America and World War II
Chapter 25
1941-1945
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.

As Eleanor Roosevelt passed by the president’s study, she knew immediately something very bad had happened:

“All the secretaries were there, two telephones were in use, the senior military aides were on their way with messages.” Eleanor also noticed that President Roosevelt remained calm: “His reaction to any event was always to be calm. If it was something that was bad, he just became almost like an iceberg, and there was never the slightest emotion that was allowed to show.”

Turning to his wife, President Roosevelt expressed anger at the Japanese: “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.”
Mobilizing for War

• Converting to Wartime Economy
  • Retooling for war
  • Cars to tanks
  • Refrigerators to airplanes
  • Toasters to Bombs
  • Sailboats to liberty ships

• War Production Board
  • Cost plus rewards

• Great Depression Ends
Building an Army
• Selective Service & Draft
• G.I.’s
• Segregation
  • Double V
  • Tuskegee airmen
• Women
  • Hobby
  • WAAC
  • more to men to fight
Review - getting ready to fight

1. The Selective Service was to _____ young men to fight for the defense of the country.

2. African Americans hoped for a ______ campaign to fight against racism at home and abroad.

3. To convert to a wartime economy, industries must _____.

4. The beginning of US involvement in World War II ends the ______.
The Early Battles Pacific

- Pearl Harbor
  - Battle ships sunk
  - Aircraft Carriers survive
George C. Marshall

• The Brains Behind the American War Effort
• Europe First!!
• Hitler can conquer the world, the Japanese can only make American angry!
On June 4, 1942, Lieutenant Commander James Thach climbed into his F4F Wildcat fighter plane. Thach knew that the Japanese Zero fighter planes were better than his Wildcat. To improve his chances against them, he had developed a new tactic he called the “Thach weave.” At the Battle of Midway, he had his first chance to try it:

“So we boarded our planes. All of us were highly excited and admittedly nervous. . . . A very short time after, Zero fighters came down on us—I figured there were twenty. . . . The air was just like a beehive, and I wasn’t sure that anything would work. And then my weave began to work! I got a good shot at two Zeros and burned them . . . then Ram, my wingman, radioed: ‘There’s a Zero on my tail.’ . . . I was really angry then. I was mad because my poor little wingman had never been in combat before [and] this Zero was about to chew him to pieces. I probably should have ducked under the Zero, but I lost my temper and decided to keep my fire going into him so he’d pull out. He did, and I just missed him by a few feet. I saw flames coming out of his airplane. This was like playing chicken on the highway with two automobiles headed for each other, except we were shooting at each other as well.”
Midway, coral sea, Japan,
Stalingrad, el Alamein,
Kassaerine pass
Beginning the Pacific War

- Philippines
  - MacArthur
  - Bataan Death march
- Doolittle raid
- Coral Sea
- Midway
  - Destroy American Fleet
  - Japanese Code

The President of the United States ordered me to break through the Japanese lines and proceed from Corregidor to Australia for the purpose, as I understand it, of organizing the American offensive against Japan, a primary objective of which is the relief of the Philippines. I came through and I shall return.

—General Douglas MacArthur, 1941

1. Where was MacArthur?
2. Where did he go?
3. What does he promise?
The Early Battles

Europe

• Second front
  • Invade from west

• North Africa
  • Kasserine Pass
  • El Alamein

• Atlantic

• Stalingrad
  • Heart of Soviet industry
  • Turning point

Enemy at the Gates ch.2
Review-Early battles
1. The Japanese attacked the naval base at ______ on the Date that will live in infamy.
2. The American ______ escaped destruction at Pearl Harbor.
3. The naval battle at ______ is seen as the turning point in the Pacific.
4. _____ escaped capture in the Philippines but promised to ______.
5. The US was able to decipher the Japanese ______ before the battle of Midway.
6. Stalin requested a ______ from the west so that the Nazi armies would be weakened on the Russian Front.
7. The _____ raid was the US initial counter attack on the Japanese homeland.
8. The main Nazi weapon in the battle of the Atlantic was the ______.
9. This is seen as the turning point battle in Europe.
10. This is seen as the turning point battle in North Africa.
Laura Briggs was a young woman living on a farm in Idaho when World War II began. As with many other Americans, the war completely changed her outlook on life:

“When I was growing up, it was very much depression times. . . . As farm prices [during the war] began to get better and better, farm times became good times. . . . We and most other farmers went from a tarpaper shack to a new frame house with indoor plumbing. Now we had an electric stove instead of a wood-burning one, and running water at the sink. . . . The war made many changes in our town. I think the most important is that aspirations changed. People suddenly had the idea, ‘Hey I can reach that. I can have that. I can do that. I could even send my kid to college if I wanted to.’”
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.

