Causes of World War II

- · Rise of totalitarian regimes devoted to militarism
- Formation of alliances
- Imperialism (by some "have-not" countries)
- Aggressive nationalism
- International anarchy (fostered by lack of effective system of collective security)
- Policy of appeasement (by Western democracies)

Military Aggression in Europe Plunges the World into War

- Italy invades Ethiopia (1935)
- Germany occupies Rhineland area bordering France & Belgium (1936)
 - ✓ Withdraws from League (1933)
 - ✓ Begins military build-up (1934)
 - ✓ Restores compulsory military service (1935)
- Italy & Germany aid Franco's uprising in Spain (1936-39)
- Japan invades China (1937)
 - Japan committed mass executions, thousands of rapes, destruction of property
 - ✓ FDR sends arms & supplies to China (violating neutrality)
 - ✓ Roosevelt delivers famous "quarantine" speech
 - ✓ Japanese planes sink American gunboat Panay on Yangtze River in China

- Germany marches on Austria; Hitler proclaims Anschluss (1938)
- Germany claims Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia as Lebensraum (1938)
- Great Britain & France persuaded to sign Munich Pact (1938)
 - ✓ Acquiescence of France & Britain surprised even Hitler
 - ✓ Chamberlain proclaimed measure guaranteed "peace in our time"
 - ✓ Policy of appeasement is unworkable
- Germany conquers remainder of Czechoslovakia (1939)
- Italy overruns Albania & gains control of Adriatic Sea (1939)
- Germany & Italy agree to Pact of Steel (May 1939)
 - ✓ Mussolini calls Rome-Berlin alliance "axis on which Europe will revolve"
 - ✓ Germany follows w/ Moscow-Berlin Pact (August)
- Russia annexes Baltic countries & launches war against Finland (1939)



- Germany invades Poland (September 1, 1939)
 - ✓ England & France immediately declare war on Germany
 - ✓ Little action during winter of 1939-40 (known as "phony war")
- Germany, Italy, Japan sign Tripartite Pact pledging signers to ten-year alliance (1940)
- Axis nations
 - ✓ Principle powers were Germany, Italy, Japan
 - Plus Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia
- Allied countries
 - ✓ Major powers were Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the United States
 - ✓ Plus Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Poland
- Neutrals → Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

Isolationism Desired: America Passes Neutrality Acts (1936-39)

- Designed to avoid circumstances like those which forced America into World War I
- Actually benefited aggressor nations
- Compromised American claims to freedom of seas
- FDR advocated collective security, therefore he opposed Neutrality Acts
- Prohibited sale of war implements to belligerents
- Barred loans to warring nations
- Forbade American travel on ships of belligerents
- Provided that all indirect war materials be handled on "cash & carry" basis
- America makes efforts toward western hemispheric solidarity (1939-40)
 - ✓ Declaration of Panama est'd "safety belt" 300-1,000 miles wide around Americas
 - ✓ Act of Havana barred transfer of European colony in America to non-American owner
 - ✓ Est'd Joint Board of Defense w/ Canada to coordinate defense efforts

Lightning War Strikes Europe

- Germany unleashes Blitzkrieg (April 1940)
 - ✓ Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium, France fall within weeks
 - √ France's impregnable 200-mile Maginot Line (after War Minister Andre Maginot) collapses
 - ✓ Britain forced to miraculously evacuate 300,000+ troops from Dunkirk across English Channel
 - √ Vichy gov't est'd in France while Free French gov't-in-exile organized in England
 - ✓ Italy, confident of German success, enters war
 - ✓ By summer, only Great Britain able to hold out against Nazi juggernaut

