Dictators Threaten the Peace of the World

The “Peace” Following WWI Leads to Nationalism...and Dictators- The vengeful Treaty of Versailles set the board for a nationalistic rise of dictators in Europe and Asia. The “peace” brought by the war to end all wars was a farce. Germany and Russia were pawns in the imperialistic game of revenge of the Allied nations. Although their economies would fall into depression and ruin, both countries would rebound through the strategies of nationalistic leaders. Other countries would also embark on their own brand of nationalistic endeavors, resulting in another competition for conquest and resources. The 1930s would ultimately see the same nations, fighting for the same territory, for the same reasons. The war to end all wars was really just the beginning of the greatest war Earth has ever seen.

The Treaty of Versailles Solved NOTHING- The Treaty of Versailles was focused on getting revenge, rather than creating a “just and lasting peace.” What it would actually result in was the punished countries seeking to gain their own revenge.

- Germany resented the punishing provisions of the treaty
  - The war guilt clause was humiliating
  - The reparations were daunting
  - The loss of overseas colonies made repayment of reparations impossible
  - The Weimar Republic, the democratic government set up in Germany following the war, would be overwhelmed by economic depression
- Russia would resent the loss of its territory
- Many in Europe would look toward authoritarian leaders to solve their economic and social problems

The Man of Steel Strengthens the Soviet Union- The Bolshevik Revolution brought a time of fluctuation in Russia. Civil war resulted in the formation of a communist state, officially called the Soviet Union. Following Vladimir Lenin’s death in 1924, Joseph Stalin, whose name means “man of steel,” took power and set out to transform the Soviet state into a model of communism.

- Transformed the nation’s agriculture
  - Abolished privately owned farms and replaced them with giant collectives- government-owned farms, worked by hundreds of families
- Worked to transform the Soviet Union into an industrial power
  - 1928- Stalin outlines the first of his “Five-year Plans”
    - The communist government would direct all economic activity
    - By 1937, the Soviet Union had become the world’s second largest industrial power
- Stalin also strove to eliminate any threats to his power, beginning to purge his communist state of all suspected dissidents in 1936
Anyone who threatened him could be killed

- Historians estimate that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of as many as 13 million people

- By 1939, Stalin had entrenched a totalitarian government, one where individuals have no rights, and the government suppresses all opposition
  - Stalin’s goals was to exert complete control over his citizens

**Mussolini Builds a Fascist State in Italy** - Unemployment and inflation produced bitter strikes, some of which were led by communists in Italy following WWI. Many Italians looked to a strong leader to solve their country’s problems. By 1921, Benito Mussolini, a strong speaker who knew how to play on people’s fears and national pride, achieved national prominence, and would quickly rise to become the head of Italy’s government

- By 1921, Mussolini, had established the Fascist Party
  - Fascism - an ideology that stresses extreme nationalism and places the interests of the state above those of individuals
    - Fascists argued that in order to strengthen Italy, power should be given to a single strong leader and a small group of devoted party members
  - October 1922 - Mussolini, who called himself Il Duce (“the leader”), marched on Rome with thousands of followers in a symbolic show of power
    - Important government officials, the army, and the police sided with the Fascists
    - The Italian king appointed Mussolini as head of the Italian government
  - Mussolini gradually extended Fascist control to every aspect of Italian life
    - While there are private property rights under fascism, there are also strong government controls.
      - Fascists in Italy were decidedly anticommunist
    - Mussolini’s reforms helped bring Italy into a position of power
      - Yet he did this by crushing all opposition and by making Italy a totalitarian state

**The Weimar Republic Falls as Nazis Take Over Germany** - The devastation and depression that gripped Germany after WWI set the stage for another powerful leader to emerge. Adolf Hitler, much like Mussolini, came to power by joining an infectious political party and stressing a nationalistic message to bring the German people back to their former glory.

- 1919 - Hitler joined the National Socialist German Workers Party, or the Nazi party
  - The Nazi party actually had no ties to socialism
  - A power public speaker and organizer, Hitler soon became the party’s leader
  - Hitler called himself Der Fuhrer, which means “the Leader”
• **Mein Kampf**- while a political prisoner, Hitler wrote the book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), which outlined the basic beliefs of Nazism

• **Nazism**- is fascism based on extreme nationalism, and was means for Hitler's plan of action
  
  o Unification of Germans- Born in Austria, Hitler hoped to unite all German-speaking people in a great Germany empire that he called the Third Reich
  
  o Racial purification- according to Hitler, Germans- especially blonde-haired and blue-eyed “Aryans”- were the “master race” that was destined to rule the world
    - Inferior races such as Jews, Slavs, and all nonwhites were deemed fit only to serve the Aryans
  
  o National expansion- Hitler believed that Germany needed *lebensraum*, or living space, in order to thrive
    - Hitler's goals for living space would be “to secure for the German people the land and soil to which they are entitled on this earth,” even if that meant gaining that land through warfare

• **By 1932, the German economy was wrecked**
  
  o 6 million were unemployed
  
  o Many out of work men joined Hitler’s private army- the *storm troopers* (“Brown Shirts”)
  
  o The German people looked to Hitler, who promised a return to glory, as their only hope.
    - By mid-1932, the Nazis had become the strongest political party in Germany

• **January 1933-** The Nazi party received enough power in Parliament to chose the country's chancellor. They, of course, chose Adolf Hitler
  
  o Once in power, Hitler dismantled Germany’s democracy, establishing the *Third Reich*, or Third German Empire, in its place
  
  o Once in power, Hitler began illegally rearming Germany

• **1936-** Hitler and Mussolini formed an alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis

**Militarists Gain Control of Japan…and Look to Expand**- The reign of **Emperor Hirohito**, ruler of Japan, also saw the emergence of nationalistic leaders within the ranks of the military. Those leaders, led by Chief of Staff of Japan’s Kwantung Army **Hideki Tojo**, would try to take control of the imperial government of Japan, and unleash a plan focused on expanding their country's borders and power.

  • Expansion- the need for more living space for Japan’s growing population, and for greater access to natural resources, led military leaders to begin a plan for expansion
    - 1931- militarists launched a surprise attack and seized control of the Chinese province of Manchuria
Within months, the Japanese military controlled the whole province, which was rich in natural resources.

- 1934- the Tokyo government announced that termination of the Washington Naval Treaty
  - Within a year, naval leaders in Japan began to accelerate their construction of giant battleships
- 1935- following the League of Nation’s investigation and condemnation of Japan’s attack on Manchuria, Japan announced that it would simply quit the League.
- 1940- Japan would join Germany and Italy in a powerful alliance known as the Tripartite Pact

### An Impotent League Of Nations Leads to Mounting Aggression

The League of Nation’s failure to act against Japanese conquest in Manchuria simply emboldened totalitarian leaders around the globe. Soon Hitler, Mussolini, and fascists in Spain would aggressively look to further their own aims, with impunity.

- **Nazi Germany begins its plan for expansion**
  - 1933- Hitler pulled Germany out of the League of Nations
  - 1935- Hitler had begun a military buildup in violation of the Treaty of Versailles
  - 1936- Hitler sent German troops into the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone bordering France and Belgium, in a blatant violation of the Treaty of Versailles
    - The League of Nations did NOTHING to stop Hitler
- **Mussolini begins building the new Roman Empire in Italy**
  - 1935- Mussolini and tens of thousands of Italian soldiers prepare to invade Ethiopia
    - The League of Nations bolstered with threats of “collective resistance to all acts of unprovoked aggression”
    - When the invasion began, the League responded with an ineffective economic boycott
  - 1936- in May, Ethiopia had fallen to the Italian army
    - Haile Selassie, Ethiopia’s ousted emperor, appealed to the League for assistance.
      - When no help came, Selassie warned, “It is us today. It will be you tomorrow.”
- **Civil war breaks out in Spain in 1936.**
  - 1936- a group of Spanish army officers, led by General Francisco Franco, rebelled against the Spain’s republic.
    - The outbreak of civil war in Spain aroused calls for support around the world
      - Around 3,000 Americans formed the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and went to Spain to fight against Franco and his troops
This feeble aid could not match the help that Franco would receive from other totalitarian leaders of Europe.

- Hitler and Mussolini backed Franco’s rebels with troops, weapons, tanks, and planes.
- Hitler was able to test the power of his newly rebuilt war machine.
  - 1939- Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War resulted in the establishment of a fascist dictatorship, led by Franco.

**The United States Slowly Emerges from Isolationism** - The growing power of totalitarian dictators and international conflict further entrenched many Americans into their belief that isolationism was the only way to avoid being drawn into foreign entanglements. But as international order broke down, and our traditional allies were threatened by the growing power of the Axis powers, America would slowly be drawn out from its shell of isolationism.

**America Clings to Isolationism** - Fueled by the claims that America had been dragged into WWI by greedy bankers and arms dealers, Americans called for a congressional committee to investigate the claims. The committee, chaired by North Dakota Senator Gerald Nye, heightened tensions when it exposed the large profits that banks and weapons manufacturers made during the war. This simply threw fuel on the fire of American isolationism.

- The willingness of President FDR to seek foreign diplomacy was impacted.
  - 1933- FDR officially recognized the Soviet Union and agreed to exchange ambassadors with the communist country.
  - FDR continued the policy of nonintervention in Latin America with his **Good Neighbor Policy**
    - Withdrew armed forces stationed in Haiti in 1934.
    - 1934- released Cuba from the worst provisions of the Platt Amendment, but the U.S. kept its naval base at Guantanamo Bay.
    - 1936- FDR partially relaxed the U.S. grip on the Panama Canal.
  - 1934- FDR signed the **Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act**
    - The act lowered trade barriers by giving the president the power to make trade agreements with other nations.
    - The act hoped to reduce tariffs by as much as 50%.
  - 1934- Congress passed the Johnson Debt Default Act
    - Prevented debt-dodging nations from borrowing further in the U.S.
    - This was aimed at keeping the U.S. out of foreign entanglements.
  - 1935-37- Congress passed a series of **Neutrality Acts** which stated that *when the president proclaimed* the existence of a foreign war, certain restrictions would automatically go into effect.
The first two outlawed arms sales or loans to nations at war, as well as shipments of munitions to belligerents
- Americans were prohibited from sailing on a belligerent ship
- The third act, in response to the Spanish Civil War, forbade arms sales and loans to nations involved in civil wars

Neutrality's Neuse Begins to Loosen- Events in Asia would begin to force FDR to act in ways short of neutrality.
- 1937- Japan launched a new attack on China, beginning with the attack on the Marco Polo Bridge near Beijing. This would lead to an all-out invasion of the country, and could be considered the curtain-raise of WWII in the Pacific theatre.
  - FDR outflanked the Neutrality Acts by refusing to call the invasion of China an officially declared war
  - This allowed FDR to continue sending arms and supplies to the Chinese
- October 1937- following the attack on China, FDR gave his famous “Quarantine Speech” in Chicago- which spoke out strongly against isolationism
  - “The peace, the freedom, and the security of 90 percent of the population of the world is being jeopardized by the remaining 10 percent who are threatening a breakdown of all international order and law. Surely the 90 percent who want to live in peace under law and in accordance with moral standards that have received almost universal acceptance through the centuries, can and must find some way...to preserve peace.”
  - FDR was calling on nations to “quarantine,” or isolate, aggressor nations in order to stop the spread of violence
  - While isolationist newspapers accused FDR of trying to lead us into war, causing the president to back off, his speech began the debate to shift America out of its isolationism.

