

Chapter 34

America in World War II, 1941–1945

Presented by:

Mr. Anderson, M.Ed., J.D.



I. The Allies Trade Space for Time

- Under **ABC-1 agreement** with England, U.S.A. wisely pursued “get Germany first” strategy
- Time was the most needed munition:
 - Expense no limitation
 - America's problem was to retool itself for all-out war production before:
 - Germany could crush English and Soviets
 - German scientists might develop secret weapons

I. The Allies Trade Space for Time (cont.)

- America's task:
 - Feed, clothe, and arm itself
 - Transport its forces to regions as far separated as Britain and Burma
 - Send vast amount of food and munitions to hard-pressed allies
 - Who stretched all the way from USSR to Australia

II. The Shock of War

- National unity no worry, after Pearl Harbor:
 - American Communists had denounced Anglo-French “imperialist” war prior to mid-1941
 - Now clamored for assault on Axis powers
 - Pro-Hitlerites in United States melted away
 - Millions of Italian Americans and German Americans loyally supported nation's war programs
 - World War II speeded assimilation of many ethnic groups into American society
 - No government witch-hunting of minority groups



II. The Shock of War (cont.)

- Painful exception—plight of 110,000 Japanese Americans, mainly on Pacific Coast (see Makers of America section)
 - Government forcibly herded them into concentration camps
- **Executive Order No. 9066:**
 - Internment deprived these Americans of dignity and basic rights
 - Internees lost hundreds of millions of dollars in property and forgone earnings
 - Supreme Court in 1944 upheld constitutionality of Japanese relocation in *Korematsu v. U.S.*
 - In 1988, U.S. government officially apologized and paid reparations of \$20,000 to each camp survivor

II. The Shock of War (cont.)

- War prompted changes in American mood:
 - Many New Deal programs ended
 - Era of New Deal over
 - World War II no idealistic crusade like WWI
 - U.S. government put emphasis on action



0794



0791

III. Building the War Machine

- American economy snapped to attention:
 - Massive military orders—over \$100 billion in 1942 alone—soaked up idle industrial capacity
 - **War Production Board (WPB):**
 - Halted manufacture of nonessential items—passenger cars
 - Prioritized transportation and access to raw materials
 - Imposed national speed limit and gasoline rationing to conserve rubber
 - Built 51 synthetic-rubber plants
 - » By war's end, these plants outproducing prewar supply



0793



0793

III. Building the War Machine (cont.)

- Farmers increased output
- Armed forces drained farms of workers
- Heavy investment in machinery and improved fertilizers more than made up difference
- In 1944 and 1945, farmers hauled in record-breaking billion-bushel wheat harvests
- Economic strains:
 - Full employment and scarce consumer goods fueled sharp inflationary surge in 1942



III. Building the War Machine (cont.)

- **Office of Price Administration (OPA):**
 - Eventually brought prices under control with extensive regulations
 - Rationing held down consumption of critical goods
 - Though some “black marketeers” and “meatleggers” cheated system
- **National War Labor Board (NWLB):**
 - Imposed ceilings on wage increases

III. Building the War Machine (cont.)

- Labor conditions:
 - Union membership increased from 10 million to more than 13 million during war
 - Labor resented government-dictated wage ceilings
 - Rash of labor walkouts plagued war effort
 - United Mine Workers prominent among strikers:
 - Called off job by union chieftain, John L. Lewis

III. Building the War Machine (cont.)

- **Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act:** June 1943:
 - Authorized federal government to seize and operate tied-up industries
 - Strikes against any government-operated industry made a criminal offense
 - Washington took over coal mines, and for brief time, railroads
 - Stoppages accounted for less than 1% of total working hours of U.S.' wartime laboring force
 - Workers on whole committed to war effort

IV. Manpower and Womanpower

- Armed service enlistments:
 - 15 million men in World War II
 - 216,000 women employed for noncombat duties
 - “Women in arms”:
 - **WACs (Women's Army Corps),**
 - **WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)** (navy),
 - **SPARs (U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve)**
 - Millions of young men clothed in “GI” government issue) outfits

