

# World War II

# Roots of World War II

- Anger and resentment over the Treaty of Versailles
- European debts from World War I
  - France and Britain had borrowed heavily from the U.S. and relied on German war reparations to make payments.
  - U.S. loaned money to Germany to pay France and Britain
  - Germany was economically devastated after WW I
  - Depression in U.S. destabilizes European economies

# Roots con't

- American isolationism
  - refusal to join League of Nations
- 1920's diplomacy
  - *The Five-Power Naval Treaty* – restricted the size of the American, Japanese, British, French, and Italian navies.
  - *The Four-Power Treaty* – required the U.S., Japan, Great Britain, and France to maintain the territorial status quo in the Pacific.
  - *The Nine-Power Treaty* - bound the U.S., Japan, Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, China, the Netherlands, and Portugal to respect the boundaries of China and follow the Open Door Policy.

# Roots con't

- Neutrality acts, congress passed several laws to prevent America from becoming involved in another European war.
  - *Johnson Debt Default Act* – prohibited private loans to governments that defaulted on war debts.
  - *Neutrality Act of 1935* – prohibited the sale of arms and munitions to nations at war.
  - *"Cash-and-Carry"* – U.S. policy stating that foreign nations must pay cash for American goods and transport them on their own ships



# The Rise of Militarism, Fascism, and Nationalism Overseas

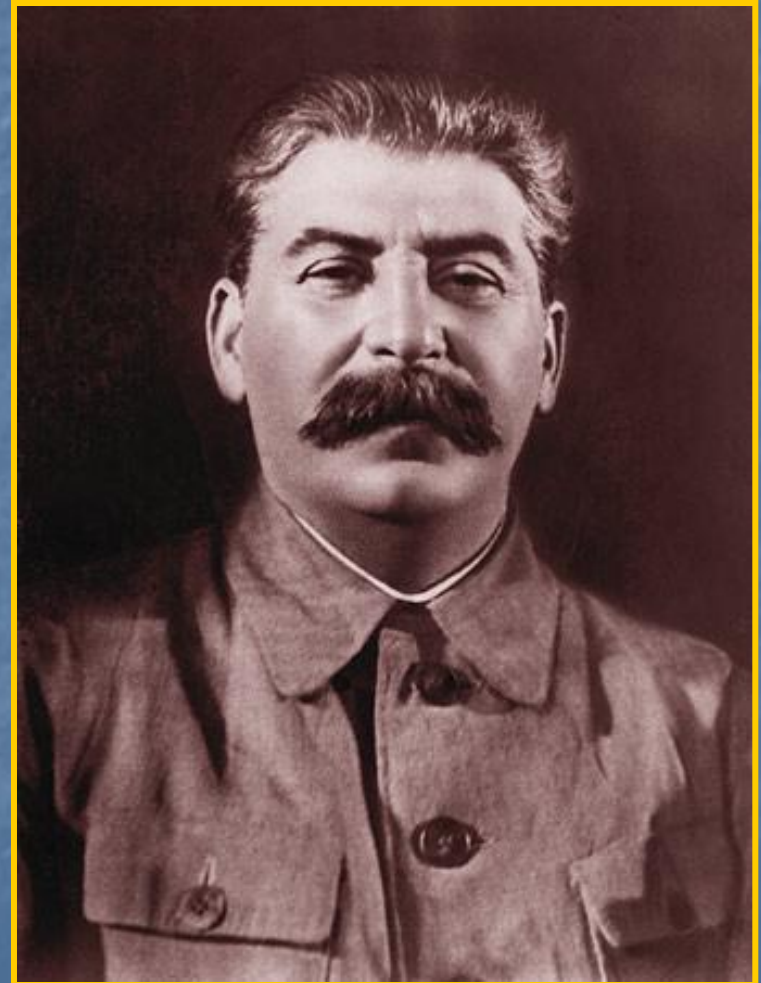
- *Militarism* – the policy of building up an armed force for war and their use as a tool for diplomacy.
- *Fascism* – a political philosophy that calls for a strong, centralized, nationalistic government headed by a strong dictator.
- *Nationalism* – loyalty to one's country above all else.

# Japan Invades Manchuria and China

- Militarist take control of government in Japan
- Desired more land for a growing population and economic resources.
- Invade Manchuria, a province of China
- Violates treaties established in the 1920's
- Desires will lead to further aggression in the Pacific

# Joseph Stalin and Russia

- Communist state established in 1922
- Took control in 1924
- Agricultural and industrial growth were his primary focuses
  - Abolished private farms and created collectives – large government owned farms worked by hundreds of families.
  - All industry was placed under the control of the government
  - By 1937 Russia was the second largest industrial power
- Ruthless, he imprisoned or killed anyone who opposed him
- Totalitarian – a state in which individuals have no rights and the government suppresses all opposition.





# Benito Mussolini and Italy

- Creates the Fascist Party in Italy
- Comes to power during economic crisis in 1921 (high unemployment and inflation)
- Stressed nationalism above all else
- Becomes known as "*I/ Duce*" the leader
- Successfully restructures Italy economically, but crushes all that oppose him
- Italy invades Ethiopia in 1935



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# Adolf Hitler and Germany

- Leader of the *National Socialist Party* (Nazis)
- Blamed poor German economic conditions on the Treaty of Versailles and the Jews
- Wanted to create a master race "Aryans"
- Extreme nationalist
- Wrote *Mein Kampf* "My Struggle" outlining his desires for Germany
- Believed Germany needed more *lebensraum* "living space"
- Became Chancellor of Germany in 1933
- Dismantled the old Weimar Republic and established the Third Reich
- Economic recovery based in military rearmament