The Steady March Toward War in Europe

Appeasing Hitler’s Goal of Lebensraum- One of Hitler’s primary goals for the Third Reich was Lebensraum, or living space. To accomplish this, Hitler planned to seize Austria and Czechoslovakia. When one of his advisors warned that annexing those countries may lead to war, Hitler simply replied, “The German Question’ can be solved only by means of force, and this is never without risk.” Instead of war, the international response to Hitler’s aggression would amount to a policy of appeasement, and one that would have disastrous consequences for Europe, and the world.

Unification with Austria- Hitler’s first acquisition for Lebensraum would be the country of his birth, Austria.
• The majority of Austria’s citizens were ethnically German, who favored unification with Germany.
  o March 12, 1938: German troops marched into Austria unopposed
  o The next day, Hitler announced its Anschluss, or “union” with Austria
  o The world did NOTHING, hoping this land-grab would satisfy Hitler

**A Pact for the Sudetenland...and the Appeasement Goes On...** - Following the easy annexation of Austria, Hitler set his eyes on uniting some 3 million German-speaking people living in the resource rich, mountainous western region of Czechoslovakia, called the Sudetenland.

- Hitler charged that the Czechs were abusing Germans in the Sudetenland, and began putting troops on the Czech border.
  o German news reported bogus stories of “Women and Children Mowed Down by Czech Armored Cars” and “Bloody Regime- New Czech Murders of Germans”
  o The leaders of Britain and France scrambled to bring a peaceful resolution to the deepening crisis

- Sept. 1938, Munich Conference: Hitler invited French premier Edouard Daladier and British prime minister Neville Chamberlain to Munich, Germany, just as war seemed inevitable.
  o Hitler promised that the Sudetenland would be “the last territorial claim I have to make in Europe.”
  o Eager to avoid war, and hoping to quench Hitler’s thirst for land, Daladier and Chamberlain agreed to concede the Sudetenland to Hitler.
  o Sept. 30, 1938, the Munich Agreement: Daladier, Chamberlain, and Hitler signed the pact that turned over the Sudetenland to Germany without a shot fired.
  o Chamberlain returned to Britain, waving the signed pact, announcing, “My friends, there has come back from Germany peace with honor. I believe it is peace in our time.”
  - **Winston Churchill**, a political rival of Chamberlain’s, warned that the policy of appeasement, or giving up principles to pacify an aggressor, would lead to dire consequences.
    - “Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war!”
    - “We have passed an awful milestone in our history. ...And do not suppose that this is the end. ...This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless, by a surprise recovery of moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time.” -Winston Churchill, speech to the House of Commons
Germany on the March to the Tipping Point of War- Churchill's words would be prophetic. The appeasement of Hitler at Munich did nothing but embolden the man whose goal was to expand the Third Reich to a point of world domination.

Czechoslovakia Falls
- March 15, 1939: German troops advance into Czechoslovakia
  - By that night, Hitler proclaimed, “Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist.
  - Hitler would begin to set his sights on unifying German people's to the east of his country, in Poland

The Hitler-Stalin Pact Seals Poland's Fate- Poland was one of the countries carved out of Germany and Russia in the Treaty of Versailles. Both country's were bitter about losing territory. The time was ripe to pluck the Polish pear.
- Spring 1939: Hitler began his routine of claiming mistreatment of Germans in Poland, who needed his protection.
  - Many thought Hitler was bluffing, as an attack on Poland would surely bring about war with Britain and France...AND the Soviet Union.
- Summer 1939: Britain and France were busy in Moscow trying to secure a mutual defense treaty that would stop Hitler.
  - But remember, the Soviets were suspicious of the West, and still had the bitter taste of punishment from the Treaty of Versailles
- August 23, 1939: the nonaggression pact (Hitler-Stalin pact) is signed
  - This gave the green light to Hitler to attack Poland without the fear of Soviet intervention
  - A second aspect of the notorious Hitler-Stalin pact was the agreement to divide Poland between the two countries
  - The fate of Poland had been sealed.

A Blitzkrieg Begins WWII- With the threat of Soviet fire extinguished by the Hitler-Stalin nonaggression pact, The German war machine prepared to take Poland.
- Sept. 1, 1939: The German Luftwaffe, or air force, flew bombing raids on military bases, railroads, and cities in Poland.
  - German tanks then raced across the Polish countryside, raining terror in the hearts of Poles
  - This was the first true test of Germany's military strategy, the blitzkrieg, or lightning war
    - Blitzkrieg relies on speed and surprise to crush all enemy opposition
- Sept. 3, 1939- Honoring their commitments to Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany
  - The blitzkrieg strategy made in attempt at saving Poland useless.
  - Within three weeks, Poland had fallen.
• In the last week of the German blitz on Poland, Stalin ordered Soviet forces to attack Poland from the east, reclaiming some of its territory lost in the Treaty of Versailles.
• By the end of September, Poland had ceased to exist...and WWII had begun!

A “Phony War” Helps Hitler Prepare, and Stalin Steal—There seemed to be a lull in the fighting following the conquest of Poland, from fall 1939 to the spring of the following year. But during this *sitzkrieg* (sitting war), Hitler prepared to lay waste to Western Europe. And Stalin continued to retake territory lost following the “peace” of the Great War.

• Following the fall of Poland, Hitler began the steady redeployment of German troops from the eastern front to the German-French border.
• Meanwhile, Stalin began reclaiming former Russian territory.
  o The Soviets annexed the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
  o In late 1939, Stalin’s troops invaded Finland, taking the country after three months of fighting.
• As spring sprung, Hitler’s army prepared to accomplish in two months what the Schlieffen Plan could not do in 4 years during the Great War.

Western Europe Falls, Yet the British Bulldog Lives to Bark Another Day—The spring of 1940 saw the fall of Western Europe in a breathlessly short amount of time. After France’s fall, Hitler set his sights on the British Isles.

• April 9, 1940: Hitler launched his blitzkrieg on Western Europe, claiming “to protect freedom and independence.”
  o 18 days to take Norway and Denmark
  o 5 days to take Holland
  o 17 days to take Belgium and Luxembourg
• By the end of May, the only country that remained was France
  o The German offensive trapped almost 400,000 British and French soldiers as they retreated to the beaches of Dunkirk on the French side of the English Channel.
    ▪ a makeshift flotilla of fishing boats, tugboats, river barges, and private vessels ferried 330,000 Brits, French, and Belgian troops to safety in Britain
    ▪ The crisis at Dunkirk brought out the inspired “Bulldog” in Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who rallied the Brits to fight on
      • “We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing-grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender!” - Winston Churchill, May 1940
  o Early in June, Italy joined the war on the side of Germany, invading France from the South, while the Germans marched toward Paris from the north.
June 22, 1940: Hitler handed French officers his terms of surrender
- Germany would occupy the northern part of the country
- A Nazi-controlled puppet government would be set up at Vichy, in southern France

Following the fall of France, French general Charles de Gaulle fled to England
- He set up a government-in-exile, proclaiming, “France has lost a battle, but France has not lost the war.”

The Battle of Britain- The summer of 1940 saw Hitler amass a huge invasion fleet in northern France. The strength of Britain’s navy caused Hitler to use a different weapon to soften the Brits, his air force of 2,600 planes, the Luftwaffe.
- Summer 1940: The Luftwaffe begins bombing raids over Britain.
  - Hitler’s goal was to gain total control of the skies by destroying Britain’s Royal Air Force (RAF).
    - British targets started with airfields and aircraft
    - Then the Luftwaffe began to target Britain’s major cities
  - Every night for two months, bombers pounded London.
- Technology helps Britain fight back!
  - The RAF used radar to plot the flight paths of German planes, even at night.
  - Sept. 5, 1940: the RAF shot down over 185 German planes, losing only 26 planes in the process
- Sept. 17, 1940: Hitler cancelled indefinitely the invasion of Britain
  - Churchill praised the RAF, saying, “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”
- Although the invasion was put on hold, German bombers continued to fly missions over Britain, targeting military production and hoping to sink civilian morale.

The Horrors of the Holocaust

Prelude to Persecution- Just months after Hitler’s selection as German chancellor, the first order in purifying the German race was made- all “non-Aryans” were to lose their government jobs. Over the next decade, Hitler’s master plan would result in the holocaust, or systematic murder of 11 million people in Europe, which specifically targeted the Jews for extermination.

The Jewish Target Announced- While the Holocaust would target many groups of people, the Jews were the main target of Hitler’s plan for racial purification.
- The Jewish Scapegoat- Hitler and his followers blamed the Jews for all of Germany’s problems. The ancient evil of anti-Semitism reared its ugly head.
  - Jews were blamed for starting WWI and profiting from munitions sales
Jews were blamed for the defeat of Germany in WWI and the devastating economic problems faced by Germany after the war.

Through propaganda, many Germans believed that the Jews were the source of Germany’s problems.

- **The Nuremberg Laws, 1935**
  - Stripped Jews of citizenship
  - Segregated Jews from society
  - Removed them from government jobs
  - Took away property rights
  - Forbade Jews from marrying or procreating with Aryans
  - Jews were forced to wear a bright yellow Star of David on their clothing for easy identification

**The Night of Broken Glass** - Among the first violent episodes of anti-Semitism shattered on November 9-10, 1938. It was known as *Kristallnacht*.

- Inspired by a speech by Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish neighborhoods across Germany.
  - Ransacked homes
  - More than seven thousand businesses were targeted
  - Nearly all of Germany’s synagogues were vandalized or burned
  - Approximately 100 Jews were killed, and 30,000 arrested
  - When the violence stopped, the Nazis blamed the violence on the Jews (see the killing of Ernst vom Roth by Herschel Grynszpan)

**Jews Attempt to Escape Hitler’s Wrath** - The events of *Kristallnacht* made clear to Germany’s Jewish population that it was now or never for them to attempt to escape Germany. Finding a country to accept them became increasingly difficult.

- Germany had trouble finding countries to accept Jewish refugees
  - France had already taken in 40,000 and refused to accept more
  - Britain refused to admit more than 80,000 Jewish refugees, fearing a rise in anti-Semitism in their own country
    - Britain did allow 30,000 Jews to immigrate to British-controlled Palestine (later Israel)
  - America accepted roughly 100,000 Jewish refugees, including physicist Albert Einstein and author Thomas Mann
    - But many Americans wanted the door shut to further Jewish immigration
      - Worried that immigration during the Great Depression would threaten jobs of Americans
      - Widespread anti-Semitism in America led to calls for restrictions
      - Americans feared that “enemy agents” would sneak in with Jewish refugees
    - 1942: Roosevelt created the **War Refugee Board**
- Its mandate was to “take all measures to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death”
  - Most Americans supported the goal
  - Many were critical of the Board’s creation because it was a long-overdue and inadequate response to Hitler’s genocide
    - reports of the Holocaust were being verified as far back as 1942!
- May, 1939: The Plight of the St. Louis- 927 Jewish refugees boarded the St. Louis in Hamburg, Germany, hoping to gain immigra... any place is as far as Miami. In Miami, passengers pleaded with immigration officials, even sent a personal request to President Roosevelt.
  - Opposition from southern Democrats and Sec. of State Cordell Hull convinced Roosevelt not to allow the passengers refuge.
  - After being refused in Canada, the St. Louis went back to Europe where most passengers were taken by England, France, Belgium, and Holland.
    - Over the course of the war 660 of the 927 Jews were eventually killed by Hitler’s troops.

**Hitler Develops his “Final Solution” to the Jewish Problem** - Although Germany’s Jewish population stood at only 250,000 Jews in 1939, the territories occupied by Germany at that point contained millions. To deal with the problem of European Jews, Hitler developed his Final Solution - a policy of genocide that called for the systematic murder of the Europe’s entire Jewish population.

