The United States in World War II

Before War Begins
A look at issues leading to War

Isolation vs. Internationalism
- America seemed to favor isolationism – since WWI
- America could not stay isolated – international trade, politics and modern warfare techniques meant that a war between nations would inevitably involve the US (a global market)
- America and the League – still not participating – Senate voted to join the World Court in 1935 if certain amendments were added to protect US interests; the League agreed but the Senate never took any further action

War Debts and Reparations
- Gen. Smedley Butler arguments of WWI – in the USMC for 33 years (retired as a general); gave many speeches saying that “war was a racket” benefitting the wealthy at the expense of the common soldier
- Allies felt they should not pay - $7 billion in war loans, $3 billion in aid after the war; most was spent in the US on supplies so many felt the US had already been paid; common cause of war so one victorious nation should not profit at the expense of the others (also most of casualties had been Europeans); US wanted paid in gold but Europe needed gold to help failing economies – couldn’t pay in trade since US had high tariffs

War Debts and Reparations
- German reparations – a cruel farce –
  - $33 billion (plus interest) in cash or “in kind” commodities (steel or coal); a few months worth of payments were made but runaway inflation caused default after about a year
  - Dawes Plan (1924) and the Young Plan (1929) – attempted to restructure German war debt so that payments could resume (both failed)
  - other nations were “required” according to their (separate peace) treaties as well but no actual accounting was made as to their damages so no reparations were collected
  - Johnson Debt Default Act 1934 – the US would only deal with warring nations on a cash basis (for trade purposes – no more debt issues if world came to war again!)

Washington Armaments Conference
- December 1921-February 1922 meeting of major nations
  - US, France, Britain, Japan, Italy, China, Belgium, Portugal, Netherlands
  - Four-Power Pact
    - America, France, Britain, & Japan
    - Agreed to maintain status quo in the Pacific (not take land)
  - Nine-Power Treaty
    - China, Belgium, Portugal, & Netherlands in addition to Five Power Pact nations.
    - Agreed to Open-Door Policy on Chinese integrity
  - Five-Power Pact: Naval Treaty
    - US, Britain, Japan, France, Italy
    - 5:5:1:1.75:1.75 ratio for capital warships
    - Goal to limit an arms race between the powerful nations
Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact, 1928
- Initially an agreement between the United States and France that essentially outlawed war as a diplomatic tool.
- Named after its authors – US Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and French foreign minister Aristide Briand.
- Eventually this treaty was expanded to include 65 nations of the world including Germany and Italy.
- But there was no enforcement provisions in the treaty making it essentially useless to prevent the oncoming war.
- Concluded outside the authority of the League of Nations, showing the weakness of that body.
- Technically still in effect today.

Japan Invades Manchuria
- In violation of the Four Power Treaty and Nine Power Treaties, Japan invaded Manchuria, China in 1931 after having tried to dominate politics there for the previous 2 years.
- Japan defeated China, targeting both military and civilian targets.
- Japan then destroyed the Russian Baltic Fleet.
- Essentially they focused on a militaristic approach to gaining power in the Pacific.

Strain on American-Japanese Relations
- Japan's growth in Pacific – expansionist policies because world tariffs gave advantage to nations with colonies in terms of raw materials.
- Japan's growth in China – won war in 1934; left League of Nations after being called an aggressor; leftover animosity from Versailles since Russia had withdrawn from China (and Japan had hoped to gain former German and Russian territory at Versailles but was left out of the agreement when China sovereignty was supported instead – interpreted as dishonor).

