1940s: War and After

I. Two areas of inquiry

A. social causes of WWII

1. not hurricane Hitler, tornado Mussolino

2. social causes

B. social transformations consequences

1. domestic - US

2. global

II. Causes of the war - idols of the cave

A. Germany, Italy, Japan fascism threatened "free" world

1. Hitler, Mussolini, ToJo emerged and allied themselves

2. tyrants leading politically and socially repressive

regimes - unfreedom, inequality

3. conquer to world

B. Germany's genocidal racial policy

III. Social causes of war

A. Treaty of Versailles

1. reparations

2. loss of land and resources,

3. de-militarization

4. loss of colonies

B. cause social, economic, and political instability in

Germany

1. inflation, depression, unemployment

2. contributed to world-wide depression

3. tied democracy to treaty

4. lack of support by large corporations

B. US fear of Germany's control of markets, that it would

exclude US

1. John J. McCloy, a key figure in the War Department, "With German control of the buyers of Europe and her practice of government control of all trade, it would be well within her power as well as the pattern she has thus far displayed to shut off our trade with Europe, with South America, and with the Far East."

2. in other words, it would interfere with our own

expansionist goals and 500 years of European colonialism

C. Japan's rapid industrialization and economic expansion and

competition threatened US

State Department Memorandum

"Our general diplomatic and strategic position would be considerably weakened-by our loss of Chinese, Indian and South Seas markets (and by our loss of much of the Japanese market for our goods, as Japan would become more and more self-sufficient) as well as by insurmountable restrictions upon our access to the rubber, tin, jute, and other vital s of the Asian and Oceanic regions."

D. Japan's invasion of French Indochina threatened

1. European - Asian colonialism

2. our access to raw material and markets

E. It was therefore a world war in two senses

1. fought throughout the globe

2. fought for control of the globe, especially third world

and its markets, resources, and cheap labor

IV. WWII

A. US marks it from Dec 7, 1941 and Japanese attack on

the military base at Pearl Harbor "a day of infamy"

B. However,

1. 1933-41 Hitler appointed chancellor, elected popularly, established dicatorship of Nazis party

a. outlawed other parties and imprisoned or killed

b. gypsies attacked, along with mentally ill,

c. began marginalization of Jewish population

d. broke Treaty of Versailles by rearming and

retaking the Rhineland 1936

e. signed military alliance with fascist Italy and

Japan

i. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935

ii. Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 and

China in 1936/7

iii. Hitler supported fascist side in Spanish

civil war

2. No one did anything,

a. 1935 US signed Neutrality Act

b. world , US include, came to Berlin in 1936 for the Olympics and scheduled the next Olympics there

c. huge pr for Nazis

d. encouraged them to carry on

e. 1936 US sold arms to both sides cash and carry

3. Nazis annexed Austria next, no one did anything -1938

4. Nazis occupied part of Czech - 1938

5. Germany invaded Poland in Sep of 1939

a. signed 10 year non-aggression pact with

Soviet Union

b. they partitioned Poland, Germany in west and

Russia in East

6. France and England declared war 1939

7. Hitler invaded northern Europe and occupied France

by 1940, and began systematic bombing of England

a. March 1941 US began Lend/Lease program

b. US began first non-war time draft

c. tripled its military budget

8. Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria joined Axis alliance

9. Germany invaded Greece and Yugoslavia

10Hitler invaded Russia in summer 1941, largest invasion in history, 5 million, 200 divisions

a. took millions of prisoners

b. killed million

C. Japan

1. Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931

2. Japan invaded China in 1936-37

3. Japan invaded French Indochina

a. source of rubber, tin, and other resources

b. resisted by Viet Minh

4. US reaction to invasion of French Indochina

a. assets frozen (also in GB and Holland)

b. embargo on oil

5. Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec 7, 1941 and

Clark in the Philippines

a. took Indonesia from the Dutch

b. took Indochina from the French

c. took the Philippines from America,

d. took Malayasia, Singapore, and Burma

from the British

6. Dec 10 US and GB declared war on Japan but not

on Germany, Germany declared war on US

a. US fully mobilized

7. Allies signed Atlantic Charter August 1941

a. guaranteed self-determination to countries who

fought on our side

b. countries that had previously been colonies of

European colonialism

c. "all men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want”