**Targets of the Holocaust** - The Final Solution centered around the idea that Aryans were the superior race. In order to purify the Third Reich, all non-Aryans needed to be subjugated to work and ultimately death.
- The first “enemies of the state” were Germans
  - Communists, socialists, liberals, and political dissenters
- Other German citizens were targeted by their low standing on the eugenic classification
  - Homosexuals
  - Mentally and physically disabled
  - Mortally ill
- Other targets for extermination included undesirables within the areas of German control
  - Gypsies- were considered to be an inferior race
  - Freemasons- were viewed as part of a “Jewish conspiracy” to rule the world
Jehovah’s Witnesses refused to join the German army and to salute Hitler.

Jews, the largest target of the Final Solution, were systematically hunted, murdered, or sent to concentration camps.

- The implementation of the Final Solution began in Poland, where the SS rounded up Jewish men, women, and children—shooting them on the spot.
- Others would be forced to relocate.

**From Ghetto, to Camp, to Mass Extermination** - The systematic murder of Jews followed a plan of relocation, work, and death.

- The first phase, relocation, saw Jews herded into ghettos, segregated Jewish areas in major Polish cities.
  - Ghettos were sealed off with barbed wire and stone walls
  - Life in ghettos was miserable—disease spread rampantly
    - Typhoid, dysentery, tuberculosis killed thousands
    - Bodies piled on streets faster than they could be removed
  - Factories were built alongside ghettos
    - Jews from ghettos were forced to work in factories (see: Schindler’s List)
  - Despite horrible living conditions, Jews did not give in.
    - Formed secret resistance groups
    - Smuggled goods and bribed Nazi officials
    - Continued to educate children in secret schools
  - Eventually, Jewish ghettos were liquidated
    - The surviving Jews were sent to concentration camps where they joined other Jews who were not killed by the Nazi death squads

- **Concentration camps**, or forced-labor camps, were the final stop for millions of Jews.
  - “Life” in concentration camps was regimented so that the prisoners would only last roughly six months
    - Crammed into wooden barracks that held thousands each
    - Forced into hard labor
    - Given only a small allocation of food each day
    - Those too weak to work were killed
    - Others underwent horrific scientific experiments
      - Forced sterilization and castration
      - Injection with germs to test the effects of disease
      - Drug testing
      - Forced into pressure chambers
      - Experimental surgeries on children without anesthesia
      - Isolation endurance
      - Sex change operations
      - Removal of organs and limbs
Mass Extermination - At a meeting in Wannsee (near Berlin) in 1942, Hitler’s tope officials agreed upon the final stage for mass extermination of Jews-murder by poison gas.

- Overwork, starvation, beating, and bullets did not kill Jews fast enough
  - Many German soldiers complained of the psychological effects of murdering Jews one at a time
- Gas chambers were installed in concentration camps, able to kill more than 12,000 Jews per day
  - The largest Nazi death camp was Auschwitz
  - Prisoners were “selected” for work or extermination
    - Selection took place when prisoners arrived at a concentration camp, or periodically once they were admitted.
    - Those who could work, lived
    - Those would could not, went straight to the gas chambers
  - Those selected were led to a room outside the gas chamber and told to undress for a shower
    - Prisoners were given a piece of soap to deceive them that they were only there for a shower
    - Once in the shower, the prisoners were poisoned with a gas called Zyclon-B, a cyanide-based pesticide
  - At first, bodies were buried in huge pits. This was problematic
    - The stench of decaying bodies could be smelled miles away
    - The mass graves also left behind the evidence of mass-murder
  - Crematoriums, huge ovens, were installed at some of the death camps
    - The bodies of thousands of Jews were burned to ash
    - Other camps simply burned the dead bodies in huge pits.
- An estimated 6 million Jews died during the Holocaust
America Moves Toward War

The U.S. Lends a Garden Hose to Help its Allies - The blitz, and breathtaking fall, of Western Europe to the armies of Hitler and Mussolini, made clear that America’s neutrality could not last for long.

The First Steps Away from Neutrality - Following the official outbreak of WWII after the division of Poland, the government in Washington D.C. began a slow but steady pulling away from its isolationism and neutrality.

- Sept. 1939: Britain and France, following their declaration of war on Germany, badly needed American airplanes and other weapons from America, however, the Neutrality Act of 1937 forbade such help to belligerent nations at war.
  - Roosevelt pushed Congress to consider lifting the arms embargo of the Neutrality Act of 1937.
  - After 6 weeks of debate, Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1939, which put in place a “Cash and Carry” policy
    - This allowed European democracies to buy American war materials, on the stipulation that they would have to transport the munitions in their own ships, AFTER paying for those weapons in cash
    - This allowed America to intervene without the burden of war debts and loans, not to mention the threat of U-boat attacks that might quickly draw the U.S. into the conflict
- June 1940: The fall of France shook America out of its delusions of neutrality. It appeared that the “cash and carry” policy was too little, too late.
  - FDR called upon the debt-burdened U.S. to build a massive airfleet and a two-ocean navy.
    - Within a year, Congress earmarked $37 billion toward the arming of the U.S. armed forces.
- Summer 1940: The German Luftwaffe pounded the British Isle with air sorties. Meanwhile, German subs were threatening to lay siege to Britain with attacks on shipping. Britain was in desperate need for destroyers
  - Sept. 2, 1940: The Destroyer Deal
    - President Roosevelt agreed to transfer 50 old destroyers to Britain in return for leases on eight British defensive military bases, stretching from Newfoundland to South America
      - The bases were to stay under U.S. control for 99 years
      - FDR’s unilateral move brought cheers from Americans who wanted to help Britain, and condemnation from isolationists and Republicans in Congress who felt Roosevelt went behind their backs.
- Sept. 6, 1940: Congress also began to make appropriations for the manpower needed to fight.
The Selective Training and Service Act, America’s first peacetime draft, made provisions for drafting and training 1.2 million troops per year, and 800,000 servicemen.

- 16 million men between the ages of 21 and 35 were registered under this law
- Of these, 1 million were to be drafted for one year, but only allowed to serve in the Western Hemisphere
- The law was later amended to meet the needs of a global war.

- Sept. 27, 1940: The Tripartite Pact
  - Germany, Italy, and Japan signed a mutual defense treaty, the Tripartite Pact
  - The three nations became known as the Axis Powers
  - If the U.S. were to be dragged into the conflict against any one of the three nations, it would ultimately have to fight a two-ocean war against all three, in both the Atlantic and the Pacific.

FDR Tackles the Two-Term Tradition - The election of 1940 saw FDR make the unprecedented decision to run for a third term. His Republican opponent, Wendell Willkie, ran a strong race but could not overcome FDR and the seriousness of the times.

- The candidates were very similar in the area of foreign policy
  - Both promised to stay out of the war in Europe
  - Both promised to build America’s national defenses
  - Both agreed that helping the democracies of Europe was in the U.S.’s best interest
- Americans chose the experienced leadership of FDR
  - FDR received 55% of the popular vote
  - The electoral count was 449 to 82
  - The argument that one should not change horses in the middle of a stream was the deciding factor in the vote
    - It also helped that America’s economy had fired out of the Depression with the arming of the democracies

Becoming the Great Arsenal of Democracy - In a critical fireside chat following his reelection, Roosevelt told the nation that Hitler could no longer be appeased. He warned that if Britain fell, “All of us in the Americas would be living at the point of a gun.”***At a later press conference, Roosevelt commented “The best immediate defense of the United States is the success of Great Britain in defending itself.” FDR urged that America become “The Great Arsenal of Democracy” who would help European nations resisting German (and Axis) aggression.

The Lend-Lease Law Helps Allies, and Frenzies Foes - By late 1940, Britain was running out of cash to purchase supplies from the U.S. ...it was also running out of time. FDR suggested a new plan to help our friend across the pond.
• Roosevelt’s plan called for the lending or leasing of arms and supplies to “any country whose defense was vital to the United States.
  - He likened his plan to lending a garden hose to a neighbor whose house was on fire.
    - Nations would return the guns and tanks when the fighting was over, just as one would return the neighbor’s hose when the flames were extinguished.
• Congress passes the **Lend-Lease Act** in March 1941.
  - This law was decisively UN-neutral, a challenge to the Axis Powers, marking the end of U.S. neutrality
  - The law also had the unintended consequence of gearing U.S. factories for all-out war production, which would be invaluable when America officially entered the war.
• Hitler saw the Lend-Lease Act as an unofficial declaration of war.
  - May 21, 1941: A German submarine in the South Atlantic attacked an unarmed American merchant ship, the *Robin Moor*.
    - This was the beginning of German U-boat attacks
  - From spring through the fall of 1941, Germany changed its submarine tactics from lone U-boat attacks to vicious attacks by groups of up to 40 subs, known as wolf pack attacks
• In the meantime, Hitler saw that the time was ripe to attempt to defeat an untrusting “ally”
  - June 22, 1941: Hitler broke his non-aggression pact with Stalin, and invaded the Soviet Union.
    - In the fall of 1941, President Roosevelt sent $1 billion in lend-lease aid to the Soviet Union.
    - This first installment of a total of $11 billion, along with the onset of an brutal early winter, helped aid the Soviets in stopping Hitler’s invasion at the doorstep of Moscow.

**Planning A Charter for War**- With America’s entry into the war seeming more inevitable by the summer of 1941, Congress reluctantly extended the terms of the draft. Roosevelt, too, began plotting the aims for the war that we were sure to enter.

**The Atlantic Charter**- With the surrender of the Soviet Union still a possibility in the summer of 1941, Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at what was called the Atlantic Conference.
  - August 1941: ON the battleship USS *Augusta*, Roosevelt and Churchill hammered out a joint declaration of war aims, called the **Atlantic Charter**
    - Collective security
    - Disarmament
    - No territorial changes contrary to the wishes of the inhabitants following the war (self-determination)
- Economic cooperation
- Freedom of the seas
- **One provision stated that Britain and the United States “respect the rights of all peoples to choose the forms of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereignty and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.”**
  - Some critics considered this language hypocritical as the British Empire was based, at least in part, on the subjugation of millions of people who were denied self-government.
- The Atlantic Charter became the basis of a new document called “A Declaration of the United Nations”
  - The term United Nations was suggested by FDR to express the common purpose of the Allies, those countries who would fight against the Axis Powers.
    - 26 nations signed the declaration

**German’s Escalate Their Attacks on U.S. Ships**- Meanwhile, the German wolf packs stepped up their attacks on U.S. ships heading to Britain with lend-lease supplies.
- Sept. 1941: Following a U-boat attack on the U.S. destroyer Greer, President Roosevelt ordered U.S. naval convoy ships to shoot-on-sight.
- Fall 1941: Further submarine attacks made a declaration of full-scale war seem inevitable.
  - Two weeks after the attack on the Greer, the American merchant ship Pink Star was sunk of the coast of Greenland
  - Oct. 17, 1941: the U.S. convoy ship Kearny was torpedoed, and lost 11 sailors
  - Two weeks later the destroyer Reuben James was sunk, killing more than one hundred officers and sailors
    - Roosevelt announced, “America has been attacked. The shooting has started. And history has recorded who fired the first shot.”
    - Congress repealed the ban against arming merchant ships.

**An Unprovoked and Dastardly Attack Brings American Into War**- While America was fighting an undeclared naval war against Germany, its former trade partner and sometimes adversary in the Pacific would awaken a sleeping giant, and for America into the war.

