

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



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- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - *Modern Empire-Building*
  - *Post-War Religion*
  - *Conflicts of the “Greatest Generation” (part 3)*



# *The Modern Age*

- Everything seemed to be falling apart again
  - 1943 *Crux Ansata* was published
    - If you'll remember, Pope Pius XII decided that the best move for the Catholic Church was to remain neutral in World War II, and to refuse to condemn anything that Hitler did—at least publicly
      - This protected the Church and the Nazi-occupied city of Rome from aggression for the most part but it alienated the Catholic Church from pretty much everyone else in Europe and America in the process





# The Modern Age

- Everything seemed to be falling apart again  
1943 *Crux Ansata* was published

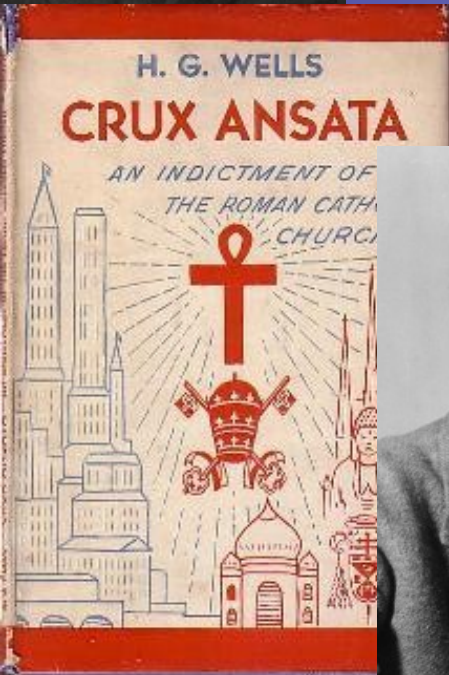


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- In particular, writer and social activist H.G. Wells became utterly disgusted with what he saw as rank cowardice on the part of the Catholic Church

(NOTE: But he was kinda utterly disgusted with everyone on the planet at this moment in history—like the time in 1941 when he sent George Orwell an abusive, profanity-heavy letter to complain because Orwell

- A) didn't agree that the war would end quickly
- B) didn't agree that continued scientific and technological advancement would just naturally lead to the better, kinder social utopia that Wells so fervently believed in so Wells called him naughty names)

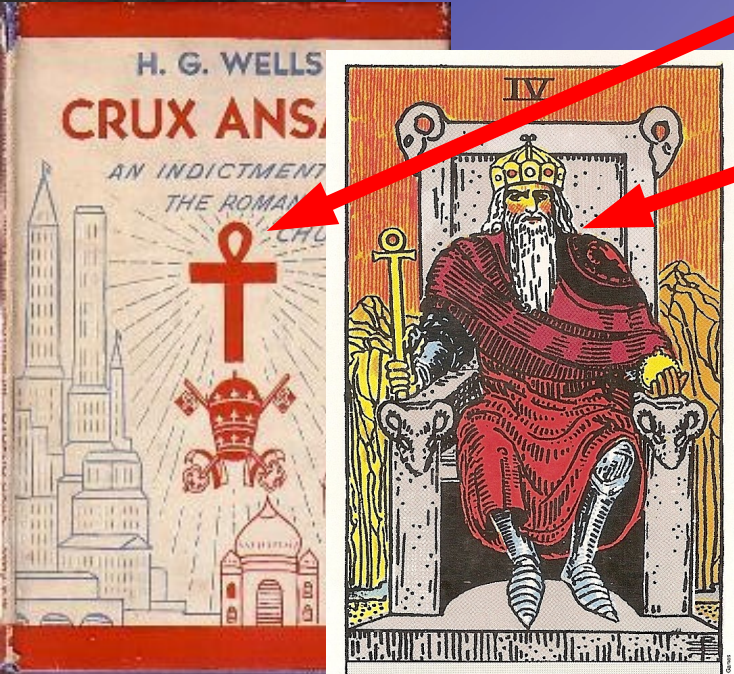


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- If you'll remember, Pope Pius XII decided that the best move for the Catholic Church was to remain neutral in World War II, and to refuse to condemn anything that Hitler did—at least publicly
  - In particular, writer and social activist H.G. Wells became utterly disgusted with what he saw as rank cowardice on the part of the Catholic Church
    - In response to the crisis at hand, Wells wrote the book, *Crux Ansata*, lambasting the Pope
- (NOTE: The book's title refers to the “cross with a handle”—i.e.; an Egyptian *ankh*—though Wells never explained the title's significance)
- (NOTE<sup>2</sup>: Our best guess is that Wells was equating the Pope with the Emperor card of the Tarot deck, intended to symbolize the selfish quest for personal power and control)





