America and World War II
1941–1945

SECTION 1 Mobilizing for War
SECTION 2 The Early Battles
SECTION 3 Life on the Home Front
SECTION 4 Pushing Back the Axis
SECTION 5 The War Ends

1941
- United States enters World War II
- Roosevelt bans discrimination in defense industries

1942
- Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps established
- Japanese American relocation ordered

1942
- Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933–1945

1943
- Detroit race riots
- Zoot-suit riots in Los Angeles

1943
- Germans defeated at Stalingrad
- Allied forces land in Italy

Allied troops land in Normandy on D-Day, 1944.
MAKING CONNECTIONS

What Kinds of Sacrifices Does War Require?

During World War II, millions of Americans enlisted in the armed forces, risking their lives in the struggle. On the home front, Americans also helped the war effort by giving up goods needed by the military and buying war bonds.

• Why do you think so many Americans volunteered to fight in World War II?
• Should civilians have to make sacrifices in wartime?

Summarizing American Life During World War II

Make a Pocket Book Foldable to summarize various aspects of daily life that World War II affected. Label the two pockets as Economic and Social. Include general effects as well as specific programs under each pocket.

1945
• Franklin Roosevelt dies in office; Harry S. Truman becomes president

1944
• Supreme Court rules in *Korematsu v. United States* that Japanese American relocation is constitutional

1944
• Eisenhower leads D-Day invasion
• MacArthur’s forces land in the Philippines

1945
• U.S. Marines capture Iwo Jima
• United States drops atomic bomb on Japan

History ONLINE Chapter Overview

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After World War I, America returned to isolationism. When the nation entered World War II in 1941, its armed forces ranked nineteenth in might, behind the tiny European nation of Belgium. Three years later, the United States was producing 40 percent of the world’s arms.

Converting the Economy

The United States quickly mobilized the economy to fight the war.

HISTORY AND YOU Have you ever changed the way you performed a task in order to do it faster or more efficiently? What steps did you take to speed things up? Read on to learn how the United States changed the way factories produced goods during World War II.

Shortly after 1:30 P.M. on December 7, 1941, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox phoned President Roosevelt at the White House. “Mr. President,” Knox said, “it looks like the Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor.” A few minutes later, Admiral Harold Stark, chief of naval operations, phoned and confirmed the attack.

Although President Roosevelt remained calm when he heard the news, he later expressed his concerns to his wife Eleanor: “I never wanted to have to fight this war on two fronts. We haven’t got the Navy to fight in both the Atlantic and Pacific. . . . We will have to build up the Navy and the Air Force and that will mean we will have to take a good many defeats before we can have a victory.”

Although the difficulties of fighting a global war troubled the president, British prime minister Winston Churchill was not worried. Churchill knew that victory in modern war depended on a nation’s industrial power. He compared the American economy to a gigantic boiler: “Once the fire is lighted under it there is no limit to the power it can generate.”

Churchill was right. The industrial output of the United States during the war astounded the rest of the world. American workers were twice as productive as German workers and five times more productive than Japanese workers. In 1943 the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin toasted “American production, without which this war would have been lost.” American war production turned the tide in favor of the Allies. In less than four years, the United States and its allies achieved what no other group of nations had ever done—they fought and won a two-front war against two powerful military empires, forcing each to surrender.
The United States rapidly increased its war production after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The expansion was possible in part because the government had already begun mobilizing the economy before the country entered the war. When the German blitzkrieg swept into France in May 1940, President Roosevelt declared a national emergency and announced a plan to build 50,000 warplanes a year. Two months later he asked Congress for $4 billion to build a “Two-Ocean” Navy.

Shocked by the success of the German attack, many Americans were willing to build up the country’s defenses. By October 1940, Congress had increased the defense budget to more than $17 billion. The Army-Navy Munitions Board—the military agency in charge of buying equipment—began signing contracts with American companies for new aircraft, ships, and equipment.

Roosevelt believed that government and business had to work together to prepare for war. He created the National Defense Advisory Committee to help mobilize the economy and asked several business leaders to serve on the committee. The president and his advisers believed that giving industry an incentive to move quickly was the best way to rapidly mobilize the economy. As Henry Stimson, the new secretary of war, wrote in his diary: “If you are going to try and go to war, or to prepare for war, in a capitalist country, you have got to let business make money out of the process or business won’t work.”
Normally when the government needed military equipment, it would ask companies to bid for the contract, but that system was too slow in wartime. Instead of asking for bids, the government signed cost-plus contracts. The government agreed to pay a company whatever it cost to make a product plus a guaranteed percentage of the costs as profit.

Under the cost-plus system, the more a company produced and the faster it did the work, the more money it would make. The system was not cheap, but it did get war materials produced quickly and in quantity.

Cost-plus convinced many companies to convert to war production. Other firms, however, could not afford to reequip their factories to make military goods. To convince more companies to convert, Congress gave new authority to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC). That government agency, set up during the Depression, could make loans to companies wanting to convert their factories to war production.

Analyzing What government policies helped American industry to produce large quantities of war materials?

By the fall of 1941, much had already been done to prepare the economy for war, but it was still only partially mobilized. Although many companies were producing military equipment, most still preferred to make consumer goods. The Great Depression was ending, demand was up, and sales were rising. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, however, changed everything. A flood of orders by the government for war materials began, and by the summer of 1942, almost all major industries and some 200,000 companies had converted to war production. Together they made the nation’s wartime “miracle” possible.

PRIMARY SOURCE

I worked the graveyard shift 12:00–8:00 A.M. in the shipyard. I took classes on how to weld. I had leather gloves, leather pants, big hood, goggles and a leather jacket. They put me forty feet down in the bottom of the ship to be a tacker. I filled the long seams of the cracks in the ship corners full of hot lead and then brushed them good and you could see how pretty it was. The welders would come along and weld it so it would take the strong waves and deep water and heavy weight.”

—Katie Grant, World War II riveter at Kaiser Richmond Shipyard, California

DBQ Document-Based Questions

1. Interpreting Why would Ms. Grant have had to wear leather clothing?

2. Summarizing What was Ms. Grant’s job?
Tanks Replace Cars

The automobile industry was uniquely suited to the mass production of military equipment. Automobile factories began producing trucks, jeeps, and tanks. Mass production was critical in modern warfare, because the country that could move troops and supplies most quickly usually won the battle. As General George C. Marshall, chief of staff for the United States Army, observed:

**Primary Source**

“The greatest advantage the United States enjoyed on the ground in the fighting was . . . the jeep and the two-and-a-half ton truck. These are the instruments that moved and supplied United States troops in battle, while the German army . . . depended on animal transport . . . The United States, profiting from the mass production achievements of its automotive industry . . . had mobility that completely outclassed the enemy.”

—quoted in *Miracle of World War II*

Automobile factories did not just produce vehicles. They also built artillery, rifles, mines, helmets, pontoon bridges, and dozens of other pieces of military equipment. Henry Ford created an assembly line for the enormous B-24 bomber known as the “Liberator” at Willow Run Airport near Detroit. By the end of the war, the factory had built more than 8,600 aircraft. Overall, the auto industry produced nearly one-third of all military equipment manufactured during the war.

Building the Liberty Ships

Ford’s remarkable achievement in aircraft production was more than matched by Henry Kaiser’s shipyards. Henry Kaiser started in the construction industry, but when World War II began, Kaiser shifted from the construction industry to shipbuilding.

German submarines were sinking American cargo ships at a terrifying rate. The United States had to find a way to build cargo ships as quickly as possible. Kaiser believed that speed was more important than quality and that cost was less important than results. He spent whatever it took to get the job done quickly. To save time, he applied techniques from the construction industry to shipbuilding. Instead of building an entire ship in one place from the keel up, parts were prefabricated and brought to the shipyard for assembly.

Kaiser’s shipyards built many different kinds of ships, but they were best known for Liberty ships. The Liberty ship was the basic cargo ship used during the war. Liberty ships were welded instead of riveted. Although welded ships tended to crack, Vice Admiral Emory Land, head of the U.S. Maritime Commission, preferred the Liberty ships:

**Primary Source**

“Every time a riveted ship goes into dock you have a lot of repairs to do. You do not have them in welded ships. . . . On combat damage, comparing the welded Liberty ships and others, everything is in favor of the Liberty. . . . riveted ships are apt to go to the bottom if they are bombed or mined or torpedoed. Never mind about the fractures or the cracks—the Liberty ships get into port.”

—from *Miracle of World War II*

When the war began, it took 244 days to build the first Liberty ship. After Kaiser shipyards applied their mass production techniques, average production time dropped to 41 days. Kaiser’s shipyards built 30 percent of all American ships constructed during the war, including nearly 3,000 Liberty ships.

The War Production Board

As American companies converted to war production, many business leaders became frustrated with the mobilization process. Government agencies argued constantly about supplies and contracts and whose orders had the highest priority.

After Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt tried to improve the system by creating the **War Production Board** (WPB). He gave the WPB the authority to set priorities and production goals and to control the distribution of raw materials and supplies. Almost immediately, the WPB clashed with the military. Military agencies continued to sign contracts without consulting with the WPB. Finally, in 1943, Roosevelt established the **Office of War Mobilization** (OWM) to settle arguments among the different agencies.

**Reading Check**

Explaining What military need led to the production of Liberty ships?
Building an Army

**MAIN Idea** African Americans and women slowly became part of the United States armed forces.

**HISTORY AND YOU** Do you think the United States should have a military draft? Read to learn about the first peacetime draft in American history.

Converting factories to war production was only part of the mobilization process. To fight and win the war, the United States also needed to build up its armed forces.

Creating an Army

Within days of Germany’s attack on Poland in 1939, President Roosevelt expanded the army to 227,000 soldiers. Before the spring of 1940, college students, unions, isolationists, and most members of Congress had opposed a peacetime draft. Opinions changed after France surrendered to Germany in June 1940. Two members of Congress introduced the Selective Service and Training Act, a plan for the first peacetime draft in American history. In September, Congress approved the draft by a wide margin.

You’re in the Army Now

More than 60,000 men enlisted in the month after the attack on Pearl Harbor. At first, the flood of recruits overwhelmed the army’s training facilities. Many recruits had to live in tents rather than barracks. The army also experienced equipment shortages. Troops carried sticks representing guns, threw stones simulating grenades, and practiced maneuvers with trucks labeled “TANK.”

New recruits were initially sent to a reception center, where they were given physical exams and injections against smallpox and typhoid. The draftees were then issued uniforms, boots, and whatever equipment was available. The clothing bore the label “G.I.,” meaning “Government Issue,” which is why American soldiers were called GIs.

