

## **Chapter 25 World War II**

When World War II began, the United States remained neutral. However, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies. Following the successful DDay invasion, the Allies took back France and then defeated the Germans. Allied troops fought the Japanese on the sea and in the air. Japan finally surrendered after two atomic bombs were dropped. As you study this chapter, consider how involvement in a foreign war might affect people's rights, what effect fighting a war might have on a nation's economy, and why a nation might become involved in a war on another continent.

## **Chapter 25**

### **Section 1: World War II Begins**

In this section you will learn that Germany began to take over Europe in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The United States, however, pledged to remain neutral. This changed after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Munich Conference  
appeasement  
nonaggression pact  
Blitzkrieg  
Allied Powers  
Maginot Line  
Battle of Britain  
Lend-Lease Act  
Battle of the Atlantic  
Atlantic Charter

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- What parts of Europe did Germany conquer by mid-1940?
- How did President Roosevelt aid Britain while preserving U.S. neutrality?
- What events led to the conflict between the United States and Japan?

### **Chapter 25.1 Section Summary**

After Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany in 1933, he demanded that Czechoslovakia return the Sudetenland [soo-DAY-tenlahnd]

to Germany.

At the **Munich** [MEW-nick] **Conference**, held in 1938, French and British leaders met with Hitler. They persuaded the Czechs to give back the Sudetenland. This is known as **appeasement**—giving in to an aggressor to preserve peace. Hitler promised he would not claim any other lands.

In 1939 Hitler made a **nonaggression pact** with the Soviet Union. The two countries agreed not to attack one another and to divide Poland between them. In 1939 German forces invaded Poland. The Germans attacked Poland in a **Blitzkrieg** [BLITS-kreeg], a new kind of fast-moving “lightning war.” Britain and France joined together as the **Allied Powers** and declared war on Germany.

Hitler then hoped to take France. The French stationed their troops behind the **Maginot** [ma-ghi-no] **Line**, a barricaded wall along the French-German border. In 1940 Hitler invaded Denmark and Norway. German forces next began a series of air raids on British cities. This was called the **Battle of Britain**.

Although most Americans favored neutrality, Congress passed the **Lend-Lease Act**. This allowed the United States to loan money to Britain to buy war supplies.

The Allies fought Germany over ocean trade routes in the **Battle of the Atlantic**. In 1941 President Roosevelt and British prime minister Winston Churchill issued the **Atlantic Charter** to oppose territorial expansion and to uphold self-determination and free trade. In 1941 Japanese warplanes bombed a U.S. Navy fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States then joined the war.

## **Chapter 25**

### **Section 2: Mobilizing for War**

In this section you will learn that the United States mobilized people and resources to aid the war effort. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

War Production Board

Selective Training and Service Act

Fair Employment Practice Committee

braceros  
zoot-suit riots  
internment

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- How did the United States mobilize for World War II?
- What effects did World War II have on civilian women and minorities?
- Why did the U.S. government intern Japanese Americans during the war?

### **Chapter 25.2 Section Summary**

The United States began to recover from the depression as it mobilized for the war effort. Production increased. Many people found work in factories. The **War Production Board** was in charge of changing regular factories into wartime factories so that they could focus on producing military equipment.

The United States needed to recruit and train millions of soldiers. In 1940 Congress passed the **Selective Training and Service Act**. At first the law required all men between the ages of 21 and 35 to register for the draft. (It was later expanded to include men aged 18 to 38.) Nearly 16 million Americans, including 1 million African Americans and 300,000 Mexican Americans, served in the military. As men left for war, women moved in to fill their jobs. Women worked in factories, and some even served in the army and the air force.

As during World War I, many African Americans moved to cities in the North to join the industrial labor force. Often they faced discrimination and received lower pay. In response, President Roosevelt created the **Fair Employment Practice Committee** to prevent racial discrimination in war industries and government jobs. Unfortunately, it was often not enforced.

To meet a labor shortage in the Southwest, the U.S. government allowed the entry of thousands of Mexican workers called **braceros**. Like African Americans, they faced discrimination. In 1943 the **zootsuit riots** occurred after sailors in Los Angeles attacked Mexicans wearing the baggy outfits known as zoot-suits.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, many Americans questioned

the loyalty of Japanese Americans living in the United States. In 1942 the government began the process of **internment**, or forced relocation and imprisonment, of Japanese Americans.

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### **Section 3: The War in North Africa and Europe**

In this section you will learn that the United States fought battles first in North Africa and then in Europe in an attempt to defeat the Germans. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Battle of El Alamein

Battle of Stalingrad

D-Day

Battle of the Bulge

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- Why was the Allies' North Africa campaign so important?
- What were the major turning points of the war in Europe?
- How did the Allies drive the Germans out of France?

### **Chapter 25.3 Section Summary**

In 1941 the United States and Britain joined forces. They decided to launch an attack in North Africa, where they had a good chance of defeating the Axis Powers. In 1942 the Axis Powers were preparing to take over Egypt. However, the Allies defeated them in the **Battle of El Alamein** [ah-lah-MAIN].

