

Unit 10

1939 –
1945

World War II

World War II began in Europe in 1939, when Germany attacked Poland without warning. Germany and its allies Italy and Japan were all determined to create great empires for themselves through brutal conquest. Those three countries became known as the Axis Powers.

Americans hoped to avoid being drawn into World War II. The attack on Hawaii's Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1941 ended that hope. America joined with Great Britain and other nations desperately trying to stop the Axis Powers. This group of nations was called the Allies.

This unit tells the story of World War II and the role America played in the defeat of the Axis Powers. We will also see that the war led to great changes within America itself.

Internet resources:

www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap

Words and people to know:

fascism / fascist

inflation

Adolf Hitler

Benito Mussolini

Hideki Tojo

Axis Powers

Allied Powers

Franklin Roosevelt

Harry S. Truman

Winston Churchill

Joseph Stalin

isolationism

Lend-Lease program

Battle of Britain

Pearl Harbor

Battle of Midway

Battle of Stalingrad

Normandy

D-Day

atomic bomb

Hiroshima

Nagasaki

The Holocaust

anti-Semitism

Aryan supremacy

ghettos

concentration camps

Rosie the Riveter

defense plants

conserving resources

rationing

internment camps



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Internet Support Site: www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap

Notes:

Outline – World War II

1. Causes of World War II.

- A. Economic devastation in Europe resulting from World War I.
 - * The very large war debt owed by Germany.
 - * High inflation rate – paper money became almost worthless in Germany.
 - * Worldwide depression (like the Great Depression in the U.S.)
 - * Massive unemployment in Germany and other European countries.
- B. Political instability after World War I led to the rise of **fascism**.
 - * Fascism is a political philosophy in which a dictator holds total power and individual rights are denied.
 - * Fascist dictators included: Adolf Hitler – Germany, Benito Mussolini – Italy, and Hideki Tojo – Japan
 - * These dictators led the countries that became the **Axis Powers** in 1940.



2. The Allies opposed the Axis Powers.

- A. The United States, Great Britain, and Canada were democratic nations that led the **Allies** in the fight against the Axis Powers.
 - * The Soviet Union (the U.S.S.R., which includes Russia) joined the Allies after being invaded by Germany.
- B. The main Allied leaders, called “The Big Three” were:
Franklin D. Roosevelt (and later, Harry S. Truman) – U.S,
Winston Churchill – Great Britain, Joseph Stalin – Soviet Union.
- C. Other Allied countries included France, Poland, Australia, China, and many others.



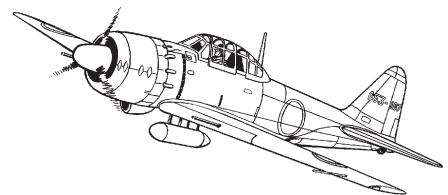
3. American policy changed from neutrality to direct involvement.

- A. 1930s – **isolationism** / **neutrality**, mainly because of the Great Depression and the legacy of World War I.
- B. 1940-41 – **economic and military aid** to the Allies, such as the Lend-Lease program.
- C. After December 7, 1941 – **direct involvement** in the war.



4. Japanese aggression (military attacks) led to war in the Pacific.

- A. 1930s – tension rose between the U.S. and Japan because of Japanese attacks in East Asia and the Pacific region.
- B. December 7, 1941 – Japan attacked the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.
- C. The U.S. declared war on Japan.



Outline – *continued*

5. Major events and turning points of World War II.

- * Germany invaded Poland. (1939)
- * Germany invaded France. (1940)
- * Germany bombed London. (The Battle of Britain, 1940)
- * The U.S. sent Britain war supplies and warships in return for the use of military bases in Bermuda and the Caribbean. (Lend-Lease program, 1941)
- * Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, and the U.S. declared war on Japan.
- * Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., and the U.S. declared war on them.
- * The U.S. defeated the Japanese navy at sea in the Battle of Midway. (1942)
- * Germany invaded the Soviet Union, but was defeated at the Battle of Stalingrad. (1941, 1943)
- * D-Day, the landing of American and other Allied troops in Normandy, France, to begin the liberation of Western Europe. (1944)
- * The U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, forcing Japan to surrender. This ended World War II. (1945)



Turning point of the
war in the Pacific

Turning point of the
war in Eastern Europe

Japan Surrenders –
World War II Ends
With Allied Victory

6. The Holocaust was the Nazi-led murder of 6 million Jews throughout Europe.

A. Background to the Holocaust.

- * Anti-Semitism – prejudice against Jews had a long history in Europe going back hundreds of years.
- * Aryan supremacy – the Nazi belief that the Nordic / Germanic ethnic group was a superior race destined to rule other races.

