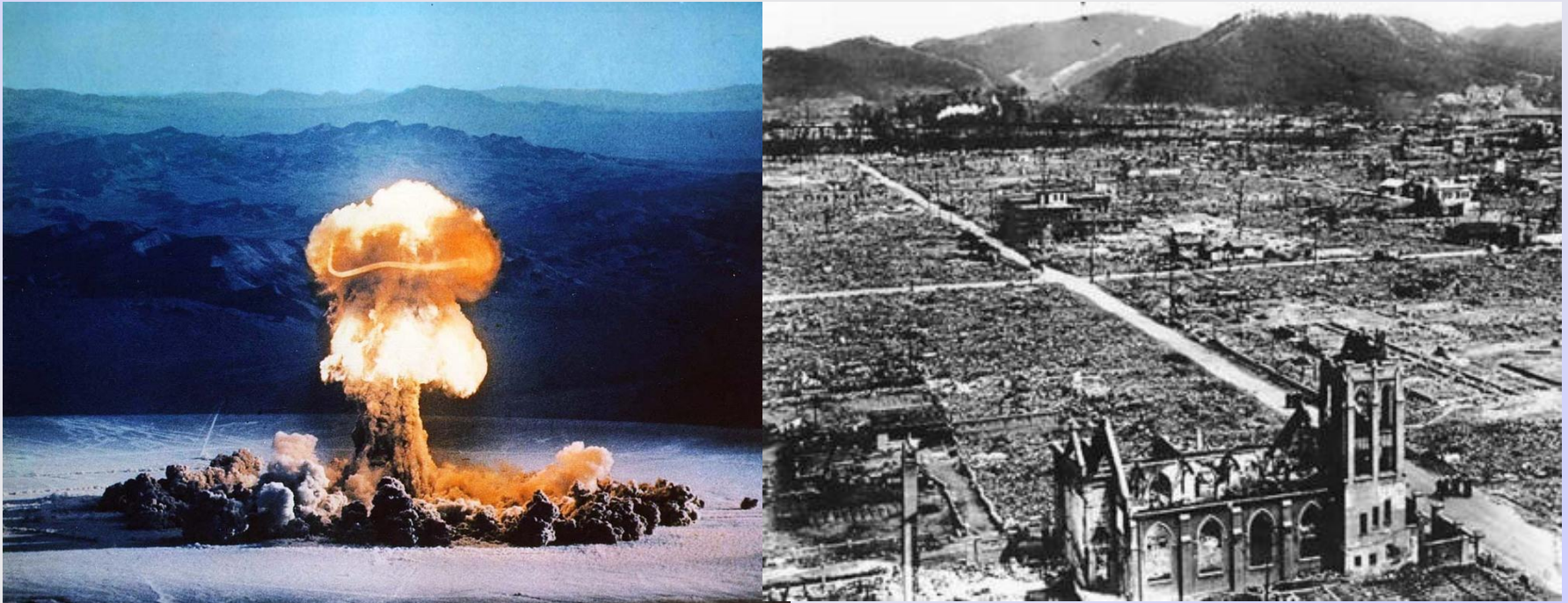


# **U.S. Involvement in World War II, 1939-1945**

A Presentation Based on the  
Georgia Standards of Excellence  
(GSE) Objectives for High School  
History Students

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



# World War II: Allies Versus Axis, 1939-1945

The combatants in World War II were as follows:

- **Allies:** Great Britain, France, United States, Australia, Canada, China, Soviet Union and others including many non-Axis aligned European and Latin American states.
- **Axis:** Germany, Italy, Japan and a number of other Southern and Eastern European and Southeast Asian states.

Although nominally non-aligned, Spain, under its semi-fascist government, gave aid and support to the Axis powers.\*

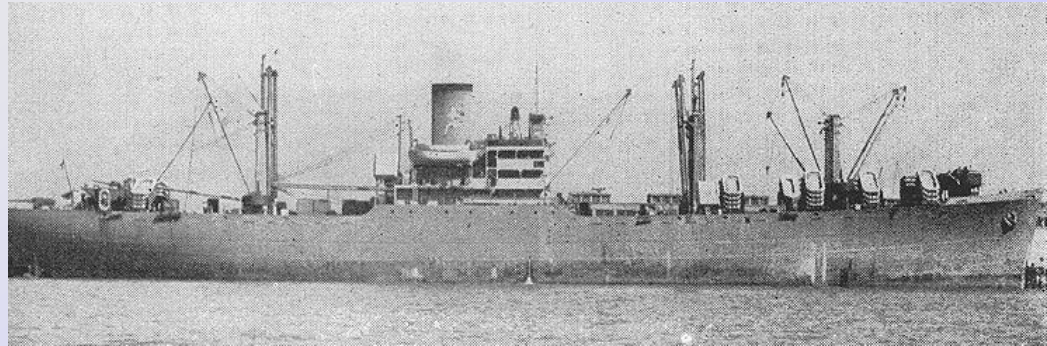
Note that Britain and France declared war on Germany in 1939, but the U.S. did not enter the war until 1941.

**SSUSH19a.** Investigate the origins of U.S. involvement in the war including Lend-Lease and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

# The Neutrality Acts

- As not only the U.S., but the world struggled to emerge from the depression, military dictators in several countries began to gain power (Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia).
- Worried that the U.S. would be drawn into another European war, Congress passed the **Neutrality Act of 1935**, which made it illegal for Americans to sell weapons to any country at war and warned citizens that traveling on warring countries' ships was at their own risk.
- The **Neutrality Act of 1936** renewed the 1935 act and made loans to those at war (except civil war) illegal.
- The **Neutrality Act of 1937** renewed the 1936 act, removed the civil war exclusion, and required “**cash and carry**” (goods purchased from the U.S. had to be paid in cash and transported on non U.S. ships).

Why would Congress insist on goods being transported on non-U.S. ships?

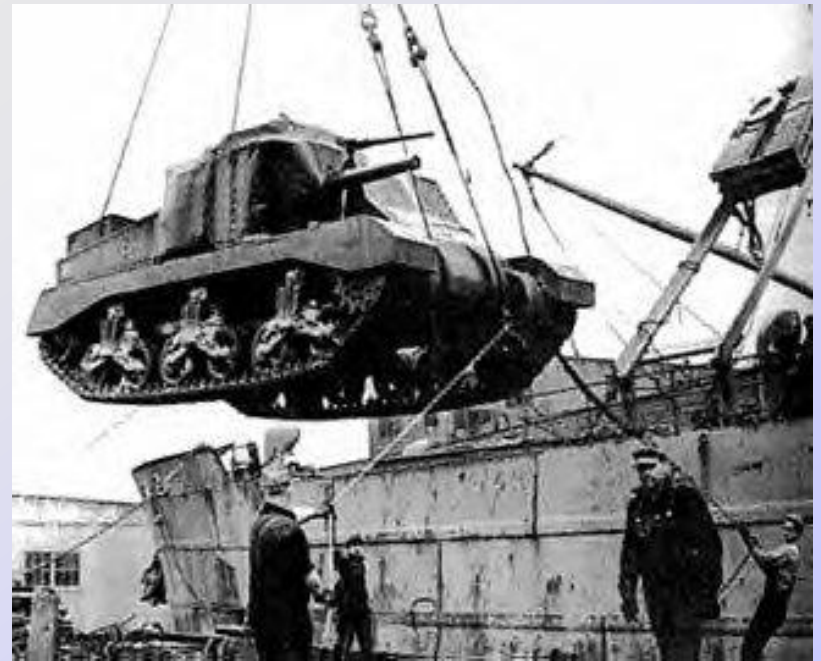


# **World War II and the U.S. Response**

- **On September 3, 1939, Britain and France declared war against Germany in response to Hitler's invasion of Poland.**
- **Many Americans favored helping the British, but the U.S. remained neutral under the Neutrality Acts.**
- **By 1940 France had been overrun by the German army and Britain was running out of money to fight the war.**

# The Lend-Lease Program

- Many Americans feared that if the British lost the war, then the U.S. would be the Axis Powers' next target.
- To circumvent the Neutrality Act's "cash and carry" policy, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act.
- The lend-lease program allowed the U.S. to send weapons to Britain if Britain promised to pay rent or return them after the war.



