

## Chapter 31

# World War II Encircles the Globe

### WAR SCURRIES OVER EUROPE FOLLOWING INVASION OF POLAND

ADOLPH HITLER rose to power in Germany by tearing apart the Treaty of Versailles and throwing it, piece by piece, into the faces of the winners in World War I. After adding Austria and provinces of Czechoslovakia to Germany, Hitler demanded the return of the narrow corridor which had been allotted to Poland by the treaty. He wanted Danzig for a port on the Baltic. This territory had formerly belonged to Prussia, one of the German states.

Since both France and Great Britain were allies of Poland, leaders of these nations objected to Hitler's demands. Hoping to keep these two nations from interfering while he conquered Poland, Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The invasion of Poland began on September 1, 1939. Three days later Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. In less than two weeks Soviet armies invaded Poland from the east. Before the end of the month Poland was conquered and the territory divided between Germany and Soviet Russia.

Near the end of November, Russia attacked Finland, forcing that small country to surrender valuable territory. Within seven months the Soviet Government seized Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia on the Baltic Sea and took a province from Rumania. Meanwhile, the German Army invaded Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. On June 10, three days before the German Army entered Paris, Italy declared war upon France and troops crossed the border. By the end of the summer of 1940 Europe was aflame with war. The Italian Army had invaded Egypt, bringing the continent of Africa into the conflict.

What was happening in the United States during this time? When the German Army entered France in May, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to appropriate billions of dollars for defense. Then, less than a week after the Italians invaded Egypt, he signed the first compulsory draft law for military service during peacetime. Canada and the United States announced a joint plan for defending both countries. The President approved lend-lease payments to Great Britain, enabling that country to purchase war supplies in the United States. Orders from overseas

gradually increased employment in the United States for both men and women. This nation's preparedness program absorbed some of the unemployed in manufacturing and in the armed services.

Nearly all of Europe had fallen to the dictatorships of Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union. Only Sweden, Switzerland, and Portugal escaped being drawn into the war, along with Spain, which had had its own bloody civil war at home.

In June of 1941 Hitler's decision to attack the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics extended the European war into Asia where China and Japan had already been locked in a struggle for ten years. About the middle of July, Great Britain and the Soviet Union signed a war pact. They agreed that neither one would make a separate peace with Germany. Early in November President Roosevelt pledged lend-lease of a billion dollars to the Soviet Union, now an ally of Great Britain. Meanwhile, war crept closer to the United States, moving west from Europe and east from Asia at the same time. When and where would the blow strike?

## **THE UNITED STATES IS DRAWN INTO WORLD WAR II**

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1940, Japan formally joined the Axis powers, as Germany, Italy, and Bulgaria were called. Then Japan signed a five-year non-aggression pact with Russia in April, 1941. This secured the northern Japanese shores from attack and a move south was expected.

The grand prize of war included the East Indies, Malaya, and the Philippines. There, Japan could get the raw materials needed to carry on the war with China

and any other nation opposing the Japanese advance. In this southern area were supplies of nickel, manganese, iron, gold, oil, 85 percent of the world's rubber, 65 percent of its tin, and 90 percent of its quinine. The loss of these materials to the Allies would greatly weaken the war effort in Europe. The one obstacle to carrying out the conquest of this region was the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Japan's basic war plan was divided into three steps. First, it was necessary to destroy or neutralize the United States Fleet and air bases in Hawaii; second, to seize the southern area rich with raw materials; and third, to capture the strategic areas and islands to establish a line of defense extending from the Kuril Islands north of Japan, through Wake Island, the Marshall, Gilbert, and Bismarck Islands, northern New Guinea, Timor, Java, Sumatra, Malaya, and Burma. Then, after seizing this vast area, plans were developed to defend it against attack until the United States, the only nation with power to challenge this conquest, gave up the fight.

On December 7, 1941, this plan was placed in operation with an air attack upon Pearl Harbor. About eight o'clock on that Sunday morning, bombs began to fall on the airfields where grounded American planes were perfect targets. Without advance warning, the armed forces were taken by surprise. At practically the same time, a dozen planes approached from the southeast to drop torpedoes on the battleships, cruisers, and all Navy vessels anchored in Pearl Harbor. More planes arrived with more destructive torpedoes. After the attack, lasting almost two hours, the Pacific Fleet had suffered a major disaster, with over 3000 men killed and missing and over 900 wounded.



