

8th SS - WW2 Review Sheet (Chap. 24)

Test Date -

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Reparations

Treaty of Versailles

Naval Conf. of 1922

Adolf Hitler

Aryan Master Race

Concentration Camp

Benito Mussolini

"Rome-Berlin Axis"

Pearl Harbor

Lend-Lease Act

Atlantic Charter

NAZIS

Francisco Franco

Fascism

Selective Service Act

Neutrality Acts (3)

Battle of Britain

Stalingrad

El Alamein

Dwight D. Eisenhower

George Patton

Douglas MacArthur

D-Day (Normandy)

Axis Powers

Allied Powers

Isolationism

F.D.R.

Battle of the Atlantic

Battle of the Bulge

Island Hopping Campaign

Battle of the Philippine Sea

Battle of Leyte Gulf

Iwo Jima

Okinawa

Kamikaze

Harry Truman

Atomic Bomb - Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Enda ~~Day~~ - Paul Tibbets

Winston Churchill

Battle of Midway

Reparations

After WWI, the main economic issue of the 1920's & 30's was the payment of WWI debts. During the war, the U.S. had loaned \$7 billion to the Allies & another \$3 billion after the war for rebuilding. A high protective tariff in the 1920's made it difficult for Europe to pay back these debts. The harsh peace treaty of WWI, the Treaty of Versailles, demanded that Germany pay back the Allies for damages done during the war. The Germans could not & did not, so the Europeans eventually stopped their payments to the U.S. Of all the nations that owed money to the U.S., only Finland totally paid off their debt.

Japan's rise to prominence

During the early 1900's, Japan started to become more industrialized. In fact, by the time WW2 broke out, Japan had the world's most powerful navy. In an effort to slow down the military buildup, the Naval Conference of 1922 was held in Washington, D.C. The conference set limits on the size of each country's navy. It established that the U.S. & British fleets would be the largest, followed by Japan, France, & Italy. Japan ignored the treaty & kept building up their navy. Over the next few years, Japan would continue its buildup & "bully" its neighbors. In 1931, Japan invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria. Unfortunately, the World community did little in response.

The Rise of Hitler & Nazi Germany

In 1932, Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany. The main cause for his rise to power was the severity of the Treaty of Versailles. The Treaty forced Germany to take total blame for WWI & pay for all damages done. This led to incredible poverty & resentment in Germany.

Hitler was an inspiring speaker who restored Germany's sense of national pride & military tradition. He also fed on the people's fear & frustrations. Hitler blamed the Jews & other minorities for Germany's problems. He jailed & executed opponents as he began rearming Germany.

Hitler's government generated religious & racial bigotry. They emphasized the superiority of the "Aryan master race" (mainly blonde, blue eyed, white Anglo Saxon Protestants). People who did not fit the "master race" were considered "biologically inferior people." These were Jews, Catholics, Blacks, Hispanics, & Eastern Europeans. In 1938, Nazi troopers began to identify Jews, & prohibit them from working, & closed down their businesses by force. They then began to round up the Jews & others & placed them in Concentration Camps. This eventually led to the deaths of 6 million Jews, 1.5 million Catholics, etc. People were starved, shot, poisoned by gas, etc.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini seized power in 1922. He aligned Italy with Germany to form a "Rome-Berlin Axis" that the World would revolve around. Mussolini's government was a Fascist govt. Fascism worked on the assumption that the govt. could grant or deny any right to any person at any time. In 10/35, Mussolini invaded Ethiopia. A few months later, Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland (a buffer zone between Germany & France). Japan later joined the Axis Powers.

War Breaks Out

In 1937, World War 2 broke out when Hitler invaded Poland & France, while Japan began an all-out invasion of China. At this time, the U.S. remained neutral. Early in the war, the Axis Powers totally dominated the battle. Germany swept through much of Europe, while Italy took Northern Africa, & Japan conquered much of Asia. In 8/40, the U.S. loaned 50 Naval battleships to England. In 1941, under the Lend-Lease Act, FDR loaned \$30 billion worth of military equipment to the Allies. In that same year, U.S. Naval ships were providing escort to Allied supply ships crossing the Atlantic.

Tensions with Japan

In 1898, Japan declared that any interference by the U.S. or the Europeans in Asia would be considered an act of war. Because of the Great Depression, FDR was hesitant to cut off trade with Japan, even though Japan's actions were clearly hostile. Japan has ~~and~~ almost no natural resources. They are totally dependent on foreign trade to survive (or to wage war). Any Allied threat to cut off Japanese supplies was met with a Japanese threat to conquer

another Asian Kingdom & escalate the war. Finally, in 6/41, after Japan had conquered China, the Dutch East Indies, & French Indochina (Vietnam), FDR cut off all shipments of oil & steel to Japan. He also froze all their assets in U.S. banks. He also decided to ship U.S. military equipment to China. This action would force Japan to withdraw or go to war with the U.S. In late 11/41, Japan offered to withdraw from Indochina (Vietnam), if the U.S. let Japan occupy China & restore oil & steel shipments. The U.S. rejected the offer.

On Sunday, 12/7/41 at 7:55 a.m., the Japanese attacked the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. At this time, most of our Pacific fleet was at Pearl Harbor. Within two hours, most of the fleet was destroyed while they were still in port. 150 planes & many ships were destroyed or damaged. 2403 people were killed, & another 1178 were wounded. It was the worst attack against the U.S. in our history (until Sept. 11, 2001). The next day, in a special session of Congress, F.D.R. declared 12/7 as "a date which will live in infamy." He asked Congress to declare war on Japan. 3 days later, Germany & Italy declared war on the U.S.

