

# America in World War II

---

AP U.S. History

1941-1945

# Essential Question

- In what ways did American Foreign and Domestic policy change as a result of World War II?

# The Allies Trade Space for Time

Even the Japanese attacked America at Pearl Harbor on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the fundamental American strategic decision of World War II was to attack Germany first while using just enough strength to hold off Japan



What the...?!



We needed time to prepare for war



America needed to retool itself for all-out-war production. America needed to feed, clothe, and arm itself, as well as transport its forces to regions throughout the world.

# The Shock of War



The major exception to the relatively good American civil liberties record during World War II was the treatment of Japanese Americans. Post Pearl Harbor hysteria led American top commanders to fear Japanese-Americans living on the West coast were serving as spies.



Korematsu sued the United States government for infringing on his civil liberties, but he lost (Korematsu v. U.S.).

# Building the War Machine

More government intervention in the economy.



The WPB halted the production of nonessential items and prioritized transportation and raw materials. The Office of Price Administration controlled for wartime inflation and food shortages by using Price controls and rationing



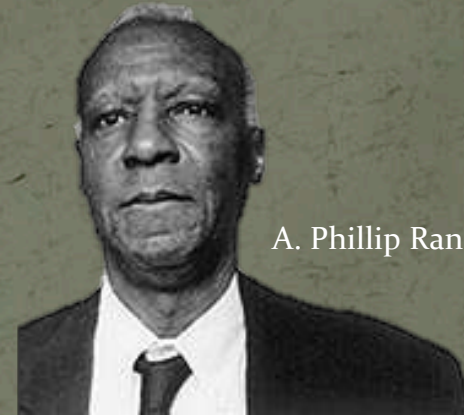
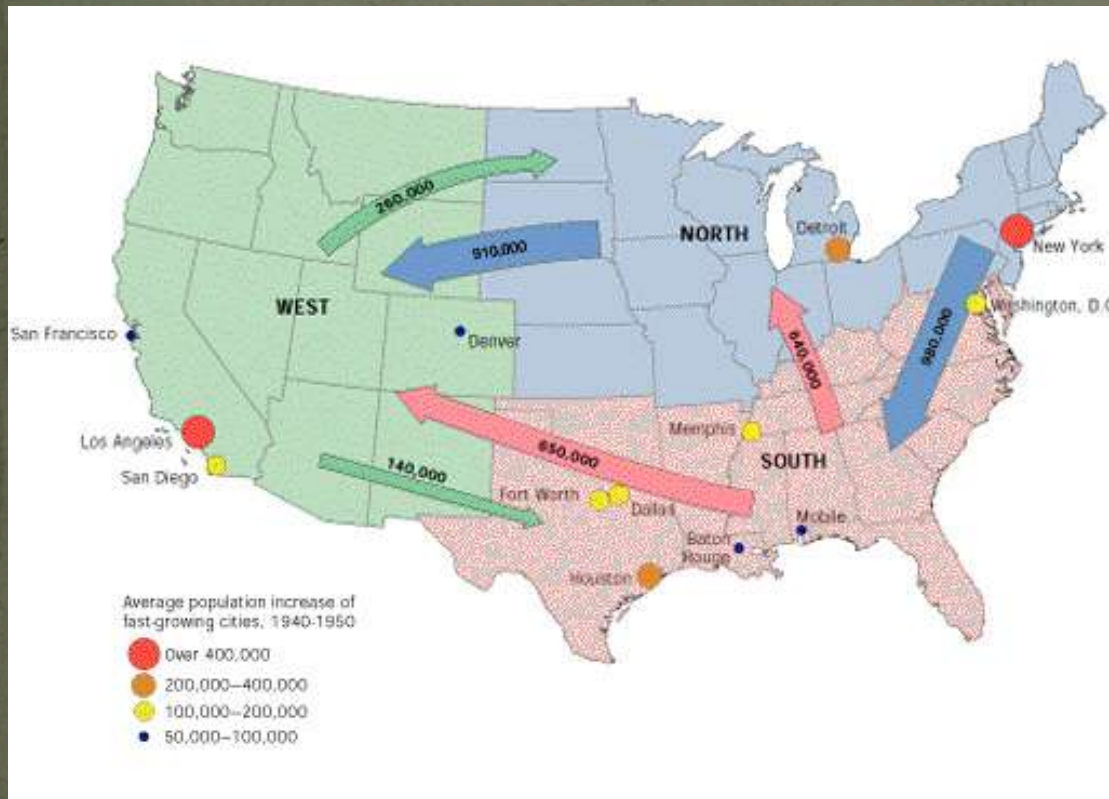
15 million men and 216,000 women enlisted in the armed services. The wartime shortage of labor was partly made up by bringing into the work force such groups as Mexican *braceros*. An agreement with Mexico in 1942 brought thousands of Mexican agricultural workers across the border to harvest the fruit and grain crops of the West.