B. During World War II, Hitler started a systematic attempt to rid Europe of all Jews. His tactics included -

- * boycotts of Jewish stores.
- * laws that discriminated against Jews.
- * forced segregation of Jews in ghettos.
- * imprisonment and killing of Jews and others in concentration camps and death camps.

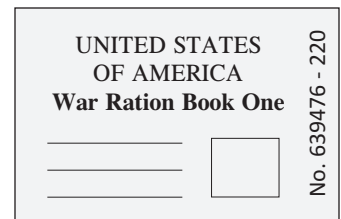
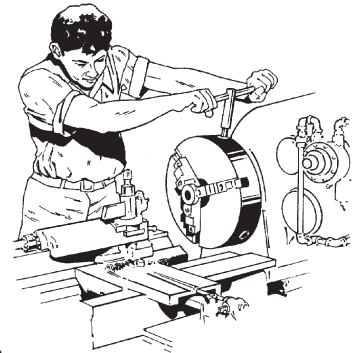
C. The Holocaust was ended when the American / Allied forces liberated Jews and others who survived in concentration camps.



Outline – *continued*

7. World War II had a great impact on American life on the home front.

- A. The Great Depression ended as factories began producing supplies and weapons for the war effort.
 - * Millions of workers were needed by factories, shipyards, mines, and steel mills.
- B. Women were encouraged to take jobs in defense plants (factories) during the war.
 - * **Rosie the Riveter** was a nickname for women who took jobs producing war materials.
- C. Americans at home supported the war effort by conservation and rationing programs.
 - * Rationing booklets helped conserve sugar, gasoline, and other products.
 - * Victory gardens were planted by many people to grow some of their own food.
 - * Scrap metal drives collected old metal for recycling.



8. Race relations were affected by World War II.

- A. African Americans found new opportunities as racial barriers to employment temporarily broke down.
 - * Many were hired and trained for skilled jobs in defense plants.
 - * Many served in the armed forces.
 - * Discrimination and segregation remained a problem, however.
- B. Japanese Americans on the West Coast were treated with distrust and prejudice, and forced to relocate to internment camps during the war.
 - * There was a fear that some might spy on Navy ship movements.
 - * Over 100,000 were forced into the camps.
 - * In spite of this, over 3,000 Japanese Americans served in the American armed forces.
- C. Efforts were made by the U.S. government to make the public aware that Americans of all ethnic groups were helping in the war effort.





