Chapter 24 – Section 2 – War in Europe
Chapter 24 – Section 3 – The Holocaust
War in Europe

**Main Idea** – Using sudden mass attack called *blitzkrieg*, Germany invaded and conquered many European countries. During the *Holocaust*, the Nazis systematically executed 6 million Jews and 5 million other “non-Aryans.”
The German Offensive Begins

- **Background**: In the 1930s, Adolf Hitler became the forceful leader of the Nazis in Germany and was devoted to multiple goals:
  - Extreme nationalism
  - Racial “purification”
  - Militaristic expansionism
Third Reich

- Hitler wanted to unite all ethnic Germans into his Third Reich and conquer Europe
  - Allied diplomats used the policy of appeasement at Munich to give Hitler what he demanded in the hopes that he would stop aggressive actions = major failure
Peace Agreement

- **Nonaggression pact** – def. - signed between Germany *(Hitler)* and the Soviet Union *(Stalin)* pledging NOT to attack each other
1942 Propaganda Cartoon
Blitz Wolf
September 1, 1939

- World War II began with Germany’s invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939
WWII Begins...

- **Blitzkrieg** – *def.* – lightning war with fast tanks and powerful air power

- Great Britain and France declared war on Germany = WWII

- Soviet Union (U.S.S.R.) also invaded Poland and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania)
Offensive Germany

- Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France was conquered by the German offensive.
Battle of Britain

- **Battle of Britain** – German air war against the British
  - *Luftwaffe* (German air force) carried out bombing raids over Great Britain
  - Great Britain survived and did not surrender
And the USA?

- The United States remained officially neutral
  - Desire to remain an isolationist nation
  - Gradually, the U.S. would gradually abandon its policy of neutrality
The Holocaust
The Persecution Begins

- **Background:**
  German beliefs in **anti-Semitism** (hatred of the Jews) was a contributing factor to Jewish persecution.
The Persecution Begins

**Kristallnacht (1938)**—def. – “night of broken glass” as Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues were attacked across Germany

- **SIG** – increased efforts by Jews to get out of Germany, but many countries wouldn’t adjust immigration levels
Holocaust

- **The Holocaust** – *def.* - the systematic murder of 11 million people across Europe, more than half of whom were Jews

- **Genocide** – *def.* - generic term used to describe the systematic and purposeful destruction of a racial, political, religious, or cultural group
Hitler’s Final Solution

- Hitler’s “Final Solution” - the decision to exterminate all Jews
  - Based on the idea that Aryans were a superior people and that strength and purity must be preserved
  - Involved forced relocation to “ghettos”
Affected Groups of Hitler’s “Final Solution”

- Jews
- Poles
- Slavs
- Gypsies
- “Undesireables” (homosexuals, the mentally ill, political dissendents)
Death Camps

- Involved movement of persecuted people to concentration camps – work camps
  - Brutal conditions including hunger, humiliation, and death
  - Sobibor
Holocaust

- Involved mass exterminations at 6 death camps in Poland
  - Included the use of gas chambers to kill up to 12,000 people a day
  - Some crematoriums were designed to burn the bodies, other camps used massive burial pits
  - Ex: *Auschwitz* = largest death camp
Liberation

- Camps were slowly liberated by Soviet armies in the East and U.S. and British troops in the West
Nuremburg Trials

- **Nuremburg Trials** – Nazi leaders were convicted of war crimes for their participation in the Holocaust
  - Emphasized individual responsibility for actions during a war, regardless of orders received
  - **SIG** – led to an increased call for a Jewish homeland
Chapter 24 – Section 4 – America Moves Toward War
Chapter 25 – Section 1 – Mobilizing for Defense
America Moves Towards War

- **Main Idea** – In response to the fighting in Europe, the United States gradually abandoned its policy of neutrality and provided economic and military aid to help the Allies achieve victory. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States mobilized for war.
The United States as “The Great Arsenal of Democracy”

- Neutrality Acts
- “Cash and Carry”
- Axis Powers
- “Destroyers for Bases”
- Lend-Lease Act
Neutrality Acts

- **Background:** From 1935-1937, the U.S. passed a series of Neutrality Acts that promoted isolation and tried to avoid getting involved in European conflicts.
“Cash and Carry”

- “Cash and Carry”—FDR’s plan in 1939 to provide military aid to Great Britain as long as the British paid in cash and transported supplies in their own ships.
Axis Powers

- **Axis Powers**— alliance between Germany, Italy, and Japan that began in 1939
“Destroyers for Bases” Deal

- “Destroyers for Bases” Deal - U.S. gave Great Britain old naval warships in return for U.S. access to British military bases in Bermuda and the Caribbean.
Lend-Lease Act

- **Lend-Lease Act**—gave FDR the authority to sell or lend equipment to countries to defend themselves against the Axis powers
  - FDR compared this plan to lending a garden hose to a neighbor whose house was on fire
Lend-Lease Act

- Lend-Lease aid extended to the U.S.S.R. when Hitler violated the non-aggression pact and invaded the Soviet Union in June of 1941
  - Germany hoped to defeat the Soviet Union quickly, gain control of Soviet oil fields – ultimately failed
Significance

- Germany increased submarine warfare with *U-Boats* that moved in "wolf packs"
Japan Attacks the U.S.

