

THE USA IN WW2

I/ From Isolation to Involvement (1939-1941)

A/ Gradual shift toward support for allies

1-Lend-Lease Act (March 1941):

Allowed the US to “lend” or “lease” military equipment to Allied nations. It replaced the “cash and carry”

Roosevelt famously compared it to “lending a garden hose to a neighbor whose house was on fire”

2-The Atlantic Charter (August 1941): Joint statement by FDR and Churchill outlining common post-war goals

B/ Undeclared naval war Some key incidents of US boats being torpedoed by German U Boats in 1941

II/ Pearl Harbor: The Catalyst for War (December 7, 1941)

A. The Attack Dec 7th 1941

2,400+ Americans killed, 18 ships sunk or damaged, 300+ aircraft destroyed

B/ Roosevelt's Response

“Date Which Will Live in Infamy” Speech (December 8, 1941): FRD requested a declaration of war and total commitment to the war effort.

Congressional Response: The USA enters WW2

III/ Military Strategy and Major Campaigns ONLY FOR THRE BACKGROUND

Pacific theater major campaigns

- 1. Doolittle Raid (April 1942)**
- 2. Battle of the Coral Sea (May 1942)**
- 3. Battle of Midway (June 1942)**
- 4. Island-Hopping (sauter d'île en île) Campaign (1943-1945)**

Key battles: Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa

C/ European and African Theater Major Campaigns (OFF)

- ~~1. North African Campaign (1942-1943)~~
- ~~2. Italian Campaign (1943-1945)~~
- 3. D-Day: Operation Overlord (June 6, 1944)**
150,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy under Eisenhower's command
- ~~4. Liberation of Western Europe (1944-1945)~~

D/ 1945: Final Victory

Pacific Theater and the Atomic Decision:

Enola Gay a B29 bomber dropped the A bomb on Hiroshima August 6th (little bomb) 1945 and BobScar (fat man) August 9th.

Final capitulation Sept 2nd 1945

AFTERMATH OF HIROSHIMA: SOME QUESTIONS

Were Hiroshima and Nagasaki necessary to end WWII?

EX: 1955: NORMAN COUSINS HIROSHIMA MAIDENS.

However, no American president has ever been back in Hiroshima and Nagasaki since 1945.

IV. The homefront

A/ Immediate aftermath

1-Human Cost: Over 400,000 American military deaths/600,000+ wounded

2-Economic Impact: US emerged as the world's dominant economic power

3-Economic Mobilization/ Full employment ended the Great Depression

Unemployment dropped from 14% to under 2%

4-Japanese American Internment:

Executive Order 9066 (February 1942) authorized removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast

120,000 people, mostly US citizens, were relocated to internment camps

5-Rationing and Conservation

B/ Long-term Consequences

1-Geopolitical Changes: US end of isolationism, Creation of the United Nations under US proposition

2-Social Changes and Challenges: Women in the Workforce: "Rosie the Riveter"

3-African American Experience (but some were denied the medal of honor until the 1990's)
segregation remained in the military forces

4-Technological and Scientific Advances:

5-Social and Cultural Impact: "Greatest Generation" identity and national confidence