The Home Front

1. Mobilization for war
   1. Increased power of the National Government - the government created new agencies such as the War Production Board, the War Manpower Commission and the Office of Price Administration. These agencies were created to regulate labor, control shipping, establish quotas, and fix wages, prices, and rents.
      1. Unemployment decreased from 14% to 2%
      2. Civilian industry was refocused on war production. By 1944, a ship everyday and a plane every 5 minutes. GNP increased from $91 to $214 billion
      3. Income tax increased to cover 40 million people. Before the war it was only 4 million.
2. Business and the Government
   1. Relationship - incentives were offered to private businesses to increase production. Things such as low interest loans, tax concessions, and contracts with guaranteed profits.
      1. Most of the spending went toward the largest corporations.
   2. Achievements - America produced more goods than ever before.
      1. New products such as synthetic rubber
      2. There were several scientific achievements including radar, jet engines, and early computers.
      3. accomplishments provided a better reputation for business as they were able to produce.
   3. New industrial centers - with the flow of money to the war industries, new areas of the country were built up. The West coast was focused on military industrial production.
      1. Shipbuilding yards in the West
      2. Steel plants in southern California
      3. shift in population to the West coast, especially California.
         1. South shifted from agricultural to industrial, however after the war, it still remained extremely poor.
3. Labor
   1. Union - membership grew as the federal government forced employers to recognize unions.
      1. Montgomery Ward was seized by the federal government when they defied a pro-union order.
      2. Unions agreed not to strike and concede employers’ rights to “managerial prerogatives” and a fair profit.
   2. End of the New Deal - New Deal programs were continued to be reduced. Anything that was considered controlled by leftists was eliminated such as the CCC, NYA and WPA. Taxes were reduced on corporate levels
      1. Still brief walkouts due to the disparity between wages that were frozen by the government and the profits that the companies were making.
4. Fighting for the Four Freedoms
   1. Freedom was a profitable and motivating word. For a war to be successful it needed to be supported at home and the word freedom was definitely a motivator.
      1. Roosevelt addressed the Four Freedoms in the State of the Union Address in 1941. Normal Rockwell painted each of the freedoms and essays were written in terms of what they meant.
      2. Fear - longing for peace but a more desire for general security
      3. speech and religion - both were celebrated, especially at the same time the 150 anniversary of the Bill of Rights took place1941. A big difference in the coercive patriotism of the WWI, a supreme court case said that Jehovah Witness’ did not have to salute he American flag in public schools.
         1. This was a contrast to the Nazi tyranny - that even though it went against the basic beliefs our country, people could still have their own beliefs.
      4. want - this was the “most ambiguous” of all the freedoms. But this was the most important as they were coming out of the Great Depression. It was originally about trade, but quickly realized its relevance to what was occurring in the U.S. at the time period.
         1. protecting the standard of living was just as important as having the right to free speech for many.
   2. The Office of War Information - created in 1942
      1. Wanted to make the war a people’s war for freedom. They were afraid that people really didn’t understand why we were at war. Most Americans were more concerned with revenge on Japan than getting rid of fascism.
         1. used propaganda to give it an ideological meaning versus a nationalist meaning that was attached to WWI
         2. lost most of its funding when the posters tended to be more toward the freedom advertised in the New Deal of a fair wage and adequate food.
   3. The Fifth Freedom - this came about after the “selling of America” on the war effort became privatized.
      1. War advertising Council helped private companies promote wartime patriotism while promoting their goods at the same time.
      2. Many businesses said their was a 5th freedom - of enterprise and choice. That consumers needed to have a choice in the products that they buy.
5. Women
   1. Mobilization of “womanpower” was the greatest ever seen.
      1. OWI encouraged it through ads
      2. Films glorified the independent woman
      3. Rosie the Riveter - by Norman Rockwell
   2. In 1944, women made up 1/3 of the civilian labor force and another 350,000 served in auxiliary military units
      1. still clerical jobs, but a lot of industrial jobs opened up
      2. 1/3 of aircraft manufacturing and shipbuilding were women
      3. married women outnumbered single women in the workforce.
   3. Work for women, regardless of how well they were doing was still considered temporary.
   4. Advertisers suggested that those working were fighting for freedom - not independence or self determination.
   5. Most were laid off at the end of the war - especially in higher paying industrial jobs.
   6. The vision that was painted by advertisers was about a world where the woman met the man at the door every night for dinner., where consumer goods were plentiful. Women were even encouraged to wear full makeup at work so they would always look good for the men.