# *The Modern Age*

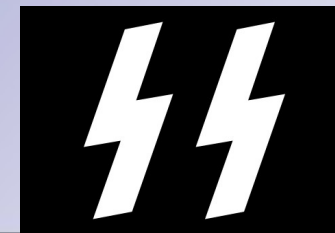
- Funky little teaching moment—

- To give you an idea of the tone of the book, the first chapter is entitled, “Why Do We Not Bomb Rome?” and immediately begins with a diatribe against Pius—  
“Not only is Rome the source and centre of Fascism, but it has been the seat of a Pope, who, as we shall show, has been an open ally of the Nazi-Fascist-Shinto Axis since his enthronement. He has never raised his voice against that Axis, he has never denounced the abominable aggressions, murder and cruelties they have inflicted upon mankind, and the pleas he is now making for peace and forgiveness are manifestly designed to assist the escape of these criminals, so that they may launch a fresh assault upon all that is decent in humanity... *Why* do we not bomb Rome? *Why* do we allow these open and declared antagonists of democratic freedom to entertain their Shinto allies and organize a pseudo-Catholic destruction of democratic freedom?”
  - And that's H.G. Wells for ya...  
(but, to be honest, he was just articulating what a *lot* of people were feeling at the time)



# *The Modern Age*

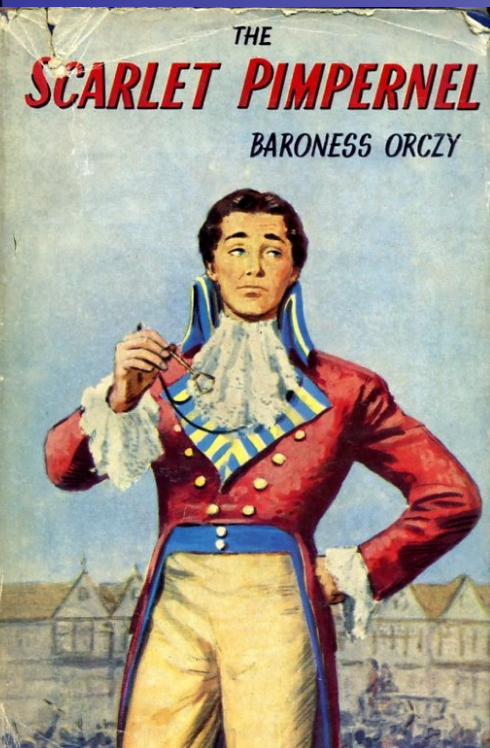
- Funky little teaching moment<sup>2</sup>—
    - But just because Pius wasn't doing anything, that doesn't mean that every Catholic leader in Rome sat on the sidelines
    - For instance, Hugh O'Flaherty was an Irish priest and a member of the Pope's administrative staff who used his position to actively help the war effort
    - When Mussolini was removed from office in 1943, thousands of Allied POWs were immediately released (though Italy was quickly invaded and occupied by the Nazis—leaving Jews and POWs in a sudden lurch)
    - Monsignor O'Flaherty used the neutrality of Vatican City to his own ends, creating a secret network of operatives to find Jews and POWs safe havens in Rome to hide in
- (NOTE: To give you an idea of O'Flaherty's flair for the ironic, the first safe haven that he used to hide people was literally right next door to the headquarters of S.S. Colonel Herbert Kappler, the head of German security forces in Rome)





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  - O'Flaherty was a physically active man, so he liked to take part in the shenanigans personally
    - He frequently wore disguises to slip out of Vatican City to help refugees and coordinate with his operatives (earning him the nickname, "The Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican")



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    - He frequently wore disguises to slip out of Vatican City to help refugees and coordinate with his operatives
    - **Kappler issued a “kill on sight” order for the priest, but Hitler wouldn't allow him to breach the neutrality of Vatican City itself**
      - So Kappler had a white line painted around the edge of Vatican City, ordering his troops to shoot O'Flaherty if he ever stepped across it  
(NOTE: O'Flaherty liked to take daily walks along the white line, reading his Bible and smiling at the guards)





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(NOTE: Kappler even snuck some of his guards into Vatican City while O'Flaherty was giving a Mass, intending to physically push him over the white line "on accident" but the Swiss Guard were alerted, and escorted the disguised guards across the line... and into the hands of Yugoslavian partisans who "happened" to be standing there, who then proceeded to beat the Nazis senseless...)





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    - Kappler issued a "kill on sight" order for the priest, but Hitler wouldn't allow him to breach the neutrality of Vatican City itself
    - **The S.S. never did catch O'Flaherty, even though he continued to cross over the line in secret, wearing his various disguises**
      - And in the end, he was responsible for saving more than 6,500 Jews and POWs through his network, and was given awards by just about every Allied nation after the war...



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  - As for Kappler, after the Allied liberation of Rome, he was arrested  
(even though he tried to flee to Vatican City and beg for sanctuary from the Pope)



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  - O'Flaherty was a physically active man, so he liked to take part in the shenanigans personally
  - As for Kappler, after the Allied liberation of Rome, he was arrested, convicted, and sent to military prison
    - In all of his years in prison, Kappler only had one visitor—Monsignor O'Flaherty, who visited every month to converse, to pray, and to minister to him
    - In 1959, after 15 years of monthly visits, Kappler became a Christian and was baptised by O'Flaherty himself...
    - What can we learn from all of this?





# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>3</sup>—
  - But there were even members of the Nazi party who tried to help people during World War II
  - During the “Rape of Nanking” that we talked about a few sessions back, local Nazi Party leader Johann Rabe  
(who was an honest-to-goodness Nazi who praised Hitler and assured his German constituents in 1938, “I am still, above all, pro-German and I believe not only in the correctness of our political system but, as an organizer of the party, I am behind the system 100 percent...”)