IV. Manpower and Womanpower (cont.)

- Certain industrial and agricultural workers exempted from draft
- Still shortage of farm and factory workers
- **Bracero program:**
 - Mexican agricultural workers, called *braceros*, came to harvest fruit and grain crops of West
 - Program outlived war by some twenty years, becoming part of agricultural economy in many western states



IV. Manpower and Womanpower (cont.)

- more than six million women took jobs outside home:
 - Over half had never worked for wages before
 - Government obliged to set up 3,000 day-care centers to care for “Rosie the Riveter’s” children
 - At end of war, many women not eager to give up work
 - War foreshadowed eventual revolution in roles of women in American society

IV. Manpower and Womanpower (cont.)

- Yet many women did not work for wages in wartime economy, but continued traditional roles
- At war's end, 2/3 of women war workers left labor force
- Many forced out by returning service-men
- Many quit jobs voluntarily because of family obligations
- Widespread rush into suburban domesticity and mothering of "baby boomers"

V. Wartime Migrations

- Demographic changes:
 - Many men and women in military decided not to return to hometown at war's end
 - War industries sucked people into boomtowns—Los Angeles, Detroit, Seattle, Baton Rouge
 - California's population grew by two million
 - South experienced dramatic changes:
 - Received disproportionate share of defense contracts
 - Seeds of postwar "Sunbelt" established (see Map 34.1)



V. Wartime Migrations (cont.)

- Some 1.6 million blacks left South for jobs in war plants of West and North
- Forever after, race relations constituted a national, not a regional, issue
- Explosive tensions developed over employment, housing, and segregated facilities
 - Pushed by Randolph, Roosevelt issued executive order forbidding discrimination in defense industries
 - Established **Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC)** to monitor compliance with edict

V. Wartime Migrations (cont.)

- Blacks drafted into armed forces:
 - Assigned to service branches rather than combat units
 - Subjected to petty degradations:
 - Segregated blood banks for wounded
 - War helped embolden blacks in long struggle for equality
 - Slogan—"Double V"—victory over dictators abroad and racism at home
 - Membership in National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) shot up to half-million mark
 - New militant **Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)** committed to nonviolent "direct action" (1942)



V. Wartime Migrations (cont.)

- Northward migration of African Americans accelerated after war:
 - Thanks to advent of mechanical cotton picker
 - Introduced in 1944, machine did work of 50 people at about 1/8th the cost
 - Cotton South's historic need for cheap labor disappeared
 - Some five million black tenant farmers and sharecroppers headed north in decades after war
 - One of great migrations in American history
 - By 1970 half of blacks lived outside South
 - And *urban* became almost a synonym for *black*

V. Wartime Migrations (cont.)

- War prompted exodus of Native Americans from reservations
 - Thousands of men and women found work in major cities
 - Thousands more went into armed forces
 - 90% of Indians resided on reservations in 1940
 - Six decades later, more than ½ lived in cities, many in southern Calif

V. Wartime Migrations (cont.)

- 25,000 men served in armed forces
- Served as “code talkers”
 - Transmitted radio messages in native languages, incomprehensible to Germans and Japanese
- Rubbing together created some violent friction; e.g. in 1943:
 - Mexican Americans in Los Angeles viciously attacked by Anglo sailors
 - Brutal race riot in Detroit killed 25 blacks and 9 whites



VI. Holding the Home Front

- Overall, Americans at home suffered little:
 - War invigorated economy
 - Lifted country out of decade-long depression
 - Gross national product rose from \$100 billion in 1940 to more than \$200 billion in 1945
 - Corporate profits rose from \$6 billion in 1940 to almost twice that amount four years later
 - Despite wage ceiling, disposable personal income more than doubled with overtime pay



