



Impact of WWII on GA




**UNIT 6**  
**PART 2**

# GPS

**SS8Hg 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 the ties to Georgia that President Roosevelt had and his impact on the state.



# Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

**The student will understand that when there is conflict between or within societies, change is the result.**

1. What was the Lend Lease policy and how did it help lead to American's involvement in World War II? H9a
2. What happened on December 7, 1941 that resulted in America declaring war on Japan? H9a
3. How did US involvement in WWII impact Georgia's economy and subsequent development? H9b



# Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

**The student will understand that the actions of individuals, groups, and/or institutions affect society through intended and unintended consequences.**

1. Who were significant political figures of the period and how did they impact the state? H9b,d
2. What was President Roosevelt's tie to Georgia and how did this impact the state? H9d
3. What was the Holocaust and what is the legacy it left behind? H9c

# Events leading to WWII

- The United States was not the only country experiencing an economic depression during the 1930s.
- The depression was a worldwide economic crisis.
- Germany was hit especially hard since it was still trying to recover from paying for WWI.
- Germans were very bitter and a leader by the name of Adolf Hitler took advantage of this discontent to lead the Nazi party to power.

# Events leading to WWII

- Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany in January 1933.
- By 1938, Hitler has seized total power (totalitarian dictator) of the German government and convinced the German people that he was their savior from the economic crisis.
- Hitler blamed Germany's economic woes on the Jews because they were wealthy and large land owners.

# Adolf Hitler



# Events leading to WWII

- In Italy, another dictator, Benito Mussolini, came to power.
- Mussolini and Hitler became allies and led Europe into another bloody war.
- Japan also became a threat in the Pacific during this time.
- Japan began conquering territories in the South Pacific to acquire more natural resources, making the US extremely nervous.




# Benito Mussolini




# WWII in Europe

- World War II officially began in 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland and then France in 1940.
- Hitler's ultimate plan was to invade the Soviet Union (Russia) and conquer it for lebensraum (living space), mostly for the natural resources.
- Hitler set his sights on Great Britain when they refused to make peace and accept Hitler's invasions.
- Hitler finally invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941.
- [Interactive Map](#)



# United States and Isolationism

- Meanwhile, the US kept an eye on Europe and Japan.
- US citizens as a whole did not want to go to war and supported isolationism, or the belief that the US should stay isolated from the war.
- Americans also felt that Europe and the South Pacific should take care of their own issues.



# United States and Isolationism

- With the Great Depression still raging, US citizens wanted the government to focus on economic matters at home, not fighting overseas.
- President Roosevelt understood the isolationist sentiments of Americans, but he also saw that Hitler, Mussolini, and Hideki Tojo (Japan's Military Leader) were dangerous men.

# Hideki Tojo



# FDR Confronts Isolationism

- Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain begged the US to join the fight before the Soviet Union and Great Britain fell to Hitler.
- However, there was not enough support to commit US troops at this time.
- Roosevelt did support an oil embargo against Japan to protest their military aggression.

# FDR and Churchill



# Lend-Lease System

- FDR won support for the Lend-Lease System.
- Under the Lend-Lease system, the US agreed to send supplies to any nation whose defense was important to the national security of the US.
- If the country couldn't pay for the supplies, then the US would give it to them and wait for payment after the war.



# Lend-Lease System

- Roosevelt felt this was important in order to help save Great Britain.
- The Lend-Lease System was not widely supported by all because of the desire by some to remain neutral.
- Roosevelt gained support for this policy using the following analogy: “If your neighbor’s house is on fire, you don’t sell him a hose, you give it to him. Then, you take the hose back once the fire is out. This helps your neighbor and makes sure the fire doesn’t spread to your own house.”

# Pearl Harbor

- As Japan sought to expand its empire in the Pacific, they viewed the US Naval fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as a threat.
- The Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor early on December 7, 1941.
- FDR asked for a declaration of war on Japan the next day from Congress and received it.
- Germany and Italy declared war on the US in return.
- [Pearl Harbor Link](#)



# Georgia and WWII

- GA contributed to the war effort in many ways
  - Men and women flocked to join the military after Pearl Harbor.
  - Roughly 320,000 Georgians served in the armed forces during the war.
  - GA citizens also sacrificed, recycled, grew more of their own food.
  - Women left home and worked jobs traditionally held by men.



# GA's Military Bases

- Like in WWI, GA's military bases played a crucial role in preparing US soldiers for the war.
- Ft. Gordon (Augusta), Ft. Benning (Columbus), and Ft. Stewart (Savannah) served as some of the nation's largest training bases.
- Several of these bases also housed German and Italian POWs during the war.