- Battle of Britain (1940-41)
 - ✓ Luftwaffe levies devastating attacks for several months
 - ✓ Messerschmitts vs. Spitfires
 - ✓ RAF manages to repel Luftwaffe
 - ✓ British success due to effective radar system, control of battleground, intelligence reports
 - √ 40,000 people killed & another 86,000 injured
- Battle of the Atlantic (1940-41)
 - ✓ At outset of war, Great Britain regarded as world's foremost sea power
 - ✓ German navy rather ill-prepared because Hitler delayed full-scale navy preps until 1939
 - ✓ British seriously damages key French naval vessels at Oran, Algeria (July 1940)
 - ✓ Bismarck scuttled in North Sea (May 1941)
 - ✓ German "wolfpacks" wreak havoc on British & American vessels in North Atlantic
 - ✓ FDR dispatches naval & air units to Iceland for convoys & patrols
 - ✓ U.S. loses destroyers *Greer*, *Kearney*, *Reuben James*
- Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary join Hitler (1941)
- Germany crushes Greece & Yugoslavia (1941)
- Hitler suddenly turns on Soviet Union (1941)

From Isolation to Intervention: America Moves Closer to War

- Congress appropriates \$37 billion to bolster military forces (July 1940)
- Selective Service Act (aka Burke-Wadsworth Act) first U.S. peacetime conscription (September 1940)
- Destroyers-for-bases deal w/ Great Britain (September 1940)
- FDR elected to unprecedented third term (November 1940)

- America imposes embargo on aviation fuel & scrap iron to Japan (1940-41)
- FDR outlines Four Freedoms in his State of the Union address (January 1941)
 - ✓ Of speech/expression; from want (economic hardship); of worship; from fear
 - ✓ Later conveyed thru art by Norman Rockwell
- Lend-Lease Act makes America world's "arsenal of democracy" (March 1941)
- U.S. granted military bases by Denmark on Greenland (April 1941)
- Atlantic Charter issued by U.S. & Great Britain (August 1941)
 - ✓ Necessary to clarify war aims, considering partnership with Russia
 - ✓ No desire for territorial gains
 - ✓ Opposed actions of aggressor nations



• Japan suddenly attacks Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Honolulu, Hawaii (December 7, 1941)

Prelude to Pearl Harbor: Japanese Diplomacy or Duplicity?

- Kichisaburo Nomura ambassador to Washington (February 1941)
- Nomura's honorable diplomatic efforts vs. FDR's embargo on aviation fuel & scrap iron
- Joined by Saburo Kurusu several months later
- Gen. Hideki Tojo replaces peace-seeking Prince Fumimaro Konoye as emperor
- Whether either diplomat knew of Japan's intentions is matter of speculation
- Almost certainly, Kuruso had to have some foreknowledge or suspicion
- Kuruso's actions viewed as diversionary measure aimed at deceiving United States

America Enters the War: Japan Climbs Mount Niitaka

- Tactical success: Tora! Tora! Tora!
 - ✓ Substantially crippled American Pacific Fleet
 - ✓ Eight battleships, inc. the USS Arizona, among several vessels damaged or sunk
 - √ 150 planes (arranged wing-to-wing) & 3,400+ servicemen & civilians killed or wounded.
- Strategic failures of Operation Z
 - ✓ No American aircraft carriers present
 - ✓ Most repair shops & dry docks escaped damage; huge oil-storage tanks largely untouched
 - ✓ Halted indecisiveness, disunity, delays which had plagued war effort to this point.

America's reaction

- ✓ Utter surprise that Japan would dare attack mighty United States
- ✓ FDR calls Pearl Harbor "a date which will live in infamy" & asks Congress for war (33 min)
- ✓ Senate → 82-0; House → 388-1 (Jeannette Rankin of Montana)
- √ 1942 Rose Bowl (Oregon State vs. Duke) transplanted to East Coast
- ✓ Adm. Husband Kimmel & Gen. Walter Short dismissed as scapegoats
- ✓ Nomura & Kurusu now viewed as conniving agents; Pearl Harbor act of duplicity & treachery
- ✓ USS Arizona Memorial (1962)

Japan's reaction

- ✓ Simultaneously attacks Philippines, Guam, Midway, Hong Kong, Malay Peninsula
- ✓ Surprise tactic regarded as acceptable military maneuver world over
- ✓ Economic sanctions of "ABCD Line" (America, Britain, China, the Dutch) too harsh to ignore