1. What job did this writer have?
2. How did this author feel about her future?
People on the Home Front

• African Americans
  • Tuskegee Airmen
  • Randolph
  • Double V campaign
    • Defeat racism abroad and at home!

• Mexicans
  • Farm workers

Benjamin O. Davis
Americans move!

- Sunbelt
  - Aircraft industry
- Racial problems
  - Equal pay?
  - Zoot Suits vs. Victory Suits
  - California fashion leads to riots
  - Support the war or not!!
- Japanese internments
  - Supreme Court approved b/c of emergency
  - 442\textsuperscript{nd} Regimental Combat Team in Italy
- Navajo Indians
  - Code Talkers in Pacific
Japanese Internment camps
1. Which country leads production of war supplies?
2. What supplies are indicated in these charts?
3. Why does this country lead production?
• Life in Wartime America
• Wage and price controls
• Rationing
• Victory gardens
• Scrap drives
• War bonds
• V for Victory
Review-US Home front

1. Many Japanese were placed in ______ during the war because of fear over _____ of American military installations.

2. Many people moved to the ______ during the war to work in the military aircraft industry.

3. _____ was convinced not to protest for equal rights during the war because of the war emergency.

4. ____ was the symbol of the woman war industry worker.

5. _____ were used to raise food for home consumption during the war.

6. _____ was used to pay for the war.

7. To save vital materials, Americans were called to participate in _____ and limit their consumption with ______.
On the morning of June 6, 1944, Lieutenant John Bentz Carroll of the 16th Infantry Regiment scrambled down a net ladder from his troop ship to a small landing craft tossing in the waves 30 feet (9 m) below. The invasion of France had begun. Carroll’s platoon would be among the first Americans to land in Normandy. Their objective was a beach, code-named “Omaha”:

“Two hundred yards out, we took a direct hit. . . . [A machine gun] was shooting a rat-tat-tat on the front of the boat. 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. They were being hit as they jumped, the machine gun fire was so heavy. . . . 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. The men would line up behind those poles. They’d say, ‘You go—you go—you go,’ and then it got so bad everyone just had to go anyway, because the waves were hitting with such intensity on these things.”
Pushing the Axis back

• Strategic Bombing
• Hit
  • Oil refineries
  • Ball bearing factories
• Aircraft factories
• Air supremacy
Invasions 1943

• Sicily
• Italy
• Anzio
• Cassino
Tehran Conference

• Allied Cooperation
  • Roosevelt
  • Stalin
  • Churchill

• Plan agreed:
  • Invasion
  • Dismember Germany
  • Soviets war on Japan
  • International organization, United Nations
The Western Front

- Operation Overlord
  - Pas-de-Calais or Normandy?
- Eisenhower “Ike”
- D-Day, June 6, 1944
- Beaches
  - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, Sword
- Normandy Invasions
- hedgerows
Fighting the Japanese in the Pacific

- Island Hopping
- Nimitz
- Tarawa
  - Coral Atoll
- Guadalcanal
  - Turning point
- Saipan
- Philippines
In 1945 Captain Luther Fletcher entered the German concentration camp at Buchenwald with a group of Germans who were being forced to see what their country had done. In his diary Fletcher described what they witnessed:

“They saw blackened skeletons and skulls in the ovens of the crematorium. In the yard outside, they saw a heap of white human ashes and bones. . . . [The] dead were stripped of their clothing and lay naked, many stacked like cordwood waiting to be burned at the crematory. At one time 5,000 had been stacked on the vacant lot next to the crematory. . . . At headquarters of the SS troops who ran the place were lamp shades made from human skin. . . . Often, the guide said, the SS wished to make an example of someone in killing him. . . . They used what I call hay hooks, catching him under the chin and the other in the back of the neck. He hung in this manner until he died.”
The War Ends in Europe