Resuming the Good Neighbor Policy
- American pullout of troops – Marines withdrawn from Haiti in 1930 (under Hoover) and 1933 Nicaragua; Roosevelt continued with all troops from Haiti in 1934 and ended the US customs receivership over the Dominican Republic. 1916 a treaty w/ Panama gave up all rights to intervene in that country.
- Non-involvement of Latin America – A conference in Montevideo in 1933, Sec of State Cordell Hall joined with other American nations in accepting a pact that denied ANY country the right to intervene in the affairs of other countries.
- Platt Amendment abrogated – Disorder broke out in Cuba again but US refused to carry out the Platt Amendment (allowing military intervention) and in May 1934 signed a treaty forbidding it.
- Peaceful settlement with Mexico – The 1917 Constitution gave the Mexican government rights over all oil and mineral deposits in that country and in 1918, they took possession of these areas. Many Americans owned land affected by this but instead of intervening, the US admitted Mexico's rights to do this but insisted the owners be compensated. A joint commission decided the $3 due and payments began in 1939.

In The Pacific
- Seizure of Manchuria – Japan invaded 1931 and created the puppet state of Manchuko.
- Condemned by the League of Nations, Japan left that organization, which could do nothing.
- This united opposition groups within China and in 1937, Japan began another undeclared war in China that met with much organized resistance.
- When the depression began to affect Japan, military leaders used it as an excuse to move toward fascism in the 1930s. They advocated territorial expansion as the only cure for poverty and won control of the Cabinet and Emperor, then committed to a program of aggression.
In Europe

- **USSR**
  - Union of Socialist Soviet Republics established by revolution in 1917 and was based on a Marxist system of government where the state owned land and industry
  - Joseph Stalin dominated the Communist Party beginning in 1924 - didn’t want communist world domination and focused on internal improvements

- Turkey
  - was the only Muslim state to adopt a secular constitution and was considered to be a model of modernization

- Iran
  - experienced a period of modernization under the rule of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (1941-1979)
  - Initiated a program of industrialization and modernization

- Afghanistan
  -经历了一个现代化时期由穆罕默德·拉赫曼（1963-1973）
  - Initiated a program of industrialization and modernization

- Pakistan
  - has experienced significant political instability and economic challenges

- India
  - has undergone significant political and economic transformation

- Nepal
  - has a royal government

- Bhutan
  - has a constitutional monarchy

- Sri Lanka
  - has experienced civil war

- Maldives
  - has a democratic government

- Bangladesh
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- Gambia
  - has a democratic government

- Guinea-Bissau
  - has a presidential republic

- Sierra Leone
  - has experienced civil war

- Liberia
  - has experienced political instability and economic challenges

- Nigeria
  - has a federal republic

- Mozambique
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- Zimbabwe
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- South Africa
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- Botswana
  - has a presidential republic

- Kenya
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- Uganda
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- Tanzania
  - has a presidential republic

- Ethiopia
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

- Somalia
  - has experienced significant political and economic challenges

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American Internationalism

- One popular belief was that the world wasn’t worth saving but this isolationist attitude was also helped by the following:
  - **Nye Committee** – A congressional investigation disclosed that during WWI bankers and munitions makers, the “merchants of death,” had made huge profits – many felt that these had forced them into the first world war
  - WWI debts – wait for those to be paid first
  - Great Depression – concentrate on own recovery
  - All these were based on the assumption that economic (not idealistic) motives had been responsible for past participation in war.

- **Reciprocal Trade Agreements** – began June 1934, tariffs could be raised/lowered by president 50% in return for concessions from other nations. W/in 5 years 21 nations had new treaties negotiated (mostly Latin America). Stimulated foreign trade and helped undermine economic nationalism.

- **Conferences for Hemispheric Solidarity**
  - **Rio de Janeiro Conference** (1933) – condemned wars of aggression and not recognize territory acquired by force
  - **Buenos Aires Conference** (1936) – (FDR personally went, a rarity) – American nations would consult when war threatened any one of them
  - **Lima Conference** (1938) – condemned racial or religious persecution and declared against any activity of aliens who remained loyal to their native land (aimed at Nazi Germany)

- **American Imperialism**
  - Main goal to become more focused on international and hemispheric affairs