After taking aptitude tests, recruits went to basic training for eight weeks. They learned

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**Primary Source**

Creating an American Army

For many Americans, entering the army changed their perspective, as historian Carl Degler recalls:

“Entrance into the Army in August, 1942, widened my horizons literally as well as experientially: for the first time I travelled beyond a 200 mile radius from Newark. I marvelled at the flatness of the prairie in Illinois . . . . Stops at posts in Miami Beach, Florida, and Richmond, Virginia, were my introduction to the American South.”

—from *The History Teacher*, vol. 23, 1990
Basic training helped to break down barriers between soldiers. Recruits came from all over the country, and training together created a “special sense of kinship,” as one soldier noted. “The reason you storm the beaches is not patriotism or bravery. It’s that sense of not wanting to fail your buddies.”

**A Segregated Army**

Although basic training promoted unity, most recruits did not encounter Americans from every part of society. At the start of the war, the U.S. military was segregated. White recruits did not train alongside African Americans. African Americans had separate barracks, latrines, mess halls, and recreational facilities. Once trained, African Americans were organized into their own military units, but white officers generally commanded them. Most military leaders also wanted to keep African American soldiers out of combat and assigned them to construction and supply units.

Some African Americans did not want to support the war. As one student at a black college noted: “The Army Jim Crows us. . . . Employers and labor unions shut us out. Lynchings continue. We are disenfranchised . . . and spat upon. What more could Hitler do to us than that?” Despite the bitterness, most African Americans agreed with African American writer Saunders Redding that they should support their country:

**Primary Source**

“There are many things about this war I do not like . . . yet I believe in the war. . . . We know that whatever the mad logic of [Hitler’s] New Order there is no hope for us under it. The ethnic theories of the Hitler ‘master folk’ admit of no chance of freedom. . . . This is a war to keep [people] free. The struggle to broaden and lengthen the road of freedom—our own private and important war to enlarge freedom here in America—will come later. . . . I believe in this war because I believe in America. I believe in what America professes to stand for. . . .”

—quoted in *America at War*

A Segregated Army

Although the U.S. armed forces were segregated, discrimination did not prevent minority groups from performing with courage. Two of the best-known examples are the Tuskegee Airmen (right), comprised of African American volunteers, and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (below), made up of Japanese American volunteers. The 450 Tuskegee Airmen fought in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team became the most decorated unit in U.S. history.

**Analyzing VISUALS**

1. **Identifying** In what year did the army gain the most personnel? Why do you think that is the case?
2. **Evaluating** What do the expressions on the faces of the Tuskegee Airmen convey?
Pushing for “Double V” Many African American leaders combined patriotism with protest. In 1941 the National Urban League asked its members to encourage African Americans to join the war effort. It also asked them to make plans for building a better society in the United States after the war. The Pittsburgh Courier, a leading African American newspaper, launched the “Double V” campaign. The campaign urged African Americans to support the war to achieve a double victory—over both Hitler’s racism abroad and the racism at home.

African Americans in Combat Under pressure from African American leaders, President Roosevelt ordered the army, air force, navy, and marines to recruit African Americans, and he told the army to put African Americans into combat. He also promoted Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., the highest-ranking African American officer, to the rank of brigadier general.

In early 1941 the air force created its first African American unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The pilots trained in Tuskegee, Alabama, and became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. In April 1943, after General Davis urged the military to put African Americans into combat as soon as possible, the squadron was sent to the Mediterranean. Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., General Davis’s son, commanded the squadron and helped win the battle of Anzio in Italy.

In late 1943 Colonel Davis took command of three new squadrons that had trained at Tuskegee. Known as the 332nd Fighter Group, these squadrons were ordered to protect American bombers as they flew to their targets. The 332nd Fighter Group flew 200 such missions and did not lose a single member to enemy aircraft.

African Americans also performed well in the army. The all-African American 761st Tank Battalion was commended for its service during the Battle of the Bulge. Although the...
military did not end all segregation during the war, it did integrate military bases in 1943 and steadily expanded the role of African Americans within the armed forces. These successes paved the way for President Truman’s decision to fully integrate the military in 1948.

**Other Minorities in the Military** Japanese Americans were not allowed to serve in the military at first. As the war progressed, however, second-generation Japanese Americans served in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Almost half had been in internment camps in the American Southwest. Together these units became the most decorated in the history of the United States military. Many Mexican Americans had joined the National Guard during the 1930s and served on the front lines. Most minorities were allowed only in noncombat positions, such as kitchen workers. Native Americans, who were regarded as fierce warriors, were an exception to that policy. One-third of all healthy Native American men aged 18–50 served during the war.

**Women Join the Armed Forces**

Women joined the armed forces, as they had done during World War I. The army enlisted women for the first time, although they were barred from combat. Many jobs in the army were administrative and clerical. Assigning women to these jobs made more men available for combat.

Congress first allowed women in the military in May 1942, when it established the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and appointed Oveta Culp Hobby, an official with the War Department, to serve as its first director. Although pleased about the establishment of the WAAC, many women were unhappy that it was an auxiliary corps and not part of the regular army. A little over a year later, the army replaced the WAAC with the **Women’s Army Corps** (WAC). Director Hobby was assigned the rank of colonel. “You have a debt and a date,” Hobby explained to those training to be the nation’s first women officers. “A debt to democracy, a date with destiny.”

As early as 1939, pilot Jackie Cochran had written to Eleanor Roosevelt suggesting that women pilots could aid the war effort. The following year, Nancy Love wrote to army officials to suggest that women be allowed to deliver planes. (The air force was not yet a separate branch of the military.) Training programs began in 1942; the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) began the next year. Although the WASPs were no longer needed after 1944, about 300 women pilots made more than 12,000 deliveries of 77 different kinds of planes.

The Coast Guard, the navy, and the marines quickly followed the army and set up their own women’s units. In addition to serving in these new organizations, another 68,000 women served as nurses in the army and navy.

**Summarizing** How did the status of women and African Americans in the armed forces change during the war?
The early battles of the war on both fronts required changes in strategy from all sides. In the Pacific, the Battle of Midway was a major turning point against the Japanese, while the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of Stalingrad made it clear that Germany would not win the war.

Holding the Line Against Japan

The Japanese continued to win victories in the Pacific until the Battle of Midway.

HISTORY AND YOU Have you ever continued toward a goal even though the odds were against you? Read on to learn about the early battles in the Pacific.

Admiral Chester Nimitz, the commander of the United States Navy in the Pacific, began planning operations against the Japanese Navy. Although the Japanese had badly damaged the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, the American aircraft carriers, which were on a mission at sea, were safe. The United States had several carriers in the Pacific, and Nimitz was determined to use them. In the days just after Pearl Harbor, however, he could do little to stop Japan’s advance into Southeast Asia.

The Fall of the Philippines

A few hours after bombing Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked American airfields in the Philippines. Two days later, they landed troops. The American and Filipino forces defending the Philippines were badly outnumbered. Their commander, General Douglas MacArthur, retreated to the Bataan Peninsula. Using the peninsula’s rugged terrain, the troops held out for more than three months.

By March, in desperation, the troops ate cavalry horses and mules. The lack of food and supplies, along with diseases such as malaria, scurvy, and dysentery, took their toll. The women of the Army Nurse Corps worked on Bataan in primitive conditions. Patients slept in the open air. One nurse, Rose Meier, reported, “If we needed more room, we got our axes and chopped some bamboo trees down.”

Realizing MacArthur’s capture would demoralize the American people, President Roosevelt ordered the general to evacuate to Australia. MacArthur promised, “I came through, and I shall return.”

On April 9, 1942, the weary defenders of the Bataan Peninsula finally surrendered. Nearly 78,000 prisoners of war were forced
The Bataan Death March, April 1942

Private Leon Beck was taken prisoner when Bataan surrendered and took part in the Bataan Death March for 13 days before escaping:

**Primary Source**

“They’d halt us in front of these big artesian wells . . . so we could see the water and they wouldn’t let us have any. Anyone who would make a break for water would be shot or bayoneted. Then they were left there. Finally, it got so bad further along the road that you never got away from the stench of death. There were bodies laying all along the road in various degrees of decomposition—swollen, burst open, maggots crawling by the thousands. . . .”

—from *Death March: The Survivors of Bataan*

1. **Making Inferences** Why did the Japanese captors stop at the wells?
2. **Hypothesizing** Why might the captors treat the captives as they did on this march?

Private Leon Beck was taken prisoner when Bataan surrendered and took part in the Bataan Death March for 13 days before escaping:

In early 1942, a military planner suggested replacing the carrier’s usual short-range bombers with long-range B-25 bombers that could attack from farther away. The only problem was that, although B-25s could take off from a carrier, the bombers could not land on its short deck. After attacking Japan, they would have to land in China.

President Roosevelt put Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle in command of the mission to bomb Tokyo. At the end of March, a crane loaded sixteen B-25s onto the aircraft carrier *Hornet*. The next day, the *Hornet* headed west across the Pacific. On April 18, American bombs fell on Japan for the first time.

**The Doolittle Raid on Tokyo**

Even before the Philippines fell, President Roosevelt was searching for a way to raise the morale of the American people. He wanted to bomb Tokyo, but American planes could reach Tokyo only if an aircraft carrier brought them close enough. Unfortunately, Japanese ships in the North Pacific prevented carriers from getting near Japan.

Although the troops in the Bataan Peninsula surrendered, a small force held out on the island of **Corregidor** in Manila Bay. Finally, in May 1942, Corregidor surrendered. The Philippines had fallen to the Japanese.

**Japan Changes Strategy**

While Americans rejoiced in the air force’s success, Japanese leaders were aghast at the raid. Those bombs could have killed the emperor, who was revered as a god. The Doolittle raid convinced Japanese leaders to change their strategy.

to march—sick, exhausted, and starving—65 miles (105 km) to a Japanese prison camp. Almost ten thousand troops died on this march, which was later called the **Bataan Death March**. Sixty-six women nurses were also captured and sent to the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. They remained there—with 11 navy nurses and some 3,000 Allied civilians—until early in 1945.

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Before the raid, the Japanese navy had disagreed about the next step. The officers in charge of the navy’s planning wanted to cut American supply lines to Australia by capturing the south coast of New Guinea. The commander of the fleet, Admiral Yamamoto, wanted to attack Midway Island—the last American base in the North Pacific west of Hawaii. Yamamoto believed that attacking Midway would lure the American fleet into battle and enable his fleet to destroy it.

After Doolittle’s raid, the Japanese war planners dropped their opposition to Yamamoto’s idea. The American fleet had to be destroyed to protect Tokyo from bombing. The attack on New Guinea would still go ahead, but only three aircraft carriers were assigned to the mission. All of the other carriers were ordered to assault Midway.

**The Battle of the Coral Sea**

The Japanese believed that they could safely proceed with two attacks at once because they thought their operations were secret. What the Japanese did not know was that an American team of code breakers based in Hawaii had already broken the Japanese navy’s secret code for conducting operations.

