

America and World War II

Home and Abroad

The Road to War: Aggression and Response

- International political instability of the 1930s:
 - Global Depression
 - Resentments from World War I
 - Rise of ultra-nationalistic and aggressive political movements
 - Uneven response to the new political realities of the 1930s
-

The Rise of Aggressor States

- Japan
 - Invasion of Manchuria, September 1931
- Germany
 - National Socialist (Nazi) Party
 - Adolf Hitler
 - Anti-Semitism
 - Mein Kampf



Isolationist Sentiment and American Neutrality

- Nye committee
 - Gerald P. Nye
 - Special Committee on Investigation of the Munitions Industry
 - “Merchants of Death”
- Neutrality Acts (1935, 1936, 1937)
 - “Cash and carry”
- Spanish Civil War – US refuses to take sides



The Mounting Crisis

1935

- Hitler announces intention to rearm Germany, 1935
- Italian invasion of Abyssinia

1936

- Creation of Axis Alliance
- Germany and Japan develop secret plans for war against the Soviet Union

1937

- Japanese invasion of China

Nazi land seizures

- Rhineland (1936), Austria (1938)



Growing Interventionist Sentiment

- Growing interventionist sentiment
 - Domestic debates about international affairs
 - FDR quarantine speech, October 1937



The Outbreak of War in Europe

1938

- Austrian seizure
- Failure of Appeasement
- Munich Conference (1938)
- Germany annexes Czechoslovakia

1939

- Stalin-Hitler Pact
- Non-Aggression Pact
- Occupation of Poland, September 1939



Blitzkrieg - Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France

Escape from Dunkirk - **Britain alone and facing annihilation**



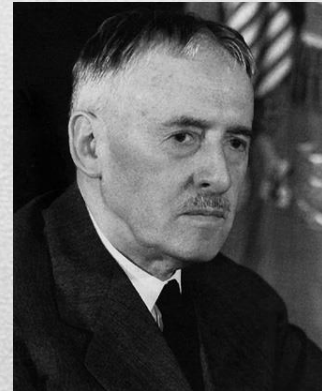
German Expansion 1936-1939

World War II in Europe 1939–1941



America's Response to War in Europe

- **FDR tries to mold American opinion against Axis**
“All measures short of war”
 - ban lifted on selling military armaments to belligerents
 - National Defense Advisory Commission
 - Selective Training and Service Act
 - Destroyers for bases deal
- Henry Stimson & Frank Knox join the Cabinet



- The Battle of Britain
 - August to October 1940
 - The Luftwaffe vs. the RAF
- Change in German tactics
 - The Blitz
 - CBS Edward R. Murrow



The War in Europe

Debate at Home

- White Committee
 - The Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies
- The America First Committee
 - Charles Lindbergh
- Election of 1940:
 - Roosevelt vs. Wendell Willkie