Eliminating the Nazi Menace

By the time the U.S. entered the war, the Allies agreed that the defeat of Hitler was their main goal. By 1940, the Nazis were occupying France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark & all of Eastern Europe. Add to this, the extermination of the Jews & you could see why Hitler was the #1 enemy of mankind.

On 1/1/42, 26 nations met in Washington, D.C. to sign the Declaration of the United Nations & to declare war on the Axis Powers. The Allies stated that there would be ~~not~~ no territorial gain for themselves & to restore the self-govt. of the defeated nations. They also promised the freedom of the seas, open trade, general disarmament, & an international security system. The U.N. was based off of the Atlantic Charter. The Atlantic Charter was based off of Woodrow Wilson's idea of "peace without victory."

The Rise of Dictators

When wars end, democracies rush to dismantle their military might. The citizen soldier wants to rejoin the civilians, and taxpaying voters want the military forces reduced. After World War I, nations signed agreements that limited the number of ships nations could build, reset national boundaries in Europe, allowed Germany to enter the League of Nations, and vowed to discard war as a national policy.

While others were encouraged by these agreements, Winston Churchill saw future dangers. In 1928, he predicted that future wars would involve whole populations, and with their very existence at stake, nations would use whatever means they had to win the war.

Adding to the weapons and the total nature of modern war was the rise to power of dictators in the 1930s. Dictators think and act differently from presidents or prime ministers who are limited by legislatures and courts. In dictatorships: (1) all power is in the hands of one person or a small elite group; (2) no law or court prevents them from doing as they wish; (3) citizens' rights may be taken away at any time; (4) terror is a common tool to force obedience; and (5) dictators often mislead themselves and their nation with dreams of national glory through military expansion.

In *RUSSIA* Vladimir Lenin's Communist Party came to power in 1917, created a new secret police (*Cheka*), and either killed, imprisoned, or exiled any opponent. While civil war raged in Russia, the *Comintern* (Communist International Party) spread propaganda to other nations. After suffering a stroke in 1922, Lenin's health declined, and Joseph Stalin won the power struggle to be the party leader.

JAPAN was given its first constitution in 1890 by the emperor. It created the Diet (legislature) with limited powers and gave rights to the people that were removable at any time. Japan found two roads to success in the twentieth century. One was through the military. Through wars with China and Russia, Japan gained influence and territory on the Asian mainland. In 1910, Japan also annexed Korea. In World War I, Japan took the German leasehold at Kiautschou (Jiaozhou) Bay in China. Colonialism in East Asia was seen as the way to national glory and prosperity.

Japanese industry and trade also grew tremendously in the early twentieth century. After seeing U.S. battleships in 1908, Japan decided to expand its navy. By 1914, the Japanese merchant marine was larger than the French fleet. In 1872, Japan had its first railroad; by 1914, it had 6,000 miles of track. The Great Depression seriously weakened the influence of business, however. In 1932, the liberal premier was assassinated, and Admiral Saito replaced him. The militarists now ruled.

World War I left *ITALY* with a nearly bankrupt government, little industry, high unemployment, and a lack of food for its 40 million people. Political divisions had leaders changing office so often they could not accomplish anything. In the streets, gangs of socialist hoodlums battled the fascist thugs. After the war, Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist (from *fascio*, meaning "a club") Party. Known as Black Shirts, Fascist squads followed all orders from Mussolini. In 1922, the Black Shirts marched on Rome, the army did not interfere, and King Victor Emmanuel III timidly asked Mussolini to form a cabinet. Most citizens felt the Fascists were a better alternative to the Communists.

Fascism glorified the state (government), and the leaders of that state ran the nation's economy and society. Any criticism or opposition to *Il Duce* (The Leader) was treason. When Socialist Giacomo Matteotti charged the Fascists with corruption, he was murdered. After 1928, only the names of Fascist candidates appeared on ballots. Meanwhile, Mussolini's philosophy and style were observed and admired by Adolf Hitler in Germany.



Benito Mussolini (left) and Adolf Hitler (right) in Berlin 1937



Nazi Germany

When the *kaiser* was chased out of Germany in November 1918, a provisional government led by the Social Democrats took over. An attempt by the radical Spartacists in 1919 to overthrow the provisional government was crushed by the army.

At Weimar in February 1919, Germans drew up a democratic constitution. The president and *Reichstag* (lower house) were elected by the people. The chancellor (prime minister) was responsible to the president and *Reichstag*. Each German state sent delegates to the upper house, the *Reichsrat*.

The new republic was threatened by Communists on the left and Nationalists on the right. The young fanatic, Adolf Hitler, saw others try to overthrow the government with uprisings called *putschs*.

Born in Austria in 1889, Hitler had joined the German army in World War I. He had a corporal's rank and was wounded at the Battle of the Somme. After recovering, he drifted to Munich where he joined the National Socialist (Nazi) Party as member No. 7 in June 1919. This group hated Jews, the Treaty of Versailles, the Communists, and the democratic Weimar Republic.

Hitler was an expert organizer, and under his leadership, the Nazi Party grew quickly. He developed the party flag with its swastika. From Italy's Fascists he borrowed the Roman salute, the pageantry, images of the heroic past, and the idea of special uniforms. The Nazi's SA, known as the Brown Shirts, battled Socialists, marched in noisy parades, and intimidated any critics.

