

World War Two was America's finest hour. The US fought a two-front war against determined and capable enemies of almost unspeakable evil – Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. The US's "Greatest Generation" left home to fight for the freedom of others and by most accounts fought with courage, honor and dignity. By out-producing the Axis Powers and by leading the Allied coalition, the US saved the world from totalitarian rule. However, moral questions remain about the war.

Sources:

- ___ Bradlee, "The Battle of Midway: The Turning Point"
- ___ Ambrose—Democracy at War Handout
- ___ *Saving Private Ryan*
- ___ Deceit & Indifference (abridged transcript)
- ___ Vanden Heuvel, "America & the Holocaust"
- ___ Lesson 20: "Was the United States Justified in Dropping the Atomic Bombs on Japan?"
- ___ "Homefront: The Experience of Total War"
- ___ Burns, Ken. *The War* (clips)
- ___ Foner, Eric. *SoAF*. ch 10

Themes and Essential Questions

1. *Interaction with Others* – What are sources of conflict and cooperation?
2. *Democracy Authority* – How do differing understandings of democracy authority shape history? How does history affect the relationship among values?

Content Questions

1. Under what circumstances did the United States enter into WWII?
 - a. Why did World War II start in Europe?
 - b. Why did World War II start in the Pacific?
 - c. How did the US respond to the war in Europe and Asia?
2. How did the United States and her allies win WWII?
 - a. What were the major economic and political factors that led to Allied victory?
 - b. How did the Allies win World War II in Europe?
 - c. How did the US win the war in the Pacific?
3. What were the consequences of total war on the American Homefront? How did the war change American social, economic, and political life during and after the war?
 - a. What were the economic effects of the war?
 - b. How did the war change the lives of those who fought, served or contributed to the war effort?
 - c. How did the war change gender roles and ethnic and racial relations in the US?
4. How should individuals and nations be held responsible for actions in warfare?
 - a. Under what circumstances should nations go to war?
 - b. How should the value of lives of soldiers and civilians for each side be weighed?
 - c. Should the US have dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

TERM: Events, Concepts & People

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allies 2. Axis 3. Fascism 4. Nazism 5. Communism 6. Totalitarianism 7. Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) 8. Harry Truman 9. Winston Churchill 10. Joseph Stalin 11. Adolf Hitler 12. Hideki Tojo and Emperor Hirohito 13. Benito Mussolini 14. Treaty of Versailles 15. Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) 16. Isolationism 17. Neutrality Acts 18. Four Freedoms Speech 19. Cash and Carry 20. Lend – Lease 21. Great Arsenal of Democracy 22. Casablanca Conference 23. Unconditional surrender 24. Oil embargo 25. Pearl Harbor 26. Western Front 27. Eastern Front and Soviet Red Army 28. Battle of the Atlantic 29. Enigma, Ultra & Codebreaking 30. D-Day 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Operation Overlord 32. Normandy 33. Omaha Beach 34. Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) 35. Dwight Eisenhower 36. Prisoner of War (POW) 37. Island Hopping 38. Battle of Midway 39. Kamikaze 40. Iwo Jima 41. Okinawa 42. “Big Three” 43. V-E Day 44. V-J Day 45. Total War 46. Home Front 47. Victory Gardens 48. No Strike Pledge 49. Propaganda 50. Office of War Information 51. Japanese internment 52. 442nd Regimental Combat Team 53. Tuskegee Airmen 54. Rosie the Riveter 55. Operation Downfall 56. Atomic Bomb 57. Manhattan Project 58. Hiroshima 59. Nagasaki 60. Potsdam Declaration 61. Patriotic Assimilation
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