The Second World War

- What were the social and economic effects of WWII, especially in the West?
- How did the Allied forces win the war?
- What efforts did the Allies make to shape the postwar world?

- Attack on Pearl Harbor ended American neutrality
  - Gruesome, plastic explosives, flame throwers, proximity fuses, rockets, jets, atomic weapons
  - Racist propaganda on both sides, hatred for the enemy

America’s Early Battles

Setbacks in the Pacific

- Japanese captured numerous Allied outposts
  - Fall of Rangoon cut off Burma Road—China’s supply line
  - Empire from Dutch East Indies to Wake and Gilbert Islands
- Japanese naval leaders succumbed to victory disease: lust for territory that became downfall
- Japanese mistake and American luck enabled US Navy to frustrate Japan’s plans
  - Japan’s failure to destroy shore facilities at Pearl Harbor left it operational
  - Air raid on Tokyo by Hornet
  - American morale boosted

Coral Sea and Midway

- US forces halted Japanese advance on Australia with two battles
  - Battle of the Coral Sea: American losses were greater, but Japanese were repulsed
  - Battle at Midway: American surprise attack, turning point in the Pacific war, demonstrated that aircraft carriers, not battleships, were decisive elements

Setbacks in the Atlantic

- German submarine wolf packs wreaked havoc
  - During second half of 1942, losses of Nazi submarines diminished

Mobilization at Home

- Attack on Pearl Harbor ended depression
  - War effort required work
  - Men subject to draft

Economic Conversion

- Economy was mobilized for war by lend-lease and defense efforts
  - War Powers Act: gave president authority to reshuffle government agencies, empowered government to allot materials for defense
- War Production Board directed conversion of industrial manufacturing to war production

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Roosevelt’s staggering production goals
Purpose was to confront enemy with crushing superiority

War effort required conservation and production
- People collected scrap metal, grew victory gardens
- Office of Scientific Research and Development, Dr. Bush mobilized thousands of scientists to create and modify radar, sonar, fuse, bazooka, means to isolate blood plasma, innovations

Pressure of wartime needs sent national production soaring
- Government expense was greatest

Financing the War
- Roosevelt preferred taxes over borrowing
  - Congress dominated by Conservatives who feared taxes
  - Revenue Act provided $7 billion, broadened tax structure, made everyone a taxpayer
- Federal government paid for 45% of costs with tax revenues
  - Government borrowed money to pay the rest
  - War-bond drives, Victory drive
- Basic economic problem finding workers
  - Everybody, even women were incorporated into economy

Economic Controls
- Increased family income and government spending during war raised fears of inflation
  - Money was spent on scarce consumer goods
  - Congress authorized Office of Price Administration to set price ceilings
- Rationing
  - Wages and farm prices were not controlled
    - Higher food prices reinforced worker demands for higher wages
    - Congressmen raised floor and ceiling of farm prices
    - Stabilization Act: gave president authority to control wages and farm prices
    - Office of Economic Stabilization under James Byrnes
- Business and workers chafed at wage and prices controls
  - Government seized industries threatened by strikes
  - Coal mines and railroads came under control of government
  - Government efforts to stabilize wages and prices succeeded

Domestic Conservatism
- Despite government efforts to promote sacrifice, discontent with price controls, labor shortages, rationing, and other petty vexations
  - Congressional elections of 1942 favored Democrats
  - Republicans gained in House and Senate for farm states
  - Coalition of conservatives removed unnecessary New Deal programs
- Organized labor felt impact of conservative trend
  - John Lewis led coal miners out on strike
  - Congress passed Smith-Connall War Labor Disputes Act: authorized government to seize plants and mines useful to the war effort
Social Effects of the War

Mobilization and Development of the West
- Expansion of defense and production accelerated economic development
- Migration of workers to new defense jobs in the West had demographic effects
  - African Americans were lured to Midwest due to higher wages and job openings