In 1923, Hitler led a march to capture control of Munich (the Beer Hall *Putsch*). Trapped by the police in a narrow street, the Nazis surrendered. Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison. He was released after only nine months of confinement, but while Hitler was in prison, he wrote *Mein Kampf*. According to his book, Germany and the great Nordic or Aryan "race" lost World War I because of the treason of liberals, Jews, and Bolsheviks, who now ran the Weimar Republic.

The Nazis might have disappeared had it not been for the Great Depression. When millions became unemployed in 1930 and bread lines formed, Hitler was delighted. His party promised jobs, food, and national pride. By 1932, the Nazi Party had won 230 seats in the *Reichstag*, making it the largest party in Germany. In January 1933, President Hindenburg named Hitler as chancellor.

Hitler's lieutenants constantly battled among themselves. Ernst Röhm had led the SA Brown Shirts, but Hitler now needed to present a better image as the *führer* (leader) of the government. After Reinhard Heydrich had gathered enough information on Röhm through his SD spies, Röhm and 200 other SA men were arrested and executed on June 30, 1934, the "Night of the Long Knives."

The SS was created from the best of the SAs. By 1929, it was headed by Heinrich Himmler. In 1936, Hitler named Himmler head of all police in Germany, including the regular, or order, police (*Orpo*) and the two branches of the security police (*SiPo*): criminal police (*Kripo*) and secret political police (*Gestapo*). Political prisoners were sent to a new concentration camp at Dachau, a few miles from Munich. Soon other camps were built in Germany, the most famous being Buchenwald.

SS units created fear in Germany. Ministers and priests were watched carefully. If they criticized Hitler's policies, they were sent to concentration camps where many died. The SS followed the army during invasions, going after Jews, Romani people (those referred to as "Gypsies"), union leaders, Communists, or those listed as "subhumans."

Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Dr. Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda, sang the praises of the Nazi regime to foreigners and German citizens. Neither worried about lies or deception. The government was based on hate and fear with no conscience to trouble it.



Adolf Hitler, 1936

The Nazi View of Religion and Race

Religion. The first of the Ten Commandments is: "You shall have no other gods before me." Religion threatens the dictator because it says there is a higher authority than the ruler. The Nazis knew they could not remove religion, but then tried to twist it to conform to their purposes. Hitler had only contempt for religion and its concern over ethics, mercy, and God's judgment.

Hitler saw himself as the "messiah," of a German god who said: "Let iron grow," and armed his Aryan chosen people with the "saber, sword, and spear." Hitler's god backed Germany in anything it did to create a world free of racial poisoning by Jews and other "subhuman" races. The image of Hitler given by the German press was that of perfection. His habits were pure: no drinking, smoking, or even eating meat. He was too devoted to Germany to need a woman's companionship (the public knew nothing of his girlfriend, Eva Braun). He never admitted to a mistake, and none of his "disciples" criticized him in public. He was the chosen one who would free Germany from its enemies: the foreigners, Communists, Jews, and others the Nazis claimed were "subhumans." He was too modest to claim perfection, but he let others do it for him.

At first, many Christians supported him because they feared the atheistic Communists. By 1937, however, many realized how dangerous he was.

CATHOLICS. When he came to power, Hitler signed the Concordat of 1933 with the Catholic church. He agreed to protect the church, its property, and cultural societies. In return, the church would stay out of German politics. It was not long before youth groups were broken up, monks were falsely accused of smuggling gold out of Germany, and priests were accused of immoral behavior. Pope Pius XI ordered that a letter, "With Burning Anxiety," be read from the pulpit of every German church. In it, he accused Hitler of breaking his agreement with the church.

The Archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Faulhaber, dared to call the Jews "God's chosen people" and warned Catholics against race prejudice. Nazi mobs attacked his home, but he would not back down.

PROTESTANTS. Hitler called Protestants "insignificant little people, submissive as dogs." When he appointed a Nazi to be bishop, ministers refused to accept his authority. Dr. Martin Niemöller, a World War I naval hero, was now minister of a large church outside Berlin. At first, he supported Hitler because he feared the Communists, but he refused to let Hitler rule his conscience. He became leader of the Confessional (traditional Lutheran) church, and about 6,000 ministers joined his movement. Within a short time, many were sent to concentration camps. Niemöller was not so easy to handle, but in 1937, he was sent to Dachau.

The GERMAN FAITH MOVEMENT was Hitler's distortion of Christianity. Its doctrines were: (1) Jesus was Aryan, not Jewish; (2) The Old Testament had no place in Germany; and (3) German land and blood were the sacred elements. Traditional Christian morality was thrown out by the Nazis. It was less important that a child have married parents than that it be Aryan. If Hitler had won the war, he intended to eliminate Christianity from Europe.



Pope Pius XI



Dr. Martin Niemöller

Race. A popular idea of the 1930s was eugenics; its main goal was to produce the genetically perfect child. This belief stated that if Race A is the best, mixing with Race B or C could only produce an inferior offspring. Almost every society believes it is better than others; we call this chauvinism (*sho-ve-nism*). At the time of the French Revolution, Count de Gobineau divided races into white, yellow, and black. According to him, whites were the best, and the best whites were "Aryans." He warned that too much mixing weakened the Aryan race. An English writer, Houston Chamberlain, went further, claiming that Nordics (the best of the Aryans) were by right, masters of the world. He said Jews were a disruptive force in history.