- Explaining Pacific Fleet's Sunday nap
 - ✓ Ambassador Joseph Clark Grew warned Japan may "attempt a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor"
 - Operation Magic had cracked Japan's diplomatic codes; additional data from Allied intelligence
 - √ Radar detected incoming Japanese planes; Japanese midget sub fired upon
 - ✓ Charge that FDR deliberately exposed Pearl Harbor to Japanese attack w/o substance
 - Almost everyone involved was "obtuse, confused, careless, bungling, inefficient" in some way
 - Careful planning & sound military execution by Japanese should not be minimized
- Actions of January 1942
 - ✓ Declaration of United Nations signed by 26 nations pledging alliance against Axis Powers
 - At Casablanca Conference, FDR & Churchill agree to demand unconditional surrender terms



- ✓ Oregon State defeats #2-ranked Duke 20-16 in historic relocated Rose Bowl
- ✓ Fields of Battle: Pearl Harbor, the Rose Bowl, and the Boys Who Went to War by Brian Curtis

World War II in Africa and Europe

- African Campaign / Operation Torch (1941-43)
 - ✓ Early defeat of Italian troops by Gen. Archibald Wavell's Army of the Nile (December 1940)
 - ✓ Miserable performance by Italy forced Hitler to send aid, thus spreading thin his forces
 - ✓ Allies opposed by Gen. Erwin Rommel (aka "Desert Fox") & his Afrika Korps
 - Gen. Bernard Montgomery pushes westward; Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower moves eastward
- Invasion of Sicily (Operation Husky) / defeat of Italy (1943-44)
 - ✓ Allies cross Mediterranean & attack Europe's "soft underbelly"
 - ✓ German forces continue fighting after Italy surrenders on June 4, 1943

- Operation Fritz / Barbarossa (June 1941)
 - ✓ Hitler's Directive No. 21 orders double-cross of Russia
 - ✓ Planned to capture Leningrad, Moscow, the Ukraine within just eight weeks
 - ✓ Russians could afford to trade lives at 5-to-1 ratio
 - ✓ Germans began to lose momentum during winter of 1941-42
- Russian counteroffensive (1942-44)
 - ✓ Red Army annihilates Nazi forces at Stalingrad (November 1942)
 - ✓ Soviets drive Nazis from Russia & pursue thru Eastern Europe



- Battle of France / D-Day invasion / Operation Overlord (June 6, 1944)
 - ✓ Forces under Eisenhower & Montgomery
 - ✓ Stormed ashore at five points along coast of Normandy
 - ✓ Success assured war victory for the Allies

№ Dec 1944 thru Jan 1945

- Battle of the Bulge (December 1944)
 - √ Final great counterattack of Germans in Belgium-Luxembourg sector
 - ✓ American forces of Gen. Anthony McAuliffe make heroic stand at Bastogne, Belgium ("Nuts!")
 - ✓ Third Army under Gen. George S. Patton principally responsible for eventual success

- Battle of Germany (January 1945)
 - ✓ Anglo-American & Russian forces met at Elbe River (April 1945)

★ April 12, 1945 **★**

- ✓ FDR dies; V-P Harry S Truman assumes presidency (April 12, 1945)
- ✓ Hitler & mistress Eva Braun commit suicide (April 29)



- ✓ Germany surrenders unconditionally on May 8, 1945 (V-E Day)
- ✓ Third Reich, est'd in 1933 & projected to last a thousand years, disintegrates
- ✓ First Reich was Roman Empire (800s-1806); Second Reich was German Empire (1871-1919)

War on the Home Front

- Women in work force
 - ✓ Increased by nearly 60 percent (mostly in service-sector jobs, often for gov't)
 - ✓ Rec'd substantially less pay than men & no job security



- ✓ Image of "Rosie the Riveter" (not Rockwell) symbolized importance of female industrial workers
- ✓ Notable lack of child-care facilities ("latchkey children") addressed by Lanham Act (1940)
- ✓ Juvenile delinquency & teenage pregnancies increased markedly during war years
- Marriages, divorces, birth rate all rise during war years

