World War II involved 61 countries with 1.7 billion people (three quarters of the world's population). Fifty million people lost their lives in World War II, making it the deadliest war in history. The war began in 1939 and ended in 1945, involving almost the entire world. It was the most destructive war in history, involving all six major continents, all three of the great oceans on the planet, scores of countries, and every major power of the 20th century. Before the war, Germany, America, and the rest of the world were divided by centuries of conflict. World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history, the Empire of Japan aimed to dominate Asia and the Pacific and was already at war with the Empire of China. The United States entered the war in December 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The war in Europe ended with the unconditional surrender of Germany on 8 May 1945, and in the Pacific with the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945, respectively. The war resulted in the defeat of the Axis powers and the establishment of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom as global powers.