Immediately Japan declared war on the United States, Great Britain and the British Dominions. In a few days Germany and Italy, Japan's allies, declared war on the United States. Our country announced that a state of war existed also with Germany, Italy, and Japan. Suddenly, the United States faced war on two fronts and across two oceans. The nation was not prepared. Army officers were sent from this country to train Filipino troops but progress was slow because funds were lacking. It was a part of Japanese strategy to gain control of the rich resources of these islands before the Filipinos were prepared to defend their homeland. The initial attack on Luzon was timed to follow the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was another surprise which caught bombers and all types of planes on the ground. On the tenth of December, Japanese troops made their first landing on the main island, Luzon.

By the end of December, Japanese troops had captured the American islands of Wake and Guam. This blocked the regular sea lane for supply ships to the Philippines, the British possession of Hong Kong, and the little country of Thailand. By launching attacks at the same time in so many places, Japan was ready early in January in 1942 to begin the conquest of the richest prize, the Dutch East Indies. Although the United States attempted to send some supplies and reinforcements to the Philippines by way of Australia, American forces were obligated to get along with the men and materials on hand. On December 24, General Douglas MacArthur, commanding the American and Filipino soldiers, ordered the evacuation of Manila and a retreat to the peninsula of Bataan.

On this neck of land, thirty-two miles

long and only twenty miles across at the widest part, Philippine and United States soldiers put up a heroic defense. They had only a few pieces of artillery and airplanes left to them. Starvation and illness sapped the strength of the defenders as rations were cut lower and lower for the 78,000 troops and 26,000 civilians crowded into the peninsula. Occasionally, a submarine arrived with a little food, but the cargo was usually much-needed drugs and ammunition. Realizing that help could not arrive in time to stave off defeat, President Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to leave the island fort of Corregidor in a submarine on the night of March 11. He was transported to Mindanao and then flown in an American bomber to Australia where he established temporary headquarters as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific.

On March 12, General Jonathan M. Wainwright took command of half-starved troops existing on one-third rations on the Bataan peninsula. Their position was under increased air attack by planes based on nearby Formosa. Japan had gained control of this large island off the coast of China in 1895 and was now using it as a base to assemble troops and planes for the conquest of the Philippine Islands. Early in April General Wainwright was forced to surrender the troops on Bataan. About 45,000 Filipino soldiers and over 9000 Americans were imprisoned in central Luzon. So many men died on the way from Bataan to the prison camp that the trek was named the "Death March." Not until May 6, after Japanese gunfire had destroyed artillery and even the water pipes, did the gallant defenders of Corregidor surrender the island fort in the harbor.

The Japanese strategy had been success-

ful, although the timing had been upset by the heroic stand made by Filipinos who fought to the end with forces of the United States Army. By attacking at the same time at many points along the islands, Japan was able to fortify a line of defense from Wake Island to the East Indies. Early in March the Dutch Government had been forced to surrender the entire Netherlands East Indies to Japan. This gave the Japanese oil, food, minerals, quinine, copra, hemp, and other supplies needed for waging war. Malaya with large amounts of tin, rubber, lumber, and the excellent naval base at Singapore was in Japanese hands. However, the people of this region were the greatest asset since they were now working for Japan. The island of Java with 40,000,000 population was a prize. Great Britain, the Netherlands, and the United States at war with Germany and her allies, were not able, at the time, to defend their possessions in the East. Any nation that controls this southern area of vast rich resources and the islands around it is master of the Pacific and in a position to endanger the security of the United States. While our country was occupied in preparing to wage war on two fronts and across two oceans, Japan met with little opposition in Asia except from the Chinese. China kept up the fight with the meager aid that could be flown "over the hump." The hump meant across the lofty Himalayas, a distance of 500 miles between the province of Assam in India and the Yunnan Plateau in China.

