

Chapter 23

World War II





What do you think?

The Second World War can be seen as an energizing event in American history rather than a destructive one.

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Causes of War

- Multiple causes of the Second World War
- The Great Depression was perhaps the most significant cause



Provocations

- The stock market collapse ended American investment in Europe and caused economic slowdowns there
- Adolf Hitler's National Socialist (Nazi) Party in power in Germany
- Italy under the dictatorship of Benito Mussolini
- Hitler occupied the Rhineland and German-speaking Austria
- Mussolini invaded and conquered Ethiopia and Albania
- Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China



AFP/AFP/Getty Images

Reactions

- Munich Agreement
- Nonaggression pact



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American Foreign Policy before the War

- Americans at first tried to stay out of the war
- This became less feasible as Hitler's aggression continued

1930s Isolation

- Latin America
- The World's Arsenal
- Blitzkrieg and Doubt
- Partial Involvement



Keystone Archives/HIP/The Image Works

David J. & Janice L. Frent Collection/Corbis

From Isolation to Intervention

"America First Committee"

Aid Short of War

The Four Freedoms

Conflict in the Pacific

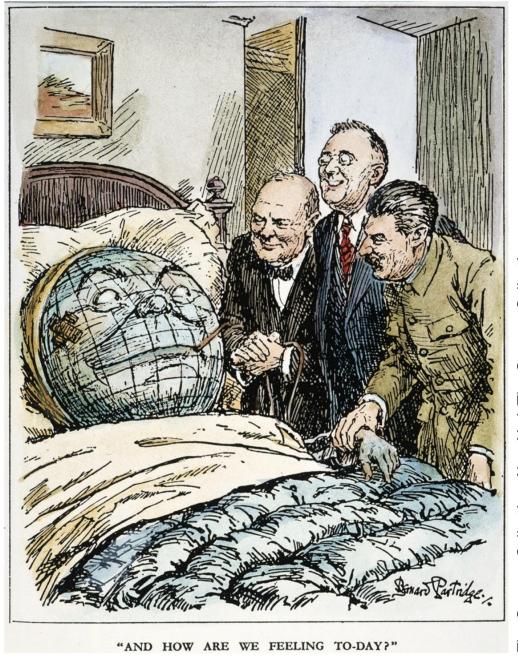
- Japanese forces occupied the French colony of Indochina
- December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, killed 2,403 Americans
- Japan launched offensives against the Philippines, Guam, Midway Island, Hong Kong and Malaysia
- U.S. declared war on Japan; Germany declared war on the U.S.



National Archives/MCT via Newscom

The War

Grand Alliance



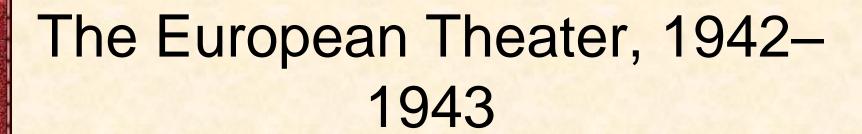
The Granger Collection, New York/The Granger Collection

The Alliance

Four policemen

The Pacific Theater, 1941–1942

- American troops fought their first battles of the war in the Pacific
- American forces suffered defeats early on in the Philippines, the Wake Islands, and near Australia
- Japanese suffered a decisive defeat at Midway



- Turning Points: 1943
- The Tehran Conference

1944: Victory in View

Normandy





The American Home Front

- World War II destructive war
 - 23 million Soviets
 - 62 million total killed
 - Hitler annihilated 6 million Jews in concentration camps
 - 400,000 Americans died and millions were injured
- The war had a transformative effect on the American home front