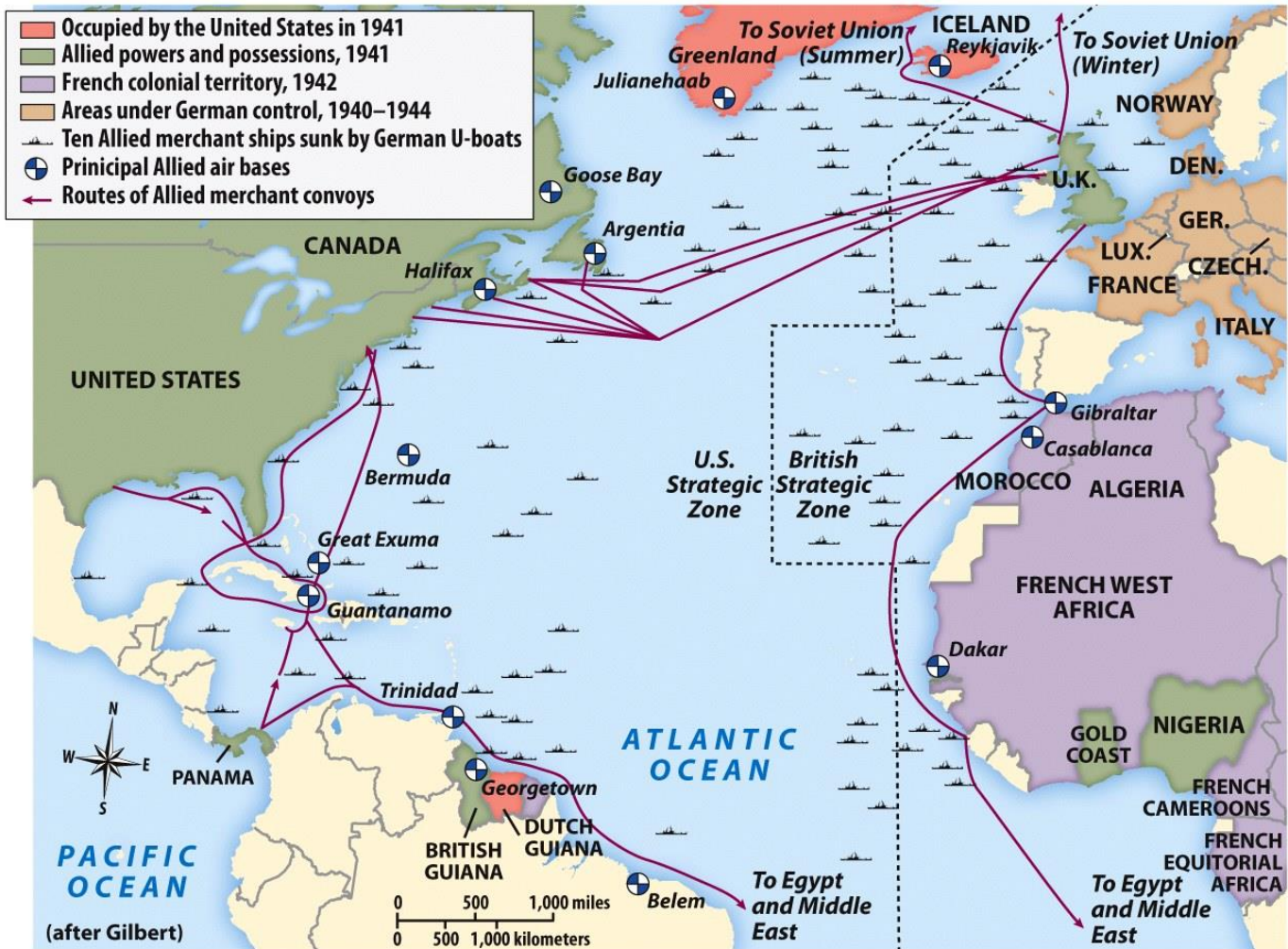
Smithsonian
CHANNEL 

The America First Committee

An “Arsenal of Democracy”

- Lend-Lease Act (March 1941)
- Germany attacks Soviet Union
- U.S. occupies Greenland and Iceland
- Atlantic Charter (August 1941)
- Undeclared naval war vs. German “Wolf Packs”
 - *Reuben James* October 1941