## **THE UNITED STATES GOES TO WAR IN EUROPE, ASIA, AND AFRICA**

IN DECEMBER OF 1941, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Church-

ill, the Chiefs of the British Navy, Army, and Air Forces met in Washington with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the American chiefs of staff. At this meeting, it was agreed that the war would be conducted by a group known as the Combined Chiefs of Staff. They would concentrate upon the defeat of Germany first, and Japan, second. Because of this decision the American defenders in the Pacific area had to wait for help in the initial phase of the conflict.

Two plans for attacking the German homeland were considered. One was to invade Europe through the Balkans, the other, to invade through France. In April, 1942 in London, an agreement was reached that the final blow against Germany would be made by a large force crossing the English Channel, invading France, and pressing forward over the plains of Western Europe into Germany itself. This decision meant provision must be made to transport 1,200,000 men, from the United States across the submarine-infested Atlantic Ocean; to build living quarters, hospitals, and supply centers for them; and, before anything else, to draft the men into the armed services and train them.

Many demands for all kinds of war materials increased employment. Again, as in World War I, thousands of women went to work in war factories. Three shifts were operated around the clock to fill orders for articles ranging from plastic combs to bombing planes. Tanks, instead of cars, rolled off the assembly lines in automobile plants. All over the country, manufacturers set aside their peacetime products and converted their machinery to make the supplies of war.

It was during the summer of 1942 that General Dwight D. Eisenhower was

appointed Supreme Allied Commander of the British and American Forces. They were to land in Africa and drive out the German and Italian armies operating there and threatening the Suez Canal. The canal was the life line of the British for oil supplies in the Near East. The Allies were not yet strong enough to land in Europe to relieve the eastern front.

In the fall, Field Marshal Rommel, the German commander in northern Africa, was defeated. The following year an attack was launched against Sicily with the aim of eliminating Italy from the war. After several weeks of aerial bombardment the first landings were made in Sicily. The American forces were commanded by Lieutenant General George S. Patton. In the first two days of the invasion, more than 80,000 men with war equipment landed on the shores of Sicily. In thirty-nine days the island was cleared of enemy troops with an Allied loss of over 30,000 men killed, wounded, and missing. General Eisenhower's report stated the result of the Sicilian campaign:

Nine months after the first landings in North Africa, the Allied Force had not merely cleared its shore of enemy forces, but had wrested from him the Sicilian bridge to use as our own in an advance onto the Italian mainland.

The threatened invasion of Italy forced the Italian dictator, Mussolini, to resign his office. On September 8, 1943, the day after American troops landed on the shores of the Gulf of Salerno, the unconditional surrender of Italy was announced. German troops, however, were in possession of the country. It took nine months of bitter fighting for the American and British armies to get to Rome and capture the city. All the way up the peninsula progress was

slow and costly. Early in May of 1945, the German forces in northern Italy finally gave up the struggle.

The British and American campaigns in Africa and Italy pinned down thousands of German troops and much war equipment, relieving the German pressure on the Soviet Union. The German Army advanced as far as Stalingrad on the Volga River, where the Russians halted them with a long and stubborn defense. The defeat at Stalingrad and in northern Africa forced Germany into a war of defense.

Meanwhile, what was happening in the Pacific? While the Japanese were gaining control of the rich resources of the southern area and fortifying the island defense line, the United States was preparing bases in Australia, from which to launch attacks upon the Japanese line of defense. The Battle of the Coral Sea in May of 1942 checked a Japanese thrust at Australia. In the Battle of Midway in June, Japanese naval strength suffered a severe blow. Japanese troops landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in July and began to lay out an airfield. Some action then had to be taken to prevent Japanese planes based on this island from severing the weak American supply line to Australia.

Eight months after Pearl Harbor, United States Marines and other troops landed on Guadalcanal from transports which had brought them from New Zealand under guard of naval warships. After almost 11,000 Marines had landed and captured the airfield, the Japanese began an air attack with planes based at Rabaul on the island of New Britain only 675 miles away. Since the American Marine landing on Guadalcanal was the first attempt to break into the enemy line of defense, the



*Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Corporal C.E. Smith*

### LANDING ON NANUMEA IN THE ELLICE ISLANDS

**Under the protection of destroyers, an LST is unloaded by United States Marines on Nanumea, an island in the Ellice group belonging to Great Britain. A shallow reef makes it impossible for the ship to hit the beach, and the cargo is unloaded and hauled ashore.**

Japanese were able to concentrate both air and naval power on this spot.

