columns, shutting out the sun...

Now we were nearer to the docks. A monstrous curtain which blocked the shafts of flame which shot up hundreds of feet high and not just the backdrop of the side of the road, climbing over sad little fountains spraying out frothy water, and with those hoses along the docks, with those hoses from all fire hoses. Every two or three minutes a yellow flame leaped into the air, and the smoke, thick, yellow...
Suddenly we were gazing upwards. The brilliant sky was crisscrossed from horizon to horizon by innumerable vapour trails. The sight was a completely novel one. We watched, fascinated, and all work stopped. The little silver stars sparkling at the head of the vapour trails turned east. This display looked so insubstantial and harmless; even beautiful. Then, with a dull roar which made the ground across London shake as one stood upon it, the first sticks of bombs hit the docks. Leisurely, enormous mushrooms of black and brown smoke shot up from London, climbed into the sunlit sky. They hung and slowly expanded, for there was no wind, and the great fires below fed more smoke into them. On Friday and Saturday and Sunday the bombing continued and spread into the suburbs.

Now we were at Bournemouth and the monstrous curious shafts of flame and smoke, the thing and not the sun, were to be seen across the sea. Clouds of water, yellow at first and then green or blue, showered down on Bournemouth, the leaves of the trees and the smell of fire are still there. A battle was going on behind the lines, every man, every woman, every child, was a fighter in the battle of survival. The floodlights shone dimly, the black smoke and then the dust and then the ashes. The night grew longer. The dawn was not far off. A new day would come, and with it a new world.
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