The Home Front during WWII

1. New Economic Opportunities
   1. Women – once all available men found jobs, the government opened up various jobs to women and had a full campaign to get them to fill the demands of the war production. Women worked in heavy industry jobs that were not traditionally held by women. ¾ of the women that were working were married (against the norm) and 60% were over 35 (against the norm) They held both blue and white collar jobs.
      1. Rosie the Riveter – part of the propaganda to get women to join the work force in blue collar jobs. Once the war was over it was expected they would leave their jobs and return home.
      2. White collar jobs – women in clerical positions increased five fold.
      3. Benefits – earning their own paycheck provided them with independence they never had before. They also gained the confidence that they could do whatever it takes to be successful – something that not every woman felt prior to this.
   2. Children – they were also affected by the working mom. Many spent their days in day care centers that were supported by the federal government. Some stayed with neighbors and nonworking relatives.
2. African Americans – Many hoped that the war would provide them with the opportunity for economic advancements, but few found that chance in the war industries.
   1. Double V campaign – stressed by AA leaders that they should be fighting against fascism abroad and racism at home.
   2. A. Phillip Randolph – a leader in the Double V movement urged AA to not accept second class citizenship. He organized a march to protest the unequal distribution of jobs after presenting Roosevelt with a list of demands that included the end of discriminatory hiring practices.
      1. Executive Order 8802 – FDR had hoped that he wouldn’t have to deal with racism while facing the Axis, but Randolph would not let it go. As a result, to avoid the march that he planned, FDR passed E.O. 8802 that ended discrimination in the war industries. It also created the Fair employment practices commission to enforce the requirements.
   3. CORE – Congress of Racial Equality was also formed at this time period. Using nonviolent protests to address the treatment of AA in urban settings.
3. Migration of Workers – as a result of the war and location of the war industries a lot of people migrated. California gained 2 million new residents. The South lost residents in rural areas but grew as a whole. Even older industrial areas in the North increased in size.
   1. Native Americans – many left the reservations to pursue new jobs. Many never returned to the reservations afterwards
   2. Bracero Program – this was created as a way of dealing with the migration from rural areas. No one was left to work the farms. This program allowed Mexicans to come to the US on temporary work visas – the intention was for them to return home, but instead it created a new generation of Mexican Americans as well as migratory workers.
   3. Racial tensions rise – the mass migration caused a lot of issues especially concerning race.
      1. Detroit - saw some of the worst riots over housing for black workers.
      2. Zoot Suit Riots - Zoot suits were a style of dress that many Mexican Americans youth wore. In June 1943, off duty sailors got into it with some Zoot suitors and the result was several military started looking for Zooters to attack. The police arrested the Zoot suitors, who were often the victims, not the attackers.
4. Attack on Civil Liberties
   1. Treatment of all Enemy Aliens – these were German, Italian, and Japanese immigrants They were considered dangerous to national security, but after the initial fears subsided, FDR took the German and Italian aliens off the list. It only got worse for the Japanese.
   2. Japanese American – were considered disloyal by nature and the suspicion of their loyalty only continued to rise after the attack on Pearl Harbor.
      1. Executive Order 9066 – Feb. 1942, FDR issued the order that all people of Japanese descent were interned in various camps away from the West coast. A lot of this had to do with the fact that they primary lived near military bases as they were fisherman. Both Issei – immigrants and Nisei – American born Japanese were forced to relocate. They had to sell their property and much of their belongings – generally at a loss to meet the requirements.
         1. Why? Racism was a big factor, they also stayed relatively isolated from other Americans. In Hawaii they were excluded only because they made up 1/3 of the work force and the economy of the island would plummet.
         2. Treatment – the internment camps were located in the middle of no where, surrounded by barbed wire with armed guards. They were built without regard to Japanese culture or the needs of the individuals.
      2. Korematsu vs. United States – 1944 he went to court under protection of the 14th amendment. The court upheld the internment saying national security trumped individual freedom.
      3. Reparations – it wasn’t until 1988 that the US government admitted to what they did and paid $20,000 to the surviving internees.
5. Supporting the War Effort
   1. Financial cost – the war cost $330 billion. To help pay for this, taxes were raised. All workers were taxed a 5% tax. Others bought war bonds.
   2. Government and the economy – as the government urged Americans to save, consumer goods were hard to come across –
      1. Office of Price Administration – they were created to avoid inflation that many feared, they controlled wages and set maximum prices
      2. Rationing – was also used as a way to conserve consumer goods. People were only allowed a certain amount of goods
      3. black markets – not everyone followed along and illegal goods were sold at high prices on the black market.
   3. Office of War Information – this was created to keep the morale of Americans up. They highlighted common needs, downplayed racism, and economic division. Everything was focused on reminding Americans that there were fighting a struggle between dictatorship and democracy.
      1. Films were created to showcase the American desire to help all focusing on patriotism while highlighting the devious nature of Germans and Japanese.

The Holocaust

Focus Question: How did the Holocaust develop and what were its results?