Japanese planes strafing the landing beaches were attacked by American planes. On the morning of August 23, 1943 a reconnaissance plane spotted Japanese vessels approaching, about 250 miles away. The American fleet steamed north to meet the Japanese force, making contact northeast of Malaita Island, where the Battle of the Eastern Solomons was so bravely fought. Admiral Chester W.

Nimitz considered the encounter a major victory that turned away a large-scale reinforcement for Guadalcanal.

While another decisive sea battle was being fought near the Santa Cruz Islands, a battle was raging on land. In the dense, rain-soaked jungle of the mountainous island of Guadalcanal, Marines and soldiers were locked in a bitter struggle with the Japanese defenders. It took six months to dislodge the jungle-trained Japanese veterans from caves and dugouts and to clear



the island of resistance. Meanwhile, American forces were landing on New Guinea, forcing Japan to use both land and naval forces, as well as aircraft, in scattered engagements. This relieved the pressure on Guadalcanal. The close teamwork between General Douglas MacArthur of the Army, and Admirals Chester W. Nimitz and William F. Halsey of the Navy initiated the successful offensive operations in the Pacific. Most of the credit for taking Guadalcanal, one of the decisive battles, belongs to the United States Marines.

The Pacific offensive was a slow, island-hopping campaign to gain control of the widespread line of defense around Japan. After operations in the Solomon Islands, landings were made in New Britain where the Japanese base at Rabaul was menacing the American advance. Landings were

made in the Gilbert Islands where Tarawa was difficult and costly to take; on the Marshall Islands where forces took Kwajalein in January of 1944 and Eniwetok in February; and in the Marianas where Saipan was the first island invaded after the Navy defeated and scattered a Japanese fleet in the Battle of the Philippine Sea on June 19, 1944. Guam was retaken and Japanese strongholds in the Caroline Islands and the Paulau Islands were cleared out. In a gigantic game of leap-frog from island to island in the Pacific, American forces crept nearer and nearer to the Philippines. Japan was landing reinforcements there to hold the strategic islands. In keeping with the original plan to defeat Germany first, the long-awaited invasion of France preceded the final campaign in the Pacific region.

#### LANDING SUPPLIES ON GUADALCANAL

The battle of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands northeast of Australia was the first step in the tedious, island-hopping campaign in the Pacific.

*Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Margun J.F. Leopold*





## DEVELOPMENTS OF 1944 ASSURE ALLIED VICTORY

ON JUNE 6, 1944, hundreds of craft, large and small, crossed the English Channel with troops destined for the invasion of France, which had been held by the Germans since the early months of the war. By nightfall, five divisions had landed on the beaches of Normandy with tanks, artillery, ammunition, trucks, and other equipment. The advance destruction of rail lines, highways, and bridges by the air force prevented the enemy from sending large reinforcements against the beachhead. The invasion was under the direction of General Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander.

Two days before, Rome had fallen to the Allies. British and American armies were pushing their way up the peninsula of Italy. Other British and American forces were driving across France toward the western border of Germany and Soviet armies were advancing toward the eastern border. By September 5, over 2,000,000 Allied troops had been put ashore in France, along with nearly 3,500,000 tons of supplies.

By the summer of 1944, industry in the United States was able to produce enough war materials to supply Eisenhower's invasion of France, the Allied advance north from Rome, and preparations for landings in the Philippines. Tanks, trucks, and planes moved along assembly lines of American factories on a twenty-four hour schedule. The same speed was maintained in the production of clothing, food, and necessities for troops. Transportation on the ground, across the seas, and in the air moved war supplies to all fronts in a steady flow, including the lend-lease shipments to Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

After the fall of Paris late in August of



*U.S. Army Photograph*

### **GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER** Supreme Allied Commander in Europe

General Dwight D. Eisenhower issuing instructions to paratroopers in England before they boarded planes for the invasion of Europe.

