World War II in Europe and the Pacific

I. European Theater

1939 — German and Soviet armies invade Poland (September 1 and 17, respectively)
   — England and France Declare War on Germany (September 3, 1939)
     — Sitzkrieg (Phony War), September 1939–May 1940
   — German occupation of France (June 1940)
     — Molotov Visit to Berlin, November 12, 1940
     — Soviet-Japanese Non-Aggression Pact (April 13, 1941)
   — German army invades the Soviet Union (June 22, 1941)
     — What Led Hitler to Attack the Soviet Union?
     — What Led Hitler to Declare War on the U.S. on December 11, 1941?

1940 — Battle for France (May–June)
   — Battle of Britain (summer)
     — German bombing of London and Coventry

June 22, 1941 — German army invades the Soviet Union (June 22)

September 1941–January 1943 — siege of Leningrad

1942 — Endlösung (Final Solution) – Wannsee Conference (January 20)
   — Bombing of Cologne (May 30–31)
     — General Arthur T. Harris, Commander-in-Chief of Bomber Command (1942)
     — Air Chief Marshal (1943)
   — Beginning of battle for Stalingrad (August 19)
   — Battle of El Alamein (October 23–November 4)

1943 — Capture of von Paulus’ forces at Stalingrad (February 2)
   — Capture of Rommel’s forces in North Africa (May 12)
   — Western Allies invade Sicily (July 9–10); Italy surrenders (September 8)
   — Bombing of Hamburg (July 24–August 3)

1944 — D-Day (June 6)
   — Warsaw Uprising (August-September)

1945 — Yalta Agreement (February 4–12)
   — Bombing of Dresden (February 13–14)
   — Death of FDR; Truman becomes president (April 12)
   — Hitler commits suicide in bunker in Berlin (April 30)
— Fall of Berlin to Soviet Army (May 2)
— V-E Day (May 8/9)
— Potsdam Conference (July 17–August 2)
— Nuremberg Trials (November 1945 to October 1946)

II. Pacific Theater

July 26, 1941 — FDR announces full-scale economic war on Japan (1 month and 4 days after Germany attacks Soviet Union)

November 25, 1941 — Stimson notes in his diary FDR's raising the question how to get Japan to fire the first shot

December 7, 1941 — Japanese attack on U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor

December 8, 1941 — Japanese attack the Philippines

December 25, 1941 — Hong Kong surrenders to Japanese

February 15, 1942 — Singapore surrenders to Japanese

April 18, 1942 — Doolittle raid on Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka, and Tokyo,

June 6, 1942 — Battle of Midway

March 9, 1944 — 200 Super Fortresses drop 1600 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo

June 15, 1944 — Saipan falls to U.S. forces

February 19–March 27, 1945 — Battle for Iwo Jima

July 2, 1945 — Okinawa falls to U.S. forces

August 6, 1945 — atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima

August 8, 1945 — Soviet Union enters against Japan

August 9, 1945 — atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki

August 10, 1945 — Japanese offer of surrender (accepted 4 days later)
  a. attempted military coup (August 14–15) — Major Kenji Hatanaka
  b. Hirohito's radio address to the nation (August 15)