Changing Roles for Women
- Demand for labor defied earlier prejudices about women
  - Women’s Army Corps (WAC), Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, Marine corps, Coast Guard, Army Air force
- Government launched publicity campaign for women
  - Better from previous revolts: more female participation
    - Larger proportion was older married women
- Many men opposed the trend
  - Who will do domestic work?
  - Women were excited to leave domestic life

African Americans in WWII
- Most volatile issue ignited was African American participation in military
  - Demand for equality
  - Segregated units
  - Flight schools
- War industries were less hospitable to integration
  - Black leaders refused to face racist stances of employers
  - Philip Randolph: head of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, planned March on Washington to demand an end to racism
  - Roosevelt administration struck a bargain:
    - Randolph group called off march in return for executive order that forbade discrimination in defense work and training programs, set up Fair Employment Practices Commission
    - FEPC role was mostly moral, no enforcing power
- African American leaders began to challenge all discrimination
  - NAACP membership grew
  - Smith v Allwright: struck down Texas white only primary
- Racial violence did not approach level during WWI
  - But fighting began in Detroit

Latinos in the Labor Force
- Farm counties experienced labor shortage
  - Bracer program: Mexico agreed to provide seasonal farmworkers in exchange for a promise by the US government not to draft them into military service
• Rising tide of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles prompted growing stream of anti-Latino editorials and incidents
  o Teenage “zoot-shooters” in Southern California
  o Unemployed and off-duty soldiers marched through Los Angeles, assaulted Latinos, African Americans, etc.
  o Zoot-suit riots

Native Americans and the War Effort
• Indians supported war effort more fully than other groups
  o Nurses
• Some Indians felt that had no choice but to help US
  o Reservation Indians faced challenge for finding jobs
  o Genuine patriotism
  o Indian servicemen were put in normal army units
  o Indians distinguished themselves from army
  o Service as code talkers

Internment of Japanese Americans
• Roosevelt initiated removal of Japanese Americans when he issued Executive Order 9066
  o War relocation camps
  o Forced to sell farms and businesses
  o Mass violation of civil liberties
  o Injustice realized after the War, $20,000 compensation
  o Nisei

The Allied Drive Toward Berlin
• Japanese losses at Coral Sea and Midway secured Australia and Hawaii
  o US fleet hunted U boats

War Aims and Strategy
• Top priority given to defeating Hitler
  o Nazis were more direct threat than Japan
  o But more American troops went to Pacific than Atlantic
• Pearl Harbor attack brought Churchill to DC for talks about common war plan
  o Wartime alliance between US and Britain
  o Churchill and Roosevelt often disagreed about military strategy
• Declaration of the United Nations affirmed principles of Atlantic Charter, pledged full resources to war, promise not to make separate peace with Axis
  o Joint command of army
  o Allotment of munitions
  o Priority of war against Germany
• Agreement of war aims, but not agreement on war strategy
  o Churchill and Roosevelt could not agree on where to strike first
  o Us wanted to strike across English channel, secure beachhead, move against Germany itself
British wanted to keep Germans off balance with hit-and-run raids and air attacks
Russians insisted that West must relieve pressure: Russia absorbed German blows in the east
Americans accepted Churchill’s proposal to invade French North Africa, which had been captured by Germans and Italians

The North Africa Campaign
- British and US forces under Eisenhower landed at Casablanca and Oran
  - Hitler sent troops to Tunisia, French protectorate, in response
- General Montgomery’s British troops were pushing German tank commander General Rommel, US troops confronted Nazis in Tunisia
  - Germans were caught in pincers
  - Surrounded
  - Germans and Italians surrendered on May 12, 1943
- While Battle of Tunisia unfolded, Roosevelt, Churchill and Combined Chiefs of Staff met at Casablanca
  - 90% of German casualties occurred on Russian front
- Hammered out key strategic decisions
  - US wanted to invade German-occupied France
  - British insisted that major assault was premature
  - British proposed follow up attack on Sicily
  - Increased supplies to Soviet Union
  - MachArthur and Nimitz were ordered to dislodge Japanese from Pacific islands
  - Top priority went to anti-submarine campaign in Atlantic
- Roosevelt announced that war would end only with unconditional surrender of all enemies
  - Assured Soviet Union that US would not negotiate peace separately with Axis
  - Roosevelt announcement may have stiffened enemy resistance