- Effects on racial minorities
 - Need for labor in war plants led to increased migration of southern blacks to northern cities
 - ✓ Wartime emphasis on nat'l unity undermined support for renewal of Indian tribal autonomy
 - ✓ Large numbers of Mexican workers due to labor shortages in West led to "zoot-suit" riots
 - Executive Order No. 8802 reg'd defense industries to hire w/o regard to race
 - ✓ Gov't emphasis was on winning war, not domestic reform

★ Japanese-Americans ★

- Internment of Japanese-Americans
 - ✓ FDR's Executive Order No. 9066 created "relocation centers" for 100,000+ from West Coast
 - ✓ Ten total in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming
 - √ Hirabayashi v. U.S. (1943) ruled "ethnic affiliations with an invading enemy" possibly dangerous
 - ✓ Korematsu v. U.S. (1944) justified action on basis of "military necessity"
 - Dissenting justice in Korematsu v. U.S. denounced decision as "legalization of racism"
 - ✓ In 1988, Congress admitted injustice & granted restitution payments

Role of Minorities in the War

- Blacks
 - ✓ Segregation remained norm; assigned to most menial tasks; race riots on military bases
 - ✓ Red Cross separated blood by race of donor.
 - √ 99th Fighter Squadron (aka Tuskegee Airmen)
 - ✓ In 1940, Benjamin O. Davis first black promoted to general
- Indians
 - √ 25,000 enlisted for combat, esp. those from traditionally warful tribes
 - ✓ Navajo "code-talkers" invaluable

WORLD WAR II \star 11

- Women
 - ✓ Women's branches took over non-combat duties to release men for frontline service.
 - ✓ Served as hostesses in USO clubs; names & images on airplanes; pin-ups popular

World War II in the Pacific

- Initial Japanese offensive (1941-42)
 - ✓ Takes over French military bases in Indochina (now Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos)
 - ✓ U.S. announces trade embargo
 - ✓ Japan attacks Pearl Harbor Naval Base
- Mrs. Iva Ikuko Toguri D-Aquino (aka "Tokyo Rose")
 - ✓ American citizen who transmitted daily radio broadcasts designed to demoralize Allied troops
 - ✓ Convicted of treason & sentenced to ten years; pardoned by Pres. Gerald Ford in 1977
- Allied Counteroffensive (1942-45)
 - ✓ Gen. Douglas MacArthur & Adm. Chester Nimitz lead "island-hopping" offensive
 - ✓ Formidable Japanese navy features Yamato & Musashi, world's two largest battleships
- Three great naval battles of 1942 → Coral Sea (May), Midway (June), Guadalcanal (November)
 - ✓ Coral Sea first great carrier battle (no surface ship of either side sighted enemy)

✓ Midway "avenged Pearl Harbor" & places Japan on defensive for remainder of war

🍑 USS South Dakota 💥

- Guadalcanal featured USS South Dakota, most decorated battleship of war (13 battle stars)
- ✓ Some sources cite USS North Carolina w/ 15 battle stars

- Japan's Rising Sun begins to set in 1944 → Luzon, Iwo Jima (Mount Suribachi), Okinawa
 - ✓ Invasion of ground forces coincide w/ Leyte Gulf, last great naval battle in Pacific Theater
 - ✓ Japan resorts to kamikaze ("divine wind") aircraft & shinyo speedboat attacks
 - ✓ Bombing of Tokyo in mid-1945 killed 80,000+ people

Dealing with a War Beast

- Top-secret Manhattan Project est'd by FDR
 - ✓ Group of scientists confined at Los Alamos, New Mexico, under Gen. Leslie Groves
 - ✓ Work on "gadget" directed by physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer
 - ✓ War refugees Albert Einstein (Germany) & Enrico Fermi (Italy)
 - √ V-P Harry S Truman did not know about Manhattan Project
 - ✓ Enormous energy could be generated by splitting uranium atom.
 - ✓ Uranium-235 & plutonium-239 produced at Oak Ridge, Tenn, & Hanford, Wash
 - ✓ Tested in desert near Alamogordo Air Force Base (July 16)