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  - Even Rabe's Nazi credentials weren't good enough to keep the Safe Zone up and safe for very long but it did provide cover for roughly 250,000 Chinese civilians who were able to escape by fleeing to the Zone and then safely get out of the region
  - Rabe even dug shelters for 650 Chinese civilians in his own backyard to keep them from the Japanese literally covering them with a Nazi flag to protect them from being attacked



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    - A Major Oka was dispatched to protect Rabe and avoid any international incidents which could harm Japanese-German relations
      - Oka reportedly asked Rabe, “Why in the devil did you stay? Why do you want to involve yourself in our military affairs? What does all this matter to you? You haven't lost anything here!”
      - Rabe replied, “I have been living here in China for over 30 years. My children and grandchildren were born here, and I am happy and successful here. I have always been treated well by the Chi-nese people, even during the war. If I had spent 30 years in Japan and were treated just as well by the Japanese people, you can be assured that, in a time of emergency, such as the situation China faces now, I would not leave the side of the people in Japan...”





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    - Rabe was called by many Chinese “The Living Buddha of Nanking” for his humanitarianism...



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>4</sup>—
  - And then there's Dietrich Bonhoeffer—the Lutheran pastor and theology professor who was one of the first to take a theological and humanitarian stand against Hitler and the Third Reich
  - He was basically the German equivalent of what the Evangelicals were trying to be in America
  - He was a devoted to being Biblically conservative and yet, was a respected scholar and professor as well as being committed to reaching across denominational lines to build a consensus of confessing churches across Germany

(NOTE: He had tried to come up with a confession in 1933 to stand opposed to the growing “Positive Christianity” of Hitler’s Deutsche Christen church, but it had fizzled and when 20,000 of the DCs had voted in 1934 to remove the Old Testament from the Bible, he was one of the over 1/3 of German pastors to join the new Pastors’ Emergency League—which crafted the Barmen Declaration in 1934, declaring that the Church of God “is solely *Christ’s* property” and *not* the *Führer’s* getting them into a lot of trouble, until only a fraction of them remained confessional)



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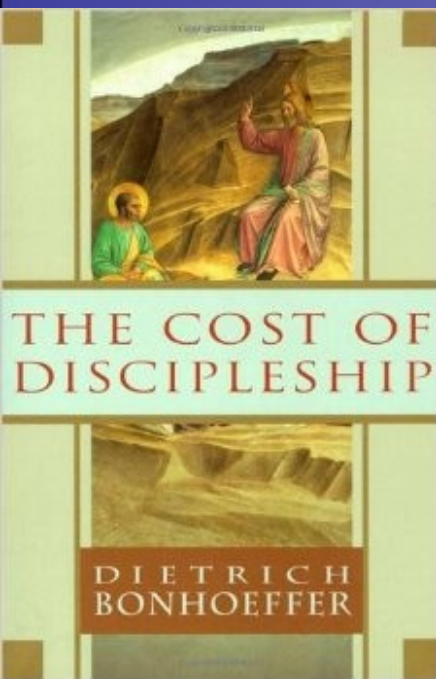
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    - In 1935—after losing his post at the University of Berlin—Bonhoeffer began secretly teaching at “underground seminaries” throughout Germany, teaching young pastors a more Biblically-grounded and conservative Christianity than the Deutsche Christen church under Hitler allowed





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  - It was during this time that Bonhoeffer wrote the book, *The Cost of Discipleship*—a book that calls Christians to a deeper, more costly relationship with God
  - Bonhoeffer wrote against the growing acceptance of what he saw as a “cheap” grace—
    - “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ...”
  - How do you see “cheap grace” in *American* churches today—and how does it create problems for people truly understanding what it means to grow as Christians?



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  - **In 1939, he moved to America to teach at Union Theological Seminary in New York, but soon regretted his decision to leave Germany**
    - He wrote a letter to Reinhold Niebuhr, saying—  
“I have come to the conclusion that I made a mistake in coming to America... I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people... Christians in Germany will have to face the terrible alternative of either willing the defeat of their nation in order that Christian civilization may survive or willing the victory of their nation and thereby destroying civilization. I know which of these alternatives I must choose but I cannot make that choice from security....”





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- He wrote a letter to Reinhold Niebuhr
- Once back in Germany, he actually joined the German Abwehr—the German intelligence-gathering agency—to work against the Reich from inside of it
  - But by 1943, he was arrested alongside several of his fellow co-conspirators within the Abwehr... a sentence that became all the more grave in 1944 when it became clear that he was at least *involved* with the military's internal plot to assassinate Hitler and was executed in 1945... one month before the fall of the Third Reich...



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      - But by 1943, he was arrested alongside several of his fellow co-conspirators within the Abwehr...
      - To a fellow prisoner, he said, “This is the end—for me, the beginning of life...”
        - What can we learn from his example today?