In March 1942, decoded Japanese messages alerted the United States to the Japanese attack on New Guinea. In response, Admiral Nimitz sent two carriers, the *Yorktown* and the *Lexington*, to intercept the Japanese in the Coral Sea. There, in early May, carriers from both sides launched all-out airstrikes against each other. Although the Japanese sank the *Lexington* and badly damaged the *Yorktown*, the American attacks prevented the Japanese from landing on New Guinea’s south coast and kept the supply lines to Australia open.

**The Battle of Midway**

Back at Pearl Harbor, the code-breaking team now learned of the plan to attack Midway. With so many ships at sea, Admiral Yamamoto transmitted the plans for the Midway attack by radio, using the same code the Americans had already cracked.

Admiral Nimitz had been waiting for the opportunity to ambush the Japanese fleet. He
immediately ordered carriers to take up positions near Midway. Unaware that they were heading into an ambush, the Japanese launched their aircraft against Midway on June 4, 1942. The Americans were ready. The Japanese ran into a blizzard of antiaircraft fire, and 38 planes were shot down.

As the Japanese prepared a second wave to attack Midway, aircraft from the American carriers Hornet, Yorktown, and Enterprise launched a counterattack. The American planes caught the Japanese carriers with fuel, bombs, and aircraft exposed on their flight decks. Within minutes, three Japanese carriers were reduced to burning wrecks. A fourth was sunk a few hours later, and Admiral Yamamoto ordered his remaining ships to retreat.

The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the war. The Japanese navy lost four large carriers—the heart of its fleet. Just six months after Pearl Harbor, the United States had stopped the Japanese advance. The victory was not without cost, however. The battle killed 362 Americans and 3,057 Japanese.

**Reading Check**  **Explaining** Why was the United States able to ambush the Japanese at Midway?

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**Stopping the Germans**

**MAIN Idea** The Allies defeated Germany in Africa and in the Battle of the Atlantic. The Soviet victory at Stalingrad was a turning point of the war.

**HISTORY AND YOU** Have you ever tried something simple before attempting a more challenging problem? Read on to learn about the Allied strategy for attacking the Germans.

In 1942 Allied forces began to win victories in Europe as well. Almost from the moment the United States entered the war, Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, urged President Roosevelt to open a second front in Europe. Stalin appreciated the lend-lease supplies that the United States had sent, but the Soviets were doing most of the fighting. If British and American troops opened a second front by attacking Germany from the west, it would take pressure off the Soviet Union.

Roosevelt wanted to get American troops into battle in Europe, but Prime Minister Churchill urged caution. He did not believe the United States and Great Britain were ready to launch a full-scale invasion of Europe. Instead, Churchill wanted to attack the **periphery**, or edges, of the German empire. Roosevelt agreed, and in July 1942, he ordered the invasion of Morocco and Algeria—two French territories indirectly under German control.

**The Struggle for North Africa**

Roosevelt decided to invade Morocco and Algeria for two reasons. First, the invasion would give the army some experience without requiring a lot of troops. More important, once American troops were in North Africa, they would be able to help the British troops fight the Germans in Egypt.

Great Britain needed Egypt because the Suez Canal was located there. Most of Britain’s empire, including India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya, and Australia, sent supplies to Britain through the canal. General Erwin Rommel—a brilliant leader whose success earned him the nickname “Desert Fox”—commanded the German forces in the area, known as the “Afrika Korps.”
Just as the Battle of Midway was a turning point in the war in the Pacific, so too were the battles of El Alamein in North Africa and Stalingrad in Europe. The British victory over German General Rommel at El Alamein secured the Suez Canal and kept the Germans away from the oil resources of the Middle East. Germany’s defeat at the Battle of Stalingrad was a major turning point by ending Hitler’s plans to dominate Europe.

Although the British forced Rommel to retreat in November 1942, after a 12-day battle against the coastal city of El Alamein near the Suez Canal, German forces remained a serious threat. Later that month, Americans under General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s command invaded North Africa. He planned to trap Rommel between two Allied forces. The American forces in Morocco, led by General George Patton, quickly captured the city of Casablanca, while those in Algeria seized the cities of Oran and Algiers. The Americans then headed east into Tunisia, while British forces headed west into Libya.

When the American troops advanced into the mountains of western Tunisia, they had to fight the German army for the first time. They did not do well. At the Battle of Kasserine Pass, the Americans were outmaneuvered and outfought. They suffered roughly 7,000 casualties and lost nearly 200 tanks. Eisenhower fired the general who led the attack and put Patton in command. Together, the American and British forces finally pushed the Germans back. On May 13, 1943, the last German troops in North Africa surrendered.

The Battle of the Atlantic

As American and British troops fought the German army in North Africa, the war against German submarines in the Atlantic Ocean intensified. After Germany declared war on the United States, German submarines entered American coastal waters. American cargo ships were easy targets, especially at night when the glow from the cities in the night sky silhouetted the vessels. To protect the ships, cities on the East Coast dimmed their lights every evening. People also put up special “blackout curtains” and, if they had to drive at night, did so with their headlights off.
By August 1942, German submarines had sunk about 360 American ships along the East Coast. So many oil tankers were sunk that gasoline and fuel oil had to be rationed. To keep oil flowing, the government built the first long-distance oil pipeline, stretching some 1,250 miles (2,010 km) from Texas to Pennsylvania.

The loss of so many ships convinced the U.S. Navy to set up a convoy system. Under this system, cargo ships traveled in groups escorted by navy warships. The convoy system improved the situation dramatically. It made it much more difficult for a submarine to torpedo a cargo ship and escape without being attacked.

The spring of 1942 marked the high point of the German submarine campaign. In May and June alone, over 1.2 million tons of shipping were sunk. Yet in those same two months, American and British shipyards built more than 1.1 million tons of new shipping. From July 1942 onward, American shipyards produced more ships than German submarines managed to sink. At the same time, American airplanes and warships began to use new technology, including radar, sonar, and depth charges, to locate and attack submarines. As the new technology began to take its toll on German submarines, the Battle of the Atlantic turned in favor of the Allies.

The Battle of Stalingrad

In the spring of 1942, before the Battle of the Atlantic turned against Germany, Adolf Hitler was very confident that he would win the war. The German army was ready to launch a new offensive to knock the Soviets out of the war.

Hitler was convinced that only by destroying the Soviet economy could he defeat the Soviet Union. In May 1942, he ordered his army to capture strategic oil fields, factories, and farmlands in southern Russia and Ukraine. The city of Stalingrad, which controlled the Volga River and was a major railroad junction, was the key to the attack. If the German army captured Stalingrad, they would cut off the Soviets from the resources they needed to stay in the war.

When German troops entered Stalingrad in mid-September, Stalin ordered his troops to hold the city at all costs. Retreat was forbidden. The Germans were forced to fight from house to house, losing thousands of soldiers in the process. They were not equipped to fight in the bitter cold, but Soviet troops had quilted undersuits, felt boots, fur hats, and white camouflaged oversuits.

On November 23, Soviet reinforcements arrived and surrounded Stalingrad, trapping almost 250,000 German troops. When the battle ended in February 1943, some 91,000 Germans had surrendered, although only 5,000 of them survived the Soviet prison camps and returned home after the war. Both sides lost nearly half a million soldiers each. The Battle of Stalingrad was a major turning point in the war. Just as the Battle of Midway put the Japanese on the defensive for the rest of the war, the Battle of Stalingrad put the Germans on the defensive as well.

Describing How did the United States begin winning the Battle of the Atlantic?
Although women and African Americans gained new work opportunities, Latinos and Japanese Americans faced violence in American cities. To assist with the war effort, the government controlled wages and prices, rationed goods, encouraged recycling, and sold bonds.

Women and Minorities Gain Ground

MAIN Idea With many men on active military duty, women and minorities found factory and other jobs open to them.

HISTORY AND YOU Do you remember reading about the unequal treatment of African American soldiers in World War I? Read on to learn how desegregation of the military began in World War II.

As American troops fought their first battles against the Germans and Japanese, the war began dramatically changing American society at home. In contrast to the devastation that large parts of Europe and Asia experienced, American society gained some benefits from World War II. The war finally ended the Great Depression. Mobilizing the economy created almost 19 million new jobs and nearly doubled the average family’s income. For Robert Montgomery, a worker at an Ohio machine tool plant, “one of the most important things that came out of World War II was the arrival of the working class at a new status level in this society. . . . The war integrated into the mainstream a whole chunk of society that had been living on the edge.”

The improvement in the economy did not come without cost. American families had to move to where the defense factories were located. Housing conditions were terrible. The pressures and prejudices of the era led to strikes, race riots, and rising juvenile delinquency. Goods were rationed and taxes were higher than ever before. Workers were earning more money, but they were also working an average of 90 hours per week. Despite the hardships, James Covert, whose mother owned a grocery store during the war, was probably right when he said that the war “changed our lifestyle and more important, our outlook. . . . There was a feeling toward the end of the war that we were moving into a new age of prosperity.”

When the war began, American defense factories wanted to hire white men. With so many men in the military, however, there simply were not enough white men to fill all of the jobs. Under pressure to produce, employers began to recruit women and minorities.
Women Working in the Defense Plants

During the Great Depression, many people believed married women should not work outside the home, especially if they took jobs that could go to men trying to support their families. Most working women were young, single, and employed in traditional female jobs such as domestic work or teaching. The wartime labor shortage, however, forced factories to recruit married women for industrial jobs traditionally reserved for men.

Although the government hired nearly 4 million women, primarily for clerical jobs, the women working in the factories captured the public’s imagination. The great symbol of the campaign to hire women was “Rosie the Riveter,” a character from a popular song by the Four Vagabonds. The lyrics told of Rosie, who worked in a factory while her boyfriend served in the marines. Images of Rosie appeared on posters, in newspapers, and in magazines. Eventually 2.5 million women worked in shipyards, aircraft factories, and other manufacturing plants. Working in a factory changed the perspectives of many middle-class women like Inez Sauer:

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

“I learned that just because you’re a woman and have never worked is no reason you can’t learn. The job really broadened me. . . . I had always been in a shell; I’d always been protected. But at Boeing I found a freedom and an independence I had never known. After the war I could never go back to playing bridge again, being a clubwoman. . . . when I knew there were things you could use your mind for. The war changed my life completely.”

—quoted in Eyewitness to World War II

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**Analyzing VISUALS**

1. **Listing** During what years did women’s employment outside the home hit its highest levels?
   
2. **Analyzing** How are the women portrayed in the posters?
By the end of the war, the number of working women had increased from 12.9 million to 18.8 million. Although most women were laid off or left their jobs voluntarily after the war, their success permanently changed American attitudes about women in the workplace.

