

## ULTRA ACCESS

### VJ Day - and the official end of World War 2

Marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the surrender of the Empire of Japan

**15<sup>th</sup> August 1945** was the day when **World War 2** came to its final conclusion, with the unconditional surrender of the Empire of Japan against the Allied powers.

Japan didn't surrender lightly however - being brutally fierce (some might say savage, especially in their treatment of P.O.W's) but a strong and proud warrior civilisation they were nonetheless, with it still taking the combined Allied forces battling from tropical island to tropical island in the South Pacific and intense Russian and Chinese fighting on the Eastern-Asian mainland, both against entrenched and determined Japanese forces - and only then surrendering after not 1 but **2 Atomic Bombs** were dropped on their own homeland to finally realise that all hope was lost.

**Hiroshima** on August 6<sup>th</sup> and **Nagasaki** a few days later on the 9<sup>th</sup> were only reason for said surrender marking the official end of the Second World War, with Emperor Hirohito addressing the Japanese people via a radio broadcast, announcing their acceptance of the terms of surrender on the 15<sup>th</sup>.



This sparked the **Nuclear Arms Race** between the Allies (primarily America) and their now rivals the USSR, leading to the Cold War, which eventually itself would also end some 45 years later in 1991...

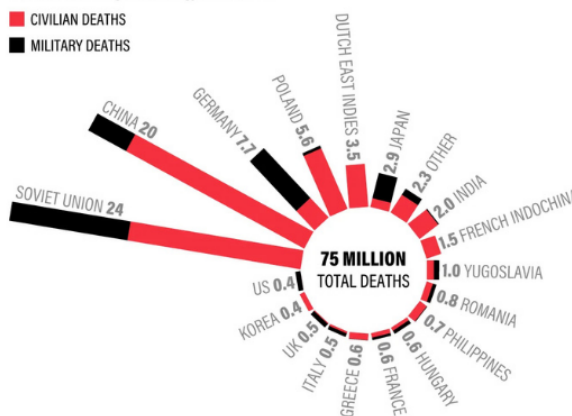
**Japan** under the direct occupation of the Allied forces for many years following Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also brought about a modernisation of Japanese culture, moving away from the warrior caste system of old in the proceeding decades with them embracing a mixture of Western culture but proudly keeping their own unique traditionalism alive.

Since the beginning of World War 2, to its end there were many atrocities and war crimes committed, with **the Holocaust** being the most notable example of humans near unlimited cruelty and violence towards their fellow humans.

As well as the final estimated death tolls... with Russia and China easily topping the list of WW2 deaths, which includes both military personnel and civilians alike - although this list could be considerably higher for most of those nations involved in this global conflict - the true numbers may never be known.

TOTAL DEATHS (MILLIONS), BY COUNTRY\*

■ CIVILIAN DEATHS  
■ MILITARY DEATHS



Unfortunately, war is still as much a part of the human experience as ever and the words of both Plato and George Santayana respectively are proved true; *"only the dead have seen the end of war"*, words that are as relevant nowadays, as they have been in the past...