

# AMERICA JOINS THE WAR



What event led the U.S. to be increasingly concerned about the war in Europe before the attack on Pearl Harbor?

- a. German development of atomic technology
- b. The Blitz/Battle of Britain (the British were the last power standing against the Nazis in the western Europe and were being heavily bombarded)
- c. An attack on the Soviet Union by Japan in which the Soviet Union was withstanding unbearable losses
- d. The fall of the Soviet Union to communism as a result of the Bolshevik Revolution

Before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States supported the Allied war effort in all of the following ways EXCEPT:

- a. FDR called on America to be the “Arsenal of Democracy” - referring to American industrial might – encouraging the US to become the primary military supplier for the Allied war effort
- b. The US allowed the Royal Air Force to train in Arizona.
- c. The US revised their neutrality acts and traded goods and armaments with fighting nations. Eventually, the *Lend-Lease Act* allowed the U.S. to give weapons, food, and equipment to desperate countries without any pay.
- d. The U.S. sent military “advisors” to North Africa and Western Europe to help aid Allied troops in combat.

# Review: Increasing Involvement

- **Sense of impending doom, but popular will was against it**
- **FDR took steps to assist Great Britain (*from cash and carry to lend-lease to training soldiers here*)**
- **U.S. increases navy, institutes first peacetime draft, and becomes...**

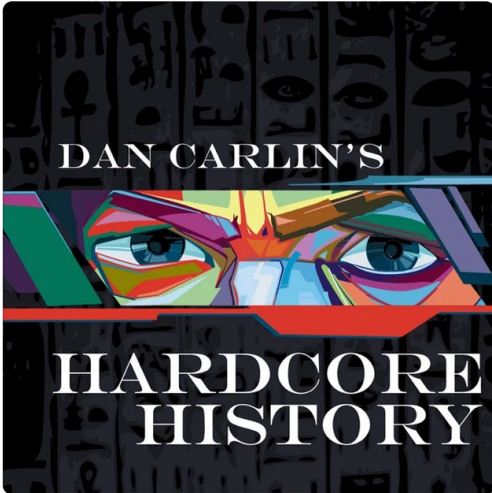
## the Arsenal of Democracy

# PEARL HARBOR



## Apple Podcasts Preview

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4 hr 28 min

PLAY ▶

### Supernova in the East I

Dan Carlin's Hardcore History

History

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The Asia-Pacific War of 1937-1945 has deep roots. It also involves a Japanese society that's been called one of the most distinctive on Earth. If there were a Japanese version of Captain America, this would be his origin story.

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[Episode Website ↗](#)

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# Reminders

- **Japan's economy = heavily impacted by Great Depression.**
- **Paved the way for harsher, more authoritarian government.**
- **Over time, the military came to exercise a more dominant role in Japanese political life.**
- **Nationalist, imperialist, right-wing sentiment and claims of racial superiority) grew stronger throughout 1930s**
- **Concerned/unhappy because:**
  - **Others had not supported Japan's imperialist ambitions**
  - **Japan was too reliant on foreigners for strategic goods (iron, machine tools, oil, copper)**
  - **Others thought they were better than Japanese (didn't really see them as equals)**

# TRUE OR FALSE

IN THE LATE 1920S AND 1930S, JAPAN'S MILITARY POWER BECAME MORE POWERFUL IN JAPAN'S POLITICAL LIFE AS AN EARLIER CULTURAL COSMOPOLITANISM GAVE WAY TO MORE RIGHT-WING, NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS.

THE EMPEROR WAS STILL IN POWER & SEEN AS DIVINE.



# AN EARLIER START TO THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC?

## JAPAN ATTACKED CHINA IN 1937

JAPAN NOW DECIDED TO CREATE IN CHINA WHAT THE BRITISH HAD IN INDIA – A VAST COLONY TO EXPLOIT THAT WOULD PLACE HER AMONG THE WORLD POWERS.

IN 1937, AFTER A CLASH AT MARCO POLO BRIDGE NEAR PEKING, JAPAN INVADED. AFTER FOUR YEARS OF FIGHTING, INCLUDING THE HORRIFIC RAPE OF NANKING, JAPAN CONTROLLED THE COASTAL CITIES, BUT NOT THE INTERIOR.