Axis Aggression in Europe 1937 - 1942

* E.P. = East Prussia, a province of Germany

0 600 miles

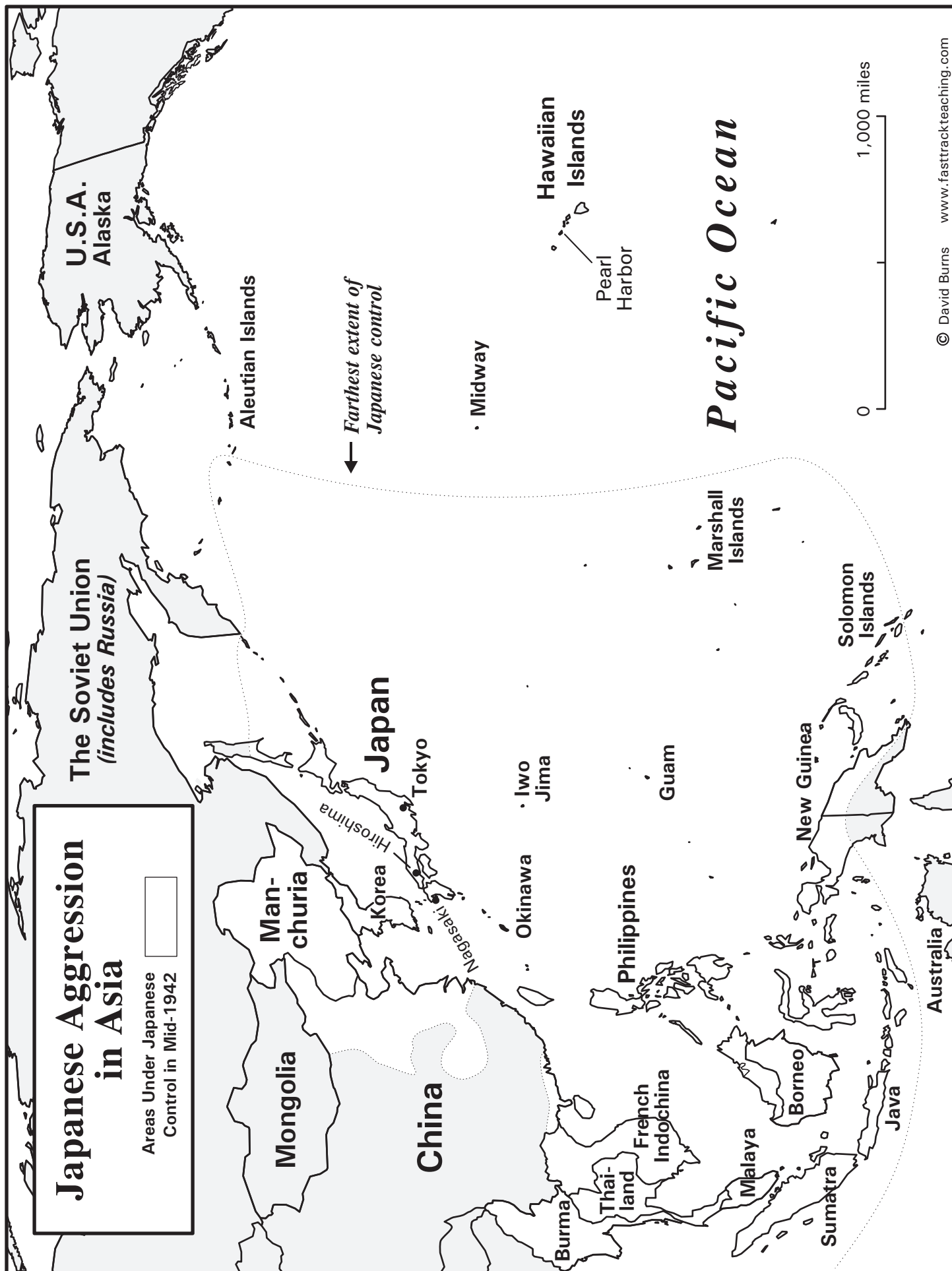
Key to Areas of Control

Germany and Italy in 1937

Axis Controlled Areas
in mid-1942

Allied Controlled Areas
in mid-1942

Neutral Nations in 1942

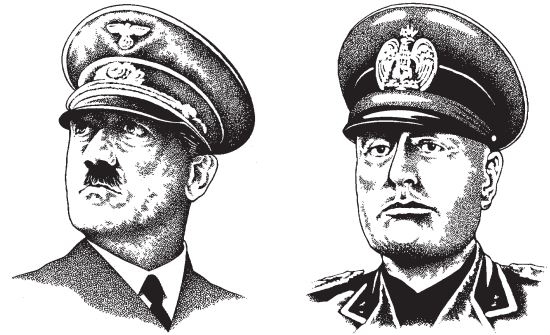


The Causes of World War II

World War II was caused by two main factors:

First, World War I left European countries in very bad shape economically.

Second, political instability after the war led to the rise of fascism and fascist dictators in Germany, Italy, and Japan.