# *The Modern Age*

- Everything seemed to be falling apart again

1943 *Crux Ansata* was published

1945 V-E Day

- By the Spring of 1945, things were falling apart for the Axis powers, as Allied troops (British, free French, and American) moved in from the West and Soviet troops moved in from the East
- In April, Mussolini was killed by Italian partisans and his body was desecrated in the streets of Milan in every way the Italians could think of

(NOTE: It was actually to prevent further abuse to his corpse that the partisans hung his body alongside his fellow fascists)



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- Hitler commanded the German people to fight to the last man—even putting young children into the field to fight in defense of Berlin
- On April 30, wanting to avoid the disrespect shown to Mussolini in his execution and afterwards, Hitler committed suicide and had his corpse burned
- Admiral Karl Dönitz was made the new leader of Germany, and he promised to continue to fight
  - But that was all just for show—his *real* intent was to make sure that his troops only surrendered to the *Allies* and not to the *Soviets*, who were now torturing and killing captured German soldiers in very nasty ways





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V-E Day

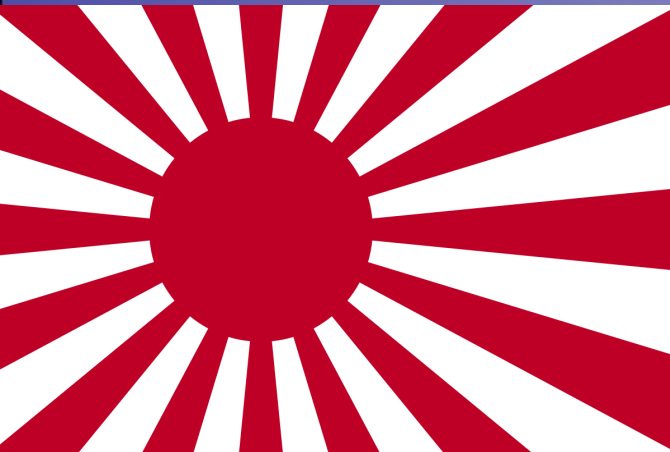
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  - Admiral Karl Dönitz was made the new leader of Germany, and he promised to continue to fight
  - On May 8, the Nazi High Command officially surrendered to the Allies—and then to the Soviets the next day

(NOTE: May 8 was also new President Harry Truman's 61st birthday, but he dedicated the victory to FDR's memory)



# ***The Modern Age***

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  - 1943 *Crux Ansata* was published
  - 1945 V-E Day
  - V-J Day
  - (So why was it “Victory over Europe” but then “Victory over Japan” ???)





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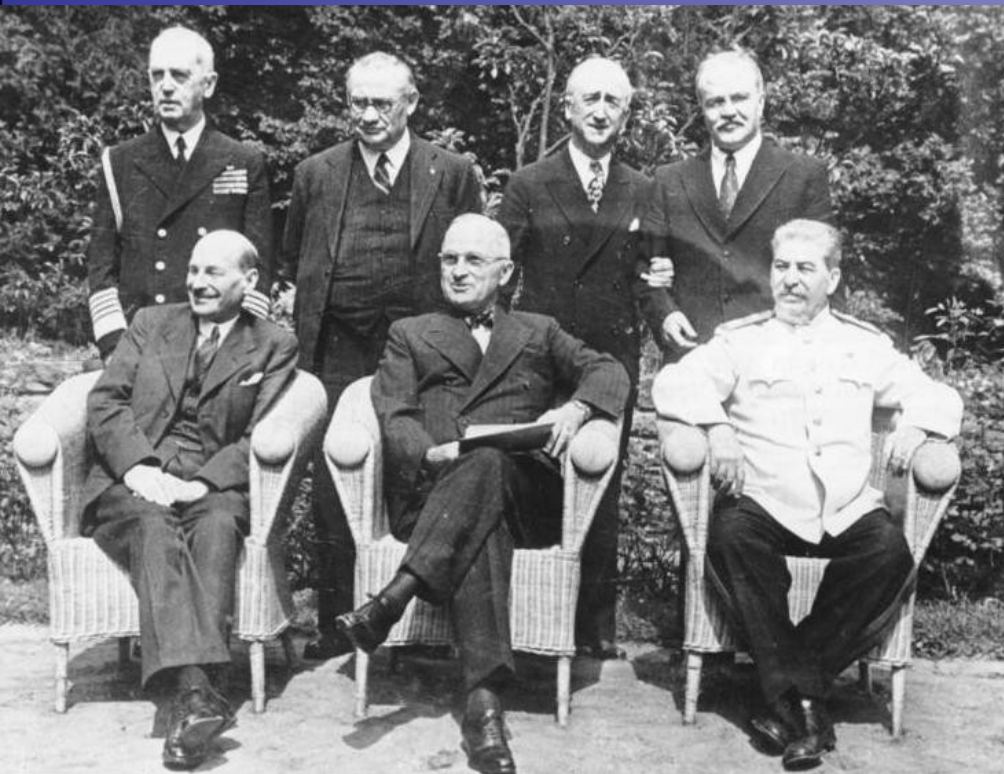
1945 V-E Day

V-J Day

- With Germany defeated, America could now turn its entire military strength against Japan
  - In July, Truman, Stalin, and new British PM Clement Attlee all met at Potsdam, to discuss the disposition of the post-war world

(NOTE: As the war was winding down in Europe, Churchill's strong and motivating rhetoric was less and less needed—and his growing public disdain against communism in general and Stalin in particular was being less and less appreciated by a British people who were just ready to stop having villains to fight)

(NOTE<sup>2</sup>: Hitler is often remembered as having killed 10 million Germans—6 million of which were Jews—whereas Stalin killed 20 million Russians—8 million of which were Jews...)