The Battle of the Atlantic
- Battle of Atlantic reached climax on the high seas
  - None of the troop ships going to Britain or the Mediterranean were lost
  - U boats continued battle of Atlantic until the end of the war
  - Allies had a secret weapon: cryptanalysts decoded U boat messages

Sicily and Italy
- British and US troops landed in Sicily
  - Allied success in Sicily ended Mussolini’s Fascist rule
  - King Emmanual III dismissed Mussolini
  - Italy switched sides, joined Allies, with new regime
  - German poured reinforcements into Italy
  - Italian army disintegrated
- US and British troops captured Naples, secured beaches, but stalled in Apennine Mountains
  - US Fifth Army entered Rome
  - Capture of Rome
  - Italy faded from world attention when French troops landed

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The Strategic Bombing of Europe

- Behind landings on beaches of Normandy was preparation
  - US Army Air Force and Royal Air Force attacked German-controlled areas of Europe
  - US launched first air raid on Germany itself
  - Royal Air Force confined mostly to night raids
  - Americans preferred daylight precision bombing
- Air offensive failed to devastate German industrial production: gas tanks allowed fighters to escort bombers all the way to Berlin
  - Allies had air supremacy
  - Eisenhower assumed control of Strategic Air Forces
  - D-Day, June 6, 1944

The Tehran Meeting

- Churchill and Roosevelt met with Stalin in Tehran, Iran
  - Soviets pledged to enter war against Japan after Germany’s defeat
  - Declaration of Cairo: Roosevelt, Churchill and Chinese general met, affirmed that war against Japan would continue until Japan’s unconditional surrender, territory restored to China, Japan would lost Pacific islands
- Big Three leaders conferred in Tehran
  - Chief subject was invasion of France and Russian offensive
  - Agreed to create international organization, United Nations, to maintain peace after war

D-Day and After

- Eisenhower arrived in London to take command at Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)
  - Faced challenge of conducting Operation Overlord: crossing-Channel assault on Hitler’s Atlantic Wall
- Amphibious assault unnerved Allied planners
  - Predicted 50% success
  - Prevailed due to careful planning, and Eisenhower’s surprise on Germans
  - Fooled Nazis, who thought they would come at Pas de Calais
- Paratroopers would disrupt communications and create chaos behind German lines in France
- Air forces dropped behind beaches, planes, battleships
- D-Day almost failed
  - Many paratroopers missed their landing zones due to German planes
  - Oceangoing craft delivered troops at wrong location
  - Allied planes dropped bombs too far inland
  - Rough seas, drowning
- German losses were incredible
  - Operation Overlord was the greatest military invasion in the annals of warfare
- Allies landed million troops, 556,000 tons of supplies, 170,000 vehicles
  - Hitler was stubborn: continued to send troops
  - Rommel strove for separate peace, tried to kill Hitler, failed, committed suicide
- Calamity to Germany forces in western France
  - Allied invasion landed on French Mediterranean, German resistance collapsed
Free French Resistance liberated Paris

**Slowing Momentum**
- Plans were going too fast, Allies were running out of gas
  - General Montgomery took Antwerp
  - General Patton wanted to go straight to Berlin, Eisenhower wanted to wait and attack along a broad front

**Leapfrogging to Tokyo**
- Allied forces brought war within reach of homeland by 1944
  - Japanese built Guadalcanal from which they could attacked Allied vessels going to Australia

