Day 7 Lecture Notes

**The Invasion of Okinawa**

- Despite the firebombings, there were few signs that Japan was ready to quit  
 - U.S. decides an invasion of Japan is the only way the Japanese will surrender.   
 - In order to prepare for this invasion, the U.S. decided to take over Okinawa so they could use that as a point to build up supplies and troops for the big invasion  
 - Despite losing more than 12,000 American troops, the U.S. captures Okinawa in June 1945

**The Terms for Surrender**

- After the invasion of Okinawa the Japanese emperor urged his officials for a surrender  
 - The only problem was, America demanded an unconditional surrender and Japan would surrender only on the condition that their emperor stay in power.  
 - Americans didn't want the emperor to stay in power because they think he cause the war; Truman did not want to go against popular opinion, and he wanted to try out a new weapon that might cause unconditional surrender

**The Manhattan Project**

- Secret American program to build the atomic bomb  
 - Americans worked furiously with the help of British research to develop this bomb; they were afraid that the Nazis were working on the atomic bomb as well  
 - J. Robert Oppenheimer's team (U.S.) detonated the world's first atomic bomb in New Mexico, July 16, 1945 -- *scientists of the Manhattan Project readied themselves to watch the detonation of the world's first atomic bomb. The device was affixed to a 100-foot tower and discharged just before dawn. No one was properly prepared for the result. A blinding flash visible for 200 miles lit up the morning sky. A mushroom cloud reached 40,000 feet, blowing out windows of civilian homes up to 100 miles away. When the cloud returned to earth it created a half-mile wide crater metamorphosing sand into glass. A bogus cover-up story was quickly released, explaining that a huge ammunition dump had just exploded in the desert. Soon word reached President Truman in Potsdam, Germany that the project was successful. The world had entered the nuclear age.*

**Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

- Truman believed it was his duty to protect as many American lives as possible and an invasion of Japan would cost a lot of U.S. lives  
 - The Allies threatened Japan with "prompt and utter destruction" if the nation did not surrender, but the Japanese did not reply.  
 - Truman ordered the bombs to be dropped

**August 6, 1945:** Enola Gay dropped the atomic bomb, "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, an important industrial city. Destroyed about 63% of the city. Between 80,000 - 120,000 people died instantly.

\* Three days later Soviets declare war on Japan  
- Later that day **(August 9, 1945)** The U.S. dropped another atomic bomb, "Fat-Man" on the city of Nagasaki killing between 35,000 - 74,000 people.

**V-J Day:**

- Victory over Japan  
 - August 15, 1945  
 - Japanese emperor ordered surrender; shock of Soviets joining war and faced with massive destruction

**Nuremberg Trials:**

- In August 1945 the Allies created the International Military Tribunal (IMT)  
 - Twenty two leaders of Nazi Germany were prosecuted at these trials (3 acquitted; 7 prison sentences; 12 death sentences)  
 - Lower-ranking officials (24 more executed; 107 prison sentences)  
 - Similar trials were held in Tokyo  
 - 18 sentenced to prison; 7 sentenced to death  
 - Two reasons for the trials: punish people responsible for the Holocaust and WWII; American plan for building a better world