

UNITED STATES HISTORY STUDY GUIDE: U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR II

GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (your objectives):

SSUSH19 Examine the origins, major developments, and the domestic impact of World War II, including the growth of the federal government.

- Investigate the origins of U.S. involvement in the war including Lend-lease and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Examine the Pacific Theater including the difficulties the U.S. faced in delivering weapons, food, and medical supplies to troops, the Battle of Midway, Manhattan Project and the dropping of the atomic bombs.
- Examine the European Theater including difficulties the U.S. faced in delivering weapons, food, and medical supplies to troops, D-Day, and the Fall of Berlin.
- Investigate the domestic impact of the war including war mobilization, as indicated by rationing, wartime conversion, and the role of women and African Americans or Blacks.
- Examine Roosevelt's use of executive powers including the integration of defense industries and the internment of Japanese-Americans.

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

A. Philip Randolph African American union leader and activist who attempted to organize a protest march on Washington, D.C. over job discrimination in 1941

Adolf Hitler Fascist dictator of Germany, 1933-1945

Allies group of countries led by Britain, France, the U.S. and the Soviet Union that fought the Axis Powers in World War II

amphtrac an amphibious tractor

Axis powers group of countries led by Germany, Italy, and Japan that fought the Allies in World War II

Battle of Midway turning point of World War II in the Pacific, in which the Japanese advance was stopped

Battle of the Bulge 1944 German counterattack on Allies in Belgium that crippled Germany by using up reserves and demoralizing its troops

D-Day June 6, 1944, the day Allies invaded France on the beaches of Normandy

death camps Nazi camp designed for the extermination of prisoners

Dwight D. Eisenhower Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in western Europe during World War II and U.S. President, 1953-1961

embargo a government ban on trade with other countries

Fall of Berlin attack on the German capital leading to surrender and the end of World War II

Harry S Truman the vice president who became president after Franklin Roosevelt's death

Hiroshima Japanese city targeted by the first atomic bomb attack

internment temporary imprisonment of Japanese-Americans during World War II

island hopping World War II strategy of seizing selected Japanese-held islands in the Pacific while bypassing others

kamikazes Japanese pilots who deliberately crashed planes into American ships during World War II

Lend-Lease Act 1941 act that allowed President Roosevelt to sell or lend war supplies to countries whose defense he considered vital to the safety of the U.S.

Liberty ship cargo ships of a simple design that were quickly mass-produced and used extensively for World War II

logistics area of military science dealing with the procurement, maintenance, and transportation of military matériel, facilities, and personnel

Manhattan Project the code name for the program to develop an atomic bomb

Nagasaki Japanese city targeted by the second atomic bomb attack

Operation Overlord code name for the Allied invasion of western Europe during World War II

Pearl Harbor American military base attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941

rationing government-controlled limits on the amount of certain goods that civilians could buy during wartime

Rosie the Riveter propaganda symbol for female defense workers during World War II

strategic materials natural and other resources essential for fighting a war

Tuskegee Airmen a highly decorated and effective African American aviation unit in World War II

United Nations (UN) organization founded in 1945 to promote peace

V-E Day May 8, 1945, "Victory in Europe" day; the day after Germany surrendered

victory garden vegetable gardens planted by U.S. families seen as a patriotic effort to help prevent food shortages and aid the war effort

V-J Day August 15, 1945, the day Japan surrendered

War Production Board one of several government agencies aiding the conversion of industries from producing consumer goods to war-time production

SUMMARY (from <http://www.phschool.com/webcodes10/index.cfm?wcprefix=nck&wcsuffix=2010&area=view>)

After World War I, extreme dictatorships known as totalitarian states rose up in many European countries. They used repression to exert control over their country. When Germany invaded Poland, war broke out and eventually expanded across Europe as other nations joined with their allies. Early on, most Americans were against getting involved in the war, but slowly began supporting Britain. The United States began providing open support to Britain, and received an aggressive response from Germany. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States officially entered the war. The attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of the war led to a wave of patriotism, and a large number of Americans volunteered for service or created goods needed. Early on, the Japanese seemed to have control of the fighting in the Pacific, but by 1942 the United States had won some ground.

Germany, Italy, and Japan had common enemies but different goals during World War II. On the contrary, the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union all considered that the defeat of Germany would be their ultimate goal. The Allies achieved several significant victories against Germany that served as turning points in the war in Europe. During the war, more women entered the workplace and African Americans made strides in fighting discrimination on the job while other migrant workers faced racial conflict in some areas. The Holocaust also provides some insight on how innocent people became victims to the rule of one dictator during World War II.

After World II, leaders of the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union met to plan on how to divide post-war Europe. Imperialism had soon declined. The war had changed how many Americans thought of themselves and gave them an opportunity to take a more active role in the global economy and political affairs.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. List the U. S. Presidents and their terms of office from 1941-1945.
2. What was A. Philip Randolph's proposed March on Washington?
3. How did FDR respond to Randolph's proposed March on Washington?
4. What angered the Japanese government so that they attacked the U.S. navy at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii without warning?
5. How did the U.S. government respond concerning Japanese-Americans?
6. What is meant by the European and Pacific theaters?
7. What was the Lend-Lease program, and why did the U.S. government create it?
8. Describe the major battles fought by the U.S. in Europe, the Atlantic and North Africa.
9. Describe the major battles fought by the U.S. in the Pacific Theatre.
10. What is meant by war mobilization? How did "cost-plus" and rationing support war mobilization?
11. Explain the role of women in U.S. war industries.
12. List the scientific, economic, and military benefits of developing the atomic bomb.
13. Explain the difficulties the U.S. faced in delivering weapons, food, and medical supplies to troops in the European theater.
14. Analyze President Truman's decision to attack Japan with a nuclear weapon. Explain whether you think it was the best possible decision to take using facts to justify your conclusion.