

Georgia's History:

World War II

SS8H9



Standards

SS8H9 The student will describe the impact of World War II on Georgia's development economically, socially, and politically.

- a. Describe the impact of events leading up to American involvement in World War II; include Lend-Lease and the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
- b. Evaluate the importance of Bell Aircraft, military bases, the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards, Richard Russell, and Carl Vinson.
- c. Explain the impact of the Holocaust on Georgians.
- d. Discuss President Roosevelt's ties to Georgia including his visits to Warm Springs and his impact on the state.

World War II

SS8H9a

Adolf Hitler

- After WWI, Germany's economic hard times helped the National Socialist (Nazi) Party come to power.
- The Nazi party's leader, Adolf Hitler, gained control of Germany in 1932 because he promised to restore Germany's position in the world.
- Hitler soon became Germany's dictator, taking complete control of the country.

Hitler Waves to the Crowd in Germany – 1938.



Ignores Treaty

- Hitler completely ignored the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- He rebuilt Germany's military.
- He also promised to restore Germany's lost territories.
- Leaders of the winning countries of WWI failed to force Hitler to follow the terms of the treaty...

Aggression

- In 1936, Hitler took back some German territory along the Rhine River.
- In 1938, he united Austria with Germany.
- Hitler also demanded parts of Czechoslovakia, and France and Great Britain gave in.
- In 1939, Hitler's Nazi army invaded Poland – this was the last straw for the Allies.



Hitler Observes
Troops On the
March to
Poland – 1939.

Japan

- Feelings of nationalism and militarism also swept through Japan in the 1920s and 1930s.
- Emperor Hirohito was the ruler of Japan and the military had a lot of power in his government.
- Japan built up its army, navy, and air force and invaded China in 1931.

Emperor Hirohito
During an Army
Inspection in 1938.



Aggression

- Over the next few years, Japan conquered all of eastern China.
- In January 1942, the Japanese captured Manila, the capital of the Philippines.
- A month later, the Japanese captured Singapore.
- Japan eventually conquered the East Indies, the Philippines, and many other Pacific Islands.

Italy

- In 1925, Benito Mussolini became dictator of Italy.
- He had a fascist government, much like Hitler.
 - They both opposed western democracy and were cruel.
- Mussolini increased the size of Italy's military.
- Italy conquered Albania and Ethiopia in Africa.

Axis Powers

- Mussolini signed an alliance with Germany in 1936.
- Japan signed an alliance with Germany and Italy in 1940.
- The aggressive countries soon became known as the Axis Powers.

On October 25th, 1936,
Germany and Italy
Signed an Alliance.



LVCE

Neutral U.S.

- When WWII broke out in Europe in 1939, the US followed a policy of neutrality, which meant that they wouldn't join either the Axis or Allied powers.
- Many people in the US believed that the war was Europe's problem, not America's.
- As Germany, Japan, and Italy continued to be victorious and take over nation after nation, the U.S. continued to watch from the sidelines.

Lend-Lease Act

- Even though the US remained neutral in terms of fighting, President Roosevelt and Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act in 1941.
- This allowed the US to lend or lease weapons, supplies, and equipment to any country whose defense was critical to US security.
- This act gave the Allies more than \$50 billion in supplies in exchange for US military base rights in the countries.

Pearl Harbor

- Everything changed on December 7, 1941, when Japanese airplanes made a surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- The Japanese sank or destroyed 8 US battleships and 188 airplanes.
- More than 2,400 people lost their lives.



The USS Arizona
After the Japanese
Surprise Attack on
Pearl Harbor.

President Roosevelt
called December 7,
1941, “a day that
will live in infamy.”



US Enters WWII

- The next day, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.
- They agreed and the US officially entered WWII on December 8, 1941.
- On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the US.
- The US was now deeply involved in WWII on the side of the Allies.



Roosevelt Signing Declaration of
War Against Japan.

Hitler Declares War on the US – 1941.