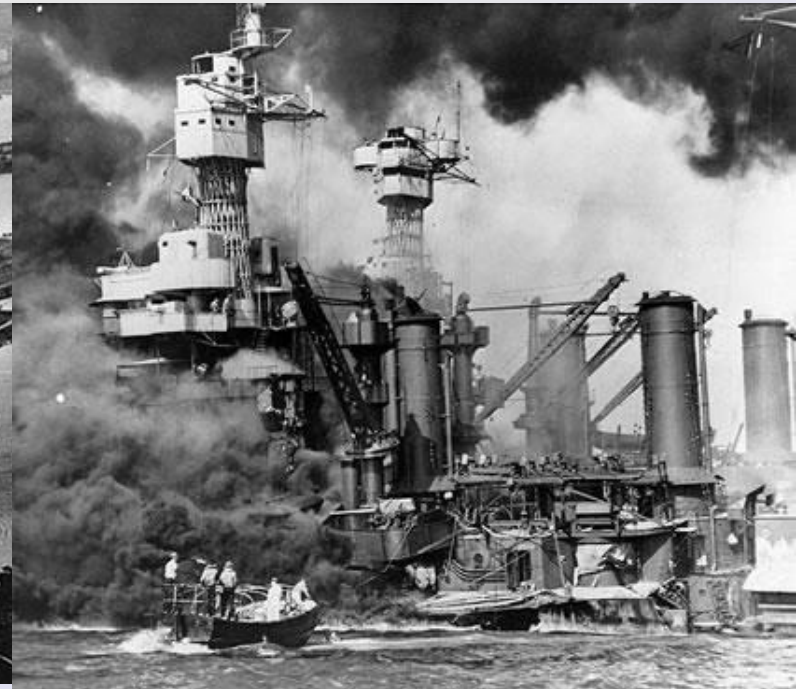
# Japan Enters the War

- **By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Japan had transformed itself into an imperial, industrial nation.**
- **An island country, Japan depended on the U.S. for many strategic materials (natural resources used for defense or warfare, e.g., oil, steel, iron ore, rubber, etc.).**
- **When Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 to protect its colonial interests there, the U.S. reduced the amount of oil being shipped to Japan.**
- **In 1940, the U.S. placed an embargo on Japan, refusing to sell the Japanese airplane fuel and other goods which could be used for war against the British who had colonies in the Pacific.**
- **By 1940, Japan had allied itself with Germany and Italy.**



# Attack on Pearl Harbor

- In an attempt to cripple the U.S. Navy's Pacific fleet, the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii without warning on December 7, 1941, sinking or damaging 21 ships and killing over 2,400 Americans.



- The U.S. declared war on Japan the following day, and Japan's allies Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.

**SSUSH19e. Examine Roosevelt's use of executive powers including the integration of defense industries and the internment of Japanese-Americans.**

# Proposed march on Washington, D.C., and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's response.

- In January 1941, A. Philip Randolph, an African American union leader, began organizing a protest march on Washington, D.C. over discriminatory hiring practices in national defense jobs.
- In response to the threatened march, Roosevelt issued an executive order on June 25, 1941 declaring that the defense industry would not discriminate based on race, creed, color, or national origin.



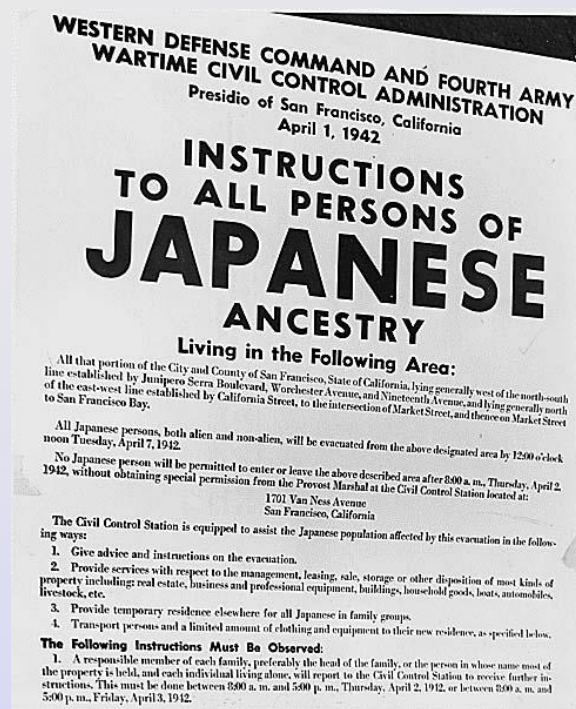
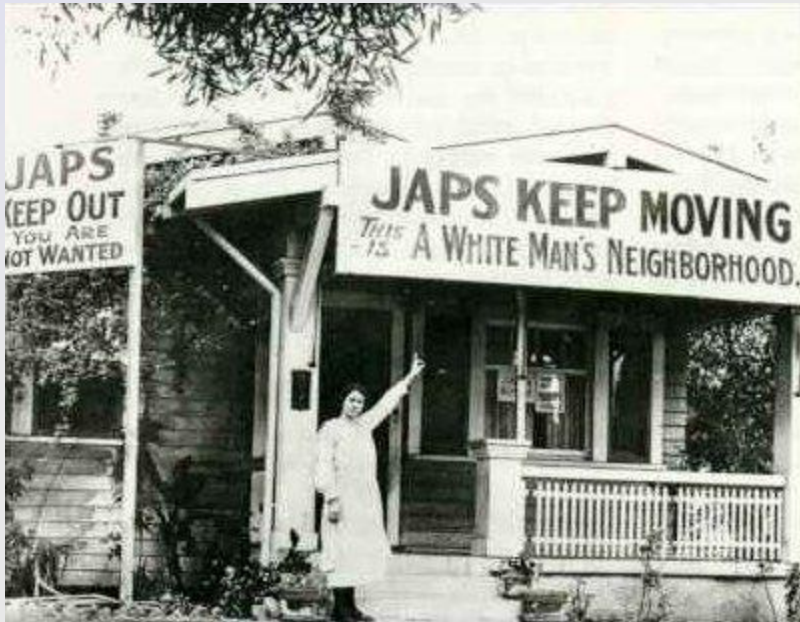
A. Philip Randolph and Eleanor Roosevelt

# Internment

- **In December 1941, Roosevelt issued another executive order, this one requiring enemy aliens (Germans, Italians, and Japanese) to register with the police.**
- **Shortly afterward the president lifted the order for Germans and Italians, but not for Japanese.**
- **The attack on Pearl Harbor made many Americans feel that Japanese as well as Japanese Americans were a threat.**
- **In response to this fear, Roosevelt issued another executive order creating the War Relocation Authority.**

# Internment

- Under the order, 90% of the Japanese Americans living in California were forced to sell all their possessions and relocate to camps in several western states.
- The internments were challenged in 1944 under *Korematsu v. U.S.* but was upheld by the Supreme Court.