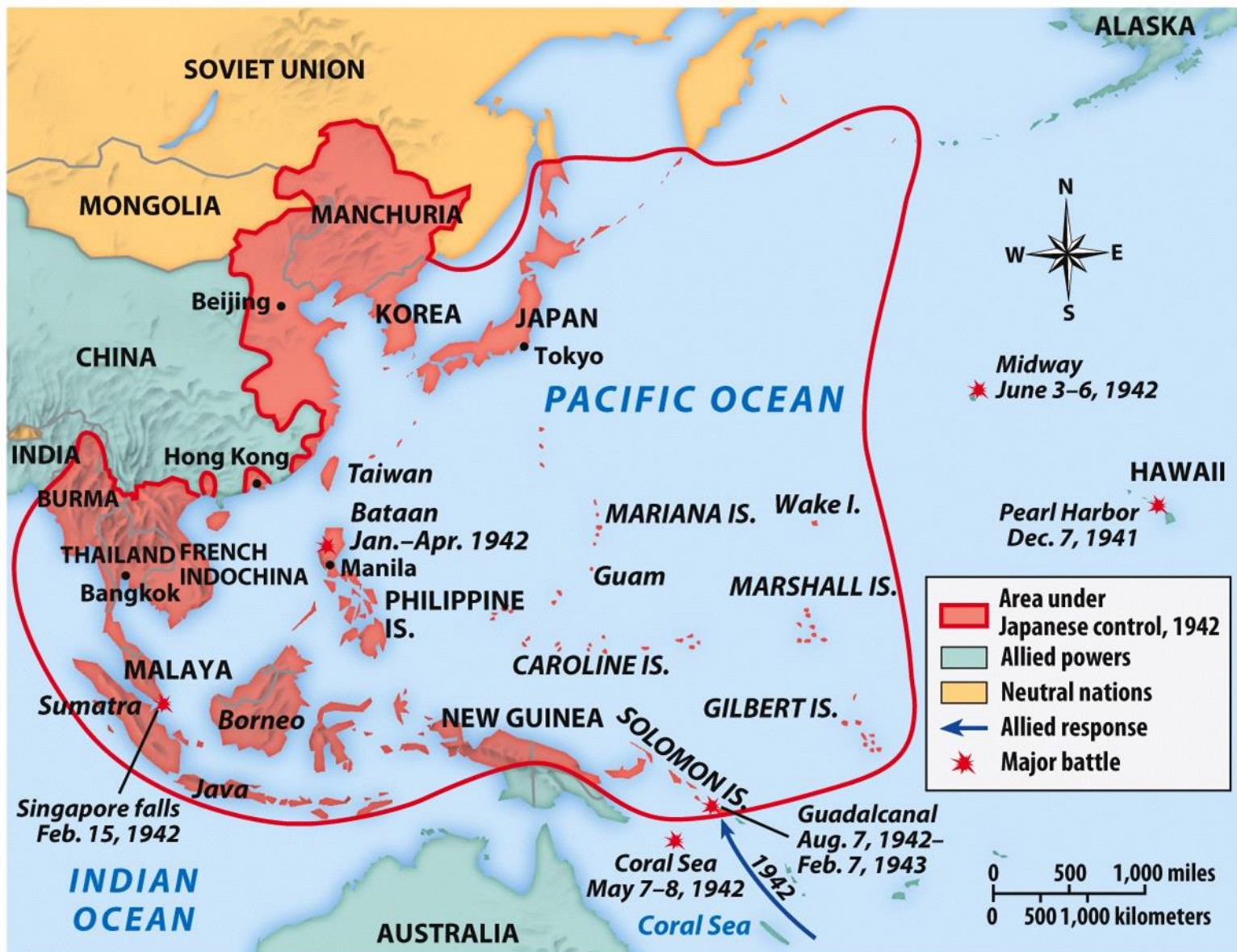




Map 24.1 World War II in the North Atlantic, 1939-1943
 Chapter 24, *America's History*, Seventh Edition
 Copyright © 2011 by Bedford/St. Martin's
 Page 757

The Attack at Pearl Harbor

- U.S. trade embargo against Japan (1940)
 - Aviation fuel and scrap iron
 - Japanese assets in U.S. frozen (1941)
 - Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941)
 - MAGIC
 - December 8: U.S. declares war on Japan
 - December 11: Germany and Italy declare war on the United States
-



Map 24.5 World War II in the Pacific, 1941-1942
 Chapter 24, *America's History*, Seventh Edition
 Copyright © 2011 by Bedford/St. Martin's
 Page 778

Day of Infamy





FIGHTING THE WAR

- 1939 – Army of 190,000
- 17th in the world behind Romania
- Tanks – less than 500, Germany had 2,400

Status of US military

Year	Army	Navy	Marines	Total
1939	189,839	125,202	19,432	334,473
1940	269,023	160,997	28,345	458,365
1941	1,462,315	284,427	54,359	1,801,101
1942	3,075,608	640,570	142,613	3,858,791
1943	6,994,472	1,741,750	308,523	9,044,745
1944	7,994,750	2,981,365	475,604	11,451,719
1945	8,267,958	3,380,817	474,680	12,123,445

U.S. Active Military Personnel (1939-1945)

Oil Production

Year	Germany	USA
1939	8 million	N/A
1940	6.7 million	N/A
1941	7.3 million	N/A
1942	7.7 million	184 million
1943	8.9 million	200 million
1944	6.4 million	223 million

Victory in Europe

System	Allies	Axis
Tanks and SP guns	227,235	52,345
Artillery	914,683	180,141
Machineguns	4,744,484	1,058,863
Military trucks	3,060,354	594,859
Military aircraft total	633,072	278,795
Fighter aircraft	212,459	90,684
Bomber aircraft	153,615	35,415
Reconnaissance aircraft	7,885	13,033
Aircraft carriers	155	16
Battleships	13	7
Cruisers	82	15
Destroyers	814	86
Convoy escorts	1,102	-
Submarines	422	1,336
Merchant shipping tonnage	33,993,230	5,000,000+

