Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

8.04 Notes Outline

**“Recap and Results”**

Complete the 8.04 Notes Outline as you review the lesson.

Explore #4:  
What is this picture of?

What do the lines mean?

Where was this picture taken?

I. Recap

The End of World War II

In Europe:

Hitler was defeated at the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945. The Soviets entered Berlin, Germany on April 17, 1945, followed by the Americans. Hitler committed suicide and Germany officially surrendered on May 8, 1945. Over 50 million soldiers and civilians died in WWII, including 300,000 U.S. troops.

In the Pacific:

By the time Truman became President in 1945, Allied forces were winning the war in the Pacific. The Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa were costly and bloody, but America demonstrated their ability to defeat Japan.

Following Germany's surrender, Allied leaders met in Potsdam, Germany for their last conference of the war. At the conference the Allies called for Japan to surrender. Japan refused to surrender.

The Potsdam Conference

During the      , the Allied leaders divided Germany into four zones of occupation, with each major Allied power controlling a zone.

II. The A-Bomb

The Manhattan Project

The      , headed by      , was a top secret plan to develop an atomic bomb in Los Alamos, New Mexico. It was      , a Jewish physicist who had sought refuge in America from the Nazis, who suggested to FDR that such a powerful weapon could be built. The world's first atomic bomb was tested in the New Mexico desert. It was so powerful that even its designer thought it should not be used.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Desperate to bring the war to an end with as few casualties

as possible, President Truman made the call to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 rather than invade Japan. Though controversial, the decision did ultimately lead to the immediate end of World War II.

On August 6, 1945, a plane called the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on      , the site of a large army base in southern Japan. An estimated 140,000 people died from the immediate explosion or within a few months from after effects and 90% of the city’s buildings were destroyed. Japan still refused to surrender. Three days later a 2nd bomb was dropped on       causing similar destruction.

In order to avoid a full ground invasion of Japan and massive loss of U.S. lives,       ordered the dropping of two atomic bombs.

V-J Day

On Aug. 14, 1945, after enduring two atomic bombs, Japan agreed to surrender, ending World War II once and for all.

The day after the surrender, Americans celebrated      , or Victory in Japan Day. The formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri on September 2, 1945.

Japan Surrenders

The formal surrender took place on September 2, 1945. Japan surrendered to U.S. and Allied forces in a ceremony on the Battleship Missouri.

III. Results

War Criminals

As the war reached its end in 1945, Allies became aware of the horrific crimes that had been committed. Both the Nazis in Europe and Japanese leaders in the Pacific had committed appalling atrocities throughout the war. The United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union established an      to prosecute the war criminals of World War II. The Tribunal conducted two series of trials:

- considered the charges of 24 Nazi leaders.

- considered the charges of 25 Japanese leaders.

Landmark Precedents

The Tribunal had unique jurisdiction because it covered offenses that did not necessarily have geographic limits, for example it charged people with crimes against "human dignity." Ultimately, this Tribunal and the trials set the precedent for all future international criminal courts.

The defendants had two main arguments:

* The state should be responsible, not the individual
* The charges against them were declared "crimes" after the fact (such as the human dignity example above), so why should they get charged for something they did not know was a crime.

The courts rejected both arguments:

* The state does not shield the individual from making their own personal choices of right and wrong. "Following orders" was no excuse to escape punishment for war crimes.
* International law had always implicitly covered human rights.

To help clarify what constituted a "crime against humanity" for all future war crimes, the United Nations adopted a Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. The United Nations also established the       to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. Both of these pieces of international law are a direct result of the experiences during World War II.

UDHR and the Genocide Convention

The      (UDHR)and the Genocide Conventionestablish minimum standards for the conduct of all participating countries to eradicate the use of genocide in times of war and peace and to establish the fundamental requirements for human dignity. The Convention criminalized certain acts committed with the intent to destroy ethnic, national, racial, or religious groups. The documents are still used today by the       and referenced during trials at the International Criminal Court.