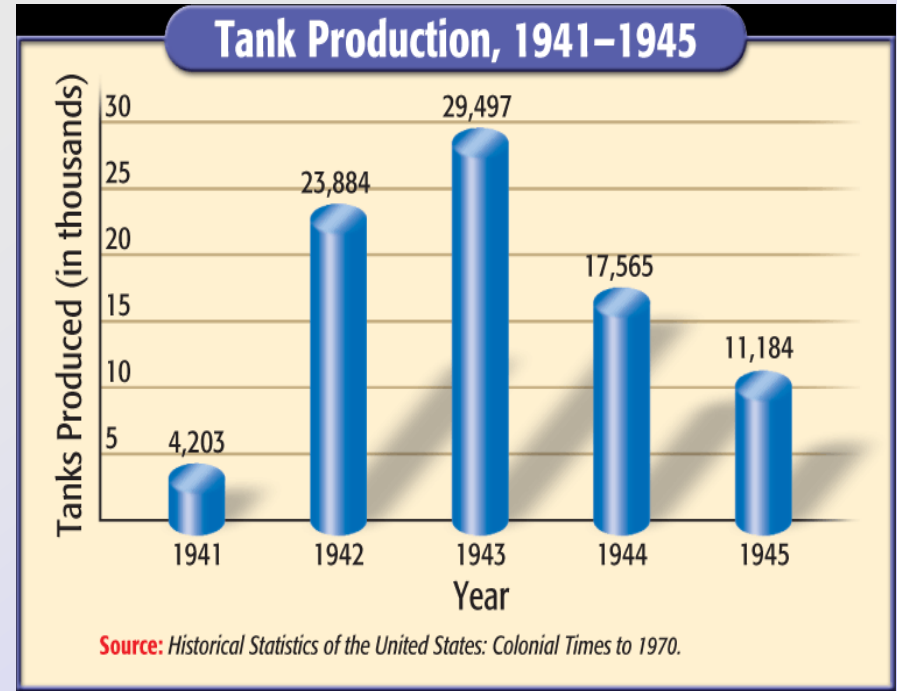
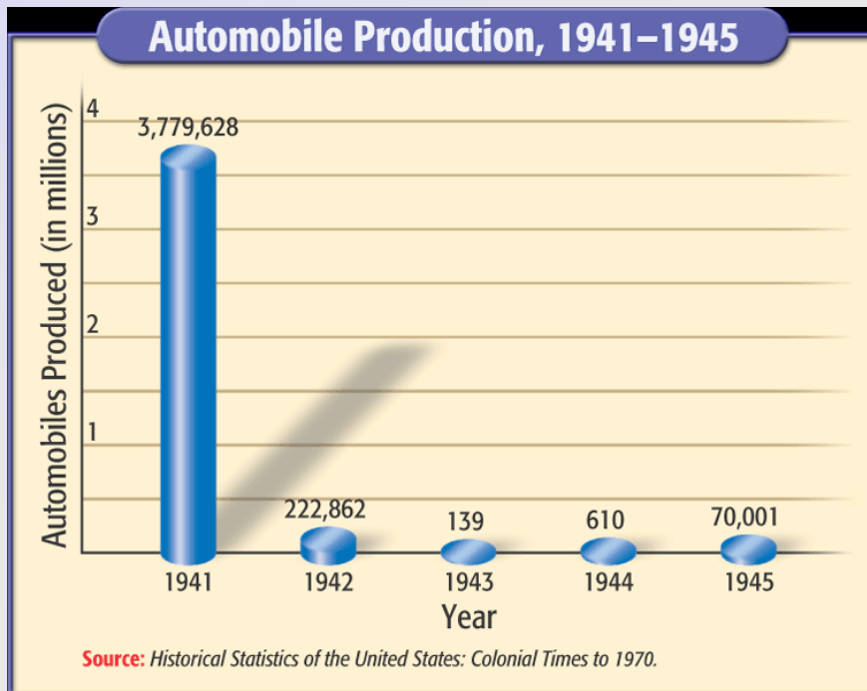


**SSUSH19d.** Investigate the domestic impact of the war including war mobilization, as indicated by rationing, wartime conversion, and the role of women and African Americans.



# War Mobilization

- To prepare the country for war, President Roosevelt issued an executive order in 1939 creating the War Production Board.
- This agency regulated the switch of industries from producing consumer goods to war-time production.
- For example, the automobile industry switched from making mostly automobiles to almost exclusively making tanks, jeeps, trucks, and airplanes.



# War Mobilization

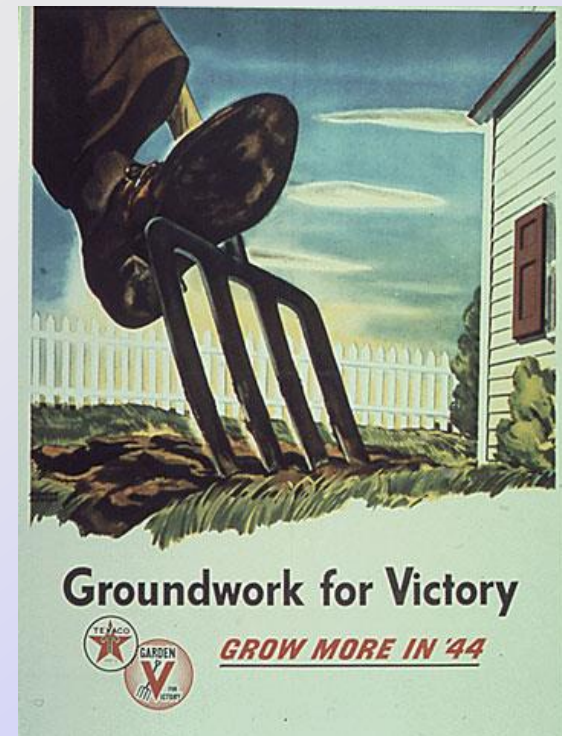
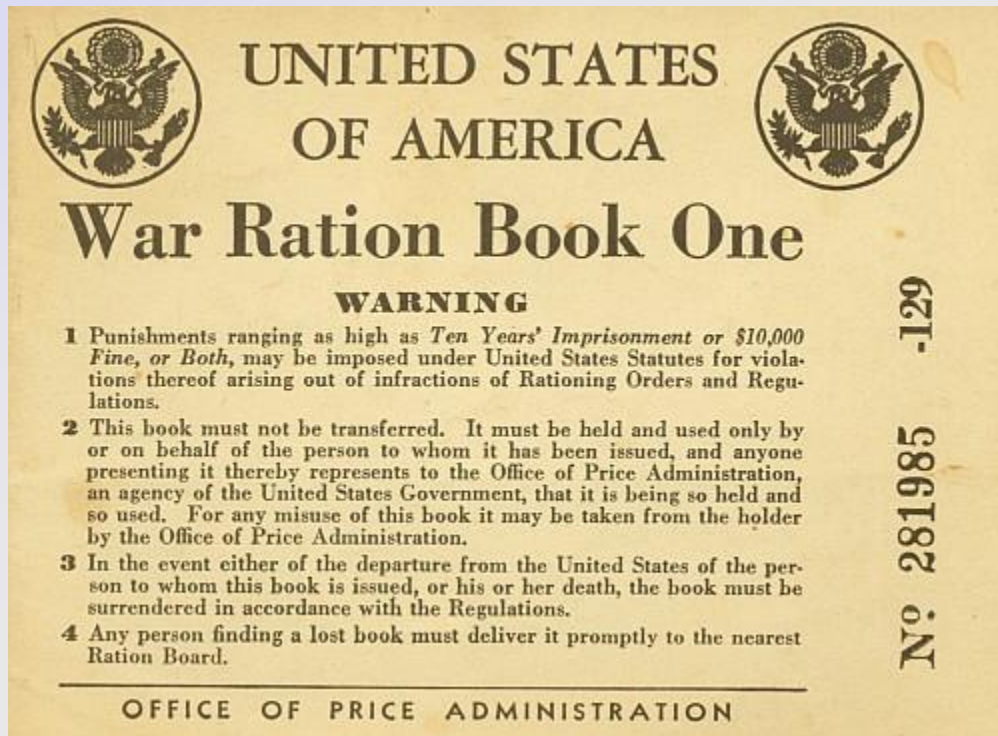
- Ship yards switched to producing “Liberty Ships,” which were war-time cargo vessels.