# RAPE OF NANKING



- [CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON THE RAPE OF NANKING](#)

- BASICS:

- BRUTAL TREATMENT OF CONQUERED LAND
- DEC 1937: JAPANESE TAKEOVER OF CHINA'S CAPITAL CITY
- KILLED 200-300,000:
  - ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN (USE OF MASS MURDER & RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR)

# RAPE OF NANKING (NANJING)

“IN LATE 1937, OVER A PERIOD OF SIX WEEKS, IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY FORCES BRUTALLY MURDERED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE—INCLUDING BOTH SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS—IN THE CHINESE CITY OF NANKING (OR NANJING). THE HORRIFIC EVENTS ARE KNOWN AS THE NANKING MASSACRE OR THE RAPE OF NANKING, AS BETWEEN 20,000 AND 80,000 WOMEN WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED. EVEN BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL, WORD HAD BEGUN SPREADING OF THE NUMEROUS ATROCITIES THEY HAD COMMITTED ON THEIR WAY THROUGH CHINA, INCLUDING KILLING CONTESTS AND PILLAGING. CHINESE SOLDIERS WERE HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED BY THE THOUSANDS, AND LEFT IN MASS GRAVES. ENTIRE FAMILIES WERE MASSACRED, AND EVEN THE ELDERLY AND INFANTS WERE TARGETED FOR EXECUTION. BODIES LITTERED THE STREETS FOR MONTHS AFTER THE ATTACK. NANKING, THEN THE CAPITAL OF NATIONALIST CHINA, WAS LEFT IN RUINS, AND IT WOULD TAKE DECADES FOR THE CITY AND ITS CITIZENS TO RECOVER FROM THE SAVAGE ATTACKS...

# RAPE OF NANKING (NANJING)

## AFTERMATH OF THE MASSACRE

...THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL NUMBERS FOR THE DEATH TOLL IN THE NANKING MASSACRE, THOUGH ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 200,000 TO 300,000 PEOPLE. SOON AFTER THE END OF THE WAR, MATSUI AND HIS LIEUTENANT, WERE TRIED AND CONVICTED FOR WAR CRIMES BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST AND WERE EXECUTED. ANGER OVER THE EVENTS AT NANKING CONTINUES TO COLOR SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS TO THIS DAY. THE TRUE NATURE OF THE MASSACRE HAS BEEN DISPUTED AND EXPLOITED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES BY HISTORICAL REVISIONISTS, APOLOGISTS AND JAPANESE NATIONALISTS. SOME CLAIM THE NUMBERS OF DEATHS HAVE BEEN INFLATED, WHILE OTHERS HAVE DENIED THAT ANY MASSACRE OCCURRED.” – HISTORY CHANNEL

## China vs. Japan: Connection to Future Events



"Why China Hates Japan"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLN0IgCdKZw>