**Japan’s Expansion Leads to an Act of Desperation**- While Roosevelt continued trading steel, scrap iron, oil and aviation gasoline with Japan in hopes of checking further aggression (*hint: here’s another example of appeasement*), Japan’s expansion in Asia did not stop in Manchuria and Beijing.
July 1941: Japan pushed further southward, taking over French military basis in Indochina (present-day Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia)
  o The U.S. responded by embargoing all shipments of gasoline and other supplies essential to Japan
  o The Japanese were forced to try and get the U.S. to lift its embargo, or seize the oil-rich lands of the Dutch East Indies, which would ultimately lead to war.

Nov-Dec. 1941: Negotiations between Japan and the U.S. to lift the embargo (and stop Japan’s expansion) broke down in late fall.
  o Nov. 5, 1941: Japan’s Prime Minister, Hideki Tojo, although he promised emperor Hirohito that he would try and preserve peace with the U.S., ordered the Japanese navy to prepare for an attack on the U.S.
  o President Roosevelt, late in November, send a “war warning” to military leaders in Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines.
    ▪ If peace could not be preserved, “the United States desires that Japan commit the first overt act” of war.
  o Dec. 6, 1941: Having cracked Japanese secret-code of communication, Roosevelt received a decoded message to Japan’s peace negotiators to reject all American peace proposals.
    ▪ FDR warned, “This means war,” but assumed the attack would come in southeast Asia.

  o More than 180 planes flew the mission from distant aircraft carriers, shocking the unprepared naval fleet.
  o The devastating attack lasted for an hour and a half.
    ▪ 2,403 Americans were killed
    ▪ 1,178 were wounded
    ▪ 21 ships sunk or damaged
    ▪ 300+ aircraft were damaged or destroyed
    ▪ Luckily, 3 priceless aircraft carriers, later crucial to the war effort, were not in the harbor at the time of the attack

A Fearful and Fearsome Reaction- Although Roosevelt warned, “We haven’t the Navy to fight in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. ...so we will have to build up the Navy and the Air Force and that will mean that we will have to take a good many defeats before we can have victory.” he also was determined to have victory.

Dec. 8, 1941: Roosevelt addressed Congress, asking for a declaration of war.
  o “Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy. [the Japanese launched] an unprovoked and dastardly attack.”
  o Congress approved Roosevelt’s request for a declaration of war against Japan.
    ▪ Only one vote against war, which was cast by Janette Rankin.
  o On Dec. 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States
  o Japan had awoken a sleeping giant!!!
Mobilizing at Home for Defense Abroad

Many Groups Join in the War Effort- Japan hoped that the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor would scare the emerging Americans back into their isolationism. They were wrong. Just like USS Maine and the Alamo, America’s battle cry became “Remember Pearl Harbor!” A sleeping giant had awoken. But was it ready for action?

Success and Shortfalls of the Selective Service- The Selective Training and Service Act had meant to build our military by up to 1.2 million soldiers per year. The attack on Pearl Harbor caused a surge of volunteerism.

- More than 5 million Americans volunteered for service, but that wasn’t enough for a two-front war in Europe and the Pacific.
  - The Selective Service System expanded the draft
  - Another 10 million men would be provided for

Expanding Military Opportunities for Women- Like Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix in the Civil War, and bandage rollers, nurses, and telephone operators in WWI, the second world war witnessed an expanding role of women in the armed forces.

- George Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, called for the forming of the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), who were created by a bill passed on May 15, 1942.
  - Women volunteers would serve in noncombat positions
    - Women would serve as nurses, ambulance drivers, radio operators, electricians, and pilots
  - The law gave WAACs official status and salary, but few other benefits grated to men.
- July 1943, the U.S. Army dropped the “auxiliary” status, and granted WACs full U.S. benefits
  - Some 216,000 women served during WWII

Old Wounds of Racism and Recruitment- The war offered both opportunity and discrimination for various racial groups. Despite hardships, all groups would fight with honor and valor, and many would be recognized at the highest levels of government.

- Many African Americans resented fighting for democracy over seas when they were not treated equally at home.
  - 2.5 million blacks registered for the draft and over 1 million served as volunteers or draftees
  - African Americans served in segregated units, mostly in noncombat roles
  - After protests, black soldiers began seeing combat action beginning in April 1943
- Despite discrimination in the military, more than 300,000 Mexican Americans joined the armed forces.
- Mexican units often suffered a greater casualty rate than their population percentage per capita
- Asian Americans served as well, including 13,000 Chinese and 33,000 Japanese Americans
  - Thousands of Japanese volunteered as spies and interpreters in the Pacific theatre
  - Some 300 "no-no boys" were prosecuted for refusing to fight for America during the war
- 25,000 Native Americans also served during the war, including 800 women.
  - Comanches in Europe and Navajo in the Pacific were indispensable in their contribution as "code talkers," speaking in their native language, which could not be deciphered by the Germans and Japanese.

**Industry Grinds the Gears for War Production** - WWII saw Americans make a phenomenal shift to complete war footing at home. America’s industry shifted to all out war production, while individuals and families locked arms in shared sacrifice for the war effort.

**Building The Industrial War Machine** - The last American automobile rolled off the factory floor in February 1942. From then on, industries would be retooled for war production with the guiding hand of government.
- Countless industries contributed to the war machine.
  - Automobile plants retool to building tanks, planes, boats, and command cars
  - Mechanical pencil manufacturers built bomb parts
  - Bedspread manufacturers made mosquito netting
  - Soft-drink companies filled shells with explosives
- Shipyards produced boats at record pace
  - Henry J. Kaiser built seven shipyards to crank out vessels by the end of 1942
    - Prefabrication techniques allowed for quick assembly of ships
    - Ships that once took a year to build were churned out in a matter of days

**Labor Rises to the Occasion** - Many contractors feared that the draft would deplete the nation of necessary laborers. They were wrong.
- The war effort at home blew America out of the Depression and put us back to work.
  - By 1944, nearly 18 million workers were working in war industries, three times as many as 1941.
- 6 million of these new workers were women - "Rosie the Riveter"
  - over half had never worked outside the home for wages
  - women were instrumental in railroad, artillery, and plane construction
- Unfortunately, women earned roughly 60% less than men who preformed the same jobs
- More than 2 million minorities were hired in defense industries during the war years, despite frustrating discrimination
  - Before the war, 75% of defense contractors refused to hire blacks
  - A. Philip Randolph, labor leader and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, organized a march on Washington to protest discrimination in war industries
    - Called for blacks to organize at the capital on July 1, 1941.
    - FDR feared the march would provoke resentment and violence, and asked Randolph to call off the march.
    - When Randolph refused to budge, it was President Roosevelt who was forced to back down.
- FDR issued an executive order calling for a stop to discrimination in war industries “to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin.”

**Scientists Experiment to Win the War** - IN 1941, FDR created the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) to bring scientists into the march for victory.
- The OSRD made many advancements in technology
  - Improved radar and sonar
  - Encouraged the use of pesticides like DDT to fight insects
    - US troops were relatively free of lice
- The OSRD was also instrumental in the fight against bacteria
  - Treating bacterial infections with penicillin became widespread practice during WWII
- The most controversial work of the OSRD was the secret development of the atomic bomb, the **Manhattan Project**.
  - Albert Einstein was instrumental in warning Roosevelt that the Germans had begun research on creating this new weapon
  - Roosevelt created the Advisory Committee on Uranium to study the new research
    - in 1941, after the Committee reported it would take 3-5 years to build a bomb, the OSRD set up an intensive program to speed up the process.
    - The Manhattan project developed the bomb at independent secret sites all over the country, successfully testing the first atomic weapon in July of 1945.

**The Federal Government Leads the Home Front War Effort** - In order to ensure war industries met the needs of the armed forces, as well as to ensure
inflation was kept in check, the federal government took unprecedented steps in leading the home front during the war years.

Economic Regulation- Government regulation of the wartime economy ranged from fighting inflation, rationing goods, directing production, and arbitrating labor disputes.

- **Office of Price Administration (OPA):**
  - Fought inflation by freezing wages, prices, and rents
  - Set up a system of **rationing**, or conserving foods such as meat, butter, cheese, vegetables, sugar, and coffee
    - rationing books were given to households and individuals, providing for fixed allotments of goods deemed essential for the military

- **War Production Board:**
  - Assumed the responsibility for ensuring that the armed forces and war industries received the resources necessary to win the war.
  - Orchestrated the conversion of industries from peacetime to wartime production
  - Allocated essential raw materials and resources to war industries
    - rationed fuel and materials such as gasoline, heating oil, metals, rubber, and plastics
  - Organized collection drives for scrap iron, tin cans, paper, rags, and cooking fat for recycling into war goods.

- **National War Labor Board:**
  - Imposed ceilings of wage increases
  - Allowed negotiated benefits, such as paid vacation, pensions, and medical insurance
  - Kept unions stable by forbidding workers to change unions

- Department of the Treasury:
  - Issued war bonds to raise money for the war effort and to fight inflation

- Revenue Act of 1942:
  - Raised the top personal-income tax rate to 88%
  - Added lower- and middle-income Americans to the income-tax rolls

- **Smith-Connelly Anti-Strike Act:**
  - Authorized the government to seize and operate industries tied-up by strikes
  - Strikes against any government-operated industry were made a criminal offense
  - Under the Act, government took over the coal mines, and for a brief time, the railroads
WWII-The North African and European Fronts

America and Britain Forge a Lasting Alliance- America responded to war in Europe cautiously: the “cash and carry policy” following the fall of Poland, then the Lend-Lease Act after the fall of western Europe, during the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940 Roosevelt traded destroyers for Caribbean naval bases. Of all the events of the war up to the end of 1941 Pearl Harbor was the most significant in America’s decision to enter into the war. While Americans reacted with rage to the events on Dec. 7, 1941, many would be confounded by the decisions made by President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Making Plans for Victory- Churchill and Roosevelt met at the White House on Dec. 22, 1941, spending the next three weeks planning a strategy to win the war against the Axis Powers.
- The leaders agreed to strike Hitler first, then defeat Japan in the Pacific.
  - Hitler’s posed a greater threat and was still locked in battle with Stalin in eastern Europe
  - This followed the decision of the ABC-1 agreement made in spring of 1941 that in the event of America’s entry into the war defending Britain against Hitler would be the first priority.
  - Roosevelt and Churchill developed a strong bond of camaraderie during their meetings

Securing the Seas: The Battle of the Atlantic- Hitler ordered submarine attacks on American ships along the east coast of North America, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, in hopes of stopping the means of shipping mend, food, and supplies to Britain and the Soviet Union. America’s first objective was to gain the upper hand in the ocean.
- German U-boats had the early edge
  - Unprotected American ships were easy targets
  - U-boats sank 87 ships during the first four months of 1942
  - Through July, 1942, wolf pack attacks had destroyed 681 Allied ships
- America responds with the convoy system and technology
  - Convoys were groups of ships escorted by destroyers to cross the Atlantic
  - The use of sonar by ships helped detect submarines underwater
  - Convoys also included airplanes that used radar to detect submarines on the ocean surface
  - The combined use of technology helped the Allies find and destroy German submarines faster than Germans could build them
    - By spring of 1943, German Admiral Karl Doenitz reported that his losses had “reached an unbearable height.”
- America’s industry also responded with a remarkable increase in ship building
Ships that once took a year to build were being completed in 17 days
- By early 1943, 140 "Liberty ships" were being completed each month
- By mid-1943, the Allies had turned the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic.

**Europe’s Eastern Front and the Battle for the Mediterranean**- As the Allies fought to control the Atlantic Ocean, the Soviet Union was in a ruthless battle to repel Hitler’s troops on the eastern front of Europe.