Nazis taught that Aryans were the super race and had superior intelligence and beauty. They had blond hair, blue eyes, and fair skin. The fact that there never was an Aryan race (Aryan was a language group, not a people) never bothered the Nazis. Within this non-existent Aryan race were the Nordic Teutons (German), who were considered the best, followed by Anglo-Saxons (English), and Celts (French).

Richard Wagner, the opera composer, added to the racial myth. He hated Jews: "The Jew speaks the language of the nation...but he always speaks as an alien." Wagner glorified Germany's pagan past, a time before the "subhumans" arrived, when German blood was pure. Hitler was a great fan of Wagner and attended a Wagner festival each year. He sat for hours dreaming of what Germany might be if it didn't have Jews within its borders.

Besides ridding Germany of "inferior" races, two other changes were needed to protect Aryan blood. One was to stop genetic "inferiors" from producing more of their kind. Those with mental and physical illness or disability were to be eliminated. A Nazi doctor said: "The solution of the problem of the mentally ill becomes easy if one eliminates these people." In time, programs were developed to shorten the lives of those who weakened the "master race."

The second change was to stress physical fitness so that boys might become strong soldiers and girls could produce healthy sons. Developing thinking skills was the least important job of education for boys and girls.

When war began, Himmler feared that too many Aryans would be killed. He started a program called *Lebensborn* (Fountain of Life) to encourage women to produce Aryan children. When World War II began, he sent squads into Poland to kidnap Polish children with Aryan qualities. In religion and race, the Nazis had no moral scruples.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

By creating a preference for a very narrow set of physical traits called the Aryan "race" and trying to eliminate all others, how were the Germans actually weakening their country? Make a list of gifts and talents that are present in people that have nothing to do with their physical traits.

CONSIDER THIS:

Why do you think Hitler did not put more stress on developing mental ability in the children of his "master race."

The Nazi Attack on German Jews Begins

The Nazis made no secret of their beliefs from the beginning. (1) Germany had lost World War I because Jews and Communists had undermined morale. (2) They were racists who believed "inferior" races threatened the Volk's blood line. (3) Jews were not German; they were only "guests." (4) The mentally or physically disabled must be prevented from producing more of their kind. (5) Traditional religious teachings about duty to God and brotherhood weakened the nation. (6) They were anxious to put their beliefs into law. No judge could help an accused "enemy of the State" escape.

DEFINING WHO WAS JEWISH. Who were the Jews? School children were taught they had noses shaped like the number "6." A reader of the Nazi newspaper, *Der Sturmer*, learned they were repulsive, fat men who tried to lure Aryan children into their cars. Hitler described them as rich bankers, traitors, and trade union leaders. By those definitions, all the Jews would have fit into a small prison. In fact, Jews dressed, looked, and acted like any other German. That similarity created a problem for the Nazis in deciding who was Jewish.

Separating Jews from Gentiles was confusing because many had married Gentiles or had converted to Christianity. How far back did a German have to trace his ancestry to prove he was Aryan? In the early days, Nazis were not sure how to solve these questions. They finally worked out a complicated formula in the Nuremberg Laws of 1935. *Jews and Mischlinges* (term meaning "mongrels" or "mixed bloods") were those who had practiced Judaism, had Jewish grandparents, or were married to Jews. There were so many sub-categories that few understood exactly where the law placed them.

RESTRICTIONS BEGIN. Even before there was a definition, Hitler ordered that all non-Aryan government officials be retired. "Non-Aryan" was then defined as anyone with a parent or grandparent who had practiced Judaism. All newspaper workers who were Jewish were fired; then Goebbels expelled Jews from the guilds of musicians, writers, and artists. Without guild membership, a person could not perform or display his or her works. Businesses were pressured to fire Jewish executives. Companies and banks owned by Jews were hit by SA-sponsored boycotts. In case the customer did not know that the store where he shopped was Jewish-owned, SA or SS "defensive guards" stood outside to inform them. At first, these boycotts did not work because the public needed the services the store or professional man supplied.

To separate Jews from Aryan school children, a law was issued in April 1933, "The Law Against Overcrowding of German Schools." At first, it only limited the number of Jews in universities, but by 1938, Jewish children were not permitted to attend schools. By then, Jews were no longer allowed to use swimming pools. A Jew was never certain what new restriction was going to be imposed on him or her.

The Nuremberg Laws of September 1935 said Jews were not German citizens (they were "subjects"). Jews could not marry Aryans and could not employ Aryan women under 35 years old. The Reich Citizenship Law was passed in November 1935. It took away the right of Jews to vote or hold public office.



In Vienna, Austria, after the *Anschluss* in 1938, Jews were publicly humiliated as they were forced to scrub the streets.

After that, pressure let up on Jews. The 1936 Olympics were to be held in Berlin, and Hitler did not want the foreign press writing vicious truths about his Jewish policy. During the games, the only indication of Nazi hatred for "subhumans" was Hitler's snubbing of black athletes. After the foreign guests were gone, gangs of young bullies returned to beating up helpless Jews. The Jews became careful about where they went, and when.