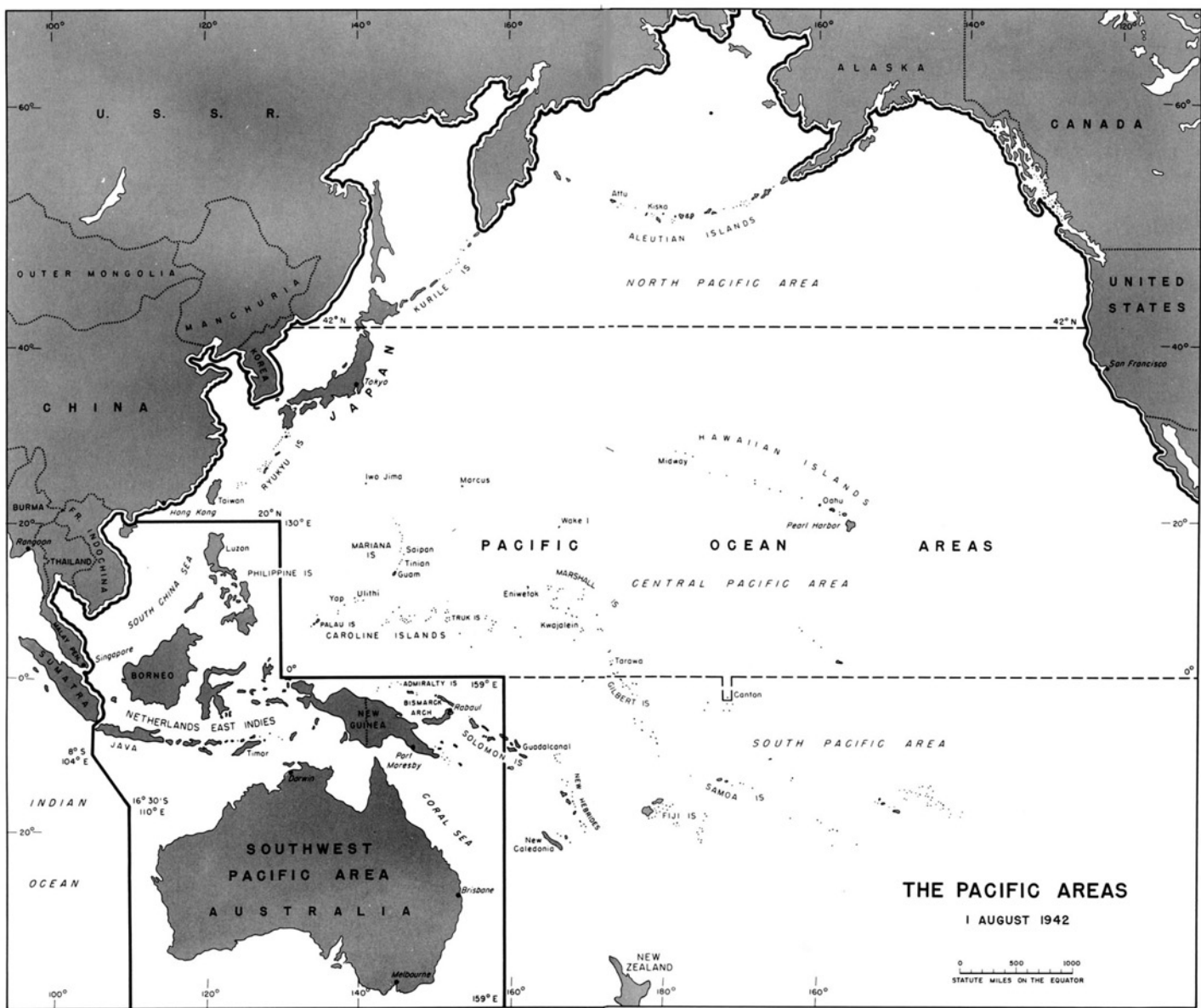
# REASON FOR ATTACK

**By '41:** Japan was tired of America standing in the way of expansionist goals

- **Already achieved:** Successfully taken parts of China & Southeast Asia
- **Next Goal:** Carve out empire for resources (oil, rice, coal, rubber)
- **Plan:** Take lands while countries busy w/ war

# REASON FOR ATTACK

- **Problem:** USA stood in way
  - FDR had reacted to Japanese aggression with trade restrictions (cut off oil & froze assets)
- **Solution:** Decides to challenge USA *but not outright*
  - Plans to knock out USA's Pacific fleet in one swift blow (thought process: buying time – USA would need time to recover, but Japan would already have its empire)