# Rationing and Victory Gardens

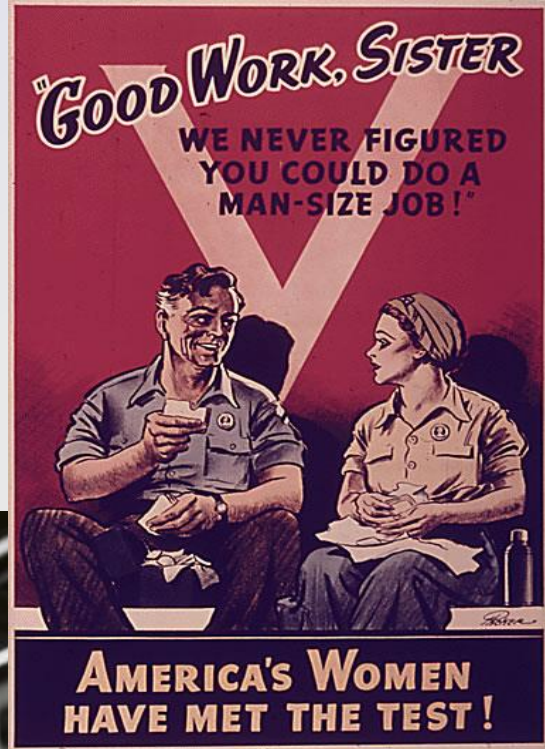
- During the war, the government limited the amount of tires, oil, certain foods and other products used by civilians so these materials could be used for the war effort.
- Rationing was chiefly accomplished via couponing. Families had to register to receive coupon books.
- Registration usually took place at a local school.



# Role of Women in War Industries

- With many men fighting overseas, women took over factory jobs to help the war effort.
- The most famous propaganda tool used to draw women into the workforce was “Rosie the Riveter.”





# Women in the Military

- Eleanor Roosevelt was an outspoken advocate for the service of women in the military.
- Ultimately, women served in a variety of non-combat roles in the following military and defense industry organizations:
  - WA(A)C (Women's Army (Auxiliary) Corps)
  - WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)
  - WOW (Women Ordnance Workers)
  - Nurses and Red Cross volunteers

75  
TM  
SHELL  
++

WOW

WAAC

WAVE

ARMY NURSE

NAVY NURSE

RED CROSS

*She's a* **WOW**  
WOMAN ORDNANCE WORKER

ROSE  
TAYLOR

**We Can Do It!**

WAR PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

PRINT FEB. 16 TO FEB. 28



# Good Work, Sister!

“In their own words these women reveal the pride they took in their work and the loss they felt when they were once again relegated to women’s work at war's end”

-Sherna Gluck, Director, Oral History Program, Dept of History, Co-Director, Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive, California State University, Long Beach



# African Americans in the War

- When WWII erupted, over 2.5 million black men registered for the draft.
- One million served. . . in all of the branches of the Armed Forces during conflict.
- Most black men who served were in the Army. . . [in] **segregated combat support groups**.
- More than 12,000. . . served in the segregated **92nd Division** received citations and were decorated for their effort, and
- the all-black **761st Tank Battalion** received the Presidential Unit Citation for “extraordinary heroism.”
- [T]he 99th Fighter Squadron, popularly known as the **Tuskegee Airmen**. . . became legendary for their heroic feats during the war.



# The Tuskegee Airmen



The Tuskegee Airmen became legendary for their heroic feats during the war and received a Distinguished Unit Citation, several silver stars, 150 distinguished flying crosses, fourteen bronze stars, and 744 air medals.

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/world-war-ii/essays/patriotism-crosses-color-line-african-americans-world-war-ii>

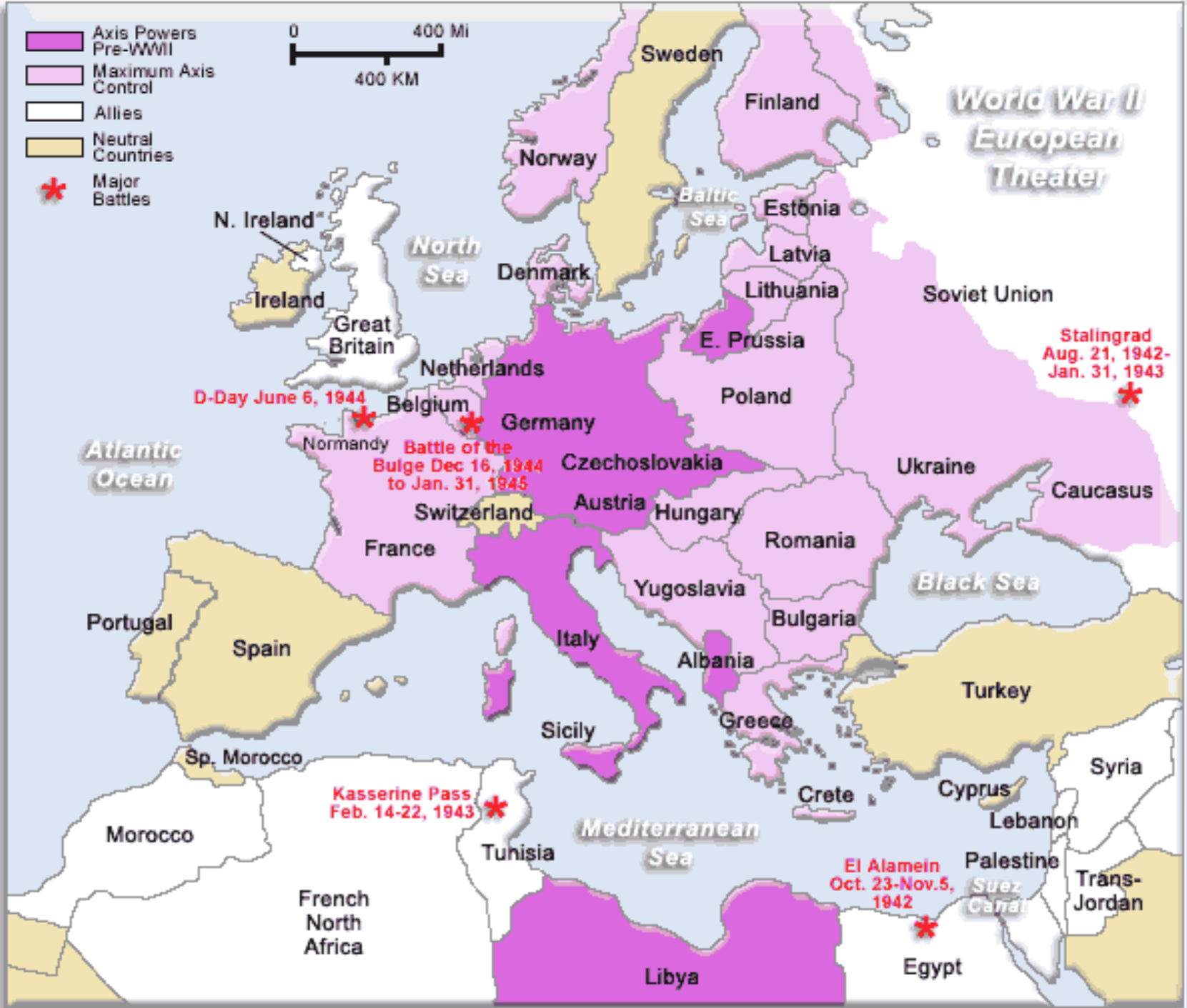
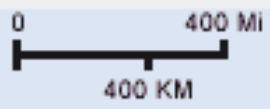
**SSUSH19b. Examine the Pacific Theater including the difficulties the U.S. faced in delivering weapons, food, and medical supplies to troops, the Battle of Midway, Manhattan Project and the dropping of the atomic bombs.**