AUSTRIA. Hitler had long spoken of *Lebensraum* (living room) for the new Germany, and Austria was an obvious place to expand. He sent Nazis into Austria to create enthusiasm for the union (*Anschluss*) of the two countries. A vote was taken in Austria, and 90 percent favored uniting with Germany. For Austria's large Jewish population, this was tragic. Anti-Semitism ran strong in Austria, and to show their support for Hitler, Austrians outdid the Germans in persecuting Jews. Jews were dragged from their homes and shops and forced to clean latrines, sidewalks, and graffiti on the walls of buildings. While the Jews worked, their homes were looted. A concentration camp was established at Mauthausen, and Austrian Jewish prisoners were sent there to work in the quarry. Many Jews were willing to give up everything they owned for the privilege of leaving Austria.

KRISTALLNACHT. In 1938, a German-born Jew of Polish-Russian ancestry in Paris was outraged by news that his family was being deported to Poland. Seeking revenge, he killed Ernst vom Rath, a minor official at the German embassy in Paris. Secretly delighted, Goebbels pretended to be outraged and unleashed his thugs to attack Jews.

November 9, 1938, became known as *Kristallnacht* (Night of the Broken Glass). Jewish property was destroyed or damaged all over Germany, and over 90 Jews were killed. Police were ordered not to interfere as mobs smashed, looted, and burned stores, synagogues, and homes. The looters, though dressed as civilians, wore the heavy boots of uniformed Nazi party members. The *New York Times* estimated total damage at \$400 million. Because this was the result of German "righteous indignation," the Jews had to pay one billion marks (about \$400 million) as punishment for Rath's murder. Insurance claims by Jews were seized by the government. In January 1939, all Jewish shops were to be closed.



Damage to Jewish businesses after *Kristallnacht* in Berlin.

In 1933, there were about 700,000 Jews in Germany and Austria. In 1938 and 1939, 403,000 left. Few of those left behind wanted to stay, but it was very difficult to find a country willing to take them. In 1940, the U.S. embassy in Berlin had 248,000 immigration applications on file; the U.S. quota allowed only 27,000 Germans a year into the country.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Your classroom has become a meeting place for Jews. It is November 8, 1938, and those present are discussing whether to leave Germany or stay. Appoint a student to argue for going and another to argue for staying.

CONSIDER THIS:

One thing the Nazis tried to do was make Jews seem less than human. How did the term "Mischlinge" do that?

American Women in the War

During World War II, every woman had a relative or friend in the armed services. The women wanted to help, and eventually, they were doing almost everything except combat duty for their nation. Often ignored or unfairly criticized, they worked long hours, sometimes in dangerous industrial and military jobs.

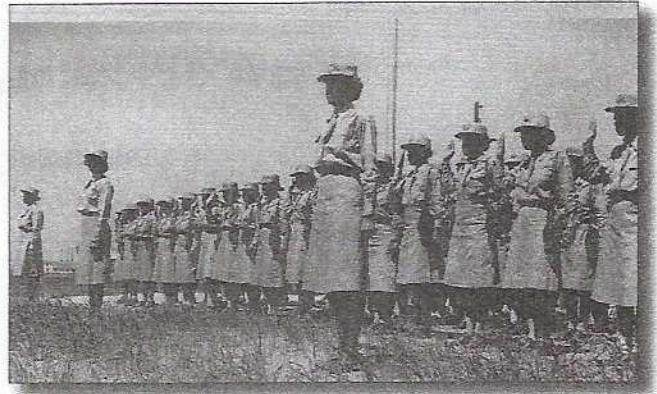
It was not easy to persuade women to take industrial jobs. Few women had ever worked in a factory, but when "Rosie the Riveter," symbol of this new breed of woman, flexed her muscles and appealed to their patriotism, they went to the nearby aircraft assembly plant or shipyard and applied. Women working in World War II defense plants faced many problems. (1) For women who were used to wearing dresses, they felt uncomfortable at first in the jeans and coveralls required at work. (2) Housework was very time consuming. There were few appliances or fast food chains to make things easier. After hours at work, washing and ironing awaited them at home. (3) The gas shortage made it difficult to get to work. Emily Post said it was permissible for a lady to hitchhike, but she should use her work badge and not her thumb to signal for a ride. (4) If she had children, a babysitter was needed. Sometimes grandma was available, but often grandma was working too. (5) Male supervisors and co-workers gave them a hard time.

At aircraft assembly plants, women were not accepted at first, but after some experimental hirings, plant managers said they could run the factories with somewhere between 50 and 85 percent women. Most plants paid them the usual 60¢ an hour starting wage. By the end of the war, four million women were employed at defense plants. While they did not expect to keep the jobs permanently, it was a good learning experience, and it gave many women a feeling of independence they had never had before.

There were also many volunteer jobs women could do. The American Women's Voluntary Services (AWVS) organized courses in auto repair and switchboard operations. They also started salvage drives and prepared surgical dressings. The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) trained women as air raid wardens. The American Red Cross (ARC) provided many kinds of services to men in uniform. The United Services Organization (USO) provided doughnuts and coffee at railroad stations for troop trains and set up dances and entertainment for men in nearby military bases.

All the military services had women in uniform. The army version was the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC or WAC after the Auxiliary was dropped). By 1943, there were 150,000 WACs, and in 1945, 15,500 were serving overseas. Commanded by Major Oveta Culp Hobby, WAC jobs included clerical work, processing blood tests, parachute rigging, and glider instruction. The navy's WAVES were commanded by Captain Mildred McAfee. Their assignments were often the same as WACs, but they also became meteorologists and repaired airplanes. Lieutenant Colonel Ruth Streeter commanded the Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR). Their work included painting airplanes, electrical work, auto repair, and telegraph operator. Coast Guard women were called SPARS.