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American Neutrality
- Neutrality Act of 1915 – ban the shipment of ammunition or arms to a country in a state of war and warns Americans not to travel on a ships belonging to belligerents. An arms embargo in effect through 3-1-1936
- Neutrality Act of 1916 – extended the 1st Neutrality Act to 5-1-1937 and added a ban on loans to belligerents
- Neutrality Act of 1917 – extended the restrictions of the first 2 and added the “cash and carry” clause – for next 2 years arms (not ammunition) could be sold to belligerents if they pay cash and ship their purchases themselves
- Roosevelt’s “Quarantine Speech” – a Chicago address in 1937 – compared world lawlessness to a physical disease and urged the international quarantine of aggressors as the only means to preserve peace. Received an unfavorable reaction and FDR convinced he could not get support for such a program at that time

Neutrality Weakened – Panay Incident
- In December 1937, the United States gunboat Panay and several oil tankers were attacked and sunk off the coast of China (Japan was at war with that nation). The American public was outraged but there was not demand for intervention.
- The two nations negotiated to resolve the dispute without war since Japan was in desperate need of American scrap iron, oil, and high-tension steel for the successful conduct of her war in China.
- On March 22, the United States presented a bill to the Japanese Government for $2,214,007.36 for damage to American property in the sinking of the United States gunboat Panay. A check for this amount was given to the US on April 22.
- The payment covered the loss of the Panay and the Standard Oil vessels, and compensation for the death of two of the Panay’s crew and the captain of one of the Standard Oil boats, injury to 74 persons aboard the vessels, and loss of personal effects and ship’s equipment. No punitive damages were asked or given.

Growing Conflict with Japan
- FDR showed his displeasure with Japan (and her situation with China) when he announced in July 1939 that the US would abrogate a 1911 treaty that guaranteed reciprocal trading rights – meant Japan couldn’t buy gasoline, scrap iron & other materials needed for her war with China.
- Japanese Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe (top) tried to avert war but was thwarted by military influence and was replaced as PM by Hedeki Tojo in October 1941 (bottom)

War Creeps Closer in Europe
- Expanding Germany – in 1938, Hitler’s troops added Austria to the Third Reich. They demanded the Sudetenland (portion of Czechoslovakia populated mostly by Germany), Czech’s ready to fight but France and Britain accepted the Munich Pact (1938) which gave the land to Germany in return for a promise of no further aggression but in March 1939, Germany conquered all of Czechoslovakia and Mussolini’s troops overran Albania. In May, the two dictators agreed to a 10 year military alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- Negotiations with Russia – England and France worried that Germany may be ready to move on Poland (promised assistance if war were to break), sure when Germany and Russia signed the Moscow-Berlin Pact (August 23, 1939) (a non-aggression pact meaning a peaceful border on one side)

War Begins
- In Europe
Blitzkrieg in Poland
• Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. England and France declared war on Germany on September 3rd. Both nations mobilized but little fighting took place during the 1 month it took Germany to overrun Poland.
• Meanwhile, Russia also attacked Poland then annexed the Baltic countries to Poland’s north and launched a war of aggression against Finland that lasted until March 1940.

Fall of Europe
• In Spring of 1940 Germany launched a “blitzkrieg” (lightning war) against much of Europe (used giant air attacks and huge armies following tanks and mechanized infantry). Denmark and Norway fell in April 1940, The Netherlands and Belgium in May. France fell in June (shortly after Italy joined the fight). – By summer only England held out from Nazi domination or alliance.

American Mobilization
• American defense: During the Summer of 1940, Congress approved $13 billion for the army, navy and air force. ($4 billion exclusively for a 2-ocean navy). Congress passed the Selective Service Act on September 16, 1940 establishing the 1st peacetime draft (registration of all men between 21 and 35 – 800,000 drafted for a year of training – later extended to 18 months and registration of ages 18 to 45).
• Aid for Britain – June 3, 1940, Congress agreed to sell military equipment and surplus ammunition. June 10, FDR declares that the US will materially support the Allies without entering the war (well received by American public). Destroyers for Bases deal – September 3: 50 destroyers sent to Britain in exchange for air and naval bases in the Western Hemisphere.