**MacArthur in New Guinea**
- American and Australian forces under MacArthur pushed Japanese out of New Guinea
- US strategists had to make a critical decision
  - MacArthur proposed westward move toward Philippines and Tokyo
  - Nimitz proposed sweep through Pacific islands
  - Both plans pursued
- Battle of the Bismarck Sea
  - American bombers sank Japanese ships
  - After that, Japanese never risked sending reinforcements
  - Leapfrogging: neutralize strongholds with air and sea power and move on
  - Contributed to Allied victory
  - Death of Admiral Yamamoto shattered Japanese morale

**Nimitz in the Central Pacific**
- First targets were Makin and Tarawa islands
  - Makin was easily cleared
  - Tarawa was heavily protected
- Invasion of Marshall islands was next step to Tokyo
  - Forces took Saipan
  - Battle of Philippine Sea: fought mostly in air, US secured Marianas, General Tojo was convinced that war was lost

**The Battle of Leyte Gulf**
- Roosevelt, MacArthur, Nimitz met in Honolulu: decided to liberate Philippines
  - MacArthur’s forces moved onto Philippines
- Japanese brought fleets to defend Philippines: it was essential to their raw material supply
  - Battle of Leyte Gulf: largest naval engagement in history
  - Kamikaze units
  - Japanese lost defensive strength
A New Age is Born

Roosevelt’s Fourth Term

- Republicans chose Thomas Dewey
- Democrats kept Theodore Roosevelt
  - Debate over Vice-Presidential candidate: Vice President Wallace angered southern conservatives and northern city bosses due to ties with labor unions, **compromise resulted in choice of Harry Truman**
- Dewey did not propose to dismantle Roosevelt’s programs
- Roosevelt won

Converging Military Fronts

- **Allied armies lost momentum in 1944 as they neared Germany**
  - Germans advanced, surprise attack in Ardennes Forest, occupied bulge along Belgium and Luxembourg
  - **Battle of the Bulge**: General McAuliffe defended Bastogne, responded with “nuts” to suggestion to surrender
  - US forces broke through to relieve Bastogne
- **Germany’s sudden counterattack upset Eisenhower’s timetable but Nazi moral lowered**
  - Russians began westward offensive
  - Germany’s heartland was accessible, vulnerable
  - Capture of Cologne and Remagen
  - **Allies and Soviet army reached Germany**
  - **Soviet Army had eliminated Vienna, Warsaw**
- **War planners turned to Berlin**
  - Suspicious that Soviets would exert influence on future Germany
  - Eisenhower refused to mix politics with military strategy—allowed Soviets to arrive at Berlin first
  - Purpose remained destruction of German ground forces
  - Roosevelt gave full command to Eisenhower, Eisenhower’s lieutenant: General Bradley
  - Berlin left to the Soviets

Yalta and the Postwar World

- **Yalta Conference brought Big Three Leaders together**
  - Leaders discussed shape of postwar world
  - **Two aims loomed in Roosevelt’s thinking**: need to ensure that Soviet Union would join war against Japan, remedy mistakes of failed League of Nations
- **Conference to create new world security organization**
  - **Arrangements for postwar governance of Germany**
    - Occupation zones
    - Soviet east
    - Allied west
  - Soviets demanded reparations
- **There was little the Western Allies could do to influence events in Eastern Europe**
  - Roosevelt was inhibited by wish to win Soviet cooperation and in effort to build UN
  - **Poland became main focus of Western concern**
  - Fate of Poland was in Soviet hands
• Soviet forces placed civil administration under Polish Committee of National Liberation in Poland
  o Puppet communist regime
  o Uprising

• Western Allies could do nothing but submit to Soviet demands
  o On the Soviet proposal to expand the Lublin committee into a provisional government together with representatives of the London Poles, Roosevelt and Churchill acquiesced. On the issue of Poland’s boundaries, they stalled. The Soviets proposed to keep eastern Poland for themselves, offering land taken from Germany as compensation. Roosevelt and Churchill accepted the proposal but considered the western boundary at the Oder and Neisse rivers only provisional. The peace conference at which the western boundary of Poland was to be settled never took place, however, because of later disagreements. The presence of the London Poles in the provisional government lent a tone of legitimacy to a Polish regime dominated by Communists, who soon ousted their rivals.

