

# Chapter 27: Americans in World War II

1941-1945

# Section 1: Early Difficulties

- **Objective 1:** Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Allied and Axis Powers in 1941.
- **Objectives 2:** Outline the steps that the United States took to prepare for war.
- **Objective 3:** Identify locations where the Japanese military attacked after Pearl Harbor.
- **Objective 4:** Discuss the early turning points of the war in the Pacific.
- **Objective 5:** Relate the major battles in Europe and North Africa in 1942.

# Objective 1: Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Allied and Axis Powers in 1941.

## Allied Powers

- **Advantage:** Ability to mass produce
- **Advantage:** Size of the Soviet Union's Army
- **Advantage:** Britain and the Soviet Union had never been defeated
- **Disadvantage:** We had to fight on different fronts
- **Disadvantage:** Enemy held full control of conquered areas

## Axis Powers

- **Advantage:** Better prepared for war
- **Advantage:** Had control over invaded areas
- **Advantage:** Been rearmed since the 1930's
- **Advantage:** Economies were ready for war
- **Advantage:** They rearmed and built air fields and training facilities
- **Disadvantage:** Had to defend multiple fronts

## Objectives 2: Outline the steps that the United States took to prepare for war.

- **I. Increase Production-** Changed what they were producing. Started making jeeps, planes, and ships. Hired more workers and farmers were producing enough food for ally powers. Sharecroppers and tenant farmers went to factories.
- **II. Expand the Government-** Created the War Production Board, Office of War Mobilization, Office of Price Administration
- **III. Direct the Economy-** The OPA set prices, rationed items, and controlled wages. Raised money by selling war bonds and raising taxes.
- **IV. Raise the Army-** Passed the Selective Training and Service Act. Also called the National Guard to active duty. Started organizations within the military for women.

Objective 3: Identify locations where the Japanese military attacked after Pearl Harbor.

## American History Outline Map

Locate: Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, Burma, Borneo, the Netherlands East Indies, Wake Island, and Hong Kong

## Objective 4: Discuss the early turning points of the war in the Pacific.

- The four “W’s” (what, when, where, why) of the early turning points of the war in the Pacific
- **Battle of the Coral Sea:**
  - What- The U.S. and Great Britain stopped the Japanese from taking over Port Moresby and advancing on Australia.
  - When- May 7, 1942
  - Where- Between Australia and the Solomon Island before the Japanese could reach Port Moresby
  - Why- the Japanese planned to take over Port Moresby and move on down to Australia

## Objective 4: Discuss the early turning points of the war in the Pacific.

- **Battle of Midway:**

What- 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Battle in the Pacific

When- Early June 1942

Where- Northwest of Hawaii

Why- Japan wanted to catch the US off guard but the U.S. broke the Japanese codes and ambushed the Japanese fleet at Midway!!!!

- **Guadalcanal:**

what- U.S. Marines launched major offensive on Solomon Islands

when- Aug. 1942

where- Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

why- to capture and hold the airport

Objective 5: Relate the major battles in Europe and North Africa in 1942.

- Significance of:
- **El Alamein**-stopped the German Afrika Korps from taking the Suez Canal and oil fields; halted their advance in Africa
- **Battle of Stalingrad**-inflicted over 200,000 casualties on the German army; broke the momentum of the Axis powers

# Section 2: The Home Front

- **Objective 1:** Describe how the U.S. government tried to keep wartime morale high.
- **Objectives 2:** Describe what life was like in the United States during World War II.
- **Objective 3:** Relate how women contributed to the war effort.
- **Objective 4:** Analyze what actions the government took to protect the rights of minority groups.
- **Objective 5:** Discuss the war's effect on Japanese Americans.

Objective 1: Describe how the U.S. government tried to keep wartime morale high.

- Federal program: Office of War Information
- Entertainment: media, radio, propaganda, stars selling war bonds

Create two slogans in support of the war effort.

## Objectives 2: Describe what life was like in the United States during World War II.

- Minorities started getting jobs
- Economy improved; more jobs
- Rationing
- Factories produced war materials
- Everyday life didn't change a lot
- Air raids and black-out drills

Objective 3: Relate how women contributed to the war effort.