Georgia & World War II

SS8H9b

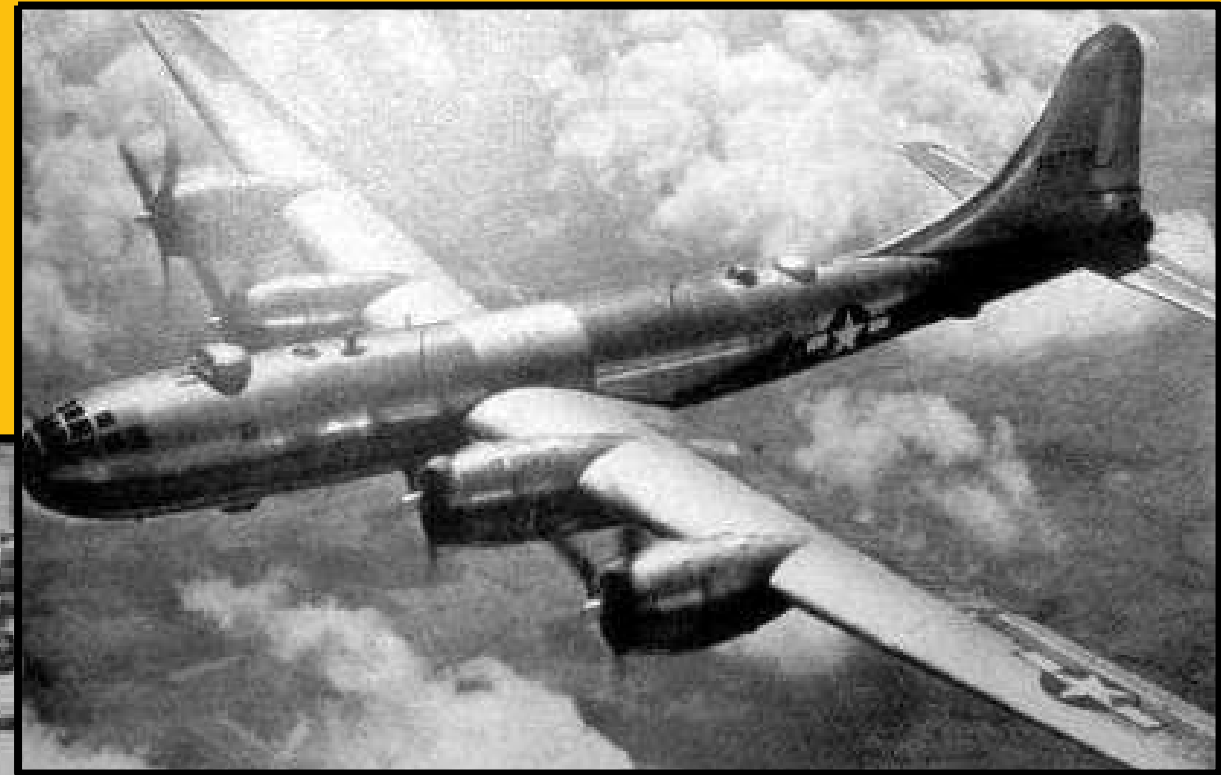
Georgia & WWII

- Georgia made several contributions to the war effort.
- Prior to WWII, Georgia was a very poor state; however, once the war started, Georgia's economy grew exponentially.
- The federal government poured money into military bases and war-related industries, helping Georgians make more money than ever before.

Bell Aircraft

- In 1942, the Bell Aircraft company arrived in the small town of Marietta and began to produce B-29 bombers.
- During the war, nearly 30,000 workers were employed at the plant, causing Marietta to quickly grow and prosper.
- Bell paid excellent wages, and its workers (including women and African Americans) built over 660 bombers while the plant was open.

Bell Aircraft Plant



B-29 Bomber

Shipyards

- Another one of Georgia's great military accomplishments was its two major shipyards.
- Savannah and Brunswick, both deep-sea ports, provided ideal naval yards for the construction of war ships.
- The Southeastern Shipbuilding Corporation was in Savannah and constructed over 80 ships, and the J.A. Jones shipyard in Brunswick turned out almost 100 ships.