The Allies then moved into Italy, where they overthrew dictator Benito Mussolini [ba-NI-to MOOSE-a-li-ni]. The Germans tried to defend Italy, but the Allies drove them out.

In 1942 the Germans tried to take Stalingrad [STAH-lin-grad], a Soviet city. The **Battle of Stalingrad** was a difficult struggle. The Germans' supplies began to run out. The Soviets held their ground and eventually surrounded the Germans. In 1943 the Germans surrendered Stalingrad.

On June 6, 1944, the Allies began a massive invasion of German-occupied France. On this day, known as **D-Day**, thousands of Allied soldiers landed on the shores of Normandy in France. Although they faced brutal fighting from the Germans, the Allies continued their attack. By August the Allies had taken control of Paris.

The Allies then moved south to push the Germans completely out of France. The Allies formed lines in the Ardennes [R-DEN] region in France. The Germans attacked the Allied lines. The attack caused a huge bulge in the Allied lines. For this reason, the attack was called the **Battle of the Bulge**. Some 77,000 U.S. soldiers were killed or wounded in the battle. As more Allied forces arrived, however, the Germans retreated. These three battles marked a major turning point in the war in Europe.

## **Chapter 25**

### **Section 4: War in the Pacific**

In this section you will learn that after defeating Hitler in Europe, the Allies focused on the war in the Pacific. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Bataan Death March  
Battle of the Coral Sea  
Battle of Midway  
island-hopping  
Battle of Leyte Gulf  
Kamikaze

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- How did the Allies drive the Japanese back toward Japan?
- What three battles were the major turning points of the war in the Pacific?
- How did the Japanese attempt to stop the Allies' attack on Okinawa?

### **Chapter 25.4 Section Summary**

After Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces moved to take over more of Asia. They took control of Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the Netherlands East Indies. To position themselves against a U.S. attack, the Japanese took Guam and Wake Island.

The Japanese also captured the Philippines. Soon afterward, the Japanese forced more than 70,000 U.S. and Filipino prisoners to walk 65 miles to an internment camp. This became known as the **Bataan** [buh-TAAHN] **Death March**, because so many prisoners died during the walk.

To stop Japanese expansion, the United States attacked the Japanese navy. In the **Battle of the Coral Sea**, U.S. planes sank one Japanese ship and damaged another.

In the summer of 1942, U.S. and Japanese forces clashed in the **Battle of Midway**. U.S. planes sank four Japanese ships. The United States successfully stopped the Japanese capture of Midway Island. The Allies also took control of Guadalcanal [GWA-dulh-canal]. The Allies developed a strategy of **island-hopping**—taking only important Japanese islands in the Pacific. The Allies hoped to get close enough to the mainland to stage an air strike on Japan.

Meanwhile, General Douglas MacArthur planned to take back the Philippines. The Japanese navy gathered to block the invasion in the **Battle of Leyte** [LAY-tee] **Gulf**. The Japanese lost the battle decisively. In the Battle of Okinawa [oh-KIN-ah-wah], the Japanese tried to stop Allied naval forces with the tactic of **kamikaze** [KAH-mih-KAHzee]. Kamikaze pilots flew their planes filled with explosives straight at Allied ships off Okinawa. The Allies won the battle and looked to take Japan.

## **Chapter 25**

### **Section 5: Final Victory and Consequences**

In this section you will learn that after much fighting and terrible damage, Germany and Japan surrendered to the Allies. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

atomic bomb

Manhattan Project

Holocaust

Genocide

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- How did the Allies force Germany and Japan to surrender?
- What were the human and economic costs of World War II?
- What events led to the Holocaust?

### **Chapter 25.5 Section Summary**

As the war neared an end, the Allies bombed many German cities. They also moved to invade Germany from the western side. In 1945 Allied troops crossed the Rhine [RYNE] River and moved into Germany. With his enemies closing in, Adolf Hitler killed himself. In May Germany surrendered.

The Allies were also near victory in the Pacific. Yet, Allied leaders feared that a final invasion of Japan would result in a lot of Allied deaths. The **atomic bomb**, a deadly nuclear weapon, offered an alternative to invasion. Scientists in the United States had developed the bomb as part of the **Manhattan Project**. On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima [here-oh-SHIH-ma]. The United States dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki [NAH-gah-sah-kee] three days later. Japan then surrendered.

After six years of fighting, approximately 50 million people had died. Europe lay in ruins. Food production, industry, and transportation networks were damaged.

One of the most horrifying aspects of World War II was the **Holocaust** [HALL-oh-cost]—Nazi Germany’s attempt to kill the Jews of Europe. The Nazis believed that Jews were inferior. Some Jews left the country and others were imprisoned. Jews were sent to work in concentration camps, such as Dachau [dock-ow] and Auschwitz [OSH-vitz], where they were often killed.

Hitler decided that it was impractical to imprison all of the Jews. Thus, he came up with the “final solution,” a plan to kill the remaining Jews. This tragic **genocide**—the deliberate murder of an entire people—resulted in the deaths of some 6 million Jews.