# Spanish Civil War

- Known as the dress rehearsal for WWII
- 1936 fascist leader Francisco Franco rebelled against the Spanish government
- Western Democracies remained neutral to the events in Spain
  - Abraham Lincoln Brigade – a small group of Americans who volunteered to fight fascism in Spain.
- Stalin sends equipment and advisors to aid revolutionaries
- Hitler and Mussolini back Franco with troops, tanks, planes, and weapons
- Spanish government overthrown in 1939
- Rome Berlin Axis alliance between Germany and Italy formed

# German "Anschluss"

- Anschluss – Unification of German territory
- March 1936 German troops invade and capture the Rhineland
  - Disputed territory between Germany and France claimed by both nations
- March 12, 1938 German troops march into Austria unopposed
  - Most of the population of Austria was German and favored unification



*German troops march into Austria*



# Sudetenland

- The area in Czechoslovakia bordering Germany
- Hitler demanded this territory from Czechoslovakia or he would invade
- Great Britain and France pledged protection to Czech if it was invaded



# *The Munich Accords*

- Hitler called a meeting with leaders from France and Britain. He promised the Sudetenland would be his “last territorial demand”
  - Munich Agreement signed September 30, 1938, Sudetenland turned over to Germany
  - Establishes policy of *appeasement* – giving up of principles to pacify an aggressor.
- Hitler breaks agreement and takes all of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939

# The Munich Agreement



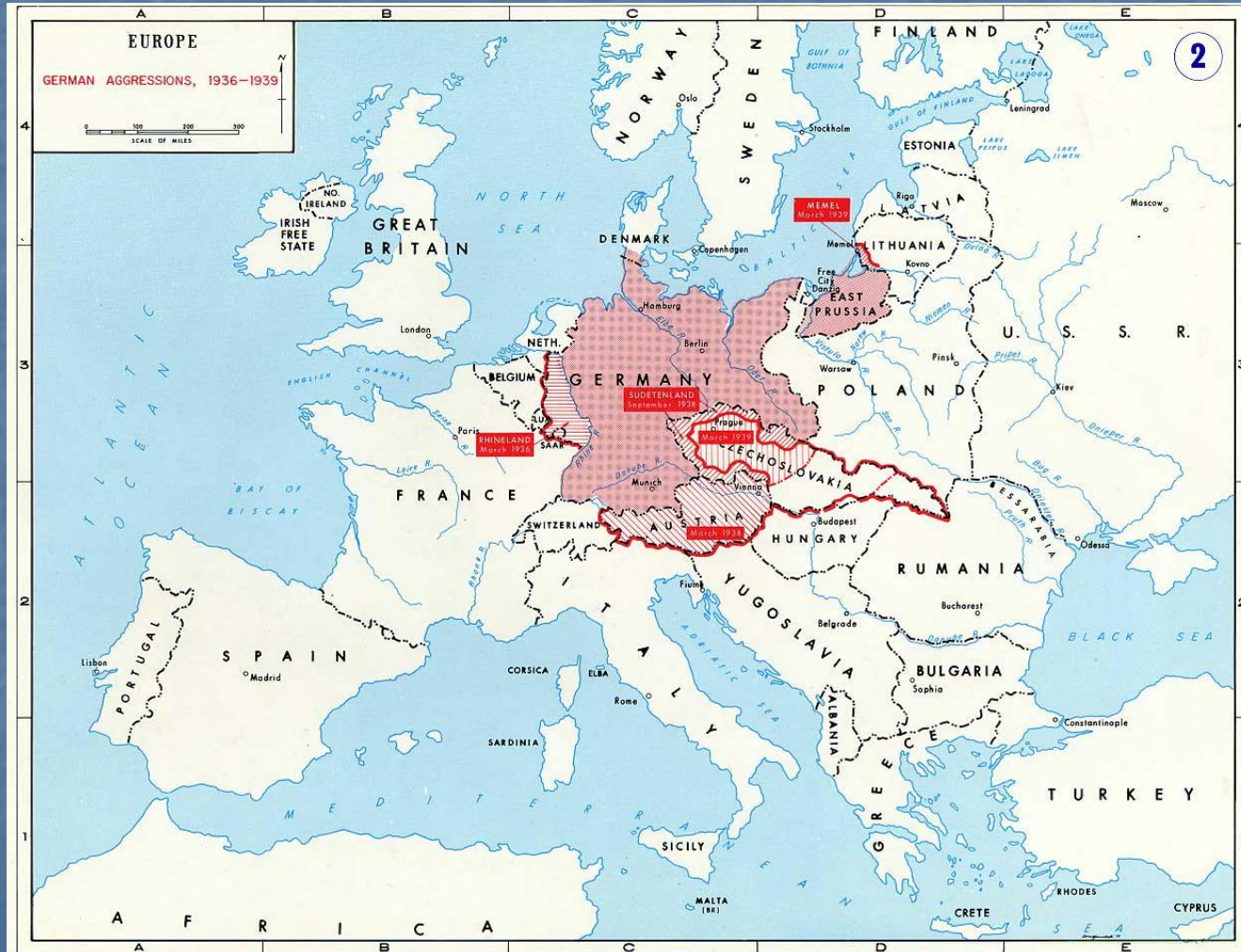
Political cartoon published in a Soviet newspaper after the signing of the Munich Agreement



British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain meets with Adolf Hitler. [Listen](#) to Chamberlain's announcement of the Munich Agreement