1

Economic devastation in Europe resulting from World War I

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

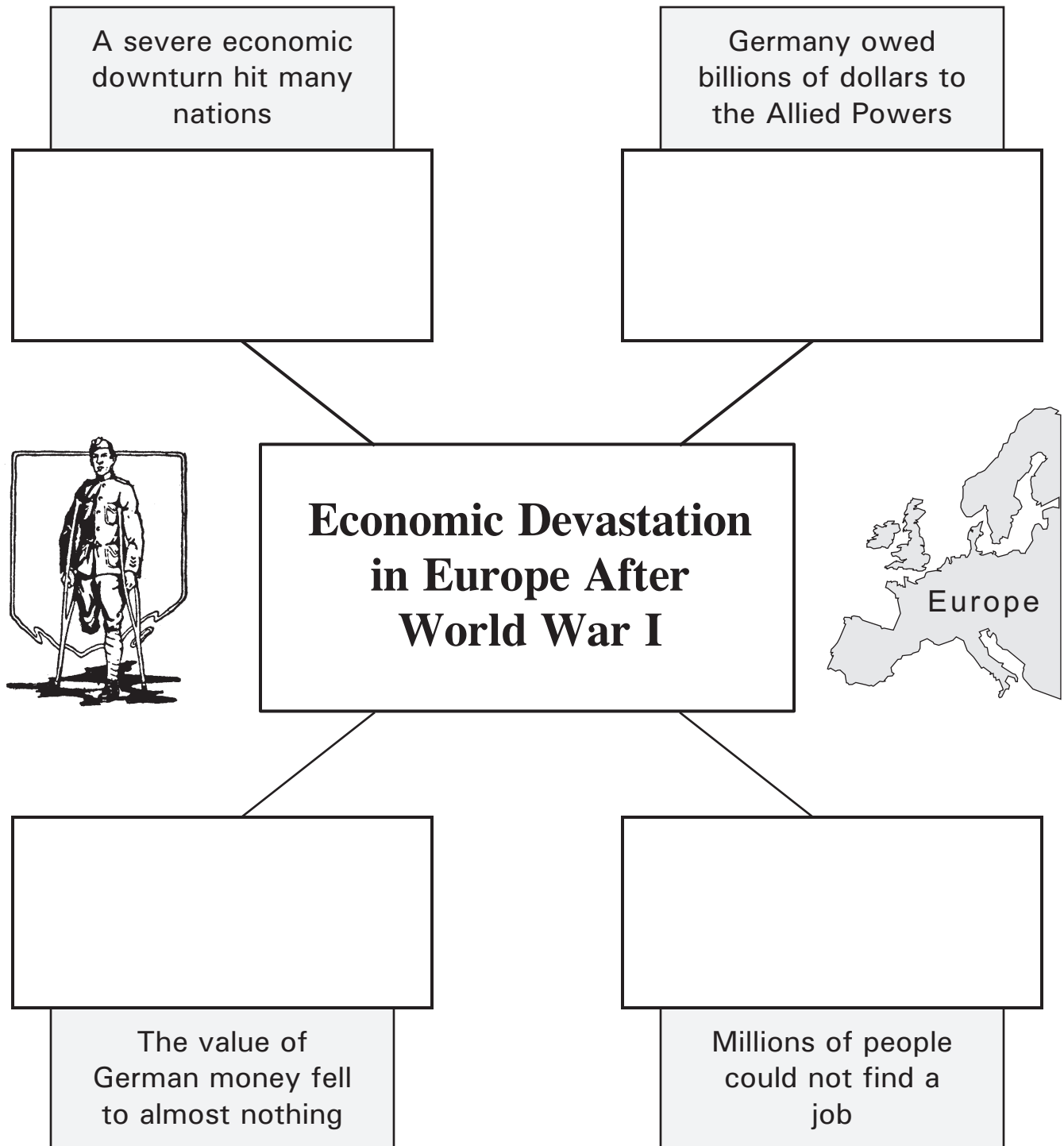
2

Political instability after World War I led to the rise of fascism

This image shows a full page of blank primary-ruled paper. It features ten sets of horizontal lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The paper is otherwise completely blank, with no text or markings.

Economic Problems in Europe after World War I

This graphic organizer shows four of the biggest problems in Europe after World War I. These problems allowed Hitler and Mussolini gain power by appealing to the millions of *Germans* and *Italians* who were hungry, desperate, and angry.



The Allies

... and many other countries!









The Axis







Winston Churchill Rallies the British

These condensed selections are from famous speeches by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill during World War II.

I say to this House [the British Parliament] as I said to Ministers [British leaders] who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering.



You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea and air. War with all our might and with all the strength God has given us, and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable [sad] catalogue of

human crime. That is our policy.

You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs – victory in spite of all terrors – victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.