**African Americans Demand War Work**

Although factories were hiring women, they resisted hiring African Americans. Frustrated by the situation, A. Philip Randolph, the head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—a major union for African American railroad workers—decided to take action. He informed President Roosevelt that he was organizing “from ten to fifty thousand [African Americans] to march on Washington in the interest of securing jobs . . . in national defense and . . . integration into the military and naval forces.”

In response, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, on June 25, 1941. The order declared, “there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or national origin.” To enforce the order, the president created the Fair Employment Practices Commission—the first civil rights agency the federal government had established since the Reconstruction Era.

**Mexican Farmworkers**

American citizens were not the only ones who gained in the wartime economy. In 1942 the federal government arranged for Mexican farmworkers to help with the harvest in the Southwest. The laborers were part of the **Bracero Program**. *Bracero* is a Spanish word meaning “worker.” More than 200,000 Mexicans came to help harvest fruit and vegetables. Many also helped to build and maintain railroads. The Bracero Program continued until 1964. Migrant farmworkers thus became an important part of the Southwest’s agricultural system.

**A Nation on the Move**

**MAIN Idea** Millions of Americans relocated during the war to take factory jobs or to settle in less prejudiced areas.

**HISTORY AND YOU** Has someone in your family moved because of a job transfer? Read on to find out about relocations that resulted from the war.

The wartime economy created millions of new jobs, but the Americans who wanted these jobs did not always live near the factories. To get to the jobs, 15 million Americans moved during the war. The Midwest assembly plants and Northeast and Northwest shipyards attracted many workers. Most Americans, however, headed west and south in search of jobs.

The growth of southern California and the expansion of cities in the Deep South created a new industrial region—the **Sunbelt**. For the first time since the Industrial Revolution began during the war, millions of Americans flocked to the cities to work in factories. Many immigrants stayed on after the war to become citizens. Populations of Northern cities became more mixed, permanently increasing the populations of those regions.
in the United States, the South and West led the way in manufacturing and urbanization.

**The Housing Crisis**

In many ways, the most difficult task facing cities with war industries was where to put the thousands of workers arriving in their communities. Tent cities and parks filled with tiny trailers sprang up. Landlords began renting “hot beds.” The worker paid 25 cents for eight hours in the bed, then went to work while the bed was rented to another worker.

Anticipating the housing crisis, Congress had passed the Lanham Act in 1940. The act provided $150 million for housing. In 1942 President Roosevelt created the National Housing Agency (NHA) to coordinate all government housing programs. By 1943, those programs had been allocated over $1.2 billion. Although prefabricated public housing had tiny rooms, thin walls, poor heating, and almost no privacy, it was better than no housing at all. Nearly 2 million people lived in government-built housing during the war.

**Racism Leads to Violence**

African Americans left the South in large numbers during World War I, but this “Great Migration,” as historians refer to it, slowed during the Great Depression. When jobs in war factories opened up for African Americans during World War II, the Great Migration resumed. In the crowded cities of the North and West, however, African Americans were often met with suspicion and intolerance. Sometimes these attitudes led to violence.

The worst racial violence of the war erupted in Detroit on Sunday, June 20, 1943. The weather that day was sweltering. To cool off, nearly 100,000 people crowded into Belle Isle, a park on the Detroit River. Gangs of white and African American teenage girls began fighting. These fights triggered others, and a full-scale riot erupted across the city. By the time the violence ended, 25 African Americans and 9 whites had been killed. Despite the appalling violence in Detroit, African American leaders remained committed to their “Double V” campaign.


Chapter 21
America and World War II

The Zoot Suit Riots

Wartime prejudice boiled over elsewhere as well. In southern California, racial tensions became entangled with juvenile delinquency. Across the nation, the number of crimes committed by young people rose dramatically. In Los Angeles, racism against Mexican Americans and the fear of juvenile crime became linked because of the "zoot suit."

A zoot suit had very baggy, pleated pants and an overstuffed, knee-length jacket with wide lapels. Accessories included a wide-brimmed hat and a long key chain. Zoot-suiters usually wore their hair long, gathered into a ducktail. The zoot suit angered many Americans. In order to save fabric for the war, most men wore a "victory suit"—a suit with no vest, no cuffs, a short jacket, and narrow lapels. To many, the zoot suit was unpatriotic.

In California, Mexican American teenagers adopted the zoot suit. In June 1943, after hearing rumors that zoot-suiters had attacked several sailors, some 2,500 soldiers and sailors stormed into Mexican American neighborhoods in Los Angeles. They attacked Mexican American teenagers, cut their hair, and tore off their zoot suits. The police did not intervene, and the violence continued for several days. The city of Los Angeles responded by banning the zoot suit.

Racial hostility against Mexican Americans did not deter them from joining the war effort. Approximately 500,000 Hispanic Americans served in the armed forces during the war, fighting in Europe, North Africa, and the Pacific. Most—about 400,000—were Mexican American. Another 65,000 were from Puerto Rico. By the end of the war, 17 Mexican Americans had received the Medal of Honor.

Japanese American Relocation

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, many Americans living on the West Coast turned their anger against Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. Mobs attacked their businesses and homes. Banks would not cash their checks, and grocers refused to sell them food.

Newspapers printed rumors about Japanese spies in the Japanese American community. Members of Congress, mayors, and many business and labor leaders demanded that all people of Japanese ancestry be removed from the West Coast. They did not believe that Japanese Americans would remain loyal to the United States in the war with Japan.

On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed an order allowing the War Department to declare any part of the United States a military zone and to remove people from that zone. He must have felt justified only four days later, when a Japanese submarine surfaced north of Santa Barbara, California, and shelled an oil refinery, or in September of that year, when Japanese bombers twice dropped bombs on an Oregon forest. American fears of a Japanese attack on the West Coast must have seemed reasonable. Secretary of War Henry Stimson declared most of the West Coast a military zone and ordered all people of Japanese ancestry to evacuate to 10 internment camps further inland.

Not all Japanese Americans accepted the relocation without protest. Fred Korematsu argued that his rights had been violated and took his case to the Supreme Court. In December 1944, in Korematsu v. United States, the Supreme Court ruled that the relocation was constitutional because it was based not on race, but on "military urgency." Shortly afterward, the Court did rule in Ex parte Endo that loyal American citizens could not be held against their will. In early 1945, therefore, the government began to release the Japanese Americans from the camps.

Despite the fears and rumors, no Japanese American was ever tried for espionage or sabotage. Japanese Americans served as translators for the army during the war in the Pacific. The all-Japanese 100th Battalion, later integrated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was the most highly decorated unit in World War II.

After the war, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) tried to help Japanese Americans who had lost property during the relocation. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan apologized to Japanese Americans on behalf of the U.S. government and signed legislation granting $20,000 to each surviving Japanese American who had been interned.

Comparing Why did millions of people relocate during the war?
Korematsu v. United States, 1944

Background to the Case
During World War II, President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 and other legislation gave the military the power to exclude people of Japanese descent from areas that were deemed important to U.S. national defense and security. In 1942, Toyosaburo Korematsu refused to leave San Leandro, California, which had been designated as a “military area,” based on Executive Order 9066. Korematsu was found guilty in federal district court of violating Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34. Korematsu petitioned the Supreme Court to review the federal court’s decision.

How the Court Ruled
In their decision, the majority of the Supreme Court, with three dissenting, found that, although exclusion orders based on race are constitutionally suspect, the government is justified in time of “emergency and peril” to suspend citizens’ civil rights. A request for a rehearing of the case in 1945 was denied.

The Court’s Opinion
“It should be noted, to begin with, that all legal restrictions which curtail the civil rights of a single racial group are immediately suspect. That is not to say that all such restrictions are unconstitutional. It is to say that courts must subject them to the most rigid scrutiny. Pressing public necessity may sometimes justify the existence of such restrictions; racial antagonism never can. . . . Korematsu was not excluded from the Military Area because of hostility to him or his race. He was excluded because . . . the properly constituted military authorities feared an invasion of our West Coast [by Japan] and felt constrained to take proper security measures, because they decided that the military urgency of the situation demanded that all citizens of Japanese ancestry be segregated from the West Coast temporarily, and finally, because Congress . . . determined that they should have the power to do just this.”

—Justice Hugo Black writing for the court in Korematsu v. United States

Dissenting View
“I dissent, because I think the indisputable facts exhibit a clear violation of Constitutional rights. This is not . . . a case of temporary exclusion of a citizen from an area for his own safety or that of the community, nor a case of offering him an opportunity to go temporarily out of an area where his presence might cause danger to himself or to his fellows. On the contrary, it is the case of convicting a citizen as a punishment for not submitting to imprisonment in a concentration camp, based on his ancestry, and solely because of his ancestry, without evidence or inquiry concerning his loyalty and good disposition towards the United States. If this be a correct statement of the facts disclosed by this record, and facts of which we take judicial notice, I need hardly labor the conclusion that Constitutional rights have been violated.”

—Justice Owen J. Roberts, dissenting in Korematsu v. United States

1. Explaining Why did the Supreme Court find in favor of the government in this case, even though the justices were suspicious of exclusion based on race?
2. Contrasting Why did Justice Roberts disagree with the majority opinion?
3. Analyzing Under what circumstances, if any, do you think the government should be able to suspend civil liberties of all or specific groups of American citizens?
Daily Life in Wartime

**MAIN Idea** The federal government took steps to stabilize wages and prices, as well as to prevent strikes. Americans supported the war through rationing, growing food, recycling, and buying bonds.

**HISTORY AND YOU** Have you ever given up something you enjoyed for a short period of time to gain something greater? Read on to learn how Americans sacrificed during the war.

Housing shortages and racial tensions were serious difficulties during the war, but mobilization strained society in other ways as well. Prices rose, materials were in short supply, and the question of how to pay for the war loomed ominously over the war effort.

**Wage and Price Controls**

Both wages and prices began to rise quickly during the war because of the high demand for workers and raw materials. The president worried about inflation. To stabilize both wages and prices, Roosevelt created the Office of Price Administration (OPA) and the Office of Economic Stabilization (OES). The OES regulated wages and the price of farm products. The OPA regulated all other prices. Despite some problems with labor unions, the OPA and OES kept inflation under control. At the end of the war, prices had risen only about half as much as they had during World War I.

While the OPA and OES worked to control inflation, the War Labor Board (WLB) tried to prevent strikes. In support, most American unions issued a “no strike pledge.” Instead of striking, unions asked the WLB to mediate wage disputes. By the end of the war, the WLB had helped to settle more than 17,000 disputes involving more than 12 million workers.

**Blue Points, Red Points**

The demand for raw materials and supplies created shortages. The OPA began rationing, or limiting the purchase of, many products to make sure enough were available for military use. Meat and sugar were rationed. Gasoline was rationed, driving distances were restricted, and the speed limit was set at 35 miles per hour to save gas and rubber.

