Mobilization on the Home Front

US enters WWII

• In 1940 Selective Service was first peace time draft.

• After Pearl Harbor five million men volunteer and 10 million more drafted.
Mobilization on the Home Front
Women Support the War

- Women were hired in factories to replace the men gone to war.
- After the war most women lost those jobs.

- WAAC - Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps. Women perform non-combat military tasks.
Mobilization on the Home Front

Minorities in Armed Services

- Black soldiers lived and worked in segregated units. (ex. Tuskegee Airmen)
- Half million Mexican-Americans fought in Europe and Asia.
- 13,000 Chinese-Americans joined the Armed Services.
- 33,000 Japanese in uniform, some as spies and interpreters.
- 25,000 Native Americans enlisted.
Mobilization on the Home Front
Factories “convert” to war production

- Automobile plants produce tanks & planes.
- Shipyards produced Liberty Ships (cargo carriers), tankers and troop transports
Mobilization on the Home Front
Minorities in Defense Industry

- Black labor leader (A. Philip Randolph) plans march on Washington demanding right for Blacks to work and fight for “our country.”

- Result: Roosevelt signs an executive order to hire workers without discrimination of race, creed, color or national origin.
Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD)

- New technology for underwater radar & sonar
- Pesticides to fight insects
- New weapons - Manhattan Project creates atomic bomb
Office of Price Administration
Fought “inflation” of prices

- Froze “prices”
- Raised income taxes
- Encouraged “buying” of War Bonds
- Result: decreased demand and production of consumer goods
War Production Board – WPB

- Decided which companies converted from peace to war time production.
- Organized recycling of metal, cans, paper, cooking fat to use for war production.
Rationing
Govt. limited the goods you buy

- Families receive coupon books to buy meat, sugar, flour etc.
- Gasoline was rationed
- Save gas by using carpool or bicycle
- “Black Markets” sold illegal goods
Home Front

Population Centers

• More than a million people move to California to work in the defense industry.

• Towns with defense factories doubled or tripled population.
Home Front

G.I. Bill

• G.I. = Govt. Issue
• Nickname for soldiers because they wore govt issued clothing
• G.I. Bill – Returning veterans get free college and job training & easier loans for homes.
Home Front

Racial Tension at Home

- 1943 - Los Angeles has “zoot suit” riots against Mexicans.
- 1943 - Detroit riot between blacks and whites.
- CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) confronts urban segregation. Stages sit-ins.