Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

03/05/2021

CH 26 Focus Questions 2,4, 5 (300-325 words)

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2. Americans’ employment had been on rocky ground for over a decade prior to the Second World War, and the economic stability changed greatly over the war. After the brief economic success of the New Deal, the immense government spending following the war dwarfed New Deal, and all other government program, spending, and caused an unprecedented War-induced Economic Recovery. At this time, workers gained much strength due to their demands, and did Unions. The Office of Price Administration controlled inflation caused by federal spending and was one successful attempt to curb it on a national scale. Roosevelt also recreated the War Productions Board, to redirect and control the economy to mobilize it and prepare it for war once again. The factories and war production facilities necessary desperately needed workers, and as men moved out to war, they plugged into a new, crucial supply. Women, eager to help, were finally given an opportunity to work in previously men’s workspaces, leading to a dramatic increase in female employment. Women flooded every field of labor, from agriculture, construction, resource extraction, service, new government jobs, and famously, industrial jobs, such as the “Rosie the Riveter” figure suggested (#216,p.182). Over a third of all workers were women by the end of the war. Along with women, African Americans, and other minorities, had increased influence and opportunities, and supported their country, through efforts as parts of Unions and even by fighting in the war (#217, p.185). Roosevelt gave in to demands of fair employment, as millions of African Americans migrated to industrial cities during the war, filling jobs. Mexican Americans had similar gains and were warily welcomed into the country to work in war factories. Thousands of Native Americans moved from reservations to work in factories and supported the war effort, many of them drawn to capitalist American life. Many of these deeply transformative changes stayed far after the war, and became the new normal for America.

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4. America, after joining the war two years late, emerged from the Second World War as one of the most powerful and influential nation in history, due to a multitude of reasons. America was uniquely set up to become an economic powerhouse before and during the war. The businesses and factories that created massive economic booms in the decades prior and had stagnated over the past decade were reignited, with the skills of mass production and industry, becoming the Arsenal of Democracy. Over the course of the war, America was not stretched to its limits, but faced good economic times. Another crucial advantage America had was its geography. The continental US was never threatened over the course of the war and was a safe place for investment, development, and continued economic growth. American civilians were rarely in harm’s way, and few were harmed, unlike most other nations, where bombing and total war led to decimation of the populace and production. Around forty million civilians died in the war, and almost zero were in the United States. Prior to the war, the United States signed the Atlantic Charter, setting up a postwar world with America at the center, and one with American ideals and interests at heart. This eventually became much of the premise of the United Nations Charter (#220, p.193). The United States and its Allies were also incredibly good at destroying the Axis, especially with the start of the atomic warfare at the hands of Truman. Unlike after the first World War, America was determined not to revert once again to isolationism. Truman was adamant about creating a new world order to secure peace and to fight for future prosperity (#219, p192). The United States, unlike after the Great War, had maintained practices that would prevent another recession, and if managed properly, would clearly be setup as a major player for the following decades.

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5. Every major war that America took part in caused major changes at home, many in the form of a crackdown of civil rights. The first World War was no exception. Crackdowns on news and differing ideologies by the United States government was widespread, especially as the Socialist Party grew in size in decades prior. The press and freedom of speech was infringed upon as fears of foreign influence, xenophobia, and foreign bogeymen grew. Many of these were repeated in the Second World War, and new even more atrocious civil rights violations were committed in the war. Roosevelt believed that all American people were in grave danger, and that all actions to support the war effort must be taken (#215, p.182). However, in his quest to do this, he and the Federal Government committed some unforgivable actions. There was little info given on restrictions on the press, but the secretive nature of the government regarding the Manhattan Project and other important events implies that they were kept in the dark, but not suppressed. However, the most atrocious civil rights violation, and one that will be a stain on American history forever, wit he Internment of Japanese Americans. Dozens of thousands of Japanese American citizens and immigrants were sent off to “Relocation Centers”, where they were forced to stay for four years. They were forced to give away their land and belongings and were never given reparations. The 1944 Court case Korematsu V U.S. decided that this violation of civil rights was constitutional. All of this was a result of ani Japanese American racism, which had existed prior to the war, but reached new extremes during it. Conclusions were drawn from insufficient info in reports by Americans, and were acted on (#218, p190). This great civil rights violation eventually was condemned but was and will always be a stain on this country.

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