World War II

Overview
Prelude to War

• **Japanese Aggression** – Manchuria/China invaded. **General Tojo** is military commander

• **Italy** – Fascism started under **Benito Mussolini**

• **Germany** – **Adolph Hitler** and Nazi party come to power (remake Weimar Republic)

• **Russia (USSR)** – **Joseph Stalin** in control of United Soviet Socialist Republic (communist Russia)
Europe at War

- Japanese are invading China, 1937
- Germany annexes Austria, 1938
- Germany takes Czechoslovakia, 1938
- Germany-Russia sign non-aggression treaty, 1939
- Germany attacks Poland Sept. 1, 1939
- France, England declare war
Blitzkrieg

• **Lightning warfare** – heavy use of machinery (tanks) and aircraft
• Quick victory over Poland (tanks vs. horses)
• Germany attacks France through Belgium and comes up behind Maginot Line
• Massive Allied evacuation at **Dunkirk**
• France signs surrender, June 1940
The Outbreak of War

• Hitler-Stalin Pact
  – Nonaggression Pact (1939)
    • Agreement that Hitler would not attack Russia.

• Nazi Occupation
  – Czechoslovakia occupied
  – Invasion of Poland (1939)
    • Beginning of War
  – France falls (1940)
  – Britain able to stop German advance
The War in Europe

• During the first two years of the war, the U.S. stayed neutral as Germany overran France, most of Europe, and pounded Britain from the air (the Battle of Britain)

• In mid-1941, Hitler turned on the Soviet Union and invaded to get the oil fields that Germany needed so badly.
Battle of Britain
Battle of Britain

- Germany controls most of Europe
- Luftwaffe begin bombing of Britain
- RAF defends British homeland
- **Winston Churchill (Prime Minster)** – “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”
- Germany never launches invasion of Britain
Hitler invades Russia

- Hitler breaks Nazi-Soviet Pact
  - June 22, 1941 - Hitler launches devastating attack on Russia.
  - United States agrees to send some aid to Russia under the Lend-Lease Act.
  - Atlantic Charter: Roosevelt, Churchill discuss common problems, including Japan.
United States Involvement

- U.S. focused on domestic issues
- Extreme anti-war feelings, especially against munitions dealers
- **Neutrality Acts** – forbids arms sales to warring nations
- FDR declared a **Hemispheric Defense Zone** which basically said we would protect our shipping from all warring countries. (We were neutral, but we could pass on info about locations of enemy shipping to Britain.)
- Good neighbor policy in Latin America
- The United States gradually abandoned neutrality as events in Europe and Asia pulled the nations toward war.
United States and Neutrality

• Neutrality Act (1937)
  – Restricted trade, transportation of goods, and loans to warring countries.

• Neutrality Act (1939)
  – European democracies may buy American war materials.
    • “Cash-and-carry basis”
      – Can transport goods on their ships only after paying in cash
Franklin Delano Roosevelt

• U.S. increasingly helped Britain
• It gave Britain war supplies and old naval warships in return for military bases in Bermuda and the Caribbean
• **Lend-Lease Act** gave the President authority to sell or lend equipment to countries to defend themselves against the Axis powers. “**Arsenal of Democracy**”
• Compared to “lending a garden hose to a next-door neighbor whose house is on fire.”
United States and Neutrality

• Destroyer Deal (1940)
  – Roosevelt agrees to send 50 old-model destroyers to Britain to help against submarine attacks.

• Lend-Lease Bill (1941)
  – “An Act Further to Promote the Defense of the United States.”
  – “Arsenal of Democracy”-FDR
  – Only war materials, no troops are sent (yet)
America enters the War

• Pearl Harbor
  – “A Day which will live in infamy” - FDR
  – Japanese launches surprise attack on the naval base in Hawaii.
United States Enters War

- U.S. has embargo on Japan for actions in the Pacific
- U.S. had warning of a possible Japanese attack somewhere
- December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked “date that will live in infamy” (FDR)
- U.S. declares war on Japan and then Germany, Italy declare war on U.S.
War in the Pacific

• Japanese take U.S. outposts
  – Guam, Wake, Philippines attacked in Dec. 1941.
  – Bataan Death March
    • Japanese troops march prisoners to Luzon
    • Japanese brutality is seen first-hand by Americans
    • Many prisoners die.
    • MacArthur leaves Philippines, vows to return.
Bataan Death March

- US soldiers faced brutal treatment by the Japanese following the surrender of the Philippines
Allied Strategy

• Followed a “Defeat Hitler First” strategy
• Most American military resources were targeted for Europe
• In the Pacific, American military strategy called for “Island Hopping” campaign – seizing islands closer and closer to Japan and using them as bases for air attacks on Japan
• Cut off Japanese supplies through submarine warfare against Japanese shipping
Axis Strategy

• Germany hoped to defeat Soviet Union quickly and gain control of oil fields
• Force Britain out of war through bombing campaign and submarine warfare before America’s industrial and military strength could turn the tide
• Japan, following Pearl Harbor, invaded the Philippines and Indonesia and planned to invade both Australia and Hawaii
War in the Pacific

• **Midway**
  - First major naval battle. Japanese attempt to take island.
  - American forces crush Japanese Navy.
  - First big victory for U.S.

