

World War II

Why did it start?

After World War I, Germany, Italy, and Japan were dissatisfied with the Treaty of Versailles.

Italy and Japan felt that, as victors, they deserved more of the spoils.

Germany felt they were unfairly blamed for the war, and that the treaty was unnecessarily punitive

Why did it start?

All the nations became increasingly hostile and militaristic.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini and the Fascist party came to power.

In Germany, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party

In Japan, the Military soon took over running the Government. (Hideki Tojo)

Why did it start?

In the Soviet Union, after the death of Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin had come to power by squashing his political opposition, including Leon Trotsky. The Soviets at first signed a non-aggression pact with the Nazis.

The United States maintained its neutrality due to public opinion in favor of isolationism.

Why did it start?

America begins to soften its neutrality after the war in Europe began.

The policy of Cash and Carry allowed Britain and the allies to buy supplies from America

The Lend Lease Act allowed direct U.S. Aid.

Despite American "neutrality" we were clearly on the side of Britain.

Discuss

Why did WWII start?

What brings America into the War?

Why did it start?

The Germans broke their pact with Stalin, attacking the Soviet Union in June 1941.

Japan brought America into the war with an attack on Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) on December 7, 1941.

U.S. Into the fight

U.S. Declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941. Only one congress person voted against war.

Germany and Italy declared war in the U.S. On December 11, 1941.

U.S. Mobilizes

Japan had destroyed nearly our entire pacific fleet in the Pearl harbor attack

America also now had a war in two parts of the world.

Selective Service and Training Act: required all males, 21-36 to register for military service. This was passed in 1940.

Why were we fighting??

Roosevelt outlined what America would fight for and try to give to the world (The 4 Freedoms):

1. Freedom of speech and expression

2. Freedom to worship God in your own way

3. Freedom from want (need)

4. Freedom from fear

American Troops

Known as GIs, or Government Issue

In addition to white troops, 300,000 Mexican Americans, 25,000 Native Americans, and almost 1 million African Americans.

350,000 women were in the military in non-combat roles

Economic Preparation

Production in Britain and the USSR was cut due to the war in those countries.

January 1942 - Government sets up the War Production Board to coordinate needed production.

May 1943 - Office of War Mobilization became a central agency to coordinate war production.

War Production

Assembly lines modeled after Henry Ford's were used to make tanks and planes.

Shipbuilding time was cut substantially, from an average of 200 days to an average of 40 days for some types.

By 1944, American production levels were double those of the Axis nations combined.

Jobs and work

Unemployment virtually vanished during WW2. Workers were also earning more.

Union membership increased during the war, up 1.5 million. Unions and management agreed to a no-strike promise, but the number of strikes increased in the final 2 years of the war.

Financing the war

Federal government spent whatever was necessary to fight the war.

Government spending increased from \$8.9 billion in 1939 to \$95.2 billion in 1945.

Government sold war bonds and borrowed money from banks and other investors. National debt rose from \$43 billion in 1940 to \$259 billion in 1945.

Sacrifice

Like in WWI, Americans sacrificed for the war effort.

Many consumer goods were in short supply.

Shortages of food products were common, as Government tried to control prices.

Scarce items like meat and coffee were rationed.

By 1943 Victory Gardens produced 1/3 of the nation's fresh vegetables.

The War in Europe

The war in Europe took place in many different areas of action:

The Atlantic Ocean

North Africa and the Mediterranean

The Soviet Union

Britain

Mainland Europe

Atlantic

German U-Boats - firing on American merchant ships.

Came very close to American shores

Wolf Packs - groups of 20 or more

North Africa

Hitler had sent General Rommel to reinforce the Italians in Egypt and Libya.

Allied forces landed in Morocco and Egypt and tried to squeeze the Axis.

The allies lost that battle, but eventually trapped the axis armies. 240,000 surrendered.

On to Italy

The North Africa victory gave the allies the opportunity to push into Italy.

The allies took Sicily and the Fascist party removed Mussolini from power, and arrested him.

Hitler's forces rescued Mussolini, and set him up as a puppet ruler in Northern Italy.

After being trapped and enduring heavy losses, shelled by the Germans, the allies broke through and the Germans surrendered Italy in April 1945.

On To Italy

Back in the US, Back in the US, Back in the USSR

Soviet Union

The Soviets endured heavy losses during the war, and the Nazis advanced almost to Moscow

At the Battle of Stalingrad, the Red Army managed to turn back the Nazis. January 31, 1943, Germans at Stalingrad surrendered.

Stalingrad was the turning point of the war in the East.

Keep Calm and Carry On

The Battle for Britain

Britain and Mainland Europe

The Germans bombed Britain continuously until May 1941, and occasionally after that.