1944, defeated German armies began retreating to defend their homeland. With the Allied campaign in Italy succeeding, and about 3,000,000 Allied troops on the continent of Europe, the defeat of Germany seemed assured. More attention could be given to Japan. Late in October of 1944, with the aid of air and naval forces General MacArthur was able to make surprise landings of troops at Leyte in the Philippines. In an effort to prevent Americans from retaking these islands, Japanese commanders committed their nation's grand fleet to a battle with the American fleet. The Battle of Leyte Gulf from October 23 to 26, which practically destroyed Japan's sea power, is considered one of the decisive engagements of World War II.

Early in January, protected by both air and sea support, ground troops landed on the shore of Lingayen Gulf to recover the key island of Luzon.

While MacArthur's troops were advanc-





*Signal Corps, U.S. Army*

**GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR WITH INDIANS  
— SIGNAL CORPS, UNITED STATES ARMY**

The Indian soldiers in this photograph belonged to the following tribes (left to right): Pima of Arizona; Pawnee of Oklahoma; Chitimacha of Louisiana; Navajo of Arizona.

Indian soldiers received much praise from army officers for their skill in jungle fighting. In the Signal Corps they were particularly helpful, being able to talk in sign language and tongues unknown to the enemy.

ing on land, the carrier force of Admiral Halsey was occupied with destroying Japanese air power on Formosa and other islands. The fleet under Admiral Nimitz was protecting supply lines and bombarding positions slated for occupation. The airfields on Iwo Jima and Okinawa were strongly defended by the Japanese and were as strongly attacked by the Americans. The Allies were determined to gain the islands to use for bases for bombing the industrial cities of Japan.

More than 4500 Marines were killed in action. Before Okinawa surrendered, the war ended in Europe.

With Soviet troops approaching from the east and French, British, and American forces pushing forward from the west, the Germans were forced to give up the fight. Their cities where war industries were located had been reduced to rubble by long bombardment from both the east and the west. The repeated air attacks had sapped the will of the people to resist. On May 7,



1945, all land, sea, and air forces of the German Reich surrendered to the Allies at Reims, France, eleven months after the landings on the beaches of Normandy. Five days before, the commander of the German Army in Italy had surrendered. Only Japan remained in the war. Both the campaign in Italy and the advance from the English Channel had been slow-moving and bitterly contested. Soviet armies from the east and Eisenhower's armies from the west met in Germany. The conquered nation was divided among them for occupation. East Germany went to the Soviet Union and West Germany was shared by Great Britain, France, and the United States.

Berlin was occupied by all four powers.

However, the bombing of Japan began long before bases and airfields were established on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. On April 18, 1942, sixteen army bombers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle raided Tokyo in a surprise attack. The planes took off on this mission from the carrier *U.S.S. Hornet*, flew 600 miles to the capital of Japan, and made their way back to the China coast. Although gasoline ran out before any one of the planes reached the designated airfields in China, only two crews fell into enemy hands, when forced to land.

As United States forces crept closer to

#### APPROACHING IWO JIMA IN THE VOLCANO ISLANDS

The Fourth Marine Division men head toward the bloodiest, biggest, and toughest fight of their history, the fanatically defended island fortress, Iwo Jima.

*Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo*





Japan, American bombers began raids to destroy the industrial cities in which war supplies were manufactured. On the night of March 9, 279 bombers dropped incendiaries on Tokyo. The bombs burned out sixteen square miles in the heart of the capital. To date, this was the most destructive air raid in history, but one, more disastrous, was soon to come. The decision to introduce the atomic bomb to a startled world was made by President Harry S. Truman who took over the office after the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On August 6, 1945, a superfortress released a single atomic bomb over Hiroshima, a military base. In the first use of this new weapon, sixty percent of the city was destroyed with a frightful loss of human life. Two days later, a second

atomic bomb was dropped on another important industrial center, Nagasaki. On the eighth of August Russia declared war on Japan. The following day Russians smashed across the borders of Manchuria in several places to pinch off that rich country. Soviet troops occupied the southern part of Sakhalin Island, a Japanese possession, and moved forward rapidly to take as much territory as possible before Japan surrendered.

