

Despite disagreements, the Americans were united on the conflict, but it was tested during the early months, as the war was going very badly. Britain was ready to collapse, the Soviets were staggering, and Allied strongholds were falling to Japan. So they need to stave off defeat at first. Ten hours after Pearl Harbour, Japan destroyed most of America's air power in the Pacific. A few days later, Guam, Wake Island, and the British colony in Hong Kong fall to Japan. Singapore, Dutch East Indies, Burma, and the Philippines surrender. There were two American offensives. One, under General Douglas MacArthur, would move North from Australia, through New Guinea, and the Philippines. The other, under Admiral Chester Nimitz, would move west from Hawaii. These would ultimately invade Japan. Their first important victory was in the Battle of Coral Sea in 1942, turning back the Japanese Fleet, and then there was another important turning point in Midway Island, where the States lost many troops but were victorious, destroying four Japanese aircraft carriers and regaining control of the Central Pacific. Their first offensive was in the southern Solomon Islands, which developed at Guadalcanal and continued for six months, with heavy losses, but the Japanese were forced to abandon the island and their last chance at launching an effective Southern offensive. So by mid 1943, initiative in the Pacific had shifted to the States, ending the Japanese offense. With aid from Australia and New Zealand, Americans began the process of moving toward the Philippines and Japan. In Europe, the States had less control over the military, for they were fighting in cooperation with Britain and the Free French forces while trying to conciliate the Soviet Union. Army chief of staff General George Marshall supported an Allied invasion of France, but there were challenges from the allies. Soviets were absorbing most of the German effort, and wanted the Allied invasion to happen as early as possible. The British wanted to first launch offensives around the edge of the Nazi empire, so North Africa and South Europe, before invading France. Roosevelt knew supporting the British would anger the Soviets and delay France, but he also knew this would take a while to prepare and was reluctant because of this, so he supports the British. In October 1942, the British opened a counteroffensive in North Africa. Germans threw their full weight there, causing a serious defeat at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia. General George Patton, however, regrouped for an effective counteroffensive. With help of the Allied air and naval power and British, under General Bernard Montgomery, they drove the last Germans from Africa in May 1943. This had tied up a large amount of Allied resources, so the invasion of France was postponed, making the Soviets angry. However, the threat of the Soviet collapse has diminished, for during the winter the Red Army held off an assault at Stalingrad, though that population was decimated. Hitler suffered appalling losses and could not continue his eastern offensive, so Roosevelt agreed to an Allied invasion of Sicily, which happened 9 July 1943, where they gradually conquer the island and move toward the mainland. Mussolini's gov collapsed, and his successor quickly committed to the Allies, but Germany established a defensive line, and the Allies didn't capture Rome until 4 June 1944. So while this invasion of Italy helped, it postponed the France invasion and the Soviets believed this was to make them absorb most of the fighting, giving them time to move towards eastern Europe. By 1942, there was evidence that Hitler had been rounding up Jews and others into concentration camps, and public pressure builds to end the killing or rescue some. The American gov resisted this, and all requests to do so were denied. They also resist admitting large numbers of Jewish refugees, but this was established well before Pearl Harbor. The St. Louis, from Germany, was refused entry. The State Department doesn't even use up the number of visas, which was because several higher ups, including Assistant Secretary Breckinridge Long, were anti-semites. After 1941, there was probably little that could be done to save Hitler's victims, but they still did do nothing, saying that they just had to focus on winning the war.