Visions of Postwar Freedom

1. The New Century - many saw the relationship that was building between business and labors and New Dealers and conservatives as very positive and were looking forward to what the future might bring. This was depicted in the book The American Century
   1. Henry Luce wrote this in 1941 - it was about mobilize the AMericna people boh fo the coming war and for the era of postwar world leadership that was sure to follow.
      1. As a result America was going to have an abundant life and prosperous future. The U.S. was taking on a new role and we needed to be ready for it.
      2. many were leary of what he was selling though - even the title made it seem like it was a time for American imperialism and so there was immediate opposition.
   2. Henry Wallace - The Price of a Free World Victory - this was not about the business dominance, but about the “century of the common man”. The future was about international cooperation, not world dominance. capitalism would be humanized and wealth would be redistributed.
   3. Both men had different plans -but they both saw it as a new role for America in the world - but neither took into account how the others would take the new role of the U.S.
2. The Way of life of Free Men - even as the New Deal programs were being dismantled, Democrats were still trying to find a way for all men to have economic freedom after the war.
   1. National Resources Planning Board - prepared a blueprint for an expanded welfare state, full employment and standard of living.
      1. new Bill of Rights that included and expanded Social Security and free education, health care, housing and jobs.
      2. this was shift in thinking - instead of trying to reform capitalism they wanted to rely on government spending to provide full employment social welfare and mass consumption while the economy was left in private hands.
      3. Funding was cancelled as they wanted to continue Keynesian spending in peacetime.
3. Economic Bill of Rights 1944 -This would allow for full employment and adequate income, medical care, education, and a decent home for all Americans - it would be added into the existing bill of rights.
   1. This was not promoted during the 44 election as FDR was sick. His new VP said he was not going to do battle over social programs.
   2. This was never passed, but in 44, returning veterans were given unemployment benefits, scholarship of education, low cost mortgage, pensions, and job training. This became known as the GI Bill of Rights or the Serviceman's Readjustment Act.
      1. Over the next several years over 1 million veterans took advantage and began to attend college. Another 4 million moved to the suburbs.
   3. During 1945 several activists pushed for the GI Bill of Rights to be extended to the rest of America. by 1946 it passed with the word full employment removed and no government job creation. But for the most part Post WWII many thought the US government should play a major role in maintaining employment and a high standard of living.