VI. Holding the Home Front (cont.)

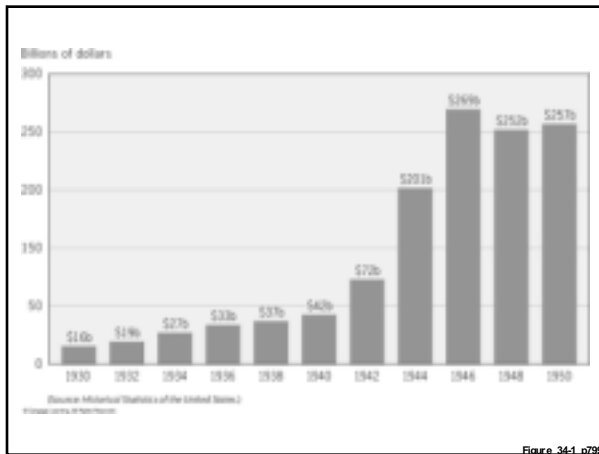
- Hand of government touched American lives more than ever before
 - Roots of post-'45 era of big-government interventionism
 - Households felt constraints of rationing system
 - Millions worked for government in armed forces
 - Millions worked in defense industries
 - Office of Scientific Research and Development
 - Channeled hundreds of millions of dollars into university-based scientific research
 - Established partnerships because government and universities underwrote America's technological and economic leadership in the postwar era.

VI. Holding the Home Front (cont.)

- Government dollars swept unemployment from land
- War, not enlightened social policy, cured depression
- 1941-1945 as origins of “warfare-welfare state”
- WWII phenomenally expensive
 - Bill amounted to more than \$330 billion—
 - 10 times direct cost of World War I
 - Twice as much as *all* previous federal spending since 1776
 - Roosevelt would have preferred pay-as-you-go
 - Cost simply too gigantic

VI. Holding the Home Front (cont.)

- Income tax net expanded and some rates rose as high as 90%
- Only two-fifths of war bill paid from current revenues
- Remainder borrowed
- National debt skyrocketed from \$49 billion in 1941 to \$259 billion in 1945 (see Figure 34.1)
- When production slipped into high gear, war cost about \$10 million an hour
 - Price of victory over such implacable enemies



VII. The Rising Sun in the Pacific

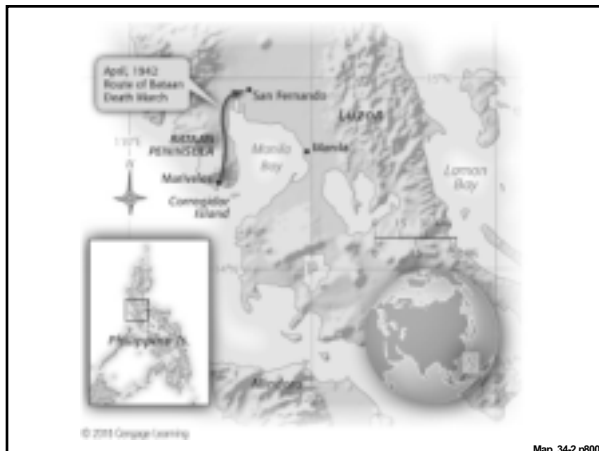
- Early successes of Japan's militarists breathtaking:
 - Realized would have to win quickly or lose slowly
 - Expanded rapidly in Far East:
 - Took American outposts of Guam, Wake, Philippines
 - Seized British-Chinese city port of Hong Kong and British Malaya
 - Plunged into jungles of Burma
 - Lunged southward to take oil-rich Dutch East Indies

VII. The Rising Sun in the Pacific (cont.)

- Better news came from Philippines, which succeeded in slowing down Japanese
- When Japanese landed, General Douglas MacArthur withdrew to strong defensive position at Bataan, not far from Manila:
 - Here 20,000 American troops, supported by force of ill-trained Filipinos, held off Japanese attacks until April 9, 1942
 - Before inevitable American surrender, MacArthur ordered to depart secretly for Australia

VII. The Rising Sun in the Pacific (cont.)

- His army remnants treated with vicious cruelty in infamous eighty-mile Bataan Death March to prisoner-of-war camps:
 - First in series of atrocities committed by both sides
- Island fortress of Corregidor, in Manila harbor,
 - Held out until May 6, 1942, when it too surrendered
 - Which left Japanese forces in complete control of Philippine archipelago (see Map 34.2)