Election of 1940
• Republicans nominate Wendell Willkie (NY) – favored support for England, national defense and most of the New Deal measures.
• Democrats nominate FDR for a third term – platform identical except praised more of the New Deal than Willkie did.
• FDR won 449 to 38 and democrats increased majorities in Senate and House. In his State of the Union Address on January 6, 1941, he speaks of the “Four Freedoms”.

Moving Away from Neutrality
• Lend-Lease Act: March 11, 1941 – Provided: allowed the US to lend, lease or otherwise transfer any military equipment to a non-aggressor nation that it needed for their preservation. The US became (according to FDR the “arsenal of democracy”)
• Battle of the Atlantic – July 7, 1941 FDR sent naval and air units to “patrol” the north Atlantic but not wanting to start a “shooting war” the US reported German submarines to the British. Sept 4, the US destroyerGreer was attacked and navy given orders to shoot on sight. In October, the destroyerReuben James was torpedoed (killing 76). On November 17, 1941 Congress ordered Merchant ships to be armed and repealed all neutrality legislation that forbade the US from entering the war zone.

Germany widens the War
• Germany overran the Balkans in spring 1941 and on June 22, 1941 attacked Russia. The Russian Army was pushed back toward Moscow until December 6 when they were able to finally mount an effective counter-attack (just 20 mi. from Moscow) when Germany had to retreat because of the severe Russian winter (had planned for a 10 week summer campaign and Russia had a particularly severe winter and the fluids in all the German equipment froze making them useless) – more men froze to death than were killed in battle – initial attack on Russia led to the Atlantic Charter between USSR and USA (August 14, 1941) which would clarify each country’s war aims.
• Neither would seek territorial gains
• Respected the rights of all peoples to choose their own form of government
• Cooperate in securing access to the world’s raw materials for all states
• International cooperation to secure just labor standards and social security
• Both committed to win for all freedom from fear and want
• Favored unrestricted freedom of the seas
• Disarmament of aggressor nations as a step toward permanent peace.
Storm in the Pacific – Japanese Aggression

- Tripartite Pact w/ Germany – September 1940 signed a 10 year alliance with Germany and Italy – *Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis Agreement*
- Japanese movement into French Indochina (begun in September 1940) since rest of Europe was occupied by war and couldn’t defend their colonies
- Non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union in April of 1941 (which was helpful for the Soviets since they were about to be invaded by Germany)
  - Wanted to take over the petroleum reserves of the islands in Southeast Asia – began in July 1941 and threatened the Philippines and British and Dutch possessions in southern Asia

America’s Response

- Restriction of Supplies to the Japanese – In 1940, the US cut off access to airplanes, parts, machine tools, and aviation gasoline, rescinding of the 1911 trade agreement, which the Japanese considered an unfriendly act. Oil exports to Japan continued since the US thought that could provoke war
- After the fall of France and Japanese complete takeover of French Indochina in July 1941, oil exports were also cut off
- U.S. had a fairly large force in the Philippines but most of US strength was located in the main naval base in Hawaii
  - Japan thought that if they attacked any British base in Southeast Asia it would bring the US into the war so they wanted to do a preemptive strike instead

Peace Negotiations

- Japanese-American negotiations – two part – negotiations to get embargo lifted while simultaneously preparing for war – set an unannounced deadline of November 29 for completion of negotiations
- Japan continued to meet with US officials after the 29th even though its navy was already steaming toward Hawaii

America Enters the War

Pearl Harbor and Declaration of War

December 7, 1941 - PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

“A date which will live in infamy”

Photo from a Japanese attack plane depicting a bomber attacking “Battleship Row”

Note “Carrier Row” is empty

(Date captured by the US later in the war)

Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

A few minutes before 8AM on Sunday, December 7, 1941, Japanese carrier-based airplanes struck Pearl Harbor. The raid lasted less than two hours.
The Damage to the Pacific Fleet
- 8 battleships were seriously damaged or destroyed
- Approximately 2300 lives were lost
- But the carriers (a major target) were NOT in port

The damage to the Air forces (Army Air Force and Naval Air Force)
- The US felt an air attack was impossible and was not ready
- Several hundred planes were lost
- A handful of American planes made it into the air and shot down a few enemy aircraft

December 7, 1941 - PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
“A date which will live in infamy”

Declaration of War
- War was declared just one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines.
- FDR appeared before a special joint session of Congress
- The Senate voted 88-0 and the House 388-1 to go to war.
- The US would race to get its fleet rebuilt and in position to defend against any further attack.

Pearl Harbor Aftermath
- Burning Airfield
- Destroyed American aircraft
- Japanese aircraft that was shot down during attack.
- USS Oklahoma (overturned) & USS Maryland
The Damage to the Pacific Fleet

Battleship Row during the attack (above) and days later (right) showing the massive spill of fuel oil into the harbor.

The USS Arizona

Because of the danger posed to divers, the bodies of the Arizona crew remain entombed.

America Enters the War

Europe First

- Decision to move against Germany first – Germany had weakened in winter battle with Russia and US fleet in the Pacific severely damaged from Pearl Harbor - it appeared that the British would have its hands full and Russia may not survive another German attack so Germany/Europe first
- Aspects of joint conduct of war – although there would be many Allies, most of that would be concentrated in Europe, the Pacific and the war with Japan would be the sole responsibility of the US
- Strategy – thought a huge buildup in England and an invasion across the channel would be best and hoped for as early as Spring of 43 or late 42 but British felt needed to secure North Africa first

North Africa and Italy

- North African Campaign - November 1942, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower oversaw French Morocco and Algeria then turned against the large German force in Tunisia and defeated them in May 1943.
- Sicily and Italy - US, Canadian, and British divisions landed on Sicily on July 10. They pushed across the island in five weeks, and overcame the last Axis resistance on August 17. Meanwhile, Mussolini stripped of power on July 25, and the Italian government had entered into negotiations that resulted in an armistice signed in secret on September 3 and made public on September 8. On September 1 the British Army crossed to the toe of the Italian boot. The U.S. Fifth Army, landed near Salerno on September 9, and by October 12, the British and Americans had a fairly solid line across the peninsula from the Volturno River, north of Naples, to Termoli on the Adriatic coast. The Italian surrender brought little military benefit to the Allies, and by the end of the year, the Germans stopped them on the Gustav line about 100 km (about 60 mi) south of Rome.

Strategic Bombing

- Strategic bombing of Europe – began to attack Germany with British bombers and US B-17 "Flying Fortresses" beginning in 1943. They targeted industrial centers to prevent Germany from continuing to build for the war.
**Tehran Conference**
- Nov 28-Dec 1, 1943 in Tehran, Iran
- The "Big Three" met personally – Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin
- Planned the final assault against Hitler and German (D-Day – planned to invade in 1944)
- Russia promises that it will enter war against Japan

**Operation Overlord**
- Eisenhower given command of Operation Overlord (because of his win in North Africa)
- Spring of 1944. British and American troops, already gathering in England for the invasion, numbered more than 50 divisions (more than 150,000 troops), with thousands of bombers, fighter planes, and ships. Eisenhower was named Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.
- A major deception was also planned to convince Hitler that the invasion was threatening other areas including southern France, the Balkans and even Norway.
- A fictitious "First US Army Group" under the command of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, complete with dummy tanks, trucks and troops, made the "force" believable.
- This kept many German units away from Normandy.