# Map of German Territorial Acquisition 1936 -1939



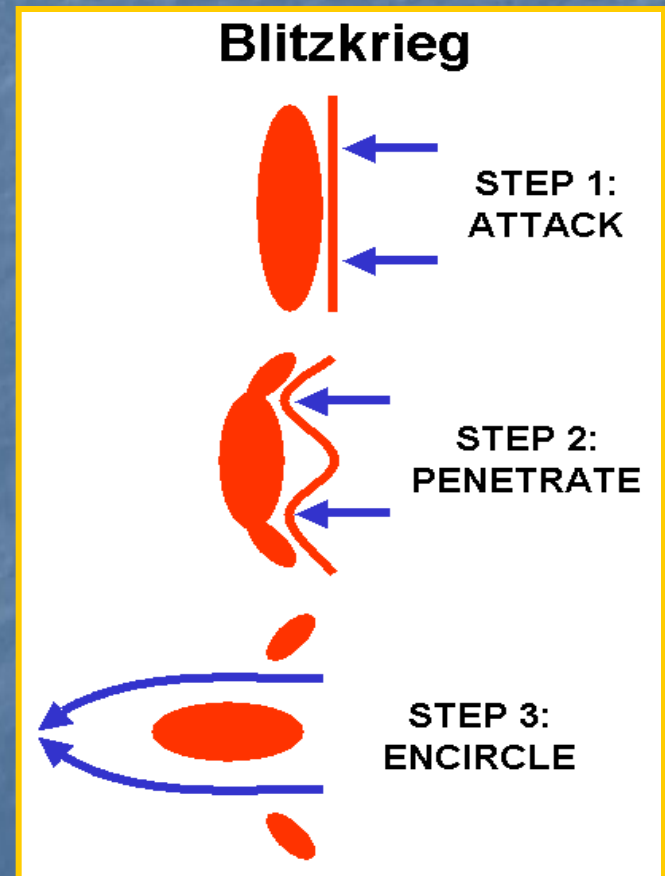
# Germany Invades Poland

- September 1, 1939 Germany invades Poland
- September 3, 1939 [Great Britain](#) and France declare war on Germany
- *Nonaggression Pact* – agreement between Germany and Russia. Russia agreed not to aid Poland, secretly, they agreed to divide the territory captured.
- Poland fell within 3 weeks
- *Phony War* – After Britain and France declared of war on Germany, no fighting occurred until April 1940.



# Blitzkrieg "Lightning War"

- Germany's new strategy for quickly taking territory
- Utilized new innovations in technology (tanks and airplanes)
- Goal was to take the enemy by surprise and then crush the opposition



# Germany Attacks Western Europe

- April 1940 Hitler invades Denmark and Norway
- May 1940 Germany controlled the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.
- June 1940 Germany invades France, Italy joins forces with Germany
- June 22, 1940 France surrenders

# The Battle of Britain

- After the fall of France, Britain stood alone against the Germans
- Fall 1940 intense German bombing began in preparation for a possible invasion
- *London Blitz* – As many as 2000 German planes a night bombed the city of London for 2 months
- Britain does not crumble under the pressure, Hitler forced to off plans for invasion



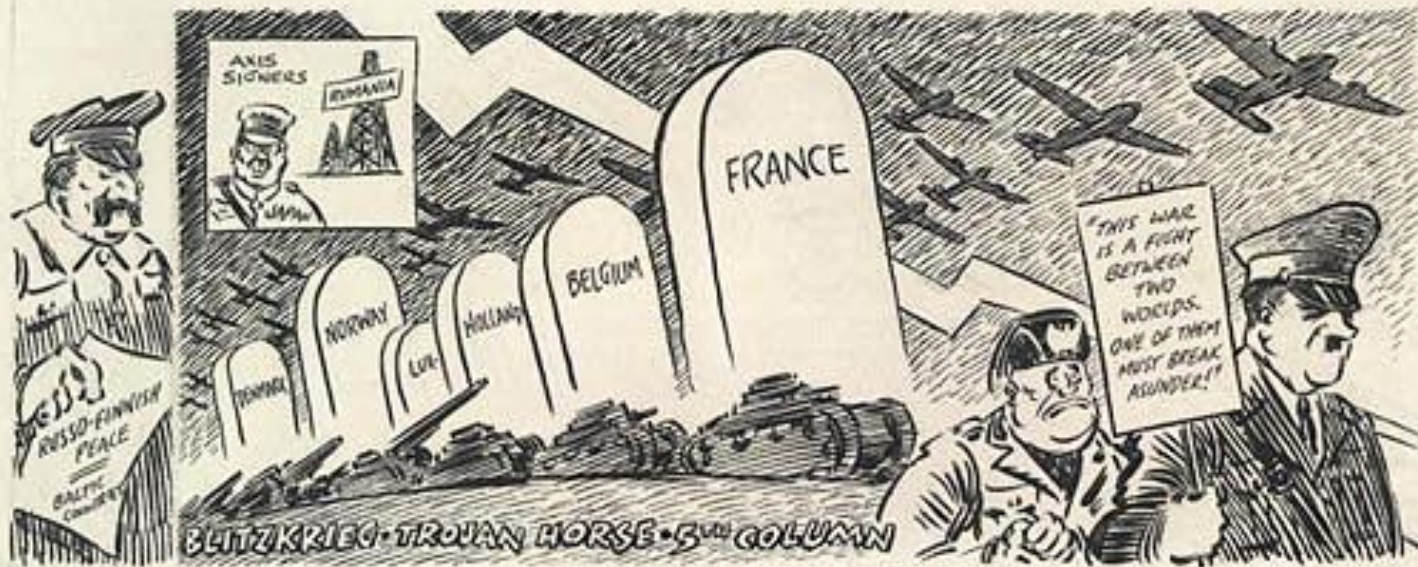
Prime Minister of England  
Winston Churchill



Listen



THE WORLDS OF 1940



1941

4 cols

MONDAY

# Germany Invades Russia

- Summer 1941
- Hitler breaks the Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact and invades the Soviet Union
- Opens a two front war, Hitler's biggest mistake
  - Requires diversion of resources
- Germans become bogged down in severe winter conditions
- Russia forms alliance with Britain and the U.S.

# Point – Counterpoint

Read on p. 758 and use the information provided to answer the following questions. Be specific with your answers by giving examples from the readings.