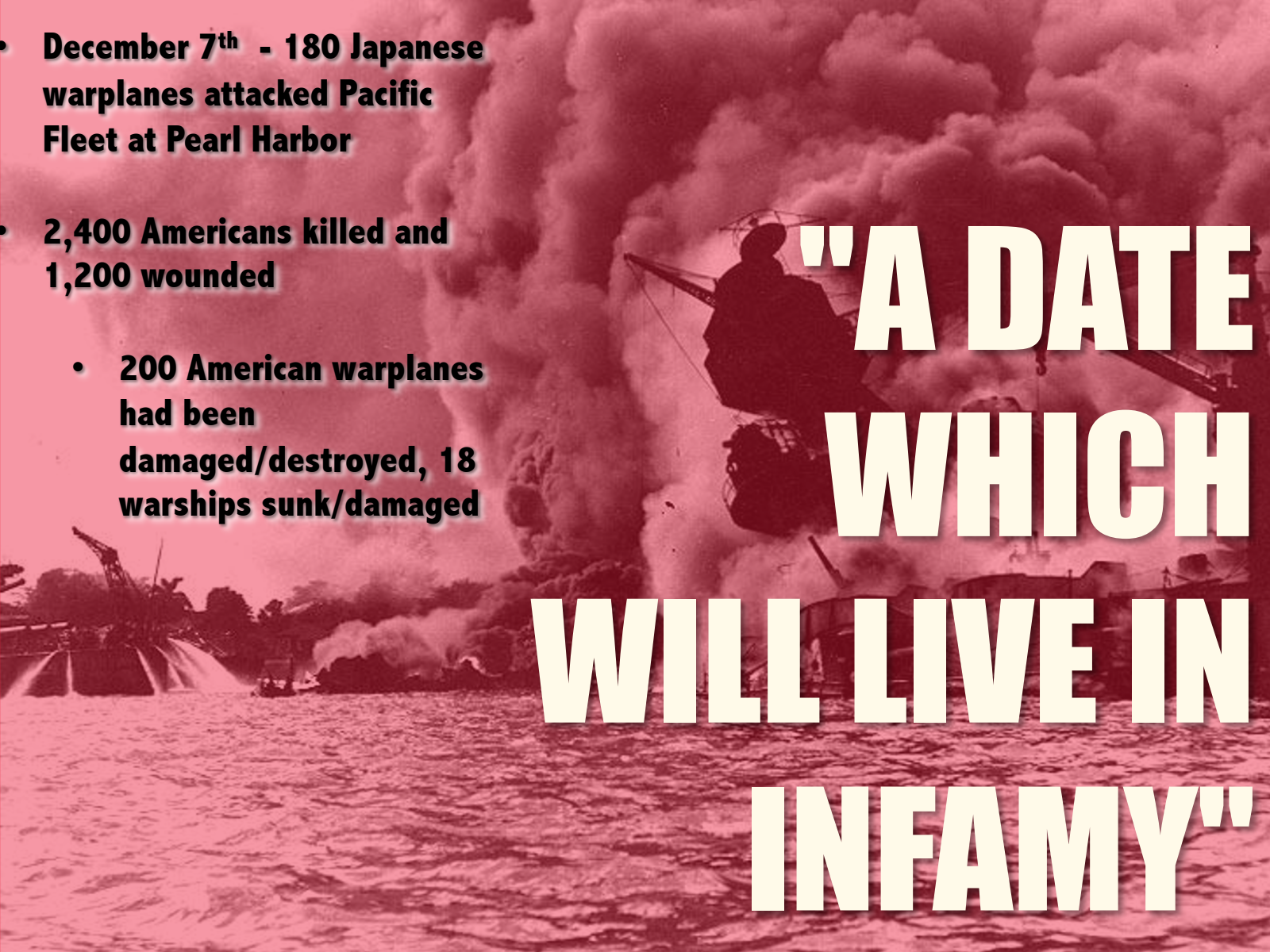




**December 7<sup>th</sup> - 180 Japanese warplanes attacked Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor**

**2,400 Americans killed and 1,200 wounded**

- 200 American warplanes had been damaged/destroyed, 18 warships sunk/damaged**



**"A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY"**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8cgnKrUAq8>

# **SIGNIFICANCE: “WAKING THE SLEEPING GIANT”**

- Japanese had failed to cripple Pacific fleet
  - Left the most vital onshore facilities intact (oil storage, repair shops, etc.)
- **U.S. Navy was able to rebound quickly**
- **Most significant effect: It unified American public opinion about the war overnight**

- **Dec 8, 1941:**
  - **All but one in Congress vote yes to go to war against Japan**
- **Germany declares war on USA a few days later**

**“ Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces – with the unbound determination of our people – we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God.” – FDR, Dec. 8th**

# **USA GOES TO WAR**

**GEARING**

**UP**


**FOR**

**WAR**



# The Importance of Time

- **Despite all the warnings, not completely prepared when war broke out (*consider military weakness & effect of depression*)**
  - Faced with lack of manpower, shortage of supplies, militarily unprepared
- **US had to build up wartime economy quickly (Britain & USSR fighting alone and weak!)**
  - **THIS WAS A HUGE CHALLENGE!**
    - **Training and supplying 15 million men?!**
- **Great potential in terms of military and production, but needed TIME to build up both.**

A black and white photograph of two soldiers in a jungle. The soldier on the left is wearing a helmet and is writing on a piece of paper. The soldier on the right is wearing a backpack and is listening intently to something off-camera. The background is filled with dense tropical foliage.

**AMERICANS DEDICATED  
THEMSELVES TO THE  
WAR EFFORT**

**"...but having been pushed into a fight, they were eager to oblige." - Wiegand**



# GOVERNMENT DURING WAR

- **"WAR POWERS ACT"**

- Gave President sweeping powers to conduct war
  - *Power to initiate and terminate war contracts*
  - *Power to control prices, wages, salaries, and rents*
  - Power to create government agencies set wartime priorities

# GOVERNMENT DURING WAR

## War Production Board:

- Created to coordinate production of war materials
- Halted production of nonessential materials

# Government in Wartime



## **Sets up Office of Price**

## **Administration**

- **Designed to limit wartime inflation**
- **Rationed scarce goods and many consumer staples (meat, butter, etc.) and established “ceiling prices” for many goods**