• Big Three promised to sponsor free elections, democracy, constitutions
  o Yalta Declaration of Liberated Europe reaffirmed faith in principles of Atlantic Charter—but made little difference in the end
    ▪ Communist began ousting opposition, became intolerant

Yalta’s Legacy
• Seen as allowing Soviets to dominate
  o Soviets violated Yalta agreements by suppressing opposition governments under their influence

• Most criticized was secret agreement of the Far East: Roosevelt accepted Stalin’s demands on postwar arrangements in the Far East
  o Stalin wanted continued Soviet control of Outer Mongolia, acquisition of Kuril Islands, recovery rights—in return for war against Japan
  o Soviets got what they wanted

The Collapse of the Third Reich
• Nazi collapse was imminent by 1945
  o Roosevelt died

• Third Reich died, Mussolini killed in attempt to flee, Hitler an-hero’d
• General Jodl signed German surrender
• Holocaust: 6 million Jews
• War Refugee Board: rescued European Jews and others
• Allied handling of the Holocaust was inept

A Grinding War against Japan
• Defeat of Japan remained to be accomplished
  o Continued assault on Japanese Empire
  o Marines invaded Iwo-Jima
  o High cost of fighting

• Fight for Okinawa was even bloodier
  o Was the greatest amphibious operation of the Pacific war
  o When Okinawa collapsed, Japanese emperor instructed new prime minister to seek peace terms

The Atomic Bomb
• Research began in 1940, army and navy funds were diverted to Manhattan Project
Dr. Fermi achieved first atomic chain reaction at University of Chicago
Research done in Los Alamos, New Mexico by Oppenheimer
First atomic fireball rose from desert in 1945

- **How to use bomb became a dilemma**
  - Only two bombs available for military use
  - Priority target was Hiroshima: assembly point for Japanese naval convoys
- **President Truman ordered atomic bomb to be dropped if Japan did not surrender before August 3**
  - He was convinced that it would save lives by avoiding costly American invasion
- **Japanese defense of Okinawa convinced military planners that an amphibious invasion of Japan itself would result in many casualties**
  - Allied prisoners would be killed if Japan were to be invaded
  - Bombing and killing civilians was accepted military practice
  - Planes bombed at will
  - Firebomb raids in Tokyo
  - Use of atomic bomb was seen as the logical next step
  - Power of bomb was underestimated
- **American, British, and Russian governments issued Potsdam Declaration: demanding Japan surrender or face prompt and utter destruction**
  - *Enola Gay* released Little Boy
- **Shockwave, firestorm, cyclonic winds, radioactive rain killed 80,000 people**
- **Bombing promised quick end to war**
  - No sympathy
- **Soviets joined war against Japan**
  - US feared that Soviet entry would complicate negotiations
  - US ordered second bomb to be dropped
  - *Bockscar* carried Fat Man
  - Nagasaki was secondary target
  - That night, Emperor ordered surrender on sole condition that he remain sovereign
  - US implemented supreme Allied commander alongside emperor
- **MacArthur accepted surrender, settled in Tokyo**

**The Final Ledger**

- **Costliest conflict in history ended**
  - Soviet Union suffered greatest losses
  - US suffered much smaller loss than other Allies
  - **WWII had profound effects on American life and society**
    - Stimulated increase in productivity, employment
    - Ended the Great Depression
    - New technologies
    - New opportunities for women and African Americans
- **Democratic party benefited from war effort by solidifying its control of White House and Congress**
  - Expansion of federal government
- Presidential prestige and authority increased
- Isolationism disintegrated

- New era for US in world arena
  - Accelerated growth of US power
  - US was strongest nation on Earth
  - Soviet Union emerged as greatest power in Eurasia