The last consuming military experience had been in the Civil War, and the gov says that a war is between using all power under its command. American forces combat around the globe, and society underwent changes that reach throughout the nation. The most profound impact of the war was the end of the great Depression, as unemployment, deflation, and industrial sluggishness ended. The most important agent of

prosperity was federal spending, which pumped more money into the economy than all of the New Deal. The federal budget increased, GNP soared, personal incomes rose, and there was even a shortage in consumer goods, so wealth turned to savings which would sustain the economic boom postwar. The impact of gov spending was most dramatic in the West, as it became the launching point for the war against Japan. Their economy was also transformed, becoming the center of American aircraft industry, the shipbuilding industry, and overall became one of the most important manufacturing areas and the fastest growing postwar region. There was now a labor shortage, and the civilian workforce increased. Union membership rose, but there were restrictions. The government wanted to prevent inflation and keep production moving, so there was a 15 percent limit on wartime wage increases, and a pledge for unions to not stop production in wartime. In return, the government insisted on more people in unions, so unions are healthy but cannot make major economic demands. Some resent these restrictions, so there were still work stoppages, most unauthorized by leadership, and when the United Mine Workers strike, Congress passed the Smith Connally Act, also called the War Labor Disputes Act, which required unions to wait thirty days before striking and empowered the president to seize struck war plants. So public animosity toward labor rose, and states passed laws limiting union power. The fear of deflation in the 1930s gave way to the fear of inflation, so the Anti Inflation act gave authority to freeze agricultural prices, wages, salaries, and rents, and would be enforced by the Office of the Price Administration, led by Leon Henderson then Chester Bowles. The OPA was never popular, because of resistance, and the system of rationing consumer goods was scarce, so the black market and overcharging grew beyond policing capability. The fed gov spent twice as much as it had during the entire existence during the war, so national debt rose. They borrowed half the revenues needed, and got the rest with the Revenue Act of 1942, which radically raised income taxes and even imposed them on the lowest income families, and enacted a withholding system of payroll deductions in 1943. The search for how to mobilize the economy started in 1939 and lasted for four years, as agencies failed. Finally, in 1942, the War Production Board, under Donald Nelson, was similar to the previous War Industries Board and was supposed to be a superagency with broad powers over the economy, though it didn't have as much authority as the WIB. The WPB could never control military purchases, or satisfy small businesses. Their authority was transferred to the Office of War Mobilization under senator James Byrnes, which was only slightly more successful. Still, the economy met most of the nation's critical war needs. New factories were funded by the fed gov Defense Plants Corporation, and the synthetic rubber industry emerged. By 1944, they produced more goods than needed. World War Two was filled with technological and scientific innovation, in part because of the fed gov pouring funds into R and D, like with the National Defense Research Committee. At first, all tech advantages seemed to lie in the Germans and Japanese, with their tanks, submarine technology, and naval air technology. But Britain and America had more effective mass production, so by 1942, both sides were fairly equal. American and British improve radar and sonar tech that helped end part of the naval war, particularly with centimetric radar, and radar can be miniaturized, eventually putting the Allies far ahead of Germany and Japan. Allies also learned how to detect and disable naval mines, and when the Germans introduced the acoustic mine, Allies counter it. Anglo American anti aircraft technology improved, though not quite to the point of stopping raids. German advances in rocket technology have psychological effects, but didn't produce enough to make a difference. In 1942, Anglo American forces produced new bombers that were more powerful than Germany, which relied on their Gee navigation system, but only skilled pilots could use this well, but this did lead to a devastating raid on German industrial and military installations in the Ruhr valley. The Oboe system, which sent sonic messages, was also effective. Their greatest advantage was in gathering intelligence, mostly through Britain's Ultra project. Some advantages came from stealing intelligence devices, but most came from cryptologists, with the Enigma machine. Polish intelligence developed an electro mechanical computer called the Bombe that could decipher some enigma messages, and Alan Turing helped improve it until it was quickly and constantly providing new information. British also built