**Operation Overlord**
- Throughout the months of April and May, Allied bombers attacked railroad targets. By June, northern France had been isolated. It was necessary to isolate a large area so that the Germans would not guess that Normandy was the selected landing site. Two-thirds of the bombs were dropped outside the invasion area to mislead the Germans and keep them from shifting their troops.
- The invasion day, called D-Day by the military, was set for June 5. On the 4th, however, a storm swept into the English Channel and Eisenhower had to postpone the invasion. In the early morning hours of June 5 the met with his officers. Despite heavy rain and wind, the storm was expected to end by afternoon and the weather on June 6 was supposed to be acceptable for an amphibious (air and sea) assault using 175,000 troops.

**D-Day**
- Beginning shortly after midnight, the airborne troops began dropping into Normandy, with the infantry coming in by landing craft at first light. By nightfall on June 6, the Allies had most of their troops on the Normandy coast.

**D-Day**
- Utah and Omaha Beach – American
- Junecau Beach – Canadian
- Gold and Sword Beach – British
- The fiercest fighting was at Omaha Beach (initial location of Saving Private Ryan)
D-Day

2 million US troops eventually went through this opening to liberate Europe. Paris liberated on August 25, 1944, by November all Nazis driven from France. General Charles de Gaulle set up as the head of the new French government.

German reaction – tried one last counteroffensive in December 1944 (Battle of the Bulge) along the Belgium-Luxembourg border and pushed the Allies almost to the sea but they rallied and regained lost ground because of the Third Army’s leader General George Patton.

D-Day and Beyond

Final Battle for Germany

- Began in January 1945 when Russian armies began to move into Germany. March 7, the Anglo-American forces crossed the Rhine and eventually net up with the Russians.
- Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945 and Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 7, 1945.
- May 8, 1945 was proclaimed V-E Day.

America Enters the War

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War in the Pacific

- Japan won most of its victories in 1941-1942.
- Batan Peninsula, the Philippines (forcing Douglas MacArthur to leave), and even some of the Aleutian Islands.
- By the end of summer 1942, Japan occupied a million square miles of territory – US was unable to stop the advance because of the heavily damaged fleet.

Doolittle Raid on Tokyo

- Planned and led by Lt. Col. James Doolittle in retaliation for the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- On April 18, 1942, sixteen Army B-25 bombers were launched from the USS Hornet (a first).
- Plan was to hit military targets in Japan then land in China following a homing beacon (which wasn’t there).
- All aircraft were lost (15 ran out of fuel & crashed; 1 landed in Siberia); 3 men were killed and 8 taken as POWs (4 died in captivity).
- Although it did little damage, it caused Japan to bring some soldiers home for defensive purposes and it encouraged the American troops and people.
Battle of Coral Sea
- May 7-8, 1942 – checked Japanese advancement, Japan's goal was to take Australia.
- Begun on May 4 when Japan seized the port of Tulagi in the Solomon Islands, while a second, larger force went to the southeast of New Guinea. On May 4, American carrier-based bombers and torpedo planes inflicted severe damage.
- This engagement was the first naval battle in history in which ships of both sides did not encounter one another directly.
- In the two encounters the Japanese lost 2 aircraft carriers, 2 destroyers, numerous other vessels, about 100 planes, and about 3500 men. American losses were the aircraft carrier *Lexington*, the destroyer *Sims*, and the tanker *Neosho*; the aircraft carrier *Yorktown* was damaged. The U.S. lost 65 lives and a total of 161 personnel.

Battle of Midway
- Japan sent 9 battleships and 4 carriers (185 ships total) under Admiral Yamamoto. US Admiral Nimitz could only come up with 3 carriers and 7 heavy cruisers but the Japanese naval code had been broken so American knew where the Japanese fleet was located.
- On morning of June 4, 1942, US dive bombers destroyed 3 carriers in one 5 minute strike. The 4th sank later that day after its planes heavily damaged the *Yorktown* which had been repaired after Coral Sea. (It sank 2 days later).
- Tipped the balance of power in the Pacific to the US.