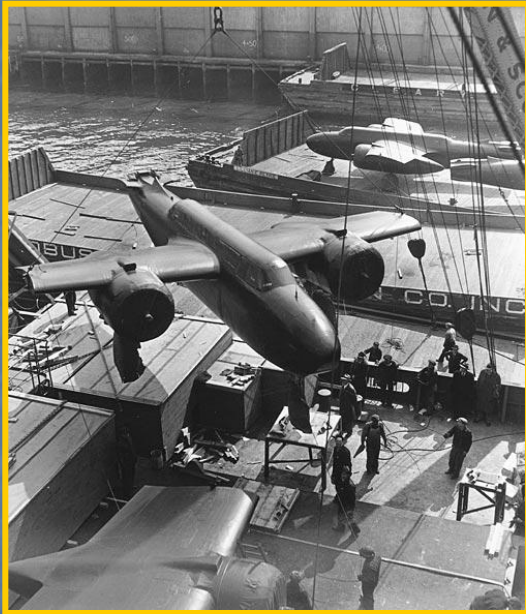
1. What did isolationists believe about America's role in the world?
2. What was the interventionists position on America's role in the world?
3. In what way did Lindbergh say democracy could be saved?
4. Why did FDR think the U.S. was threatened by what was happening in Europe?



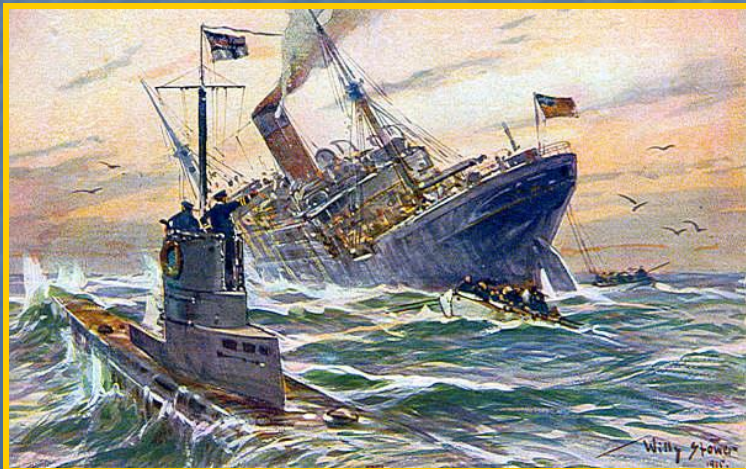
# Increasing American Involvement

- Americans supported allied forces
- *Neutrality Act of 1939* – passed by congress, this act authorized the sale of war goods to nations at war on a cash-and-carry basis.
- America significantly increases military spending (10x) to bolster American defense.
- *Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Act* – congress issued the first peacetime draft in U.S. history. All men ages 21-35 required to register

# Increasing American Involvement con't



- Election of 1940 FDR elected for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term
  - “Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars” (FDR)
- FDR declares the U.S. as “The Great Arsenal for Democracy”
- Lend-Lease Act – policy allowing America to loan or lease arms to any nation considered vital to American defense.
- September 1941 German U-boat fires on U.S. ship
  - “shoot on sight” order issued to American Destroyers





# Atlantic Charter



- August 1941, a joint declaration of war aims signed between FDR and Churchill
- Called for the “final destruction of Nazi tyranny”
- Self-rule for all peoples
- International economic cooperation
- Disarmament and a system of collective international security
- Freedom of the seas



# Growing Tensions with Japan

- 1937 Japan invades China
- 1940 Japan begins expanding throughout the Pacific
  - Needed war materials such as oil and rubber
- *Tripartite Pact* – signed by Japan forming the *Axis* alliance between Germany, Italy, and Japan
- Japan signs nonaggression pact with Russia.

# American Response to Japanese Expansion

- U.S. cuts off trade with Japan
  - Grants loans to China
  - Refuses to export arms to Japan
  - Froze all Japanese assets in the U.S.
  - Stop exporting oil to Japan (80% of Japanese oil came from the U.S.)
- U.S. refused to lift embargoes until Japan withdrew from China

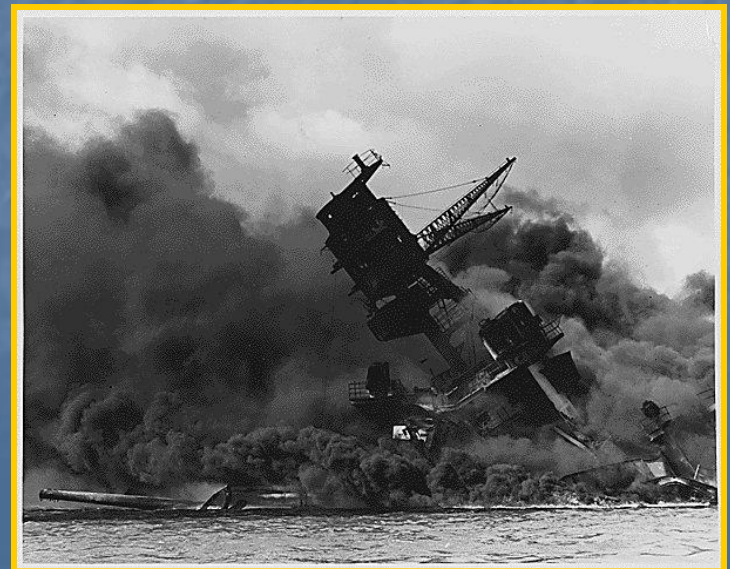
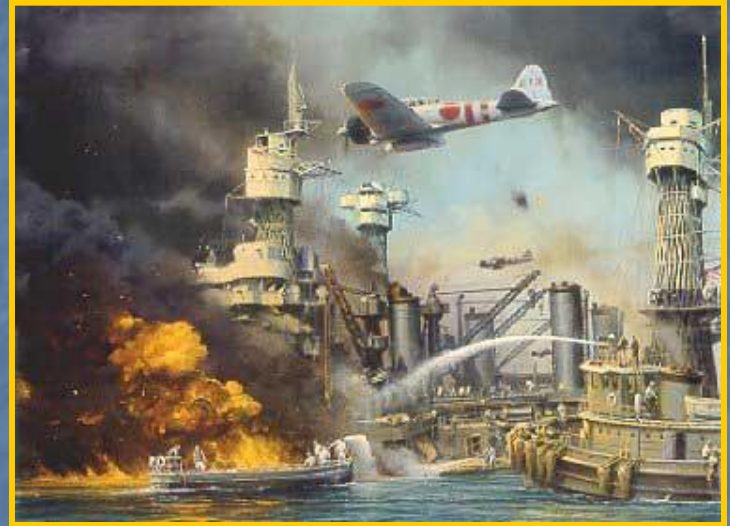
# Attack on Pearl Harbor