(May 1940 speech to Parliament)

We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be; we shall fight on the beaches, landing grounds, in fields, in streets and on the hills. We shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, will carry on the struggle until in God's good time the New World, with all its power and might, sets forth to the liberation and rescue of the Old.

(June 1940 speech to Parliament)

The Battle of France is over. The Battle of Britain is about to begin. On this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization.

Upon it depends our own British life and the long continuity of our institutions and our empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned against us. Hitler knows he will have to break us in this island or lose the war.

If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed, and the life of the world may move forward into broad sunlit uplands.

But if we fail, the whole world, including the United States and all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister and perhaps more prolonged by the lights of a perverted science [science used for war].

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, and so bear ourselves that if the British Commonwealth and Empire last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

(June 1940 speech to Parliament)

We have but one aim and one single irrevocable purpose. We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige [last piece] of the Nazi regime. From this nothing will turn us. Nothing. We will never parley [talk]; we will never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang. We shall fight him by land, we shall fight him by sea; we shall fight him in the air, until, with God's help, we have rid the earth of his shadow and liberated its people from his yoke.

(June 1941 broadcast speech)

Discussion: *What words and phrases does Churchill use to describe the Nazi government of Germany? What does Churchill say about the idea of surrendering? What does Churchill say is at stake in the war?*

America's Changing Policy Toward World War II

There was a gradual change in American policy toward World War II, moving from neutrality to direct involvement:

1930s: isolationism

Japan
attacks
China: 1937

Germany
invades Poland:
1939

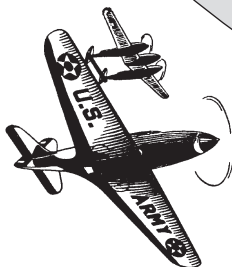


1940, 1941: economic and military aid

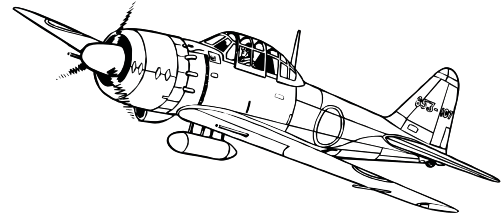
The
Lend-Lease
Program

Japan attacks
Pearl Harbor:
Dec. 7, 1941

1941 - 1945: direct involvement



Major Events and Turning Points of World War II



1939

- Germany invades Poland, WW II begins

1940

- _____

1941

- _____
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, U.S. enters war

1942

- _____

1943

The Battle of Midway was the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

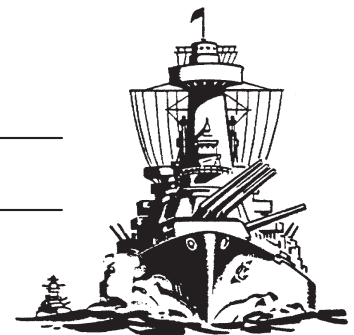
The Battle of Stalingrad was the turning point of the war in Europe.

1944

- _____

1945

- _____
- Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – Japan surrenders



The Holocaust

These are some of the key terms and facts you should know as you begin learning about the Holocaust.



The Holocaust - _____

Anti-Semitism - _____

**Aryan
Supremacy** - _____

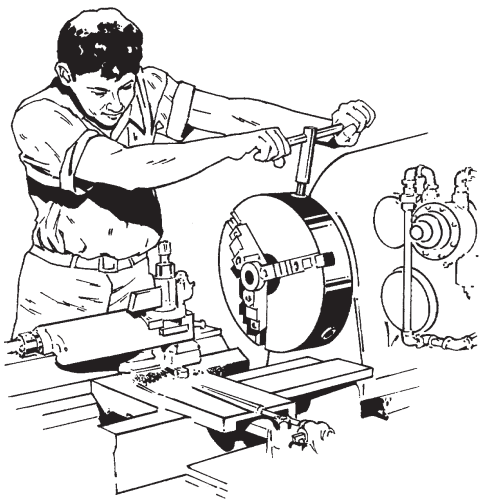
Tactics used by Germany's Nazi government against Jews:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The end of the Holocaust:

- The U.S. and other Allied armies freed the survivors in the Nazi concentration camps and death camps.
- Some Nazi leaders were put on trial for war crimes, convicted, and executed by hanging.