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## Women and the War Effort

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- entered job market to replace soldiers
  - worked in plants
  - produced war products

**Objective 4:** Analyze what actions the government took to protect the rights of minority groups.

- The government created the Fair Employment Practices Committee and made attempts to end discrimination in businesses with federal contracts.
- See question #3 on page 813

**Objective 5:** Discuss the war's effect on Japanese Americans.

- The federal government interned Japanese-Americans in some states.
- Interned Japanese-Americans often lost their property.
- Some Japanese Americans received limited military service opportunities.

# Section 3: Victory in Europe

- **Objective 1:** Identify where the Allied offensive in Europe began.
- **Objectives 2:** Explain the impact of fighting in the Atlantic and in the air.
- **Objective 3:** Analyze how the Allies successfully invaded Normandy.
- **Objective 4:** Discuss the Holocaust.
- **Objective 5:** Analyze how the Allies finally defeated Germany.

# Objective 1: Identify where the Allied offensive in Europe began.

- Where?

Sicily and southern Europe

- Why?

Create a front to fight Germany. The Allies saw Sicily as a launching pad for the invasion of Italy, and Italy as a launching pad for the invasion of Europe.

Objectives 2: Explain the impact of fighting in the Atlantic and in the air.

Objective 3: Analyze how the Allies successfully invaded Normandy.

Fighting in the Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Axis attacks took a huge Allied toll</li><li>•With Sonar, Allies turned the tide in 1943</li><li>•Sea dominance allowed the Allies to protect cargo ships and bomb Axis vessels</li></ul>
Fighting in the Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•As with the Battle of the Atlantic, 1943 was an important year</li><li>•Allies conducted strategic bombing to destroy important German cities</li></ul>
The Normandy Invasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Took place on June 6, 1944</li><li>•Allies needed to invade German-occupied France</li><li>•Created a dummy invasion as a decoy</li><li>•Stormed the beach with high casualties but ultimate success</li></ul>

# Objective 4: Discuss the Holocaust.

## Nazi Propaganda

- Influenced German people to hate the Jews. Radio, newspapers, movies; indoctrination of children in schools

## Anti-Semitism

- Blamed Jews for economic problems; blamed Jews for loss in World War I; took jobs away from non-Jewish Germans

## Allied Inaction

- Kept Holocaust a secret; U.S. isolationism

# Objective 5: Analyze how the Allies finally defeated Germany.

- December 1944-Battle of the Bulge
- February 1945-Yalta Conference; FDR, Stalin, and Churchill made plans for postwar peace and German occupation after the war
- Early 1945-Allies bomb German cities of Leipzig and Berlin
- March 1945-troops cross the Rhine River and drove into the heart of Germany
- April 1945-Hitler commits suicide
- May 7, 1945-Germany surrenders

# Section 4: Victory in Asia

- **Objective 1:** Describe the U.S. island-hopping plan.
- **Objectives 2:** Analyze the effect that the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa had on the war.
- **Objective 3:** Explain why the United States used atomic weapons against Japan.
- **Objective 4:** Discuss the costs of the war.

# Objective 1: Describe the U.S. island-hopping plan.

- Rationale:

The U.S. used island-hopping to conquer strategically important islands while cutting off other islands. With the conquered islands, the U.S. hoped to gain important launching pads for an invasion of Japan.

## Objectives 2: Analyze the effect that the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa had on the war.

- “The fighting on Iwo Jima and Okinawa displayed continued Japanese resistance. The two battles proved that the Japanese would not surrender.”
- List points to support the above statement.
  - fighting on both islands was incredibly difficult and bloody, although the U.S. triumphed on both fronts; the existence of kamikaze attacks and high casualty rates
- How did Japanese resistance on Iwo Jima and Okinawa affect the Pacific War?
  - Japanese resistance forced Truman to decide whether to use atomic weapons.

## Objective 3: Explain why the United States used atomic weapons against Japan.

- Factors that led the United States to use atomic weapons against Japan:
  - Continued Japanese resistance
  - enormous cost an invasion
  - demonstrate U.S. power to the Soviet Union.

# Objective 4: Discuss the costs of the war.

## World War II—The Final Costs