# Bell Aircraft

- Established by the Federal Government in Marietta, GA to build airplanes.
- Bell produced over 600 B-29 Bombers during the war.
- Bell also helped GA out of the Great Depression by creating hundreds of jobs and producing economic growth.

# Shipyards

- Many historians believe GA's greatest contribution to the war effort was its shipyards.
- Shipyards are places where ships are built.
- The Southeastern Shipbuilding Corporation in Savannah constructed over 80 ships.
- The JA Jones shipyard in Brunswick built almost 100.
- These ships were known as "Liberty Ships."
- In April 1942, a German submarine sank an American ship a few miles off the coast of St. Simons, reminding Georgians and other Americans the importance of a strong Navy.

# Richard Russell

- Elected to represent GA in the US Senate in 1933.
- Russell worked hard to push FDR's New Deal through Congress.
- Served on the Senate Naval Affairs Committee and chaired the Senate Armed Services Committee.
- Visited troops during WWII which influenced him to support the establishment of US military bases in foreign territories to secure international stability.


# Carl Vinson

- Served as a GA representative in the US House of Representatives.
- Served on the House Naval Affairs Committee where he earned the nickname, "the father of the two-ocean navy."
- Vinson argued for a strong Navy for the US to remain secure two decades prior to Pearl Harbor.
- The US's ability to win the Naval war in the Pacific against Japan is credited to Vinson.





# Vinson & Russell

- Both provided strong leadership in Washington during WWII.
  - Both also used their position to direct as much war-time industry to GA as possible.
  - These efforts helped to strengthen the nation's military, helped heal GA's economy and lift it out of the Great Depression.
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# Vinson & Russell



# Victory in Europe and Japan


- In June of 1944, Allied troops invaded France and made their way towards Germany.
- The Soviet Union attacked Germany from the East.
- In Spring of 1945, Hitler committed suicide when it became evident that the Soviets would soon invade Germany's capitol of Berlin.

# Victory in Europe and Japan

- May 8, 1945, US citizens celebrated V-E day, or Victory in Europe Day.
- In August 1945, the US would drop the world's first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan, bringing an end to the war in the Pacific.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War was finally over.



# The Holocaust

- As the world celebrated the end of the war, it was also learning about the Holocaust.
  - Holocaust means “complete or great destruction”.
  - More than 6 million Jews were murdered by Hitler and the Nazi Government.
  - Hitler’s regime also executed other people considered “unfit to live” such as gypsies, Slavs, homosexuals, the mentally ill, and physically disabled.
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# The Holocaust

- Jews were forced to work in Concentration Camps where they were either killed immediately or used as slave labor before being executed.
- Allied soldiers liberated these camps and discovered mass graves, gas chambers used for executions, dying prisoners, and crematoriums.
- More than 20 Nazi leaders were tried for war crimes due to their role in the Holocaust.
- Some were convicted and receive long prison terms while others were hanged.

# Effects of the Holocaust in

- **GA** Georgians, like most people, were angry and amazed when they learned about the cruelty of the Holocaust.
- The large Jewish population in Atlanta was especially horrified. It sent money to Europe to help rescue Jews from the Holocaust.
- The Holocaust sparked fears of anti-Semitism, or prejudice against Jews as well as support for a Jewish State.
- Many Jewish Georgians were thrilled when the United Nations formally recognized the nation of Israel as a Jewish state in 1948.
- In 1986, the GA Commission on the Holocaust was formed to teach Georgians to move beyond racism/bigotry.

# FDR and GA

- FDR is the only president in US history to serve more than two terms in office.
- He was elected 4 times and served from March 1933 through his death in 1945.
- FDR guided the US through some of its darkest days – first through the Great Depression and then through WWII.
- FDR also suffered from polio, an illness he contracted during childhood that confined him to a wheelchair for much of his life.



# Farewell to FDR

- Because of FDR's disability, he developed a special relationship with the State of GA.
- Before becoming president, FDR learned about Warm Springs in Meriwether County, GA.
- This area featured natural spring waters and pools of warm water.
- FDR liked Warm Springs because the waters helped sooth some of the discomfort caused by his polio.

## FDR and GA

- In 1932, FDR built a vacation home in Warm Springs and spent a lot of time there.
- The home eventually became known as “The Little White House”.
- FDR died in Warm Springs on April 12, 1945.
- He died before he could see the nation experience peace and prosperity at the same time.
- Georgians and other Americans mourned the loss of their president and friend.