

WORLD WAR II (1931-1945)



What's Essential?

- Causes of the War (underlying and direct)
- Reasons for American Neutrality (various acts/events)
- Reasons for American entrance: Pearl Harbor?
- Wartime goals of the Allies
- Major battles: D-Day, Iwo Jima, Okinawa



Essential to Know (con' t)

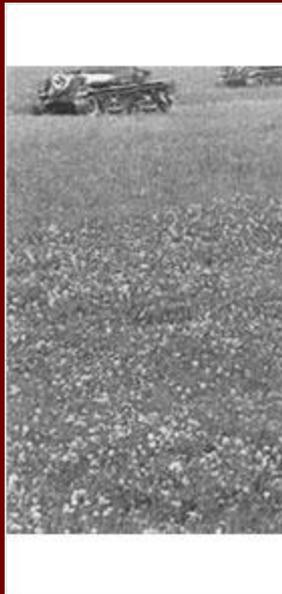


- American Homefront (women, rationing, Japanese internment)
- Yalta and Potsdam Conferences and their significance
- Decision to drop atomic bomb and its lasting effects

Causes for World War II

UNDERLYING:

- Treaty of Versailles
- Nationalism
- Worldwide Depression
- Dictatorships
- The policy of appeasement
- American Isolationism



DIRECT:

- Germany invading Poland on September 1, 1939



Hitler and Nazi Germany

- Rise to power result of weakness of previous government (1933-became Chancellor)
- Charismatic speaker, preached German nationalism, denounced Versailles Treaty
- Blamed Jews, communists for Germany's problems
- Promised return of German pride