VIII. Japan's High Tide at Midway

- Japan's continual march:
 - Invaded New Guinea, and landed on Solomon Islands
 - Finally checked by naval battle fought in Coral Sea, May 1942
 - America, with Australian support, inflicted heavy losses on victory-flushed Japanese
 - First time fighting done by carrier-based aircraft
 - Japan next undertook to seize Midway Island:
 - Epochal **Battle of Midway**, June 3-6, 1942—
 - Admiral Chester W. Nimitz forced Japanese to retreat after U.S. naval aircraft sank four vitally important carriers

VIII. Japan's High Tide at Midway (cont.)

- Midway a pivotal battle:
 - Combined with Battle of the Coral Sea, U.S. success at Midway halted Japan's offensive
 - Japan did get America's islands of Kiska and Attu
 - Caused fear of invasion of United States through Alaska
 - Japanese imperialists, overextended in 1942, suffered from “victory disease”
 - Their appetites were bigger than their stomachs.

IX. American Leapfrogging Toward Tokyo

- America seized initiative in Pacific:
 - In 1942 American gained toehold on Guadalcanal Island
 - Japanese troops evacuated island in February 1943
 - Japan losses were 20,000, compared to 1,700 for Americans
 - American and Australian forces under General MacArthur held on in New Guinea, last buffer protecting Australia
 - Scales of war began to tip

IX. American Leapfrogging Toward Tokyo (cont.)

- U.S. Navy, with marines and army divisions, began “leapfrogging” Japanese-held islands in Pacific
- Island hopping strategy called for:
 - Bypassing most heavily fortified Japanese posts
 - Capturing nearby islands
 - Setting up airfields on them
 - Then neutralizing enemy bases using heavy bombing
 - Deprived essential supplies from home, Japan's outposts would slowly withered on vine



IX. American Leapfrogging Toward Tokyo (cont.)

- Brilliant successes crowned American attacks on Japanese island strongholds in Pacific:
 - Gilbert Islands fell in late 1943
 - Marshall Islands taken in early 1944
 - Especially prized were Marianas, including Guam
 - Assault opened on June 19, 1944
 - 250 Japanese aircraft destroyed, with loss of only 29 American planes

IX. American Leapfrogging Toward Tokyo (cont.)

- Following day, in Battle of Philippine Sea, U.S. navy sank several Japanese carriers
 - Japanese navy never recovered
- After mass suicide of surviving Japanese soldiers and civilians from “Suicide Cliff” on Saipan, Marianas fell to U.S.A. in July-August, 1944
- Bombing of Japan by new B-29s began November 1944 (see Map 34.3)



X. The Allied Halting of Hitler

- Hitler increased Battle of Atlantic in 1942 using submarine “wolf packs”
 - Tide of subsea battle turned slowly
 - Old techniques strengthened by new methods:
 - Air patrol
 - Newly invented technology of radar
 - Bombing of submarine bases
 - Allied tactics further helped by British code breakers
 - By spring 1943, Allies had upper hand against U-boats
 - Vital for Allied military operations in Europe

X. The Allied Halting of Hitler (cont.)

- Turning point of land-air war against Hitler came in 1942:
 - British launched thousand-plane raid on Cologne in May
 - In August, they joined American air force in bombing German cities
 - Germans under Marshal Erwin Rommel—the “Desert Fox”—drove across North Africa into Egypt
 - October 1942, British general Bernard Montgomery delivered attack at El Alamein, west of Cairo
 - With aid of American tanks, he drove Rommel back to Tunisia

X. The Allied Halting of Hitler (cont.)

- September 1942, Russians stalled German steamroller at Stalingrad, graveyard of Hitler's hopes:
 - Scores of invading divisions surrendered
 - November 1942, Russians began crushing counteroffensive
 - By 1943, Stalin had regained about 2/3 of blood-soaked Soviet motherland from German invader