Allied Victory

Country	Total Deaths	% of Pre-war Population	Military Deaths	Civilian Deaths
USSR	24,000,000	13.88%	8,800,000- 10,700,000	13,300,000- 15,200,000
Germany	6,600,000 - 8,800,000	8-10.5%	5,533,000	1,067,000 - 3,267,000
France	567,600	1.35%	217,600	350,000
US	418,500	0.32%	416,800	1,700
GB	450,700	0.94%	383,600	67,100

Casualties of World War II

Fighting the War in Europe and the Atlantic

- Europe first strategy
- War Powers Act, 1941
- ENIGMA and ULTRA – German codes



Casablanca Conference

- January, 1943
- Unconditional Surrender

Tehran Conference

- November, 1943
- Second front agreed

Italian campaign (1943)

Stalingrad (1944)

- The turning point of the war



Fighting the War in Europe and the Atlantic



Map 24.3 World War II in Europe, 1941-1943

Operation Overlord to Victory....

- **D-Day (June 6, 1944)**
 - Landing in Normandy
- **August, 1944** - Liberation of Paris
- **April 30, 1945** - Hitler's suicide
- **May 8, 1945** – Germany surrenders





The Holocaust

- **Extermination camps “The final solution of the Jewish Question.”**
- 12 million dead – 6 million Jews
- American Anti-Semitism
 - defeat of Wagner-Rogers Bill, 1939
 - fears of economic competition
 - failure of the media
 - failure of religious and political leaders

The Holocaust

The Final Solution

The Final Solution

Pacific Strategy

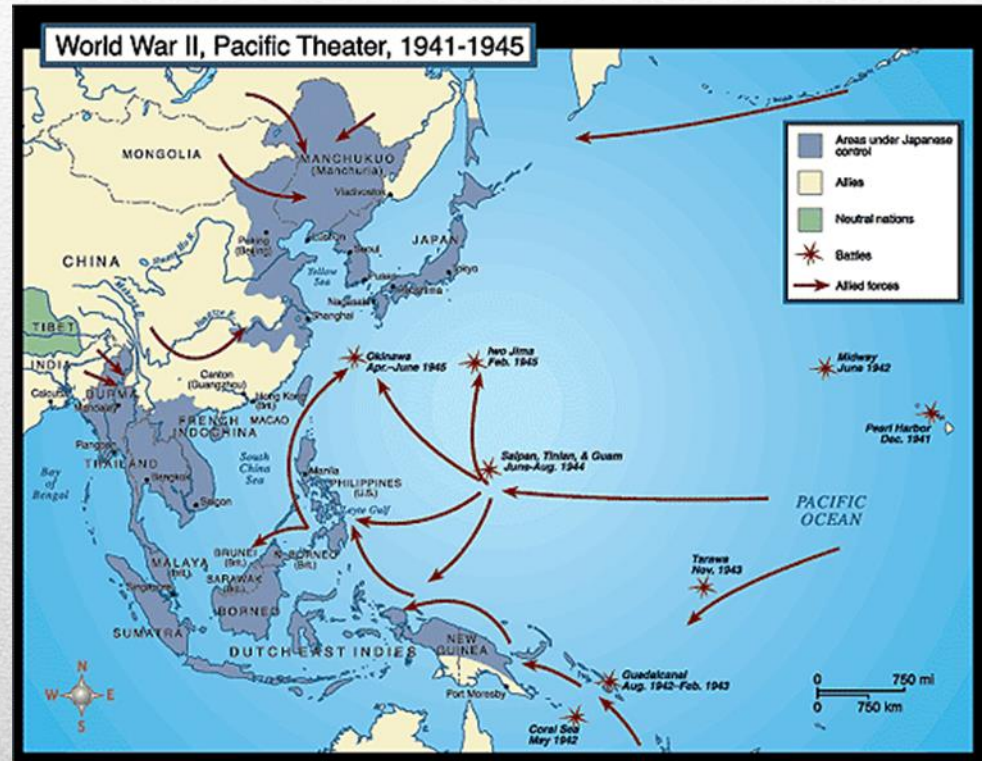
- Fall of Singapore and the Philippines
 - Bataan Death March
- Douglas MacArthur - land
- Chester Nimitz - sea