The American Dilemma

1. America redefined - as a result of the fight for freedom, once the war was over it helped to reshape Americans understanding of who they are. Racial and ethnic inequality now seemed to be wiped away in the face of Nazi persecution. Pluralism - which had been advocated for a while in theU.S. was know accepted by the mainstream. Immigrants were fully accepted into the mainstream - all that was left was racial equality.
2. Patriotic Assimilation - the melting pot was not created. Due to the movement to the war industries cities, people were faced with each other that never were before.
   1. Equality was promoted by both government and private agencies. This was what being an American was about.
      1. OWI would highlight every race's participation in the War and described intolerance as a foreign import rather than a homegrown product.
      2. As a result of the nazi experimentation, several books were written that stripped away any scientific proof that the races were different.
      3. Hollywood got on board too by having a racial diverse cast of many of its top war hits.
   2. Intolerance didn't go away however. Norman Rockwell was criticized for his painting of having too many foreign looking people. Jews were still excluded from many business and government circle.
      1. Anti-Semitism along with the early reports of the Holocaust being too horrific to be true, kept the government form allowing more Jewish refugees into the U.S.
      2. Roosevelt had heard of the death camps but would not allow airstrikes to knock them out.
      3. Immigrants were no longer hyphenated and just became American - but this did not extend past the color line.
3. The Bracero Program
   1. Created in 1942 and agreed upon by both the American and Mexican government, it allowed thousands of contract laborers into the US to work in domestic and agricultural fields. It was supposed to be temporary but lasted until 1964.
   2. 4.5 million came into the US - they were supposed to receive decent housing and wages. But since they were not citizens and could be deported at any time, they really couldn't demand these rights that were promised.
   3. new Chicano culture was formed. These were second generation Mexican Americans that moved out of the barrios to work in defense industries. As they interacted with white americans they began to speak English and intermarry.
   4. Zoot Suit Riots - showed the limitation of wartime tolerance. Sailors and policeman attacked Zoot Suiters with no repercussions.
   5. Caucasian Rights - Equal Privileges resolution allowed Mexicans to be treated on the same grounds as white without dealing with segregation of African Americans.
4. Native Americans - roughly 25000 served including the Navajo code talkers.
   1. Iroquois drafted their own declaration of war against the Axis powers since they did not recognize the right of the US government to draft their members.
   2. Left the reservations to work in the war industries - for many this was the first time they were exposed to life off the reservation. many chose not to return to the reservations afterwards.
5. Asian American in wartime
   1. Segregated units - roughly 50, 000 asians fought in the army in all asian uits.
   2. 1943 - ended the Chinese Exclusion Act - since they were now Allies - and created a quota 105 a year.
   3. Many moved out of ethnic neighborhoods to take jobs in the war industries.
6. Race War - this is what the war in the Pacific was considered.
   1. Both sides depicted each other as less than. Japanese described Americans as being self indulgent and racially un pure. Americans responded to Pearl Harbor with hatred. They were portrayed as rats and dogs - bestial and subhuman. Their aggression was blamed on a personality flaw - not on tyrannical rulers.
   2. Treatment of Japanese versus German and Italians - German and Italian immigrants were embraced and the government tried to welcome them into the war effort. This was not the case for the Japanese. Roughly 1/3 of the Japanese population was issei or Japanese born while the remaining were Nisei or American born and citizens. Most only spoke English and had never been to Japan.
7. Japanese American Internment -
   1. Executive Order 9066 - this was mostly a result of the long standing hatred of Japanese in California and exaggerated fears.
      1. 1942 - it expelled all people of Japanese descent from the West Coast.
      2. 110,000 men, women, and children - with 2/3 being Nisei - were interned into camps.
      3. It didn’t apply to Hawaii because they made up 40% of the workforce and the economy would plummet if they were all interned.
      4. This added fuel to the fire for the Japanese who already believed the Americans were evil.
   2. The Camps - the camps were generally make shift - some in horse stables or barracks. They were behind barbed wire, had to awaken at roll call and ate their meals communally with not regard to Japanese foods. Most made the best of it.
   3. Freedoms undermined - this all occurred without any court hearings or due process. no writs of habeas corpus..
      1. no protests fdorm non-Japanese against the violation of rights
      2. Even groups that normally protested such as the NAACP and the American Jewish Committee defended the policy or remained silent.
   4. Korematsu v. U.S. for the most part the court system did not intervene. They denied the appeal of Korematsu who was arrested when he did not report for camp. The argument was that it was not based on race. This has never been overturned.
   5. Proof of loyalty - those in camps were forced to show their loyalty - they bought war bonds, swore allegiance to the government that imprisoned them and enlisted in teh army.
      1. About 200 were arrested for not registering for the draft.
      2. but roughly 30,000 did volunteer.
   6. Restitution - not until 1988 did Congress apologize for its actions and provided 20,000 compensation to each surviving victim. Korematsu was later given the Presidential medal of freedom.
8. Blacks and the war - FDR’s rhetoric was that one man/race was not superior to another, yet DC was still segregated, the Red Cross would not mix blood from blacks and whites and 13 lynchings took place between 1940 and 1941.
   1. Second Great Migration - roughly 700,00 blacks left the south on liberty trains - going to work in the war industries.
      1. Race riots - Detroit was one of the worse where blacks were kept out of a new housing development. A fight broke out in a park that left 34 dead and a 20,000 strike over improving the wages of blacks in war plant.
   2. In the Military - at the beginning of the war the air force and marines did not have any blacks. The army restricted the number and only 5 were officers with 3 being ministers. The navy accept them but only as waiters and cooks.
      1. roughly 1 millions served. Mostly in segregated units in support positions. None were assigned to combat.
      2. Northern draftees were sent to the south for training and they experienced the segregation for the first time. Some were even forced to give up their seats to Nazi POWS
      3. could not receive benefits froth GI Bill of Rights even though there was nothing about race in the statues.
   3. Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement - a poll showed that most Americans were not aware of the treatment of African Americans and thought blacks were happy with their present situation.
      1. A. Philip Randolph - bothered by the lack of job opportunities called for a March on Washington in 1941
         1. he wanted equal access to employment and end to segregation and national antilynching laws.
         2. the potential of this march scared the government and wanted Randolph to call off the march.
         3. Executive order 8802 - banned discrimination in defense jobs and created the Fair Employment Practices Commission to monitor compliance.
            1. this didn't have any enforcement power but it was shift in thinking.
   4. The Double V Campaign - this represented what African Americans were fighting for. Victory against Japan and Germany as well as over segregation at home.
      1. Americans were slow to make the changes but the NAACP and the American Jewish Congress worked closely to help end segregation.
      2. CIO unions were more integrated than any other union
      3. The South dug in their toes and insisted that the war was not an excuse to end the color line.
      4. Smith v. Allwright -1944 outlawed all white primaries. (this was one way the Southern whites kept blacks from voting.)
      5. Navy began assigning blacks to all white ships
      6. By the end of the war, segregation was ended in the navy and the army had begun to create a few combat units.