Brunswick
Shipyard

Shipyards

- Georgia became the home of the Liberty Ship, a large, square-hulled ship designed to carry supplies to troops (grain, trucks, mail, etc.).
- These ships were used to transport troops and supplies to both the European and Pacific fronts.



Many of Georgia's ships came to be called "Liberty Ships" because Roosevelt said they would, "bring liberty to Europe!"

Launch of the first liberty ship built in Georgia



Military Bases

- During World War II, Georgia became home to more military training bases than any other state in the U.S. besides Texas.
- Fort Benning near Columbus, Georgia, was the largest and viewed as the best infantry facility during the war.
- Other bases include Robins Air Service Command in Macon, Fort Gordon in Augusta, and Hunter Field in Savannah.
- Today, these bases provide thousands of jobs for Georgians and pump millions of dollars into the state's economy.



Fort Benning during WWII -
Columbus, GA



Richard B. Russell

- Richard B. Russell, Jr. (1897-1971) was a governor and senator of Georgia.
- He was born in Winder, Georgia, and was a graduate of the University of Georgia.
- After briefly serving as a lawyer, at the age of 23, he was one of the youngest people ever elected to the Georgia General Assembly.
- Russell also served as the youngest Governor in Georgia's history and the youngest member of the US Senate when he was elected in 1933.

Richard B. Russell



Richard B. Russell

- Russell served on the Senate Naval Affairs Committee and during WWII, he often traveled to visit US troops.
- He was one of the first politicians to argue that the US needed military bases in foreign territories to secure international security.
- Russell was also influential in bringing or maintaining 15 military bases in the state, along with many other research facilities, including the Centers for Disease Control, and federal funding of other projects throughout the state.

Carl Vinson

- Carl Vinson (1881-1983) was born in Baldwin County, Georgia.
- After graduating from Mercer University School of Law and serving a lawyer, he was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1908.
- Vinson was elected to the House of Representatives in 1914, where he served for 50 years—longer than any other congressman.



Carl Vinson

Carl Vinson

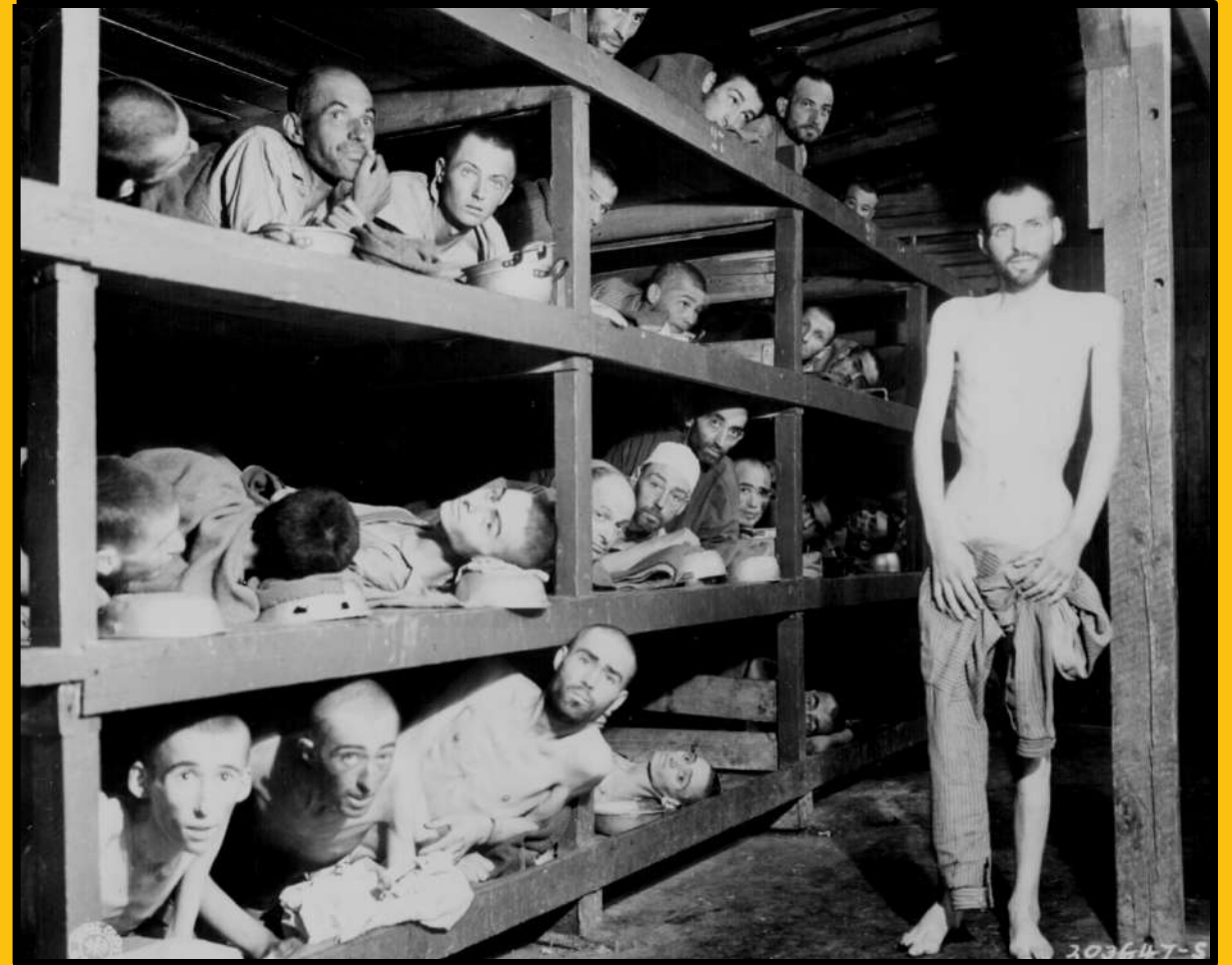
- Vinson served on the House Naval Affairs Committee where he won the nickname, “the father of the two-ocean navy.”
- For decades, he argued that the US must strengthen its navy if it hoped to remain secure.
- Due to his hard work for over 50 years, Vinson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and had a U.S. nuclear powered aircraft carrier named after him.

