

# **THE UNITED STATES IN WORLD WAR II**



**AMERICA  
TURNS THE  
TIDE**

# MOBILIZING FOR DEFENSE

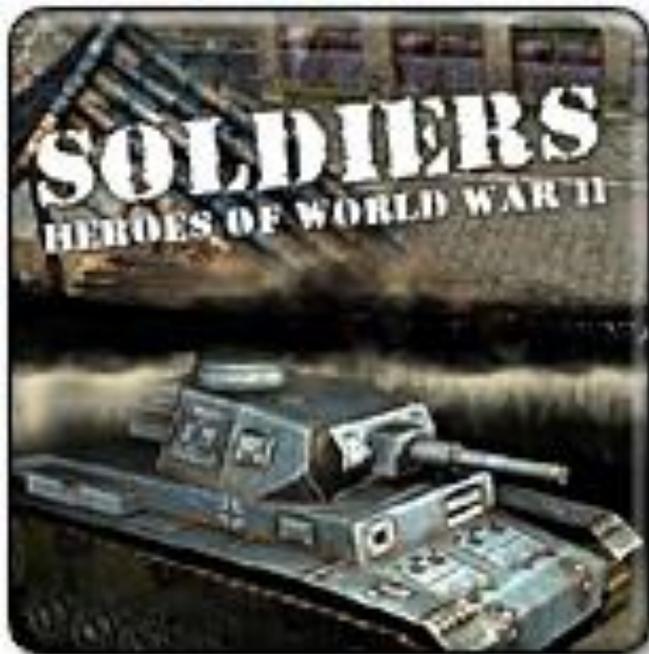
- After P.H., Japan believed America would not be a problem

*Japan Times*

- “Remember Pearl Harbor” was the rallying cry as America entered WWII



# AMERICANS RUSH TO ENLIST



- **5 million Americans enlisted to fight in the war**
- **Selective Service expanded the draft and eventually provided an additional 10 million soldiers**

# WOMEN JOIN THE FIGHT

- Army Chief of Staff  
General George Marshall-  
Women's Auxiliary Army  
Corps (WAAC)
- Under this program  
women worked in non-  
combat roles such as  
nurses, ambulance  
drivers, radio operators,  
and pilots



# ALL AMERICANS FOUGHT



Photo # NH 95624 The "Golden Thirteen", March 1944  
These "Golden 13" Great Lakes officers  
scored the highest marks ever on the  
Officers exam in 1944

Despite discrimination at home, minority populations contributed to the war effort

- 1,000,000 African Americans served in the military
- 300,000 Mexican-Americans
- 33,000 Japanese Americans
- 25,000 Native Americans
- 13,000 Chinese Americans

# A PRODUCTION MIRACLE

- Americans converted their auto industry into a war industry
- The nation's automobile plants began to produce tanks, planes, boats, and command cars
- Many other industries also converted to war-related supplies



# LABOR'S CONTRIBUTION



- By 1944, nearly 18 million workers were laboring in war industries (3x the # in 1941)
- More than 6 million of these were women and nearly 2 million were minorities

# MOBILIZATION OF SCIENTISTS

- In 1941, FDR created the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) to bring scientists into the war effort
- Focus was on radar and sonar to locate submarines
- Also the scientists worked on penicillin and pesticides like DDT



# MANHATTAN PROJECT



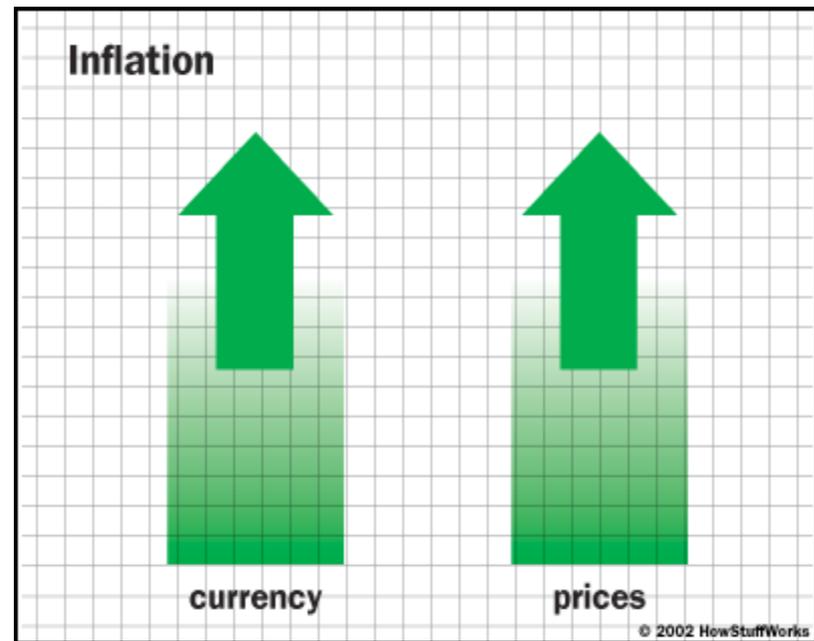
- The most important achievement of the OSRD was the secret development of the atomic bomb
- Einstein's warning

# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKES CONTROL OF INFLATION

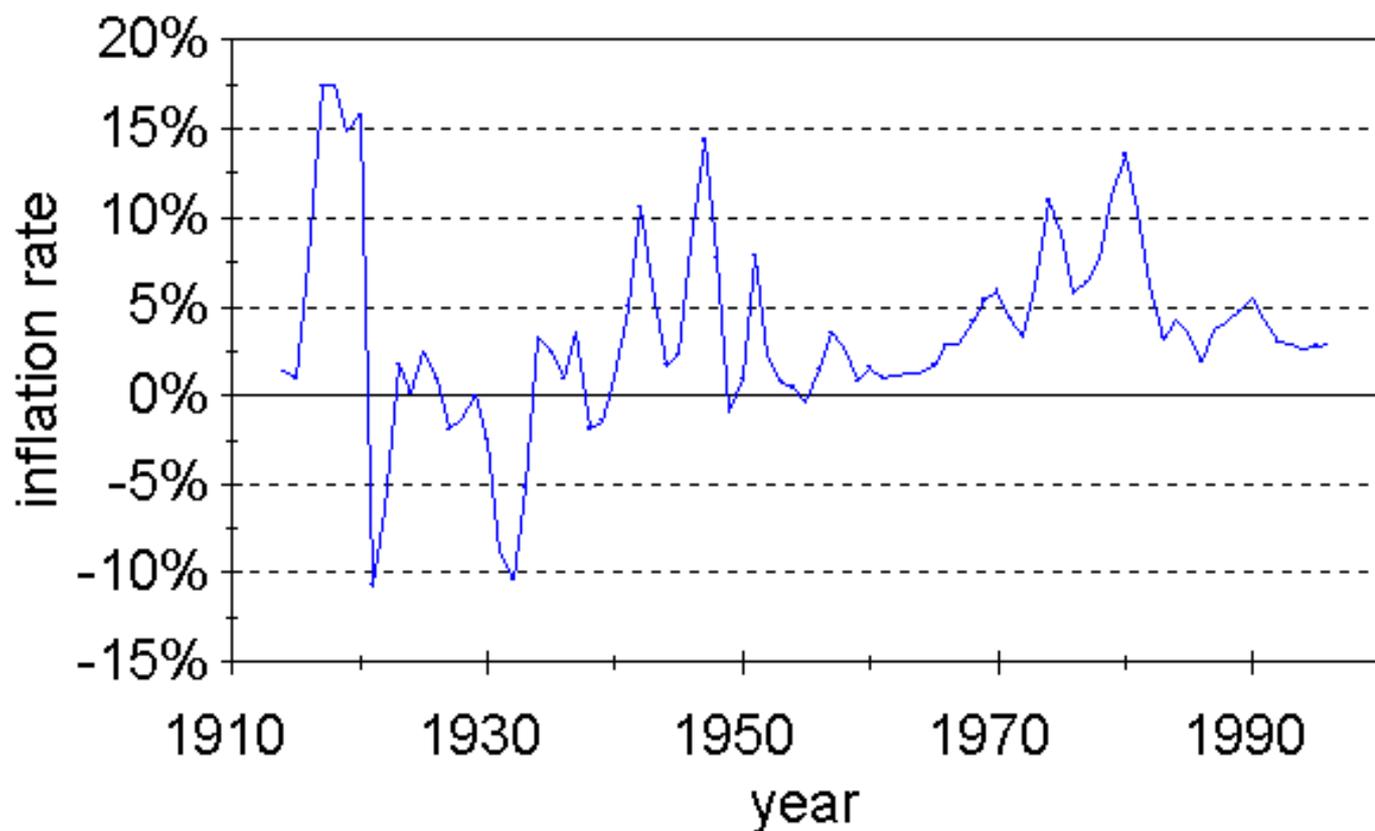
- With prices of goods threatening to rise out of control, FDR responded by creating the Office of Price Administration (OPA)

-fought inflation by:

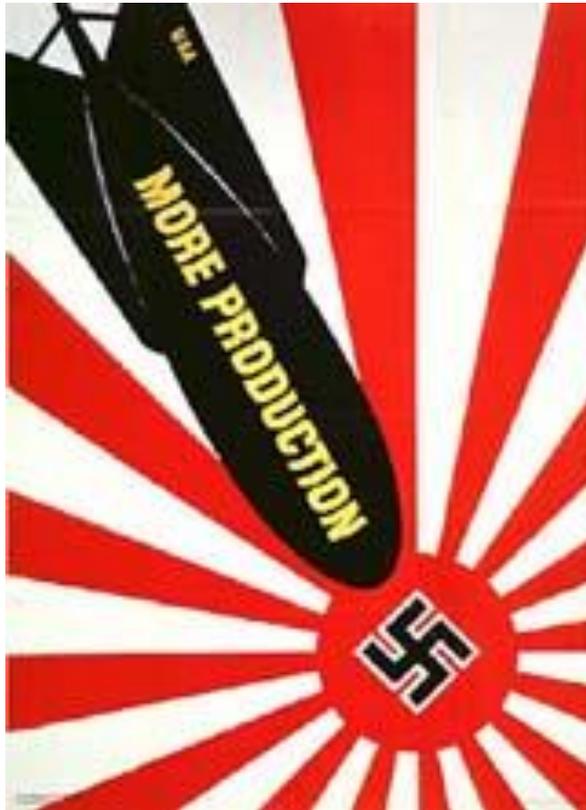
- freezing prices
- Congress: income taxes
- public encouraged to buy war bonds



# yearly inflation rate



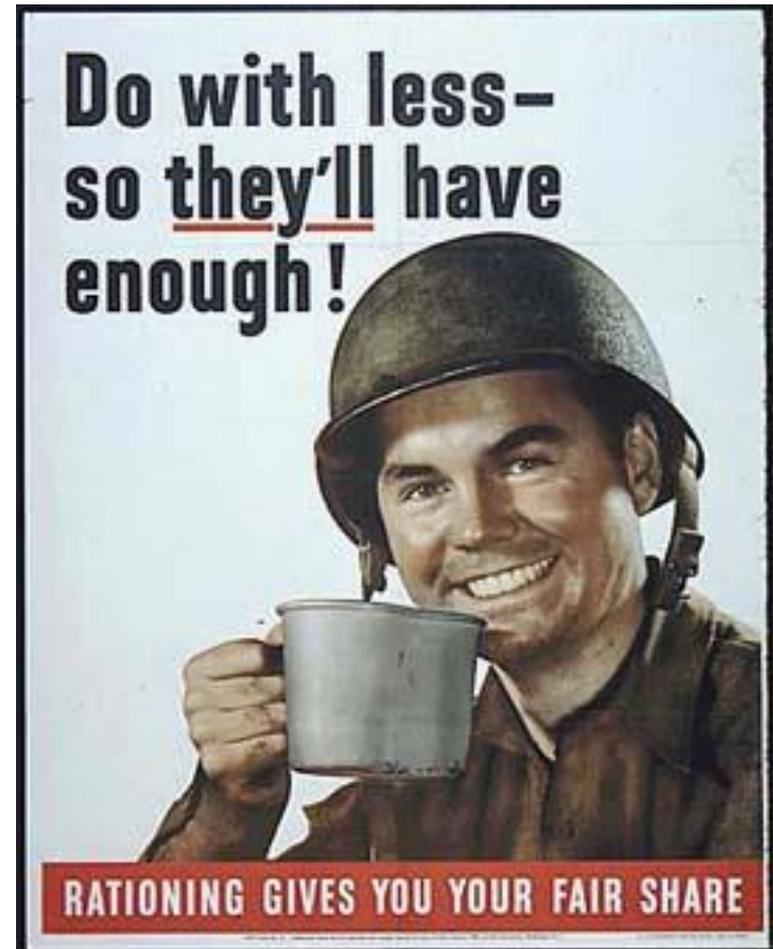
# WAR PRODUCTION BOARD



- To ensure the troops had ample resources, FDR created the WPB
- The WPB decided which companies would convert to wartime production and how to best allocate raw materials to those industries

# COLLECTION DRIVES

- The WPB also organized nationwide drives to collect scrap iron, tin cans, paper, rags and cooking fat for recycling
- Additionally, the OPA set up a system of rationing
- Households had set allocations of scarce goods – gas, meat, shoes, sugar, coffee



**When you ride ALONE  
you ride with Hitler!**



**Join a  
Car-Sharing Club  
TODAY!**

**WWII Poster  
encouraging  
conservation**



Ration stamps from  
World War II--from book 4 (left) and book 3 (right.)