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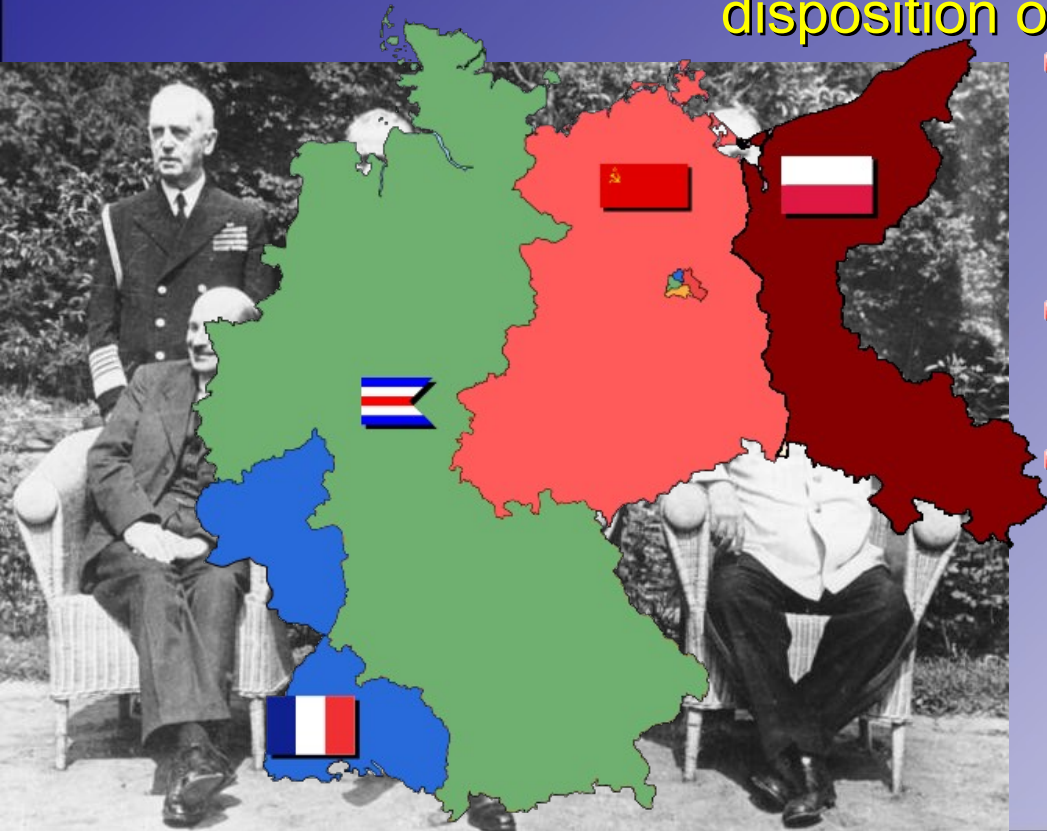
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- At the Potsdam Conference, the victorious powers decided to divide Germany up into four occupied zones—the American zone, British zone, French zone, and Soviet zone
- The Soviet Union was allowed to take “oversight” of much of Eastern Europe—especially Poland
- And a Declaration was prepared, demanding Japan's unconditional surrender





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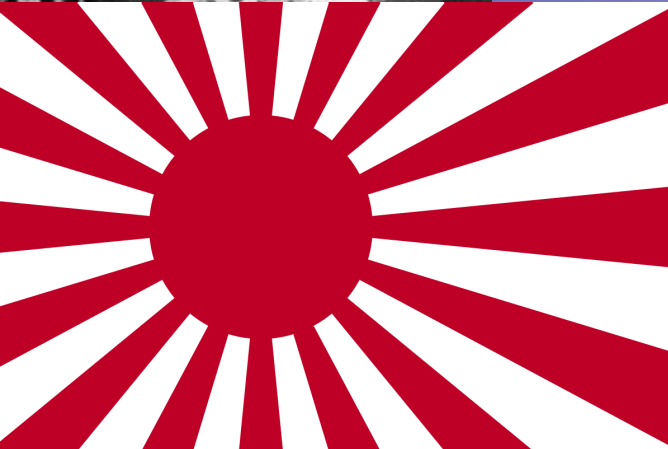
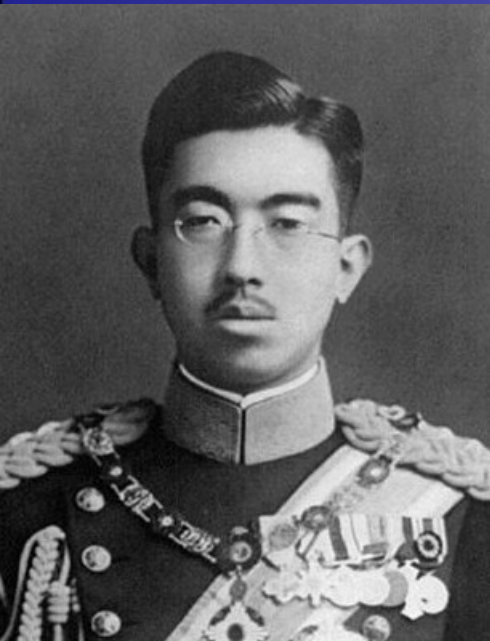
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V-E Day

