

Chapter 35: America in World War II, 1941-1945

You should be able to:

1. tell how America reacted to Pearl Harbor and prepared to wage war against both Germany and Japan
2. describe the mobilization of the American economy for war, and the mobilization of manpower and womanpower for both the military and wartime production
3. describe the war's effects on American society, including regional migration, race relations, and women's roles
4. explain the early Japanese successes in Asia and the Pacific and the American strategy for countering them
5. describe the early Western Allies' efforts in North Africa and Italy, the strategic tensions with the Soviet Union over the Second Front, and the invasion of Normandy in 1944
6. discuss FDR's successful 1944 campaign against Thomas Dewey for the fourth term and controversial choice of a new vice president
7. explain the final military efforts that brought Allied victory in Europe and Asia and the significance of the atomic bomb

Define:

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| 1. concentration camp | 6. underground (organization) |
| 2. bracero | 7. acclamation |
| 3. U-boat | 8. bastion |
| 4. deposed (from office) | 9. genocide |
| 5. beachhead | 10. bazooka |

Answer:

1. What effects did World War II have on the American economy? What role did American industry and agriculture play in the war?
2. Discuss the effects of World War II on women and on racial and ethnic minorities. Is it accurate to see the war as a key turning point in the movement toward equality for some or all of these groups?
3. Ever since World War II, historians and other scholars have commonly spoken of "postwar American society." How was American society different after the war than before? Were these changes all direct or indirect results of the war, or would many have occurred without it?
4. How did the United States and its allies develop and carry out their strategy for defeating Italy, Germany and Japan?
5. What were the costs of World War II and what were its effects on America's role in the world?
6. Compare America's role in World War I - domestically, militarily and diplomatically--with its role in World War II. What accounts for the differences in America's participation in the two wars?
7. Examine the controversy over the atomic bomb in the context of the whole conduct of World War II on both sides. Is it correct to say that the bomb did not mark a change in the character of warfare against civilians but only its scope? Despite the larger casualties in other bombings, why did the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki stir a greater concern?
8. World War II has sometimes been called "the good war." Is this an accurate label? Explain.