# Unit Organizer: The U.S. in WWII: 1941—1945

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| The Big Picture: The seeds of new conflict had been sown in WWI. The postwar years brought to Europe economic difficulties and a rise of powerful dictators driven by nationalism and the desire to expand their territory. Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler established totalitarian governments in Russia, Italy and Germany. Militant leaders took control of Japan. These actions of totalitarian aggression led to World War II in 1939. The US struggled to remain neutral but eventually was drawn into WWII after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. On the battlefront, the U. S. fought on two fronts: the Pacific and in Europe. At home, Americans committed to total war, women and minorities participated by working in factories, the government took increasing control over the American economy. After FDR’s death in 1945, new president Harry Truman ended the war by utilizing the advances of the Manhattan Project by dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. World War II transformed America into an economic and political superpower. | | | | | | |
| Last Unit: WWII Begins  (1931—1941) | | Current Unit: **The U.S. in WW II**  (1931—1945) | | Next Unit: 1950s and Cold War  (1950—1959) | | |
| **Assessments** : | | | **Key Terms and Phrases:** | | | |
| 1. Vocabulary 2. Sequence and Chronology 3. Political Cartoon Analysis 4. Primary Sources 5. Graphs/Charts Analysis 6. Maps/Photos Analysis 7. CER Writing 8. Unit Summative Assessments |  | | 1. JOSEPH STALIN  2. BENITO MUSSOLINI  3. ADOLF HITLER  4. BATTLE OF BRITAIN  5. HOLOCAUST  6. HIDEKI TOJO  7. EMPEROR HIROHITO  8. AXIS POWERS  9. ALLIES  10. ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR  11. GEORGE MARSHALL  12. WAAC (WAC)  13. A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  14. ALBERT EINSTEIN  15. MANHATTAN PROJECT  16. WPB  17. RATIONING  18. BLACK MARKET  19. SONAR  20. OSRD  21. ERWIN ROMMEL  22. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER  23. GEORGE PATTON  24. TUSKEGEE AIRMEN  25. PURPLE HEART BATTALION  26. EVA BRAUN  27. HARRY TRUMAN  28. BATTLE OF STALINGRAD  29. OPERATION TORCH  30. OPERATION OVERLORD/D-DAY | | 31. BATTLE OF BULGE  32. V-E DAY  33. UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER  34. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR  35. ADMIRAL NIMITZ  36. JIMMY DOOLITTLE/DOLITTLE’S  RAID  37. BATTLE OF CORAL SEA  38. BATTLE OF MIDWAY  39. ISLAND HOPPING/LEAP  FROGGING  40. NAVAJO CODE TALKERS .  41. KAMIKAZE  42. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER  43. ENOLA GAY  44. BATTLE OF IWO JIMA  45. BOMBING OF  HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI  46. LITTLE BOY/FAT MAN  47. THE U.S.S. MISSOURI  48. VJ DAY  49. YALTA CONFERENCE  50. THE BIG THREE  51. NUREMBERG TRIALS  52. UNITED NATIONS  53. JAMES FARMER/ CORE  54. ZOOT SUIT RIOTS  55. GI BILL  56. INTERNMENT  57. REPARATIONS | |
| **Essentials Questions:**  **1. Was war between the United States and Japan inevitable?**  **2. How important was the home front in the United States’ victory in World War II?**  **3. Was the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II justified?**  **4. Should the U.S. use nuclear weapons to defeat its enemies in war?**  **5. Could the United States have done more to prevent the Holocaust?**  **6. Was World War II a “good war”?**  **7. Was World War II justified by its results?** | | | | | | **Text Pages**  560-599 |

**7.2 World War II**

***I can examine the causes and course of World War II, and the effects of the war on United States society and culture, including the consequences for United States involvement in world affairs.***

**7.2.2 U.S. and the Course of WWII** – I can evaluate the role of the U.S. in fighting the war militarily, diplomatically and technologically across the world (e.g., Germany First strategy, Big Three Alliance and the development of atomic weapons).