the first programmable digital computer, the Colossus Two, operational less than a week before the Normandy invasion, which also deciphered messages nearly instantly. The American breakthroughs were in their Magic operation, which broke a Japanese coding system with a device called Purple, which, if properly interpreted, could have alerted them of Pearl Harbor, but since it seemed inconceivable, most failed to understand this information. During World War One, blacks gained little, so this time they want to make demands instead of currying favor. In 1941, A. Randolph insisted that the gov require companies with defense contracts to integrate workforces, and he planned a march to the capital. Roosevelt convinced him to cancel the march in return for a Fair Employment Practices Commission to investigate discrimination in war industries, but it's limited, though it is a symbolic victory. Demand for labor brought more migration of blacks, with many more than the Great Migration had. Economic conditions improve, but urban tensions occasionally lead to violence. The Congress of Racial Equality, organized in 1942, mobilized mass popular resistance to discrimination. Randolph, Bayard Rustin and James Farmer organized sit ins and other demonstrations, and won when they forced a D C restaurant to serve blacks. Their defiant spirit will help produce the civil rights movement. In the military, segregation begins to become less limited due to public and political pressure as well as a lack of manpower, so blacks do more than just menial tasks. Still, there were tensions and riots, but race relations were finally eroding. About 25 thousand Native Americans performed military service, many in combat, but others as code talkers. Subsidies to tribes dwindled, however, and many left to work in war plants, getting a taste of capitalist America, so while some don't return to reservations and assimilate, others draw back to reservations. This undermined support that the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 launched, as there are more pressures to eliminate reservations and require assimilations, so much so that John Collier resigned. Large numbers of Mexican workers fulfilled labor shortages, and the governments agreed in 1942 that braceros, contract laborers, would be admitted for a limited time to work on certain jobs. During the Depression, many Mexicans were deported, but now they're needed again and start finding factory jobs, instead of just farm jobs. This sudden expansion produced tensions and the occasional conflict. Many teens were joining street gangs, called pachucos, which wore zoot suits that whites considered outrageous, though this was borrowed from Harlem fashions. Animosity produced a riot in Los Angeles in 1943, where whites attacked zoot suiters, police did little about this, and then L A passed a law prohibiting wearing zoot suits. War drew women into more roles, as the number in the workforce increased, and many were more likely to be married. They replaced males, but there were still obstacles, like work being categorized by race. Employers invest in assembly lines to reduce the need for heavy labor. Recruiting materials for women made domestic analogies, but women still made inroads to industrial employment, including taking jobs thought of as men's work. The famous image of Rosie the Riveter symbolized the importance of the female industrial workforce, and women join unions, eroding some amount of prejudice. Most women were still in service jobs, including in the government. D C was flooded with female clerks, secretaries, and typists, known as government girls. Clerical employment expanded, and even military related female work was clerical. New opportunities produced new problems, as many men were in the military, and child care facilities were scarce, meaning latchkey children happened. Juvenile crime rose, but what was more distinctive was that teenage employment increased, and high school enrollment decreased. Return of prosperity increased and lowered marriage, but divorce rates rose. The birth rate was the great postwar baby boom. Worry was abundant during the war, etcetera. But the abundance of the war years led to buoyancy in life that made the conflict partly subdued. People could spend money again, and magazines, like Life, meet peak popularity. Places are jammed with customers. Advertisers exhort Americans to support the war effort to ensure future consumer life. The Saturday Evening Post's mock letter to Japan emphasized this. Troops seemed to justify their fighting for future prosperity and their home rather than against their enemy. For men, they dream of the home, women, and what becomes one of the most popular icons of the front, the pinup. The wholesome women were seen as critical to maintaining morale. U S O recruited women as hostesses, and dance brigades happened, all which would dress nicely, dance,