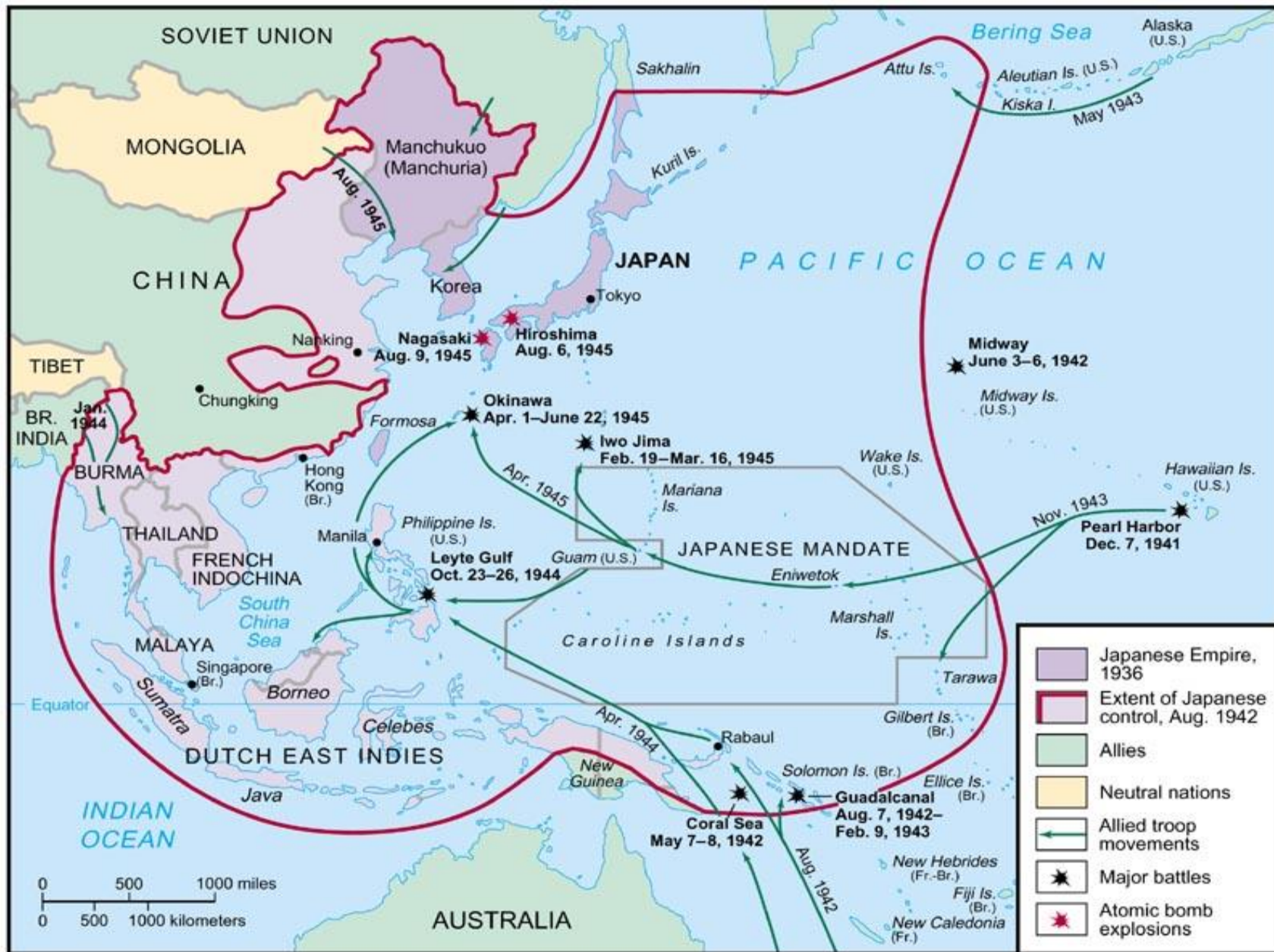
**SSUSH19c. Examine the European Theater including difficulties the U.S. faced in delivering weapons, food, and medical supplies to troops, D-Day, and the Fall of Berlin.**

- **There were two major regions of military operations in World War II:
  1. The European theater, and
  2. The Pacific theater.**
- **Many other areas were also contested, such as the Mediterranean/North Africa and Mainland Asia (China/India/Burma).**
- **Still, the majority of action took place in Europe and the Pacific Ocean.**
- **Some of the greatest challenges facing the U.S. were logistical (i.e., planning, organizing and executing the procurement and movement of supplies, weapons and personnel necessary to conduct far-flung campaigns).**

# World War II European Theater

- Axis Powers Pre-WWII
- Maximum Axis Control
- Allies
- Neutral Countries
- Major Battles



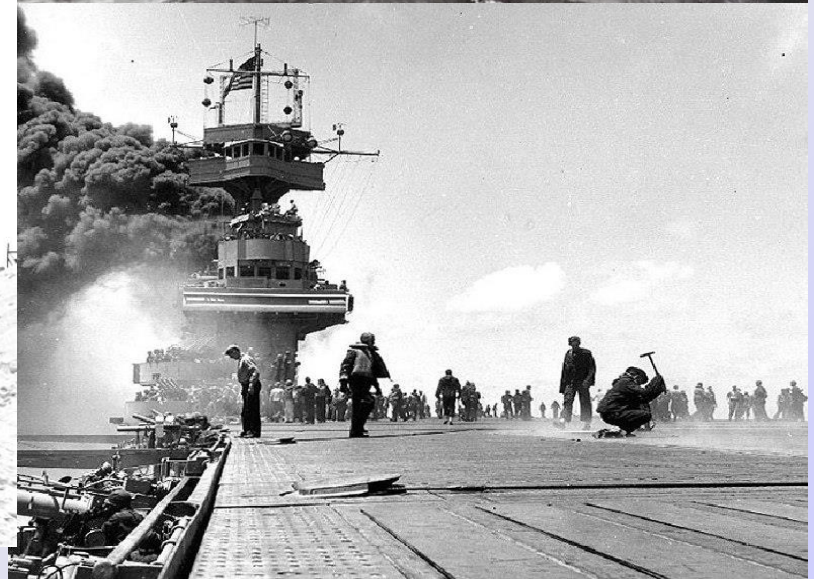
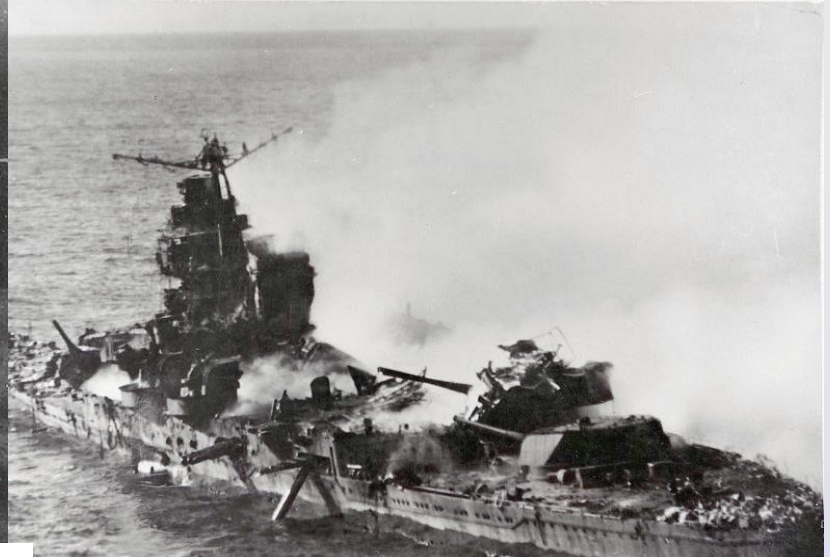
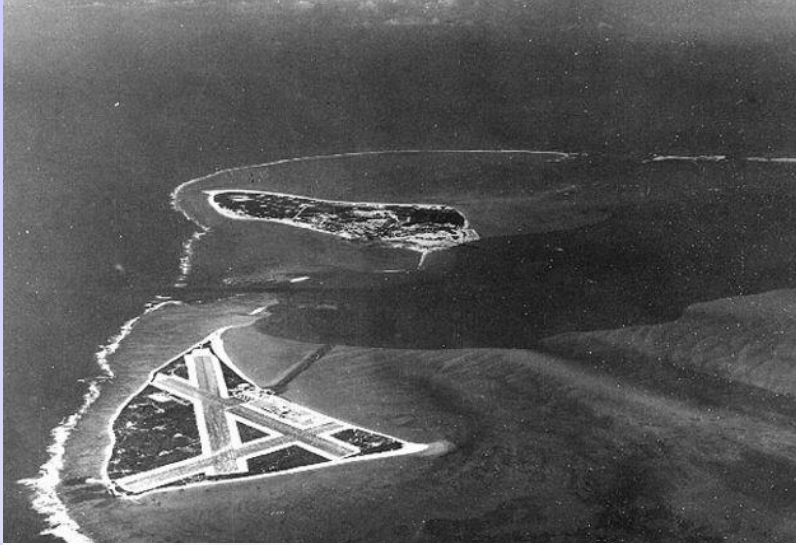


**WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC**

# **Battle of Midway (June 1942)**

- **The Japanese planned on invading Midway Island in order to lure U.S. aircraft carriers into a trap, and destroy the remaining U.S. Pacific fleet.**
- **Unknown to the Japanese, the U.S. had broken their secret code, and knew of the impending attack.**
- **The U.S. Navy sank four Japanese carriers, and shot down 320 planes, badly crippling the Japanese navy.**
- **This battle is considered the turning point in the war against Japan-after Midway, the U.S. goes on the offensive against Japan.**

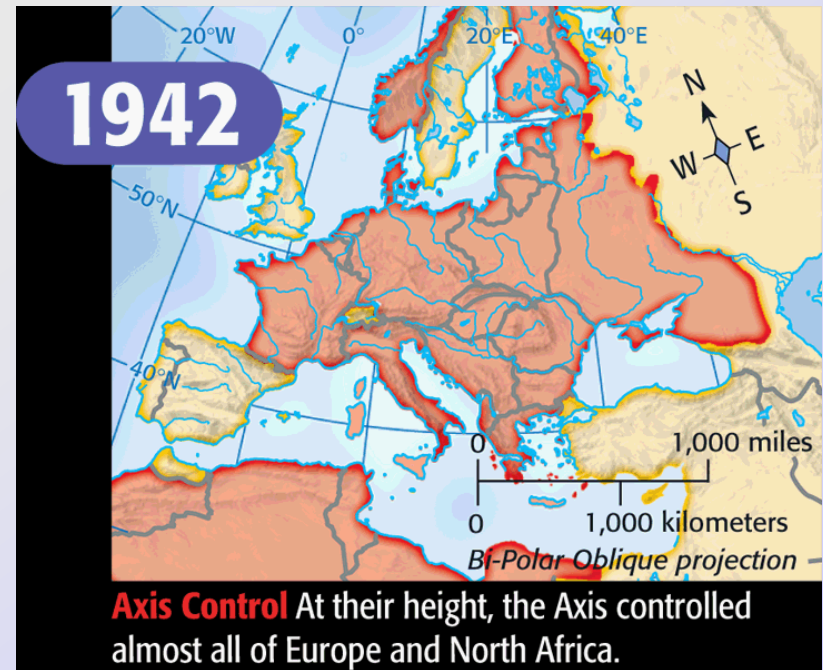
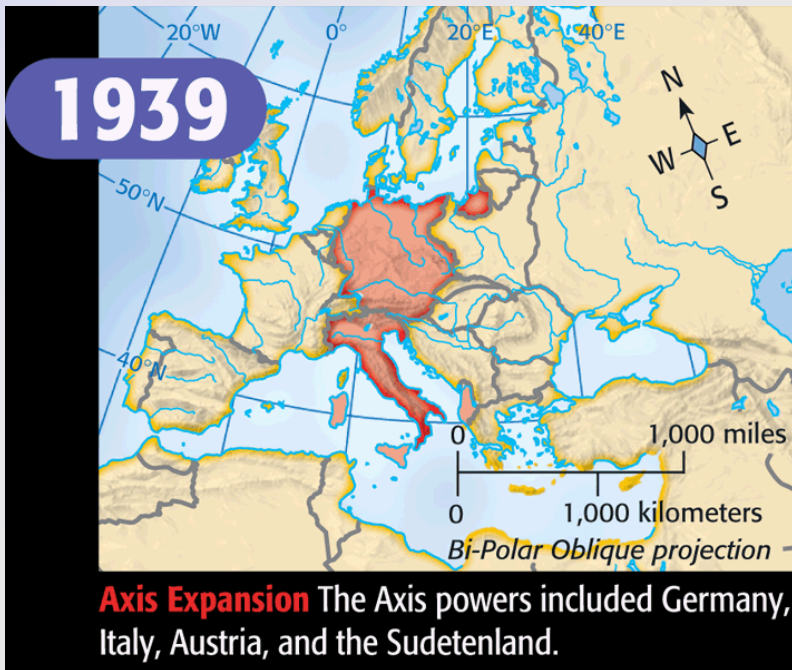
# Battle of Midway



- How did the Battle of Midway change the war in the Pacific?