XI. A Second Front from North Africa to Rome

- Losses:
 - Soviet—millions of soldiers and civilians lay dead by 1942 as Hitler's armies overran most of western USSR
 - Anglo-American losses—only in thousands by 1942
 - By war's end, some 20 million Soviets had died
- Americans, including FDR, wanted to invade France in 1942 or 1943 to prevent Russian defeat
- British military not enthusiastic about frontal attack on German-held France
 - Preferred to attack Hitler's Fortress Europe through "soft underbelly" of Mediterranean

XI. A Second Front from North Africa to Rome (cont.)

- Americans reluctantly agreed to postpone massive invasion of Europe
- Assault on French-held North Africa a compromise second front
 - Attack in November 1942 led by American general Dwight D. ("Ike") Eisenhower
 - With joint Allied operations, invasion was mightiest waterborne effort up to that time in history
 - After savage fighting, remnants of German-Italian army trapped in Tunisia and surrendered in May, 1943



XI. A Second Front from North Africa to Rome (cont.)

- Casablanca:
 - Roosevelt met with Churchill in January 1943:
 - Big Two agreed to:
 - Step up Pacific war
 - Invade Sicily
 - Increase pressure on Italy
 - Insist on “unconditional surrender” of enemy
 - Unconditional surrender one of most controversial moves of war:
 - Main criticism—steered enemy to fight to last man

XI. A Second Front from North Africa to Rome (cont.)

- Discouraged antiwar groups in Germany from revolting
- No one can prove “unconditional surrender” either shortened or lengthened war
- What is known:
 - By crushing German government, policy forced thorough postwar reconstruction
- Allied forces, victorious in Africa, turned against not-so-soft underbelly in Europe:
 - Sicily fell in August 1943
 - Mussolini deposed

XI. A Second Front from North Africa to Rome (cont.)

- Italy surrendered unconditionally in September 1943
- Hitler's troops in Italy resisted Allied invaders
- Germans also unleashed fury against Italians who declared war on Germany in October 1943
- Rome finally taken on June 4, 1944
- Allies continued to fight in northern Italy
- May 2, 1945, only five days before Germany's official surrender, several hundred thousand Axis troops in Italy laid down arms and became prisoners of war

XII. D-Day: June 6, 1944

- Soviets never ceased clamor for all-out second front
 - Tehran, capital of Iran (Persia), chosen as meeting place:
 - Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin—Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 1943
 - Meeting progressed smoothly with key achievement:
 - Agreed on broad plans, especially for launching Soviet attacks on Germany from east simultaneously with U.S.-British cross-channel invasion of France



XII. D-Day: June 6, 1944 (cont.)

– D-Day, June 6, 1944:

- Enormous operation, involved some 4,600 vessels
- After desperate fighting, invaders broke out of iron ring that enclosed Normandy landing zone
- Spectacular lunges across France by American armored divisions under General Patton
- Retreat of German defenders hastened when American-French force landed in August 1944 on southern coast of France and swept north
- With assistance of French “underground,” Paris liberated in August 1944

XII. D-Day: June 6, 1944 (cont.)

- Allies forces rolled irresistibly toward Germany
- First important German city (Aachen) fell to Americans in October 1944

– Days of Hitler’s “thousand-year Reich” numbered (see Map 34.4)



XIII. FDR: The Fourth-Termite of 1944

- Presidential campaign of 1944:
 - Republicans:
 - Met in Chicago with hopeful enthusiasm
 - Quickly nominated Thomas E. Dewey—mild internationalist
 - Nominated for vice president, Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio, a strong isolationist
 - Platform called for unstinted prosecution of war and creation of new international organization to maintain peace

XIII. FDR: the Fourth-Termite of 1944 (cont.)

- Democrats:
 - FDR “indispensable man”
 - Nominated at Chicago on first ballot by acclamation
 - In a sense, he was “forgotten man” of convention
 - Most attention focused on vice presidency:
 - Henry A. Wallace, having served four years as vice president, desired renomination
 - Conservative Democrats distrusted him as unpredictable liberal
 - A “ditch Wallace” move developed momentum
 - With Roosevelt’s blessing, nomination went to Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri (“new Missouri Compromise”)