Great Britain had women pilots, but in the United States, many army officers thought women were "too high strung" to be pilots. Soon practical needs overcame prejudice. General Henry (Hap) Arnold, who headed the army air force, gave approval in 1942 for women to ferry planes from aircraft factories to bases and from one base to another. Some of the women were already licensed pilots, but others had to be trained. Called the WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots), they eventually flew 77 types of planes, including B-24s and B-25s.



WACs being sworn into the army, August 1943

America's Minorities in the War

Race relations in the United States were not good when the war began. There was much prejudice and discrimination against people of color, and some in these groups wondered why they should fight the "white man's war." However, the Nazi racial views and the Japanese treatment of conquered nations made it clear to most minority groups that this was their war, too.

AFRICAN AMERICANS had lived mostly in the South or in urban ghettos in the North, but job opportunities and military service opened up new locations for them. When the war began, few defense plants hired African Americans. In 1942, A. Philip Randolph, an African-American union leader, pressured President Roosevelt into signing Executive Order 8802. It required that there be no discrimination in employment of defense workers "because of race, creed, color, or national origin." The Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC) was to investigate violations of this order.

In the army, African Americans served in segregated units, usually commanded by white officers. In 1942, ROTC training programs began at black colleges to train officers, and a flying school for African-American aviators was started at Tuskegee, Alabama. By the end of the war, over 80 African-American pilots had won the Distinguished Flying Cross. About 4,000 African-American women were in the WACs. African Americans in the army were often in labor battalions, but some became engaged in heavy fighting. The 761st Tank Battalion was in the thick of the Battle of the Bulge, and the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion fought in many battles. The Ninety-ninth Air Squadron shot down eight German planes in one day. The navy began training African Americans for regular sea duty in 1942. The Marines were slow to admit African Americans, but after a trial period, the Corps commander pronounced that: "They are Marines, period."

MEXICANS who came across the border to take farm labor jobs were often badly treated, and the FEPC began looking into discrimination. Relations between Mexicans and whites were especially tense in California where those of Mexican ancestry were barred from certain public places. Still, many Mexican-Americans served their nation well during the war.

In the days following Pearl Harbor, over 2,000 **JAPANESE** and **JAPANESE AMERICANS** were rounded up, many on ridiculous charges. In January 1942, security zones were established on the West Coast from which enemy aliens were to be removed. It made no difference whether those of Japanese descent were *Issei* (those born in Japan), *Nisei* (first generation native-born Americans), or *Sansei* (second generation native-born Americans). In February 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized relocation camps. All Japanese and Japanese Americans (some 120,000) had to leave their property and were sent to internment camps in seven western states. They were first housed in assembly centers, which were often fairgrounds or race tracks where they were forced to live in barns. Then barracks were built for them in barren and isolated locations. One camp in Utah was on a salt flat where the temperature ranged from 130°F to -30°F.

Some of the relocated joined the army and fought valiantly in the Italian campaign. A few protested in court against this violation of their rights. The U.S. Supreme Court acknowledged that the relocation was a "hardship" but that national security was more important than the hardships suffered. The last camp was not closed until 1946.

In contrast, Italians and Germans who were living in the United States but were not citizens were told they could not travel without permission or own shortwave radios, maps, or guns. These restrictions were lifted in 1942. Only 15,000 Italians and Germans were ever interned.



Manzanar Relocation Center in California, one of many camps where those of Japanese descent in America were forced to live during World War II

A) Victory in EuropeBattle of the Atlantic

With the U.S. entry into the war, Germany stepped up its sub warfare. Attacking Allied supply ships leaving in convoy from the U.S., the Germans slowed down the efforts to help England. During the first 6 months of 1942, almost 400 ships were sunk in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. But U.S. production of ships, as well as advances in radar and sonar technology, helped the U.S. to lessen the subs impact on the war.

Air War over Germany

U.S. and British bombers bombed German bases on the coast. But as the bombings became more successful and the development of long range bombers increased, the Allies went deeper into Nazi territory. Most targets were aircraft and missile factories, and oil depots. They tried to avoid civilian centers.

Sicily and Italy

In July 1943, British, Canadian, and U.S. troops storm and overtake Sicily. By September 3, 1943, the Italian people overthrew Mussolini and surrendered. The Germans quickly invaded Italy. Harsh fighting and poor weather dominated the campaign. By June 4, 1944, Allied troops, under General George S. Patton, took over Rome. Patton was a brash, daring General who was a master of tank warfare.

D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy

On June 6, 1944, the Allies launched the largest single day invasion in the history of mankind. The Allied attack was led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. "Ike" was a brilliant and diplomatic general. His men loved and respected him tremendously. He would later become President of the U.S. for most of the 1950's.

Within a week, over 326,000 men landed in France. The fighting was incredibly harsh. German fortifications and lousy weather slowed the Allied advance. It took the Allies almost a month to break out and secure the beachhead. By the end of June, U.S. troops were heading to Paris, while the British and Canadians headed into Belgium. Paris was under Allied control by late August 1944.

Russian Advances

In June 1944, Soviet forces swept through the Ukraine into Poland. They forced Romania's surrender and aided Yugoslavian rebels. Germany was losing ground on all sides, and was about to be invaded in December 1944, when the Allies seemed to be stalled due to poor weather and severe fighting.