# THE WAR FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA



- Days after Pearl Harbor, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived at the White House and spent three weeks working out war plans with FDR
- They decided to focus on defeating Hitler first and then turn their attention to Japan

# THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



The power of the German submarines was great, and in two months' time almost two million tons of Allied ships were resting on the ocean floor. Efforts were soon made to restrict German subs' activities.

- Hitler was determined to prevent food and war supplies from reaching Britain and the USSR from America's east coast
- Ordered submarine raids on U.S. ships on the Atlantic
- During the first 7 months of 1942 Germany had destroyed 681 Allied ships

**"THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC WAS THE DOMINATING FACTOR  
ALL THROUGH THE WAR..."**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL**



**BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC**

# ALLIES CONTROL U-BOATS

- **Something had to be done or the war at sea would be lost**
- **First, Allies used convoys of ships & airplanes to transport supplies**
- **Destroyers used sonar to track U-boats**
- **Airplanes were used to track the U-boats on ocean surfaces (radar)**
- **With this improved tracking, Allies inflicted huge losses on German U-boats**



**U-426 sinks after attack from the air, January 1944. Almost two-thirds of all U-boat sailors died during the Battle of the Atlantic.**

# Battle of the Atlantic, 3/June 1943–May 1945

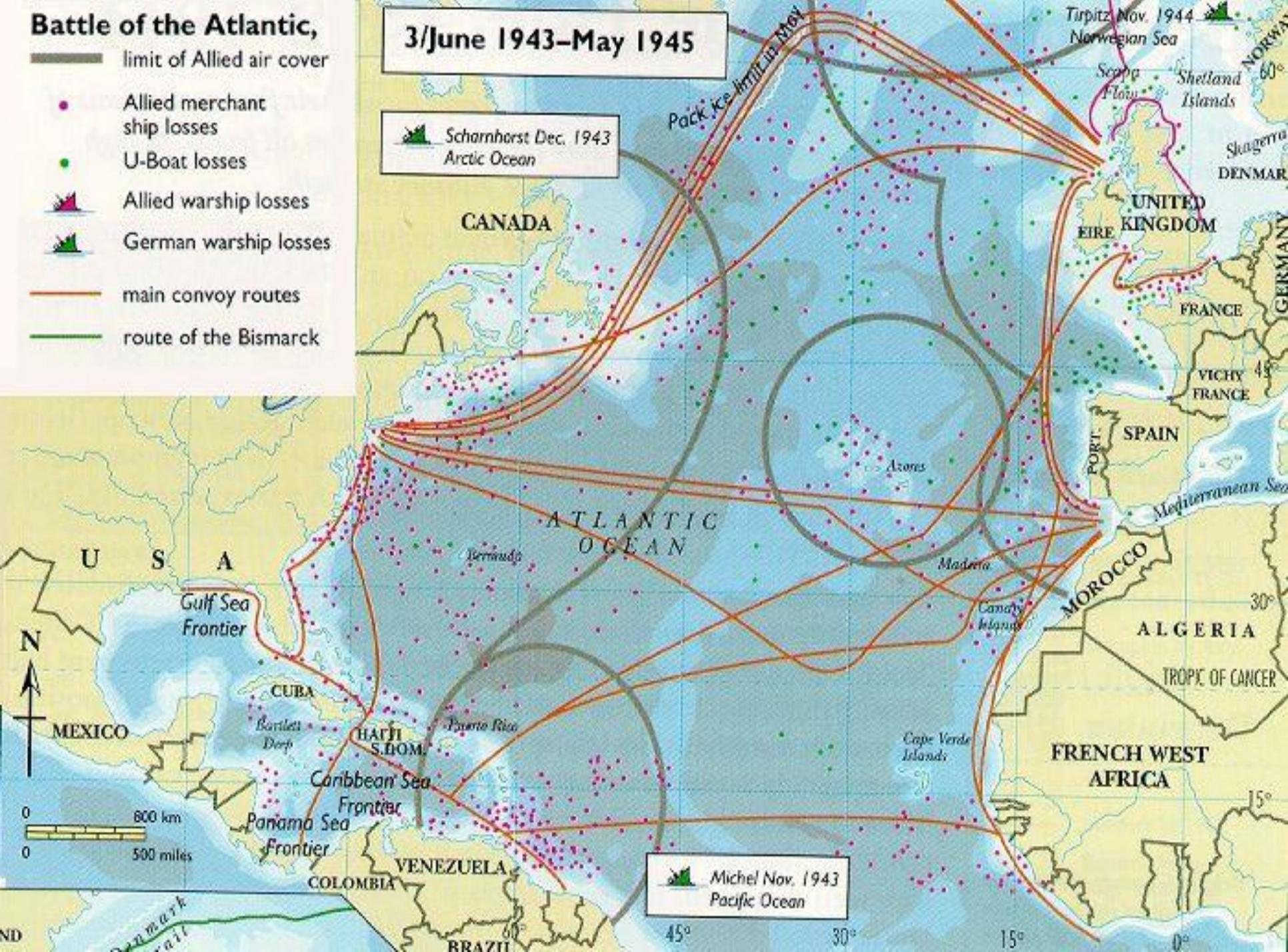
- limit of Allied air cover
- Allied merchant ship losses
- U-Boat losses
- ▲ Allied warship losses
- ▲ German warship losses
- main convoy routes
- route of the Bismarck

3/June 1943–May 1945

Scharnhorst Dec. 1943  
Arctic Ocean

Pack ice limit in May

Michel Nov. 1943  
Pacific Ocean



# THE EASTERN FRONT & MEDITERRANEAN



**Battle of Stalingrad was a huge Allied victory**

- **Hitler wanted to wipe out Stalingrad – a major industrial center**
- **Summer of 1942: Germans took the offensive in the southern Soviet Union**
- **By winter of 1943: Allies began to see victories on land as well as sea**
- **First great turning point: Battle of Stalingrad**

## Germany in Russia

# BATTLE OF STALINGRAD



Wounded in the  
Battle of Stalingrad

- For weeks the Germans pressed in on Stalingrad
- Then winter set in and the Germans were wearing summer uniforms
- The Germans surrendered in January of 1943
- The Soviets lost more than 1 million men in the battle (more than twice the number of deaths the U.S. suffered in all the war)