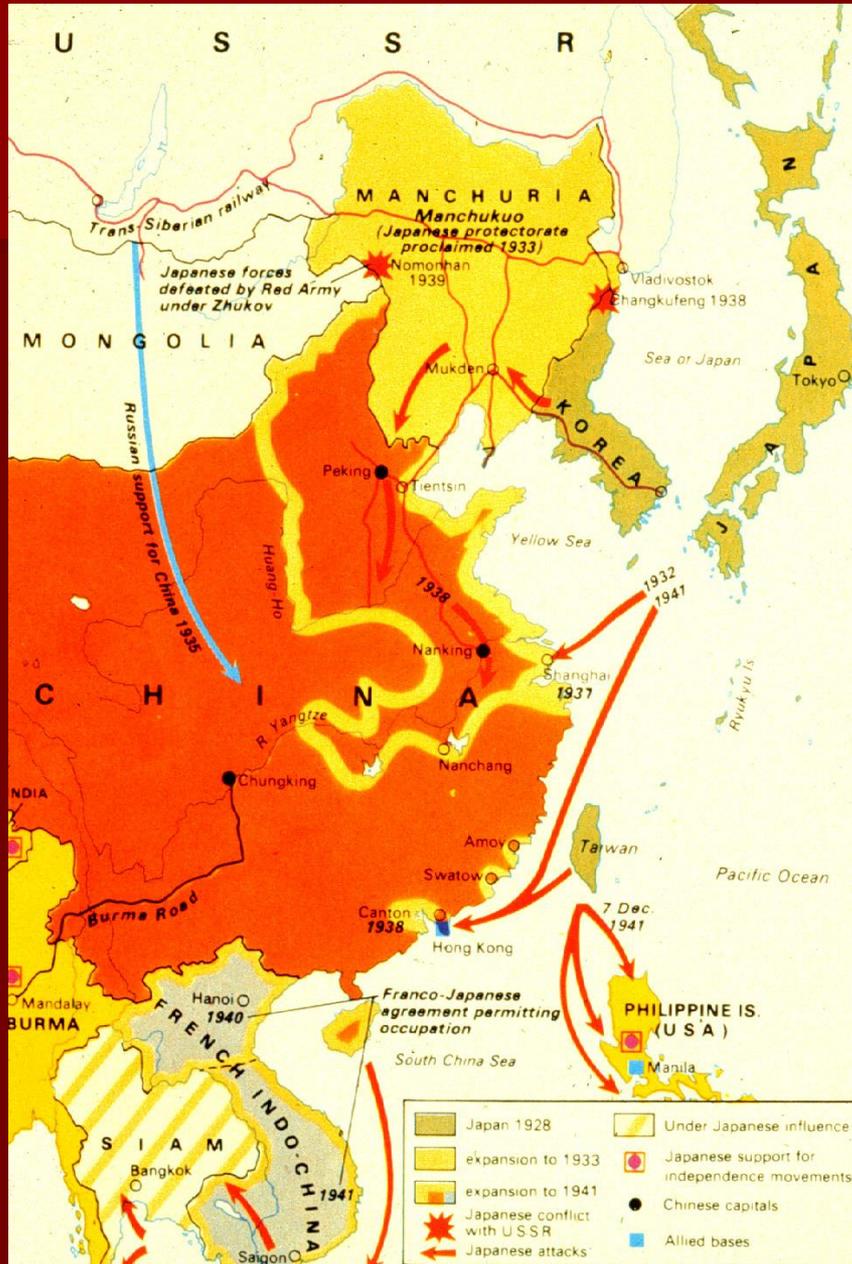


Benito Mussolini in Italy



- Fascist leader who took control of Italy in 1922
- Wanted to create another Roman Empire
- Invaded Ethiopia in 1935
- Along with Hitler supported Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War (combat experience)

Japanese Expansion



- Sought total control of Pacific (resources)
- 1931- military occupation of Manchuria
- 1936- Japan signs Pact with Germany, Italy
- Nanking Massacre- December 1937

American Neutrality



President Roosevelt

- Domestic: U.S. in midst of Great Depression, public intent on remaining neutral
- 1935: First Neutrality Act (no sale of arms to belligerent nations)
- 1937: Arm sales only on “cash and carry” basis
- FDR warns of impending problems

Isolationist Fantasy



Charles
Lindbergh

- Economic, military reasons for neutrality
- Tried to prevent mistakes that led to WWI involvement
- FDR: “Let no one imagine that we will escape...that this western hemisphere will not be attacked” — outraged many isolationists

Appeasement

- 1938- Hitler invades Austria, Sudetenland on Czech border
- Munich Conference (1938): Chamberlain and Daladier allow Hitler to do this (appeasement)
- Chamberlain: “Peace in our time”
- British rearmament



Adolf Hitler greets Neville Chamberlain upon the Prime Minister's arrival in Munich.

War Erupts

- March 1939- Hitler breaks Munich agreement, invades rest of Czechoslovakia
- August 1939- Hitler signs nonaggression pact with rival USSR, turns attention west
- September 1, 1939- “blitzkrieg” invasion of Poland; Britain and France declare war on Germany



German “blitz” of Warsaw

World War II (1939-1941)

Hitler's Wild Ride in Europe
While the U.S. Watches

Hitler Moves in Europe

- April 1940- Hitler seizes Norway, Denmark
- May- Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
- By June, Hitler controls France, turns attention to Britain
- Fall 1940- Battle of Britain
- London heavily bombed but Churchill remains defiant



**British Prime Minister
Winston Churchill**

“Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands.

But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth^[5] last for a thousand years, men will still say, This was their finest hour.”



Winston Churchill speech to Parliament – June 18, 1940

The United States and Britain



- 1939- Roosevelt revises Neutrality Act, allows for arms trade
- Public opinion divided
- Election of 1940- FDR wins 3rd term
- 1940: Destroyers for Bases Deal
- 1941: Lend-Lease Act



- “Destroyers for Bases”: called for 50 American destroyers to be exchanged for the use of 8 British naval bases along the North Atlantic coast
- “Lend-lease”: made it possible to lend or lease supplies to any country whose interests were vital (GB)- \$50 billion



The U.S. Enters the War



USS Greer

- The “destroyers for bases” deal allowed the U.S. to extend its influence
- August 1941- Atlantic Charter: Churchill and FDR agree to defend democracy, free trade and economic advancement
- The U.S. destroyer *Greer* attacked in September 1941
- US directly involved in naval warfare



Atlantic Charter

United States and Japan

- Japan wanted to extend influence in Far East
- July 1940: U.S. embargo of raw materials to Japan
- 1941: Lend-Lease aid to China
- Anticipating attack in the Philippines
- December 7, 1941: Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- An attack was expected, even desired; poor management by military leaders created disaster