The Battle of the Bulge

The Germans took advantages of the stalled Allied advance and quickly struck into Belgium and Luxembourg. They penetrated inward for 50 miles creating a "bulge" in

the Allied line. With the help of good weather and Allied air support, General George Patton swept into Belgium and drove the Germans back. The Allied forces finally entered Germany on March 7, 1945. The Russians were already nearing Berlin. The Allies did not trust the Soviets, feeling they would try to take on any conquered land for themselves. By May 1945, the Russians invaded Berlin. Adolf Hitler immediately committed suicide to avoid capture.

B) Victory in the Pacific

Japan's Defense System

Japan had a defense line stretching thousands of miles out into the ocean, and within this area were hundreds of heavily fortified islands. Every island was literally an unsinkable aircraft carrier. To capture them all would cause enormous bloodshed and might take years. The Allies realized that they did not need to recapture every island. They decided to recapture the main island in each chain and use it to isolate the other islands. The Japanese soldiers on those islands would simply be left stranded on those islands. The islands would become their prisons.

The Island Hopping Campaign

General Douglas MacArthur was the top Allied General in the Pacific theater. His troops would "leap frog" from chain to chain to chain towards Japan. General MacArthur spent 1943 battling his way along the northern coast of New Guinea. His men jumped from the Solomon Islands to the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. The fierce battle at Tarawa cost the lives of a thousand marines.

MacArthur then launched an attack on the Marianas Islands. These islands were within bombing distance of Japan itself. They fought a series of brutal battles at Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. The Japanese understood the importance of the Marianas and threw its entire carrier force against the landing. On June 19, 1944, American carriers met the Japanese squadron off the coast of Saipan. The Battle of the Philippine Sea was the greatest naval air battle of the war. American pilots won a major victory that day. They called it "the Marianas Turkey Shoot". By the end of the day, Japan had lost 405 airplanes, 3 carriers, and dozens of lesser ships.

The Return to Bataan

MacArthur then decided to dramatically turn his attack onto the Philippines. MacArthur had spent most of his childhood and career in the Philippines. He had a great love for the Filipino people. Earlier in the war, MacArthur had to evacuate to avoid being captured by the Japanese. He vowed to the Filipino people that "I shall return". In October 1944, MacArthur's men recaptured the main islands of Leyte and Luzon. As he landed at Leyte, MacArthur proudly proclaimed, "People of the Philippines, I have returned."

The Japanese Navy then launched its final attack. The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest sea fight in history. With most of their carriers gone, the Japanese launched every one of their battleships into the fight. U.S. Admiral Chester Nimitz launched every American ship available into the battle. This battle was actually 3 separate actions around

the Philippines. The Americans won all 3 engagements. When it was over, the Japanese Navy was finished.

Iwo Jima and Okinawa

The next islands to be attacked were Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The capture of these islands would allow U.S. bombers to hit all of the major Japanese cities without needing to refuel. The Japanese realized that they had to keep these islands or they were finished. The Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa would be the fiercest battles of the entire war.

In February 1945, U.S. marines hit the beaches of Iwo Jima. The Japanese defended the island fanatically and had to be rooted out of every nook and cranny. The Japanese fought to the last man. Eventually, the U.S. captured Iwo Jima.

On April 1, 1945, the U.S. launched its attack on Okinawa. The Japanese air force realized that they had no chance of winning. They resolved to make the battle a costly one for the Americans. Suicide pilots, called the Kamikaze (Divine Wind), filled their planes with fuel and dynamite and tried to crash them into American ships. The planes were literally flying bombs, and they wreaked havoc. The Kamikaze sank 27 American ships, including 4 carriers, and damaged 61 others so badly that they never returned to action. But when it was over, the Japanese air force had been destroyed.

The Death of Franklin Roosevelt

The strain of the war had been incredible. Franklin Roosevelt had been planning for what a post-war Europe would look like. He met several times with the leaders of England and the Soviet Union at Tehran and Yalta. He saw the imminent defeat of Nazi Germany. He went to Warm Springs, Georgia to rest for a few days in preparation for the final push of the war. Roosevelt suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and died. Americans were stunned. The man who had led them through the worst economic and military crises in World history had died in April 1945.

Roosevelt's 3rd Vice President, Harry S. Truman of Missouri, became the 33rd President of the United States. Truman was a plain spoken common man from the Plains. He would lead the U.S. into the final stages of the war and beyond.

The Atomic Bomb

Unknown to Vice President Truman was the development of the World's first nuclear bombs. "The Manhattan Project" was so top secret that even the Vice President did not know about it! Using the theories of Albert Einstein, the U.S. Army began developing a "super bomb". The program was lead by General Leslie Groves (a guy) and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer. Scientists around the country worked on different parts of the project without knowing the full plan. Only Groves and Oppenheimer knew the entire plan.

The first atomic bomb was exploded in the desert at Alamogordo, New Mexico. President Truman was shown film footage of the bomb while he attended the Potsdam Conference with the Allies. He decided to announce the existence of the bomb and demanded that the Japanese surrender.

The U.S. had made 3 atomic bombs. They decided to drop the bombs on the Japanese industrial cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Truman believed that an all out

invasion of Japan would be a bloodbath, like the attacks on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He believed that countless American lives would be saved by dropping the Atomic Bombs, rather than invading Japan.