**7.2.3 Impact of WWII on American Life** – I can analyze the changes in American life brought about by U.S. participation in World War II including:

• the mobilization of economic, military, and social resources

• the role of women and minorities in the war effort, including the work of A. Phillip Randolph and the integration of US military forces

• the role of the home front in supporting the war effort (e.g., rationing, work hours, taxes)

• the internment of Japanese-Americans

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| **Guided Questions:**   1. How did the U.S. mobilize civilians and resources at home to help win World War II?   -What impact did mobilization of civilians have on women and minority groups in American Society?   1. What role did the U.S. play in winning the wars in Europe & the Pacific? 2. What was President Truman’s motivation to use the atomic bomb against Japan? 3. Why did the United States decide to inter Japanese – Americans during WWII? 4. Why were the Nuremberg trials necessary? 5. What happened to Germany and Japan after WWII? |

**Unit Guided Reading Questions**

**CHAPTER 17 THE U. S. IN WWII**

**SECTION 1 GUIDED READING: MOBILIZING FOR DEFENSE**

1. WHAT DID THE JAPANESE BELIEVE & EXPECTED TO HAPPEN AFTER ATTACKING PEARL

HARBOR?

2. WHAT SLOGAN DID AMERICANS UNITE UNDER FOLLOWING JAPAN’S ATTACK ON THEU.S.?

-DID THIS SOUND FAMILIAR TO PREVIOUS WAR SLOGANS? EXPLAIN.

3. HOW MANY AMERICANS VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT IN WWII?

-WHAT DID THIS DEMONSTRATE ABOUT AMERICANS?

4. HOW MANY MEN WERE DRAFTED INTO THE U. S. ARMY AFTER PEARL HARBOR?

5. DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF THE WAAC (WAC).

6. DESCRIBE THE FEELING HELD BY MANY AMERICAN MINORITIES ABOUT FIGHTING IN

WWII.

7. LIST THE DIFFERENT MINORITY GROUPS & NUMBER OF EACH THAT SERVED DURING WWII

8. EXPLAIN THE ROLE & IMPACT OF AMERICAN INDUSTRIES ON THE WAR EFFORT.

9. EXPLAIN THE 2 WAYS THAT INDUSTRIES MET THEIR LABOR DEMANDS.

10. WHO WAS A. PHILIP RANDOLPH?

-WHAT ROLE DID HE PLAY DURING WWII?

11. EXPLAIN HOW HOLLYWOOD HELPED THE WAR EFFORT.

12. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE OSRD?

-WHAT WAS THEIR MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT?

13. EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT.

14. WHAT DID FDR CREATE TO CONTROL INFLATION & CONTROL THE COUNTRIES

RESOURCES?

15. EXPLAIN HOW THE RATIONING SYSTEM & RATION BOOKS & COUPONS WORKED.

**CHAPTER 17 THE U. S. IN WWII**

**SECTION TWO GUIDED READING: THE WAR FOR EUROPE & NORTH AFRICA**

1. WHAT DECISION DID FDR & CHURCHILL MAKE IN DECEMBER 1941? EXPLAIN WHY.
2. HOW DID THE ALLIES COMBAT GERMAN WOLFPACKS IN THE ATLANTIC?
3. WHAT NEW TECHNOLOGY ALLOWED SHIPS TO DETECT SUBMARINES?
4. EXPLAIN HOW THE “TIDE TURNED” IN THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC BY 1943.
5. DESCRIBE THE EVENTS & SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE OF STALINGRAD.
6. WHAT 2 FACTORS WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR GERMANY LOSING THE BATTLE OF STALINGRAD?
7. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF OPERATION TORCH?

- WHO WAS THE “DESERT FOX”?

