

World War II

U.S. History
Unit 6

I. Breaking Neutrality



A. Neutrality Act of 1939

1. The nation embraced isolationism.
2. Congress implemented a cash-and-carry program in 1940, which FDR thought would help keep the US neutral.

A. The Neutrality Act of 1939

3. The U.S. sold nearly 600,000 guns to Britain.

B. Lend-Lease Act

1. By the end of 1940, Britain was broke.
2. FDR proposed a lend-lease policy to give Britain, the USSR, and Allied countries aid against the Axis powers.

B. Lend-Lease Act

3. The Axis power was rising. FDR wanted to avoid a two-ocean war, so he provided Britain with 500,000 rifles, 80,000 machine guns, and numerous ships.

C. The Atlantic Charter

1. FDR and Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, met and negotiated the Atlantic Charter which was the basis of the "Declaration of the United Nations."
2. This document outlined the common goals of the Allies, the nations who fought the Axis Powers.

II. America Moves Toward War



A. American Forces

1. FDR convinced Congress to increase spending for national defense.
2. FDR won an unprecedented third term in 1940.

A. American Forces

3. In 1941, Hitler broke his Non-Aggression Pact with Stalin and FDR began sending lend-lease supplies to Russia. German U-boats would torpedo weapon shipments, so FDR OK'd warships to attack German U-boats in self defense.

B. Japan Attacks the U.S.

1. On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed the largest American naval base - Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. 2,403 people were killed & 1,178 wounded.
2. The U.S. declared war on Japan, and 3 days later Germany and Italy.

III. The Home Front

A. Women Make Gains

1. Over 6 million women entered the workforce for the first time, with $\frac{1}{3}$ in the defense industry.

A. Women Make Gains

2. The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) was formed.
3. Women worked in non-combat roles.

B. Population Shifts

1. The war triggered the greatest mass migration in American history.
2. More than 1 million people migrated to California.
3. African Americans again shifted from south to north.

C. The War Effort

1. After Pearl Harbor, 5 million Americans enlisted in the war.
2. The Selective Service expanded the draft and provided 10 million additional soldiers.

C. The War Effort

3. Despite discrimination at home, minorities contributed to the war effort.

- 1,000,000 African Americans
- 300,000 Mexican Americans
- 33,000 Japanese Americans
- 25,000 Native Americans
- 13,000 Chinese Americans

C. War Effort

4. The nation's industries began to produce war related supplies.
5. Rationing was set up so resources could support the war effort.

D. Discrimination and Reaction

1. Racial violence spread around the country. Wherever African Americans moved, discrimination followed.
2. Zoot-suit riots exploded in Los Angeles

E. Japanese American Internment

1. When the war began, 120,000 Japanese lived in the U.S.
2. After Pearl Harbor many people believed Japanese Americans were committing sabotage against the U.S..

E. Japanese American Internment

3. FDR ordered 110,000 Japanese Americans living in the West into internment camps.
4. No charges were ever filed against Japanese Americans, and no evidence of sabotage was ever found.

E. Japanese American Internment

5. In the late 1980s, President Reagan signed into law a bill that provided \$20,000 to every Japanese American sent to an internment camp.

“We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during WWII.”

- President George H.W. Bush

IV. War in Europe and North Africa

A. German Offensive

1. On September 1, 1939, the German Luftwaffe (air force) invaded Poland.

A. German Offensive

2. After the Polish invasion, the Allies Britain and France, declared war on Germany.
3. Allies focused on stopping Germany's Blitzkrieg strategy.

A. German Offensive

4. Allies focus on defeating Hitler first and then turn attention to Japan.
5. Improved radar technology allowed Allies to start tracking U-boats and inflicting huge losses on Germany.

B. The Battle of Britain

1. Summer of 1940, every night for two months, Germany launched an air attack on England.
2. The Royal Air Force used a new device, radar, to fight them off.
3. The raid lasted for 6 months before Hitler abandons his plan.

C. Russia - Battle of Stalingrad

1. Germany was not prepared for a harsh Russian winter.
2. Soviet army trapped the Germans in, cutting off their supplies.
3. Allied victory marked a turning point.

D. North African Front

1. General Dwight D. Eisenhower led "Operation Torch," in North Africa.
2. Allied troops landed in Morocco and Algeria and fought the Afrika Korps led by German General Erwin Rommel.
3. The Axis powers surrendered in May 1943.
4. Allied victory.

E. Italian Campaign - Bloody Anzio

1. FDR & Churchill agree to only accept an unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.
2. Summer 1943, Allies take Sicily and King Emmanuel III stripped Mussolini of his power and arrested him.
3. Hitler continues to fight in Italy until May 1944.
4. Tuskegee Airmen received first victory against an enemy aircraft.
5. Allied victory; 25,000 Allied and 30,000 Axis casualties.

F. France - Operation Overlord

1. Allies plan “Operation Overlord” (aka D-Day) to be commanded by General Dwight D. Eisenhower.
2. It would involve 3 million U.S. & British troops, and was set for June 6, 1944.