# Government in Wartime

## Office of Price Administration

***Note from the Wiegand reading:***

**On rations: “But the war proved to be more of an economic inconvenience than a real trial for most people.”**

**“ The OPA proved generally ineffective and the economy mostly ran itself.”**

***Note from “America: Pathways to Present”***

**The OPA actions often had unintended consequences. They would set prices. Then companies would cut back on the production of goods whose prices didn't allow for a substantial profit. Those cutbacks would cause the very shortages that government action was supposed to be preventing.**

# Government in Wartime

- Sets up **National War Labor Board**
  - To keep workers in factories!
  - Limited strikes & imposed wage ceilings (required 30 days notice before strike and asked for "no strike" pledge)



# Government in Wartime

- Created **Office of War Information**
- Coordinated release of war news
- Promoted patriotism
- Tried to recruit women into factory work
- Propaganda program abroad
  - Included: *The Voice of America*  
— a radio program designed to explain America's policies & to bolster morale of its allies throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.
- Censorship allowed, *though media generally censored themselves*



# Propaganda

used fear, racial slurs, and patriotism



**"To American  
production,  
without which  
this war would  
have been lost."** -  
toast by Josef Stalin, Oct 1943



**PRODUCTION MEANS LIFE or DEATH**

TO YOUR BROTHER AMERICAN WHO MAY BE FACING DEATH THIS MINUTE FOR YOU

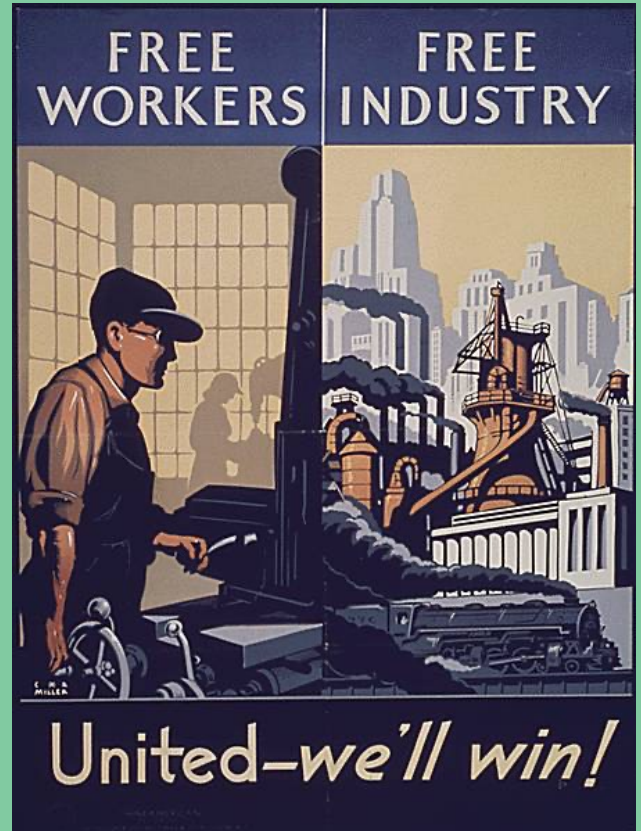
**DON'T LOSE ONE MINUTE**

**WORK**



# A PRODUCTION MIRACLE

- **Axis Powers underestimated American production** (soon would be producing double those of all Axis powers combined)
- **BUT OUTPUT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED**
  - **Many factories/businesses converted to war production**
  - **New industries and technology emerged**



# PRODUCTION/INNOVATION

**FDR called for 50,000 planes  
in a year...  
by 1944, producing 96,000 a  
year!**

**Shortage of material...  
men's suits lost pant cuffs and  
vests  
women painted their legs  
instead of wearing nylons**

**Metals became scarce...  
so plastics were developed in  
their place.**

**Copper was taken out of  
pennies and nickle was  
removed from nickels!**

# PRODUCTION

**Aircraft:**

**296,429**

**Naval ships:**

**87,620**

**Artillery:**

**372,431**

**Bullets:**

**41.59 million**

**Tanks & self-propelled guns:**

**102,351**

**Trucks:**

**2.46 million**

# **COST**

**Federal government spent \$350 billion during WWII  
(more than \$3 trillion today!)**

**Relative to history?**

**10x what it spent on WWI**

**2x what it had spent in total for the entire history of the  
US government up to that point!**

**Where did they get the money?**

**40% taxes, the rest borrowed  
(bonds, banks, private investors)**

# **COST (continued)**

- **DEFICIT SPENDING INCREASED**
  - **During depression, British economist John Maynard Keynes argued in favor of deficit spending to get the economy moving.**
- **NATIONAL DEBT INCREASED:**
  - **During WWII, it boosted the national debt from \$43 billion in 1940 to \$259 billion in 1945.**

# WAR BONDS



Posters such as these sought to convince Americans that they should help the war effort and stop the enemy by buying war bonds.