Georgia & the Holocaust

SS8H9c

Holocaust

- Throughout Hitler's rule, the Nazis persecuted Jews and other minorities in Germany.
- Hitler blamed all of Germany's problems after WWI on the Jewish people.
- First, he hurt the Jews economically by forcing Germans to stop buying things from Jewish shops.
- Then he forced them to move into crowded neighborhoods called ghettos.



Holocaust

- Finally, Jews were rounded up and forced into concentration camps where millions died.
- Hitler was responsible for the murder of more than 6 million Jews between 1933 and 1945.
- As the Allies advanced through Europe, they captured the concentration camps and freed the Jews that were still alive.

Effects in GA

- In 1986, Governor Joe Frank Harris established the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.
- In 1988, the commission became a permanent state agency whose goal is to teach future generations about the dangers of prejudice, racial hatred, and genocide.
- Jewish organizations like the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and the Jewish Family and Career Services provides assistance to Holocaust survivors.
- These organizations are determined not to forget the Holocaust and to educate future generations.

President Roosevelt & Georgia

SS8H9d

Warm Springs

- Franklin Roosevelt visited Georgia over 40 times from 1913-1945.
- Roosevelt had a disease called polio, and visited Warm Springs for polio therapy.
- Roosevelt, and other polio patients, exercised in the warm water pools of the spring to help ease the crippling effects of polio.
- When he came to Georgia, he stayed at his home in Warm Springs, which became known as the “Little White House” during his presidency.

President Roosevelt in Warm Springs, GA





Helping Georgia

- Roosevelt made several appearances and gave many speeches throughout the state.
- His firsthand exposure to rural Georgia and its problems during the Depression helped him create effective New Deal programs that helped alleviate the country's economic problems.
- Roosevelt's New Deal programs helped many Georgians.
- His agricultural policies assisted Georgia farmers and work programs gave jobs to the poor.

Farewell

- President Roosevelt was visiting Warm Springs on April 12, 1945, when he died after suffering a massive stroke.
- Today, many people still go to Warm Springs for treatment of strokes and injuries at the Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center, and Roosevelt's home is visited by thousands every year.