Rosie the Riveter



More than 6 million women took jobs outside the home, yet the war's immediate impact on women's lives has been exaggerated. Compared with British and Soviet women during World War II, more American women did not work for wages in the wartime economy.

# Wartime Migrations



A. Phillip Randolph

Explosive racial tensions developed over employment, housing, and segregated facilities. A. Philip Randolph, a leader of a black union, threatened a massive “Negro March on Washington” in 1941 to demand equal opportunities for blacks. In response, Roosevelt established the Fair Employment Practices Commission, which was designed to Prevent discrimination against blacks in wartime industries

The war shifted the American population. In an effort to help the economically poor South, Roosevelt placed many war factories there, but blacks migrated to the West and North in large numbers. The wartime migration of rural African Americans to northern urban factories was further accelerated after the war by the invention of the mechanical cotton picker

# The Rising Sun in the Pacific

I shall return



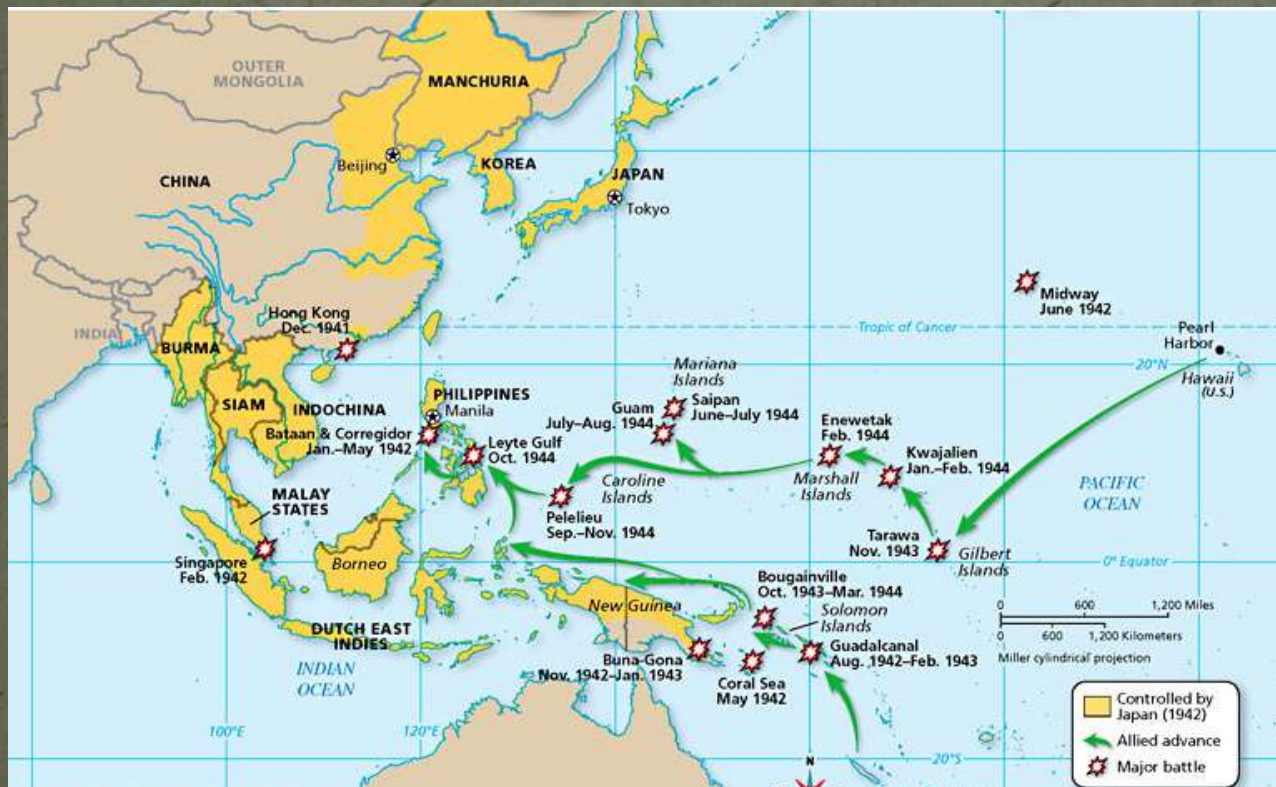
Besides African Americans, another traditionally rural group who used service in the armed forces as a springboard to postwar urban life was Indians, such as the Navajo as "Code Talkers" fighting against the Japanese in the Pacific.