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

*All that \$ had to go somewhere!*

- **BIG IDEA: Wartime production ENDS DEPRESSION**
- **Evidence:**
  - **Civilian workforce rose 20%**
  - **GNP doubled from 1939-45**
  - **Wages and profits went up (as did prices)**
  - **avg. weekly wage \$24 in 1939 - \$46 in 1944**
- **Most \$ → west (especially California)**

**GNP - Gross National Product: the total value of goods produced and services provided by a country during one year, equal to the gross domestic product plus the net income from foreign investments.**

**We Can Do It!**



**ROSIE  
AND  
OTHER**

**WWII WOMEN**



**Women  
in the war**



**WE CAN'T WIN**

**WITHOUT THEM**

# EMPLOYING WOMEN FOR THE WAR EFFORT

- **BIG IDEA:** Millions of women entered the workforce during WWII
  - Examples: In 1943, 17 million filled 1/3 of civilian jobs, 5 mil in war factories
- **Paid less than men** (*\$31.21 a week while men earned \$54.65*) **BUT earned better wages than before war**



**“If you’ve followed recipes exactly in making cakes, you can learn to load shells!” – billboards recruiting women in the workplace**



# The more **WOMEN** at work the sooner we **WIN!**



## **WOMEN ARE NEEDED ALSO AS:**

- |              |              |                    |             |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| FARM WORKERS | WAITRESSES   | TIMEKEEPERS        | LAUNDRESSES |
| TYPISTS      | BUS DRIVERS  | ELEVATOR OPERATORS | TEACHERS    |
| SALESPeOPLE  | TAXI DRIVERS | MESSENGERS         | CONDUCTORS  |

*— and in hundreds of other war jobs!*

### **SEE YOUR LOCAL U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**















*I'm Proud... my husband  
wants me to do my part*

**SEE YOUR U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**  
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION

**Women  
in the war**



**WE CAN'T WIN**

**WITHOUT THEM**

## Reasons you could argue NO:

# DID THEIR ROLE REALLY CHANGE?

- During the war:
  - **Continued to be paid less**
  - **Men continued to dominate supervisory positions**
- Post war:
  - Women **forced out of much of those jobs** at the end of the war (2x as many women men lost their jobs after war ended). There was **tremendous pressure to return to their role as housewives and mothers.**
  - **Women veterans were not recognized for benefits until 1979.**

## **1950s Films**

CLICK [HERE](#) AND [HERE](#) FOR CLIPS WATCHED & DISCUSSED IN CLASS

## **BIG IDEA:**

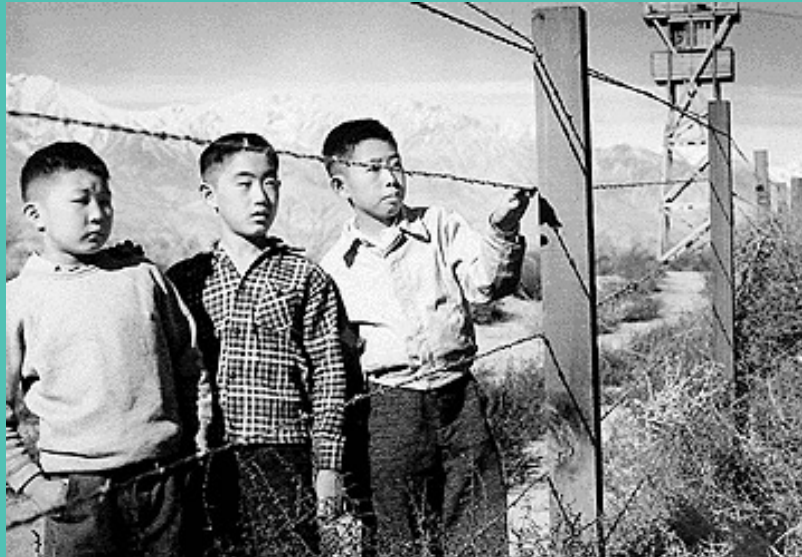
**To win the war, the U.S. needed to draw upon all its resources, including its people. For several groups in American society, this need opened up opportunities that had not existed before the war.**

**Taking advantage of those opportunities proved difficult, however, for many groups. Prejudice continued to block many people from advancing freely.**

# QUESTIONS OF LASTING SIGNIFICANCE:

**Is it ever appropriate to deny/destroy civil liberties and commonly accepted understandings of human rights for national defense reasons?**

**What are the potential short and long-term consequences of this decision?**



# RACE RELATIONS DURING WWII

Despite racism, Black Americans, Mexican-Americans, Japanese Americans, and Native Americans served the United States military during WWII.