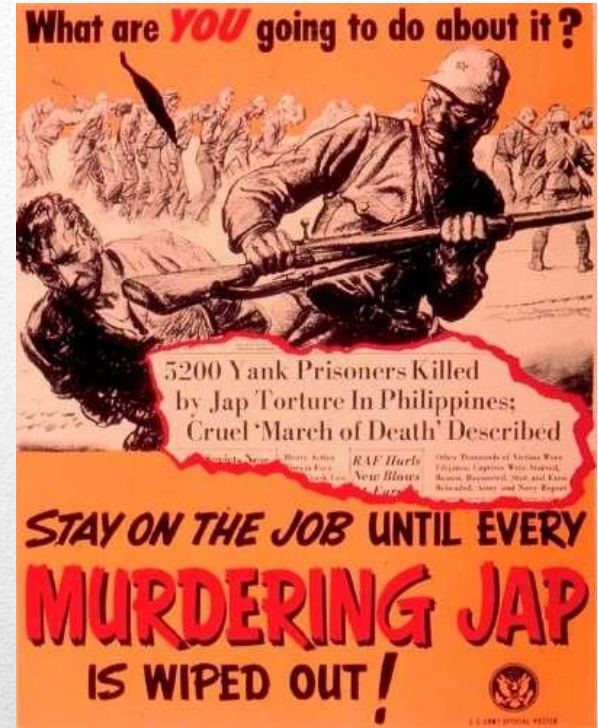
The Pacific Theatre

Retaking the initiative

- Coral Sea (1942)
- Midway Island (1942)
- Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands (1942)
- Saipan (1944)
- “War without mercy”



- “War without mercy”
- **Strategic bombing**
 - Fire bombing
- **Blockade**
- “Unconditional surrender”



Fighting the War

A New President

- FDR dies - April 12 1945
- Harry S Truman
 - “A little man from Missouri”



Atomic Power and Japanese Surrender



- **Manhattan Project**
 - Albert Einstein
 - Los Alamos, New Mexico
- **Bomb decision**
 - Save lives compared to invasion
 - End war before Soviets enter
- Hiroshima – August 6, 1945
- Nagasaki – August 9, 1945
- V-J Day – September 2, 1945
- **CONDITIONAL SURRENDER AGREED**



Government's Role in the Economy

- War Production Board
- War Labor Board
- War Manpower Commission
- Office of Price Administration
- FDR - 60,000 Planes?
 - How about 300,000
- Office of Scientific Research and Development (R & D)



Business and Finance

- **Increased government war spending**
 - \$9b - \$98b
 - **War bonds**
 - Borrowing from the American people
 - **Rationing and shared sacrifice**
 - What impact would this have on the population?
 - **Social programs withered**
 - big businesses flourished under government subsidies
 - Cost plus contracts
 - **Anti-trust suits and legal challenges fell by the wayside**
-

The Workforce

- Labor shortage gives opportunities to minorities and women
- *Bracero* program
- Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC)
- African-Americans move North
- Wages of workers and farm income increases
- ~~Smith-Connally Act (1943)~~



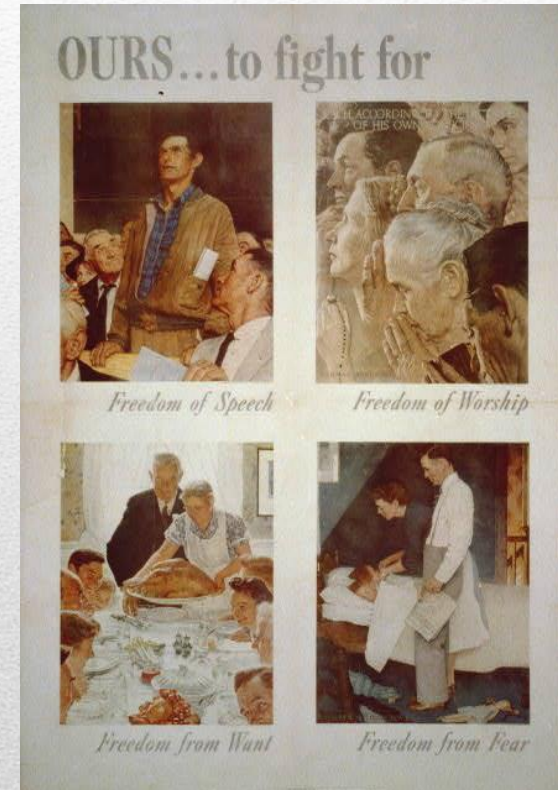
- Workplace became more inclusive
- Jobs seemed plentiful and personal savings grew
- Big business, big government, big labor expanded during war years
 - Science and technology: linked mutual interests among these 3 sectors