- America drops atomic bombs on Japan (August 1945)
 - ✓ Hiroshima (6th) & Nagasaki (9th) selected as targets
 - During interim, Russia declares war on Japan (8th) & invades Manchuria
- Hiroshima (August 6) & Nagasaki (August 9)
 - ✓ Four cities recommended as targets (Hiroshima, Kokura, Niigata, Nagasaki)
 - ✓ Order of selection according to military importance
 - Kyoto actually center of military activity, but discounted due to spiritual importance
 - ✓ Choice left to Gen. Carl Spaatz & based on weather conditions

- "Little Boy" & "Fat Man"
 - ✓ Uranium-based & plutonium-based, respectively
 - ✓ Transported across Pacific by USS Indianapolis
 - "Greetings to the Emporer from the men of the Indianapolis"
 - Indianapolis torpedoed by Japanese sub four days after delivery; loss of 800+ lives
 - ✓ B-29 Enola Gay (Col. Paul Tibbets, Jr.) & two observation planes w/ cameras & scientists
 - ✓ B-29 Bock's Car (Maj. Charles W. Sweeney) delivered second bomb

Reason for action

- ✓ Military momentum → bring about surrender of Japan in most militarily efficient manner
- ✓ Diplomatic advantage → clear message to Soviets of American post-war strength
- ✓ Inflamed emotion → enact revenge upon Japan for Pearl Harbor attack

Alternative actions

- ✓ More fully pursue Japanese peace feelers
- ✓ Blockade & bomb Japan conventionally
- ✓ Conduct military landing on outlying Japanese island of Kyushu
- ✓ Persuade Soviet Union to declare war on Japan
- ✓ Demonstrate bomb on unpopulated area w/ Japanese & international observers

Moral issue

- ✓ Eisenhower & MacArthur expressed reservations about using bomb
- ✓ Potsdam Declaration warned Japan that it faced "prompt and utter destruction"
- ✓ Use of second bomb, esp. so soon after first, less morally defensible.
- ✓ Japan's intent following first bomb unclear; actions of gov't confusing
- Can't dilute overly aggressive & cruel actions of Japan during World War II
- ✓ Death tolls high in air bombings of London, Dresden, Berlin, as well

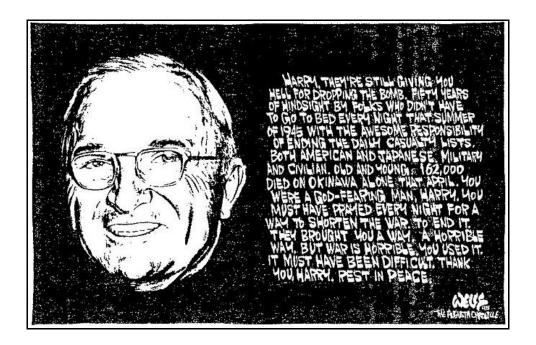
· Effects of bombs

- ✓ 75,000+ Hiroshima deaths & another ≈ 100,000 injuries (+ 20 American POWs)
- More than 96 percent of buildings destroyed or heavily damaged
- ✓ Nagasaki numbers substantial, but less (hence, total atom bomb casualties > 225,000)
- ✓ Scientists who favored using bomb expected standard explosion casualties (?)
- ✓ Both bombs took fewer lives than regular air raids on Tokyo

Secret of bomb

- ✓ U.S. shared data with Great Britain & Canada after war
- ✓ Soviet Union (1949), France (1960), China (1964), others
- ✓ Karl Fuchs passed atomic secrets on to Soviets

- ✓ Japan capitulates on August 15, 1945 (V-J Day)
- ✓ Japan officially surrenders on September 2 aboard USS Missouri
- ✓ Unconditional surrender terms based on Declaration of Potsdam (July 26)