# THE NORTH AFRICAN FRONT



- “Operation Torch” – invasion of Axis - controlled North Africa - American General Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1942
- Allied troops landed in Casablanca, Oran and the Algiers in Algeria
- They sped eastward chasing the Afrika Korps led by German General Edwin Rommel



American tanks roll in the deserts of Africa and defeat German and Axis forces

Allied troops landed in Casablanca, Oran and the Algiers



# CASABLANCA MEETING

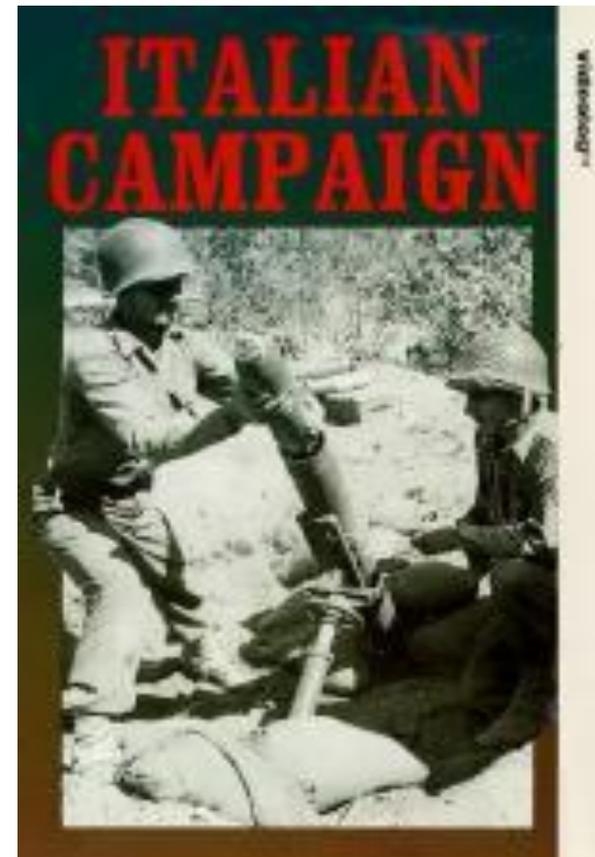


**FDR and Churchill in  
Casablanca**

- **FDR and Churchill met in Casablanca and decided their next moves**
- **1) Plan amphibious invasions of France and Italy**
- **2) Only unconditional surrender would be accepted**

# ITALIAN CAMPAIGN – ANOTHER ALLIED VICTORY

- Allies easily took Sicily
- King Emmanuel III stripped Mussolini of his power and had him arrested
- Hitler's forces continued to resist the Allies in Italy
- Heated battles ensued and it wasn't until 1945 that Italy was secured by the Allies



# TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

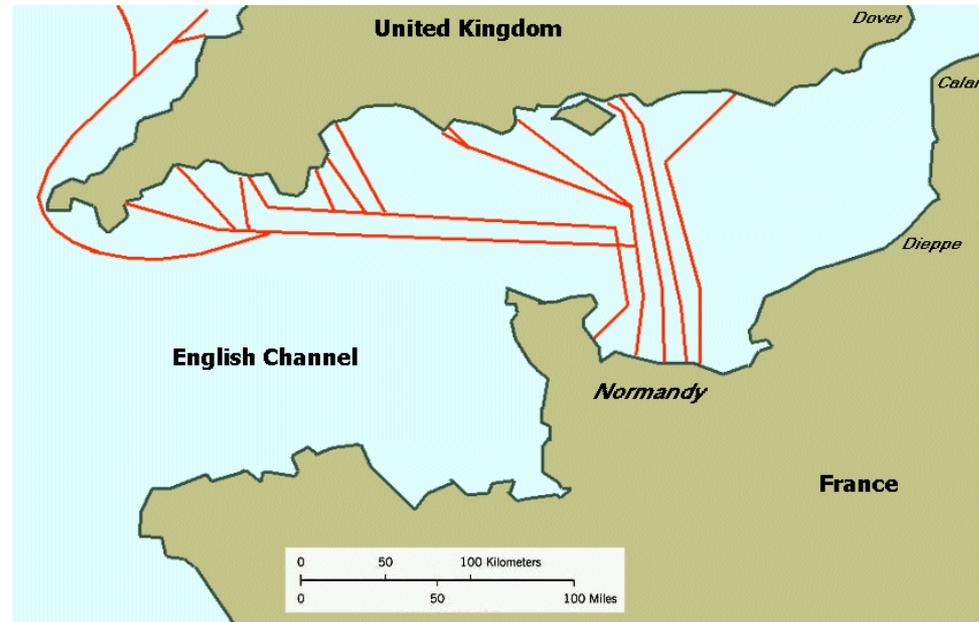


- Among the brave men who fought in Italy were pilots of the all-black 99<sup>th</sup> squadron – the Tuskegee Airmen
- The pilots made numerous effective strikes against Germany and won two distinguished Unit Citations



**On May 31, 1943, the 99<sup>th</sup> Squadron, the first group of African-American pilots trained at the Tuskegee Institute, arrived in North Africa**

# ALLIES LIBERATE EUROPE



← Allies sent fake coded messages indicating they would attack here

- While battling for Italy, they began plans for a dramatic invasion of France
- “Operation Overlord” and the commander was American General Dwight D. Eisenhower
- “D-Day”-3 million U.S., British & Canadian troops and was set for June 6, 1944

# D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944



**D-Day was an amphibious landing –  
soldiers going from sea to land**

- largest land-sea-air operation in military history
- German retaliation was brutal – especially at Omaha Beach
- Within a month, the Allies had landed 1 million troops, 567,000 tons of supplies and 170,000 vehicles



**OMAHA BEACH 6/6/44**



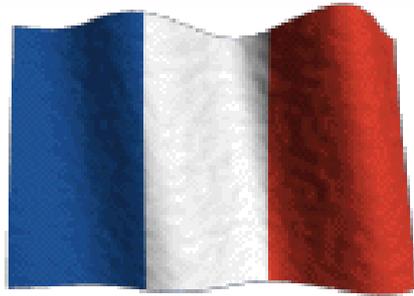
**Landing at Normandy**



**Planes drop paratroopers behind enemy lines at Normandy, France**



**Losses  
were  
extremely  
heavy on  
D-Day**



# FRANCE FREED

- By September 1944, the Allies had freed France, Belgium and Luxembourg
- That good news – and the American’s people’s desire not to “change horses in midstream” – helped elect FDR to an unprecedented 4<sup>th</sup> term