Segregation of many groups persisted within the military.

But after the war, the armed forces would become the first major institution in the US to officially desegregate.



# AFFECT ON GERMANS & ITALIANS

- Public rallied behind WWII like never before BUT there was a **downside to their patriotic fervor...**
  - Much of the public **feared immigrant groups** were not unified with allied cause and were **actually enemy agents**



# AFFECT ON GERMANS & ITALIANS

- **SOME Germans and Italians experienced...**
  - **Compulsory relocation**
    - Forced to move away from military bases
  - **Limits on movement w/i United States and restrictive curfews**
  - **Some moved into internment camps (11,000 Germans, hundreds – few thousand Italians)**
  - **Jailed as spies without proof**



**German American and  
Italian American  
internees at Ellis  
Island, 1943**

## HISTORY STORIES



JAN 14, 2019

# Why America Targeted Italian-Americans During World War II

Over 600,000 “enemy aliens” were singled out during the early days of the war.

ERIN BLAKEMORE

*Marjory Collins/FSA/Library of Congress*

<https://www.history.com/news/italian-american-internment-persecution-wwii>

# Japanese Americans

- Executive Order 9066: Ordered all “persons deemed a threat to national security from the West Coast to relocation centers further inland.”
  - This PRIMARILY applied to **Japanese-Americans on West Coast, forcing them into internment camps for duration of war** (regardless age, birthplace, gender).
- **NOTE: 125,000** people of Japanese ancestry in America: **70,000** born here. Of those Americans, **110,000 "interned"** (confined to camps in remote areas away from the coast).

*"A Jap's a Jap. It makes no difference whether he is an american or not." - Gen Dewitt (in charge of West's defense!)*

## NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:—

LULU ISLAND (including Steveston)	SAPPERTON
SEA ISLAND	BURQUITLAM
EBURNE	PORT MOODY
MARPOLE	IOCO
DISTRICT OF QUEENSBOROUGH	PORT COQUITLAM
CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER	MAILLARDVILLE
	FRASER MILLS

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1665.

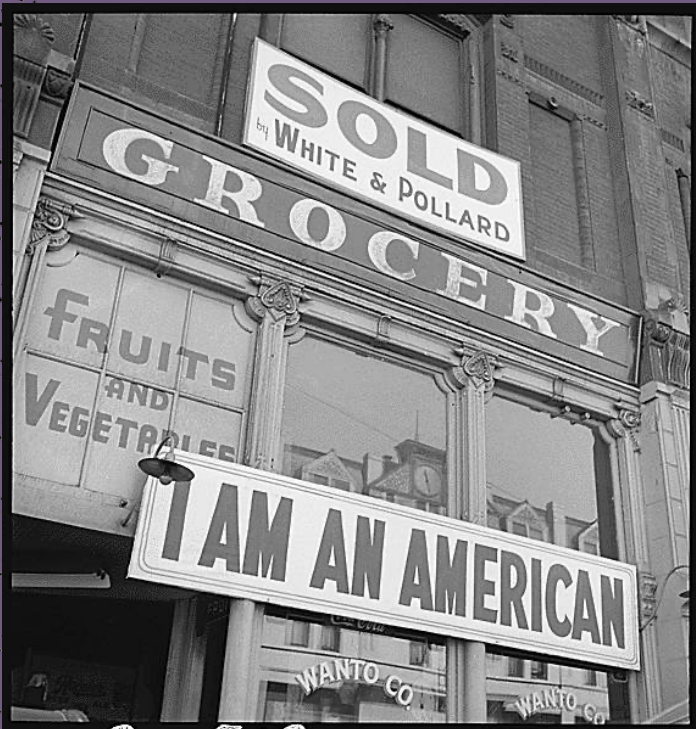
AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,  
Chairman,  
British Columbia Security Commission

# Japanese Americans

- Many lost **all life savings and belongings!**



CLIP: [Japanese American](#)  
Interment Camps (WWII in HD)





WATCHED DURING CLASS - WATCH IF ABSENT

## Why the US photographed its own WWII concentration camps



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waOUNwZA4aQ>

**WATCHED DURING CLASS - WATCH IF ABSENT**

**“Executive Order 9066”  
14 min Minutes**



**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mr97qyKA2s>**



**OPTIONAL RECOMMENDED:**

**Ugly History: Japanese American incarceration camps - Densho**

# JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION CAMPS

TEDEd



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hI4NoVWq87M>

**OPTIONAL RECOMMENDED:  
Diary Reveals Reality of Living in a WWII Japanese Internment Camp  
5 Minutes**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEXW153g2wl>