D. Allied war effort

1. Most US soldiers saw no action until 1944, they were

in Italy and N. Africa facing 20 German divisions

a. 10 to 12 million in military

2. June 6,1944 176,000 men on the beaches of Normandy by Sep retaken France and Belgium

a. Saving Private Ryan

b. The Longest Day

3. May 4, 1945 VE day

4. Battles in Pacific

a. Chinese Communists

b. Ho Chi Minh

c. US soldiers, island by island, The Thin Red

Line

5. VJ Day Aug , 1945

V. "Nightmarish world of violence and death" - WWII transforms war itself

A. Global in nature 55 million killed, 400,000 Americans,

20 million Russians, mostly civilians

B. Much of Europe destroyed

1. millions of homes, factories, buildings

2. infrastucture “The Painted Bird”

C. SE Asia faced mass destruction and starvation

B. new technologies of destruction and strategies

1. civilians became legitimate targets

a. saturation bombing, incindiery bombs, firestorms

i. Tokyo

ii. Dresden

b. undermine will of civilian population

2. Napalm - Royan

3. atomic weapons

a. Hiroshima and Nagasake

b. Fat man and little boy

4. genocide

a. Jews and gypsies

b. brutal war crimes: Rape of Nanking

VII. America at home during the War

A. War ended the Great Depression

1. Govt spending on war effort

a. increased jobs 1940 14% unemployment by

1943 virtually none

b. increased profit for many corporations

c. GNP 2x during four years, almost 50% to military

d. increased income, mainly through overtime,

real wages +29% from 1939-1045

e. increased social wage

i. access toschools, health care, clinics

ii. govt financed cafeterias, child care,

in-plant training

B. emergence of huge govt bureaucracy to organize and

control war effort (example Office of Price Admin,

73,000 employees and 200,000 volunteers)

1. War Production Board mainly business learders

a. no anti-trust laws

b. government paid costs in building means of

production

1. rubber industry

c. low interest loans

d. cost "plus" contracts

2. War Labor Board to arbitrate labor management

disputes and wages

3. Office of Price Administration to set price ceilings and organize rationing

E. Concentration of the economy in fewer and fewer and

larger corporations

E. Government control of ideas

1. Smith Act in 1940

2. Film Industry: the power of mass media

a. open 24 hours a day, did well

b. war films

c. propaganda

i. John Ford

ii. Frank Capra

F. experience of women in workforce

a. 11 million to 20 million

b. areas like auto production, electrical manufacture

G. experience of blacks in workforce

H. Zoot Suit Riots

I. Science, university, and government

a. Manhattan Project

VI. American Century

A. WWII had radically changed the face of the globe and it

had radically changed American society

1. war ended colonialism

a. Atlantic Charter

b. total devastation of infrastructure and economy

in east and west

2. ended the depression

a. within months 6 of 10 million employed

1. disposable income

b. raised expectations of women and minorities

B. Two questions

1. How do we convert to peacetime economy? Shape our

society

2. How do we shape our world - Pax Americana

a. US is empire

b. promise of "self-determination"

C. US Empire

1. Task

G. Kennan:We have about 50 per cent of the world's wealth, but only 6.3 percent of its population . . . . In this situation, we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity . . . (Grand Area Strategy)

2. Reality is power

We need not deceive ourselves that we can afford today the luxury of altruism and world benefaction . . . . We hould cease talk about vague and . . . unreal objectives such as human rights (human rights aggreement and genocide covenant), the raising of living standards, and democratization (communism). The day is not far off when we are goig to have to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better."