**General George Patton (right)  
was instrumental in Allies  
freeing France**





# BATTLE OF THE BULGE

- October 1944: Americans captured their first German town (Aachen)– the Allies were closing in
- Hitler responded with one last ditch massive offensive
- Hitler hoped breaking through the Allied line would break up Allied supply lines



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE



The Battle of the Bulge was  
Germany's last gasp

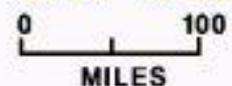
- Battle raged for a month – Germans had been pushed back
- Germans had sustained heavy losses
- Germany lost 120,000 troops, 600 tanks and 1,600 planes
- From that point on the Nazis could do little but retreat

# LIBERATION OF DEATH CAMPS

- While the British and Americans moved westward into Germany, the Soviets moved eastward into German-controlled Poland
- The Soviets discovered many death camps that the Germans had set up within Poland
- The Americans also liberated Nazi death camps within Germany



# THE LIBERATION OF MAJOR NAZI CAMPS 1944-1945



- ☒ Liberated by the United States
- ☒ Liberated by Great Britain/Canada
- ☐ Liberated by the Soviet Union
- Light Brown Territory Liberated Prior to March 21, 1945
- Dark Brown Territory Liberated March 21-May 7-9, 1945
- Red Territory Held by Germany at Surrender May 7-9, 1945
- Dark Red Territory Surrender May 7-9, 1945



# ALLIES TAKE BERLIN; HITLER COMMITS SUICIDE



- By April 25, 1945, the Soviet army had stormed Berlin
- In his underground headquarters in Berlin, Hitler prepared for the end
- On April 29, he married his longtime girlfriend Eva Braun then wrote a last note in which he blamed the Jews for starting the war and his generals for losing it
- The next day he gave poison to his wife and shot himself

# V-E DAY

- General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of the Third Reich
- On May 8, 1945, the Allies celebrated V-E Day – victory in Europe Day
- The war in Europe was finally over





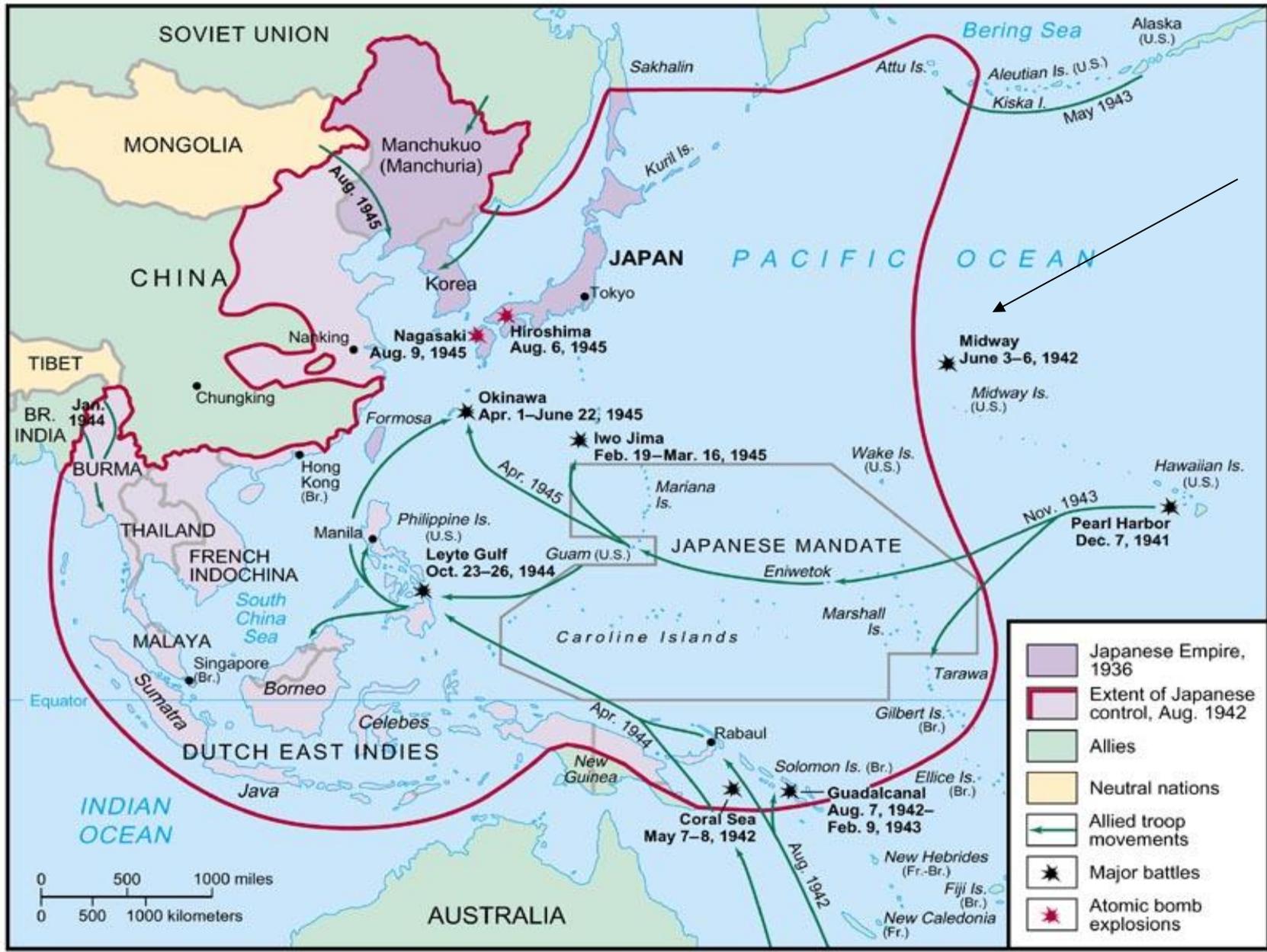
**Famous  
picture of  
an  
American  
soldier  
celebrating  
the end of  
the war**



# THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC



- Japan was busy conquering an empire that dwarfed Hitler's Third Reich
- Japan had conquered much of Asia & Southeast Asia



**WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC**

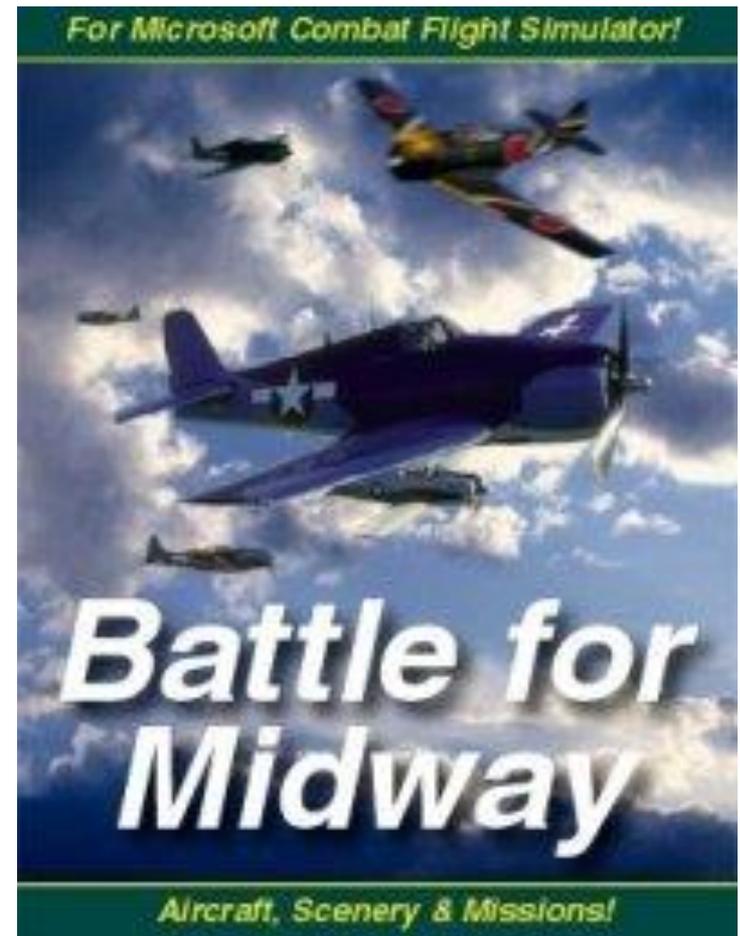
# BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA



- Main Allied forces in the Pacific: Americans and Australians
- May 1942: succeeded in stopping the Japanese drive toward Australia in the five-day Battle of the Coral Sea

# THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

- Japan's next thrust was toward Midway Island – a strategic Island northwest of Hawaii
- U.S. moved to defend the Island
- Americans won a decisive victory as their planes destroyed 4 Japanese aircraft carriers and 250 planes





- **The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the war – soon the Allies were island hopping toward Japan**

# KAMIKAZE PILOTS ATTACK ALLIES



In the Battle for the Philippines, 424 Kamikaze pilots sank 16 ships and damaged 80 more

- Americans continued leapfrogging across the Pacific toward Japan
- Japanese countered by employing a new tactic – Kamikaze (*divine wind*) attacks
- Pilots in small bomb-laden planes would crash into Allied ships

- **General MacArthur and the Allies next turned to the Island of Iwo Jima**

**-critical to Allies as a base for an attack on Japan**

**-called the most heavily defended spot on earth**

**-Allied and Japanese forces suffered heavy casualties**

# IWO JIMA



**American soldiers plant the flag on the Island of Iwo Jima after their victory**

# THE BATTLE FOR OKINAWA



- In April 1945, U.S. marines invaded Okinawa
- The Japanese unleashed 1,900 Kamikaze attacks sinking 30 ships and killing 5,000 seamen
- Okinawa cost the Americans 7,600 marines and the Japanese 110,000 soldiers

# INVADE JAPAN?

- After Okinawa, MacArthur predicted that a Normandy type amphibious invasion of Japan would result in 1,500,000 Allied deaths
- President Truman saw only one way to avoid an invasion of Japan . . .



The loss of life at Iwo Jima and Okinawa convinced Allied leaders that an invasion of Japan was not the best idea

# ATOMIC BOMB DEVELOPED



- Japan had a huge army that would defend every inch of the Japanese mainland
- So Truman decided to use a powerful new weapon developed by scientists working on the Manhattan Project – the Atomic Bomb

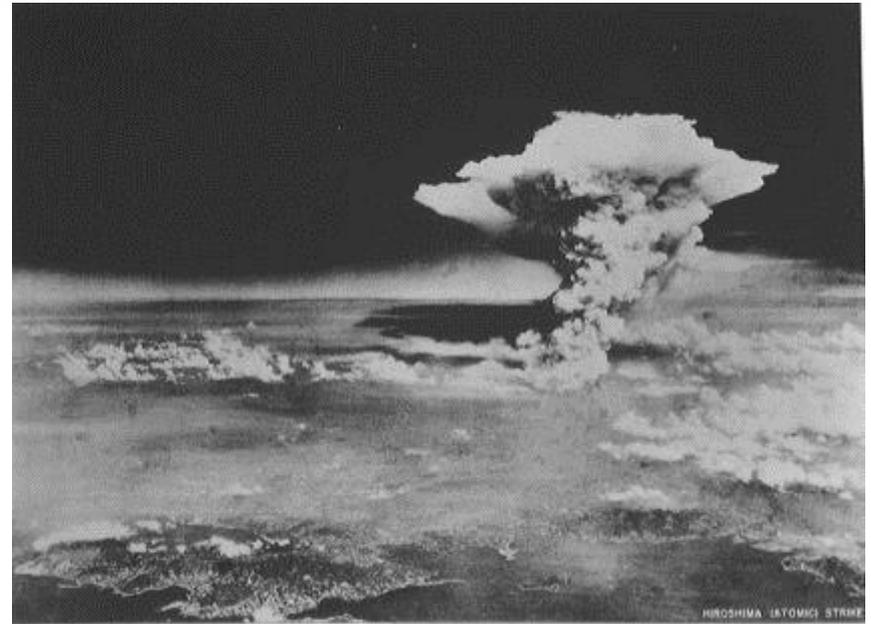
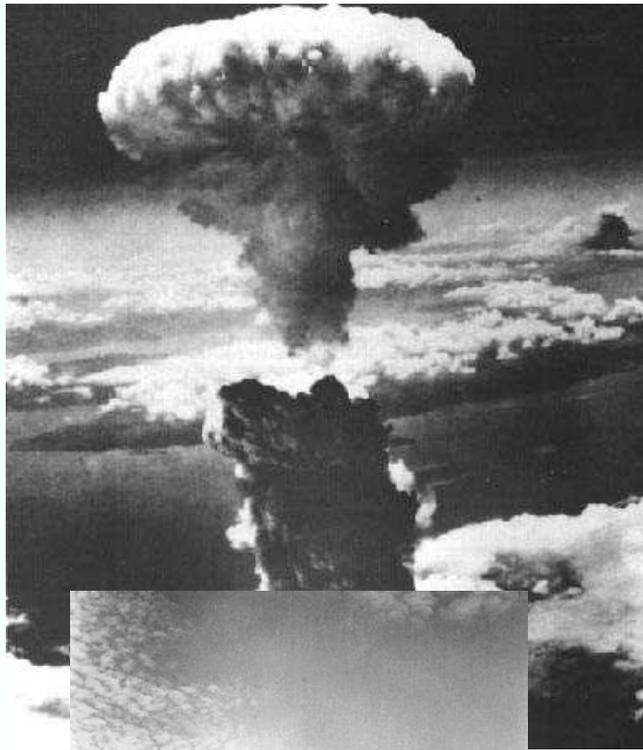