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**Hollywood Goes to War**

In 1942 President Roosevelt created the Office of War Information (OWI). The OWI’s role was to improve the public’s understanding of the war and to act as a liaison office with the various media. The OWI established detailed guidelines for filmmakers, including a set of questions to be considered before making a movie, such as, “Will this picture help win the war?”

Movies ranged from a comic Daffy Duck cartoon to a serious portrayal of a bombing raid on Germany.

**Analyzing VISUALS**

1. **Interpreting** How would heroic movies like *The Memphis Belle* help win the war?

2. **Analyzing** Why do you think so many movies about Hitler were comedies?
A person from each household picked up a book of ration coupons every month. Blue coupons, called blue points, controlled processed foods. Red coupons, or red points, controlled meats, fats, and oils. Other coupons controlled items such as coffee, shoes, and sugar. Thirteen rationing programs were in effect at the height of the program. When people bought food, they also had to give enough coupon points to cover their purchases. Most rationing ended before the war was over. Sugar and rubber rationing continued after the war; sugar was rationed until 1947.

**Victory Gardens and Scrap Drives**

Americans also planted gardens to produce more food for the war effort. Any area of land might become a garden—backyards, schoolyards, city parks, and empty lots. The government encouraged *victory gardens* by praising them in film reels, pamphlets, and official statements.

Certain raw materials were so vital to the war effort that the government organized scrap drives. Volunteers collected spare rubber, tin, aluminum, and steel. They donated pots, tires, tin cans, car bumpers, broken radiators, and rusting bicycles. Oils and fats were so important to the production of explosives that the WPB set up fat-collecting stations. Americans would exchange bacon grease and meat drippings for extra ration coupons. The scrap drives were very effective and contributed to the success of American industry during the war.

**Paying for the War**

The federal government spent more than $300 billion during World War II—more money than it had spent from Washington’s administration to the end of Franklin Roosevelt’s second term. To raise money, the government raised taxes. Because most Americans opposed large tax increases, Congress refused to raise taxes as high as Roosevelt requested. As a result, the extra taxes collected covered only 45 percent of the war’s cost.

The government issued war bonds to make up the difference between what was needed and what taxes supplied. Buying bonds is a way to lend money to the government. In exchange for the money, the government promises to repay the bonds’ purchase price plus interest at some future date. The most common bonds during World War II were E bonds, which sold for $18.75 and could be redeemed for $25.00 after 10 years. Individuals bought nearly $50 billion worth of war bonds. Banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions bought the rest—more than $100 billion worth of bonds.

Despite the hardships, the overwhelming majority of Americans believed the war had to be fought. Although the war brought many changes to the United States, most Americans remained united behind one goal—winning the war.

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**Vocabulary**

1. Explain the significance of: A. Philip Randolph, Bracero Program, Sunbelt, Great Migration, zoot suit, victory suit, Office of Price Administration, rationing, victory garden.

**Main Ideas**

2. Assessing Why were jobs suddenly available to women and minorities?

3. Evaluating For what reasons did Americans relocate during the war?

4. Explaining How did the federal government control the economy during the war?

**Critical Thinking**

5. Big Ideas What challenges did Americans at home face during the war?

6. Organizing Use a graphic organizer like the one below to list the results of increased racial tensions during the war.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial Tensions</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7. Analyzing Visuals Look again at the photograph on pages 730–731. How does the photographer capture the feeling of people settling into a new area?

**Writing About History**

8. Persuasive Writing Write a newspaper editorial urging fellow citizens to conserve resources so that those resources can be used in the war effort.

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**History ONLINE**

**Study Central** To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.
After British and American troops won victories over the Axis in North Africa and Italy, Allied leaders made plans for an invasion of Europe. Led by Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur, American forces steadily advanced across the Pacific.

**Striking Germany and Italy**

**MAIN Idea** The Allies stepped up bombing of Germany and invaded Sicily and Italy.

**HISTORY AND YOU** Have you ever talked over your ideas with a good friend whose opinion you value? Read on to learn about FDR’s meetings with Churchill and Stalin.

The Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942 had shown that a large-scale invasion from the sea was possible. The success of the landings convinced Roosevelt to meet again with Churchill to plan the next stage of the war. In January 1943, FDR headed to Casablanca, Morocco, to meet the prime minister.

At the **Casablanca Conference**, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to step up the bombing of Germany. The goal of this new campaign was “the progressive destruction of the German military, industrial, and economic system, and the undermining of the morale of the German people.” The Allies also agreed to attack the Axis on the island of Sicily. Churchill called Italy the “soft underbelly” of Europe. He was convinced that the Italians would quit the war if the Allies invaded their homeland.

**Strategic Bombing**

The Allies had been bombing Germany even before the Casablanca Conference. Britain’s Royal Air Force had dropped an average of 2,300 tons (2,093 t) of explosives on Germany every month for more than three years. The United States Eighth Army Air Force had dropped an additional 1,500 tons (1,365 t) of bombs during the last six months of 1942. These numbers were small, however, compared to the massive new campaign. Between January 1943 and May 1945, the Royal Air Force and the United States Eighth Army Air Force dropped approximately 53,000 tons (48,230 t) of explosives on Germany every month.

The bombing campaign did not destroy Germany’s economy or undermine German morale, but it did cause a severe oil shortage and wrecked the railroad system. It also destroyed so many aircraft factories that Germany’s air force could not replace its losses. By the time...
Important Battles of World War II

1. El Alamein, Nov. 1942. British forces defeat German forces commanded by Rommel, preventing German control of North Africa.
2. Stalingrad, Nov. 1942. A large German force is defeated at the city of Stalingrad, ending German hopes of defeating the Soviet Union.
3. Kasserine Pass, Feb.–May 1943. American troops fight German forces for the first time and are badly beaten.
5. Sicily, July–Aug. 1943. Allies land in Sicily; begin the liberation of Italy.
6. Anzio, Jan.–May 1944. U.S. forces land near Rome behind German lines.
8. Operation Market Garden, Sept. 1944. Allied troops parachute into the Netherlands to seize bridges across the Rhine, but attack fails.

Striking the Soft Underbelly

As the bombing campaign against Germany intensified, plans to invade Sicily also moved ahead. General Dwight D. Eisenhower commanded the invasion, with General Patton and the British General Bernard Montgomery heading the ground forces. The invasion began before dawn on July 10, 1943. Despite bad weather, the Allied troops made it ashore with few casualties. A new amphibious truck delivered supplies and artillery to the soldiers on the beach.

Eight days after the troops came ashore, American tanks smashed through enemy lines and captured the western half of the island. Patton’s troops then headed east, while the British attacked from the south. By August 18, the Germans had evacuated the island.
The attack on Sicily created a crisis within the Italian government. The king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel, and a group of Italian generals decided that it was time to depose Mussolini. On July 25, 1943, the king invited the dictator to his palace. “My dear Duce,” the king began, “it’s no longer any good. Italy has gone to bits. The soldiers don’t want to fight anymore. At this moment, you are the most hated man in Italy.” The king then arrested Mussolini, and the new Italian government began negotiating a surrender to the Allies.

Following Italy’s surrender, however, German troops seized control of northern Italy, including Rome, and returned Mussolini to power. The Germans then took up positions near the heavily fortified town of Cassino. The terrain near Cassino was steep, barren, and rocky. Rather than attack such difficult terrain, the Allies landed at Anzio, behind German lines. Instead of retreating, however, as the Allies had hoped, the Germans surrounded the Allied troops near Anzio.

It took the Allies five months to break through the German lines at Cassino and Anzio. Finally, in late May 1944, the Germans retreated. Less than two weeks later, the Allies captured Rome. Fighting in Italy continued, however, for another year. The Italian campaign was one of the bloodiest in the war, with more than 300,000 Allied casualties.

The Tehran Conference

Roosevelt wanted to meet with Stalin before the Allies invaded France. In late 1943, Stalin agreed, proposing that Roosevelt and Churchill meet him in Tehran, Iran.

The leaders reached several agreements. Stalin promised to launch a full-scale offensive against the Germans when the Allies invaded France in 1944. Roosevelt and Stalin then agreed to divide Germany after the war so that it would never again threaten world peace. Stalin promised that once Germany was defeated, the Soviet Union would help the United States against Japan. He also accepted Roosevelt’s proposal of an international peace-keeping organization after the war.

Explaining What effect did the Allied victory in Sicily have on Italy?
Landing in France

MAIN Idea The Allies landed a massive force on France’s beaches on June 6, 1944, known as D-Day.

HISTORY AND YOU What has been the biggest surprise you ever successfully planned? Read on to find out how the Allies made a surprise landing in France.

After the conference in Tehran, Roosevelt headed to Cairo, Egypt, where he and Churchill continued planning the invasion of France. One major decision still had to be made. The president had to choose the commander for Operation Overlord—the code name for the invasion. Roosevelt selected General Eisenhower.

Planning Operation Overlord

Knowing that the Allies would eventually invade France, Hitler had fortified the coast along the English Channel. The Allies did have the advantage of surprise, because the Germans did not know when or where the Allies would land. The Germans believed the Allies would land in Pas-de-Calais—the area of France closest to Britain. The Allies placed dummy equipment along the coast across from Calais as decoys. The real target was to be further south, at five beaches covering a 60-mile spread along the Normandy coast.

By the spring of 1944, more than 1.5 million American soldiers, 12,000 airplanes, and 5 million tons (4.6 million t) of equipment had been sent to England. Only one thing was left to do—pick the date for the invasion and give the command to go. The invasion had to begin at night to hide the ships crossing the English Channel. The ships had to arrive at low tide so that they could see the beach obstacles. The low tide had to come at dawn so that gunners bombarding the coast could see their targets. Paratroopers, who would be dropped behind enemy lines before the main landing on the beaches, needed a moonlit night to see where to land. Perhaps most important of all, the weather had to be good. A storm would ground the airplanes, and high waves would swamp landing craft.
Given all these requirements, there were only a few days each month when the invasion could begin. The first opportunity was from June 5 to 7, 1944. Eisenhower’s planning staff referred to the day any operation began by the letter D. The date for the invasion, therefore, came to be known as D-Day. Heavy cloud cover, strong winds, and high waves made landing on June 5 impossible. The weather was forecast to improve briefly a day later. The Channel would still be rough, but the landing ships and aircraft could operate. After looking at forecasts one last time, shortly after midnight on June 6, 1944, Eisenhower gave the final order: “OK, we’ll go.”