The Legacy of World War II

- Total dead approached 50 million
 - ✓ Over half were civilians
 - ✓ America ≈ 300,000 casualties & 700,000 more wounded
 - ✓ America's losses significantly less than other major belligerents (esp. China & Russia)
- United Nations formed to promote international cooperation & preserve global peace
 - ✓ Totalitarianism dead in Germany, Italy, Japan
 - ✓ Isolationism practically disappeared in U.S.
- Technological advances & improvements
 - ✓ Power of atom now realized
 - ✓ Penicillin & other live-saving antibiotics developed

Commanders and Key Involvement

- Allied countries
 - ✓ Gen. Omar Bradley (U.S.) → D-Day invasion
 - ✓ Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (U.S.) → European Theater (also Africa, Italy)
 - ✓ Adm. William Halsey (U.S.) → South Pacific Fleet
 - ✓ Adm. Husband Kimmel (U.S.) → Pearl Harbor
 - ✓ Adm. Ernest King (U.S.) → Fleet Commander
 - ✓ Gen. Douglas MacArthur (U.S.) → Pacific Theater
 - ✓ Gen. Anthony McAuliffe (U.S.) → Battle of the Bulge
 - ✓ Gen. Bernard "Monty" Montgomery (Great Britain) → European Theatre (also Africa, Italy)
 - ✓ Adm. Chester Nimitz (U.S.) → Pacific Fleet
 - ✓ Gen. George S. Patton (U.S.)
 → Battle of the Bulge
 - ✓ Gen. Walter Short (U.S.) → Pearl Harbor

- Axis nations
 - ✓ Gen. Hermann Georing (Germany) → Luftwaffe (Air Force)
 - ✓ Gen. Heinrich Himmler (Germany) → Holocaust (Gestapo Chief)
 - ✓ Adm. Erich Raeder (Germany) → Navy
 - ✓ Gen. Erwin Rommel (Germany) → Afrika Korps (Panzer tank units)
 - ✓ Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto (Japan) → Pearl Harbor

World War II and Hollywood

The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) ★★★★½ → Burma Railway construction by British POWs (1942–43) PG The Great Escape (1963) ★★★★★ → late-war escape of British POWs from Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Poland G Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) ★★★★½ → Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec 1941) G Kelly's Heroes (1970) ★★★½ → fun dramedy of U.S. soldiers who go AWOL to rob a German bank PG Midway (1976) ★★★★ → Battle of Midway was turning point in Pacific war (June 1942) PG A Bridge Too Far (1977) ★★★★½ → failed Allied Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands (late 1944) PG Fat Man and Little Boy (1989) ★★★½ → re-enactment of Manhattan Project PG-13 Memphis Belle (1990) ★★★ → nickname of legendary Boeing B-17F Flying Fortress bomber airplane PG-13 Schindler's List (1993) ★★★★ → German industrialist Oskar Schindler's heroic Holocaust effort R The Tuskegee Airmen (1995) ★★★★ → first African-American combat pilots in U.S. Army Air Corps PG-13 Saving Private Ryan (1998) ★★★★½ → drama beginning with D-Day invasion at Normandy (June 1944) R Pearl Harbor (2001) ★1/2 → story within Pearl Harbor attack (Dec 1941) & Doolittle Raid (April 1942) PG-13 Enemy at the Gates (2001) ★★★★½ → story within larger Battle of Stalingrad (winter of 1942-43) R Windtalkers (2002) ¼ → fictional drama involving Navajo code talkers; good topic, lousy movie R Flags of Our Fathers (2006) ★★★★½ → Battle of Iwo Jima (early 1945) from American viewpoint R Valkyrie (2008) ★★★★ → plot by German army officers to assassinate Adolf Hitler (mid-1944) PG-13 Fury (2014) ★★★★ → fictional story of U.S. tank crew during final days of World War II in Germany R The Imitation Game (2014) ★★★★ → British effort to break German secret code known as Enigma PG-13 The Zookeeper's Wife (2017) ★★★★ → true rescue of hundreds of Jews by hiding in Warsaw zoo PG-13 Dunkirk (2018) ★★★★ → desperate British evacuation across English Channel (May-June 1940) PG-13