- *Turning Point in the Pacific.*

• **“Island Hopping”**
  - U.S. idea of taking back Japanese-held islands.
America Joins the Fight

• Industries convert to war production
  – Women enter factories to work as men leave for war.
  – Production of war materials booms.

• Propaganda
  – War bonds and rallies help boost morale at home and fund the war.
  – Ration booklets and victory gardens are common.
United We Win
Rationing

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
SUGAR PURCHASE CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:
Name: Rollie Mae Susan
Address: 3463 W 126th St.
City: Cleveland County: Cuyahoga State: Ohio
is authorized to accept delivery of

(50) pounds of sugar pursuant to Rationing Order No 3 (Sugar Rationing Regulations) of, and at a price not to exceed the maximum price established by, the Office of Price Administration.

Local Rationing Board No. 18-1

Date 6/19/42

By W.D. Bevington
Signature of issuing officer

Cuyahoga Ohio

This Certificate is not valid unless signed by an issuing officer authorized by the Office of Price Administration.
YOU HELP
THE ENEMY
if you buy
BLACK MARKET GAS

ALWAYS
• Use legal ration coupons
• Pay no more than the legal price
YOU TALK OF SACRIFICE...

HE KNEW THE MEANING OF SACRIFICE!
THAT WAS THE DAY I JOINED THE WAVES

INQUIRE AT ANY Navy Recruiting Station or Office of Naval Officer Procurement
America at Home

• Internment Camps
  – Japanese-Americans put into work camps (some German-Americans as well) out of fear of espionage.
    • Korematsu v. U.S.- Relocation of Japanese into camps

• Building for War
  – Industries convert to producing war materials.
    • Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act (1943)- Authorizes fed. government to seize, operate tied-up industries.
  – Men go into army, women go into factories.
Waiting for the Signal From Home...
We Can Do It!

United States Enters WW II
African Americans in WWII

- Military – Segregation amongst units
- "Tuskegee Airmen" - All-Black air force unit.
- At Home – A. Philip Randolph
  - Threatens a "Negro March on Washington".
  - Demands equal opportunities for blacks.
African-Americans in WWII

• At Home
  – Fair Employment Practices Committee
    • FDR forbids discrimination in industries. Commission monitors compliance. Black equality has some gain.
  – Blacks migrate north.
  – Membership in NAACP rises to half-million mark.
Persecution Begins - Holocaust

• Anti-Jewish sentiments for many centuries
• Hitler’s “Mein Kampf” blamed Jews for Germany’s problems
• Took away civil rights of Jews and they were made to wear a Yellow Star of David
• Kristallnacht, 1938 – Night of broken glass, Jewish property was destroyed
Jewish Refugees

• After Hitler’s election, many Jews fled Germany
• U.S. was one of many nations not accepting many Jewish refugees
• Albert Einstein
• Why did others not leave?
• It was their home, they had done nothing wrong and would be ok, the world would help
Final Solution

• 1939, the decision to rid Europe of all Jews and other undesirables
• Concentration camps set up across Europe
• Many sent to slave labor camps
• Others were simply killed or experimented upon
• **Genocide:** The systematic and purposeful destruction of a racial, political, religious, or cultural group
Final Solution
Concentration Camps

- Jews gathered from ghettos and separated
- Crude wooden barracks held thousands who were fit to work
- Hunger and disease killed thousands
War in Europe

- **El Alamein**
  - Turning point in North Africa.
    - German breakthrough halted.

- **Stalingrad**
  - Turning point in the east.
  - Red Army stalls German advance into Russia.
  - the beginning of the end for the German Army.
Major Battles

• **El Alamein** – British victory kept Germany from gaining access to Middle Eastern oil supplies

• **Stalingrad** – Hundreds of thousands of German soldiers were killed or captured in a months-long siege of this Russian city

• This defeat prevented Germany from seizing the Soviet oil fields and turned the tide against Germany in the east. **Turning point of the European war.**
War in Europe

- **Casablanca Conference**
  - Churchill, FDR
    - Pacific War set up.
    - Invasion of Sicily.
    - “Unconditional Surrender”.
    - Second Front discussed.