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- With Germany defeated, America could now turn its entire military strength against Japan
- Japanese Emperor Hirohito had already decided to accept the unconditional terms of the surrender (in fact, there's an argument that he was in the process of his own, secret negotiations with the American government to surrender, so long as he could retain his own personal power as Emperor)



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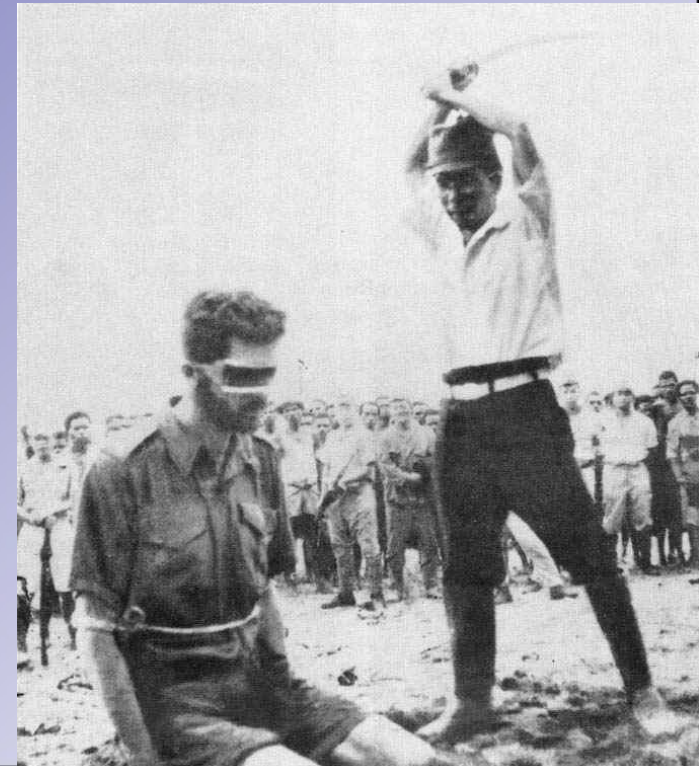
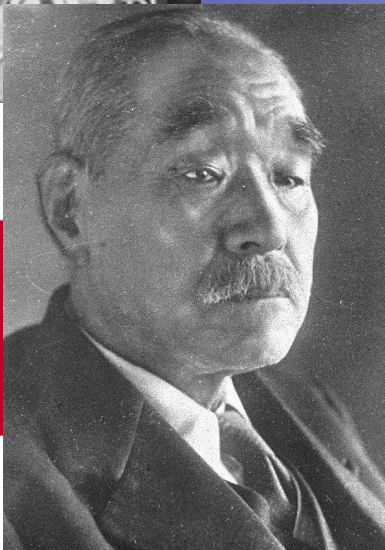
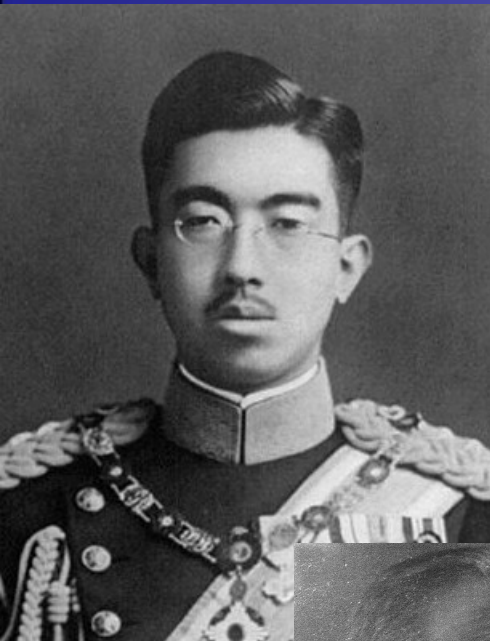
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V-E Day

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- With Germany defeated, America could now turn its entire military strength against Japan
- Japanese Emperor Hirohito had already decided to accept the unconditional terms of the surrender but Prime Minister Suzuki wanted to save face

(and to prevent the very real possibility of a coup from the absolutist Japanese military that had mistreated POWs so inhumanly because they couldn't conceive of an honorable soldier actually *surrendering*)





