The War in the Pacific

Chapter 25
Section 4
The Japanese Advance, 1941-1942

• Attack on Pearl Harbor and Clark field to have easy access to resources in SE Asia
• Take a number of Allied colonies in the area
• The Philippines is taken by May 1942 – 76,000 Americans and Filipinos taken as prisoners – Bataan Death March
• Violation of the Geneva Convention
• Japanese also take control of the Burma Road – lifeline for the Chinese
• Japanese did NOT accomplish their goal at Pearl Harbor – Lt. Col. James Doolittle counterattacks
• Japanese turn their attention to Australia – Battle of the Coral Sea – first ever naval battle using strictly aircraft
• Battle was seen as a draw but Japan did not take Australia
Allied Victories Turn the Tide

- June 4, 1942 – Battle of the Midway
  - Americans able to successful hold off the Japanese attack and take the offensive against them at a crucial defense point
- Allies then turn their sights to Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands)
- 5-month long battle – Allies take control of a Japanese holding in the Pacific
Struggling for the Islands

- American forces began “island-hopping” in the Pacific
- Summer of 1944 – Douglas MacArthur urges Roosevelt to retake the Philippines
- Battle of Leyte Gulf – first use of kamikazes
- Japanese navy virtually destroyed after the battle
Iwo Jima and Okinawa

• Battle of Iwo Jima – one of the bloodiest battles of the entire war – February 1945
• Battle of Okinawa – just as bloody as Iwo Jima – April-June 1945 – after the victory a clear path to Japan
The Manhattan Project

• Albert Einstein tells Roosevelt of an experimental type of bomb being built by the Germans
• Manhattan Project – develop the atomic bomb
• Enrico Fermi – mass splitting of atoms
• July 16, 1945 – successful test of the bomb
• There were alternatives to dropping the A-bomb

1. Invasion of Japan – heavy casualties
2. Naval blockade of Japan w/ more conventional bombings
3. Demonstration of the new weapon to the Japanese to force them into surrender
4. Softening of Allied demands for unconditional surrender
• President Harry Truman decides to drop the Atomic Bomb due to the high casualties at Iwo Jima and Okinawa
• August 6, 1945 – a single bomb is dropped on the city of Hiroshima
• August 9, 1945 – Nagasaki was hit with a bomb
• V-J Day – August 14, 1945
• The war had come to an end