1. WHAT 2 DECISIONS WERE MADE AT THE CASABLANCA MEETING?
2. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN?
3. LIST & DESCRIBE SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN MINORITIES IN WW II.
4. WHAT WAS D-DAY? WHEN DID IT OCCUR? WHY WAS IT SO IMPORTANT?
5. WHAT ROLE DID GENERAL PATTON PLAY IN LIBERATING PARIS?
6. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE?
7. WHAT DID THE SOVIETS DISCOVER WHEN THEY ENTERED POLAND?
8. DESCRIBE THE EVENTS OF APRIL 29 & 30 1945.
9. WHEN & WHAT IS V-E DAY?
10. WHEN DID FDR DIE? WHO BECAME PRESIDENT AFTER FDR’S DEATH?

**CHAPTER 17 THE U. S. IN WWII**

**SECTION 3 GUIDED READING: THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC**

1. EXPLAIN THE MISTAKES MADE BY JAPAN ON THE ATTACK OF PEARL HARBOR.

2. LIST THE TERRITORY JAPAN TOOK OVER AFTER THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR.

3. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PHILIPPINES IN EARLY 1942.

4. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DOOLITTLE’S RAID?

5. WHAT ROLE DID AMERICAN NAVAJOS PLAY IN THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC?

6. EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA.

7. WHY WAS THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN VICTORY?

8. EXPLAIN THE STRATEGY OF “ISLAND HOPPING”.

9. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GUADALCANAL?

10. WHAT DEFENSE STRATEGY WAS ADOPTED BY JAPANESE PILOTS?

-WAS IT EFFECTIVE?

11. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AT IWO JIMA.

12. DESCRIBE THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

-WHAT DID THIS BATTLE DEMONSTRATE ABOUT THE LOOMING BATTLE FOR

JAPAN?

13. EXPLAIN TRUMAN’S DECISION TO USE THE ATOMIC BOMB.

-DO YOU AGREE WITH HIS DECISION? EXPLAIN.

14. WAS TRUMAN’S WARNING TO JAPAN A GOOD IDEA? EXPLAIN.

15. DESCRIBE THE DETAILS INVOLVING AMERICA’S USE OF THE FIRST 2 ATOMIC BOMBS.

16. WHAT HAPPENED ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1945?

17. WHO WERE THE BIG THREE?

18. SUMMARIZE THE DECISIONS MADE AT THE YALTA CONFERENCE.

19. WHAT PEACE ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED AT THE END OF WWII?

20. WHAT WERE THE NUREMBERG TRIALS?

-WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE TRIALS?

21. WHAT PRINCIPLE WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE NUREMBERG TRIALS?

22. WHAT HAPPENED TO TOJO AFTER WWII?

23. DESCRIBE MACARTHUR’S REBUILDING OF JAPAN AFTER WWII.

**CHAPTER 17 THE U. S. IN WWII**

**SECTION 4 GUIDED READING: THE HOME FRONT**

1. DESCRIBE HOW AMERICA TURNED OUT AFTER WWII IN COMPARISON TO OTHER ALLIED OR AXIS NATIONS.
2. EXPLAIN HOW THE WAR AFFECTED WORKING WOMEN.
3. WHAT STATE SAW A HUGE RISE IN IT’S POPULATION DURING WWII? WHY?
4. WHAT REGION OF THE COUNTRY LOST OVER 1 MILLION AFRICAN-AMERICANS AFTER WWII?
5. WHAT DID THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS PROVIDE FOR SOLDIERS?
6. WHY DID JAMES FARMER FOUND CORE?
7. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN DETROIT IN 1943.
8. HOW DID FDR END THE DETROIT RACE RIOT?
9. WHAT WERE THE “ZOOT SUIT” RIOTS?
10. WHY WERE THE JAPANESE FORCED INTO INTERNMENT CAMPS IN 1942?

-DO YOU BELIEVE THIS WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO? EXPLAIN.

11. HOW DID THE U. S. GOVERNMENT REPAY THE JAPANESE-AMERICANS THAT HAD

BEEN SENT TO “RELOCATION CAMPS” DURING WW II?