# D-Day (June 6, 1944)

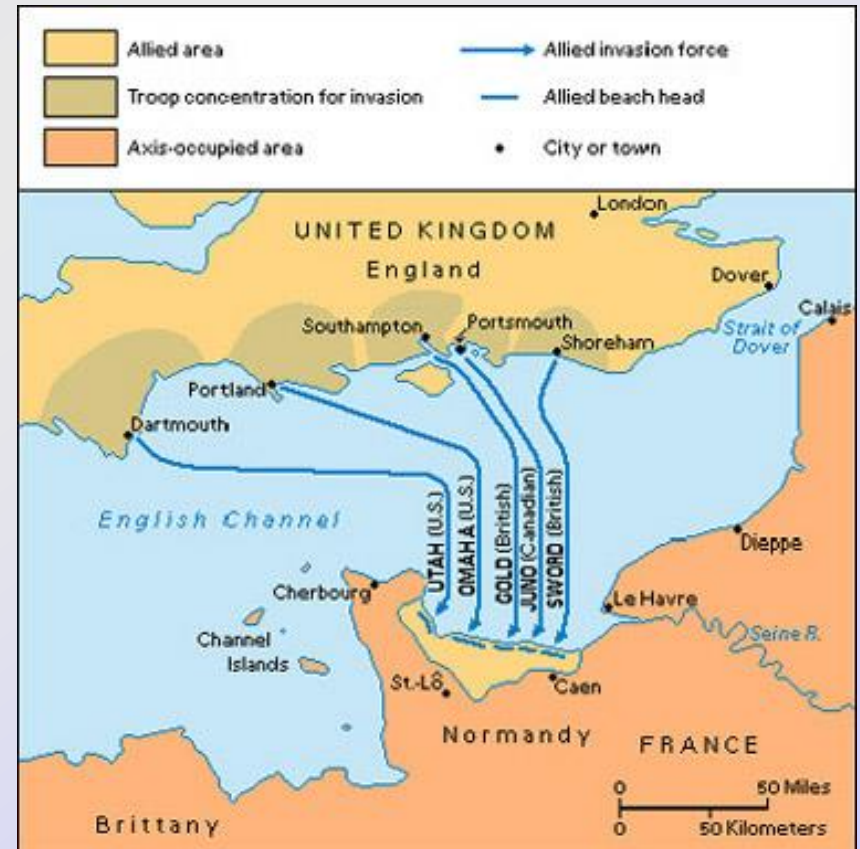
- By 1944, the Allies had control over European skies and began to plan a land invasion of Axis controlled Europe.
- The invasion of the French region of Normandy was code named Operation Overlord.



# The D-Day Invasion of Europe

- The Allies chose to attack the Germans in France on the coast of Normandy.
- 100,000 soldiers and 23,000 paratroopers participated in the attack.

The invasion of France caught the Germans by surprise. Looking at the map, where do you think the Germans thought the invasion would land? Why?





# D-Day

- The invasion caught the Germans by surprise because the Allies had deceived the Germans into thinking the landings would occur at either Calais or Norway.
- Heavy American casualties occurred at Omaha Beach.
- This invasion was the turning point of the war in Europe: within two months, the Allies had over one million troops in France.



# The D-Day Invasion: June 6, 1944







# The Fall of Berlin

- After victory at the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945, the Allies closed in on Germany from the West as the Soviets closed in from the East.
- As these forces neared Germany's capital city of Berlin, it became apparent the Allies would win the war.
- On April 27, Mussolini was captured and killed by pro-Allied Italian resistance forces; Hitler committed suicide three days later.
- Assisted by American bombing runs on Berlin, the Soviet Army closed in and finally captured the city.
- Within a week, the German army surrendered, ending the war in Europe.



# FDR's Death

# ROOSEVELT DIES!

## Jap Planes Blast Ships Off Okinawa

### Suicidal Attacks Are Resumed Against U. S. Forces

(By The Associated Press)  
Japanese warplanes resumed their suicidal attacks on American amphibious forces off Okinawa yesterday, sinking one destroyer and damaging several other warships, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said in today's news release.  
All damaged U. S. ships remained at anchor.  
One hundred eleven Japanese planes were shot down in an afternoon attack after seven had been downed in a morning raid.  
Nimitz said "large numbers of enemy aircraft made desperate attacks on our forces in the Okinawa area. These completely were Vice Admiral Robert K. Turner's amphibious support ships which joined the Okinawa invasion force Easter Monday.  
The afternoon attack in great strength also touched the "Landing Force, for Nimitz said eleven amphibious assaulters as well as oil tankers and carrier planes shared in "downing the 111 Japanese planes."  
Nimitz also disclosed the presence on Okinawa of four more divisions, together to six the number officially there on Okinawa and nearby islands.  
**MARINES LAND**  
Two of the newly named divisions were stationed the 9th and 1st. The other two are army: the 27th and 9th.  
All of these divisions except the 9th received a new coat of arms emblem of Pacific fighting.  
The 9th marine division continues its advance on Okinawa, pushing against opposition resistance everywhere. Nimitz said progress has made across rough terrain and along extremely rough roads.  
The last marine unit to land on Okinawa, the 27th, was ordered to press forward, mopping up in some detail, but the admiral did not give any message for either the 1st or 9th division advance.  
In the southern sector, where both the 9th and 27th army divisions were responsible for activities



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

## Yanks Await Word to Go On to Berlin

### Ninth Army Sweeps Across Elbe River Below the Capital

(By The Associated Press)  
Troops of the U. S. Ninth army swept across the Elbe river on a six-mile front, 87 miles from Berlin yesterday and awaited only orders from Lieutenant General William H. Tunner to begin a dash for a white-hot road that might get them by tomorrow to the Soviet capital of death and devastation.  
A report attributed to French troops said Allied paratrooper troops had been dropped at Reichsburg, barely over 23 miles from Gross Berlin, but this was widely without official confirmation.  
Germany appeared in her final hours of organized resistance in the west as all Allied armies out from Bonn. High press correspondent, Paul Joseph Goebbels, declared himself in his weekly newspaper that the war "cannot last much longer in my opinion."  
Three tank columns of the U. S. Third army, sipping below the heart of Germany in dashes up to 40 miles that overwhelmed Wehrmacht—beginning of the German population—were 130 miles from the Russian lines, 40 miles from the Czech border and 100 miles from Berlin. The Ninth army was within 110 miles of the Russian line.  
**CLOSE ON LEIPZIG**  
With the U. S. First army, which was hammering westward at the rate of 26 to 40 miles a day, the Third army was driving on Leipzig, 75 miles southwest of Berlin and a communications city considered vital to the capital.  
Advancing back to Sank, these two armies had were roughly about 23 miles from Leipzig and a Third army had been ordered the Yanks might be in the city by Friday.  
So near did the two American armies appear to a junction with the Russians that liberated Soviet state before threat and

# Passing of America's President Comes Unexpectedly in Georgia

## 'I Have a Terrific Headache,' Are the Last Words Spoken By Wartime Chief Executive at Warm Springs Residence

WASHINGTON, April 12.—(UP)—Franklin D. Roosevelt, for 12 unprecedented years president of the United States, died a casualty today in history's greatest war. Tonight at 7:08 P. M. F.W.T. Harry S. Truman became the nation's 32nd president. Mr. Roosevelt died suddenly in "the Little White House" at Warm Springs, Ga., as armies he helped to master drove resolutely closer to final victory over Nazi Germany. Warm out at 84, he died as other forces fighting in freedom's name fended off the doom of militarist Japan. He died on the eve of what he had hoped would be the inauguration of an era of peace in a world at long last free of want and fear.

## Four Times President—Great Statesman

(By The Associated Press)  
The tradition-loving great-dial owner of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, named Jan. 20, 1933, as president, he worked to lift the nation out of a depression and heralded a year of war when he played a dominant role in leading an Allied victory.  
While he missed the abdication of millions, the unprecedented moves he made and the political theories he embraced made him the frequent target for blistering criticism.  
Accusations ranged from "conspiracy" to "dictatorship." The public debt jumped to a record peacetime high, then to even greater wartime peaks. Critics charged the president with trying to "back" the progress court after that national had thrown out several of his favorite projects and he sought to limit "new deals" by restricting the membership. Some party leaders' forecast his.  
But he became the first President in history to be elected to a third term—and by a smashing majority—and then won overwhelmingly for a fourth.  
Mr. Roosevelt had attacked a substantial internationalist nature in the years when he was considered primarily with socialist revolutionary theories in an economic light rooted in World War I.  
And after the flames of a period kind conduct were kindled, he became the pivotal spokesman of more than 80 United Nations which pooled their might to smash a German-Italian-Japanese Axis.  
Kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, traveled to the White House to consult him.  
The military strategy of defeating the membership 75 per cent of the earth's surface and 50 per cent of its population—a strategy that set American fighting men, American war weapons, American food and American dollars to combat the Axis—was shaped at conferences in which he took a leading part.  
He constantly studied and pursued a prodigious war production program, framed stipulations that budget to be first to issue that had, also, at least, fought an inflation battle hardly less dangerous to the Nation than its enemies at arms.  
He drew up with United Nations colleagues, as the war progressed, blueprints for peace—a peace designed to avoid the

