

10.8 Consequences of WWII

Historical Context: The Allies celebrated victory, but soon the costs of the war began to emerge. The war had killed as many as 50 million people around the world. In Europe, over 30 million people had lost their lives, more than half of them civilians. The Soviet Union suffered the worst casualties, with over 20 million dead. Germany, parts of Poland, the Soviet Union, Japan, China and other countries lay in ruins. Total war had destroyed cities, factories, harbors, bridges, railroads, farms and homes. Over twenty million refugees wandered Europe. Amid the devastation, hunger, disease, mental illness and political instability took their toll for years after the fighting ended. Like after WWI, the Allies faced difficult decisions about the future.

Directions: Read each source and complete the 6Cs.

Prompt: *Based on your understanding of the documents, what were the consequences of WWII?*

1

Chart: Casualties of WWII

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica; The Harper Encyclopedia of Military History, R. Ernest Dupuy and Trevor N. Dupuy.

	Military Dead	Military Wounded	Civilian Dead
Allies			
Britain	264,000	277,000	93,000
France	213,000	400,000	350,000
China	1,310,000	1,753,000	1,000,000
Soviet Union	7,500,000	14,012,000	15,000,000
United States	292,000	672,000	*
Axis Powers			
Germany	3,500,000	5,000,000	780,000
Italy	242,000	66,000	53,000
Japan	1,300,000	4,000,000	672,000

*Very small number of civilian dead.

2

Excerpt: North Atlantic Treaty

Source: Excerpt from The North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed by the United States, Canada and ten nations of Western Europe in 1948.

The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or in North America shall be considered as an attack against them all. They agree that if such an armed attack occurs, each of them will assist the party or parties so attacked. Each will immediately take whatever action it considers necessary to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. It will if necessary, use armed force.

3

Map: Germany after WWII




Source: Ellis, Gaynor. Anthony Esler. *World History: The Modern World*. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2007.

4

Image: Evacuees return to Berlin

Source: "Evacuees return to Berlin." Reproduced from Herman Glaser, *The Rubble Years: The Cultural Roots of Postwar Germany, 1945-1948* (New York: Paragon House Publishers, 1986), pp 70-71.



 *The Division of Germany. Germany was divided into four zones by the victors at the end of World War II. Berlin was in heart of the Soviet zone, East Germany, and the city itself was divided between East and West sectors.*

5

Image: Hiroshima after the atomic bomb blast

Source: "Hiroshima after the atomic bomb blast" (National Archives). Reproduced from Richard B. Frank, *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire* (New York: Random House, 1999), pp 236-237.



Works Cited:

Rosenfeld, Alan. *The Consequences of World War II: Japan and Germany*. 1. Irvine: Humanities Out There, 2005. 5-26.