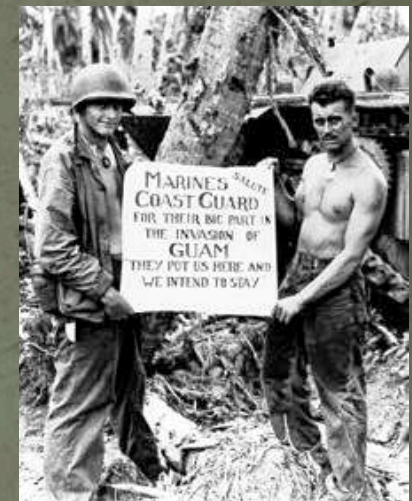
General MacArthur, U.S. Commander in the Pacific.

The 1942 battles of Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines marked the beginning of a brutal tropical war in which atrocities were committed on both sides. Eventually, the Japanese took the Philippines and imprisoned the U.S. Army on the island.

# American Leapfrogging Toward Tokyo



The essential American strategy in the Pacific called for “island hopping” by capturing only the most strategic Japanese bases and bypassing the rest

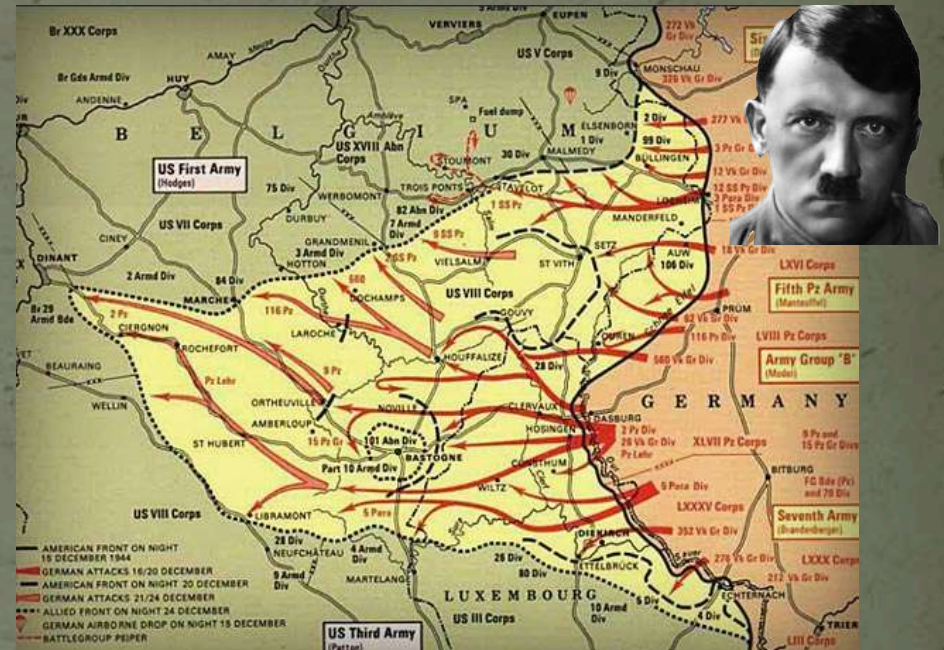


The American conquest of Guam and other islands in the Marianas in 1944 was especially important because it made possible round-the-clock bombing of Japan and land bases