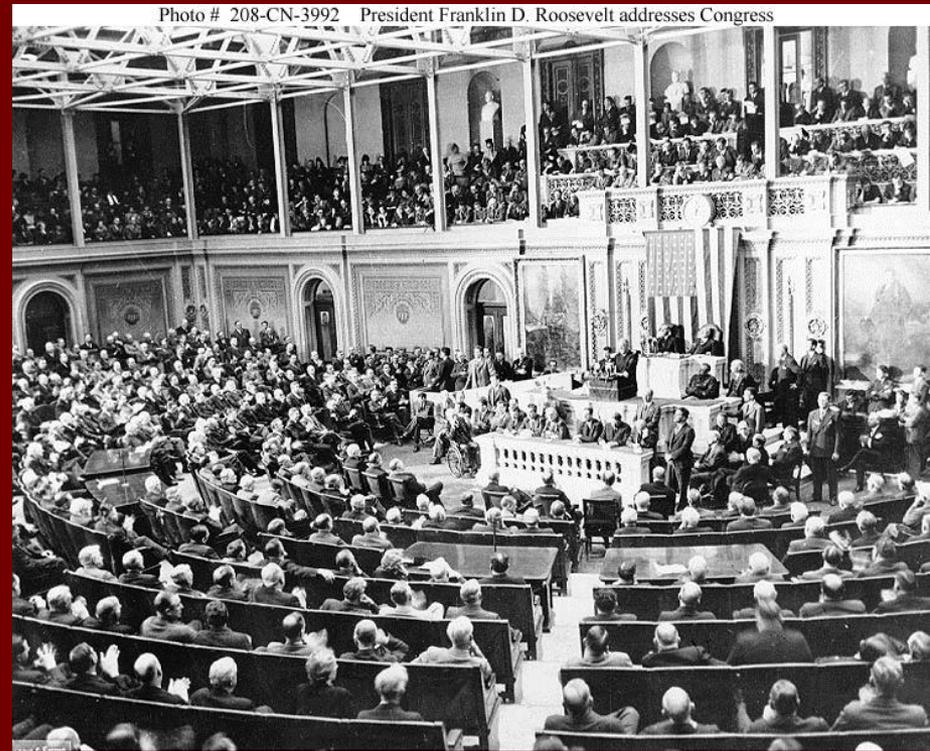


Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor



America Enters War

- Pearl Harbor attack devastates nation
- FDR: “A date which will live in infamy”
- December 8, 1941- FDR receives war declaration from Congress against Japan
- Germany, Italy declare war on United States



FDR addresses Congress after Pearl Harbor attack

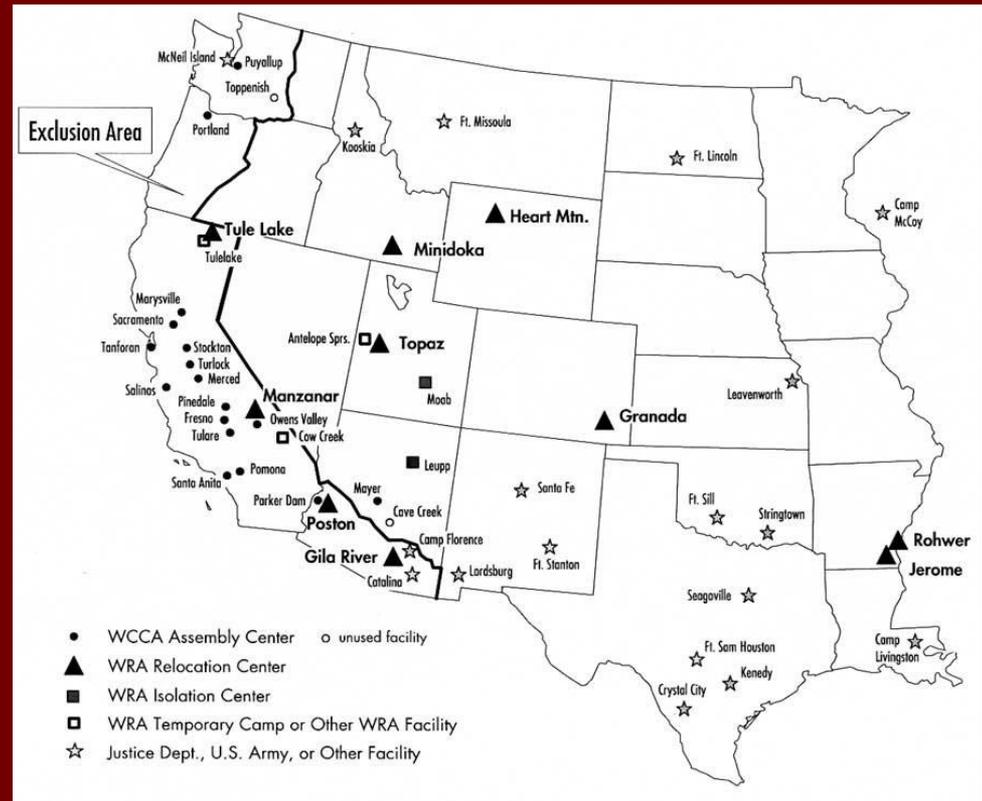
Japanese Internment

- February, 1942: FDR issues Executive Order
- +/- 120,000 Japanese-Americans on West Coast moved to interior internment camps
- Japanese farms/businesses bought for far less value



