APUSH Unit 11

World War II

APUSH 7.2 – APUSH 7.3  
VUS11.a – VUS.12d



World War II Begins

Totalitarianism and military aggression endangered international peace in the 1930s as western democracies failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II.

Soviet Union

Joseph Stalin

Communism

Japan

Emperor Hirohito

Hideki Tojo

Occupation of Korea & Manchuria

Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945

Italy

Benito Mussolini

Fascism

Invasion of Ethiopia, 1935

Spanish Civil War

Francisco Franco

Germany

Treaty of Versailles

Great Depression

Hyperinflation

Adolf Hitler

Nazism

“Anschluss” with Austria, 1938

Munich Pact, 1938

Appeasement

German invasion of Poland, 1939

“Blitzkrieg”

Soviet invasion of Poland & Baltic states, 1939

Winter War, 1939-1940

Invasion of France, 1940

Battle of Britain (The “Blitz”), 1940

Radar

Invasion of the Soviet Union, 1941

Soviet & Middle Eastern oil fields

Axis Powers

Allied Powers

U.S. Foreign Policy Before Pearl Harbor

The United States largely sought to remain neutral and isolated from international conflicts in the 1920s and 1930s, but was gradually pulled into World War II.

Neutrality

Isolationism

League of Nations

Reservationists & Irreconcilables

Dawes Plan

Kellogg-Briand Pact

Great Depression

Hawley-Smoot Tariff

Franklin D. Roosevelt

American Neutrality Acts

Good Neighbor Policy

London Economic Conference

Reciprocal trade

Recognition of the Soviet Union

Abraham Lincoln Brigade

Quarantine Speech

Nye Committee

Charles Lindbergh

“America First” Committee

Cash & Carry

Destroyers for Bases

Election of 1940

Four Freedoms Speech

Lend-Lease Act

“Arsenal of Democracy”

Winston Churchill

Atlantic Charter

Stimson Doctrine

Tydings-McDuffie Act

Panay Incident

U.S. oil & steel embargoes against Japan

Pearl Harbor attack

The U.S. in the European Theater

U.S. forces supplied arms to Allied forces and helped to open additional battle fronts that strained German military resources.

* The United States and its allies achieved victory over the Axis powers through a combination of factors, including allied political and military cooperation, industrial production, technological and scientific advances, and popular commitment to advancing democratic ideals.
* The involvement of the United States in World War II, while opposed by most Americans prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, vaulted the United States into global political and military prominence, and transformed both American society and the relationship between the United States and the rest of the world.

“Germany first” strategy

Battle of El Alamein, 1942

Operation Torch, 1942

Battle of the Atlantic

Convoy system

Battle of Stalingrad, 1942-1943

Allied invasion of Italy (Battle of Anzio), 1943

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Operation Overlord (D-Day/ Invasion of Normandy), 1944

Strategic bombing

Incendiary bombing

Battle of the Bulge, 1944-1945

Battle of Berlin, 1945

V-E Day

The U.S. in the Pacific Theater

The U.S. played a decisive role in the defeat of Japan by seizing Japanese-occupied islands and using atomic bombs to bring the war in the Pacific to an end.

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* Wartime experiences such as the decision to drop the atomic bomb raised questions about American values.

Pearl Harbor attack

Japanese Pacific offensive of December 1941

Bataan Death March

“Island hopping” strategy

Air bases

General Douglas MacArthur

Admiral Chester Nimitz

Battle of the Coral Sea, 1942

Battle of Midway, 1942

Aircraft carriers

Battle of Guadalcanal, 1943

Battle of Leyte Gulf, 1944

Battles of Iwo Jima & Okinawa, 1944-1945

Kamikaze attacks

Incendiary bombing

Harry Truman

Potsdam Declaration

Robert Oppenheimer

Los Alamos Laboratory

Manhattan Project

Atomic bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

V-J Day

Planning for Peace

Allied conferences established a post-war order shaped by human rights concerns, the formation of the United Nations peacekeeping organization and the opposing forces of the U.S. and Soviet Union.

* The involvement of the United States in World War II, while opposed by most Americans prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, vaulted the United States into global political and military prominence, and transformed both American society and the relationship between the United States and the rest of the world.
* The dominant American role in the Allied victory and postwar peace settlements, combined with the war-ravaged condition of Asia and Europe, allowed the United States to emerge from the war as the most powerful nation on earth.

Bombing campaigns

* The “Blitz”
* Strategic & incendiary bombing
* Atomic bombs

“Rape of Nanjing”

“Comfort” women

Prisoners of war (POWs)

Bataan Death March

“Hell ships”

Gulags

POWs on the western front

Japanese-American internment

Geneva Conventions (I-IV) of 1949

Atlantic Charter

Yalta Conference

Allied division and occupation of Germany

Iron Curtain

Cold War

United States & Soviet Union as world “superpowers”

San Francisco Conference

United Nations

U.N. Security Council

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Eleanor Roosevelt

Holocaust

Genocide

“Final Solution”

Victims of the Holocaust

* Poles
* Jews
* Slavs
* Gypsies (Roma)
* homosexuals
* handicapped
* mentally ill
* political dissidents
* POWs

Nuremburg & Tokyo Tribunals

Nuremburg Defense (“I was only following orders”)

Nuremburg Principle (individual responsibility to disobey illegal or immoral orders)

Zionism

State of Israel, 1948

American occupation of Japan

MacArthur “Peace Constitution”

Japanese “economic miracle”

The Homefront

World War II created new opportunities for many Americans, though Japanese Americans faced extreme discrimination.

* The mass mobilization of American society to supply troops for the war effort and a workforce on the home front ended the Great Depression and provided opportunities for women and minorities to improve their socioeconomic positions.
* Many Americans migrated during the Great Depression, often driven by economic difficulties, and during World Wars I and II, as a result of the need for wartime production labor.
* Many Mexicans, drawn to the U.S. by economic opportunities, faced ambivalent government policies in the 1930s and 1940s.
* Wartime experiences such as the internment of Japanese Americans, challenges to civil liberties, and debates over race and segregation raised questions about American values.

Selective Service Act of 1940

War Production Board

Office of Price Administration

Rationing

Victory (Liberty) Gardens

War Bonds

Income tax

Censorship

Propaganda & racial stereotypes

*West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, 1943

Full employment

National War Labor Board

Rosie the Riveter

Women’s Army Corps (WACs)

African Americans in segregated units

Buffalo Soldiers

Tuskegee Airmen

Great Migration

A. Philip Randolph

March on Washington movement

Double-V Campaign

Executive Order 8802

Zoot Suit Riots

Mexican-American soldiers in integrated units

Bracero Program

Navajo Codetalkers

Executive Order 9066

Japanese-American internment

*Korematsu v. U.S.,* 1944

Nisei Regiments

Servicemen’s Readjustment Act (G.I. Bill)

Fair Deal

Levittowns

Suburban sprawl

Middle class

Baby boom

Unit Review: Essential Questions

* How and why did the U.S. become increasingly involved in World War II?
* What role did the United States play in the Allied victory in World War II?
* How did a concern for human rights and global security shape the post-war world?
* To what extent did the homefront experience during World War II expand the freedoms and opportunities available to Americans?