XIV. Roosevelt Defeats Dewey

- Dewey took offensive:
 - Denounced tired and quarrelsome “old men” in Washington
 - Proclaimed that after “twelve long years” of New Dealism, it was “time for a change”
 - As for war: he would not alter basic strategy but would fight it better—a type of “me-tooism” ridiculed by Democrats
 - Fourth-term issue did not figure prominently
 - Republicans claimed to fear fifth and sixth terms by “lifer” in White House

XIV. Roosevelt Defeats Dewey (cont.)

- New political action committee of CIO:
 - Organized to get around law banning direct use of union funds for political purposes
 - FDR opposed by majority of newspapers, which were owned chiefly by Republicans
- Results of election:
 - Roosevelt won sweeping victory
 - 432 to 99 in Electoral College
 - 25,606,585 to 22,014,745 in popular vote

XIV. Roosevelt Defeats Dewey (cont.)

- Roosevelt won primarily because war going well
- Foreign policy decisive factor:
 - Strength and experience needed in fashioning future organization for world peace
 - Dewey had spoken of international cooperation
 - Isolationist Bricker implanted serious doubts
 - Republicans still suffered from taint of isolationism

XV. The Last Days of Hitler

- Hitler's last attempt:
 - On December 16, 1944, Germans attacked American lines in Ardennes Forest
 - Objective was Belgian port of Antwerp, key to Allied supply operation
 - Ten day operation halted after 101st Airborne Division stood firm at Bastogne
 - » Brigadier General A. C. McAuliffe defiantly answered German demand for surrender with one word: "Nuts"
 - Reinforcements rushed up, and last-gasp Hitlerian offensive stemmed in Battle of the Bulge (Map 34.5)
- In March 1945, American troops reached Germany's Rhine River



XV. The Last Days of Hitler (cont.)

- Eisenhower's troops reached Elbe River in April 1945
 - » Americans and Soviets clasped hands
 - » American found concentration camps where Nazis had engaged in scientific mass murder of "undesirables" and an estimated 6 million Jews
- American government had long been informed of Hitler's campaign of genocide against Jews:
 - U.S.A. had been reprehensibly slow to take steps against it
 - Roosevelt's administration had bolted doors against large numbers of Jewish refugees
 - U.S. military commanders refused to bomb rail lines that carried victims to camps
 - Until war's end, full dimensions of "Holocaust" not known



r207

**FIRST PLenary MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 1963, 4 P.M., CONFERENCE
ROOM, ARMY ENCLAVE**

Robert McNamara

MCNAMARA

The President said on the prompt of the theme present he wanted to welcome the others. He said he wanted to welcome the new members to the family and he said that meetings of this character were conducted on business grounds with complete frankness on all sides with nothing that was said to be made public. . . .

Chief of Staff McNamara

McNamara then asked who will be the commander in the Operation Overlord. The President and State McNamara responded that was not yet decided. McNamara then continued, "Then nothing will come out of these operations" . . .

The President said we again come back to the problem of this thing in Operation. It was believed that it would be good for Operation to take place about 1 May or certainly not later than 15 May or 20 May if possible.

The Prime Minister said that he could not agree to that. . . .

He said he the Prime Minister was going to do everything in the power of his Majesty's Government to begin Operation at the earliest possible moment. However, he did not think that the necessary preconditions in the Mediterranean should be sufficiently

met to make an advance merely on the question of a month's delay to Operation.

McNamara then said all the Mediterranean operations are dependent. . . .

The President said he found that his staff place emphasis on Operation. While on the other hand the Prime Minister and his staff also emphasize Operation, nevertheless the British Staff does not feel that Operation should be put off.

The President questioned whether it would not be possible for the staff to continue to go ahead with their deliberations without any further delay and to produce an answer by tomorrow morning.

McNamara then questioned, "What one staff is constructive do?" He said, "We Chiefs of Staff have more power and more authority than a committee. General Brooke cannot have our opinions and there are many questions which can be decided only by us." He said he would like to see if the British are thinking seriously of Operation only to make it satisfy the U.S.S.R.