- **Victory in Africa**
  - Allies now turn to invasion of western Europe.
War in Europe

- **D-Day (Operation Overlord)** – June 6, 1944
  - Allied invasion at Normandy, France.
  - Seaborne and airborne units take beaches.
  - Marks the beginning of Allied liberation in France.
  - Advancing units take France in 3 months.
Extermination

- As war went badly for Germany, they tried to speed Final Solution
- Built several death camps to execute Jews with poison gas
- Bodies were then buried in mass graves or burned
- Auschwitz
- Belzec
- Buchenwald
Extermination
Survivors

• 6 million were killed in the Holocaust
• Some were liberated by Allied armies
• Others were helped to hide or escape from capture
• Elie Wiesel – “Night”
• Oscar Schindler – “Schindler’s List”
• Anne Frank – “Diary of Anne Frank”
The End is Near

• Massive bombing raids, cities are leveled
• Roosevelt wins 4\textsuperscript{th} term with Harry Truman
• Soviet armies pushing into Germany from the east
• \textbf{Big 3} (Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill) continue to discuss the end of the war
War in Europe
The Beginning of Tensions

Yalta Conference—Stalin, Churchill, FDR. FDR has data on atom bomb but keeps it to himself. Defeat Germany, then Japan. Russia will help defeat Japan. Post-war Poland, Germany planned. U.N. laid out. These topics were ideas that led to many factors of the Cold War.
Victory in Europe

- Battle of the Bulge (1944)
- Hitler's final attempt to crush Allies.
- Last German counter-offensive
- Hitler commits suicide in his bunker
- V-E Day
V-E Day

- U.S. British forces pushing toward Berlin
- Death camps found and Holocaust is revealed
- Roosevelt dies and Truman becomes President
- Hitler commits suicide as Russians invade Berlin
- Germany surrenders, 1945
End of War
End of an Era

• FDR dies in office
  – Died of cerebral hemorrhage.
  – Harry Truman fills presidency.

• Truman takes action
  – Manhattan Project
  – Potsdam Conference
  – the atomic bomb is the issue Truman has to deal with.
Changes

• FDR died during 4\textsuperscript{th} term
• V.P. Harry Truman replaces
Major Battles

• **Iwo Jima and Okinawa** – American invasions of these islands brought them closer to Japan
• Both invasions cost thousands of American lives and even more Japanese lives
• Japanese soldiers and civilians committed suicide rather than surrender
Kamikaze
Atomic Bomb

- **Manhattan Project** – J. Robert Oppenheimer led the project at Los Alamos NM to invent atomic bomb
- Some scientists urged the government not to use the weapon
Atomic Bomb

• Facing the prospect of horrendous casualties among both Americans and Japanese if American forces had to invade Japan, Harry Truman ordered the use of the atomic bombs.

• Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed and tens of thousands of people were killed in both cities.

• Shortly after, the Japanese leaders surrendered.
War in the Pacific

• Atomic Bomb
  – Hiroshima
    • First use of atomic weapons in war.
  – Nagasaki
    • Japanese surrender days later.
    • War in the Pacific over.
Minority Participation

- African Americans served in segregated units
- Tuskegee Airmen (African American) served in Europe with distinction
- Nisei regiments (Asian American) earned a high number of decorations.
- Navajo used oral codes which were impossible for the Japanese to break.
- Minority units suffered high casualties and won numerous citations.
War Trials

• Nuremberg: Axis leaders put on trial for “crimes against humanity”
United Nations

- Organization of all the nations of the world
- Created to prevent another World War
- 39 countries met at the Dumbarton Oaks Estate near D.C. and organized U.N.
GI’s Return Home

• GI Bill: Provided returning GI’s loans to go to school or buy homes, businesses, farms
• Baby Boom: Returning GI’s & Sweethearts start new families
Post-War America

• G.I. Bill
  – Schooling for vets funded by government

• Veteran’s Administration
  – $16 billion loans for vets to buy homes, farms, and businesses.

• Increase in Defense Budget due to war
  – A boom for Virginia economy
Post-War America

• Economic Boom
  – GNP begins to climb greatly.
  – National income doubles.

• Population increase
  – Baby boom.
  – “Smiling Sunbelt”.
  – Rush to the suburbs.
Beginning of a New Era

• Cold War begins

• Atomic Age begins
  – New fears arise.
  – Warfare changed forever.