The Longest Day

Nearly 7,000 ships carrying more than 100,000 soldiers headed for Normandy’s coast. At the same time, 23,000 paratroopers were dropped inland, east and west of the beaches. Allied fighter-bombers raced up and down the coast, hitting bridges, bunkers, and radar sites. At dawn, Allied warships began a tremendous barrage. Thousands of shells rained down on the beaches, code-named “Utah,” “Omaha,” “Gold,” “Sword,” and “Juno.”

The American landing at Utah Beach went well. The German defenses were weak, and in less than three hours the troops had captured the beach and moved inland, suffering fewer than 200 casualties. On the eastern flank, the British and Canadian landings also went well. By the end of the day, British and Canadian forces were several miles inland. Omaha Beach, however, was a different story. Under intense German fire, the American assault almost disintegrated. Lieutenant John Bentz Carroll was in the first wave that went ashore:

“Two hundred yards out, we took a direct hit. . . . Somehow or other, the ramp door opened up . . . and the men in front were being struck by machine-gun fire. Everyone started to jump off into the water. . . . The tide was moving us so rapidly. . . . We would grab out on some of those underwater obstructions and mines built on telephone poles and girders, and hang on. We’d take cover, then make a dash through the surf to the next one, fifty feet beyond.”

—from D-Day: Piercing the Atlantic Wall

General Omar Bradley, commander of the American forces landing at Omaha and Utah, began making plans to evacuate. Slowly, however, the American troops began to knock out the German defenses. More landing craft arrived, ramming their way through the obstacles to get to the beach. Nearly 2,500 Americans were either killed or wounded on Omaha, but by early afternoon, Bradley received this message: “Troops formerly pinned down on beaches . . . [are] advancing up heights behind beaches.” By the end of the day, nearly 35,000 American troops had landed at Omaha, and another 23,000 had landed at Utah. More than 75,000 British and Canadian troops were on shore as well. The invasion—the largest amphibious operation in history—had succeeded.

Summarizing What conditions had to be met before Eisenhower could order D-Day to begin?

The United States began island-hopping across the Pacific with the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943. Reporter Robert Sherrod witnessed the savage hand-to-hand fighting:

“A Marine jumped over the seawall and began throwing blocks of fused TNT into a coconut-log pillbox. . . . Two more Marines scaled the seawall, one of them carrying a twin-cylindered tank strapped to their shoulders, the other holding the nozzle of the flame thrower. As another charge of TNT boomed inside the pillbox, causing smoke and dust to billow out, a khaki-clad figure ran out the side entrance. The flame thrower, waiting for him, caught him in its withering stream of intense fire. As soon as it touched him, the [Japanese soldier] flared up like a piece of celluloid. He was dead instantly . . . charred almost to nothingness.”

— from Tarawa: The Story of a Battle
Driving Japan Back

**MAIN Idea**  American troops slowly regained islands in the Pacific that the Japanese had captured.

**HISTORY AND YOU**  Have you ever had to do a project over? Read to learn about American forces that took back Pacific islands from the Japanese.

While the buildup for invading France was taking place in Britain, American military leaders were also developing a strategy to defeat Japan. The American plan called for a two-pronged attack. The Pacific Fleet, commanded by Admiral Nimitz, would advance through the central Pacific by “hopping” from one island to the next, closer and closer to Japan. Meanwhile, General MacArthur’s troops would advance through the Solomon Islands, capture the north coast of New Guinea, and then launch an invasion to retake the Philippines.

**Island-Hopping in the Pacific**

By the fall of 1943, the navy was ready to launch its island-hopping campaign, but the geography of the central Pacific posed a problem. Many of the islands were coral reef atolls. The water over the coral reef was not always deep enough to allow landing craft to get to the shore. If the landing craft ran aground on the reef, the troops would have to wade to the beach. As some 5,000 United States Marines learned at Tarawa Atoll, wading ashore could cause very high casualties. Tarawa, part of the Gilbert Islands, was the navy’s first objective. The Japanese base there had to be captured in order to put air bases in the nearby Marshall Islands.

**Island-Hopping in the Pacific, 1942–1945**

Marines are shown firing from behind sand bags during the battle of Tarawa. One Marine has just thrown a hand grenade.

**Analyzing GEOGRAPHY**

1. **Place**  When Nimitz left Pearl Harbor, what was his destination?

2. **Place**  Who controlled Guam in 1942?
When the landing craft hit the reef, at least 20 ships ran aground. The marines had to plunge into shoulder-high water and wade several hundred yards to the beach. Raked by Japanese fire, only one marine in three made it ashore. Once the marines reached the beach, the battle was still far from over.

Although many troops died wading ashore, one vehicle had been able to cross the reef and deliver its troops onto the beaches. The vehicle was a boat with tank tracks, nicknamed the “Alligator.” This amphibious tractor, or amphtrac, had been invented in the late 1930s to rescue people in Florida swamps. It had never been used in combat, and the navy decided to buy only 200 of them in 1941. If more had been available at Tarawa, American casualties probably would have been much lower.

More than 1,000 marines died on Tarawa. Photos of bodies lying crumpled next to burning landing craft shocked Americans back home. Many people began to wonder how many lives would be lost in defeating Japan.

The Navajo Code Talkers

When American marines stormed an enemy beach, they used radios to communicate. Using radios, however, meant that the Japanese could intercept and translate the messages. In the midst of the battle, however, there was no time to use a code-machine. Acting upon the suggestion of Philip Johnston, an engineer who had lived on a Navajo reservation as a child, the marines recruited Navajos to serve as “code talkers.”

The Navajo language had no written alphabet and was known only to the Navajo and a few missionaries and anthropologists. The Navajo recruits developed code words, using their own language, that stood for military terms. For example, the Navajo word jay-sho, or “buzzard,” was code for bomber; lotso, or “whale,” meant battleship; and na-ma-si, or “potatoes,” stood for grenades.

Code talkers proved invaluable in combat. They could relay a message in minutes that would have taken a code-machine operator hours to encipher and transmit. At the battle of Iwo Jima, code talkers transmitted more than 800 messages during the first 48 hours as the marines struggled to get ashore under intense bombardment. More than 400 Navajo served in the marine corps as code talkers. Sworn to secrecy, their mission was not revealed until 1971. In 2001 Congress awarded the code talkers the Congressional Gold Medal for their unique contribution during the war.

What advantage did the code talkers provide over traditional forms of communication?

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The next assault—Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands—went much more smoothly. This time all of the troops went ashore in amphtracs. Although the Japanese resisted fiercely, the marines captured Kwajalein and nearby Eniwetok with far fewer casualties.

After the Marshall Islands, the navy targeted the Mariana Islands. American military planners wanted to use the Marianas as a base for a new heavy bomber, the B-29 Superfortress. The B-29 could fly farther than any other plane in the world. From airfields in the Marianas, B-29s could bomb Japan. Admiral Nimitz decided to invade three of the Mariana Islands: Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. Despite strong Japanese resistance, American troops captured all three by August 1944. A few months later, B-29s began bombing Japan.

MacArthur Returns

As the forces under Admiral Nimitz hopped across the central Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur’s troops began their own campaign
in the southwest Pacific. The campaign began by invading Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, east of New Guinea, in August 1942. It continued until early 1944, when MacArthur’s troops finally captured enough islands to surround the main Japanese base in the region. In response, the Japanese withdrew their ships and aircraft from the base, although they left 100,000 troops behind to hold the island.

Worried that the navy’s advance across the central Pacific was leaving him behind, MacArthur ordered his forces to leap nearly 600 miles (966 km) to capture the Japanese base at Hollandia on the north coast of New Guinea. Shortly after securing New Guinea, MacArthur’s troops seized the island of Morotai—the last stop before the Philippines.

To take back the Philippines, the United States assembled an enormous invasion force. In October 1944, more than 700 ships carrying more than 160,000 troops sailed for Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. On October 20, the troops began to land on Leyte, an island on the eastern side of the Philippines. A few hours after the invasion began, MacArthur headed to the beach. Upon reaching the shore, he strode to a radio and spoke into the microphone: “People of the Philippines, I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil.”

To stop the American invasion, the Japanese sent four aircraft carriers toward the Philippines from the north and secretly dispatched another fleet to the west. Believing the Japanese carriers were leading the main attack, most of the American carriers protecting the invasion left Leyte Gulf and headed north to stop them. Seizing their chance, the Japanese warships to the west raced through the Philippine Islands into Leyte Gulf and ambushed the remaining American ships.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest naval battle in history. It was also the first time that the Japanese used kamikaze attacks. Kamikaze means “divine wind” in Japanese. It refers to the great storm that destroyed the Mongol fleet during its invasion of Japan in the thirteenth century. Kamikaze pilots would deliberately crash their planes into American ships, killing themselves but also inflicting severe damage. Luckily for the Americans, just as their situation was becoming desperate, the Japanese commander, believing more American ships were on the way, ordered a retreat.

Although the Japanese fleet had retreated, the campaign to recapture the Philippines from the Japanese was long and grueling. More than 80,000 Japanese were killed; less than 1,000 surrendered. MacArthur’s troops did not capture Manila until March 1945. The battle left the city in ruins and more than 100,000 Filipino civilians dead. The remaining Japanese retreated into the rugged terrain north of Manila; they were still fighting in August 1945 when word came that Japan had surrendered.

Reading Check  Describing What strategy did the United States Navy use to advance across the Pacific?
The Battle for Omaha Beach

The selection of a site for the largest amphibious landing in history was one of the biggest decisions of World War II. Allied planners considered coastlines from Denmark to Portugal in search of a sheltered location with firm flat beaches within range of friendly fighter planes in England. There also had to be enough roads and paths to move jeeps and trucks off the beaches and to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of American, Canadian, and British troops set to stream ashore following the invasion. An airfield and a seaport that the Allies could use were also needed. Most important was a reasonable expectation of achieving the element of surprise.

How Did Geography Shape the Battle?

Surrounded at both ends by cliffs that rose wall-like from the sea, Omaha Beach was only four miles long. The entire beach was overlooked by a 150-foot high bluff and there were only five ravines leading from the beach to the top of the bluff.

The Germans made full use of the geographic advantage the 150-foot bluff gave them. They dug trenches and built concrete bunkers for machine guns at the top of the cliffs and positioned them to guard the ravines leading to the beach.

Once ashore they had to cross 300 yards of open beach to the base of the bluff.

The men had to jump into the water and wade ashore against a strong tide in water that was nearly over their heads.

Analyzing GEOGRAPHY

1. Location Why did the Allies choose Normandy as the invasion site?
2. Human-Environment Interaction How did geography make the invasion of Omaha Beach difficult?
American troops were carried to Omaha Beach in landing craft. Many of the landing craft came under such intense fire that they opened their front ramp doors early.
Fierce fighting in both Europe and the Pacific during 1945 led to the defeat of the Axis powers. The Allies began war crimes trials and set up a peacekeeping organization to prevent another global war.