Japanese Internment

- Detention/internment included:
- 11,500 German-Americans
- 250 Italian nationals



Allied Military Strategy (1941-1945)

The Participants

■ Allied Powers

- England
- Soviet Union (after German attack on June 22, 1941)
- France
- United States

■ Axis Powers

- Italy
- Germany
- Japan

Mobilizing for War

- 1940- Economy focuses on military mobilization
- Massive industrial output (twice as productive as Germany, 5 times Japan)
- Primary focus: tanks, planes, battleships
- War Production Board
- Military draft, training



Wartime propaganda

The Liberation of Europe



**Erwin Rommel,
the “Desert Fox”**

- FDR: Liberate Europe first and pursue an “active defense” in the Pacific
- Battle of Atlantic: Hitler’s “Wolf Packs” vs. Allied Navies
- Clear Germany from North Africa
- Late 1942: Only Tunisia was controlled by Axis Powers

Allied Advances in Europe (1943-1944)

- January, 1943: Allies agree to fight until they win “unconditional surrender”
- February 1943: SU takes back Stalingrad and moves westward
- Same time, Allied victory in Tunisia secures Africa



Allied Advancements Cont...



- July 10, 1943: The invasion of Italy.
- Fighting continues from July 1943 to June 1944 (70,000 Allied troops killed)
- Separate peace was signed with new Italian government in September, 1943



Unconditional Surrender in Europe (1944-1945)



- Britain and U.S. air raid strategic sights in Germany (Flying Fortresses)
- June 6, 1944: D-Day and the Allied invasion of Normandy
- Battle at Normandy lasted from June 6-July 24
- August 25, 1944: France liberated

Germany's Last Gasp Effort

- Hitler was caught between Allied troops coming from the West and Stalin's forces coming from the East.
- December 1944: Battle of the Bulge
- April 25, 1945: Russia and Allied Forces meet at the Elbe River
- May 8, 1945: Germany surrenders (V-E DAY)



YALTA CONFERENCE (FEBRUARY 1945)

- Plans for German surrender
- Stalin agrees to hold free elections and help with Japan
- Broken promises, USSR's position strengthened
- Initiated Cold War



Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin

Allied Military Strategy in the Pacific (1941-1945)

- By 1942, Japan had controlled almost the entire area of the Pacific
- Allies were able to hold on to Hawaii and Samoa
- “Active defense” campaign:
 - Battle of the Coral Sea (May, 1942)
 - Battle of Midway (June, 1942)
 - Battle of Guadalcanal (Aug. 1942-Feb. 1943)



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“The Alternative to Surrender is Prompt Destruction”



- August 6, 1945: Atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima (at least 75,000 killed)

- August 9, 1945: Atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki



World War II- The Homefront



“Rosie the Riveter” inspired many women to contribute

- American industry key to victory
- Built tanks, bombs, guns, ships, ammunition, etc.
- War bonds (borrowed \$\$\$ from Americans) raised about \$50 billion for war effort
- Women “filling in” for men off at war
- Victory Gardens

Blacks in WWII

- WWII effort directly led to later civil rights movement
- Patton's "Black Panther" Battalion at Battle of the Bulge
- Tuskegee Airmen
- July, 1948: Truman signs Executive Order integrating US military



“The War is Over”



- Japan surrenders to Allied Forces on the *U.S. Missouri* after the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki- August 14th— V-J Day

THE COSTS OF THE WAR

- U.S. lost over 300,000 soldiers
- World suffered 55-85 million deaths
(global pop. 1940 = 2.3B; 2.4-3.7% died)
- Almost 25 million Russians alone died
- Over 12 million killed in death camps
- \$1.6 - \$2.2T (\$24 - \$33 T today)
- New fears arise after the war – fight to contain Communism (The Cold War)