# U.S. DROPS TWO ATOMIC BOMBS ON JAPAN

- Truman warned Japan in late July 1945 that without a immediate Japanese surrender, it faced “prompt and utter destruction”
- On August 6 (Hiroshima) and August 9 (Nagasaki) a B-29 bomber dropped Atomic Bombs on Japan

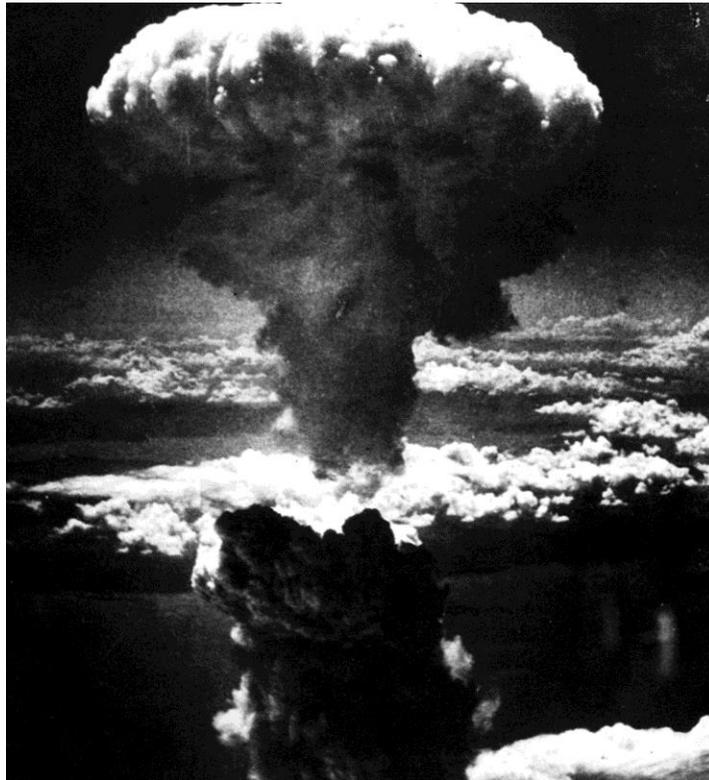


The plane and crew that dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan

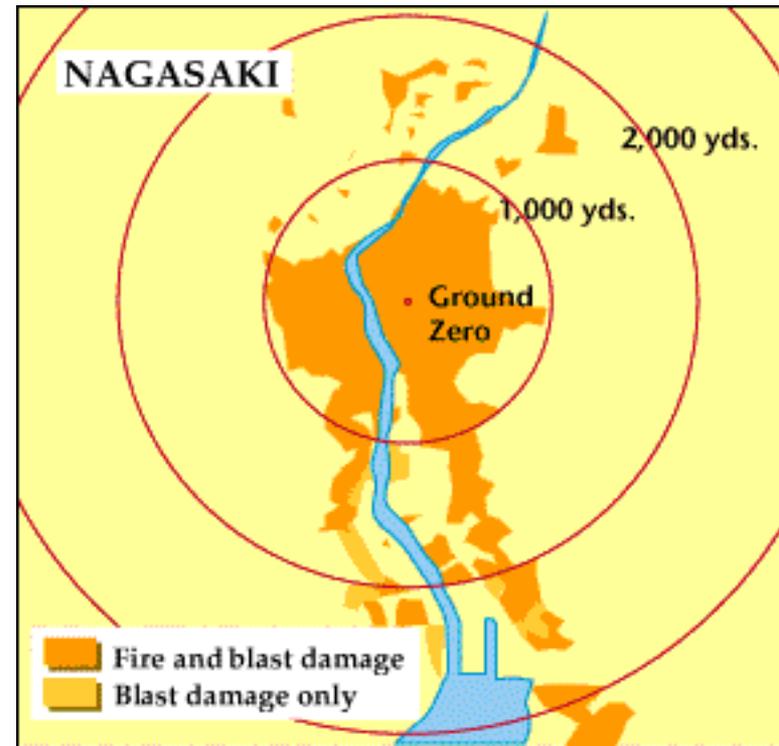


**August 6, 1945**  
**HIROSHIMA**





**August 9,  
1945  
NAGASAKI**



# JAPAN SURRENDERS



**At the White House, President Harry Truman announces the Japanese surrender, August 14, 1945**

- Japan surrendered days after the second atomic bomb was dropped
- General MacArthur said, “Today the guns are silent. The skies no longer rain death . . .the entire world is quietly at peace.”

- In February 1945, as the Allies pushed toward victory in Europe, an ailing FDR met with Churchill and Stalin at the Black Sea resort of Yalta in the USSR
- A series of compromises were worked out concerning postwar Europe

# THE YALTA CONFERENCE



(L to R) Churchill, FDR and Stalin at Yalta

# YALTA AGREEMENTS

- 1) They agreed to divide Germany into 4 occupied zones after the war
- 2) Stalin agreed to free elections in Eastern Europe
- 3) Stalin agreed to help the U.S. in the war against Japan and to join the United Nations



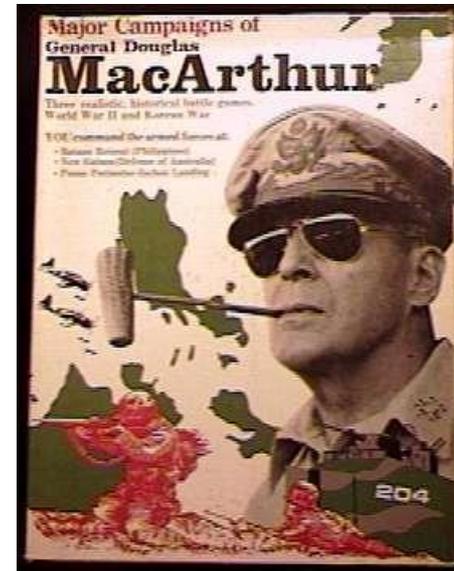
# NUREMBERG WAR TRIALS



Herman Goering, Hitler's right-hand man and chief architect of the German war effort, testifies at his trial. He was found guilty of war crimes but avoided execution by swallowing potassium cyanide.