- **Background:** During the 1930s, Japan, under the leadership of Hideki Tojo, invaded Manchuria and China as it sought military and economic domination over Asia.

- The U.S. refused to recognize Japanese conquests in Asia and in the Pacific and imposed an embargo on exports of oil and steel to Japan
  - this resulted in a diplomatic stalemate
Pearl Harbor

- **Pearl Harbor:**
  - *(December 7, 1941)* – Japan carried out an air attack on U.S. naval base in Hawaii
  - Destroyed a significant part of the Pacific Fleet stationed at pearl Harbor
  - 2,400 Americans killed
  - **Attack**
USA! USA!

- SIG - U.S. abandoned neutrality and isolationism by entering WWII
  - FDR asked for a declaration of war against Japan
    - “Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy…”

- Germany and Italy also declared war on the U.S.
- Start of WWII
Americans Join the War Effort
Americans Join the War Effort

- **Background:**
  - Citizens volunteered in support of the war effort following Pearl Harbor
    - 5 million volunteers during the war
Selective Service Act

- **Selective Service Act**—established a draft before the U.S. entered World War II, expanded greatly following Pearl Harbor
  - Draft provided **10 million** soldiers during the war
Different Groups and the War

- Women
- African Americans
- Asian Americans
- Mexican Americans
- Native Americans
Women

- Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC or WAC) - allowed women to serve in noncombatant military roles – nurses, ambulance drivers, radio operators, pilots
African Americans

1 million served in segregated military units and were frequently assigned to non-combat roles

- **Tuskegee Airmen** served in Europe with distinction
- **Tuskegee Airmen**
Asian Americans

Asian Americans:

- 50,000 served (mostly Japanese Americans)
  - *Nisei* regiments earned a high number of decorations
Mexican Americans

Mexican Americans:
300,000 served in the military in integrated units (not segregated)
Native Americans:

- 25,000 served in the military in integrated units (not segregated)
  - Navajo "Code Talkers" – used communication codes based on Navajo language that the Japanese were never able to break
Organization and Distribution of Resources

- Businesses and factories converted from peacetime to wartime production
  - EX: car manufacturing to tank manufacturing
Industrial Workers

- **Industrial Workers** – 18 million workers in defense industries
  - Women increasingly participated in the industrial workforce
  - SIG – resulted in the "Rosie the Riveter" image of women at work
  - **African Americans** – frequently migrated to industrial cities in search of jobs in war plants
Mass Media and entertainment industries promoted nationalism through propaganda

- Hollywood movies focused on war-oriented propaganda films
- Advertising campaigns used pro-U.S. propaganda and stereotypical anti-German/anti-Japanese to keep public morale up
Financing the War:

- **Income taxes** = 50% of the money needed to fight the war

- **War Bonds** = 50% of the money needed to fight the war
Rationing

- **Rationing** – *def.* – the establishment of fixed allotments of goods deemed essential for the military
  - *EX:* meat, shoes, sugar, coffee, gasoline
Two Theatres of War

- War in the Pacific
- War for Europe and North Africa
Main Idea – Allied forces, led by the U.S. and Great Britain, battled for control of North Africa and then Europe to defeat Italy and Germany. In order to defeat Japan in the Pacific, the U.S. used an “island hopping” strategy and eventually unleashed a new weapon, the atomic bomb.
War Plans and Strategy for the Axis Powers

- Axis Dictators
- Germany’s goals
- Japan’s goals
Dictators

- Germany – Adolf Hitler
- Italy – Benito Mussolini
- Japan – Hideki Tojo
Germany’s Goals:

- hoped to defeat the **Soviet Union** quickly and gain control of Soviet oil fields

- hoped to force Great Britain out of the war through a bombing campaign (**Battle of Britain**) and use of submarine warfare before the U.S. could fully mobilize and turn the tide of war in favor of the Allies
Japan’s Goals:

- hoped that U.S. would accept Japanese dominance in the Pacific rather than fight

- After Pearl Harbor, Japan invaded the Philippines (a U.S. territory) and Indonesia and planned to invade Australia and Hawaii
War Plans and Strategy for the Allies

- After Pearl Harbor, FDR (U.S.) and Winston Churchill (Great Britain) adopted a “Defeat Hitler First” strategy to win WWII
  - Most U.S. military resources were targeted for Europe to defeat Hitler
In the Pacific

