The United States’ mobilization of its economic and military resources during World War II brought significant changes to American Society.
Objectives:

• Define or describe the following terms:
  – Attack on Pearl Harbor
  – War Bonds
  – Victory Gardens
  – Rationing
  – Executive Order 9066
  – Korematsu v. United States
Objectives:

• Explain how mobilization of economic resources during World War II changed American society

• Explain how mobilization of military resources during World War II changed American society
America Entered the War

• Surprisingly, it was events in Asia, not Europe that drew the United States into the war

• While German ambitions had triggered the war in Europe, Japan’s aggressive expansionist plans led the United States into war in Asia
America Goes to War Against Japan

- Japan wished to replace European imperialism with the imperialism of an Asian power
- In the 1930s and 1940s, Japan sought to colonize all of Asia
America Goes to War Against Japan

- Japan began a policy of seizing vast tracts of land and numerous islands throughout the Pacific
- In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria
- In 1937, they attacked the rest of China
- When Japan moved against Indochina in 1941, President Roosevelt froze their assets in the U.S. and cut off trade with Japan
- This action left Japan desperate to obtain oil for their war plans
America Goes to War Against Japan

• Japanese military leaders believed a surprise attack would cripple U.S. naval power in the Pacific

• They also believed that it would allow Japan to fortify its positions in the Pacific before the United States could recover from this surprise blow
America Goes to War Against Japan

• Japan believed they could achieve all of their objectives in East Asia and the Pacific, and that would convince the Allies and the United States to choose peace rather than fight a bloody war in distant lands.

• As a result, on the morning of December 7, 1941, two waves of Japanese airplanes attacked the U.S. fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
America Goes to War Against Japan

- The Japanese
  - sank or severely damaged 18 U.S. warships
  - damaged or destroyed more than 260 airplanes
- killed or injured 6,000 Americans
America Goes to War Against Japan

• The next day, the U.S. Congress voted for war and President Roosevelt signed a formal declaration of war against Japan.

• Within days, Nazi Germany and the Kingdom of Italy also declared war on the United States.

• The United States declared war on Germany and Italy soon after.
America Mobilizes: The Home Front

- The U.S. government now faced the task of mobilizing manpower and production to meet its wartime needs.

- The mobilization of the nation to a wartime economy during World War II led to significant economic and social changes in the nation.
The Great Depression Comes to an End

- World War II had an overwhelming impact on the American economy
- It lifted the nation out of the Great Depression
- The military draft and the expansion of production brought an end to high unemployment
- Women, African Americans, and other minorities filled the gap as other workers went off to fight in Europe and Asia
The Great Depression Comes to an End

• As late as 1940, unemployment stood at 14.6%, but by 1944 it was down to 1.2%

• The **gross national product (GNP)** more than doubled

• The wartime economic mobilization also greatly increased the size, power, and cost of the federal government
Paying for the War

• To raise the huge amounts of money needed to pay for the war, the government issued *War Bonds* and encouraged citizens to buy them.
Paying for the War

• The sale of war bonds also reduced the amount of currency in the economy
• During World War II, $185 billion worth of bonds were sold
• The war cost $350 billion, ten times more than the cost of World War I
• World War II also marked a shift for the U.S. from a creditor nation to a debtor nation
Paying for the War

• The successful sale of war bonds illustrated the high level of volunteerism during the war - the willingness of millions of Americans to help in the war effort.

• In today’s dollars, the cost of World War II would come to nearly $20 trillion, equaling a cost of $67,000 for every man, woman and child in the country.
Paying for the War

• To further help pay for the war, a “Victory Tax” was begun in 1942
  – It sharply increased income tax rates and allowed, for the first time ever, taxes to be withheld directly from a worker’s paycheck
Victory Gardens

• During the war, Americans planted Victory Gardens.