Guadalcanal & Island Hopping
- Guadalcanal – Fought August 7, 1942 – US Marines landed in 1st amphibious assault against Japan. Fighting continued until February 9, 1943
- MacArthur's leapfrogging – angry that he had to share command with Nimitz but led a combined Australia and American gradually retaking the islands lost at the beginning of the war. (Ultimately leading into his return to the Philippines October 1944 – July 1945)

Island Hopping
- Nimitz in Central Pacific – began strategy of Island hopping – ignoring Japanese strongholds and less important areas and focused instead on the easier to capture islands and the very important islands.
- Gilberts – November 1943
- Mariana’s – January: Feb 1944
- Philippine Sea – US converging on the Philippines with MacArthur moving up from South and Nimitz cutting across the center.

Retaking the Gilbert and Mariana Islands
- Kamikaze aircraft were used to attack US Naval Vessels during the Marinas Campaign
- US Marines begin an amphibious assault on the Gilbert Islands

Collapse of Japan
- Allied forces began to move toward Japan
  - This allowed bombers to fly over Japan itself and inflict damage directly on the home islands
  - Caused even more Japanese resources to be recalled home for defense
- Philippines – recaptured in 1945 after Battle at Leyte Gulf (4 major naval battles)
- USS Princeton on fire after being hit by a Japanese bomb; it will later explode and be scuttled
Collapse of Japan

- Iwo Jima – located halfway between Guam and Tokyo.
- Battle fought Feb 19 to March 26, 1945
- Some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific Campaign

Collapse of Japan

- Okinawa – less than 400 miles to Japan
- British naval forces provided some air cover and protection from kamikaze attacks but all landing forces were American
- Captured in June 1945 after 82 days of fighting
- 90% of the island was destroyed in the fighting

Manhattan Project

- The possibility of a nuclear weapon was first proposed to FDR in a letter signed by Albert Einstein in 1939
- When the actual bomb was tested in July 1945 in the New Mexico desert, only the British knew of the US success and thoughts of using it against Japan – the Soviets did not know until the bomb was used in war

Hiroshima

- August 6, 1945
- A uranium based weapon, nicknamed “Little Boy” was dropped on the city by the bomber Enola Gay
- 90,000 to 160,000 people were killed in the attack
- Roughly half were on the first day
- Most of the dead were civilians

Hiroshima

- August 9, 1945
- A plutonium based weapon, nicknamed “Fat Man” was dropped on the city by the bomber Bockscar
- 60,000 to 80,000 people were killed in the attack
- These are the only two atomic bombs to have ever been used in warfare to date

Nagasaki
Japan Surrenders

- Believing that the US had at least 100 more atomic bombs, on August 14, 1945 Japan announced it would surrender.
- Formal surrender ceremonies were held on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.
- VJ Day was declared for September 3, 1945.

Mobilization of Armed Forces

- Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 was passed by Congress on September 14, 1940 becoming the first peacetime draft legislation ever in American history.
- Initially all men between the ages of 21 and 35 were required to register with local draft board.
- Later, once the US is actually in the war, all men aged 18 to 45 were liable for military service and all men aged 18 to 65 had to register for Selective Service.
- Essentially this law is still in effect although it now applies to men aged 18 to 26.

Mobilizing Industry

- War Production Board (WPB) – set prices, assigned quotas, converted factories to war tasks, and built new production plants – result was a huge increase in the volume of production valued at $200 billion by 1944.
- Office of Price Administration (OPA) – rations scarce supplies and keep prices down through fixing civilian prices and supplies – 1941.
- War Labor Board (WLB) pegged wages while unions kept a strict no strike policy so all industrial disputes disappeared.

Financing the War

- The US government spent $300 billion during the war.
- Most raised by borrowing. Bonds were so successful that by 1945 the debt was $252 billion.
- Taxation – increased to unprecedented levels and after 1943 were collected at the source rather than at the end of the year. Also corporate taxes, excess-profits taxes, and luxury taxes allowed the US to pay 40% of its war costs from taxation.
- By 1944 nearly everyone paid federal income taxed (in 1940 only 10% of Americans had paid them).