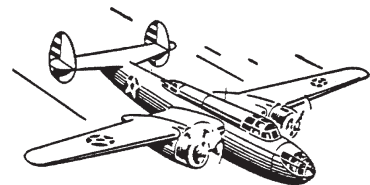
The American Home Front



World War II had a tremendous impact on life everywhere in the U.S. as Americans stepped forward to support the war effort.

On the Home Front







Victory
Gardens



UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
War Ration Book One

No. 639476 - 220

Race and Ethnic Group Relations

American leaders made many efforts to pull the country's ethnic and racial groups together during World War II. There were two groups, however, that continued to face prejudice and discrimination.

African Americans –



**HELP
WANTED**

– All Shifts –

Now hiring for
all positions!

Japanese Americans –



● Internment Camp

Allied Powers - in World War II, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, the Soviet Union (Russia), and many other countries. They fought together against the Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan.

anti-Semitism - prejudice, discrimination, or hatred against Jews.

Aryan supremacy - the Nazi belief that the Germanic / Northern European ethnic group is a superior race destined to rule all other races.

atomic bomb - an extremely powerful bomb which uses the splitting of uranium atoms as its energy source. The atomic bomb was developed during the war by the United States in a secret program with the code name Manhattan Project.

Axis Powers - Germany, Italy, and Japan. These were the nations that started World War II with their attacks on other nations during the 1930s.

Battle of Midway - a battle in 1942 between Japanese and American ships in the Pacific near the island of Midway. It is considered a turning point in the war in the Pacific because the American Navy sank four Japanese aircraft carriers and a heavy cruiser. Because of those losses, the Japanese navy was never able to recover its full strength.

Battle of Stalingrad - the fight of Soviet (Russian) soldiers against the invading German army that in 1942 was trying to win control of the city of Stalingrad. The battle is considered the turning point of the war in Europe, because the German army's advance was stopped at Stalingrad in early 1943.

Battle of Britain - the bombing raids by Germany against Great Britain, including the capital of London, in the summer and fall of 1940. Many other countries in Europe had already fallen to German attacks, and Hitler hoped to panic the British into surrender. They did not, and British fighter pilots gradually gained the advantage in the skies over England. Bombing attacks by Germany on London and other cities continued through the spring of 1941. By that time, Hitler decided to postpone his plans to invade Great Britain, and instead invaded the Soviet Union (Russia) in the summer of 1941.

Churchill, Winston - the top elected leader in Great Britain during World War II. He is famous for his

speeches that rallied the spirit of the British people during the darkest days of the war.

concentration camps - large prison camps built by the Nazi government of Germany. Millions of people deemed "undesirable" by the Nazis were forced into these prison camps. Many died of abuse, overwork, or disease while crowded into the camps.

conserving resources - saving and recycling food, rubber, steel, and many other materials needed for the war effort.

D-Day - June 6, 1944, the day the U.S. and other Allied soldiers came ashore on the beaches of Normandy, France, to begin liberating (freeing) Europe from the Nazis.

defense plants - a American term for the factories that made weapons for the war effort.

fascism / fascist - a type of government in which a dictator holds power, and individual rights are denied. Fascist governments often glorify brutality and military conquest as proof of the country's spirit and strength. Political opponents of any kind are not permitted, and those who object are often beaten, jailed, or killed.

ghettos - areas in cities where Jews were forced to live by Nazi leaders. Conditions in the ghettos were bad, with overcrowded rooms and buildings, and not enough food. Often the Jews were forced to work in factories producing war materials. Later in the war, the Nazis began sending the Jews in the ghettos to death camps where they were murdered.

Hiroshima - the first of two cities in Japan where the U.S. dropped atomic bombs in August of 1945 to force Japan to surrender and end World War II.

Hitler, Adolf - the dictator of Germany during World War II, and the top leader of the Nazi Party. Hitler killed himself with a gun in an underground bunker as the Russian army took control of Berlin, the capital of Germany, in April of 1945.

Holocaust - the term for the Nazi-led murder of an estimated six million Jews in Europe in the years before and during World War II.

continued

Glossary – *continued*

inflation - the term for a general rise in prices over time, which means the value of money is falling. Inflation is usually a result of government actions that increase the supply of money too much.

internment camps - a term for the large camps to which over 110,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were required to move to during World War II.

isolationism - a policy of not getting involved in the affairs or conflicts of other nations.