**The Battle of Stalingrad**- In June, 1941, Hitler broke his non-aggression pact with Stalin, invading the Soviet Union. By November 1941, the Germans were stalled outside Moscow and Leningrad. In the spring of 1942, the German offensive would continue.
- **Summer 1942**: German offensive in southern Soviet Union
  - Hitler hoped to capture oil fields in the Caucasus Mountains
  - Capturing the industrial center at Stalingrad was another German objective
- **August 1942**: The German army approached Stalingrad, prepared to take the city.
  - Nightly bombing raids by the Luftwaffe set ablaze nearly every wooden building in the city.
  - Soviet officers in Stalingrad proposed blowing up the city’s factories and retreating
  - Stalin ordered his army to defend the city to the last man
- **End of September, 1942**: German troops control 9/10s of the city
  - Brutal hand-to-hand combat, house-by-house
  - Stalingrad looked to be lost
- **Nov 1942**: A brutal winter freezes the momentum of the German troops, and the Soviets respond with a crushing counter-offensive.
  - Soviet civilians were escorted out of the city
  - Train tracks were laid on top of a frozen lake to bring in more troops
    - tanks crossed the lake as well
  - The Soviets trapped the Germans in the city, cutting off their supply links
- **Jan. 31, 1943**: The German commander in Stalingrad surrendered, followed two days later by his starving troops.
  - Soviet losses in the Battle of Stalingrad totaled 1,100,000 soldiers—more than all American deaths during the entire war
  - The victory at Stalingrad was a turning point
    - Soviet troops would steadily push westward into Germany

**The Battle for North Africa**- Stalin hoped Britain and the U.S. would open a second front in Europe, one that would cause Hitler to divert troops out of the Soviet Union. Despite promises of a second European front by Roosevelt, the Allies instead launched **Operation Torch**, the invasion of North Africa, led by American General **Dwight D. Eisenhower**.
Nov. 1942: 400,000 Allied troops, mostly Americans, landed in the cities of Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers in North Africa.
  - Allied troops sped eastward across North Africa chasing the Axis troops led by General Erwin Rommel, the “Desert Fox”
  - After heavy fighting, the German-Italian troops were trapped in Tunisia.
  - May 1943: the Axis troops surrendered at Tunisia

The Battle for Europe’s “Soft Underbelly”: The Italian Campaign - At Casablanca, as the battle for North Africa raged, Allied leaders agreed to only accept the “unconditional surrender” of Axis, meaning the German and Italian leaders would have to accept whatever terms of peace were dictated by the Allies. Roosevelt and Churchill also agreed to attack the Axis powers in Europe, via Italy.
  - Summer 1943: The Allies attack Italy through the island of Sicily
    - July 25, 1943: Mussolini is deposed
      - During the conquest of Sicily, the Italian King Victor Emmanuel III forced Mussolini to resign, saying, “At this moment you are the most hated man in Italy”
    - Sept 1943: Italy surrenders unconditionally
      - Despite Italy’s surrender, German troops would stay and fight in Italy, where some of the most deadly fighting of the war took place.
  - Feb-May 1944: “Bloody Anzio”
    - German troops continued to resist Allied army in Italy
    - 25,000 Allied casualties
    - 30,000 Axis casualties
  - May 2, 1945: German troops in Italy finally surrender

Heroes of North African and European Combat - Many regiments that included minorities fought bravely in the battles for North African, Italy, and Europe
  - African Americans
    - The 99th Pursuit Squadron- the Tuskegee Airmen, gained their first victory in Sicily.
      - Won two Distinguished Unit Citations for their aerial combat against the German Luftwaffe
    - The 92nd Infantry Division, or “the Buffaloes,” won 7 Legion of Merit awards, 65 Silver Stars, and 162 Bronze Stars for their courageous fighting in Europe
  - Mexican Americas
    - 17 Mexican American soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor
    - The 141st Regiment, 36th Division became one of the most decorated divisions of the war
  - Japanese Americans
o The 100th Battalion saw brutal combat, and became known as the Purple Heart Battalion
o The 100th was merged into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which became the most decorated unit in U.S. history

**Liberating Western Europe and Defeating Hitler**- As the battle for North Africa and Italy raged, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met at Tehran, Iran from Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 1943, to coordinate plans for a simultaneous attack on Germany from the east by the Soviets and from the west by the other Allied forces. That attack on the western front, known as **Operation Overlord**, was led by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**D-Day**- Preparations for the invasion of German-held France would make it the largest land-air-sea operation in history.

- A massive force would be necessary
  - The 3 million troops included British, American, and Canadian troops
  - Mountains of military supplies, including a massive concrete port, were provisioned
- Deception was used
  - A phantom army was set up
    - Had its own headquarters and equipment.
    - Radio messages, meant to be intercepted by the Germans was used
    - Orders to attack the French port of Calais, 150 miles north of the actual planned invasion, were set to make believe army
      - Hitler ordered his generals to keep a large army at Calais
- June 6, 1944: The invasion began
  - Shortly after midnight, three division parachuted down behind German lines
  - Thousands of seaborne soldiers followed.
  - The campaign to control the areas known as Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach, and Sword Beach saw some of the most bloody and brutal fighting of the war.

**Taking Back Western Europe**- After seven days of fighting, the Allies held an 80-mile strip of France. From here, the liberation of western Europe would commence with quickening pace.

- France would be the staging ground to push the German troops eastward to Germany
  - A million troops, 567,000 tons of supplies, and 170,000 vehicles would be landed in France within a month
- July 25: Gen. **Omar Bradley** unleashed a land and air bombardment against the German lines
This gap in German defense allowed Gen. George Patton and his Third Army to advance

- Aug 25: Paris, France was liberated
- By September, much of western Europe was liberated
  - France, Belgium, and Luxembourg were all freed
- Oct. 1944: Aachen, Germany
  - The first important German city fell to American troops
- Nov. 1944: FDR and his vice presidential running mate Harry S. Truman were elected
  - FDR wins an unprecedented fourth term
  - Americans didn’t want to “change horses in mid-stream”

**The Battle of the Bulge Breaks German Hopes** - As Allied troops marched eastward into Germany, Hitler ordered a last-gasp offensive to demoralize his enemy.

- Dec. 16, 1944: Eight German tank divisions broke through the weak American defenses.
  - Hitler hoped to split American and British forces, and capture the port at Antwerp, Belgium
  - German tanks drove 60 miles into Allied-held territory, creating a bulge in the lines (giving this last-ditch offensive its name, the **Battle of the Bulge**)
  - 120 American troops were captured, herded into a field, and executed by machine guns and pistols
- Dec. 26, 1944: The German offensive was finally stopped after the 101st Airborne Division held its ground at Bastogne.
  - Brigadier General McAuliffe answered the German demand for surrender with one word: “Nuts.”
  - Reinforcements were rushed in and the battle raged for another month.
- Jan. 31, 1945: The Battle of the Bulge finally ends
  - 120,000 troops, 600 tanks and assault guns, and 1,600 planes were lost by Germany in the failed assault
    - ***The loss of lives and material prevented Germany from conducting further large-scale offensives***
- March 1945: American troops had reached the Rhine River in Germany
- April 1945: Gen. Eisenhower’s troops and Soviet troops met at the Elbe River

**Soviet Troops Push Back from the East** - As Allied troops pushed westward from France, Soviet troops pushed the Germans back from the east. The fighting was brutal and the horrors of the concentration camps were discovered.

- Following the Battle of Stalingrad, Soviet troops marched steadily westward across Poland toward Berlin.
- July 1944: Soviet troops are the first to discover the Nazi concentration camps at a camp called **Majdanek** in Poland.
Soviet troops found a thousand starving prisoners, barely alive
The largest crematorium was also located there.
Other evidence of Nazi atrocities at Majdanek included a storehouse of 800,000 shoes

Death and Unconditional Surrender in Europe - By April, 1945, Soviet troops had entered Berlin. The end of Hitler’s Third Reich was at its end.

- April 12, 1945: While posing for a portrait in Warm Springs, GA, President Roosevelt suffered a stroke and died.
  - America’s leader through Depression and World War II did not live to see the end of the war
  - Vice President Harry S. Truman was sworn-in as president
- April 29, 1945: Hitler penned his last speech to the German people.
  - He blamed the Jews for starting the war
  - He blamed his generals for losing the war
- April 30, 1945: Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, killed themselves in his underground bunker
- May 8, 1945, V-E Day: General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of the Third Reich
  - The war in Europe was over

The Pacific Theatre of War

Reversing the Tide in the Pacific - Deadly as the bombing of Pearl Harbor was, the Americans dodged a bullet- three aircraft carriers and the Pacific fleet of American submarines were not hit by the Japanese. Although Hitler’s army in Europe was the first objective for defeat by the Allies, America also had to begin their long battle against the Japanese in the Pacific.

Early Victories for Japan - During the first six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan was able to expand control of a territory far larger than Hitler’s in Europe.

- Territory controlled on mainland Asia
  - Hong Kong, French Indochina (present-day Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia), Malay, Burma, Thailand, and much of China
- Island territories in the Pacific
  - The Dutch East Indies, Guam, Wake Island, the Solomon Islands, two Aleutian islands, and several other islands in the Pacific
- Dec. 1941: Japan invades the Philippines
  - American General Douglas MacArthur was in control of Allied forces in the Philippines
  - Fierce fighting lasted for five months
  - MacArthur and 20,000 troops, supported by a much larger force of poorly trained Filipino fighters took a defensive position at Bataan
  - March 11, 1942: MacArthur was ordered to leave the Philippines
- Mac Arthur pledged "I shall return" as he fled the islands.
  - April 9, 1942: The Filipino fighters surrendered to the Japanese
  - May 6, 1942: the island fortress of Corregidor, in Manila harbor surrendered to the Japanese
  - Japan had complete control of the Philippine Islands

**Doolittle’s Raid on Tokyo** - The spring of 1942 saw the Allies begin to push back against the Japanese, despite the loss of the Philippines
  - April 18, 1942: Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle led a bombing raid over Tokyo, Japan
    - 16 bombers attacked the city
    - American newspapers proclaimed “Tokyo Bombed! Doolittle Do’od It.” lifting American spirits and dampening those of the Japanese.

**Battle of the Coral Sea** - Allied forces stop Japan from invading Australia.
  - May 1942: American carrier force, with Australian support, attacked the Japanese.
    - The five-day assault inflicted heavy damage on the Japanese Navy.
    - This was the first time in history all of the fighting was done by carrier-based aircraft.
    - Neither naval fleet fired a shot directly at the other.
    - For the first time since Pearl Harbor, a Japanese invasion had been turned back.