- Japan viewed the U.S. as the only serious threat to expansion in the Pacific.
- American intelligence knew Japan planned on attacking the U.S. somewhere in the Pacific
- December 6, 1941 Japan breaks off all relations with U.S.
- December 7, 1941 Japan launches a surprise attack on the U.S. naval fleet at Pearl Harbor Hawaii.



# Pearl Harbor con't

- 19 American ships sunk (8 battleships)
- 2400 Americans killed, 1200 wounded
- most casualties aboard the U.S.S. Arizona
- Japanese goal:
  - Cripple the Allied presence in the Pacific long enough to take control of the region
  - Force the U.S. into a defensive posture
- "I fear we have awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve" Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto
- U.S. aircraft carriers were not in port, very important for U.S.



# Response to Pearl Harbor



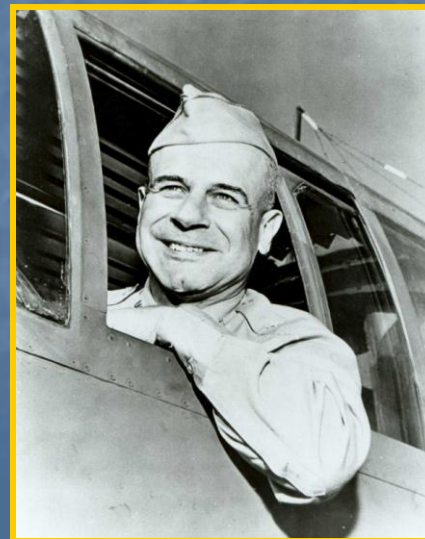
FDR signs a declaration of war  
with Japan

- Listen to FDR ask congress for a declaration of war.
- December 8, 1941 U.S. declares war on Japan
- December 11, 1941 Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S.
- Changes American stance from isolationism to all-out involvement in the war.



# Doolittle Raid

- Organized in response to Pearl Harbor
- Daring attack planned to strike Tokyo on April 16, 1942
- Led by *James Doolittle*
- Launched 16 B-25 bombers off the deck of U.S. aircraft carrier, very difficult task
- Attacks were a success, lifted the spirits of Americans



Top: B-25 launches off the deck of an aircraft carrier.  
Left: James Doolittle



# War in the Pacific

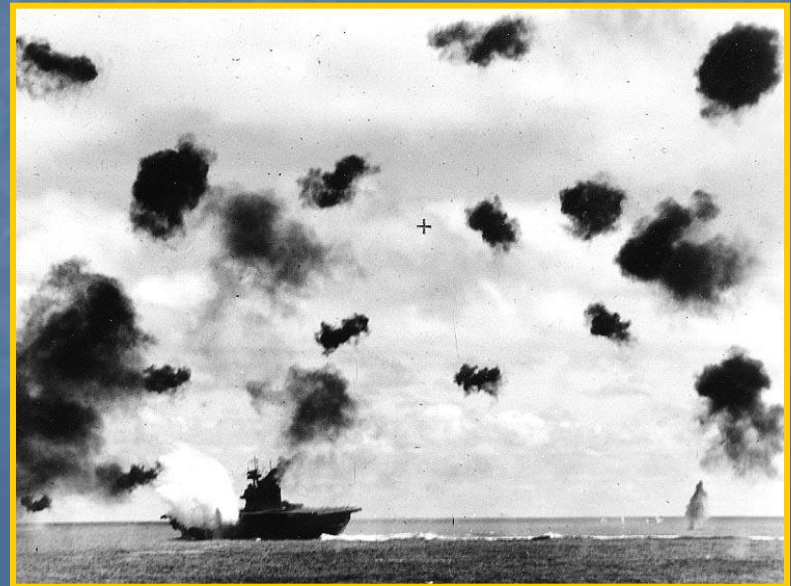
- Japan moved quickly to occupy Allied territory in the Pacific
  - Guam, Wake Island, Gilbert Islands
  - Hong Kong and Singapore
  - The Dutch East Indies (oil)
  - Burma
- Philippines
  - Attacked immediately after Pearl Harbor
  - *Douglas MacArthur*, commander of American forces in the Philippines, retreats to Bataan Peninsula
  - MacArthur flees under orders
  - Remainder of forces captured.
    - *"Bataan Death March"*

# The Battle of the Coral Sea

- June 1942
- U.S. stops Japanese advances in the Pacific, prevented a potential invasion of Australia by the Japanese
- Conducted entirely by air operations launched from aircraft carriers on both sides.