Assessing Economic Change

- By war's end: 16 million Americans had served
- Many people left their traditional homes
- Sacrifices on the home front
- Racial mixing on an unprecedented level

The War at Home: Social Issues

- War to preserve the “American way of life”
- Norman Rockwell
 - *Four Freedoms*
- Frank Capra
 - *Why We Fight*
- “Freedom” advertising
- Office of War Information (OWI)
 - 1942
 - Complaints from both sides
 - *Victory*



Wartime Propaganda

Gender Equality

- Women changed perceptions
- 350,000 volunteers
 - WASPS (Women's Airforce Service Pilots)
- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) considered
- “Pin up” mentality



Racial Equality

- Fighting Fascism challenges segregation
 - "Double V" campaign
 - Victory at home and abroad
 - A. Philip Randolph
 - A march on Washington for equality
 - Military segregation and discrimination
 - Even in blood
-

Racial Tensions

- Racial discrimination in housing
 - “Zoot suit” incidents, LA 1943
- Native-Americans and the war
 - 25,000 in the military
- Committee (later, Congress) on Racial Equality (CORE)
 - Sit-ins
- “Melting pot” – cultural diversity
- Population movements erode regional distinctions
 - 750,000 African Americans relocated to northern cities



Shaping the Peace

- Harry S Truman (1945-1953)
- Builds on Roosevelt's legacy
- United Nations
- New international economic institutions created
- Important global political issues settled



International Organizations

- United Nations (UN)
 - General Assembly
 - Security Council
 - Economic and Social Council
 - Eleanor Roosevelt
 - Bretton Woods Conference
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - World Bank
 - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
-

Spheres of Interest and Postwar Settlements

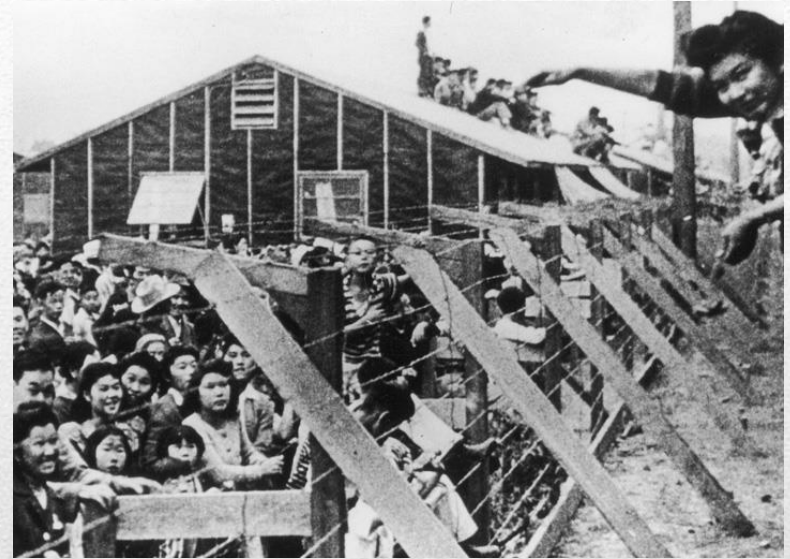
- Stalin and Churchill's agreement
 - Teheran Conference (1943)
 - Yalta Conference (1945)
 - Germany
 - Berlin
 - Poland
 - U.S. and the question of colonies
 - Support Britain and France retaking control
 - Philippine independence
 - Latin America
 - Question of a Jewish homeland
-

- Wartime mobilization led to the end of the Great Depression and shifted the New Deal away from social reforms and toward international issues
- U.S. most preeminent power
- 1940s: debates over nature of liberty and equality
- Questions of post-war policies

