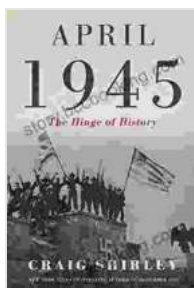


# April 1945: The Hinge of History



**April 1945: The Hinge of History** by Luke A. Nichter

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 23218 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 525 pages



April 1945 was a pivotal month in world history. World War II, the most destructive conflict in human history, was drawing to a close, and a new era was about to begin. This article explores the key events of April 1945, from the fall of Berlin to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## The Fall of Berlin



On April 16, 1945, the Soviet Red Army began its final assault on Berlin, the capital of Nazi Germany. After weeks of heavy fighting, the Red Army fought its way into the city center and hoisted the Soviet flag over the Reichstag, the German parliament building. The fall of Berlin marked the effective end of World War II in Europe.

## **The Battle of Okinawa**



While the Red Army was fighting in Berlin, the United States was engaged in a bloody battle for the island of Okinawa in the Pacific. The Battle of Okinawa, which began on April 1, 1945, was one of the largest and most costly amphibious operations in American history. The fighting was fierce and the casualties were heavy. By the time the battle ended on June 22, 1945, over 7,000 Americans and over 100,000 Japanese had been killed.

### **The Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt**



On April 12, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 63. Roosevelt had been president for 12 years, and he had led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II. His death came just weeks before the end of the war, and it was a major blow to the Allied cause.

### **The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**



On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The bomb killed an estimated 140,000 people and destroyed much of the city. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. The bomb killed an estimated 80,000 people and destroyed much of the city.

## The Surrender of Japan



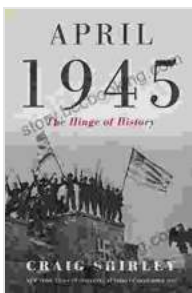
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki convinced the Japanese government to surrender. On September 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered to the Allied Powers, ending World War II.

### **The Beginning of a New Era**

The end of World War II marked the beginning of a new era in world history. The war had destroyed much of the world's infrastructure and economy, and it had killed millions of people. But the war had also brought about a new sense of global unity and cooperation. The United Nations was

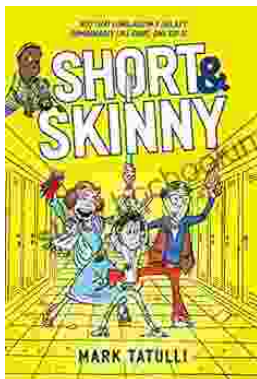
founded in 1945 to prevent future wars and promote peace and cooperation among nations.

April 1945 was a pivotal month in world history. The events of that month helped to shape the world we live in today. The fall of Berlin, the Battle of Okinawa, the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the surrender of Japan all contributed to the end of World War II and the beginning of a new era.



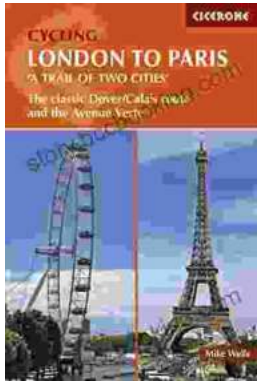
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