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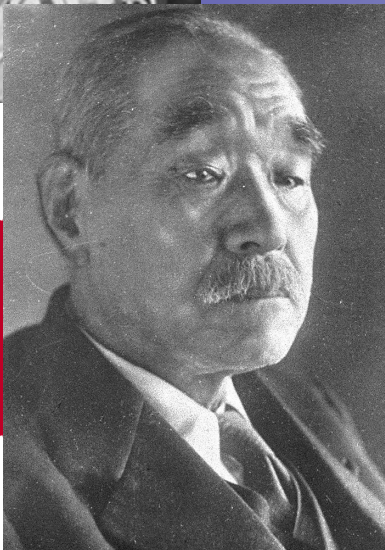
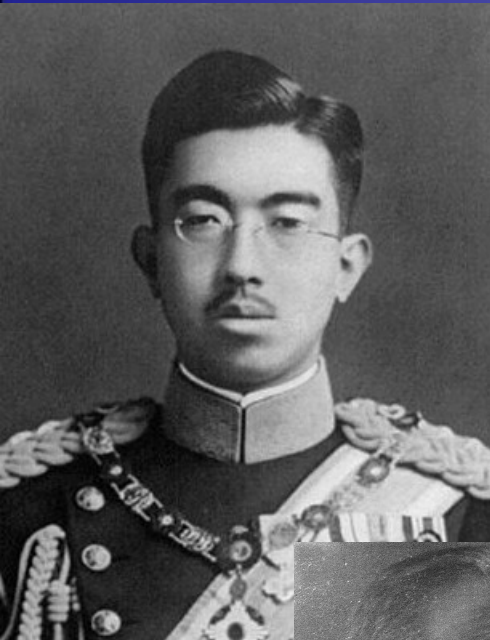
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(a highly nuanced word that could mean, “this isn't even worth dignifying with a response,” or “we'd like to consider everything carefully before officially responding to it”)  
(think of it as the Japanese version of the modern American response, “No, don't worry about calling us—we'll call you...”)



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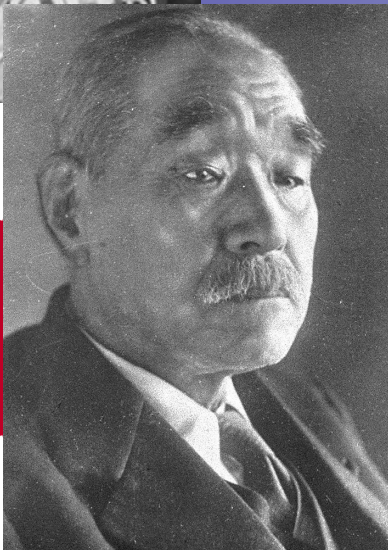
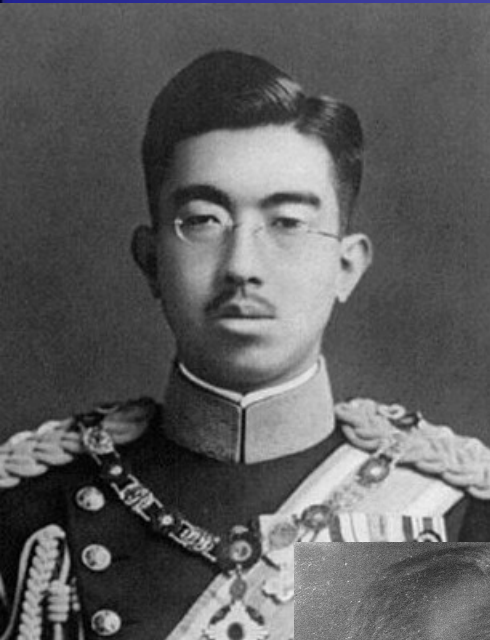
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- The Japanese people, military, and media (and all of the translators who translated the response to foreign media)





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1945 V-E Day

V-J Day

- With Germany defeated, America could now turn its entire military strength against Japan
- Japanese Emperor Hirohito had already decided to accept the unconditional terms of the surrender but Prime Minister Suzuki wanted to save face so he announced that the official Japanese response to the terms was “*mokusatsu*”  
The Japanese people, military, and media all took Suzuki to mean that the Japanese quietly refused
- The Japanese government and military had long promised—much like Churchill—to fight for every square inch of ground, down to the last man  
(NOTE: Japanese schoolchildren were being taught how to make bombs, the disabled were making booby traps for the beaches, Hiroshima was stockpiling ordnance, etc.)



# The Modern Age

- Everything seemed to be falling apart again

1943

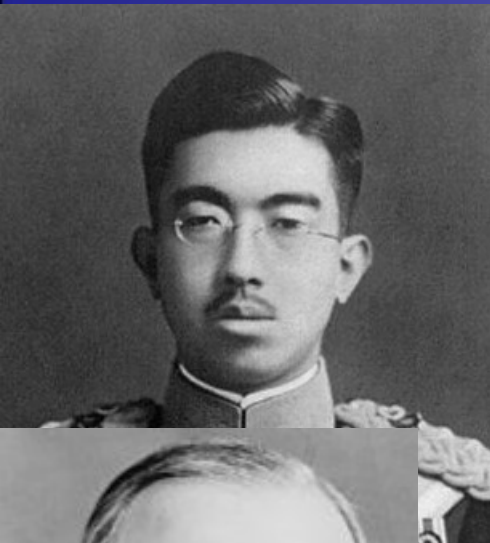
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- The Japanese government and military had long promised—much like Churchill—to fight for every square inch of ground, down to the last man and Truman was left to assume that thousands more lives were about to be lost in months—if not years—more of increasingly brutal warfare





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- The Japanese government and military had long promised—much like Churchill—to fight for every square inch of ground, down to the last man. In August, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and roughly 150,000 people were killed nearly instantly.