# The Battle of Midway

- Chester Nimitz – commander of American naval forces in the Pacific.
- June 1942, major victory for the U.S. in the Pacific
- U.S. intercepted Japanese secret plans to invade Hawaii
- Decision is made to intercept the Japanese fleet
- All 4 Japanese aircraft carriers were sunk during the battle, U.S. loses 1.
- Turning point in the war in the Pacific
- Japanese do not win another major battle in Pacific





# American Offensive in the Pacific Begins

- *Guadalcanal* – August 7, 1942, the first American offensive action in the Pacific. It took nearly six months to capture the Island.
- *Island Hopping Campaign* – Begun in November 1943, Nimitz moved westward across the Pacific island by island taking territory held by the Japanese

# American Offensive Continues

- *Battle of Leyte Gulf* – October 1944, it was the largest naval battle in history.
  - Took place near the Philippines
  - *Kamaikazes* used by the Japanese
  - Remainder of the Japanese fleet destroyed
- February 19, 1945 invasion of *Iwo Jima*
  - Island 750 miles from Tokyo
  - Strategic location to launch bombing raids against Tokyo
  - 20,000 well entrenched Japanese soldiers held the island, only 200 survive
  - 6 weeks of fighting, 7000 Americans killed

# American Offensive Continues

- Okinawa – island located 350 miles from Tokyo invaded by U.S. forces in April 1945. Extraordinarily fierce fighting takes place.
  - Japanese surrender Okinawa in June 1945
  - 50,000 U.S. casualties (7,600 killed)
  - 110,000 Japanese killed
- Fears of cost of an invasion of Japan begin to surface





# Battle of the Atlantic

- Began immediately after Pearl Harbor
- Hitler order the use of submarines against American ships in the Atlantic "Wolf Packs"
- He hoped to stop the flow of food and military goods to England
- Allies began to use the convoy system as they did in WWI
- "Liberty Ships", cargo ships created during a massive ship building campaign by the U.S.
- Built ships faster than Germany could sink them
- By mid 1943 Allies were victorious in the Atlantic

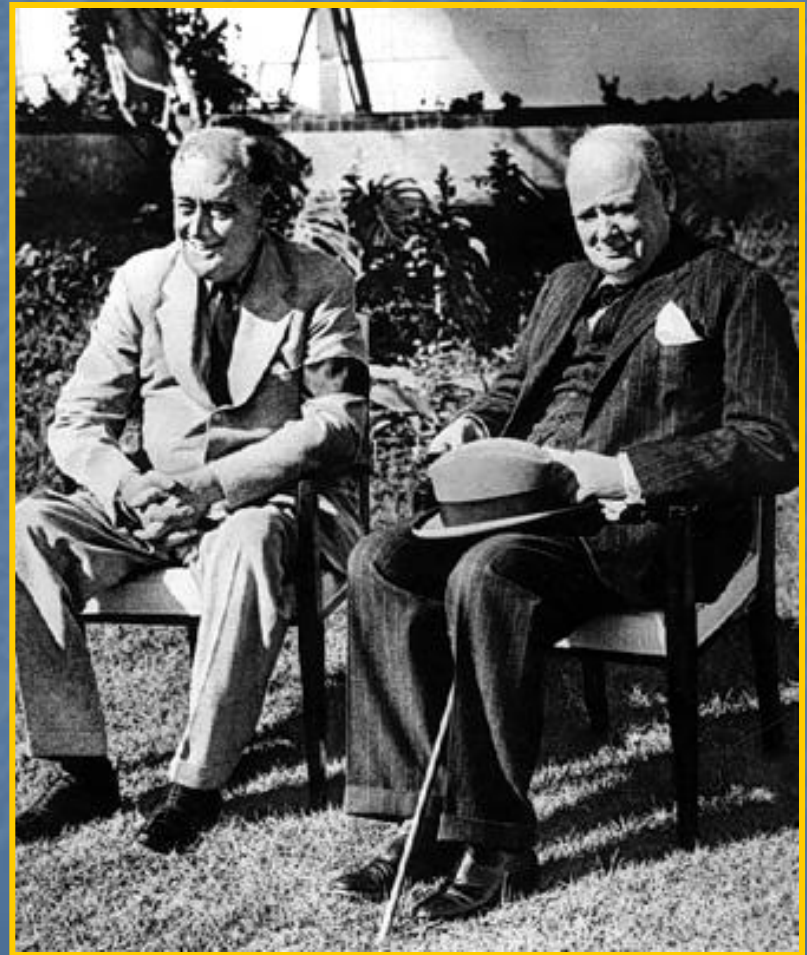
# Allied Strategy in Europe

- Stalin wants an invasion France as soon as possible
  - Relieve pressure off Russia
- Churchill wants a series of smaller offensives in preparation for a full scale invasion
- Roosevelt agrees with Churchill
  - Gets American troops into action in European theater quicker
- November 8, 1942 American troops lead by Dwight D. Eisenhower invade North Africa
- By May 1943, German troops are forced out of Africa
- Summer 1943, Allies invade Italy
  - "Bloody Anzio" fierce German resistance



# Casablanca Conference

- January 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill meet to discuss invasion plans
- Decide more time is needed to plan the invasion of France
- Agree to invade Italy via Sicily
- Only unconditional surrender will be accepted from Axis
- Agree to launch major offensive campaign in the Pacific after taking care of Hitler in Europe





# The Battle of Stalingrad



- August 1942 German attacks Stalingrad
- House to house fighting, Germany controlled majority of the city
- Winter sets in, Russian send in reinforcements, surround city cutting off Germans
- January 31, 1943 German commander surrenders
- Over 1 million Russian soldiers killed
- Soviets begin push westward toward Germany

# Invasion of France

- Operation Overlord code name given to the Allied invasion plan
- Dwight D. Eisenhower commanded the invasion
- June 6, 1944 150,000 Allied forces land on the beaches of Normandy France after crossing the English Channel
- Atlantic Wall name German fortifications along the French Coast
- Becomes known as D-Day
- Allies gain important foothold to push forward into Germany