F. France - Operation Overlord

3. D-Day was the largest land-air-sea operation in military history.
4. German retaliation was brutal, especially at Omaha Beach.
5. Within one month, the Allies landed one million troops, 567,000 tons of supplies, and 170,000 vehicles

G. Germany Battle of the Bulge

1. Hitler's last major offensive.
2. Largest battle fought on the Western front where 250,000 Nazi soldiers advance through the Ardennes Forest.
3. German forces retreated resulting in an Allied victory.

V. Liberation

A. Unconditional Surrender

1. Russians and Americans liberated Nazi death camps.
2. April 1945, Hitler commits suicide.
3. May 1945, General Eisenhower accepts the unconditional surrender of the Third Reich.

A. Unconditional Surrender

4. Allies celebrate V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) and the war in Europe is over.
5. FDR died in April 1945, VP Harry Truman became nation's 33rd president.

VI. Japan Advances

A. Philippines

1. December 1941, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, 80,000 Allied troops battle Japan on the Bataan Peninsula.
2. 200,000 Japanese troops hold the ground and force the Allies to retreat.
3. American & Filipino POW's are forced to march 60 miles without food or water - 14,000 Allied troops killed.

B. Doolittle's Raid

1. Spring 1942, the Allies raid Tokyo. Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle led an air raid.
2. The attack did little damage, but boosted America's morale.

C. Battle of the Coral Sea

1. May 1942, off the coast of Australia.
2. Aerial battle between planes launched from aircraft carriers.
3. First time since Pearl Harbor that a Japanese invasion had been stopped.

D. Battle of Midway

1. Allies break Japanese code and knew they would attack Midway, an island northwest of Hawaii.
2. Allies send torpedo planes and dive bombers to attack.

D. Battle of Midway

3. Turning point in the Pacific War.
4. Allies begin strategy of “island hopping.”

VII. The Japanese Defense

A. Battle of Guadalcanal

1. August 1942, Americans win first land victory on the island of Guadalcanal.
2. U.S. used Navajo code talkers to communicate safely without the Japanese translating Allied messages.

B. Battle of Leyte Gulf

1. The kamikaze was introduced by Japan.
2. Despite damage, the 3 day battle of Leyte Gulf was a disaster for Japan.
3. Japanese Imperial Navy is defeated and will now play a minor role in the war.

C. Battle of Iwo Jima

1. February 1945, 70,000 American forces invade Iwo Jima which was defended by 21,000 Japanese troops.
2. 5 weeks of battle in one of WWII's bloodiest battles.
3. 6,000 marines killed and only 200 Japanese survive.
4. Allied victory marked by raising the U.S. flag atop Mt. Suribachi

D. Battle of Okinawa

1. April 1945, last hurdle before U.S. would invade Japan.
2. More than 1,900 kamikaze attacks on the Allies made U.S. wonder if Japan would ever surrender.
3. 2 months of fighting resulted in 7,600 American deaths and 110,000 Japanese deaths.

VIII. The Atomic Bomb

A. The Manhattan Project

1. U.S. feared that an invasion of Japan would be a struggle.
2. President Truman decided to use a new weapon developed by scientists working on the Manhattan Project - the atomic bomb.

A. The Manhattan Project

3. Truman warned Japan to either surrender or face complete destruction.
4. Japan refused
5. August 6, 1945 - U.S. drops *Little Boy* over Hiroshima and the city turns to dust. 70,000 killed

A. The Manhattan Project

6. August 9, 1945 - U.S. drops a second bomb, *Fat Man*, over Nagasaki, leveling half the city. 200,000 killed

B. Japan Surrenders

“I cannot bear to see my innocent people suffer any longer.”

- Emperor Hirohito

1. September 2, 1945 - Japan surrenders on the U.S. battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

“Today the guns are silent. The skies no longer rain death ... the entire world is quietly at peace.”

- General MacArthur

IX. Establishing the New World Order

A. The Yalta Conference

1. February 1945, after the Allied victory in Europe, FDR met with Churchill and Stalin in Yalta.

A. The Yalta Conference

2. A series of compromises were worked out concerning postwar Europe:
 - a. divide Germany into 4 occupied zones
 - b. Stalin agreed to free elections in Eastern Europe
 - c. Stalin agreed to help the U.S. in war against Japan and join the United Nations.

B. Nuremberg War Trials

1. Allies put 24 surviving Nazi leaders on trial for crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, and war crimes.
2. Trials were held in Nuremberg, Germany

Herman Goering, Hitler's right-hand man and chief architect of the German war effort, testifies at his trial.

C. Occupation of Japan

1. Japan was occupied by U.S. forces under General MacArthur.
2. During the 7 year occupation, Japan's economy was reshaped by introducing free-market practices.
3. MacArthur introduced a liberal constitution that is still known as the MacArthur Constitution.