On the fifteenth day of August (fourteenth in this country), after three years and eight months of war with the United States, Japan accepted the terms of unconditional surrender. About nine o'clock on Sunday morning, September 2, 1945, the Japanese delegation of eleven men, diplomats and military officers,

#### SIGNING THE ARMISTICE ON DECK OF USS MISSOURI September 2, 1945

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz signs the armistice on board the *Missouri*. Standing behind him are General Douglas MacArthur, Admiral William F. Halsey, and Rear Admiral Forrest P. Sherman.

*Official U.S. Navy Photo*



boarded the battleship *U.S.S. Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. They lined up on the slate-gray deck to sign the document of surrender before an impressive group of Allied military leaders who had brought about the defeat of Japan. Sailors, marines, and cameramen clung to vantage points on long-nosed guns and high platforms to view the historic ceremony. General MacArthur stepped up to the microphone, breaking the hollow silence with brief remarks:

We are gathered here representative of the major warring powers, to conclude a solemn agreement whereby peace may be restored. It is my earnest hope and indeed the hope of all mankind that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past – a world founded upon faith and understanding – a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish – for freedom, tolerance, and justice.

Then he invited the Japanese delegates to sign the surrender first. Representatives of the Allies, following in order, stepped up to the green table to add their signatures for their own nations. In twenty minutes the signing was completed. The eleven Japanese departed in the same silence that marked their entry. There were no salutes. Thus ended the world conflict that took the lives of more than 22,000,000 persons, wounded nearly 35,000,000 and cost the staggering sum estimated at more than \$1,000,000,000,000.

However, the end of the shooting war left the causes of the struggle in the minds of men. Two great world powers emerged from this mighty conflict of nations. The United States became the leader of governments based upon the idea that the human rights of man are above the rights of government. These privileges are defined in the first ten

Amendments to the American Constitution. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics became the promoter of the opposite idea, that the rights of the state precede the human rights of man. The former is a constitutional republic; the latter, a socialist dictatorship.

## THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESIDENT Franklin D. Roosevelt invited the nations of the earth, except those on the list of enemies at the time, to send delegates to a meeting in San Francisco, but his successor, Harry S. Truman presided. This conference, called to write a charter for an organization through which countries could settle their quarrels without war, began on April 25, 1945 in the War Memorial Opera House.

Plans for world peace have been discussed down through the ages by many men, but their efforts failed to end war. In 1693 William Penn had advanced a plan for world peace based upon the theory that each nation has authority within its own borders, but that no nation should impose its will upon another without the free consent of the people living in that country.

Penn figured that peace was broken for one of three reasons: to keep what one has; to recover, when able, what had been taken away by force; and to increase power by adding neighbors' territory. The problems in 1945 were the same as in 1693. For two months the delegates from fifty nations labored to write a charter whereby these problems might be solved:

TO KEEP – How to prevent the invasion of an independent country.

TO RECOVER – How to provide a way for peoples who are living under governments not



their own, to be able, through a system of free voting, to select or establish a government of their own choice.

**TO ADD** – How to prevent large and powerful nations from conquering and enslaving weaker countries.

On May 15, 1945 Edward R. Stettinius Jr., the chairman of the United States delegation, told the 850 delegates from 50 countries:

As a nation which has been devoted through its history to the cause of liberty, the United States will continue to exert its full influence in behalf of all peoples to govern themselves according to their own desires, whenever they are prepared and able to assume the responsibilities of freedom as well as to enjoy its rights.

The United Nations was planned at a meeting of the “Big Three” in Yalta, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in February,

1945, although the idea had been considered earlier. In this conference, President Franklin D. Roosevelt represented the United States; Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Great Britain; and Joseph Stalin, with the title of Marshal, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. At this gathering, Stalin insisted that membership be given to the Bylorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, along with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This demand was granted and the Soviet Union won three votes in the General Assembly to one each for all other countries.

When this meeting of the United Nations closed on June 26, 1945, the following nations had signed the charter, except Poland, who was later listed among the original members.

NATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE		NATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE			
North America	South America	Africa	Asia	Australia	Europe
Canada	Argentina	Ethiopia	China	Australia	Belgium
Costa Rica	Bolivia	Liberia	India		Bylorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Cuba	Brazil	South Africa	Iran		Czechoslovakia
Dominican Republic	Chile	United Arab Republic	Iraq		Denmark
El Salvador	Colombia	(Egypt)	Lebanon		France
Guatemala	Ecuador		New Zealand		Greece
Haiti	Panama		Philippines		Luxembourg
Mexico	Paraguay		Saudi Arabia		Netherlands
Nicaragua	Peru		Syria		Norway
United States	Uruguay		Turkey		Poland
	Venezuela		Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (partly in Europe)		Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
					United Kingdom
					Yugoslavia

In the beginning, 29 (or 58%) of the countries in the United Nations were in the Eastern Hemisphere; 21 (or 48%) were in the Western Hemisphere. The term “United Nations” did not mean agreement among the signers. With different forms of government, the organization was divided

into hostile camps. Some nations defended the principle that governments exist to protect the human rights of man. Others argued that the state is supreme and may give or take away any rights, at will.

The United States took the lead in

complying with Article I, paragraph 2 of the United Nations charter:

To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of people, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.

The United States abandoned the policy of colonialism by turning over the government of the Philippine Islands to the people living in that country.

## **INDEPENDENCE FOR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

IN FEBRUARY, 1945 the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines returned to Manila to prepare for the establishment of an independent constitutional republic. The war did not end until the following August. In April, 1946 Manuel Roxas was elected President of the Republic of the Philippines. With a new constitution, the Filipinos were ready for independence as previously voted by the Congress of the United States.

The great day came on July 4, 1946. A large crowd gathered early for the ceremonies in an outdoor pavilion. General Douglas MacArthur, whom the Filipinos called "the Liberator," spoke to the people. He said:

Let history record this event in the sweep of democracy through the earth as foretelling the end of mastery over peoples by power of force alone — the end of empire as the political chain which binds the unwilling weak to the unyielding strong. Let it be recorded as one of the great turning points in the advance of civilization in the agelong struggle of man for liberty, for dignity, and for human betterment.

The United States High Commissioner, Paul V. McNutt, rose from his chair to face the microphones. The assembled throng of Filipinos listened breathlessly to the single sentence that meant so much to them. McNutt spoke:

I am authorized and directed by the President of the United States to proclaim the independence of the Philippines as a separate and self-governing nation.

Then he lowered the Stars and Stripes while the new President of the Republic of the Philippines hoisted the banner of the newborn nation. After the flag ceremony, President Roxas addressed his people:

### **MY COUNTRYMEN:**

An historic drama has just been unfolded before our eyes. The American flag has been lowered from the flagstaffs in the land — not in defeat, not in surrender, not by compulsion, but by the voluntary act of the sovereign American Nation.

Filipinos were free for the first time since 1521 when Magellan had arrived to claim the islands for Spain. In a gala parade that followed the speeches, General Emilio Aguinaldo marched with a remnant of aging veterans wearing the old-fashioned uniforms of nearly fifty years before. In 1962, Independence Day was officially changed from July 4 to June 12. On that day in 1898 Filipinos had declared their independence from Spain. At the first celebration of the new Independence Day, Macapagal, President of the Republic of the Philippines told his people:

We shall be ready to fight on the side of America, as in the past, in defense of freedom and human dignity for ourselves and for all mankind.

In former years, signing peace treaties was often a dramatic event, and the place was a stately hall. Military men entered wearing colorful uniforms, their coats dripping with medals. Polished swords dangled at their sides. Diplomats in formal dress took their places of honor around the peace table. One by one, they advanced with solemn dignity to sign the treaty for their separate nations.

No such gathering followed World War

II. No formal treaty was signed by all the nations taking part in the conflict. There is no peace. The struggle continues in shooting and debate, hot and cold, here and there around the world in a war of the minds of men.

**MAPS:**

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*Atlas of American History* by Edgar B. Wesley