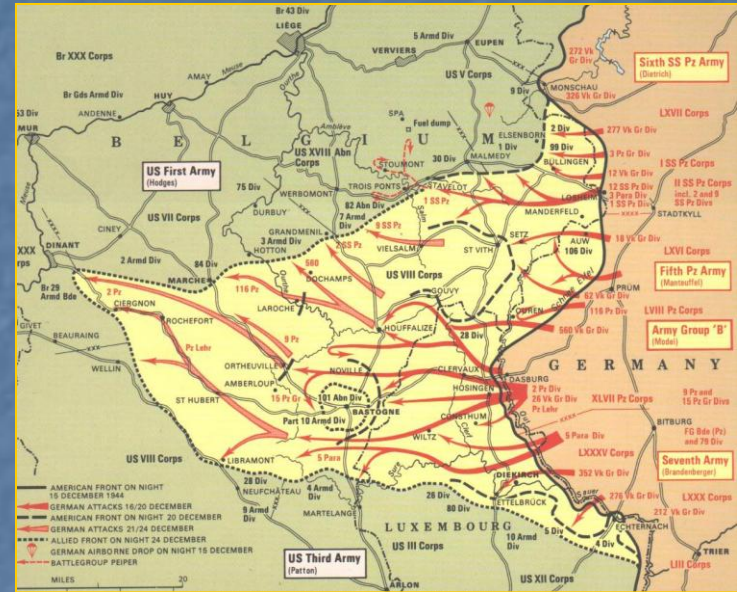
# War in Europe

- *The Battle of Normandy* Allied push into France from the coast
- July 25, 1944 *Omar Bradley* launches an air and ground campaign against the Germans at St. Lo
  - Punches a hole in the enemy defenses
- August 25, 1944 Paris liberated by *General George S. Patton*
- By September 1944, Allies had freed France, Belgium, and Luxembourg
- October 1944 Allied troops move into Germany
- Increased bombing raids into Germany
  - Industrial facilities and oil reserves main targets
- Soviets closed in on Germany taking control of much of eastern Europe



# Battle of the Bulge

- By Fall of 1944 Germany was surrounded by the Allies
- Hitler orders German forces to break through the Allied lines in the Ardennes Forest
- December 16, 1944 German's attack a weak position in American defenses, pushing them back
  - Creates a "bulge" in the American defenses
- Heavy snow grounds Allied air support
- American troops cut off at Bastogne
- Mid January 1945, weather clears and Germans are forced to retreat
- German losses are too great to overcome, begin to retreat



# Yalta Conference

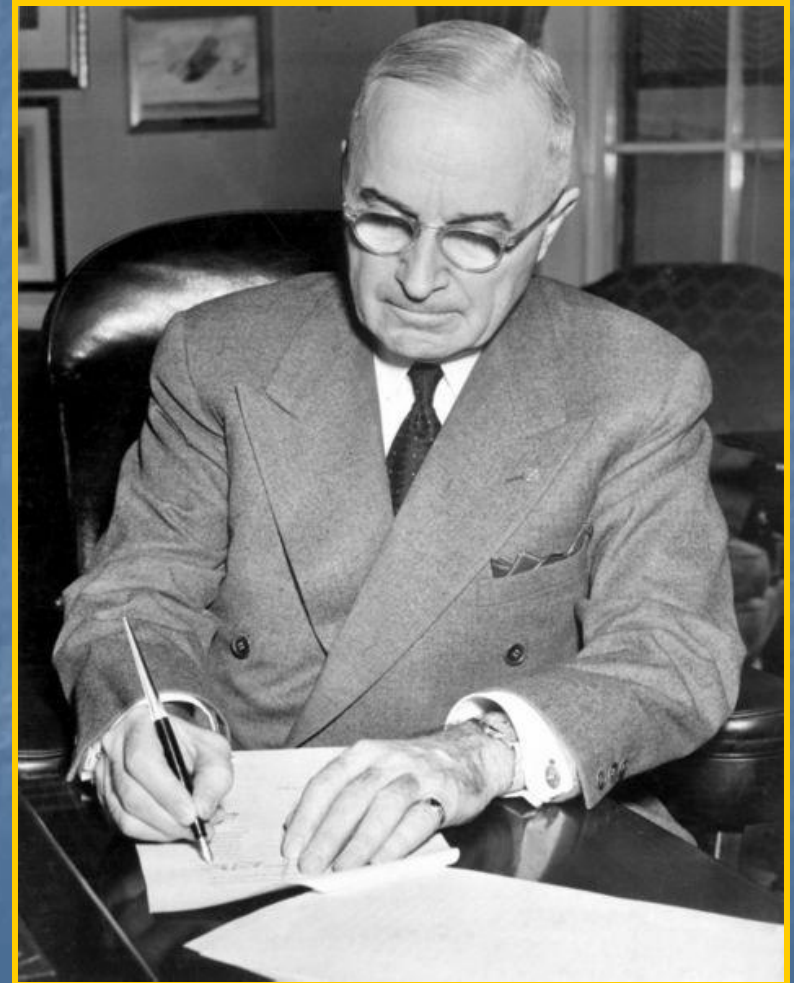


- February 4, 1945 Meeting between the "Big Three" (FDR, Churchill, and Stalin)
- Discussed strategies for the end of the war and how Europe would be divided after the war, especially Poland
- Divided Germany into 4 zones
- Russia agreed to aid U.S. in the Pacific
- Russia agreed to allow free elections in Poland
- Russia agreed to join the United Nations, a world peace keeping organization FDR wanted to create after the war



# Death of a President

- April 12, 1945, FDR dies from a stroke
- Harry S. Truman takes over as President
- Americans mourned the loss of FDR





# End of the War in Europe

- April 25, 1945 Soviets capture Berlin
- April 28, 1945 Mussolini executed
- April 30, 1945 Hitler commits suicide
  - Blames the Jews for starting the war and his officers for losing it.
- May 8, 1945 V-E Day Victory in Europe Day, Eisenhower accepts the surrender of Germany

