

# *American History: Chapter 26*

America In A World At War

# War On Two Fronts

- After Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked US bases in Manila
- Battle of Midway, US was victorious
- By mid-1943, US gained an edge in the Pacific theater
- Delays in a French invasion upset Stalin
  - The Soviets had the most casualties – 20 million!
- Leaders of the Soviet Union felt the delay of an invasion was done so USSR could absorb the most casualties
- Holocaust:
  - 11 million deaths – 6 million Jews
  - US had some knowledge early on in the war
  - *St. Louis* – US turned away 1,000 escaped Jews, even though they had room under the quota system

# The American People In Wartime

- The war ended the Great Depression
  - Federal spending increased drastically
  - Shortage of consumer goods = increased savings
- 15 million men and women were part of forces
  - Increased need for labor
- Major unions did not strike
  - Smith-Connally Act – unions had to wait 30 before striking
- 2 ways the government paid for the war
  - Taxes
  - War bonds
- War Production Board:
  - Purpose was to have broad economic powers
  - In reality, did not have as much power

# The American People In Wartime Cont.

- Technology in the war:
  - Car assembly lines turned into military assembly lines
  - Radar and sonar improved dramatically

## Americans During The War

- African Americans:
  - Generally supported the war – hoped for more rights
  - A. Philip Randolph – proposed a demonstration in DC
    - Fair Employment Practice Commission: could investigate discrimination in war industries
  - Large migration of blacks from the South
- Native Americans:
  - “Code-talkers”
- Mexican Americans:
  - Bracero program: Mexican workers came to the US
  - Zoot Suit Riot: conflict between American sailors and young Mexicans in Los Angeles

# The American People In Wartime Cont.

- Women and children in the war:
  - Women in the workforce increased by 60%
  - “Rosie the Riveter”
  - Many children became “latchkey kids”
  - 1/3 of teenagers were employed
- Japanese Americans:
  - Executive Order 9066 – relocation of Japanese from the West Coast
  - *Korematsu v. US* – upheld Internment Camps
- Check out my video in the description

# The Defeat of the Axis

- D-Day:
  - June 6, 1944: Invasion at Normandy – Dwight Eisenhower
- The Soviets pushed the Germans back, allowed them to occupy Eastern Germany
  - Play a key role after the war
- Manhattan Project:
  - Led by Robert Oppenheimer, the US developed nuclear weapons
  - Check out Rush's *The Manhattan Project*
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki:
  - US dropped two atomic bombs – 100,000s of deaths
- Why did the US drop the bombs?
  - Many, but to save American lives