Lend-Lease program - a program started by the U.S. government during World War II to give or loan food supplies and weapons to Great Britain and other Allies. It began in 1941, although some warships were given by the U.S. to Great Britain the previous year.

Mussolini, Benito - the fascist dictator of Italy during World War II. He was captured and shot by Italian communists (who opposed the fascist system) when he and some of his supporters were trying to escape the country near the end of the war.

Nagasaki - the second of two cities in Japan where the U.S. dropped atomic bombs in August of 1945 to force Japan to surrender and end World War II.

Normandy - a region along the coast of France where U.S. and other Allied forces landed on D-Day (June 6, 1944) to begin liberating (freeing) Europe from the Nazis.

Pearl Harbor - the location of the U.S. Navy base in Hawaii where the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941. Over two thousand Americans were killed. The next day, the U.S. declared war on Japan, bringing America into World War II.

rationing - a system of limiting purchases of certain products, as was done in the U.S. during World War II. Citizens received ration booklets with coupons that allowed them to buy only limited amounts of products like sugar and gasoline. These products were also needed for the war effort. Rationing was intended to make sure all families got a fair share of what was available for purchase.

Roosevelt, Franklin - the New York political leader who served as president from 1933 to early 1945. FDR was elected as the Great Depression grew especially bad in 1932. He is best known for his New Deal programs during the Great Depression, and for his leadership during World War II. He died in 1945, shortly before the end of the war.

Rosie the Riveter - a nickname for women during World War II who had jobs in defense plants (factories) and shipyards. Rivets are metal fasteners used to hold metal plates together on ships, tanks, and airplanes.

Stalin, Joseph - the dictator of the Soviet Union (Russia) during World War II. He had signed an agreement with Nazi Germany before the war stating that neither country would attack the other. In spite of the agreement, Germany attacked in 1941, and the Soviet Union joined the Allies.

Tojo, Hideki - the dictator of Japan during World War II. His cruel and violent policies are often described as fascism. After the war, Tojo was put on trial for his part in Japanese war crimes, and executed by hanging.

Truman, Harry S. - FDR's vice-president who became president of the U.S. when Roosevelt died in 1945. It was Truman who made the decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan to end World War II.

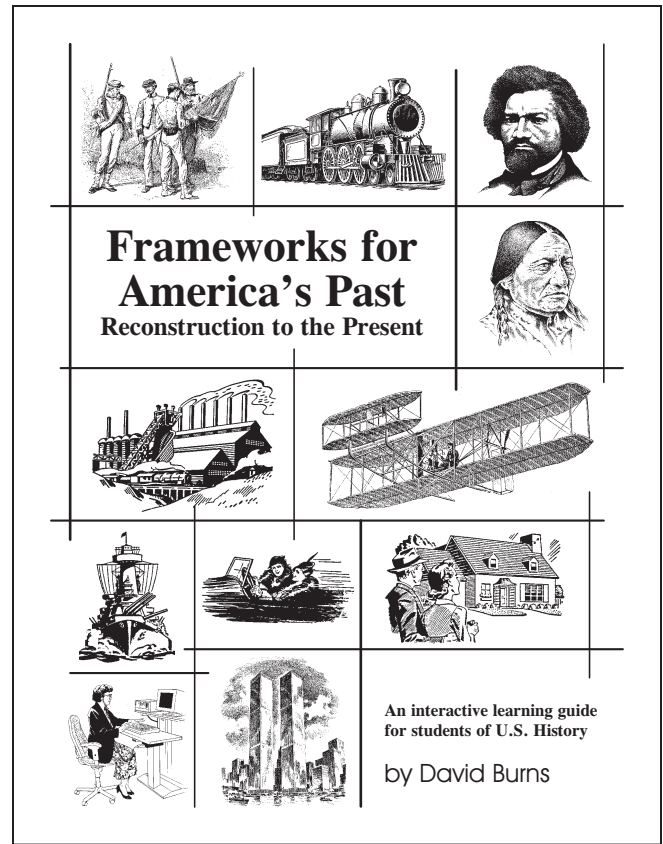




The Teacher Key and additional
resources to use with these
pages are at:

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Frameworks for America's Past Reconstruction to the Present

An interactive learning guide
for students of U.S. History

by David Burns

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