

AP United States History

World War II Homefront

- Mass mobilization
 - Mass mobilization of American society helped end the Great Depression
 - Country's strong industrial base played a pivotal role in winning the war by equipping and provisioning allies and millions of US troops
- War Efforts Ramp up Even Before 1941
 - Huge federal spending by Congress in 1939 and 1940 for the military
 - War Resources Board — 1939: Plans for industrial mobilization in the event of war
 - 1940: FDR orders 50,000 planes
 - Government awarding defense contract \$1.5 billion
- War Production Board and Employment Trends
 - Established in 1942 to regulate use of raw materials during war
 - Similar to war boards of WWI
 - Unemployment ends almost overnight
 - In fact, there were labor shortages in the US economy
- War Effort Leads to Debt, Helps out of Depression
 - Debt grows six fold during the forties
 - Part of FDR's Keynesian spending and war effort economics
 - GDP grows greatly during the war
- American Values Changed
 - Wartime experiences, such as the internment of Japanese Americans
 - Challenges to civil liberties, debates over race and segregation
 - Raised questions about American Values
 - Many questioned why a war on Hitler was based on a war of liberty and equality when such values weren't effectively implemented at home
- Japanese Americans
 - War led to latent prejudice against the Japanese in the United States

- Executive Order 9066 issued by FDR to remove 127,000 Japanese from the west coast to inland internment camps
- Korematsu Conclusion
 - In a 6-3 opinion, majority concludes that Japanese internment was not unconstitutional during wartime
- Braceros
 - The Bracero Program grew from series of bilateral agreements btwn Mexico + US
 - Allowed millions of Mexican men to come to the US to work on, short-term, primarily agricultural labor contracts to avoid formal immigration procedures
- Executive Order 8802
 - FDR orders a ban on discrimination in war-related industries
- Double V Campaign
 - Victory abroad against Germany and Japan and victory at home for civil rights
 - First Sit-ins and boycotts related to civil rights
- Women during the War
 - Government highly encourages women to take up jobs
 - Women joined the workforce in increasing numbers
 - Factories were working 24 hours per day
 - Many war posters showing women at work
 - Change from Great Depression women who were discouraged from taking male jobs