His Prime Minister replied that if the conditions specified in Moscow regarding Operation should exist, he fully believed it would be England's duty to last every ounce of strength she had across the Channel on the Germans.

The President observed that in a few days a very good dinner would be awaiting all and people would be very hungry. He suggested that the staffs should meet tomorrow morning and discuss the matter. . . .

Source: NSA files.

r208



r209

XV. The Last Days of Hitler (cont.)

- Soviets reached Berlin in April 1945
- Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945
- Roosevelt had died on April 12, 1945
- Truman took helm
- On May 7, 1945, German government surrendered unconditionally
- May 8 officially proclaimed **V-E (Victory in Europe) Day**

XVI. Japan Dies Hard

- American submarines—“the silent service”—sank 1,042 Japanese merchant marine ships:
 - 50% of Japan's entire life-sustaining merchant fleet
- Giant bomber attacks more spectacular:
 - Reduced Japan's cities to cinders
 - Massive firebomb raid on Tokyo, March 9-10, 1945
 - Destroyed over 250,000 buildings, a quarter of city
 - Killed estimated 83,000 people
- General MacArthur on move:
 - After conquest of New Guinea, he moved north-west for Philippines—600 ships and 250,000 men

XVI. Japan Dies Hard (cont.)

- Landed at Leyte Island on October 20, 1944
- Japan's navy made one last effort to destroy MacArthur
- Gigantic clash at Leyte Gulf, fought on sea and in air, actually three battles (October 23-26, 1944)
- Americans won all three
 - Japan finished as a sea power
 - » Lost about 60 ships
 - Overrunning Leyte, MacArthur landed on main island of Luzon in January 1945
 - Manila was his major objective—city fell in March
 - Philippines not fully conquered until July
 - American toll was over sixty thousand casualties

XVI. Japan Dies Hard (cont.)

- Iwo Jima captured in March 1945
 - 25 day assault cost over four thousand American dead
- Okinawa from April to June 1945
 - 50,000 American casualties, while Japanese suffered far heavier losses
 - U.S. Navy, which covered invasion of Okinawa, sustained severe damage
 - Japanese suicide pilots (“kamikazes”) crashed bomb-laden planes onto invading fleet
 - » Sank over thirty ships and badly damaged scores more



XVII. The Atomic Bombs

- Washington planning all-out invasion of Japan:
 - Tokyo secretly sent out peace feelers to Moscow
 - Americans, having broken secret Japanese radio codes, knew of feelers
 - Bomb-scorched Japan showed no outward willingness to surrender *unconditionally* to Allies
- **Potsdam conference** (Near Berlin, July 1945):
 - Truman met in 17 day parley with Stalin and British leaders

XVII. The Atomic Bomb (cont.)

- Conference issued strong ultimatum to Japan:
 - Surrender or be destroyed
 - U.S. bombers showered warning to Japan in tens of thousands of leaflets; no encouraging response received
- America had fantastic ace up its sleeve
 - In 1940, Albert Einstein persuaded Roosevelt to push for unlocking secret of an atomic bomb
 - Congress, at Roosevelt's request, made available \$2 billion
- **Manhattan Project** pushed feverishly forward:
 - In desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945, experts detonated first awesome and devastating atomic device

XVII. The Atomic Bomb (cont.)

- With Japan still refusing to surrender, Potsdam threat fulfilled
 - On August 6, 1945, lone American bomber dropped one atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan
 - About 180,000 people killed, wounded or missing
 - Some 70,000 died instantaneously
 - 60,000 more soon perished from burns and radiation
 - Two days later, August 8, Stalin entered war against Japan