**Battle of Midway** - Japan, being turned back at the Coral Sea, set its sights on the island of Midway, northwest of Hawaii. Unfortunately for them, the Americans had broken their code and knew the attack was coming.
  - June 3-6, 1942: Led by Admiral **Chester Nimitz**, the commander of American naval forces in the Pacific, America successfully defended the island and dealt a major blow to Japan’s navy.
    - The small carrier force of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance was directed against the Japanese fleet.
    - After scout planes found the Japanese carriers, torpedo planes and dive bombers attacked the enemy ships.
    - Japanese were caught off guard, with their planes still on the decks of their carriers.
    - By June 6, the Japanese had lost four aircraft carriers, a cruiser, and 250 planes
  - The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the war in the Pacific.
    - It undermined Japan’s capacity to wage an offensive war.
    - The Allies would follow up with their strategy of “island hopping,” bypassing some of the heavily fortified Japanese islands, capturing nearby islands, and then neutralizing the Japanese through heavy bombing.
The Allies Take the Offensive in the Pacific- With the victory at Midway, the Allies were able to take the offensive in the Pacific theatre of war. Their first target would be Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

Battle of Guadalcanal- Americans goal was to take the island and protect the supplyline from America to Australia
- August 1942: American ground forces land and begin the fight to take the island.
  - War correspondent Ralph Martin described it as “hell”
  - the fighting lasted for six months
- Feb. 1943: After several sea battles, the Japanese troops evacuated Guadalcanal
- Losses were lopsided in the battle for the island
  - Japanese lost 20,000
  - American casualties topped 1,700
  - the 10:1 ratio of Japanese to American casualties was persistent throughout the war

Battle for New Guinea- Allied forces led by Gen. MacArthur fight to protect Australia
- American submarines inflicted lethal losses on Japanese supply ships and troop carriers
- Aug. 1944: the conquest of the island was completed.
- This was MacArthur's first step toward returning to the Philippines

Battle of Leyte Gulf, Philippines- As General MacArthur waded ashore he announced, “People of the Philippines: I have returned!”
- Oct. 1944: A massive Allied force descended upon the Philippines
  - 178,000 troops and 738 ships
- The Japanese threw their entire fleet into the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and tested a new tactic: the kamikaze
  - Japanese pilots crashed the bomb-laden planes into Allied ships in suicide attacks
  - 424 kamikaze pilots sank 16 ships and damaged 80 others
- Despite the horror of the kamikaze attacks, the three day Battle of Leyte Gulf was disastrous for the Japanese
  - 3 battleships lost
  - 4 aircraft carriers destroyed
  - 13 cruisers lost
  - 500 planes destroyed

Battle of the Marianas Islands and Philippine Sea- North of New Guinea stood the Marianas Islands
- June 19, 1944: The assault on the Marianas Islands began with what American pilots called “The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot.”
American “Hellcat” planes and antiaircraft weapons destroyed nearly 250 Japanese aircraft

- At Saipan, in the Marianas, a mass suicide of Japanese soldiers and civilians from “Suicide Cliff” heralded a somber end to the brutal fighting.
- The major islands of Marianas fell to Allied forces in July and August of 1944
- June 20, 1944: U.S. naval forces sank several Japanese aircraft carriers in the Philippine Sea
  - The Japanese navy never recovered from the losses in these two battles
  - With the Marianas victory, round-the-clock bombing of Japan began in November 1944

**Battle of Iwo Jima** - Capturing the island of Iwo Jima was critical to the United States gaining a base to launch heavy bombers on the Japanese mainland.

- March 1945 - the attack on the heavily defended island began
  - Japan had 207,000 troops entrenched on the island in tunnels and caves
- The 25-day battle saw vicious fighting and heavy losses
  - More than 6,000 American Marines dies
  - Only 200 Japanese survived

**Battle for Okinawa** - The last major island that stood in the Allies way to Japan was Okinawa.

- April 1945: Americans invaded Okinawa
  - Japanese responded with nearly 2,000 kamikaze attacks, sinking 30 ships, damaging 300 more, and killing nearly 5,000 seamen
  - Japanese troops fought from caves and tunnels
- Fierce fighting continued until June 21, 1945. The losses were staggering.
  - 7,600 Americans were killed amongst the 50,000 American casualties
  - 110,000 Japanese lives were lost in the fighting
  - Two Japanese generals committed ritual suicide over the shame of surrender
- The fight for Okinawa foreshadowed what an invasion of mainland Japan might entail. The losses would be unacceptable.

**An Atomic Nightmare Ends the War** - The fierce fighting on Iwo Jima and Okinawa made clear the risks of an invasion of the Japanese mainland. Japan still had a huge army on the main islands, and millions of citizens who would be asked to fight to the death. But President Truman had an option outside of invasion: a new weapon - the atomic bomb.

**The Manhattan Project** - The development of the atomic bomb was led by General Leslie Groves and research was directed by J. Robert Oppenheimer. It was on most ambitious and closely guarded scientific research in history.

- More than 600,000 Americans were involved in the project
  - Most workers did not know what they were actually building
July 16, 1945: the first successful test of the atomic bomb took place in the empty desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico.

The Potsdam Conference - As the successful test of the atomic bomb took place, President Truman met with Joseph Stalin and British leaders to plan the end of the war against Japan.

- Japan was issued an ultimatum: surrender or be destroyed.

Truman's Fateful Decision - With the atomic weapon successfully tested, President Truman had to make the most difficult decision of his presidency: to use the bomb on Japan or not.

- July 25, 1945: Truman ordered the military to make plans for dropping two atomic bombs on Japanese targets.
  - American planes dropped tens of thousands of leaflets on Japan warning them to surrender or be destroyed.
- Aug. 6, 1945: A B-29 bomber, named Enola Gay, dropped the first atomic bomb, code-named Little Boy, over Hiroshima.
  - Approximately 70,000 Japanese were killed instantly.
  - Nearly every building in the city collapsed from the force of the blast.
  - Still, Japan's emperor refused to surrender.
- Aug. 9, 1945: A second, code-named Fat Man, was dropped on Nagasaki.
  - More than 80,000 Japanese were killed or wounded.
- Aug. 10, 1945: The Japanese ask for peace on one condition, that their leader Hirohito could remain on his throne as nominal emperor.
- Aug. 14, 1945: The Allies, despite their policy of "unconditional surrender" accepted Japan's request.
  - Douglas MacArthur presided over the surrender, saying, "Today the guns are silent. The skies no longer rain death - the seas bear only commerce - men everywhere walk upright in the sunlight. The entire world is quietly at peace."

Planning and Executing Postwar Goals - Even before the unconditional surrender of Germany and the atomic bombs that caused Japan to finally surrender, the Allies were planning the principles that would shape the postwar world.

Compromising at Yalta - As the fall of Germany began to be inevitable, February 1945 saw the Big Three leaders of Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet at the Black Sea resort city of Yalta in the Soviet Union. With each leader bringing different goals and priorities to the meeting, they would all have to compromise.

- Stalin goals were based on the devastation wrought on the Soviet Union by the Germans after four years of war.
  - Favored harsh treatment of Germany.
Wanted to keep Germany divided into occupation zones, each controlled by Allied military forces, to ensure Germany would never attack the Soviet Union again.

- Churchill strongly disagreed with Stalin.
  - He wanted to rebuild Germany, reviving the economy and keeping it united.
- Roosevelt acted as a mediator, hoping to win concessions from the Soviet Union.
  - He wanted Stalin to uphold his promise to enter the war against Japan.
  - Roosevelt also wanted Stalin to support the predecessor to the League of Nations, to be known as the United Nations.
- The eight-day conference produced a series of compromises:
  - To appease Stalin, Germany would be temporarily divided into four zones:
    - One zone each would be controlled by British, French, the U.S., and Soviet Union.
  - To please Churchill and Roosevelt, the four zones were to be brought together in a reunited Germany.
  - To appease Roosevelt, Stalin agreed to several arrangements:
    - Stalin promised “free and unfettered elections” in Poland and other Soviet-occupied countries in Eastern Europe.
    - Stalin also agreed to join the war against Japan.
    - Lastly, Stalin agreed to participate at the international conference in April in San Francisco, where the United Nations would be chartered.

**Holding Nazis Accountable at Nuremberg.****

In pursuance of the Agreement signed on the 8th day of August 1945 by the Government of the United States of America, the Provisional Government of the French Republic, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), there shall be established an International Military Tribunal (hereinafter called “the Tribunal”) for the just and prompt trial and punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis.”****

- Prosecuting Nazi war criminals became a post-war priority after the discovery of the genocide at Hitler's death camps.
- The Nuremberg trials, which put 24 Nazi leaders on trial for crimes against humanity, crimes against the peace, and war crimes, were held from Nov. 1945 through October 1946.
  - Defendants included Nazi party officials, government ministers, military leaders, and Nazi industrialists.
  - At the first, and largest trial, 12 of the 24 defendants were sentenced to death, most of the remaining sent to prison.
  - At the later trials, nearly 200 more Nazis were convicted of war crimes.
An important principle was established at the Nuremberg trials—
the idea that individuals are responsible for their own actions, even in
times of war. Individual responsibility was firmly entrenched in
international law.
- Many Nazi defendants would claim they were just following
orders
- They did not escape punishment for their crimes

**Occupy and Rebuilding Japan** - Like in Europe, Japan would be occupied and
rebuilt in a manner that would prevent that country from ever wreaking havoc on
the world again.

- Gen. Douglas MacArthur commanded the U.S. occupying troops
- Trials for more than 1,100 Japanese leaders, including Prime Minister Hideki
Tojo, took place as they did in Nuremberg
  - Seven, including Tojo, were sentenced to death.
  - Subsequent trials in the Philippines, China, and other Asian countries
occupied by Japan during the war convicted Japanese officials for their
crimes against civilians and prisoners of war.
- U.S. occupation of Japan lasted seven years, reshaping Japan’s economy and
government
  - Major political changes were enacted to transform Japan’s
government
    - A new constitution was written
      - Declared that sovereignty rested with the people, not
the emperor.
        - The emperor was allowed to continue as a
symbol of Japanese unity and culture, but
wielded no political power
      - A parliament, the Diet, was created and made up of
freely elected representatives of the people
      - Local governments were strengthened and encouraged
      - Provided for woman suffrage
      - Guaranteed basic freedoms
        - Freedom of speech
        - Police powers were limited and regulated
      - Article 9 completely abolished military forces and
forbade Japan from maintaining an army and ever going
to war again
      - To this day, Japanese refer to their constitution as the
MacArthur Constitution
  - Economically, the U.S. implemented several policies to make Japan’s
economy more democratic
• Redistributed land from big landlords to small farmers, so the families could own the land they worked and participate more freely in the new democracy
• Laws were passed to allow free trade unions in Japan’s industries
  • By 1949, nearly half of all industrial workers belonged to unions

Changes on the Home Front

The War Brings Economic Opportunity and Societal Change- The decade of the 1940s was as different from the 30s...as the 30s were from the 20s. The war brought America out of the Great Depression, providing economic opportunity, geographic migration, family changes, and an innovative approach to helping our returning veterans.

Economic Opportunities- Becoming “the Great Arsenal of Democracy” was a blessing to many different groups of American workers.
  • Industry boomed and unemployment fell to 1.2% in 1944
    o Average weekly pay rose 10% during the war, despite price and wage controls
    o ***Purchase restrictions allowed workers to save a large portion of their income
      ▪ Many workers invested up to half their paychecks in war bonds
      ▪ This contributed to an increase in postwar consumption, spurring along a booming economy
  • Farmers finally found prosperity during the war years
    o The drought that wreaked havoc on the Dust Bowl region ended, and the early 1940s brought great weather for abundant crops
    o Continued improvements in machinery and fertilizers helped farmers reap profits from rising crop prices
      ▪ Crop production increased by 50%
      ▪ Farm income tripled
      ▪ By the end of the war, many farmers could pay off their mortgages
  • Women made economic gains in wartime industries
    o More than 6 million entered the workforce for the first time
      ▪ The number of working women increased 460%, increasing the percentage of women in the total workforce to 35%!
      ▪ 1/3 of the new jobs for women were in defense industries which were technically more demanding and paid better than traditional “women’s jobs
      ▪ Women took advantage of professions typically held by men
        • Journalists
        • Riveters
Bus drivers
- Many women lost their jobs at the end of the war
  - Most claimed that they left the workforce to return to their traditional roles as wives, mothers, and homemakers

Economic Opportunities Caused Massive Population Shifts- The economic boom of war industries led to one of the largest mass migrations in American history.
- Many Americans moved to California
  - More than one million migrated to the Golden State between 1941-1944
- Towns with defense industries saw populations skyrocket during the war years
- Other historically significant migration patterns continued during the war years
  - African Americans continued to leave the south in record numbers, a continuation of the Great Migration
    - The South lost more than 1.25 million African Americans during the decade of the 1940s

Family Changes and Help for Veterans was a Product of the War- Millions of men leaving girlfriends, wives, and children led to monumental changes in the American family. When those veterans came home, the federal government was ready to take responsibility for their transition back to civilian life.
- Family adjustments during the war
  - Mothers struggled to raise children alone
    - Many children were left with neighbors, relatives, or at childcare centers when mothers entered the workforce
  - Teenagers left at home alone sometimes turned to juvenile delinquents
  - A difficult period of adjustment often accompanied the return of fathers from the war
- New families were created during the war years
  - Both longtime couples and those who barely knew each other rushed to marry before soldiers left for war
- 1944: To help returning veterans transition to civilian life, Congress passed one of the most forward thinking bills in American history- the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, better known as the GI Bill of Rights
  - Provided education and training for returning veterans
    - Nearly 7.8 million veterans attended college and technical skills through the benefits of the GI Bill
    - **Many of these veterans who attended college would not have had the opportunity if not for the GI Bill
  - The law also provided low-interest federal loans to veterans to buy homes, farms, or to start new businesses
By easing the transition of soldiers back into civilian life, the GI Bill had a profoundly positive impact on U.S. society.

