

WWII, CHAPTER 25

NOTES

Preparing for War

- ◎ Battle of Britain
 - Nazi bombers pounded British cities
 - U-boats (submarines) cut off supplies
 - America wanted to stay out of the war, but Roosevelt, and most Americans believed that Germany should be defeated
- ◎ Neutrality Act of 1939
 - Permitted the sale of arms to Britain, France, and China (being invaded by Japan)
- ◎ Draft
 - 1940—Selective Service Act of 1940 sent 1.4 million men to army training camps by July 1941
- ◎ Election of 1940
 - Roosevelt promised not to “send your boys to any foreign wars”
 - Roosevelt won an unprecedented 3rd term over Wendell Willkie of Indiana

- Allies: Britain, France, United States, Australia, Canada, USSR
- Axis: Germany, Italy, Japan
- Lend-Lease Act—made Great Britain the beneficiary of a bill that would allow the president to sell, exchange or lease arms to any country vital to US security
- Atlantic Charter
 - FDR and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill mapped military strategy and declared common goals for the postwar world

Pearl Harbor

- ⦿ United States placed an embargo on Japan, which was taking over territory in China and Asia
- ⦿ Japan planned an attack in the Pacific
- ⦿ Our intelligence had broken a Japanese diplomatic code and knew that an attack was coming
- ⦿ Dec. 7, 1941—Japan attacked the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
 - US declared war on Japan on Dec. 8
 - Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.

Arsenal of Democracy

- ◎ Late in 1940, Roosevelt had redirected the economy to prepare for war
 - This effort made the federal government more powerful than it had been before
 - Ended the Great Depression
- ◎ War Powers Act
 - president gained the power to reorganize the federal government and create new agencies
 - Establish programs censoring all news and information, and abridging civil liberties

- ◎ By 1941, the federal government was spending billions of dollars for defense
- ◎ American workers were twice as productive as Germans and five times as productive as the Japanese
- ◎ Businesses earned huge profits
- ◎ The West became a center for industrial and military expansion
- ◎ The South got 60 of the army's 100 new camps
- ◎ Rural population decreased by 20 percent

New Workers

- Bracero program brought more than 200,000 Mexicans into the US for short term employment
- Number of black workers rose from 2,900,000 to 3,800,000
- Neither gov. nor industry actively recruited women at first
- Rosie the Riveter was intended to be a short term factory worker



We Can Do It!



Impact on the Homefront

- Marriages increased
- Housing shortages and high rent
- Victory Gardens—3/5 of population were “growing their own” food
- Child care became a problem
- Juvenile delinquency rose
- Public health improved—they could afford to go to the doctor

Japanese Internment

- ◉ Dec. 8, 1941—Federal Government froze the assets of those born in Japan—the Issei—who were barred from US citizenship
- ◉ “Jap” appeared in news headlines and racial stereotypes were used in political cartoons
- ◉ Feb. 1942—FDR signed Executive Order 9066 which excluded 112,000 Japanese Americans from certain military areas
- ◉ By August of 1942, almost every west coast resident who had at least one Japanese grandparent had been interned in one of ten internment
- ◉ *Korematsu v. United States-1944*
 - Upheld the Constitutionality of the internment

African Americans

- ◎ A. Philip Randolph
 - President of:
 - Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
 - National Negro Congress
 - Began to organize a march on Washington
 - FDR proposed an executive order making it mandatory that African Americans be able to work in defense plants—Randolph called off the march
- ◎ 1.2 million African Americans left the South to take jobs in wartime industries
- ◎ Race riots resulted—in 1943, more than 270 racial conflicts occurred in nearly 50 cities

Zoot Suit Riots