1. Holocaust – Nazis attempt to kill all Jews under the control and any other “undesirables
2. Hitler's hatred of Jews
   1. Anti-Semitism – a hatred of Jews. They were blamed for all the ills of Germany – including communism to inflation to abstract painting. He was not the only one that disliked Jews, but he becomes the Chancellor of Germany in 1933
   2. Economic Persecution of Jews - laws that were passed to persecute the Jews. Originally they were economic – urged the boycotting of Jewish businesses, barred Jews from civil service, banking, the stock exchange, law journalism and medicine.
   3. Nuremberg Laws – more systematic legal persecution. Denied them citizenship, banned marriage between Jews and non-Jews and segregated Jews.
   4. Kristallnacht – night of broken glass. It was not unusual for there to be violence against Jews, but this night was worse. Nov 9, 1938. Started after a Jewish refugee killed a German diplomat in Paris, officials ordered the attacks on Jews in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland. 1500 synagogues were destroyed, 7500 Jewish owned businesses, 200 Jews killed and 600 injured. Thousands were arrested and then blamed for the destruction.
3. Fleeing Germany – between 1933-1937 over 100,000 Jews fled Germany and Austria. Many were notable scientists and artists. More would have left, but they were not welcomed in many countries. Most countries had quotas and with the depression still effecting the majority of the world, no one else wanted them for lack of jobs.
   1. St. Louis – 1939, they left for Cuba. Of the 900, 22 were accepted in Cuba. The U.S refused to accept the rest. They returned to Germany were 600 of them were killed in concentration camps.
4. The Final Solution – the systematic extermination of Jews – genocide – the willful annihilation of a racial, political, or cultural group
   1. Concentration Camps – area that was created in early 1933 to segregate groups. Most of them for men only. They were created to turn them into “useful members” of the Third Reich. Opposition to Hitler, political opponents, gypsies, Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexual, beggars, drunkard, physically disabled Catholics were all considered undesirable. Prisoners were tattooed with a number and were dressed in vertically stripped pajamas with the color coded triangles to determine who they were from Jews to homosexuals to immigrants, etc. There were no restraints on the guards and prisoners were tortured and killed. Starvation and disease was common. Medical experiments were conducted on the prisoners.
   2. Death Camps – part of the final solution. A result of the Wannsee Conference in Jan 1942 were Reinhardt Heydrich outlined his plan to exterminate Jews. The largest death camp was Auschwitz in Southern Poland. Jews from all over German occupied land were shipped to the death camps to be killed often times in gas chambers other times they were lined up and shot. The human fat from the dead was turned into soap, human hair was used to make wigs, slippers and mattresses. Gold from their fillings were taken. Then the bodies were burned. By 1945, 6 million Jews had been murdered, and roughly 5 million other “undesirables” had also been executed.
5. Early Response – The Allies knew that the Jews were being persecuted, but no one did anything about it. Part of the reason was because anti-Semitism was active all across the world. It was not just a German thing. The States Department made a conscious decision not to allow more Jews to immigrate.
6. Bermuda Conference – April 1943. British and American officials talked about rescuing the surviving Jewish refugees from Europe, but nothing ever happened. Roosevelt said he didn’t want to act on the behalf of just one group
7. War Refugee Board – 1944, things changed. FDR created this to work with the Red Cross to save thousands of Eastern European Jews. Stalin showed no concern and did nothing to the camps and the U.S. did nothing to pressure other countries to stop the transportation of the Jews
8. Liberation of the Death Camps – not until the soldiers entered the camps did they realize how bad it really was. Nothing could prepare them for what they saw. As a result, there was an outpouring of sympathy from Americans and many found homes in the U.S. This also created a higher demand for the creation of a Jewish homeland. In 1948, the Jewish community in Palestine created the State of Israel and it was immediately recognized by Truman.

11.5 Effects of the War

What were the major immediate and long term effects of World War II?

1. World Map changes – border of Poland changes, Germany splits into two countries, Eastern Europe becomes communists under Soviet control. China enters into a civil war between communists and nationalists
2. Japan – governed my General McArthur, a new constitution is created that gives women the right to vote, abolishes armed forces except for purposes of defense, creates a democracy and sets the groundwork for economic recovery.
3. End of imperialism – European powers had long dominated the rest of the world. The expansion of Japan and Germany highlighted the brutality of imperialism. The countries that had been dominated by Japan and Germany had no desire to go back to their previous positions as controlled countries. By the end of the decade, the British empire had lost most of its holdings
4. Creation of Superpowers – the empty place left by the European powers was filled by the United States and the Soviet Union. The U.S. was the stronger – no attack on U.S. soil other than Pearl harbor, industry boomed during the war and the military was the strongest. Most of the war had been fought on Soviet soil, industry, cities and people had all suffered. The Red Army (the largest army) controlled most of Eastern Europe, but the Americans had the atomic bomb.
5. World Economy – the U.S. took on major responsibility in shaping the new world and the new world economy.
   1. Bretton Woods – 1944 the international monetary fund (created to have cooperation so there would not be a devaluing of world currency that occurred during the Great Depression) and the world bank were created with backing of the United States. The goal was to provide economic and financial stability.
   2. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade – signed by the U.S. in 1948 that would reduce tariffs world wide.
6. Creation of the United Nations – organization based on cooperation of world powers, not absolute equality (that was the problem with the league of nations) made up of two parts, the General Assembly that all members participated in and the Security Council. It aided the move from colonialism, helped create the Jewish state, mediated regional conflicts and provided food and aid to parts of the world when needed.
   1. Security Council – 5 permanent members (all WWII allies) U.S., USSR, China, France, England
   2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights - 1948 is a very lofty document that condemns slavery, upholds freedom of speech and religion and affirms that “everyone has the right to a stand of living adequate for the heal and well being of himself and his family”
7. Geneva Convention – an international agreement governing the humane treatment of wounded soldiers and prisoners of war. The Germans and Japanese repeatedly violated these rights. As a result, the U.S. tried thousands of Japanese citizens for committing atrocities in China, Korea, and Southeast Asia. Many were sentenced to death – including Tojo
8. Nuremberg Trials – this was done by the Allies as a whole and was a prosecution of Nazi war criminals. Many of the defendants said they were just following directions/orders. Some were hanged and others were sent to prison