

## Chapters 27 & 28 Overview

### Main Themes:

1. In the 1920s, the United States tried to increase its role in world affairs, especially economically, while avoiding commitments.
2. How America, in the face of growing world crises in the 1930s, turned increasingly toward isolationism and legislated neutrality.
3. How war in Europe and Asia gradually drew the United States closer and closer to war until the attack on Pearl Harbor finally sparked American entry into World War II. 1. That the vast productive capacity of the United States was the key to the defeat of the Axis.
4. That the war had a profound effect on the home front.
5. How three major western offensives combined with an ongoing Russian effort to defeat Germany.
6. How sea power contained the Japanese, and how Allied forces moved steadily closer to Japan and prepared for an invasion until the atomic bomb ended the war.

### Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. The new directions of American foreign policy in the 1920s.
2. The effects of the Great Depression on foreign relations.
3. The pattern of Japanese, Italian, and German aggression that eventually led to World War II.
4. The factors that led to the passage of neutrality legislation in the 1930s.
5. The sequence of events that brought the United States into the war. The efforts of the federal government to mobilize the nation's economy for war production.
6. The effects of American participation in the war on the depression and on New Deal reformism.
7. The changes that the wartime involvement brought for women and racial and ethnic minorities.
8. The contributions of the United States military to victory in North Africa and Europe.
9. The contributions of the United States military to victory in the Pacific.

## Chapters 27 & 28

### Assignment 1

**Textbook: pg. 719 to mid-pg. 736.**

1. Why did the United States negotiate separate treaties after World War I?
2. What was accomplished by the Washington Conference and subsequent naval and disarmament conferences?
3. How did American Loans and investments work at cross purposes with United States tariff policy? What was the result?
4. What did President Hoover do to improve relations with Latin America?
5. What happened to the international efforts at economic stability and disarmament in Europe in the late 1920s and early 1930s?
6. How did the Hoover administration deal with Japanese expansionism? How effective was the approach?
7. To what extent did Roosevelt change the U. S. approach to international debt and currency issues?
8. In what ways did U. S. relations with the U. S. S. R. change in the early 1930s?
9. Was the "Good Neighbor" policy a radical departure from past Latin American policies? What future problems did it pose for the United States in the region?
10. Why were Americans supporting a neutral position in the 1930s regarding the growing political and military tensions in Europe? How did the Nye Commission hearings add to this point of view?
11. Briefly describe the restrictions that Congress place on US contacts with foreign nations in the Neutrality Acts of 1935, 1936, and 1937?
12. Why had the Japanese government become hostile to and suspicious of the United States by the early 1930s?
13. Why did the Japanese invade Manchuria in 1931? What was the US response to this attack?
14. How was the Panay incident, in the minds of some historians, a "trial run" for the later Pearl Harbor attack?
15. What was the Japanese policy known as the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere?" How did it reflect Japan's true ambitions in Asia?
16. What did the public reaction to the War of the Worlds broadcast reveal about the power of radio and the anxieties of the American people in 1938?
17. How did Roosevelt manage to get aid to Great Britain in 1939 and 1940 despite the limitations imposed by the Neutrality Acts? What changes in American public opinion coincided with the worsening situation for France and Britain?
18. What were the two principal positions in the domestic debate over the degree to which the United States should participate in the European war?
19. How did the Lend-Lease program work? What was the basis of the national debate over this Act?
20. What was the shape of our military readiness at the outbreak of war in Europe in the fall of 1939? What did President Roosevelt and Congress do to enhance our potential military capabilities?
21. Why was the Atlantic Charter important? What principles did it establish?
22. How did the US enter into an undeclared shooting war with Germany in the fall of 1941?
23. Why was oil a major source of conflict between the US and Japan in the early 1940s? What other areas of disagreement existed between the two nations in the fall of 1941?

24. Why were we caught so off guard at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941?
25. What problems did the Japanese attack solve for FDR?
26. Why could the attack on Pearl Harbor be considered a tactical victory but a political blunder by the Japanese? How have historians treated this issue?

## Chapters 27 & 28 Assignment 2

**Textbook: end of pg. 743 to pg. 764.**

### Questions:

1. What region of the country benefited most from the enormous government spending for the war effort? Why?
2. What impact did the war have on organized labor?
3. What efforts did the national government make to regulate production, labor, and prices during the war? How successful were they?
4. Why did the US fight a war for democracy with a segregated military?
5. How did African-Americans distinguish themselves during World War II?
6. Describe the demographic, social, and military changes for African Americans and Mexican Americans during World War II.
7. Who was A. Philip Randolph? Why did he lead a March on Washington in 1941?
8. What was a "zoot suit?" How did this apparel create racial tensions in Los Angeles during World War II?
9. How did World War II challenge traditional Indian life and redirect federal Indian policy?
10. How were the women who filled war jobs treated? What obstacles did they face?
11. What long-term consequences for the role of women in society and the work force were foreshadowed by the wartime experience?
12. Describe popular culture on the home front. What efforts were made to make life less disruptive for the service members themselves? Explain the justification for and the circumstances surrounding the internment by the US government of Japanese Americans during World War II.
13. Why did Japanese Americans suffer more than German Americans? How did their treatment contrast with Chinese Americans?
14. What was the key issue in the case of *Korematsu v. US*? How did the Supreme Court rule?
15. What was the historical significance of D-Day, June 6, 1944?
16. Describe the nature of Allied bombing raids over Germany and Japan between 1944 and 1945.
17. Why were the Allies finally able to win the war in Europe?
18. Identify the candidates, the issues, and the outcome of the 1944 presidential election. Why did FDR change running mates?
19. What strategy did the US use in fighting the Japanese in the Pacific?
20. When the first atomic test bomb was exploded on July 11, 1945 near Alamogordo, NM, Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer remarked: I am become Death--Destroyer of worlds. What did he mean by this comment?
21. The principal biographers of President Truman and many other historians contend that the President's decision to use the atomic bomb was based purely on the motivation to end the war quickly and save lives. Why do some historians dispute that view?
22. Why is the issue so politically volatile as evidenced by the Enola Gay controversy at the Smithsonian Institute?