and happily chat with men, though we're not supposed to see these men again. Regulations were violated, and elaborate measures were taken to root out homosexuals from the military, though healthy heterosexuality was tolerated. World War Two did not produce as much repression as the previous. There was some barring of a few seditious papers, but nothing so general. The most ambitious effort to publish fascists was a mistrial and the defendants went free. And there wasn't as much ethnic or cultural animosity. Wartime restrictions on some Italians happened, but as a whole, the war blurred ethnic distinctions. Sauerkraut was not liberty cabbage, and there was little hostility towards Germans and Italians, instead hostility towards their propaganda. Pop culture didn't present ethnicity as a menacing difference, instead as a healthy diversity. Participation from different ethnic backgrounds in the war encouraged change. However, Japanese Americans were the exception. Americans always had a different attitude towards the Asian enemy, as they seemed to be devious, malign, cruel people, and Pearl Harbor only confirmed this. And despite assimilation, this prejudice continued. They were considered so foreign that they could not become real Americans. Because of this, Japanese Americans continued to live in close knit communities, reinforcing the belief that they were menacing. Pearl Harbor only increased prejudices, and produced lurid stories about how Japanese Americans were conspiring to aid the enemy in an attack on California. Earl Warren, attorney general of California, said their passivity was evidence of their danger. There was pressure in California to remove the Japanese threat, popular sentiment was more tolerant than official sentiment. Sec of Navy Frank Knox said that Pearl Harbor was internal sabotage, though this was entirely false. General John DeWitt, senior military commander on the West Coast, claimed having no confidence in Japanese American loyalty, and said that there was no difference between Japanese and Japanese Americans. In Feb 1942, Roosevelt authorized the army to intern Japanese Americans, with the War Relocation Authority overseeing this, essentially sending Japanese Americans into prison like facilities called internment camps. They talked of them as places where they could be Americanized, but they were a target of white economic aspirations, not missionary work. Washington did not comply, but the W R A did hire out inmates as agricultural laborers. Internment never produced popular opposition, and Americans largely forgot about them beyond taking over their abandoned property. In 1943, some did leave camps to attend colleges in the East, while others did get to work in factories, and some were even in the military, though no work in the West coast. In 1944, the Supreme Court ruled in *Korematsu v U S* that relocation was constitutional, but in a different case barred internment of loyal citizens. By the end of 1944, most were released, and by 1945, allowed to return to the West Coast. Those still alive in 1988 won some compensation for their losses. Chinese American social and legal status was greatly enhanced. In 1943, the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed, and more immigrants, primarily women, entered the States. Racial animosity declined, partially because of propaganda with positive images of the Chinese, and Chinese Americans took jobs that moved them out of Chinatown. A higher proportion of Chinese Americans were drafted than any other national group. In 1943, Roosevelt says that the New Deal has given way to Winning the War, which also reflects that liberals were having a hard time enacting new programs or keeping old ones. Conservatives in Congress used the war to dismantle the new Deal. The end to unemployment decreased the need for the C C C and W P A. Republicans also increased majorities in Congress in 1942. Roosevelt quietly accepted defeat in order to win support for war policies and peace plans, and realized that reelection relied on world peace, not domestic issues. Republicans approach the 1944 election with exploiting what they believe was unhappiness, and appoint Thomas Dewey. Roosevelt had to accept Harry Truman as vice president. The campaign revolved around domestic issues and indirectly the president's health, but Roosevelt is reelected and democrats kept control of Congress.

By mid 1943, the allies had stopped the axis advance, and found themselves with powerful offensives for two years. By 1944, A and B bombers were regularly attacking German industry, and bombed several important cities Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin, killing many and destroying production and transportation as

well as morale, which cleared the way for the invasion of France. Air battles also weakened the Luftwaffe, or the German air force, and then the breaking of the Enigma code helped. On 6 June 1944, also known as D Day, General Dwight Eisenhower launched the attack up the coast of Normandy, and within a week, forces were dislodged from the coast. Progress was slow, but in the Battle of Saint Lo, General Bradley smashed through German lines, and General Patton drove to the heart of France. On August 25, Free French occupied Paris and liberated the city from four years of German occupation, and by mid September, the Allies had driven the Germans almost entirely out of France and Belgium. Their drive came to a halt at Rhine River where there were firm German defences who struck out in frustration, but at this Battle of the Bulge, serious German resistance in the west was ended. At this time, Soviets were also sweeping westward. In 1945, Russians launched a great offensive toward the Oder River in Germany, and by spring were