**OPTIONAL:  
American Japanese Internment Camps with Primary Source  
Government Propaganda**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnaxgIRB9So>

# PROVING AMERICAN LOYALTY



- Yet, 17,000 Japanese Americans fought in the armed services
- The all Japanese 442nd Regimental Combat Team **won more medals for bravery than any other unit in US HISTORY.**

Want to **KNOW** more?

[442nd Regiment](#)

# Japanese American Internment

Add to your notes!

- Four cases reached the Supreme Court
  - Most famous = *Korematsu v. United States*
    - *Decision = internment was legal*
- Supreme Court ruled that the relocation was not based on race and that the “urgency of the situation demanded that all citizens of Japanese ancestry be segregated from the West Coast temporarily.”
- There was a dissenting opinion of three justices arguing that the policy was “obvious racial discrimination.”

Want to **KNOW** more?

[Click here to read about the Supreme Court cases that upheld internment](#)

# Loyal American: Fred Korematsu

BRI'S HOMEWORK HELP SERIES



**BILL** *of* **RIGHTS**  
**INSTITUTE** 

146/237



OPTIONAL RECOMMENDED:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jW-dHA52XJE>



OPTIONAL: Hidden Figuras: Fred Korematsu  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MXF2302fr8>

# Black Americans Seek Greater Equality During WWII

- **Labor shortage → 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Great Migration (2 mil Americans moved North)**
- **Racism & discrimination still dominated**
  - *Reminders:*
    - Govt programs set up to help unemployed during Depression had honored employers requests for "whites only"
    - Originally denied employment in defense industries
    - *De facto* segregation persisted



# Black Americans Seek Greater Equality During WWII

- **Many served in the military:**
  - **700,000 Black Americans served**
    - (Serving in the Air Force & Marines for the first time)
- **Noted hypocrisy at home!**
  - How could Americans be judging Hitler's racism?!
- **Result: More African Americans sought an active role in attaining their legal rights**
  - **Evidence: NAACP went from 50,000 before war to 400,000 at war's end**
  - **Spoke of Double V campaign - combating racism at home + abroad**



# An earlier March on Washington?

1941: **A. Philip Randolph** threatened march on Washington to protest prejudice



**"We seek the right to play our part in advancing the cause of national defense and national unity. But certainly there can be no national unity where one tenth of the population are denied their basic rights as American citizens..."**

**One thing is certain and that is that if Negroes are going to get anything out of this national defense, which will cost the nation 30 or 40 billion dollars that we Negroes must help pay taxes as property owners and workers and consumers, **we must fight for and fight for it with gloves off.**"**

- Jan 15, 1941

# First time government acts against discrimination in employment!

In response to march threat, FDR...

- Established the **Fair Employment Practices Committee** (investigated discrimination in war industries)
- Passed **Executive Order 8802** opening jobs/training "without discrimination of race, creed, color, or national origin."
- **Significance:**
  - Short-term results limited. When GIs returned, first to lose jobs.
  - **But this context paved the way for Civil Rights movement**



# Tuskegee Airmen



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp3\\_7Yo2xFw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp3_7Yo2xFw)

# Native Americans



Navajo Code Talkers Henry Bake and George Kirk send messages in the Pacific Theater, 1943

- In addition to the 25,000 who joined armed forces and 23,000 who worked in wartime industries, members of 14 Native nations including the Navajo, Comanche, and Cherokee served as code talkers in both the Pacific & Europe during the war
- None of the codes were ever broken
- Remained a classified program until 1968

**WATCHED DURING CLASS - WATCH IF ABSENT**

**NAVAJO**

**CODE**

**TALKERS**

EXPLORE

MODE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4F1zsVq2wU>

# Effect on Mexican-Americans

- **Bracero Program: 1942: US and Mexico reach agreement to allow Mexican workers (braceros) to enter US to help make up for manpower shortage**
- **Mostly took agricultural jobs in west**
- **Racism causes clash: Zoot Suit Riots 1943, LA**
  - **Young Hispanic Americans and white American sailors clashed**
  - **Street-fighting turned into full scale riots**
- **Hundreds of thousands of Mexican Americans served in the Armed forces.**

# Zoot Suit Riots



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxtThBTf0sl>

[Video link](#)