On August 6, 1945, a single B-29 bomber named the "Enola Gay" dropped the atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. The bomb was called "Fat Man". The plane flew over the city unnoticed. Not a single air raid siren sounded. Then there was a blaze of light many times brighter than the Sun, a ball of fire, and a mushroom-shaped cloud. Within moments, the entire center of the city had been vaporized into dust. 100,000 people died in an instant. Hundreds of thousands more were injured.

The U.S. demanded Japan's surrender- but they refused. They did not think we had another atomic bomb- they were wrong. On August 8, 1945, a second bomb (named "Little Boy") was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Again, 100,000 people were killed in an instant. On August 10th, Japan sued for peace. A ceasefire was arranged on August 15th. General Douglas MacArthur, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, sailed into Tokyo Bay and accepted Japan's formal and unconditional surrender on September 2, 1945. World War 2 was over.

Italy and Italy

In July 1943, British, Canadian, and U.S. troops stormed and overtook Sicily. By September 3, 1943, the Italian people overthrew Mussolini and surrendered. The Germans quickly invaded Italy. Heavy fighting and poor weather delayed the campaign. By June 4, 1944, Allied troops, under General George S. Patton, took over Rome. Patton was a hero, during General who was a master of tank warfare.

D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy

On June 6, 1944, the Allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in history of mainland Europe. The Allied attack was led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. "Ike" was a brilliant and diplomatic general. His name was not respected him tremendously. He would later become President of the U.S. for most of the 1950's.

Within a week, over 1.5 million men landed in France. The fighting was incredibly harsh. Due to the tides and the weather, the Allied advance was slow. The Allies showed a worthy break out and secured the beachhead. By the end of June, U.S. troops were heading to Paris, while the British and Canadians headed into Belgium. Paris was under Allied control by late August 1944.

German Advances

In June 1944, Soviet troops moved through the Ukraine into Poland. They forced Germany's surrender and ended the war in Europe. Germany was being ground on all sides, and was about to be invaded in December 1944, when the Allies were not as far as they had been due to poor weather and heavy fighting.

The Battle of the Bulge

The Germans took advantage of the Allied Allied advance and launched a surprise attack. They penetrated through the 50 miles of the Allied line.

16

Timeline of World War II Events

Pre-war events—Europe

Mussolini becomes Italian premier

1922

1931

Hitler becomes German chancellor

1933

Italy attacks Ethiopia

1935

Germans invade Rhineland

1936

1937

Germany annexes Austria
Sudeten Crisis

1938

Germany occupies Czechoslovakia
Non-Aggression Pact (Germany and USSR)
Germany attacks Poland (World War II begins)

1939

World War II events—Europe

Nov. USSR invades Finland

1939

Apr. Germany invades Denmark, Norway
May Germany invades Belgium,
Luxembourg, and Netherlands

1940

June France surrenders
Sept. Germany, Italy, Japan join as Axis
Oct. Italian troops invade Greece
Nov. Hungary and Romania join Axis

1941

Mar. Bulgaria joins Axis
Apr. Germany invades Greece and
Yugoslavia
Sept. U.S. troops land in Iceland
Dec. United States at war with Germany
and Italy

1941

Pre-war events—Asia

Manchuria invaded by Japan

Japan attacks near Beijing

Japan controls most of China's coast
Chongqing becomes China's capital

World War II events—Asia

Sept. Japan invades French Indochina

Dec. Pearl Harbor attacked by Japan;
U.S. declares war on Japan
Dec. Guam and Wake Island surrender
to Japan

Timeline of World War II Events (cont.)

World War II events—Europe (cont.)

World War II events—Asia (cont.)

1942			
		Jan.	Manila falls to Japan
		Jan.	Japan invades Dutch East Indies
		Feb.	Singapore falls to Japan
		Apr.	Bataan surrenders to Japan
		Apr.	Doolittle air raid on Tokyo
		May	Battle of Coral Sea
		May	Corregidor surrenders to Japan
		June	Battle of Midway
June	Germany invades the Soviet Union	Aug.	U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal
July	Germans capture Tobruk, N. Africa		
Sept.	German troops enter Stalingrad		
Oct.	British attack at El Alamein		
Nov.	Allies land in North Africa		
Nov.	British capture Tobruk		
Nov.	Soviet offensive at Stalingrad		
1943			
Feb.	Germans surrender at Stalingrad	May	Battle of Bismarck Sea
Mar.	Afrika Korps surrenders to Allies	Nov.	U.S. invasions of Bougainville and Tarawa
July	Allies invade Sicily		
Nov.	Soviets recapture Kiev		
Nov.	Cairo Conference		
1944			
Jan.	Siege of Leningrad broken	Jan.	United States attacks Kwajalein
June	Allied landing at Normandy (D-Day)	June	United States invades Saipan
June	V-1 attacks on London.	June	B-29s attack Tokyo
		July	United States invades Guam
Aug.	Allied troops land in southern France	Oct.	United States invades Leyte, Battle of Leyte Gulf
Dec.	Battle of Bulge begins and is stopped		
1945			
Jan.	Soviets reach Warsaw	Jan.	Allies invade Luzon
Apr.	Soviets in Vienna and Berlin suburbs	Feb.	United States invades Iwo Jima
May	Hitler commits suicide; Berlin surrenders	Apr.	United States invades Okinawa
May	VE-Day ends war with Germany		
July	Potsdam Conference	Aug.	United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
		Aug.	Japan agrees to surrender
		Aug.	VJ-Day ends war with Japan