The War Economy

- Manufacturing for War
- Labor
- Paying for War

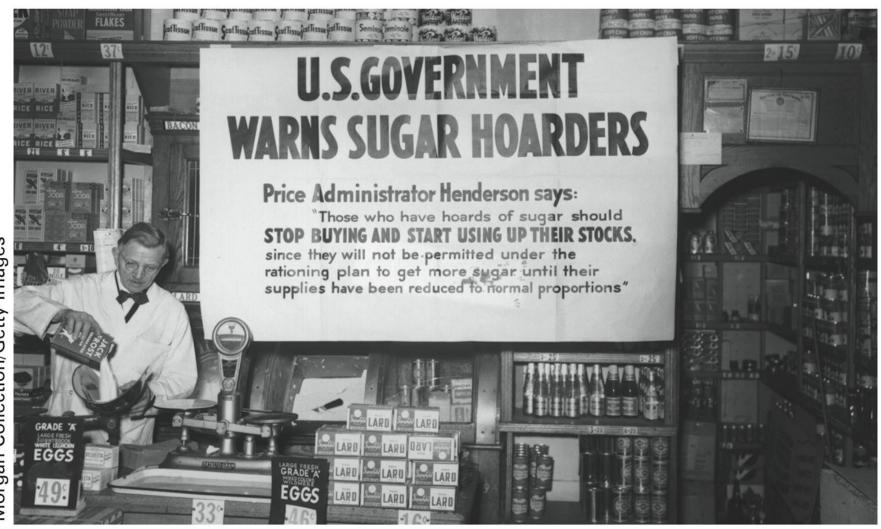
Lt. A.E. Samuelson/Corbis



Roger-Viollet/The Image Works







Opportunities

- Women
- African Americans
- Hispanics
- Japanese Americans
- The GI Bill

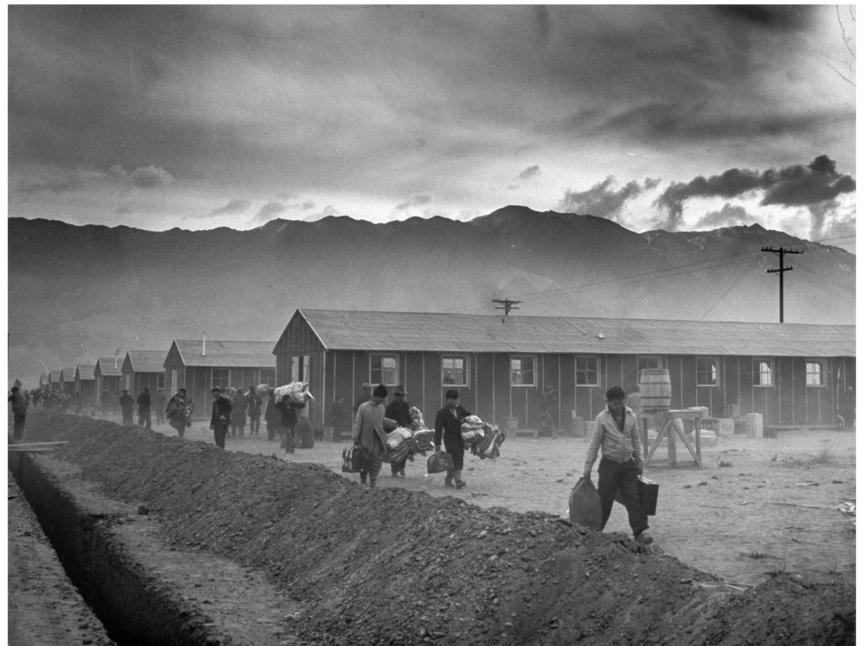




Topham/The Image Works

Demographic Shifts

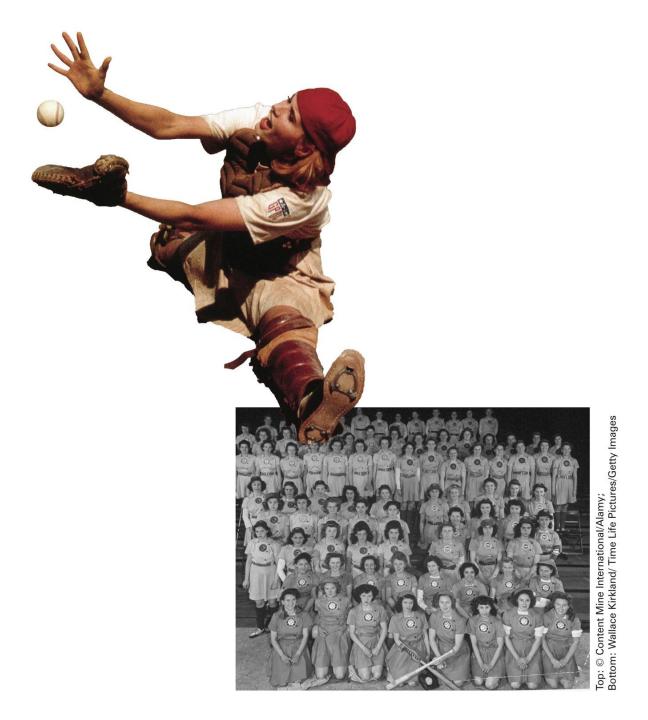
- The West
- The South
- The Midwest



Eliot Elisofon/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images

Leisure in Wartime

- Women's baseball leagues
- Jazz



A World Remade, 1945

By late 1944, the war was nearing its end

Germany's Last Stand

Yalta



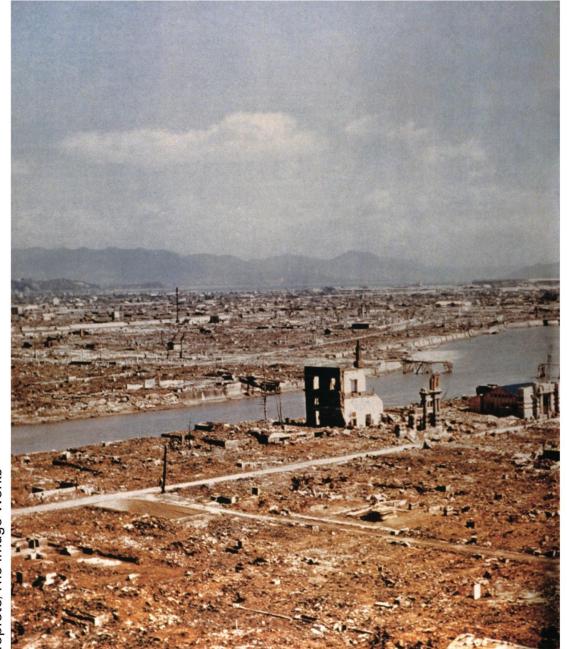
Everett Collection

Final Moves

The Potsdam Conference

Defeat of Japan

- Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki



Topfoto/The Image Works

What else was happening	
1940	Bugs Bunny debuts in "A Wild Hare."
1940	M&Ms® are launched in military ration packs.
1944	During the great Barnum & Bailey circus fire, the band begins to play "The Stars and Stripes Forever," the circus disaster march, to alert the performers that the situation is serious and not part of the show.
1944	British-born war evacuee Elizabeth Taylor stars in National Velvet, filmed in California.