Old Policies and Prejudices Persist, Despite Opportunities- Unfortunately for many minority groups, the opportunities they enjoyed during the war went hand and hand with continued discrimination and racial violence.

The Fight for Civil Rights Continued for the Nation’s Blacks- While African Americans made gains during the war, increasing their percentage in skilled and semiskilled jobs, where African Americans migrated, racism and discrimination followed.

- 1942: Civil rights leader James Farmer founded the interracial organization Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
  - Its original purpose was to fight urban segregation in Chicago
  - In 1943, CORE organized its first sit-in at a segregated Chicago restaurant
- Racial violence rose as African Americans migrated to crowded cities
  - 1943: Racial violence and riots swept through the country
    - A scuffle between whites and blacks at a beach in Detroit turned into a riot
    - White sailors joined in the violence
    - The violence was fueled by false rumors that whites had murdered a black woman and her child, and that black rioters had killed 17 whites
    - By the time President Roosevelt sent federal troops to stop the rioting, 9 whites and 25 blacks were dead or dying
- The racial violence of 1943 led to proactive attempts to deal with the problem of racial tension
  - By 1945, more than 400 committees had been established by American communities to improve race relations.

Mexican Americans Became the Targets in the “Zoot-suit” Riots of 1943- The violence of the summer of 1943 was not limited to Detroit. Mexican Americans, donning their “zoot-suits” became the targets of sailors in Los Angeles.

- June 3, 1943: following reports by 11 sailors that they had been attacked by zoot suit wearing Mexican Americans, a week-long attack on Mexican Americans swept through Los Angeles and its suburbs.
  - Mobs of sailors and civilians flooded Mexican neighborhoods
    - Any zoot-suiters would be grabbed, have their clothes ripped, and beaten, often with clubs and ropes
  - The riots lasted nearly a week, the sailors often egged on by local newspapers
    - Hundreds of Mexican Americans were beaten during the senseless violence
Executive Order 9066 - The Internment of Japanese Americans

The Attack at Pearl Harbor Brings Out the Worst- Following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, Americans’ fears were stoked by false rumors that Japanese Americans were turning against their country by mining coastal harbors and poisoning vegetables. America’s reaction would amount to one of the worst civil rights violations in American history.

- February 19, 1942: President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 requiring the removal and internment, or confinement, of people of Japanese decent from the West coast. This was spurred by recommendations from the military as necessary for national security.
  - Internment of Japanese Americans had already started in Hawaii in the days following the attack on Pearl Harbor
    - 1,444 Japanese Americans, 1% of Hawaii’s Japanese-American population would be confined during the war
  - In the weeks following Roosevelt’s order, the army shipped 110,000 Japanese Americans to ten different “relocation centers,” mostly in the western part of the country.
    - 2/3 of the internees were Nisei, or Japanese born in America to parents who had emigrated from Japan.
  - No charges were ever filed against any of the Japanese Americans
    - NO evidence of subversion was ever found
  - Thousands were forced to leave homes, businesses, and property behind.
    - Many of them would never recover their property
  - Many Japanese challenged the government’s policy of exclusion in both Congress and the Courts

- June 1944: Korematsu v. United States
  - The Supreme Court ruled that the internment of Japanese Americans to camps was justified on the basis of “military necessity”
    - The court argued that the actions taken by the government were based on a military imperative, not race

- Dec 1944- FDR announced the end of the Japanese internment
  - The confinement of Japanese Americans during the war became a national embarrassment

- After the war, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) worked for compensation from the government to repay citizens for lost property during their internment
  - 1965: Congress authorized $38 million for repayment
    - This sum was less than 10% of the actual losses of those Japanese Americans
  - 1976: President Gerald Ford revoked Executive Order 9066 and formerly apologized to Japanese Americans
  - 1988: Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988
Each surviving internee received $20,000 as a symbolic reparation for their hardships suffered during the war
As World War Ends the Cold War Begins

Fundamental Differences Split the U.S. and Soviets
The apocalyptic threat of Hitler’s war machine resulted in a shaky alliance between the United States and Soviet Union. But fundamental differences separated the two countries: political and economic ideologies, strained diplomatic relations, wartime frustrations, and postwar goals all contributed to a chilly relationship to the growing world powers. The result was the Cold War, the four-and-a-half-decade period of conflict and competition between the U.S. and Soviet Union in which neither nation directly confronted the other on the battlefield.

Political and Economic differences
• While American democracy saw competition for political power in the arena of the two-party system, Soviet communism was dominated by one-party totalitarian rule with no tolerance for political dissent.
• Capitalism in America saw private citizens control property and wealth, while Soviet communism rested in state control of all property and economic activity, as well as redistribution of wealth.

Strained Diplomatic Relations
• Woodrow Wilson’s refusal to officially recognize the Bolshevik government became official U.S. policy, breeding resentment, and lasting until 1933.
• Both countries had maintained isolation between the world war period, although both sought to spread their opposing political and economic ideologies.

Wartime Frustrations
• The U.S. and its British and French allies were furious with Stalin’s pre-war nonaggression pact with Hitler.
• Stalin was rightly frustrated at the Western Allie’s tactics of delay in opening a western front against the German army.
• Relations frosted further after Stalin learned that the U.S. and Britain kept the Soviets in the dark regarding the development of atomic weapons.

Postwar Goals
• Immediate Soviet goals
  o Guarantee the security of the Soviet Union through a sphere of influence in Eastern and Central Europe.
    ▪ Stalin wanted to ensure Germany would never again invade his country
  o Continue the goal of spreading communism around the world
• Immediate U.S. goals
Create a “new world order” where all people had the right to self-determination
Guarantee the stability of world peace through a strong international organization

**The Postwar World Takes Shape as the War’s Climax Nears**
The Atlantic Charter, drafted by FDR and Churchill at the early stages of war, committed the fighting to create a world where all nations had the right of self-determination and free trade, and where human rights and security would be protected by international agreements and enforcement. As the war’s end neared, several steps were taken to bring these goals to fruition.

**Bretton Woods Conference (1944)**
- The Western Allies met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire to created several organizations to shape the global economic order following the war.
  - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
    - Encourages world trade by regulating currency exchange rates
  - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
    - Promotes economic growth in war-torn and underdeveloped nations/regions
- Three years later, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was created
  - Reduces trade barriers among member nations
  - Became one of the key agencies in the global economy in the following decades

- Despite the mounting tension between the West and Soviets, 50 nations met in San Francisco in spring 1945 to establish a new international peacekeeping body, the United Nations, to promote peace, security, and economic development and to replace the ineffective League of Nations.
  - The United Nations Charter was approved on June 26, setting up the new international peacekeeping body.
- Structure of the U.N.
  - The Security Council would consist of the Big Five powers: the U.S., Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China
    - None of these countries could have action taken against it without its consent.
    - Each country on the Security Council has veto power
  - The General Assembly
    - Controlled by smaller member nations who vote on proposals to
Broken Promises Lead to Tension and Action
Stalin, FDR, and Churchill hammered out several important agreements at the Yalta conference in February of 1945. Stalin promised to allow free elections in Poland and other Eastern European countries, FDR was willing to allow the Soviets to take reparations from Germany to help pay for their wartime losses. As the Potsdam Conference loomed in the summer of 1945, near the war’s end, both sides were walking back their promises.

The Potsdam Conference

- **Attendees**
  - U.S. - new president Harry Truman
  - Great Britain - Clement Attlee, who replaced Winston Churchill when his party lost a general election
  - Soviet Union - Joseph Stalin

- **Causes for tension**
  - The Soviet’s had failed to allow free elections in Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria
  - Truman backed away from FDR’s promise to allow the Soviets to take reparations from Germany
  - American businesses wanted access to raw materials and to sell their goods in Eastern European countries
    - The Soviets wanted those raw materials to rebuild their own country, and they wanted those Eastern European countries to become communist.

- **Compromise at Potsdam**
  - The Soviets, British, French, and Americans would each take reparations from their own occupied zones of Germany

The Soviets Hammer Their Sphere of Influence into Eastern Europe

- The Soviets suffered the heaviest losses at the hands of Germany in WWII. As such, they felt justified in taking any actions to prevent any further destruction.
  - Stalin installed communist governments in several Eastern European countries
    - Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Poland became satellite nations - countries dominated by the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R)
  - Early 1946 - Stalin announced that communism and capitalism were incompatible, and this fact would eventually lead to another war.

Our Allies and Government React to Stalin’s Assertiveness

- February, 1946 - U.S. diplomat in Moscow, George F. Kennan, sent his “Long Telegram” describing the thinking behind the Soviet’s communist goals.
  - The Soviets would seek to widen their influence, and could only be contained by a strong response from the West - namely the U.S.
Kennan’s insights would become the cornerstone of the U.S. policy of containment—measures taken to prevent the spread of communist rule to other countries.

- March 1946 - At West Minster College in Fulton, MO, Winston Churchill gave a speech describing the dire situation in Europe
  - “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent...”
  - Churchill’s phrase “iron curtain” described the division of Europe—democratic and capitalist in the West, Soviet-dominated communism in the East
- Truman would embrace Kennan’s advice and heed Churchill’s warning as he formulated his “get tough with Russia” policy in 1947.

## Containment’s Test in Europe

### The First Tests of Containment

The first test of the containment policy came when Britain informed the U.S. that it could no longer meet the financial burden of helping Greece and Turkey resist growing communist pressure in those countries. Failure to curb the creep of communism into Greece and Turkey would threaten the stability of the Eastern Mediterranean.

### The Truman Doctrine

- March 12, 1947 - President Truman asked Congress for an appropriation of economic and military assistance for Greece and Turkey.
  - Truman’s request, that “it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.” became known as the **Truman Doctrine**.
  - The U.S. provided $400 million between 1947-1950, successfully keeping communists from taking over those countries.