- The Japanese government assessed the damage and decided that it wasn't bad enough to justify surrendering, vowing to fight on, no matter what (“Forget self!” became their slogan)





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- In August, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima
- Three days later, the second atomic bomb was dropped on the seaport shipyard city of Nagasaki, killing roughly 80,000 more people (NOTE: Ironically, several Allied POWs held in the city survived, shielded by the thick walls of their cells)





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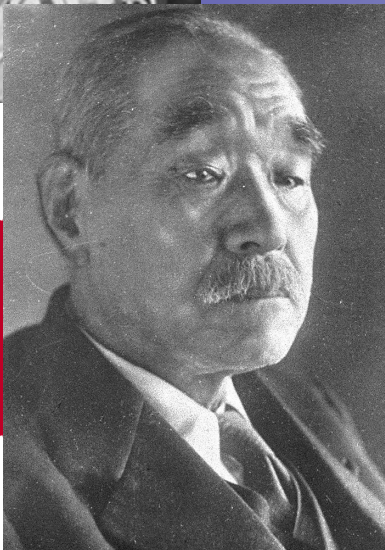
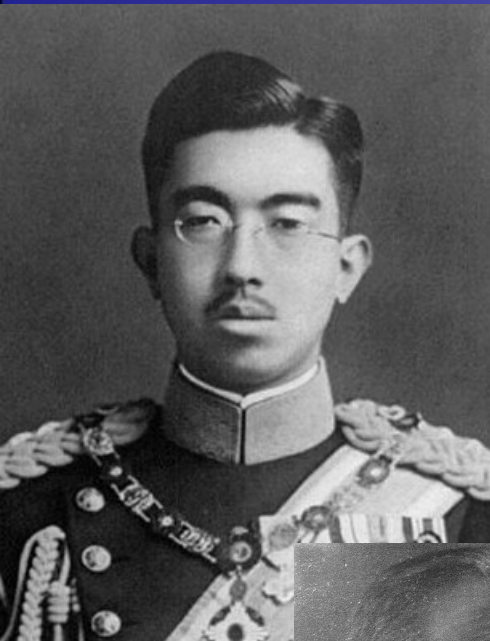
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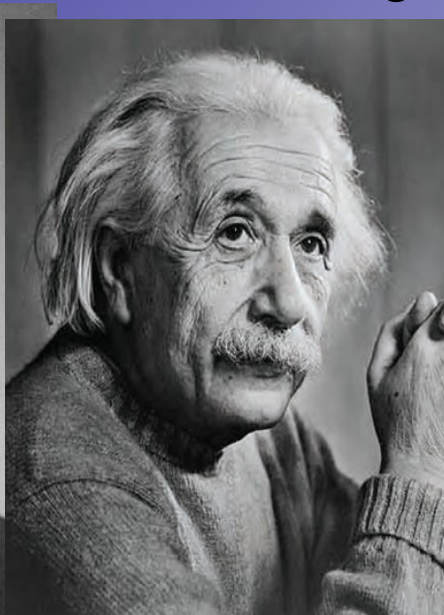
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  - The U.S.S.R. then declared war on Japan and the government finally relented, accepting the Allies' terms of surrender...



# *The Modern Age*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - So let's discuss dropping the atomic bombs on Japan philosophically for a moment—
    - Philosopher Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker wrote that, "It's dreadful of the Americans to have done it. I think it is madness on their part!"  
(NOTE: Einstein said, "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe")  
(NOTE<sup>2</sup>: Former President Herbert Hoover said, "The use of the atomic bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of women and children, revolts my soul")





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    - Scientist Werner Heisenberg responded by saying, "One could equally well say 'That's the quickest way of ending the war'..."

(NOTE: Truman wrote of having nightmares about the decision for years, and yet also wrote, "Having found the bomb, we have used it. We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbor, against those who have starved and beaten and executed American prisoners of war, against those who have abandoned all pretense of obeying international laws of warfare. We have used it in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans.")



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(NOTE: Truman wrote of having nightmares about the decision for years, and yet also wrote, "Having found the bomb, we have used it...")

(NOTE<sup>2</sup>: But Truman categorically fought against dropping a *third* bomb, arguing against a senator in 1945, "For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the *pigheadedness* of the leaders of a nation. And, for your information, I am not going to do it until it is absolutely necessary...")





# *The Modern Age*

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(NOTE<sup>3</sup>: But in 1964, Truman wrote a response to an article in the *Chicago Sun Times*, saying, "I knew what I was doing when I stopped the war that would have killed a half a million youngsters on both sides if those bombs had not been dropped. I have no regrets and, under the same circumstances, I would do it again...")



# *The Modern Age*

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    - Scientist Werner Heisenberg responded by saying, "One could equally well say 'That's the quickest way of ending the war'..."
    - So which side is *right*?
      - Which side is right from a *moral* perspective, in terms of the loss of human life?
      - Which side is right from a *practical* perspective, in terms of creating peace in the world?
      - Which side is right *Biblically*?  
(NOTE: General Leslie Groves, who led the Manhattan Project which created the atomic bomb, responded to this debate by saying, "People who talk of outlawing the atomic bomb are mistaken—what *needs* to be outlawed is *war*...")