# The Allied Halting of Hitler



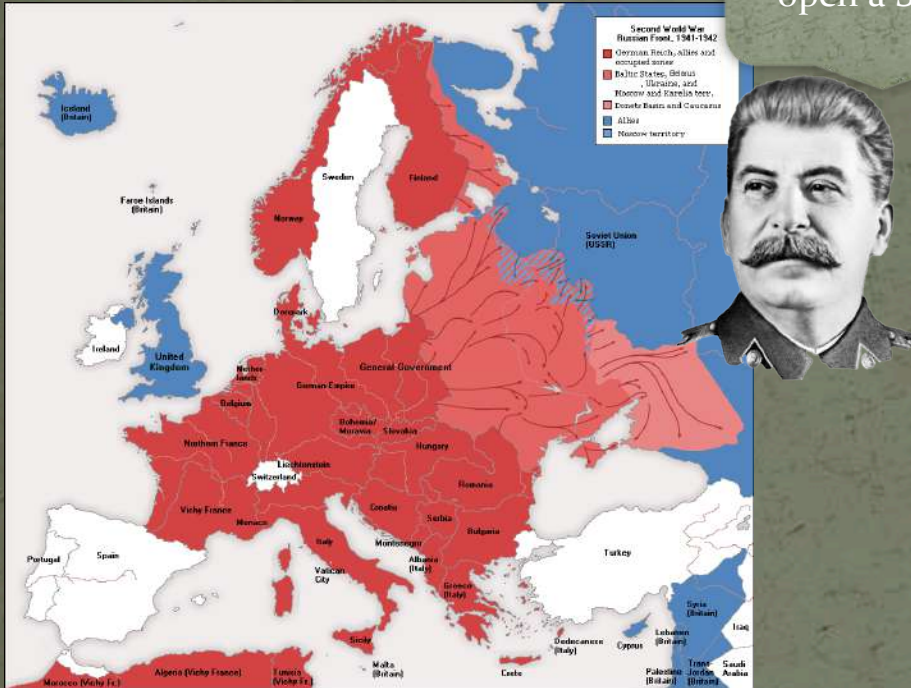
The most difficult European fighting for American forces through most of 1943 occurred in Italy. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Allies attacked the German army in Normandy, France.



The Allies advanced from the south through Italy and from the north through Normandy, France. Hitler's last-ditch effort to stop the British and American advance in the west occurred at the Battle of the Bulge.

# The Allied Halting of Hitler

20 million Russians died because America chose not to open a Second Front in the east.



Stalin was furious about Roosevelt's and Churchill's decision to attack through North Africa and Italy instead of helping Russia repel the Germans in Eastern Europe. the U.S.-British demand for "unconditional surrender" was a weak verbal substitute for the promised "Second Front."



Iranian Historical Photographs Gallery : [www.fouman.com](http://www.fouman.com)

Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin met in Tehran, Iran in December 1943. They agreed on coordinated attacks – Britain and U.S. through Normandy and U.S.S.R. through Poland.

# FDR: The Fourth-Termite of 1944

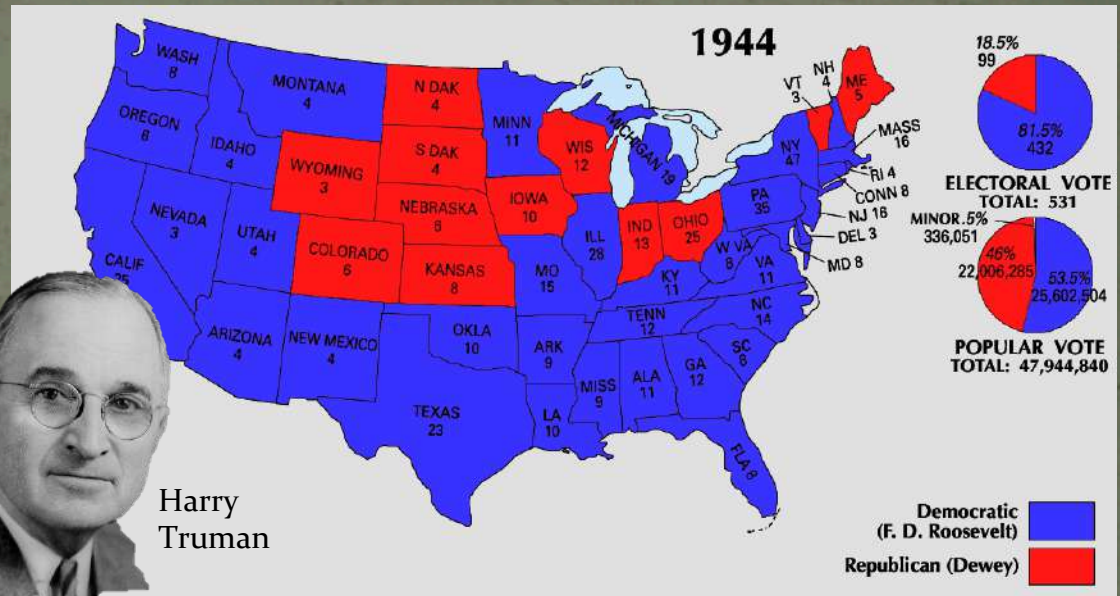
After 12 long years, it's time for a change!