• These gardens helped ensure an adequate food supply for both troops and civilians.
Victory Gardens

• The Victory Gardens helped people in rural and urban neighborhoods grow their own food for their families, making more of the food raised by farmers available to the government for shipment to American soldiers fighting overseas.
Industrial Production and Rationing

- U.S. industries switched from peacetime to wartime production
- Automobile factories converted to making tanks
- Special advisory boards managed the war economy, instituting rationing to control the use of raw materials
  - Americans were asked to conserve anything that was used in the war
Industrial Production and Rationing

• Rationing regulated the amount of goods a consumer could buy.
• It was introduced to avoid public anger over shortages and to share in the sacrifices of war.
• The government rationed goods like food, coffee, tires, gasoline, and even clothing.
Industrial Production and Rationing

• Ration coupons were issued to families, based on family size

• Some labor unions signed no-strike pledges in keeping with supporting the war effort
The Office of War Information

- A focus of the government during the war was control of the content and imagery of war messages
- In 1942, the Office of War Information (OWI) was created
- It was responsible for the production of pro-Allied, anti-Axis propaganda, such as movies and posters, to make citizens aware of how they could help in the war effort
The Office of War Information

• They also produced radio programs, released newsreels, and required that all movies contribute in some way to the war effort

• The OWI also started the Voice of America to broadcast messages overseas

• Their broadcasts tried to stir up distrust among German, Italian, and Japanese leaders, to lower the morale of enemy troops and populations, and to encourage their surrender
Women in the Work Force

- For many women, World War II brought new jobs, skills, and opportunities
- Millions of women entered the workforce when men were drafted into the military
Women in the Work Force

• Although prevented from enlisting in the armed forces, women joined the new Women’s Army Corps (WACs) in large numbers.

• Most of the WACs took clerical jobs in the military.

• In civilian life, women replaced jobs held by men, such as in shipbuilding and aircraft production.
Women in the Work Force

• The idea was to have women fill jobs formerly held by men so that more men could be sent into combat

  Between 1941 and 1945, more than 6.5 million women entered the work force
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• Like women, members of racial and ethnic minorities filled the workforce to replace men that were sent overseas to do the fighting.

• Many worked in war industries and government agencies.

• African-American soldiers also played a key role in the war:
  – Two and a half million registered for the draft, of whom one million eventually served.
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• African-Americans had to do battle on two fronts:
  – the enemy overseas and
  – prejudice at home

• African-American leaders finally obtained permission to form all-black combat units
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• The Tuskegee Airmen were an African-American group in the Air Corps

• Their job was to provide escorts for pilots on bombing missions

The Tuskegee Airmen’s success paved the way for eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• By 1944, the army was pressured to allow African-Americans in combat on the ground

• The army also formed an African-American infantry division

• African-American women also came to the defense of the nation by enlisting in the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corp (WAAC)
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• Native Americans enlisted for military service in higher proportions than any other minority group
• More than 25,000 served in combat during the war
• The Navajo played a key role in the Pacific campaign
• The U.S. military needed an undecipherable code to communicate in a way that could not be broken by the Japanese
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• The Navajo language is unwritten and extremely complex since it contains complex syntax and no alphabet.

• By using the Navajo language, transmitted messages were unintelligible to the Japanese.

• Throughout the war, the code was not only unbreakable, but a Navajo soldier could encode a message in just 20 seconds, while a cryptograph machine needed 30 minutes to complete the same message.
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

• Mexican Americans served in both the army and navy, and fought in all of the major campaigns

• Despite this, Mexican Americans, especially in California, continued to face segregated housing, high unemployment, and low wages

• Over 500,000 Latinos, including 350,000 Mexican Americans and 53,000 Puerto Ricans, served in World War II
Ethnic Minorities in the War Effort

- Precise figures are difficult to compile since Latinos were not segregated into separate units, as were African Americans.
The Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

• The attack on Pearl Harbor created apprehension that Japanese Americans might commit acts of sabotage.

• These fears were racially motivated, since there was no evidence that Japanese Americans were any more disloyal than German or Italian Americans.
The Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

- Nonetheless, in early 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, permitting military commanders to require Japanese Americans to relocate to interior internment camps away from Western coastal regions.

- In these internment camps, Japanese Americans lived in primitive and crowded conditions.
The Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

Location of Japanese American Internment Camps: 1942–1945
The Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

- Their relocation raised obvious wartime constitutional issues
- President Roosevelt justified the measure claiming it was a military necessity
The Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

• In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld these forced relocations in *Korematsu v. U.S.* on the grounds that constitutional liberties may be limited in wartime.