- In the Pacific, U.S. military strategy called for an “island hopping” campaign
  - Island Hopping – *def.* – seizing islands closer and closer to Japan and using them as bases for air attacks on Japan
  - At the same time, U.S. submarines and Navy would cut off Japanese shipping and naval supply lines
Major Battles and Military Turning Points

- North Africa
- Europe
- Pacific
North Africa

- **El Alamein** (1943)—German forces under Erwin Rommel that threatened to seize Egypt and the Suez Canal were defeated by the British
  - **SIG**—German defeat prevented Hitler from gaining access to Middle Eastern oil supplies and potentially attacking the Soviet Union from the South
Europe

- **Stalingrad (1942-1943)** – German forces besieged Stalingrad but were eventually surrounded and surrendered to Soviet forces.
  - Germany lost 400,000 troops killed, wounded or captured
  - Soviet Union lost 1,100,000 troops killed, wounded or captured
  - **SIG** – Turning point of the war – Soviet army moved west toward Germany as a result – put Hitler on the defensive
D-Day

- Normandy Landings (D-Day)
- (June 6, 1944) – 3 million American, British, and Canadian troops under the command of Dwight D. Eisenhower landed in German-occupied France at Normandy
  - **SIG** – marked the beginning of the liberation of Europe from Hitler’s control
Pacific

- Midway
- Iwo Jima
- Okinawa
- Nagasaki
- Hiroshima
Midway

(aka “Miracle of Midway”) (1942) – American naval forces under Chester Nimitz broke attacked and defeated a much larger Japanese force

- Avenged the U.S. naval defeat at Pearl Harbor and saved Hawaii from Japanese invasion
- SIG – led to the successful “island hopping” campaign that brought the war closer to Japan
Iwo Jima

- **Iwo Jima (1945)** – U.S. Marines attacked and defeated heavily entrenched Japanese forces, but suffered heavy casualties
  - Flag-Raising Photo – became a symbol for American pride and victory
  - U.S. casualties = 6,000 killed
  - Japanese casualties = over 20,000 killed
- **SIG** - The island was important as a staging island for U.S. bomber runs to Japan
Okinawa

- Okinawa (1945) – U.S. Marines invaded and conquered the last island needed for final attack on Japan
  - U.S. casualties = 7,600 killed
    Japanese casualties = 110,000 killed
  - Japanese used kamikaze (suicide-plane) attacks on U.S. ships
  - Many Japanese soldiers chose suicide over surrender
  - SIG – convinced U.S. commanders that the U.S. would lose about 1 million soldiers to invade and conquer Japanese home islands
Atomic Bombs

- **Hiroshima** (August 6, 1945) and **Nagasaki** (August 9, 1945) – U.S. used the Atomic Bomb to defeat Japan and end World War II
- 200,000 people were killed in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing Japan to surrender
Atomic Bomb

- **Background:** Manhattan Project – scientific research led by J. Robert Oppenheimer that resulted in the construction of the first Atomic Bombs

- Facing the prospect of horrendous casualties if American forces had to invade Japan itself, President Harry Truman opted to use the Atomic Bomb to end the war
The Home Front
Main Idea – Japanese Americans were victimized by the U.S. government’s decision to move 110,000 Japanese Americans to internment camps in the West.
Internment of Japanese Americans

**Background:**
- Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, many Americans believed false rumors that Japanese Americans had served as spies for Japan prior to the attack, which led to discrimination and prejudice against Japanese Americans on the West coast.
Internment

- February 19, 1942 – FDR signed an executive order that called for the internment (def. – confinement) of all Japanese Americans
Internment

- FDR stated that the internment was a military necessity
- 110,000 Japanese Americans were moved to internment camps in the West
  - 2/3 of all people moved were Nisei (Japanese Americans born in the U.S.)
  - Japanese Americans were forced to sell their homes and businesses
Internment

- **Korematsu v. United States** (1944) – Supreme Court decision that stated the government’s use of internment camps was justified on the basis of “military necessity”

- U.S. Government apologized for internment in 1980s and paid each surviving internee was paid reparations of $20,000
The Geneva Convention

- Treatment of prisoners in the Pacific Theater of WWII often reflected the savagery of the fighting there
Bataan Death March

- **Bataan Death March**
  In the Philippines, American POWs that surrendered to the Japanese suffered brutal treatment
  - Forced march of 60 miles without proper food or water, with random shootings, beheadings, and slitting of throats common
  - Over 10,000 U.S. soldiers were killed along the march
POW’s in Europe

- Treatment of prisoners in the European Theater of WWII more closely reflected the ideas of the Geneva Convention
Geneva Convention

- Geneva Convention (1949) – attempted to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners of war by establishing rules to be followed by all nations

“Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity.”