- Battle of the Bulge
- FDR dies
- Truman takes over
- Berlin
  - Hitler’s Bunker
- V-E Day
Division of Germany
Fighting in Pacific
• Iwo Jima
• Okinawa
• B-29 fire bombs
  • Napalm
• Manhattan Project
  • Einstein
  • Oppenheimer
  • Oak Ridge Tenn.
Kamikazes
Japanese Desperation
Victory in the Pacific

• Enola Gay
  • Atomic Bomb
  • Hiroshima
  • Nagasaki

• V-J Day
  • Emperor declares peace
  • US Occupation
  • Emperor saved
The proposal is to make a technical but not military demonstration, preparing the way for a recommendation by the United States that the military use of atomic explosives be outlawed by firm international agreement.

I note that two important considerations have not been mentioned:
(1) that failure to make a military demonstration of the new bombs may make the war longer and more expensive on human lives, and
(2) that without a military demonstration it may be impossible to impress the world with the need for national sacrifices in order to gain lasting security.

—Arthur Compton, June 12, 1945

Use the Atomic Bomb?
1. Would you use the Atomic Weapon?
2. What results would happen today?
3. Draw a picture of the devastation from an atomic blast.

We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried, most people were silent. I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture . . . “I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.” I suppose we all thought that one way or another.

—Robert Oppenheimer

Arguments for dropping the bomb
1. Americans were tired of war and sacrifice.
2. An invasion would cost thousands more American lives.
3. The Japanese were unwilling to surrender.
4. Dropping the Atomic bomb could save American lives.
We estimate that by late 1945 there will be available in the Japanese Home Islands . . . over 2,000,000 men. The Japanese will continue development of the “National Volunteer Army” and may form combat home defense units to supplement their regular armed forces. Fanatical resistance will be offered in the defense of any of the Home Islands. The Japanese would commit all ground forces they could sustain in defense. . . .

The Japanese ruling groups are aware of the desperate military situation and are increasingly desirous of a compromise peace, but still find unconditional surrender unacceptable. The basic policy of the present government is to fight as long and as desperately as possible in the hope of avoiding complete defeat and of acquiring a better bargaining position in a negotiated peace.

—Combined Chiefs of Staff Estimate of the Enemy Situation, July 6, 1945

You have asked us to comment on the initial use of the new weapon. . . . We recognize our obligation to our nation to use the weapons to help save American lives in the Japanese war.

The opinions of our scientific colleagues on the initial use of these weapons are not unanimous: they range from the proposal of a purely technical demonstration to that of the military application best designed to induce surrender.

Those who advocate a purely technical demonstration would wish to outlaw the use of atomic weapons, and have feared that if we use the weapons now our position in future negotiations will be prejudiced. Others emphasize the opportunity of saving American lives by immediate military use, and believe that such use will improve the international prospects, in that they are more concerned with the prevention of war than with the elimination of this specific weapon.

We find ourselves closer to these latter views; we can propose no technical demonstration likely to bring an end to the war; we see no acceptable alternative to direct military use.

—J. Robert Oppenheimer, June 16, 1945
A New World

- Potsdam Conference
- United Nations
  - US
    - Economic powerhouse
  - Soviet Union
    - Devastated
- Nuremberg trials
  - Nazi war criminals
Review-Ending the war

1. Hitler’s last major offensive in Europe was called _______.
2. Japanese used ____ as a last attempt to stop the American Navy.
3. The cities of _____ and _____ were destroyed by atomic weapons.
4. The _____ project was to develop atomic weapons.
5. The final battle in the Pacific was the invasion of _____.
6. The US strategy to defeat Japan was called _____.
7. The Allied invasion of Europe was code named _______ and occurred in _____ France on _______.
8. At _____, Stalin, Churchill, and FDR make plans for after the war.
9. From 1942-1944, the US and Great Britain primarily used _____ to destroy Nazi factories.
10. Nazi war criminals would be punished after the ______ Trials.