• Fifty years later, Congress apologized to the interned Japanese Americans and voted compensation to the families involved.

• Video
The War in Europe and the Pacific

- Although the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt decided to focus American energies on defeating Germany first.

- By the time the Americans entered the war, Hitler controlled most of Europe and North Africa.
The War in Europe Comes to an End

• Russia’s Stalin wanted the allies to open a second front in Western Europe, but the British felt the Americans were not prepared

• American and British forces landed in North Africa in 1942 and moved to Sicily and then into Italy in 1943

• On June 6, 1944, D-Day - 156,000 Allied troops under General Dwight Eisenhower’s command invaded the coast of France at Normandy
The War in Europe Comes to an End

- After landing, the Allies began moving eastward rapidly liberating France and retaking Paris.
The War in Europe Comes to an End

• The Allied advance was so rapid they were caught by surprise when Germany counterattacked at the Battle of the Bulge

• After the German attack failed, Allied troops pushed on for the final offensive on Germany

• U.S. troops were horrified when they liberated concentration camps and found the survivors of Hitler’s attempt to exterminate Jews and others in the Holocaust
The War in Europe Comes to an End

• The war ended when Soviet troops invaded Germany from the east and the Allies pushed into Germany from the west.

• Fearing capture, Hitler committed suicide in 1945.

• The Soviets had sustained the greatest losses. – More than 20 million Soviet soldiers and civilians were killed in the war.
The War in the Pacific Ends

- After Pearl Harbor, the Japanese achieved quick victories in overrunning Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the Western Pacific Islands.
The War in the Pacific Ends

• They soon threatened to take Australia, India, Midway, and Hawaii

• U.S. and Filipino prisoners of war were forced by the Japanese on a 60-mile march through the jungle, known as the Bataan Death March

• The tide in the Pacific began to turn against Japan in 1943
The War in the Pacific Ends

• The U.S. regained naval superiority in the Pacific when the U.S. Navy defeated the Japanese fleet at the Battle of Midway

• Under General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. troops gradually retook the Pacific through the strategy of “island-hopping”
  – Liberating Pacific islands from Japanese control, one island at a time, and eventually reaching close to Japan’s home islands
The War in the Pacific Ends

- President Harry Truman decided to use the new atomic bomb against Japan
- After bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, Japan surrendered
The War in the Pacific Ends

• The atomic bomb was only one technological advance in the war

• The war saw the emergence of other key technologies

  – Radar, which uses electromagnetic waves to detect a moving object’s range, altitude and direction was developed
The War in the Pacific Ends

- Another breakthrough was the invention of a device that automatically explodes when it is near its target
  - This helped U.S. forces fighting Japanese aircraft and ships in the Pacific

- One of the most important developments was the use of antibiotics, such as penicillin, to treat soldiers’ battle wounds
The War in the Pacific Ends

• World War II, in which over 70 million people died, was over

• The war ended with the emergence of two superpowers
  – the United States and
  – the Soviet Union
The War in the Pacific Ends

- Germany and Japan were occupied by allied troops, and their leaders were tried for war crimes.
- Germany was divided into four occupation zones.
- Video
Gross National Product (GNP)

• A broad measure of a nation’s total economic activity - it is the value of all finished goods and services produced in a country in one year by its citizens
War Bonds

• Debt securities issued by a government for the purpose of financing military operations during times of war. It is an emotional appeal to patriotic citizens to lend the government their money because these bonds offer a rate of return below the market rate.
Creditor Nation

- A country that owes less to other countries than other countries owe to it
Debtor Nation

• A nation whose debts to other countries exceed its foreign investments
Ration

- A fixed allowance of provisions or food
Propaganda

• Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view
Undecipherable
• Not able to be understood
Syntax

- The arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language
Compile

• To put together material from various sources
Apprehension

• Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen
Sabotage

• Deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct (something), especially for political or military advantage
Internment

• The state of being confined as a prisoner, especially for political or military reasons
Holocaust

• Destruction or slaughter on a mass scale