3. InterventionRepression

"the final answer might be an unpleasant one, but . . . we should not hesistate before police repression by the local government. ( indeed would need to train, arm, and advise them). This is not shameful, since the communists are essentially traitors . . . . It is better to have a strong regime in powert than a liberal government if it is indulgent and relaxed and penetrated by Communists."

4. what is a communist

Paraphrase: a group that believes the government has a direct responsibility for the welfare of the people

D. the plan

1. Bretton Woods

2. Grand Area Strategy

a. Truman Doctrine

b. Marshall Plan

c. Reorganization of Third World

d. Violation of Atlantic Charter

E. Threats

1. evil empire - domino principle

a. arms race to extermination

2. wars of national liberation

a. new kind of war, guerrilla

b. which required new techniques and had

problems

F. Full industrialization converted to peacetime economy

1. Transform industrial production to consumer goods

and construction

a. create jobs

b. create dream that involves constant buying

"keeping up with the Joneses"

c. GI Bill

2. subsidize large corporations by giving them

means of production built during war

a. steel, auto, rubber, aircraft

b. oil reserves

3. prime the economy with continued war production

a. cold war serves purpose

b. 10% of gnp over one-half of budget = $400 billion

G. Problems

1. GI problems

a. Man in a Grey Flannel Suit

b. The Best Years of Our Lives

2. Communism at home

a.. Taft-Hartley anti-labor is really anti-communist

i. commies and socialists out

ii. mafia in

b. Communism and the film Industy

i. "blacklist"

ii. *I Married a Communist*

c. blacks

i. America still segregated, "hate strikes"

and "race riots"

ii. Truman's civil rights committee

"America's not walking its talk"

d. women "excused" "encourage"

e. government, universities, mass media the "modern stance

f. Cold War

i. thousands of US military exposed to radiation poisoning 1945-62

ii. 1945-47 US govt scientists injected lethal

dozes of plutonium into 18, 16 died slow, agonizing death

iii. 700 people 31 experiments

5. Emergence of UN

a. Human Rights

b. Genocide Covenant

Just and Unjust Wars

I. Howard Zinn

A. Professor of History at BU and civil and human rights activist, radical yet popular works

1. People's History of the US

2. Declarations of Independence: Crossexamining American Ideology

B. Bombadier in B17 in WWII, "never again

1. most contoversial essay "Just and Unjust Wars"

2. universal rejection of war as ever being morally

justifiable

II. What does he mean by war and what does he me by morally justificable?

A. War

1. necessary and realistic though not desirable means

to achieve good ends

2. institutionalization of military

a. formal bureacratic structure

b. authoritarian structure

c. defense against aggressive countries

3. conflict resolution through combat between military

4. War needs to be humanized though - 1932 Geneva Convention

B. War is justified

1. all wars are justified as holy wars

2. as wars of defense by good empire against

evil

a. aspect of all wars portraying the other

as evil

b. and the other soldier, child, woman as less

than human

III. Unjustifiable war

A. has war become more civilized

1. Saturation bombing

2. napalm and agent orange

3. Hiroshima/Nagasake

4. land mines (anti-personnel)

5. chemical warfare ( Iraq against Kurds, Iran)

6. biological and genetically engineered warfare

7. anit-personnel bombs

8. irradiated armaments

9. impersonal armaments

10. boycotts

11. target civilian populations

B. nation-states and the ends of war

1. what is a nation-state

a. organized and centralized power

b. hierarchical and asymmetrical

c. essential to capitalism

i. competes for "its"

markets, resources, labor

ii. protects vital interests

iii. defined by and for those in power

d. war is continuation of politics by other means

e. in so-called liberal democracies never presented

that way - propaganda

i. Schenck and Plutarch poor fight and die for

the benefit of the rich (241)

ii. Spanish-American War, WWII, Indian Wars