ready to assault Berlin. At this time, Bradley was pushing into Germany from the West, and soon Allied troops were pouring across the Rhine river. Other allied operations pushed into northern Germany and swept through central Germany, encircling three hundred thousand German soldiers in the Ruhr. This broke the German resistance at both fronts, and while American forces could have beat the Russians to Berlin and Prague, they halt the advance in central Germany to await Russians, which allowed Soviets to occupy eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia. On 30 April, Hitler killed himself, and on 8 May 1945, Germany surrendered unconditionally. V E , or Victory in Europe, Day prompted great celebrations, but Japan still had to be dealt with. In Feb 1944, American naval forces under Admiral Nimitz won a series of victories in the Marshall Islands that cracked the outer perimeter of the Japanese empire, and they quickly destroyed other vitals. By summer of 1944, Japanese food rations were reduced and there was a gasoline shortage. America's principal Asian ally was China, and the States hope that China will help defeat the Japanese, so they were eventually able to provide China with supplies, though Japan did their best to block them. In fall of 1944, General Stilwell finished constructing an important road to China, called the Burma or Ledo or Stilwell Road, which Japan regularly threatened. More dangerous was their threat to the wartime capital of China, Chungking. Chian Kai shek, the Chinese premier, was reluctant to use troops against Japan and was more concerned with attacking communists, who were also fighting the Japanese, creating a feud between Stilwell and Chiang with little success. The decisive Pacific battles occurred in sea. In 1944, America struck the Marina Islands and captured Tinian, Guam, and Saipan in some of the bloodiest operations of the war. Then they land on the Carolines, and later the Philippines, pushing closer to Japan and forcing the Japanese to use up their entire fleet, constituting the decisive Battle of the Leyte Gulf, the largest naval engagement in history, which destroyed Japanese ability to continue a serious naval war. However, Japan only grows more resistant. In 1945 Americans seized the small island of Iwo Jima in the costliest single battle in Marine Corps history. In the battle for Okinawa, the Japanese were still more resistant, sending kamikaze, or suicide, planes desperately, but Okinawa was still captured. As of 1945, it began to seem that invading Japan might not be necessary, since Japan could not fight back. American bombers dropped a firebomb in Tokyo in march, creating a massive firestorm in which as many as a hundred thousand civilians died, weakening Japanese will. And Japanese leaders, who had decided the war was lost, were struggling for power and looking to end the war. After Okinawa, Emperor Hirohito appointed a new premier who was supposed to sue for peace, but the military leaders refused to give up the fight, and the premier tried to get mediation through the Soviet Union, which failed. If they could have prevailed is a disagreed on question, but it was moot due to the successful test of the atomic bomb. In 1939, the States learned that Germany was taking steps to create the atomic bomb, so they and Britain worked to develop the new weapon. Radioactive material is needed, and Enrico Fermi discovered radioactivity of uranium in the 1930s, and in 1939 Bohr sent news of German experiments to the States. In 1942, the first controlled fission chain reaction was achieved, and the army had taken control of the research under General Leslie Grove with the Manhattan Project, eventually experimenting with Plutonium. Scientists in Los Alamos, under J Oppenheimer, were charged with constructing the bomb. On 16 July 1945, the Trinity bomb was detonated in a desert near

Alamogordo, New Mexico. Truman, who had taken office in April after Roosevelt's death, issued an ultimatum for surrender to the Japanese by August 3. Japan has several proposals, but Americans were committed to unconditional surrender. When the deadline passed, Truman ordered the use of atomic weapons. Debate over Truman's decision has raged for decades, some seeing it as necessary, others thinking Japan could have surrendered, and some saying that the atomic bomb was immoral. Military and political leaders had no such concern, and Truman, who wasn't aware of the project until he was president, saw no reason not to use the weapon. There are questions of the States wanting to stall potential increase in communist presence in Asia, or to intimidate Stalin. Hiroshima happened on 6 August 1945, destroying the area, but Japan was stunned and couldn't agree on a response. Two days later, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, and the day after, Nagasaki happened. On August 14, the emperor announced they were ready to give up, and on 2 September 1945, Japan signed the articles of surrender. So the most catastrophic war in history left the United States with power, influence, and prestige. However, 14 million combatants died, and as many as 40 million civilians died. The States had lighter casualties. And nuclear warfare remains a threat with emerging antagonism between the States and the Soviet Union.