The End of the War - by 1945, an Allied victory was guaranteed

1. The end of the war in Europe
   1. The Battle of the Bulge - largest single battle fought by the U.S. Army. The Germans were able to push the Allies back 50 miles creating a large bulge in the front line, but it had failed by early 1945
   2. March 1945, American troops had crossed the Rhine and entered the industrial area of Germany, Hitler killed himself and the Soviets marched into Berlin.
   3. VE- Day is May 8.
2. The Manhattan Project and the Atomic Bomb
   1. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945 never seeing the end of the war
   2. He was replaced by Truman who only learned about the project and the bomb after he became President.
   3. Einstein fled Germany in 1939 and warned the U.S. that Nazi scientists were trying to create an atomic bomb based on his formula E=mc2.
      1. As a result the Manhattan Project was born
      2. Tested in New Mexico in July 1945 - the first successful test anywhere.
   4. Potsdam Declaration - this was issued by Truman, Churchill, and Chinese leader Chiang, Kai-shek saying that if Japan did not surrender it would face “prompt and utter destruction”. The original response called for the Emperor to stay on the throne, which many think is why Truman dropped the first bomb. There is some debate over what occurred in Japan when this was issued, but either way they said no. After the first bomb was dropped they continued to say no - it was only after the second that they finally submitted to the Potsdam declaration.
   5. August 6, 1945 - the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima - chosen because of the major cities it had received relatively little damage.
      1. Of the 320,000 currently living there, 70,000 died immediately. By the end of the year 140,000 and more died over the next five years.
   6. August 9, 1945 a second bomb was dropped over Nagasaki.
      1. 70,000 died in the second attack
      2. Same day, Russia declared war on Japan.
   7. Justification - the use of the bomb is still considered very controversial, however, an invasion of Japan might cost upwards of 250,000 American lives. But no plan to invade was set until 1946. Some say there were talks that Japan was ready to surrender if Hirohito could stay on the throne - this did not meet the requirements of the Allies.
3. The Cost of the War
   1. Civilian deaths are a part of every war, but along of the 50 million that had died in the war, 20 million were civilian. This includes the 400,000 Americans.
   2. Germany had not only committed what became known as the Holocaust, but also bombed Britian repeatedly.
   3. Dresden, Germany was firebombed by the U.S. killing 100,000 mostly women, children, and the elderly.
   4. Tokyo was also firebombed on March 9, 1945 killing another 100,000.
4. Planning the Postwar World - several conferences were held to plan for what the world would be like after the war was over.
   1. Tehran (11/43)- the Big Three Met - this is where they agreed on opening a second front in Europe and the invasion of France which resulted in Operation Overlord and D-Day
   2. Yalta (2/45) the Big Three met again - here they decided that Bulgaria, Poland and Romania would have free elections (but Stalin later reneged)
      1. allowed the Soviets to retain control of the Baltic states and took a large chunk of Eastern Poland
      2. Agreed to enter the war against Japan after Hitler was defeated
      3. Allowed non-communists in the pro-Soviet government in Poland with free elections.
      4. Most agreeable the two sides had been throughout the war
      5. Churchill would not agree toward the British colonies - including India on a path to independence
      6. England made private deal to divide southern and eastern Europe in British and Soviet spheres of influence.
   3. Potsdam (7/25) - This time Truman was present, Churchill/Attlee, but it was still Stalin
      1. they set up plans for what to do with Germany - military administration by each of the Allied nations, each taking 1/4.
      2. Place nazi war criminals on Trial
         1. Nuremberg Trials
      3. Truman knew he had the bomb, so was no longer kissing up to Stalin.
      4. Agreed on new borders and free elections for Poland
      5. Soviets right to demand reparations from the section of Germany they controlled
      6. Promised to enter war with Japan
   4. Bretton Woods
      1. replaced the British pound with the dollar as the main currency for international trade
      2. reestablished the gold standard in the U.S.
      3. Created the World Bank - a pro American institution that would provide money to developing countries and to help rebuild Europe
      4. International monetary fund that would prevent countries form devaluing their currency to gain an advantage in international trade (this had happened during the depression)
      5. The U.S. was recognized as the world’s financial leader.
   5. Dumbarton Oaks (1944) - met to develop the United Nations
      1. General assembly which was a forum for members to discuss. everyone had an equal voice.
      2. Security Council - 5 permanent members (U.S., Britain, France, China, and the Soviet Union). each has the power to veto. It would also have 6 rotating members.
      3. San Francisco (6/45) 51 nations met to adopt the UN Charter which outlawed force or threat of force as a means of settling international disputes.
      4. July 1945 the Senate endorsed the charter.