

World War II

I. Causes

- A. Treaty of Versailles – problems
 1. artificial carving of territories
 2. weak League of Nations (treaty not confirmed by Senate)
 3. blame Germany (contributes to B)
- B. Great Depression
 1. value of deuchmark plummets
- C. prevailing attitudes/philosophies – allow Hitler to rise to power
 1. Fascism – Nietzsche
 2. racism

II. Major Players

- A. Stalin
- B. Mussolini
- C. Adolf Hitler
- D. Winston Churchill
- E. FDR

III. Why war?

- A. Japan
 1. Desire for natural resources
 2. Militarist rulers
- B. Germany
 1. Prove the superiority of the Aryan race – mostly militarily
 2. lebensraum
- C. Italy
 1. Prove they can compete with the big powerful countries
- D. Spain
 1. Franco trying to make Spain fascist –Spain will not be a major player

IV. The United States and World War II

- A. U.S. isolationism –stems from memory of U.S. involvement in World War I
 1. U.S. ignored German expansion
 - a. U.S. only deals with Hitler at 1936 Olympic Games
 2. U.S. has inkling of Hitler’s horrors, but no real idea of how bad he is
 - a. U.S. does, however, realize that Hitler is an expansionist nut-job
 3. Lend-lease act
 - a. Lend or lease arms to US allies (thinking they would pay it back later)
- B. Pearl Harbor –December 7, 1941
 1. Japan wanted to invade Australia –gain access to Australia’s oil reserves
 - a. Worry that invading a major U.S. ally will bring the U.S. into the war
 2. Most of US Navy’s Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor naval base
 - a. Japan’s idea is to take the U.S. out of the war before U.S. is ever in it
 3. Backfires –Japan’s emperor says they have awakened a sleeping giant

4. FDR gives famous “day of infamy” speech
 - a. U.S. Congress declares war with only one dissenting vote (Jeannette Rankin)
 - C. Atlantic Charter – gives the goals of war – opposite of WWI’s Treaty of Versailles
- V. WWII Homefront
- A. 5 million volunteers + drafted personell
 1. became known as GIs – “government issue”
 - B. Industrial Response
 1. Rosie the Riveter
 - C. Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD)
 1. Manhattan Project – J. Robert Oppenheimer
 - D. Changes in lifestyle
 1. rationing (car sharing, food, fashion)
 - E. Japanese Internment Camps
- VI. War in Europe
- A. Battle of the Atlantic
 - a. German submarines sinking American ships
 - b. Americans respond with convoys & radar (get ships on surface)
 - c. Germans lose subs faster than they can build them
 - B. Invasion of the USSR
 - a. Hitler’s major tactical mistake – “one of history’s classic blunders”
 - C. D-day
 1. Landing at Omaha and Utah beaches in Normandy
 2. George S. Patton
 - a. Announced that he had liberated Paris by saying: “Today I spat in the Seine [River].”
 3. Freedom achieved for France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and most of the Netherlands
 4. Helped get Roosevelt re-elected
 - D. The end of Hitler
 1. April 25, 1945, Soviet army entered Berlin
 - a. Many deserted army: were shot or hanged on sight
 2. April 29, Hitler married Eva Braun, his longtime girlfriend
 3. Wrote last speech, blaming the Jews for starting the war and the generals for losing the war
 - a. “I myself and my wife choose to die in order to escape the disgrace of... capitulation. I die with a happy heart aware of the immeasurable deeds of our soldiers at the front.”
 4. Eva poisoned herself; Adolf shot himself
 - E. One week later, Germany had surrendered unconditionally
 1. V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) May 8, 1945
- VII. War in the Pacific

- A. Japanese successes
 - 1. took many islands
 - a. Japanese empire was bigger than all of Europe
 - 2. Philippines
 - a. The Japanese forced General MacArthur out
 - MacArthur vowed to return
 - b. Japanese began to believe they were invincible
- B. Japan's expansion halted
 - 1. Doolittle Raid – 16 B-25 Bombers attack Honshu (one of Japan's home islands)
 - a. proves Japan vulnerable
 - 2. Battle of the Coral Sea
 - a. Japan invading Australia – turned back
- C. Battle of Midway
 - 1. Japan wanted Midway Island
 - a. jumping point to take Hawaii
 - 2. Admiral Chester Nimitz
 - 3. turning point in war
- D. Island hopping
- E. Death of FDR
 - 1. Truman not really privy to secrets
 - a. i.e. Manhattan project's existence unknown to him
- F. end war
 - 1. Russia joins against Japan
 - 2. nukes
 - a. Fat Man & Little Boy; Nagasaki & Hiroshima
- G. Occupation of Japan
 - 1. new constitution & free-market economy