# War on the Homefront

- 15 million men and women serve in the armed forces
- Transformed American's way of life
- Great Depression ends, ends necessity for many of FDR's New Deal programs
  - Demand for war goods increases production
- People are earning more money, but have less to spend it on
- New opportunities for women and minorities
  - Men are drafted, opens job positions

# Government Economic Regulations

- Establish agencies to manage economic conversion to war production
- Establishes price and wage controls to prevent runaway inflation.
- Rationing of goods (meat, shoes, sugar, coffee, and gasoline)
  - Civilians were issued ration books (coupons)
- Worked with labor unions to prevent production slowdowns
  - "no strike" pledge labor leaders agreed to accept wage limits and not strike for the duration of the war
- Victory Gardens Americans were encouraged to grow their own produce
- Recycling programs (rubber, scrap metals and other resources valuable to the war effort)



# Economic Issues

- War Production Board created in 1942 to manage the conversion of private industry to war production and allocate scarce resources to businesses
- "Dollar-a-year-men" business men who moved to DC to work without pay, they led agencies designed to oversee war production
- Office of Price Administration (OPA) set caps on prices, wages, and rents in 1942
- Increased tax
- GI Bill of Rights passed in 1944, it provided federal money for training veterans upon their return and guaranteed loans for homes, farms, or small businesses

# Funding the War

- Federal budget increased from \$9 billion in 1939 to \$100 billion in 1945
- Tax increases paid for 50% of war
- War Bonds – loaning of money to the government by citizens through the purchase of bonds to paid at a later date

# Women and the War

- Women were needed to fill men's roles in the workforce as they enlisted
- *Rosie the Riveter* fictitious character used by the government to encourage women to enter the workforce.
  - 6 million women entered the workforce as a result
- *Women's Army Corp* (WAC) female volunteers who served in non combat roles as nurses, ambulance drivers, radio operators, electricians, and pilots.
- *Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service* (WAVES)



# African Americans and the War

- Forced to serve in segregated units in the military
  - Tuskegee Airmen an all African American fighter squadron who served with distinction in Italy
- Northern migration to work in war industry
  - Faced low pay, discrimination, and segregation
- A. Philip Randolph organized a march on DC to protest issues facing African Americans during the war. Met with FDR who called for the equal treatment in the work place
- Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) founded by James Farmer in 1942 to confront urban segregation in the North

# Japanese Internment

- Nisei American citizens whose parents had immigrated from Japan
- Fear and suspicions of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor lead to panic and prejudice
- Internment forced confinement (imprisoned)
- 10 camps established through out U.S. to house Japanese Americans
- February 19, 1942 FDR ordered the relocation process to begin
- Many forced to sell their homes, businesses and belongings before relocation
- Korematsu v. United States Supreme Court case ruling that the internment of Japanese Americans was justified on the basis of military necessity.

# Atomic Bomb

- Manhattan Project government project established in 1942 to develop an atomic bomb
- August 3, 1945 Truman demands unconditional surrender from Japan or face “utter devastation”
- August 6, 1945 1<sup>st</sup> atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, flattening the city killing more than 78,000 people instantly. 70,000 more would die from radiation exposure.
  - Enola Gay B-39 bomber that dropped the bomb
- August 9, 1945 2<sup>nd</sup> atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki killing more than 100,000 civilians
- September 2, 1945 Japan officially surrenders ending WWII



# Japan After the War

- Japan was occupied by U.S. forces under the command of Douglas MacArthur
- Over 1000 Japanese (including Tojo) were tried and convicted of war crimes
- MacArthur reshaped Japan's economy into a leading free-market system
- New constitution written, similar to the U.S. calling for basic freedoms and voting rights for all
  - Called the "MacArthur Constitution"

# Holocaust

- Systematic murder of 10 million Jews and other racially "impure" people
- 1935 Nuremberg Laws economic, social, and legal restrictions that stripped Jews of citizenship, jobs, and their prosperity.
  - Jews required to wear a yellow star for identification purposes
- *Kristallnacht* "Night of Broken Glass" November 9-10, 1938, Nazi storm troopers violently attacked Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues across Germany
  - Nazi's blame the Jews for the destruction, 100 Jews killed, 30,000 arrested



# Jewish Refugees

- Nazi's wanted Jews to emigrate
  - "We all want to get rid of our Jews. The difficulty is that no country wishes to receive them" Joachim von Ribbentrop
- Few places to go because of immigration restrictions
- United States accepted only 100,000 Jewish immigrants
  - Only "persons of exceptional merit" accepted
  - Fears immigrants would take American jobs because of the Depression
  - Widespread Anti-Semitism
  - Refusal to accept the S.S. *St. Louis*, a ship with more than 900 Jewish refugees, it was forced to return to Europe



# The "Final Solution"

- Concentration Camps mostly in eastern Europe, established to use prisoners as laborers
- Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally ill, disabled, Seventh Day Adventists, eastern Europeans, and Russian soldiers were victims
- Extermination Camps first established in 1939 for mass killing of Jews
  - 6 of 7 death camps located in Poland
  - Stripped of their clothing, shot, and bodies piled in open pits
  - Gas chambers and crematoriums common
  - Often killed within hours of arrival
- Camps were liberated by Allied forces late in the war

# Nuremberg Trials

- 24 surviving Nazi leaders were put on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity
- Held in German town of Nuremberg
- 12 of 24 were sentenced to death others prison
- Established the principle of individual responsibility even in the times war



# Wannsee Conference

- German secret meeting held on January 20, 1942 in order to resolve the “Jewish Question”
- Decided how a Jew would be identified
- Examined what to do with Jews who would not leave the country
  - Sterilized and sent to the Ghettos (
- Goal to remove 11 million Jews from Europe
- Established the “Final Solution”



# Credit

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- <http://www.medaloffreedom.com/JimmyDoolittle.htm>