### The Marshall Plan

- Even more troubling than the situation in Greece and Turkey was the devastation of Western Europe following WWII.
  - Factories were destroyed
  - Millions of refugees were stuck in camps with nowhere to go
  - The bitter winter of 1946-47 destroyed crops and froze rivers, creating a fuel shortage
- June 1947 - U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a plan for the economic recovery of Europe.
  - The **Marshall Plan** provided $13 billion in rebuilding aid to 16 countries of Europe.
• Funds were also offered to the Soviet Union and their allies, who turned it down, calling it a "capitalist trick"
  o The Marshall Plan was a huge success, and contributed to the postwar economic boom in the subsequent decade.
  • By 1952, most European nations were exceeding prewar production
  • Communist threats in France and Italy were squashed

The Fight for Berlin
• Plans for Germany's postwar partition into four occupied zones were completed at Yalta, and were implemented as planned.
• Like Germany as a whole, Berlin was also divided into east and west zones, the eastern zone occupied by Soviets and the western zone by the other Allied countries.
  o In 1948, Britain, France, and the U.S. decided to combine their occupation zones of western Germany into one nation, but Berlin lie entirely in the eastern, Soviet occupied, zone of Germany.
• June 1948- In hopes of taking over the entire city of Berlin, Stalin closed all highway and rail routes into West Berlin.
  o Food, fuel, medical supplies were all blockaded from the western part of the city
  o The city’s 2.1 million people only had a month’s worth of rations.
• America and Britain responded to Stalin’s belligerence with what was called the [Berlin airlift](#).
  o 327 consecutive days of flights in and out of West Berlin
  o 277,000 flights brought 2.3 million tons of food, fuel, clothing, and medicine. Even Christmas presents were flown into the city!
• The airlift was a huge success
  o Stalin lifted his blockade in May of 1949
  o American prestige received a huge boost around the world

Preparing for a Colder War
The growing threat of expanding Soviet influence forced our government to take unprecedented measures in building up our military and intelligence capabilities. It also served to overturn 150 years of policy that dictated we stay out of entangling foreign alliances.

Military and Intelligence Measures
• The [National Security Act (1947)](#)
  o Created the Department of Defense
    • Housed in the Pentagon
    • Headed by the Secretary of Defense
    • Under the Sec. of Defense is the civilian secretaries of the navy, army, and air force, together known as the Joints Chiefs of Staff
  o Established the National Security Council
Advises the president on national security matters
- Created the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**
  - Coordinates foreign intelligence gathering (spy work here, shhhhhhh!!!)
- “Voice of America” radio was authorized by Congress in 1948
  - Transmitted American radio broadcasts behind the iron curtain
- 1948- Congress reauthorized the Selective Service System
  - Young men from 19-25 could be drafted in a national security emergency

**The U.S. Joins an Entangling Foreign Alliance**
- On April 4, 1949, the U.S. and Canada joined 10 other European nations informing the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**
  - NATO countries agreed to view an attack on one as an attack on all, and to respond to an attack with “armed force.”
    - **This was the first time in its history that the U.S. joined into a military alliance with foreign nations during peacetime.**
  - Initially, NATO served several strategic purposes for the U.S.
    - Strengthened the policy of containment
    - Provided a means for reintegrating Germany into the European family of countries
    - Reassured our European allies that the U.S. would not abandon them as it did after WWI.
  - Greece and Turkey joined NATO in 1952, and West Germany was added in 1955.

**East Asia Turns Up the Heat on the Cold War**

**China Falls to Communism**
China’s two-decades long Civil War was reignited following Japan’s retreat in WWII. In the renewed struggle, half-hearted support from the United States was not enough to keep communism from expanding to control China

**U.S. Supports Chinese Nationalists Against Communists**
- The U.S. government reluctantly supported Chinese Nationalist leader **Chiang Kai-shek**, despite our assessment that his government was inefficient and corrupt.
  - Chiang’s government collected a grain tax from farmers even during the famine of 1944
    - When farmers protested the 10,000% increase in the price of rice, Chiang’s troops opened fire on them
- Communists, led by **Mao Zedong**, built strength in the northern part of the country throughout WWII.
  - Mao won the support of China’s peasants
Encouraged peasants to get an education
Helped improve efficiency and food production
By 1945, much of Northern China was under Communist control

Japan’s Exit Brings Back Civil War - The ousting of Japan toward the end of WWII did nothing to solve China’s domestic conflict. Civil war erupted again in 1945, this time, there would be a decisive end.

- The U.S. continued to support Chiang Kai-shek against the Communists
  - U.S. officials repeatedly tried to broker a peace between Nationalists and Communists, but repeatedly failed
  - Although the U.S. sent $2 billion in military equipment and supplies, Truman refused to send U.S. troops
- U.S. aid was not enough to save the Nationalists
  - Chiang’s corruption and abusive policies drove more and more peasants into the side of the Communists
- May 1949: Chiang and the remnants of the Nationalists government were forced to flee to the island of Taiwan
  - The Red Army now controlled all of China
  - A Communist government, the People’s Republic of China, was established.

American Reaction to Containment’s Failure in China - Americans were stunned by China’s turn to communism. This apparent failure to containment would cause commotion at home.

- Conservative Republicans and Democrats faulted Truman
  - Claimed he did not send enough aid to the Nationalists
  - Asked why containment of communism didn’t seem as important in Asia as it was in Europe
- The State Department blamed China’s fall on forces out of U.S. control
  - Chiang’s inability to retain support was truly to blame
  - They claimed that further U.S. intervention may have started a larger war in Asia
- Other conservatives in Congress claimed communist agents were infiltrating the U.S. government.
  - This led to a paranoid fear in Americans that would eventually turn into hysteria...and another Red Scare

More Bad News in 1949 Leads to a Nuclear Arms Race

- China’s fall to communism was followed up with news in September of 1949 that the Soviet Union had successfully detonated an atomic weapon, three years early than intelligence estimates predicted.
  - Truman responded by ordering the development of the hydrogen bomb (H-bomb)- a new apocalyptic weapons race had begun
    - The U.S. tested its first H-bomb in the South Pacific in 1952
The Soviet Union successfully counterpunched with its own successful H-bomb test a year later.

Conflict in Korea

The Korean War Offers a Chance to Redeem Containment - Japan had ruled Korea since 1910, but the Allied victory in WWII ended Japanese rule. A precarious situation grew out of Korea’s geography at the end of the war.

A Split Korea Falls to War - In 1945, as WWII concluded, Japanese troops surrendered to the Soviets who were occupying north of the 38th parallel (38 degrees north latitude). Japanese troops south of the 38-line surrendered to American troops. Two nations developed: once democratic and one communist.

- 1948: The Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established in the zone occupied by the U.S.
  - Democratic
  - Led by Syngman Rhee
  - Its capital was in Seoul
- 1948: The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established in the Soviet-occupied zone
  - Communist
  - Led by Kim Il Sung
  - Capital at Pyongyang
- America cut its troop levels in South Korea soon after its establishment
  - Only 500 U.S. troops there by 1949
- The Soviets inferred that the U.S. would be unwilling to fight to defend South Korea.
  - They prepared to support a North Korean invasion
    - sent tanks, planes, and money to help the North take over the entire Korean peninsula
- June 25, 1950: North Korean forces swept across the 38th parallel, surprising the South, and staring the Korean War
  - Within days, North Korean troops were well into South Korean territory
  - South Korea plead to the United Nations for help
  - A Soviet absence at the UN Security Council allowed for the peacekeeping body to unanimously condemn North Korea as the aggressor
    - The UN called all members to “render every assistance” to bring peace to the Korean peninsula
- June 27, 1950: President Truman, without consulting Congress, ordered American air and naval support to South Korea
  - Truman also ordered Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s troops, presently occupying Japan, to invade.
- 16 nations sent 520,000 troops to aid South Korea
The combined troops were placed under the command of Gen. MacArthur.

**The Seesaw Fight For Korea** - The surprise attack by North Korea in the summer of 1950 put South Korean troops on their heels. By September of 1950, Seoul had been captured and UN and South Korean troops were pushed back to a small defensive zone in the southeast corner of the peninsula. Victory for the North seemed inevitable.

**MacArthur's Stunning Counter Attack** - Gen. MacArthur had a few surprises of his own.

- Sept. 15, 1950: MacArthur makes a surprise amphibious landing behind enemy lines at Inchon, on the west coast of South Korea.
  - Other UN and American troops pushed east from Pusan, trapping the North Koreans
    - ½ the N. Korean troops surrendered
    - The other half fled across the 38th parallel
- Sept.-Oct. 1950: UN troops chased the North Korean troops deep into North Korea
  - The entire peninsula appeared to be in the hands of UN and South Korea
  - MacArthur's troops reached North Korea's border with China, the Yalu River

**China Catches MacArthur's Troops Stretched Thin**

- Nov. 1950-Jan. 1951: Chinese troops entered the war on the side of North Korea
  - MacArthur's troops were caught off guard, and pushed back across the 38th parallel
  - A bloody battle for strategic positions was fought for the next two years

**MacArthur Calls for a Widening War** - To end the bloody stalemate, MacArthur called for taking the war into China

- MacArthur asked for a blockade of China’s ports and bombardment of bases in Manchuria
  - He even suggested using as many as 50 nuclear weapons on the Chinese troops and border
- Truman rejected MacArthur’s request.
  - Attacking the Chinese would draw the Soviets into war with the U.S.
    - The Soviets had a mutual-defense pact with China
  - Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff said war with China would be “the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy.”
• Rather than attacking China, UN and South Korean forces began to advance again on the North Korean troops.
  o Under the lead of Matthew Ridgway, the U.S. Eighth Army recaptured Seoul and moved back to the 38th parallel

**MacArthur's Insubordination** - Unsatisfied with Truman's restraint, Gen. MacArthur made a career-shattering err.
• MacArthur began to criticize the president’s policies publicly
  o He spoke and wrote to newspapers and magazine publishers
  o He appealed to Republican leaders
  o Despite numerous warnings, MacArthur continued to criticize the president
• April 11, 1951: Truman shocked the nation by announcing he had fired Gen. MacArthur
  o As commander-in-chief, the President could no longer tolerate MacArthur’s insubordination
  o ***Truman felt that MacArthur had violated the principle of civilian control of the military by ignoring Truman's orders on numerous occasions
• When MacArthur returned to America, he addressed Congress, saying “Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.”
  o The public was outraged over MacArthur’s firing, although many began to see Truman’s actions as the right thing to do.

**The Fighting Stalemate Continued Despite Peace Talks** - As the MacArthur drama “faded away,” the Soviets unexpectedly suggested a cease-fire on June 23, 1951.
• July 1951: Peace talks began, but were almost immediately snagged on the issue of prisoner exchanges
  o Men continued to die for nearly two years as the negotiations dragged on.
• Two important agreements were reached.
  o The cease-fire line would be where the existing battle line was, roughly at the 38th parallel
  o A demilitarized zone would be maintained between the opposing nations
• July 1953: The two sides finally signed an armistice ending the war.
  o While the outcome was basically a stalemate, communism was contained in North Korea, above the 38th parallel

**The “Forgotten War's” Effect on the Home Front** - In America, the Korean War had affected lives and politics.
• The Korean invasion in 1950, coming on the heels of the Soviet Union detonating an atomic weapon in Aug. 1949 and China’s fall to communism in Oct. 1949, prompted a massive military buildup in America
o National Security Council Memorandum Number 68 (NSC-68) recommended the US quadruple its defense spending.
  ▪ Truman ordered a massive military buildup
    • The US soon had 3.5 million men ready at arms in the military
    • Defense spending topped $50 billion per year, 13% of the GNP
  ▪ NSC-68 marked a major step in militarizing U.S. foreign policy
o ***A 1951 report of the National Security Council (NSC-100) confirmed the recommendation of NSC-68, and set forth the basis of what would become U.S. Cold War policy for the next thirty years:
  ▪ The United States should undertake a rapid buildup of offensive military capabilities
    • More than 53,000 Americans were killed in the Korean War
    • Failure to “win” the war led Americans to reject the Democratic Party in 1952
    • WWII hero, Republican candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president