The Third Reich Collapses

**MAIN Idea** The war in Europe ended in spring 1945 after major battles, as the Allies moved west toward Germany.

**HISTORY AND YOU** Have you ever been in a competition in which you persevered, despite fatigue, to win? Read to learn how the Allies fought in Europe to defeat Germany.

Although D-Day had been a success, it was only the beginning. Surrounding many fields in Normandy were **hedgerows**—dirt walls, several feet thick, covered in shrubbery. The hedgerows had been built to fence in cattle and crops, but they also enabled the Germans to fiercely defend their positions. The battle of the hedgerows ended on July 25, 1944, when 2,500 American bombers blew a hole in the German lines, enabling American tanks to race through the gap.

As the Allies broke out of Normandy, the French Resistance—French civilians who had secretly organized to resist the German occupation of their country—staged a rebellion in Paris. When the Allied forces liberated Paris on August 25, they found the streets filled with French citizens celebrating their victory.

The Battle of the Bulge

As the Allies advanced toward the German border, Hitler decided to stage one last desperate offensive. His goal was to cut off Allied supplies coming through the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The attack began just before dawn on December 16, 1944. Six inches (15 cm) of snow covered the ground, and the weather was bitterly cold. Moving rapidly, the Germans caught the American defenders by surprise. As the German troops raced west, their lines bulged outward, and the attack became known as the **Battle of the Bulge**.

Shortly after the Germans surrounded the Americans, Eisenhower ordered General Patton to rescue them. Three days later, faster than anyone expected in the midst of a snowstorm, Patton’s troops slammed into the German lines. As the weather cleared, Allied aircraft began hitting German fuel depots.

On Christmas Eve, out of fuel and weakened by heavy losses, the German troops driving toward Antwerp were forced to halt. Two days later, Patton’s troops broke through to the German line. Although
fighting continued for three weeks, the United States had won the Battle of the Bulge. On January 8, the Germans began to withdraw. They had suffered more than 100,000 casualties and lost many tanks and aircraft. They had very few resources left to prevent the Allies from entering Germany.

### The War Ends in Europe

While American and British forces fought to liberate France, the Soviets began a massive attack on German troops in Russia. By the time the Battle of the Bulge ended, the Soviets had driven Hitler’s forces out of Russia and back across Poland. By February 1945, Soviet troops were only 35 miles (56 km) from Berlin.

As the Soviets crossed Germany’s eastern border, American forces attacked Germany’s western border. By the end of February 1945, American troops had fought their way to the Rhine River, Germany’s last major line of defense in the west. On March 7, American tanks crossed the Rhine.

As German defenses crumbled, American troops raced east to within 70 miles (113 km) of Berlin. On April 16, Soviet troops finally smashed through the German defenses and reached the outskirts of Berlin five days later.

Deep in his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler knew the end was near. On April 30, 1945, he committed suicide. Before killing himself, Hitler chose Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz as his successor. Doenitz tried to surrender to the Americans and British while continuing to fight the Soviets, but Eisenhower insisted on unconditional surrender. On May 7, 1945, Germany accepted the terms. The next day—May 8, 1945—was proclaimed **V-E Day**, for “Victory in Europe.”

### Analyzing VISUALS

1. **Comparing** Which nation had the greatest number of civilian casualties?
2. **Analyzing** Why did the United States have so few civilian deaths?
Japan Is Defeated

MAIN Idea  The United States decided to end the war with Japan by using napalm and atomic bombs.

HISTORY AND YOU  When was the last time you had to make a difficult decision, with no really good choice? Read to learn about the decision President Truman made in 1945.

Unfortunately, President Roosevelt did not live to see the defeat of Germany. On April 12, 1945, while vacationing in Warm Springs, Georgia, he died of a stroke. His vice president, Harry S. Truman, became president during this difficult time.

The next day, Truman told reporters: “Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now. . . . When they told me yesterday what had happened, I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me.” Despite his feelings, Truman began at once to make decisions about the war. Although Germany surrendered a few weeks later, the war with Japan continued, and Truman was forced to make some of the most difficult decisions of the war during his first six months in office.

The Battle of Iwo Jima

On November 24, 1944, bombs fell on Tokyo. Above the city flew 80 B-29 Superfortress bombers that had traveled more than 1,500 miles (2,414 km) from new American bases in the Mariana Islands.

At first the B-29s did little damage because they kept missing their targets. By the time the B-29s reached Japan, they did not have enough fuel left to fix their navigational errors or to adjust for high winds. The pilots needed an island closer to Japan so the B-29s could refuel. American military planners decided to invade Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima was perfectly located, roughly halfway between the Marianas and Japan, but its geography was formidable. At its southern tip was a dormant volcano. The terrain was rugged, with rocky cliffs, jagged ravines, and
dozens of caves. Volcanic ash covered the ground. Even worse, the Japanese had built a vast network of concrete bunkers connected by miles of tunnels.

On February 19, 1945, some 60,000 Marines landed on Iwo Jima. As the troops leapt from the amphibtracs, they sank up to their ankles in the soft ash. Meanwhile, Japanese artillery began to pound the invaders.

The marines crawled inland, using flamethrowers and explosives to attack the Japanese bunkers. More than 6,800 marines were killed capturing the island. Admiral Nimitz later wrote that, on Iwo Jima, “uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

**Firebombing Japan**

While American engineers prepared airfields on Iwo Jima, General Curtis LeMay, commander of the B-29s based in the Marianas, decided to change strategy. To help the B-29s hit their targets, he ordered them to drop bombs filled with **napalm**—a kind of jellied gasoline. The bombs were designed not only to explode but also to start fires. Even if the B-29s missed their targets, the fires they started would spread to the intended targets.

The use of firebombs was very controversial because the fires would also kill civilians; however, LeMay could think of no other way to destroy Japan’s war production quickly. Loaded with firebombs, B-29s attacked Tokyo on March 9, 1945. As strong winds fanned the flames, the firestorm grew so intense that it sucked the oxygen out of the air, asphyxiating thousands. As one survivor later recalled:

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

“The fires were incredible... with flames leaping hundreds of feet into the air... With every passing moment the air became more foul... the noise was a continuing crashing roar... Fire-winds filled with burning particles rushed up and down the streets. I watched people... running for their lives... The flames raced after them like living things, striking them down... Wherever I turned my eyes, I saw people... seeking air to breathe.”

—quoted in *New History of World War II*
The Tokyo firebombing killed more than 80,000 people and destroyed more than 250,000 buildings. By the end of June 1945, Japan’s six most important industrial cities had been firebombed, destroying almost half of their total urban area. By the end of the war, the B-29s had firebombed 67 Japanese cities.

The Invasion of Okinawa

Despite the massive damage the firebombing caused, there were few signs in the spring of 1945 that Japan was ready to quit. Many American officials believed the Japanese would not surrender until Japan had been invaded. To prepare for the invasion, the United States needed a base near Japan to stockpile supplies and build up troops. Iwo Jima was small and still too far away. Military planners chose Okinawa—only 350 miles (563 km) from Japan.

American troops landed on Okinawa on April 1, 1945. Instead of defending the beaches, the Japanese troops took up positions in the island’s rugged mountains. To dig the Japanese out of their caves and bunkers, the Americans had to fight their way up steep slopes against constant machine gun and artillery fire. More than 12,000 American soldiers, sailors, and marines died during the fighting, but by June 22, 1945, Okinawa had finally been captured.

The Terms for Surrender

Shortly after the United States captured Okinawa, the Japanese emperor urged his government to find a way to end the war. The biggest problem was the American demand for unconditional surrender. Many Japanese leaders were willing to surrender, but on one condition: the emperor had to stay in power.

American officials knew that the fate of the emperor was the most important issue for the Japanese. Most Americans, however, blamed the emperor for the war and wanted him removed from power. President Truman was reluctant to go against public opinion. Furthermore, he knew the United States was almost ready to test a new weapon that might force Japan to surrender without any conditions. The new weapon was the atomic bomb.

The Manhattan Project

In 1939 Leo Szilard, one of the world’s top physicists, learned that German scientists had split the uranium atom. Szilard had been the first scientist to suggest that splitting the atom might release enormous energy. Worried that the Nazis were working on an atomic bomb, Szilard convinced the world’s best-known physicist, Albert Einstein, to sign a letter Szilard had drafted and send it to President Roosevelt. In the letter, Einstein warned that by using uranium, “extremely powerful bombs of a new type may . . . be constructed.”

Roosevelt responded by setting up a scientific committee to study the issue. The committee remained skeptical until 1941, when they met with British scientists who were already working on an atomic bomb. The British research so impressed the Americans that they

Debates IN HISTORY

Should America Drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan?

More than 60 years later, people continue to debate what some historians have called the most important event of the twentieth century—President Truman’s order to drop atomic bombs on Japan. Did his momentous decision shorten the war and save American lives, as Truman contended, or was it a barbaric and unnecessary show of superior military technology designed to keep the Soviet Union out of Japan?
convinced Roosevelt to begin a program to build an atomic bomb.

The secret American program to build an atomic bomb was code-named the Manhattan Project and was headed by General Leslie R. Groves. The first breakthrough came in 1942, when Szilard and Enrico Fermi, another physicist, built the world’s first nuclear reactor at the University of Chicago. Groves then organized a team of engineers and scientists to build an atomic bomb at a secret laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. J. Robert Oppenheimer led the team. On July 16, 1945, they detonated the world’s first atomic bomb in New Mexico.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Even before the bomb was tested, American officials began debating how to use it. Admiral William Leahy, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, opposed using the bomb because it killed civilians indiscriminately. He believed an economic blockade and conventional bombing would convince Japan to surrender. Secretary of War Henry Stimson wanted to warn the Japanese about the bomb while at the same time telling them that they could keep the emperor if they surrendered. Secretary of State James Byrnes, however, wanted to drop the bomb without any warning to shock Japan into surrendering.

President Truman later wrote that he “regarded the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubts that it should be used.” His advisers had warned him to expect massive casualties if the United States invaded Japan. Truman believed it was his duty as president to use every weapon available to save American lives.

**Primary Source**

“I am of the opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing with conventional weapons. The lethal possibilities of atomic warfare in the future are frightening. My own feeling was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.”

—*from I Was There*

**Document-Based Questions**

1. **Explaining** What reasons does Truman offer to justify the use of the atomic bomb?

2. **Summarizing** Why does Leahy say he was against using the bomb?

3. **Evaluating** Whom do you think makes the more persuasive argument? Explain your answer.
The Allies threatened Japan with “prompt and utter destruction” if the nation did not surrender, but the Japanese did not reply. Truman then ordered the military to drop the bomb. On August 6, 1945, a B-29 bomber named Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb, code-named “Little Boy,” on Hiroshima, an important industrial city.