By 1943, allies were bombing German cities, using a technique called "Carpet Bombing".

Cities like Hamburg were almost entirely destroyed.

Operation Overlord

Conquering Hitler's "Fortress Europe"

D-Day

The Soviets were doing most of the ground-fighting in the war.

Stalin begged Britain and the U.S. to open up a 2nd front in France.

June 6, 1944, American and British forces landed at Normandy to re-take France.

This was the largest amphibious assault in history

Europe

After heavy allied losses on D-Day, the allies broke through.

Germany fought desperately, including the "Battle of the Bulge" in Belgium, involving 600,000 GIs, and 80,000 casualties.

This Allied victory signaled to most German leaders that the war was lost.

Surrender

- ❏ The Soviets pushed from the east while Britain, France and the US came from the west.
- ❏ The armies met near Berlin in April 1945.
- ❏ Hitler committed suicide as the armies entered Berlin on April 30, 1945.
- ❏ Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945
- ❏ Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill met already at Yalta in February to plan the post-war peace.

The Human Cost of Hitler's "Final Solution" The Holocaust

The Holocaust

- ❏ Anti-Semitism: Discrimination or hostility, often violent, toward Jewish people.
- ❏ The Nazis practiced Anti-Semitism in the form of the Holocaust, the systematic murder of 6 million European Jews and others.
- ❏ Genocide: Deliberate destruction of an entire ethnic or cultural group.

The Holocaust

- ❏ American and allied forces liberated the camps at the end of the war, learning of the atrocities for the first time.
- ❏ The Nuremberg Trials: Former Nazi leaders put on trial for "war crimes" related to the Genocide.

The War in the Pacific

The Pacific Theater

- ❏ After Pearl Harbor, Japan attacked other colonial possessions:
 - ❏ Hong Kong, Singapore & Malaya (British)
 - ❏ Dutch East Indies
 - ❏ Burma
- ❏ Then Japan attacked the Philippines

The Philippines

- ❏ May 6, 1942 - American and Philippino defenders surrender to the Japanese. 11,000 men. Defending Bataan Peninsula. Japan captured 76,000
- ❏ Bataan Death March: Forced March of Americans and Philipinos. 10,000 died on the March, 15,000 died in camps.

China

- ❏ China joined the allies December 9, 1941.
- ❏ Americans sent advisors and supplies.
- ❏ Even with American help, the Chinese were no match for the Japanese.

The war at sea

- ❏ Japan had not destroyed America's 3 aircraft carriers.
- ❏ Despite this, Japan was advancing in the Pacific.
- ❏ Australia was threatened in May 1942.
- ❏ The Battle of the Coral Sea ended in a draw, but prevented the invasion of Australia.

Turning Point

- ❏ The Battle of Midway: June 4, 1942.
- ❏ U.S. Naval aviators sank 4 Japanese destroyers, destroyed 250 planes, and much of Japans trained pilot corps.
- ❏ This was a turning point for the pacific war.

Guadalcanal

- ❏ After Midway, America went on the offensive.
- ❏ Japan was building an airfield on Guadalcanal, to disrupt communications with Australia.
- ❏ August 1942, Americans attack, Japanese hid in jungle and use snipers to pick off Marines.
- ❏ February 1943, Japanese leave the Island.

Island-Hopping

- ❏ Selectively attacking enemy held islands and ignoring others
- ❏ BY 1944, America had captured territories close enough for bombers to attack Japan.

Philippines

- ❏ American leaders wanted to bypass the Philippines, but General MacArthur opposed the plan.
- ❏ 160,000 American troops landed int he Philippines to re-take the islands.
- ❏ Battle of Leyte Gulf - greatest naval battle in world history. 280 warships.
- ❏ This was the first appearance of Kamikaze pilots.

Philippines

- ❏ American navy prevailed.
- ❏ Japanese refused to surrender, 80,000 Japanese were killed defending Leyte. Fewer than 1000 surrendered.
- ❏ America would not regain full control the Philippines until 1945.

Japanese resistance

- ❏ Japanese refused, in most cases, to surrender.
- ❏ America lost 25,000 soldiers in the Battle of Iwo Jima, but prevailed.
- ❏ In Okinawa, Japan promised to fight to the death. America landed with 180,000 troops.
- ❏ June 1945, JApnese surrender Okinawa.

Atomic Bomb

- ❏ The Manhattan project: American program to develop a nuclear weapon.
- ❏ July 16, 1945, Scientists field test the weapon in New Mexico. Success.
- ❏ Truman now had to decide if it was to be used.
- ❏ Ultimately dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- ❏ Japan surrenders August 6, 1945.