Aggressive expansion by Germany, Italy, and Japan led to World War II. When Germany invaded Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany. The United States entered the war after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The Allies cooperated with the Soviet Union to end the war with the Nazis, who murdered six million Jews during the Holocaust. The U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused Japan to surrender, but political tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States led to the Cold War.

World War II Begins

- Adolf Hitler’s theory of racial domination laid the foundation for aggressive expansion outside of Germany, which world powers initially ignored to avoid another world war.
- Hitler allied with Italy, annexed Austria, and invaded Czechoslovakia and Poland.
- Seeking access to natural resources, Japan seized Manchuria and North China.
- Japan wanted to establish a New Order in Asia.

The Home Front and Civilians

- The Soviet Union, the United States, Germany, and Japan all mobilized for the war; civilian men, women, and children on the home front worked in war factories and endured shortages of basic necessities.
- The bombing of cities, which targeted the military as well as civilians in Britain, Germany, and Japan, destroyed buildings and killed millions of people.

World War II

- Germany used a “lightning war” to gain control of much of western and central Europe, but Britain and Russia stopped German troops from advancing.
- Japan desired to dominate the Pacific and end Western colonial rule in East Asia.
- The United States entered the war on the side of the Allies when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.
- The Allied forces stopped the advance of the Germans in North Africa and Russia, and stopped Japanese advances in the Pacific.

The New Order and the Holocaust

- The German conquest of continental Europe forced millions of native people to work for the Nazi war machine.
- The Nazis rounded up Jews and sent them to concentration camps; the Nazis killed approximately 6 million Jews during the Holocaust.
- The Japanese war policy in Asia was defensive; the Japanese conquest of Southeast Asia forced millions of native people to work for the Japanese war machine.
Chapter Summary Cont.

World War II and the Holocaust

World War II Ends

- The Allies crossed the English Channel and invaded Normandy to open a “second front” in Western Europe; the Allies liberated Paris, advanced into Germany from all directions, and reclaimed land.
- In Asia, the Allies moved from island to island fighting major battles and getting closer to Japan.
- The U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war with the Japanese in the Pacific.
- Political tensions, suspicions, and a conflict of ideas led the U.S. and the USSR into the Cold War.