Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

03/08/21

Chapter 25-26 Test

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Battles

For the first few years of the war, from 1939-1941, it seemed as if the Axis was unstoppable. Germany executed the invasion of Poland and the Fall of France swiftly, pushing Britain onto the back foot. Italy and Japan were quick to take advantage, seizing land from the distracted Allies. Even after Pearl Harbor and the United States’ entry into the war, prospects were bleak for the Allies. In the Pacific front, the United States’ Navy was able to stop Japanese conquest at Midway Island with a decisive naval victory, retaking control of the central Pacific. Further south, General McArthur led troops in the Soloman Islands, forcing the Japanese to retreat. In Europe, the United States planned with Britain and the Soviet Union for its next moves. The United States overrode Stalin’s wishes to start a new front in Western Europe and instead opened a new war front in North Africa in late 1942, at first getting destroyed by the experienced Germans at Kasserine Pass. However, over the next year, combined British and American forces took the offensive, clearing the area of Axis forces and even pushing north into Sicily. At the same time, the Soviet Union pushed back Germany at the bloody Battle of Stalingrad, creating a turning point for the war in favor of the Allies. In June 1944, the Western Allies finally opened a new front in Europe after winning D-Day. As the Soviet Union pushed in on Germany from the East and the Western Allies came in from the West, it was just a matter of time till Germany capitulated. However, in December of 1944, they did attempt one final counteroffensive, the Battle of the Bulge, which failed to turn the tide. As the Allies continued to move into Germany and into Berlin, in May 1945 the Nazis surrendered. The Pacific front was also going well by this point, as the US continued to move from island to island, finally at the gates of Japan after Okinawa. However, instead of invading, they chose to bomb Japan until it capitulated, ending the second world war.

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The US Homefront

The United States Homefront, despite being thousands of miles away from any danger throughout the course of the war, experienced significant societal and economic changes during World War Two. The most striking and well-remembered change was definitely the economic recovery brought upon by the war. After years of slow recovery, the massive federal spending, multitudes more than every spent before by the Government, created a boom much greater than the New Deal. Despite pumping billions into the economy, inflation was minimized by the Office of Price Administration, an unpopular agency which regulated all prices and government wages. Another war agency created was the War Productions Board, based of its namesake from the Great War, had broad powers to control production and the economy, but never fully used it. These administrations and offices created and regulated the economy more than ever before, and the Federal Government was controlling the entire nation. The nation was united in the war effort, almost knowing someone sent off to work or working in war production factories. Different groups of people and minorities also gained more power and influence than ever before. African Americans successfully lobbied FDR to create a Fair Employment Practices Commission, to help reduce discrimination for the growing African American presence in cities and factories. Native Americans and Mexican Americans moved to factories in unprecedented numbers. All minorities sent people to war, in hopes of gaining more influence. Women were also critical in the war effort, accounting for large amounts of the workforce as men left for the armies. The “Rosie the Riveter” symbolized the boundaries that women broke through during this time period, as they begin work in heavy industry. However, most women ended up working in the newly expanded government bureaucracy in service jobs. Despite the war and millions of people shipped away from the country and maybe because of it, America experienced good economic times for the first time in almost a decade and enjoyed amenities and prosperity unrivaled elsewhere in the world.

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