Rationing

- At the beginning of World War II, a rationing system was begun in the United States. Tires were the first item to be rationed in January 1942 because supplies of natural rubber were interrupted.
- Soon afterward, passenger automobiles, typewriters, sugar, gasoline, bicycles, footwear, fuel oil, coffee, stores, shoes, meat, lard, shortening and oils, cheese, butter, margarine, processed foods (canned, bottled and frozen), dried fruits, canned milk, firewood and coal, jams, jellies and fruit butter, were rationed by November 1943.
Economic Impact

- Rise in wages and drop in unemployment
  - Due to labor shortages, wages tended to increase but wage controls instituted by the government limited this – and even resulted in numerous strikes, particularly after 1943
  - Unemployment dropped from 17.2% in 1939 to just 1.2% in 1944
- Price controls – rationing everything from gasoline and steel, to leather shoes, milk, etc
  - Ration cards allowing purchase, ration stamps (with expiration dates to prevent hoarding) and cash was needed to purchase rationed goods
- Farmers exempted from much service but many left farms anyway to join the military or war production efforts

Social Effect of the War

On Women

- 200,000 women join armed forces – in the WAVES, WASP, etc.
  - Some flew supply missions as part of the Army Air Force
- 20,000,000 women were in the work forces – “Rosie the Riveter”
  - Most gave up those jobs after the war as returning servicemen reclaimed factory jobs

Social Effects of the War

On Blacks

- Blacks in armed forces in large numbers but initially in non-combat roles
  - About 10% of the men drafted and inducted into service were African American, serving equally in all military branches
  - Seven Medal of Honor winners
- Blacks in war industries since the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) required non-discrimination clauses in federal contracts
  - Double V Campaign – victory over fascism abroad & discrimination at home
- Smith v. Allwright – 1944 – declared the all white primary unconstitutional

Social Effects of the War

On Japanese Americans

- Internment – beginning in 1942, the US government moved about 100,000 Japanese Americans living along the west coast further inland to “detention centers”
- Japanese Americans & war effort – many were fiercely loyal to the US despite being forced to sell homes and businesses

Social Effects of the War

On Native Americans

- Many served in military service in integrated units
- Multiple Native American languages were used as military code during WWII including Choctaw, Cherokee, Comanche
- The most famous is Navajo, used exclusively in the Pacific campaign
- Led to a reestablishment of teaching native languages on reservations

Office of Economic Stabilization

- Formulated a national economic policy relating to the control of civilian purchasing power, prices, rents, wages, salaries, profits, rationing subsidies and all related matters to prevent avoidable increases in the cost of living and preventing the unnecessary migration of labor and facilitating the prosecution of the war.
- The order directed that no increase or decrease in wages shall be authorized unless approved by the War Labor Board
Election of 1944

- Democrats once again nominated FDR but with a new vice president – Harry S. Truman (a party regular) – did not want change in the middle of war
- Republicans nominated Thomas Dewey and based his campaign on a need for change since this was FDR’s unprecedented 4th campaign run
- FDR’s campaign was based on his success of the war and him as being necessary for the coming peace – FDR’s health was an issue since he was growing increasingly frail.
- FDR won 432-99

Yalta Conference

- Roosevelt’s ideas wanted to form a United Nations and to do so he needed to prevent a “world communist domination” so he made concessions to the Soviets
- Division of Germany and Berlin – Germany would be divided into 4 international zones between the U.S., France, Britain and the Soviets with Berlin as an international area
- Russia “given” Eastern Europe – given territorial concessions over eastern Poland in return for promising democratic governments in Poland and Yugoslavia
- Yalta legacy – promised to meet in San Francisco (in April 1945) to draft the charter for the United Nations