The Republican candidate for president, Thomas E. Dewey, unmercifully attacked Roosevelt while FDR was busy attending to the war.

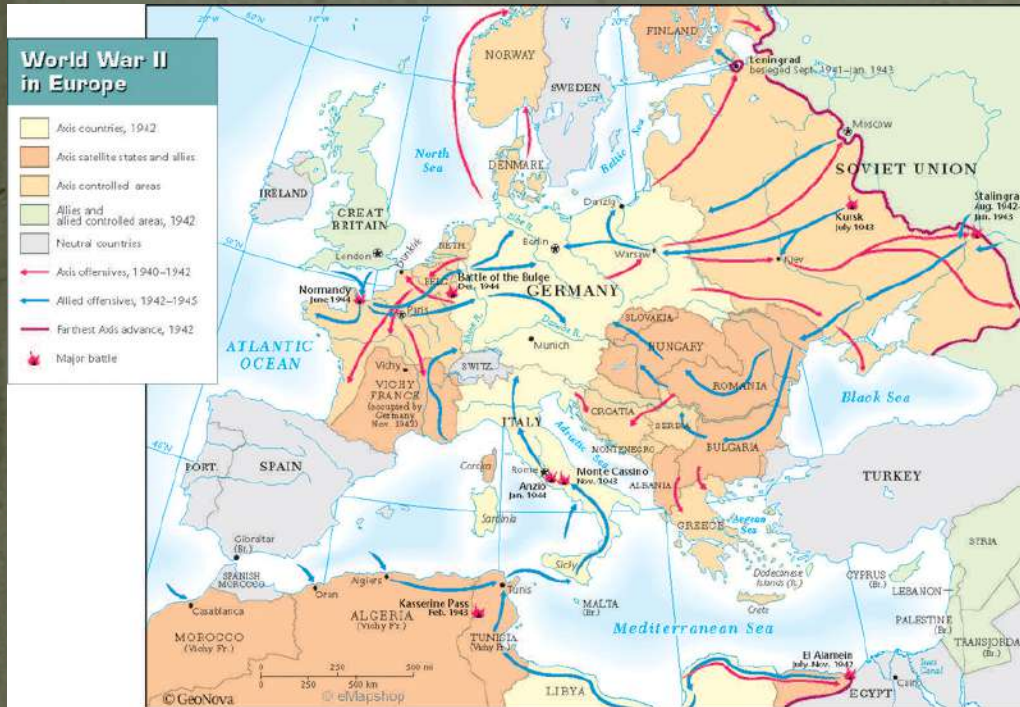


Harry Truman

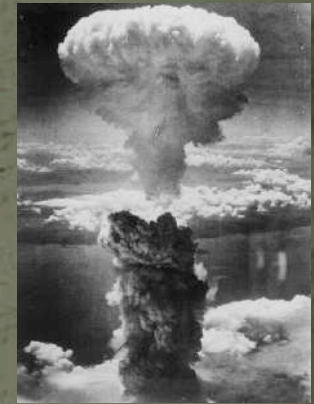


The National Democratic Party knew FDR was unhealthy, so a lot of attention was devoted to who was going to be the vice-presidential nominee. Harry Truman was nominated and ended-up becoming president when FDR died unexpectedly on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1945 – the same month Berlin was sacked by the Allies.

# The Last Days of Dictators



The Soviets reached Berlin in April 1945. Hitler had a quick marriage to his mistress and then they committed suicide – happy anniversary! Germany formally surrendered on May 7<sup>th</sup>.



After vicious fighting on many pacific islands, including Iwo Jima, where marines raised the American flag, American commanders decided to use a secret weapon – the atomic bomb. American aviators dropped atomic bombs, first on Hiroshima and then later on Nagasaki – killing 210,000 civilians within seconds.

# Questions to Consider

1. Was dropping the Atomic bombs justified?
2. How did unconditional surrender help lay the foundation for the Cold War?