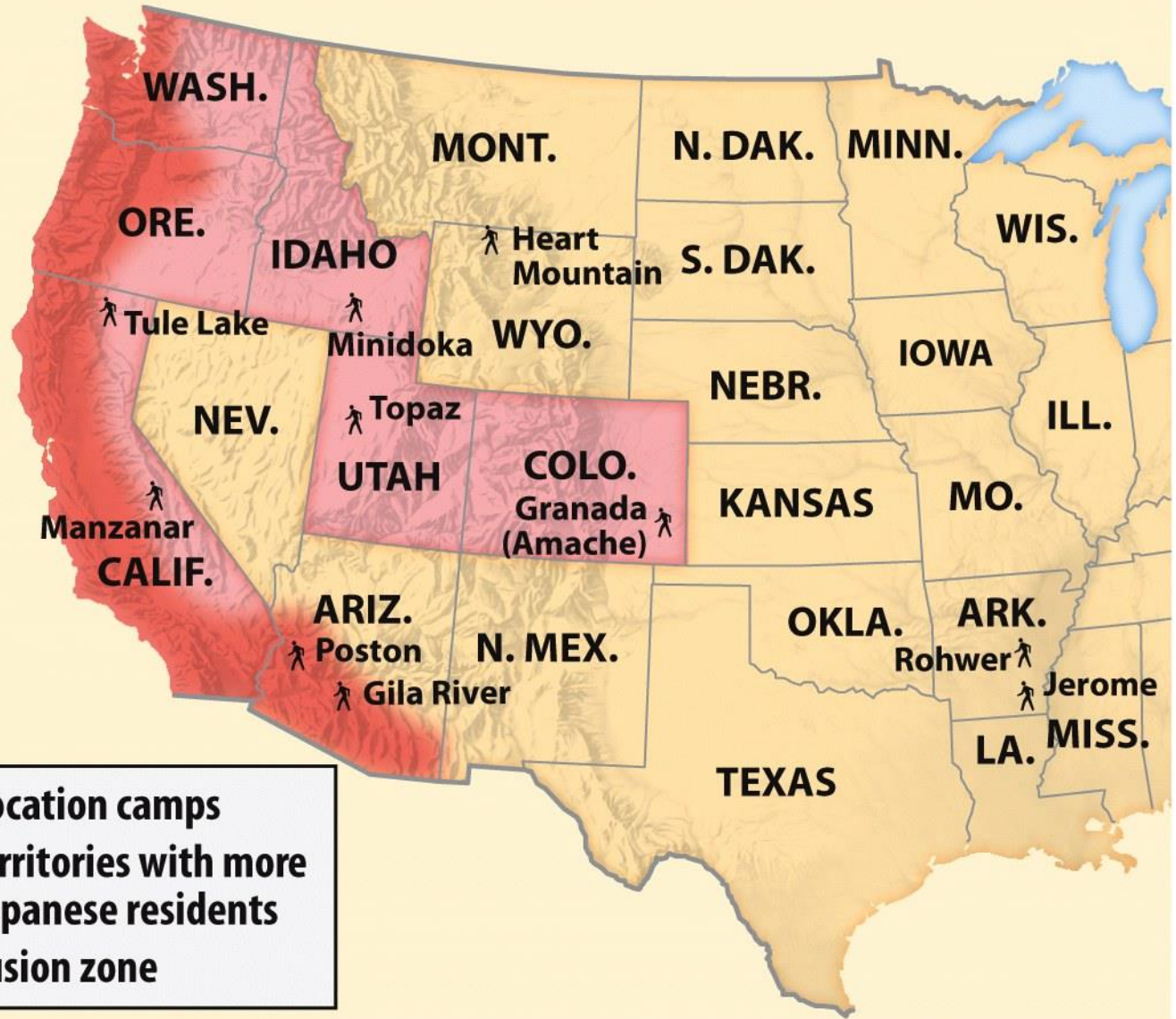
Conclusion



- February, 1942
- First and second generation Japanese Americans
- 130,000
- No internment in Hawaii
- Italian and German Americans?
- 2/3 native born
- Kormetsau vs. US 1944
- 1988 apology
- 100th Batallion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team



Executive Order 9066: Japanese internment



 Japanese relocation camps

 States and territories with more than 1,000 Japanese residents

 Military exclusion zone

Distributed and Exhibited
Under the Auspices of the
WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
OF THE MOTION PICTURE
INDUSTRY

Government View



**The War... what really
happened?**