XVII. The Atomic Bomb (cont.)

- Soviet armies overran depleted Japanese defenses in Manchuria and Korea in six-day “victory parade”
- Japanese still did not surrender
- On August 9, U.S. aviators dropped second bomb on city of Nagasaki:
 - About 80,000 killed or missing
- August 10, 1945 Tokyo sued for peace on one condition:
 - Hirohito be allowed to remain on throne as nominal emperor
 - Accepted by Allies on August 14, 1945



p812

TABLE 34.1 The Comparative Costs of World War II

| Country | Military Deaths | Civilian Deaths | Government Expenditures | Damage to Civilian Property |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| China | 2,000,000 | 2,750,000 | | |
| France | 200,000 | 300,000 | | |
| Poland | 700,000 | 6,000,000 | | |
| USSR | 10,000,000 | 17,000,000 | \$150 billion | \$120 billion |
| United Kingdom | 300,000 | 60,000 | \$120 billion | \$1 billion |
| United States | 400,000 | 0* | \$121 billion | \$1 billion |
| Germany (including Austria) | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | \$270 billion | \$50-\$75 billion |
| Italy | 240,000 | 60,000 | \$50 billion | |
| Japan | 2,000,000 | 600,000 | | |

*For the forty-eight states, additional civilian deaths occurred in Hawaii, Alaska, and the Philippines.
 Sources: World War II casualty estimates vary widely. The figures here are largely taken from David M. Kennedy, ed., *The Library of Congress World War II Companion* (U.S. G.P.O., 1965), ed., *The Oxford Companion to the Second World War* (London: Oxford University Press, 1966), and John Ellis, *World War II: A Statistical Survey*.
 *Exaggerates Japanese losses.

Table 34.1 p813



XVII. The Atomic Bomb (cont.)

- Formal end came, with dramatic force, on September 2, 1945:
 - Official surrender conducted by General MacArthur on battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay
 - At same time, Americans at home hysterically celebrated **V-J (Victory in Japan) Day**





XVIII. The Allies Triumphant

- World War II terribly costly:
 - American forces suffered some 1 million casualties
 - More than one-third of which were deaths
 - Losses sharply reduced because of blood plasma and “miracle” drugs, notably penicillin
 - Soviet suffered casualties many times greater; more than 25 million people killed
 - First war that killed more civilians than armed combatants (see Table 34.1)

XVIII. The Allies Triumphant (cont.)

- Other results:
 - America emerged with mainland virtually unscathed
 - A few Japanese fire-bombs drifted across Pacific; killed 6
 - Much of rest of world utterly destroyed and destitute
 - Best fought war in American history:
 - Unprepared at first, nation better prepared than in earlier wars
 - Fighting German submarines before Pearl Harbor
 - United States proved to be resourceful, tough, adaptable, able to accommodate itself to tactics of relentless and ruthless enemy

XVIII. The Allies Triumphant (cont.)

- U.S. leadership proved to be of highest order:
 - Brilliant generals—Eisenhower, MacArthur, and George Marshall (chief of staff); admirals Nimitz and Spruance
 - Collaboration because Roosevelt and Churchill in planning strategy
 - Industrial leaders skilled, marvels of production performed daily
 - Assembly lines proved as important as battle lines
 - Victory went to side with most smokestacks
 - Axis smothered by bayonets, bullets, bazookas, and bombs

XVIII. The Allied Triumphant (cont.)

- American way of war was simply more:
 - More men, more weapons, more machines, more technology, and more money than any enemy could hope to match
 - 1940-1945, output of American factories simply phenomenal
- Americans had given answer:
 - Democracy had overthrown and discredited dictators
 - While Washington exercised large amount of control over individuals during war emergency
 - American people preserved precious liberties without serious impairment

| CHRONOLOGY | |
|------------|--|
| 1941 | United States declares war on Japan Germany declares war on United States Battle of Britain War Relocation Authority established Roosevelt delivers "Four Freedoms" speech |
| 1942 | Japanese Americans sent to internment camps Japan conquers the Philippines Battle of the Coral Sea Battle of Midway United States invades North Africa Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) founded |
| 1943 | Allies hold Casablanca conference Allies invade Italy North Carolina Auto Strike Act "Black Code" sent to Congress Race riot in Detroit Japanese-driven from Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima conference |
| 1944 | D-Day invasion of France Battle of the Marston Roosevelt defeats Dewey for presidency |
| 1944-1945 | Battle of the Bulge |
| 1945 | Roosevelt dies, Truman assumes presidency Germany surrenders Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa Potsdam conference Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan surrenders |