The bomb destroyed about 63 percent of the city. Between 80,000 and 120,000 people died instantly, and thousands more died later from burns and radiation sickness. Three days later, on August 9, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. Later that day, the United States dropped another atomic bomb, code-named “Fat Man,” on the city of Nagasaki, killing between 35,000 and 74,000 people.

Faced with such massive destruction and the shock of the Soviets joining the war, the Japanese emperor ordered his government to surrender. On August 15, 1945—V-J Day—Japan surrendered. The long war was over.

Analyzing What arguments did Truman consider when deciding whether to use the atomic bomb?

Well before the war ended, President Roosevelt had begun thinking about what the world would be like after the war. The president had wanted to ensure that war would never again engulf the world.

Creating the United Nations

President Roosevelt believed that a new international political organization could prevent another world war. In 1944, at the Dumbarton Oaks estate in Washington, D.C., delegates from 39 countries met to discuss the new organization, which was to be called the United Nations (UN). The delegates at the conference agreed that the UN would have a General Assembly, in which every member

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Issued by the United Nations, December 10, 1948

1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
2. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.
3. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude . . .
4. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
5. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.
6. Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty . . .
7. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement . . .
8. Men and women . . . are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution . . .
9. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
10. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
11. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
12. Everyone has the right to work . . .
13. Everyone has the right to own property . . .
14. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
15. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
16. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
17. Everyone has the right to work . . .
18. Everyone has the right to an education . . .
19. Everyone has the right to own property . . .
20. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
21. Everyone has the right to the right to freedom of movement . . .
22. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
23. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
24. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
25. Everyone has the right to work . . .
26. Everyone has the right to an education . . .
27. Everyone has the right to an education . . .
28. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
29. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
30. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
31. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement . . .
32. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
33. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
34. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
35. Everyone has the right to work . . .
36. Everyone has the right to an education . . .
37. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
38. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
39. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
40. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement . . .
41. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
42. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
43. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
44. Everyone has the right to work . . .
45. Everyone has the right to an education . . .
46. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . .
47. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
48. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .
49. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement . . .
50. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . .

DEQ Document-Based Questions

1. Identifying Which right relates to free elections?
2. Speculating Why do you think that the right to an education might be so far down on the list?
3. Evaluating Which five of the human rights included in the Declaration do you feel are the most important today? Why?
nation in the world would have one vote. The UN would also have a Security Council with 11 members. Five countries would be permanent members of the Security Council: Britain, France, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States—the five big powers that had led the fight against the Axis. These five permanent members would each have veto power.

On April 25, 1945, representatives from 50 countries came to San Francisco to officially organize the United Nations and design its charter, or constitution. The General Assembly was given the power to vote on resolutions, to choose the non-permanent members of the Security Council, and to vote on the UN’s budget. The Security Council was responsible for international peace and security. It could investigate any international problem and propose settlements. It could also take action to preserve the peace, including asking its members to use military force to uphold a UN resolution.

Soon after its founding, the UN created a Commission on Human Rights and chose Eleanor Roosevelt to serve as its first chair. The Commission drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the UN issued it in 1948. The document strongly reflects the ideas and principles that Eleanor Roosevelt espoused during her life. It lists 30 rights that are said to be universally applicable to all human beings in all societies.

### Putting the Enemy on Trial

Although the Allies had declared their intention to punish German and Japanese leaders for war crimes, they did not work out the details until the summer of 1945. In August, the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union created the International Military Tribunal (IMT). The Tribunal held trials in Nuremberg, Germany, where Hitler had staged Nazi Party rallies.

Twenty-two leaders of Nazi Germany were prosecuted at the Nuremberg Trials. Three were acquitted and seven were given prison sentences. The remaining 12 were sentenced to death. Trials of lower-ranking officials and military officers continued until April 1949. Those trials led to the execution of 24 more German leaders. Another 107 were given prison sentences.

Similar trials were held in Tokyo. The IMT for the Far East charged 25 Japanese leaders with war crimes. Significantly, the Allies did not indict the Japanese emperor. They feared that any attempt to put him on trial would lead to an uprising by the Japanese people. Eighteen Japanese defendants were sentenced to prison. The rest were sentenced to death by hanging.

The war crimes trials punished many of the people responsible for World War II and the Holocaust, but they were also part of the American plan for building a better world. As Robert Jackson, chief counsel for the United States at Nuremberg, observed in his opening statement to the court: “The wrongs we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored because it cannot survive their being repeated.”

### Vocabulary


### Main Ideas

2. **Explaining** What was the significance of the Battle of the Bulge?

3. **Identifying** What was the advantage of using napalm bombs?

4. **Synthesizing** How was the United Nations designed to prevent global wars?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Big Ideas** If you had been a member of President Truman’s cabinet, what advice would you have given him about dropping the atomic bomb?

6. **Organizing** Using a graphic organizer like the one below, indicate the steps to victory in Europe and over Japan. Add boxes as needed.

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alliev Victory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victory in Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

7. **Analyzing Visuals** Look at the photo of the Japanese delegation on page 749. What do you observe about the scene?

### Writing About History

8. **Descriptive Writing** Imagine that you are in a large American city when news of victory over Japan comes. Describe the celebrations and the mood of the people.

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**History ONLINE**

**Study Central** To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.
The Pacific
1941
• Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7
1942
• The United States defeats Japan in the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway
1943
• The United States begins its island-hopping campaign
1944
• The United States retakes the Philippines
1945
• The United States drops the atomic bomb; Japan surrenders on August 15

Europe and North Africa
1941
• Germany invades the Soviet Union
1942
• The Allies turn the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic
1943
• The Allies invade Italy; German forces in North Africa and Stalingrad surrender to Allies
1944
• The Allies invade Normandy on June 6
1945
• Germany surrenders unconditionally on May 7

The Home Front
1941
• President Roosevelt forbids race discrimination in defense industries
1942
• Congress establishes WAAC; War Department relocates Japanese Americans to internment camps
1943
• Race riots occur in Detroit and Los Angeles; Roosevelt establishes OWM
1944
• Supreme Court hears case of Korematsu v. United States
1945
• Nearly 40 nations sign the United Nations charter

▼ A convoy of Allied M-3 tanks moves forward.

▼ Fire erupts on the USS Bunker Hill after a kamikaze attack, May 1945.
Reviewing Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

1. One complaint of African Americans at the beginning of World War II was that they were
   A integrated.
   B employed.
   C empowered.
   D disenfranchised.

2. Winston Churchill wanted to attack the _______, or edges, of the German Empire.
   A eastern front
   B periphery
   C left flank
   D western front

3. To aid in the war effort, American citizens accepted the _______ of some items.
   A rationing
   B disappearance
   C abundance
   D commandeering

4. Japanese suicide pilots were known as _______ pilots.
   A Shinto
   B Samurai
   C kamikaze
   D amtrac

Reviewing Main Ideas

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Section 1 (pp. 714–721)

5. The Liberty ship was superior to many warships because it was
   A welded instead of riveted.
   B riveted instead of welded.
   C painted in camouflage colors.
   D painted red, white, and blue.

6. African Americans pushed for a _______ victory in the war effort.
   A Tuskegee
   B Triple C
   C Double V
   D Carver

Section 2 (pp. 722–727)

7. The Japanese were determined to destroy the American fleet in the Pacific after
   A they were successful at Pearl Harbor.
   B the Americans surrendered at Bataan.
   C the crew of the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
   D James Doolittle dropped bombs on Tokyo.

8. To prevent huge shipping losses in the Atlantic, Americans used
   A antisubmarine devices.
   B a convoy system.
   C an air force escort.
   D mine sweepers.
Section 3 (pp. 728–735)

9. What did the United States do to encourage the collection of materials that could be used in the war effort?
   A. victory gardens
   B. scrap drives
   C. rationing
   D. war bonds

Section 4 (pp. 736–743)

10. What Allied invasion was successful at moving troops into Italy?
    A. Sicily
    B. Casablanca
    C. Tehran
    D. Normandy

11. Planning for D-Day was complicated by concerns for the
    A. German army.
    B. amtracs.
    C. weather.
    D. air forces.

Section 5 (pp. 746–753)

12. What was the code name for the plan to build the atomic bomb?
    A. Manhattan Project
    B. Doolittle Raid
    C. Operation Overlord
    D. V-J Day

Critical Thinking

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

13. The invasion of Normandy was important because it
    A. brought the Soviet Union into the war.
    B. forced the Germans to fight a two-front war.
    C. marked the first successful invasion by sea.
    D. protected the Pacific fleet.

Base your answer to question 14 on the map below and your knowledge of Chapter 21.

14. Most of the relocation camps were located in what region of the United States?
    A. the West
    B. the Southeast
    C. the Deep South
    D. the Midwest

15. What was the purpose of the Japanese American Citizens League?
    A. to fight the Japanese invasion of California
    B. to fight Roosevelt’s order to declare the western United States a military zone
    C. to help Japanese Americans recover lost property from the relocation
    D. to encourage Japanese Americans to join the U.S. armed forces
16. Women were able to serve in noncombat positions in the military and in factories at home because
   A. there were not enough men to fill the positions.
   B. no one else wanted the jobs.
   C. people realized it was unfair to keep them out.
   D. women organized, as they did to win the vote.

17. According to the cartoon, why were Americans encouraged to turn out their lights?
   A. The British could use the lights to create a blockade.
   B. The lights prevented American ships from seeing the British ships.
   C. The lights provided a silhouette for ships, making them targets for German submarines.
   D. The lights used too much electricity, creating city-wide blackouts.

Document-Based Questions
Directions: Analyze the document and answer the short-answer questions that follow the document.

Many historians believe that the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s had its roots in the “Double V” campaign and the march on Washington. Alexander Allen, a member of the Urban League during the war, believed that World War II was a turning point for African Americans.

“Up to that point the doors to industrial and economic opportunity were largely closed. Under the pressure of war, the pressures of government policy, the pressures of world opinion, the pressures of blacks themselves and their allies, all this began to change. . . . The war forced the federal government to take a stronger position with reference to discrimination, and things began to change as a result. There was a tremendous attitudinal change that grew out of the war. There had been a new experience for blacks, and many weren’t willing to go back to the way it was before.”

—quoted in Wartime America

18. How did the war change the status of African Americans in American society?
19. Why do you think the war forced the government to take a stronger position on discrimination in the workplace?

Extended Response
20. At the end of World War I, President Wilson asked Congress to join the League of Nations, but the United States did not join. As World War II ended, the United States hosted a conference to create another international organization, the United Nations. Discuss what had changed so that the American people were willing to participate in the United Nations. Also discuss the likelihood of the UN succeeding. Write an essay that supports your answer with relevant facts, examples, and details.

Need Extra Help?
If You Missed Questions . . . 16 17 18 19 20
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