

The Great Shift in Power: World War II to the U.S. at the “summit of the world”¹

Lesson 4 -----

Tip: You must recognize which are traits of WWI and WWII, and with WWII you must notice what occurs from about 1941-1943 and from 1944-1945 and beyond.

- 1939-Outbreak of World War II
 - Allies-Great Britain (Churchill), France (conquered early with part the puppet Vichy government), and others later
 - Axis-Germany (Hitler), Italy (Mussolini), Japan (Emperor Hirohito), all Fascists **and USSR** (Stalin), Communist
- WWII until US war declaration
 - Europe: N. Chamberlain/Sudetenland/Munich appeasement
 - Europe: Poland invaded/split by Germany & USSR; war declared,
 - US: initial isolationism (Destroyers for Bases; Lend-Lease) but shifts to “arsenal of democracy”
- 1941, June after Hitler’s Battle of Britain fails in the West, he thinks he can beat Stalin in the East so USSR changes sides
 - Allies-Great Britain, France, **USSR**
 - Axis-Germany, Italy, Japan
- World War II, early (1941-1943)
 - Pearl Harbor– 12/7/1940 When the US enters the war
 - Bataan Death March
 - US internment of Japanese inland from US west coast
- World War II, late (1944-1945+)
 - Pacific: Guadalcanal/leapfrogging campaign
 - Europe: Normandy/D.D. Eisenhower; Battle of the Bulge

- World War II, late (1944-1945+) - Continued
 - Shift to Cold War
 - Death of FDR April, 1945; Harry Truman as President
 - 1944-GI Bill –Why?
 - Atomic bomb on Hiroshima & Nagasaki

The Pre-War and WWII and Groups

- African Americans- law & threat DC March; Tuskegee Airmen
- Farmers-improve with AAA and WWII
- Immigrants- Jews (Holocaust) and refugees across Europe
- Racists- continuing but New Deal had law on employment
- Unions-industrial unions rise, with the sit-down strikes, creating a new part of the middle class
- Women-Rosie the Riveter

Traits of World War I and World War II

If given **at least** 3 facts about these traits, recognize whether the trait applied to World War I or World War II:

- What nations fought each other?
- What technologies were used?
- What was the initial US response to the war in Europe?
- What was the US role in the war?
- What happened to vets after the war?
- What international organization was created after the war to try to reduce the likelihood of war? Are there any additional international organizations created for this purpose?

- Backgrounds to Pearl Harbor – isolationism and ways around it
 - 1939 Russia and Germany, non-aggression pact
 - 1940 National Research Committee (and the Einstein connection—alerting FDR to the Nazi’s nuclear plans)
 - 1940 Battle of Britain
 - 1940 Japan goes into formerly French IndoChina
 - America First Committee – Charles Lindbergh, actions that reduce his reputation
 - FDR:
 - 1940 - Destroyers for Bases Agreement
 - 1941 – Lend-Lease
 - Rationing starts (Why? – To preserve materials for the war and to make sure the sacrifice was not just by the middle class and the poor.)

¹ Phrase by W. Churchill

2. War production – changes to groups – Scarcity and “Great Arsenal of Democracy” and the shift to potential prosperity
 - Women –Rosie the Riveter (6M)
 - Tuskegee Airman/segregated units (Earlier, 1941 Threatened black march on Washington)

3. War, POWs, and slave labor – Japanese in and out of the US
 - 1941 Japan takes multiple Pacific areas, including Philippines (later Bataan Death March and slave labor)
 - 1941, December 7th Pearl Harbor
 - Exec. Order 9066 (relocation of the Japanese from the west coast)
 - 1942 North Africa
 - 1943 Russia stops Germany at Stalingrad
 - 1943 Guadalcanal (after “leapfrog”)
 - 1943 Italy

4. Normandy through partition
 - 1944, June D.D. Eisenhower, Allies –and years more fighting in Europe and Pacific – Concentration camps found
 - 1945, April UN Charter – FDR dead/HS Truman
 - 1945, June Partition of Berlin and Germany
 - 1945 Nuremberg trials agreed to
 - 1945, Hiroshima, atomic bomb (Aug. 6) and then Nagasaki (Aug. 9)—and we no longer need Russian troops

5. In the midst of war, a look to solve a problem of the past and to a better future – G.I. Bill
 - Unemployment for 1 year
 - Loans for home/start business
 - Hospitals
 - Education

6. Remaining war issues
 - Europe – Holocaust and the slow shift from racism
 - and the beginning of the Cold War
 - Pacific – Japan and Douglas MacArthur

7. Shift to American supremacy and the shift **from** isolationism
[1939 to 1945 FDR to Truman](#) - notice the grey items.

Optional Resources:

Two links to help you as the equivalent of a searchable textbook:

- This link provides explanations to show the [shifts in the United States and Internationally](#) (Link Address: http://www.cjbibus.com/1939_1945_National_International_Shifts.htm):
 - Before the US joins the war
 - From 1941-1943
 - From 1943-1945
- If you want details about specific events, this chronology has footnotes: Click [here for 1939 to 1945 FDR to Truman](#) for the chronology. Link Address: http://www.cjbibus.com/1939_1945_FDRoosevelt_Truman.pdf

Tip: If you want to know more about items above, click on the chronology or and then use Ctrl-F to search for the name of the item. **Example:** Press Ctrl-F and type **non-agg** to see the context for the **non-aggression** pact between enemies that seemed impossible—an agreement with the German fascists and the Russian communists. After that, you see the two nations splitting Poland.

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WCJC Department: History – Dr. Bibus
Contact Information: 281.239.1577 or bibusc@wcjc.edu
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