- The discovery of Hitler's death camps led the Allies to put 24 surviving Nazi leaders on trial for crimes against humanity, crimes against the peace, and war crimes
- The trials were held in Nuremberg, Germany
- "I was only following orders" was not an acceptable defense as 12 of the 24 were sentenced to death and the others to life in prison

# THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN



- Japan was occupied by U.S. forces under the command of General MacArthur
- During the seven- year occupation, MacArthur reshaped Japan's economy by introducing free-market practices that led to a remarkable economic recovery
- Additionally, he introduced a liberal constitution that to this day is called the MacArthur Constitution

# SECTION 4: THE HOME FRONT



- The war provided a lift to the U.S. economy
- Jobs were abundant and despite rationing and shortages, people had money to spend
- By the end of the war, America was the world's dominant economic and military power

# ECONOMIC GAINS

- Unemployment fell to only 1.2% by 1944 and wages rose 35%
- Farmers too benefited as production doubled and income tripled



**Made in America**

# WOMEN MAKE GAINS

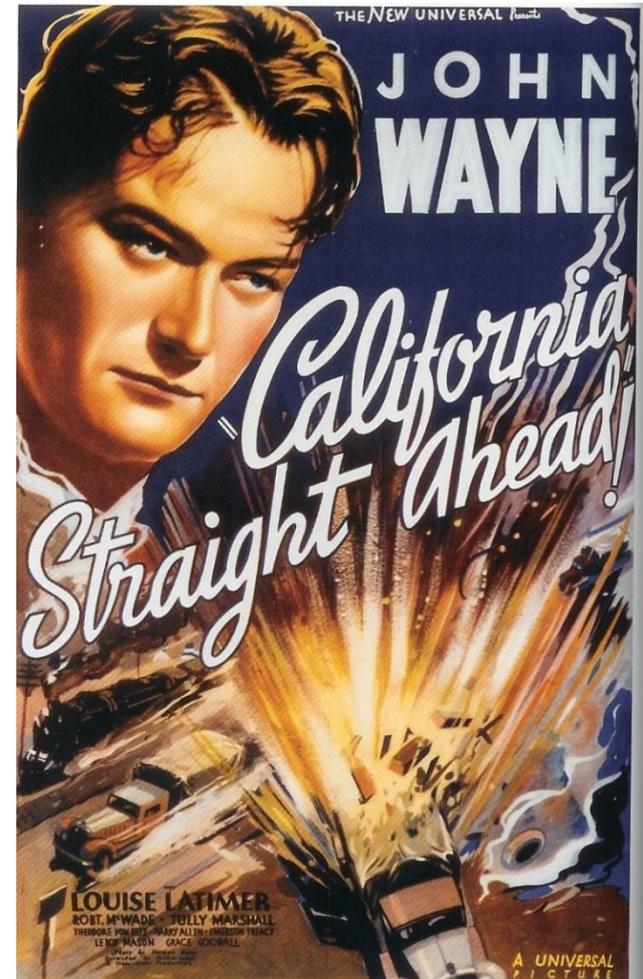


- Women enjoyed economic gains during the war, although many lost their jobs after the war
- Over 6 million women entered the work force for the first time
- Over 1/3 were in the defense industry

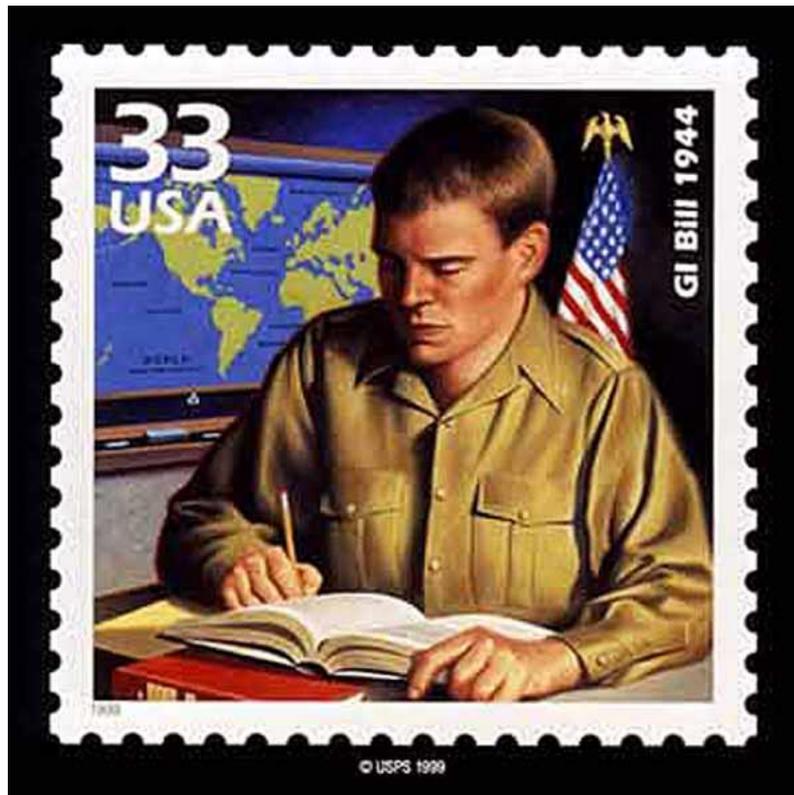


# POPULATION SHIFTS

- The war triggered the greatest mass migration in American history
- More than a million newcomers poured into California between 1941-1944
- African Americans again shifted from south to north



# GI BILL HELPS RETURNING VETS



- To help returning servicemen ease back into civilian life, Congress passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill of Rights)
- The act provided education for 7.8 million vets

# INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

- When the war began, 120,000 Japanese Americans lived in the U.S. – mostly on the West Coast
- After Pearl Harbor, many people were suspicious of possible spy activity by Japanese Americans
- In 1942, FDR ordered Japanese Americans into 10 relocation centers



Japanese Americans felt the sting of discrimination during WWII



**Location of the 10 Internment camps**



**Jerome camp in Arkansas**

# U.S. PAYS REPARATIONS TO JAPANESE



Today the U.S. is home to more than 1,000,000 Japanese-Americans

- In the late 1980s, President Reagan signed into law a bill that provided \$20,000 to every Japanese American sent to a relocation camp
- The checks were sent out in 1990 along with a note from President Bush saying, “We can never fully right the wrongs of the past . . . we now recognize that serious wrongs were done to Japanese Americans during WWII.”



**Nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, the National World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 29, 2004 to honor the 408,680 Americans who died in the conflict**