Mr. Roosevelt left as his successor the 81-year-old Harry Truman of Independence, Mo., a man who never wanted to be president. The 32nd president died at 4:35 p. m. F.W.T. of "a massive cerebral hemorrhage." The 32nd president took the oath of office from Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone here three hours later.  
The new chief executive's first statement was:  
"It will be my effort to carry on as I believe the president would have done, and to that end I have asked the cabinet to stay on with me."  
Mr. Truman's second act as president was to instruct Secretary of State Edward R. Rostow, Jr., to go ahead "as planned" with what perhaps was Mr. Roosevelt's dearest project—the United Nations conference at San Francisco April 25 to chart a road to peace on earth.  
Mr. Roosevelt's body will be brought here tomorrow. Mrs. Roosevelt went to Warm Springs by plane tonight to accompany her husband back to the White House for the last time.  
Funeral services will be held in the East Room of the White House on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Roosevelt's last resting place will be on an ancestral site he loved at Hyde Park, N. Y.  
**SHOCKS WORLD**  
The president's death before realization of the victory he worked so hard to secure shocked the world and stunned the capital. It occurred on a pleasant spring day in a charming little room overlooking a green and lovely Georgia valley.  
He died in his creature of the

## President Loved The Little Town Of Warm Springs

'Demagogue Yanks' Came to Georgia

## Himmler Decrees Death to Cowards In German Cities

Declares Every House Must Be Defended

## Truman Sworn in As 32nd President Of United States

Moment of Significance To American and World Described in Capital

## Loss of Great Man Felt: Death of President Is a Shock to World

By The Associated Press Governor Thomas B. Dewey of New York tonight declared that President Roosevelt would be mourned "as a human being of warm

- U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in his home at Warm Springs, Georgia, on April 12, 1945.

# V-E Day

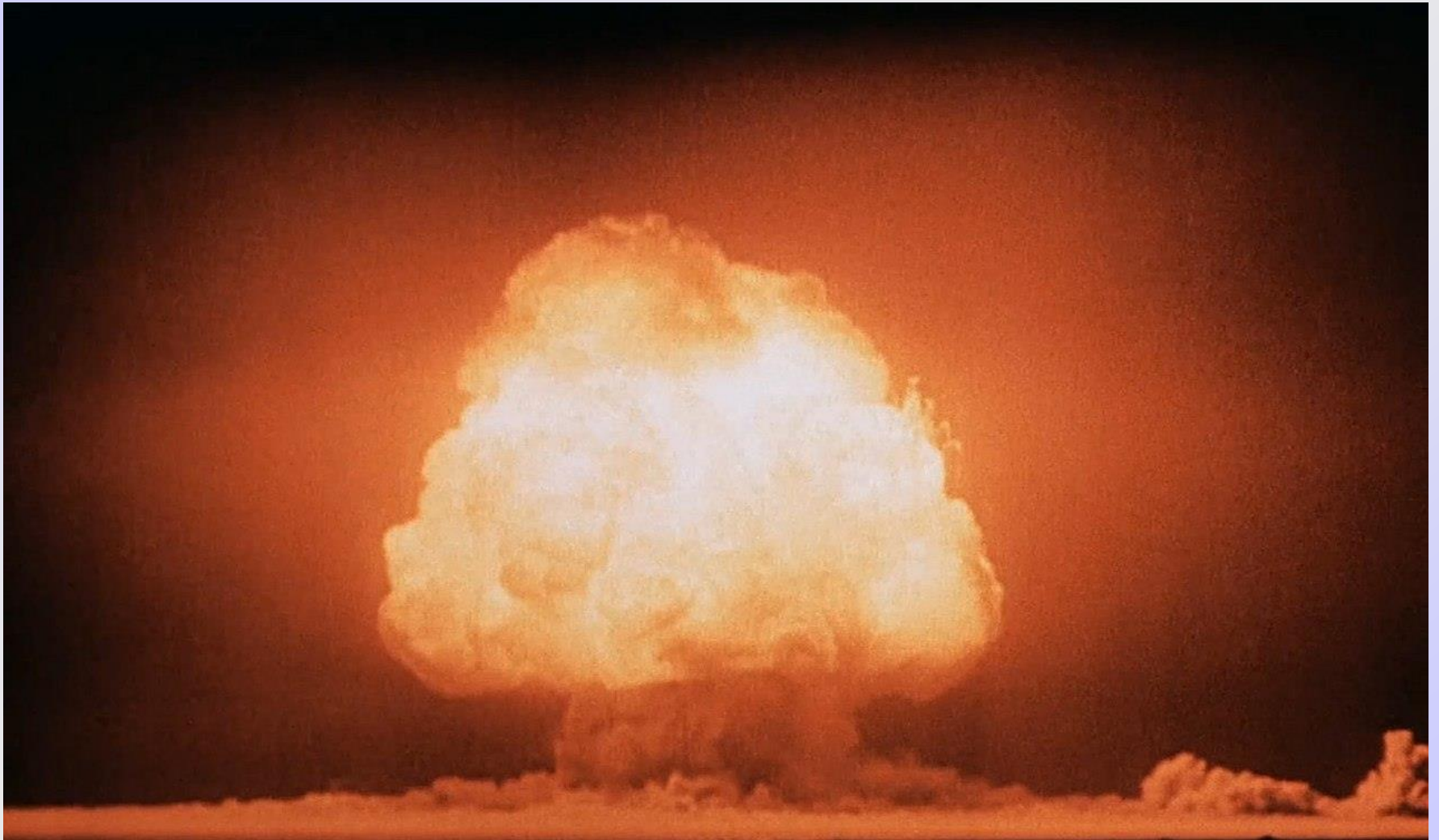
- **On May 8, 1945, the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany, thus ending Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.**
- **The day of surrender in Europe is known as V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day).**
- **In the Pacific Theatre, war with Japan continued**

**b. 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.**

- **Manhattan Project** was the code name for the Top Secret U.S. program to develop of atomic (nuclear) weapons.
- Much of the development took place in secret at the University of Chicago and a secret lab in Los Alamos, New Mexico.
- The first successful nuclear detonation test occurred in New Mexico on July 16, 1945.



# Mushroom cloud of 'Gadget' over Trinity, seconds after detonation



# Hiroshima After the Bomb: Nagarekawa Methodist Church



# The Human Toll of Atomic Weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- [T]he energy released by atomic weapons. . . in **brightness is comparable to the sun**, and the **temperatures and pressure are comparable to those in the sun's interior**. The light rays consist of **thermal radiation that burns the cities and bodies** and **nuclear radiation. . . penetrates the body**.
- [A] **quarter to a third of the population was killed by burns, trauma or radiation. . . .** The principal **delayed effects of radiation concern the development of cancer, especially among those exposed in early childhood compared to adults; the brain damage to the fetus born to mothers exposed to the atomic bomb; and the genetic effects to the children born to the survivors.**

# V-J Day

- In August 1945, the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan (at the cities of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and Nagasaki on August 9) to force Japan's surrender, thus ending World War II.
- August 14 is known as V-J Day (V-J for Victory over Japan)

# John Hersey's *Hiroshima*

John Hersey's book *Hiroshima* describes the experiences of six Hiroshima citizens who survived the blast. The book was chosen by New York University as the best work of reporting in the 20th century. Forty years later, Hersey updated the story of these people's lives in a new edition.

