

Mr. McMurray  
US History

## WWII: US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT & DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### American Neutrality

- Roosevelt, and a large majority of Americans, thought that isolationism or neutrality was the best policy.
- The senselessness of WWI confirmed this belief
- Japanese and German aggression forced FDR's hand and led to intervention
- Roosevelt aided the Chinese and the British with arms and supplies in the late 1930's, but no troops!

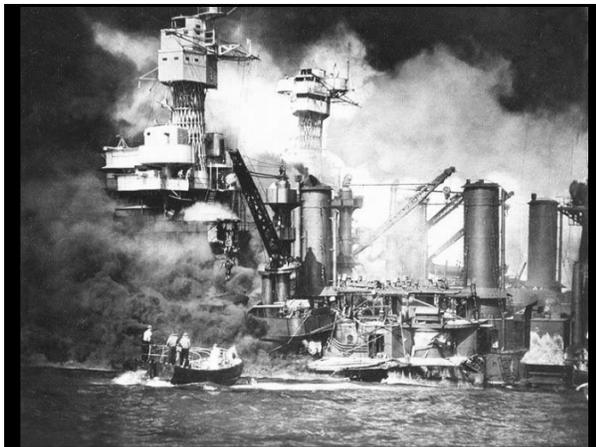
### American Involvement

- Lend-Lease Act (1941) – supplied Brits, Russians, Chinese, and French with weapons and supplies




### Pearl Harbor - December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941

- Japanese attack the military base located in Hawaii
- The attack was a surprise attack and was launched at around 7:00am
- The American troops stationed there were caught off guard by the attack
- The Navy made the mistake of stockpiling too many ships at one base...this concentration of war materials made Pearl Harbor an easy target
- This launches America's involvement in the WWII



### Let's Listen and read FDR's speech



### Pre 12/07/41 - "Peaceful, but Prepared"

- Clinging to Neutrality
  - Get our house in order – Great Depression wages on...
  - "Cash & Carry" policy – so long as France and Britain pay for arms w/cash and transport them on their own then it's legit
  - Britain and France still getting beat in the War with Germany...what next???
  - Summer of 1940 – France falls at Dunkirk (as usual)
    - Battle of Britain rages – "Bombs over London"
  - Now for some French jokes...

### French Jokes

What happened to the days of Napoleon...



- Q: Why do we need France on our side against ISIS?
  - A: So the French can show them how to surrender.
- Q: What do you call 100,000 Frenchmen with their hands up?
  - A: The Army
- Q: Why don't they have fireworks at Euro Disney?
  - A: Because every time they shoot them off, the French try to surrender.
- Q: Why did the French plant trees along the Champs Elysees?
  - A: So the Germans could march in the shade.
- Q: How many Frenchmen does it take to defend Paris?
  - A: Nobody knows, it's never been tried.
- Q: How many gears does a French tank have?
  - A: 4 reverse and 1 forward, in case the enemy attacks from the rear.
- Q: How can you identify a French Infantryman?
  - A: Sunburned ampits.

### The Combatants

<p><b>Axis Powers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tripartite Pact                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany</li> <li>Japan</li> <li>Italy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Allies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlantic Charter                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United States</li> <li>Britain</li> <li>France</li> <li>Russia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Americans asked to Sacrifice

- Rally around the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor"
- In spite of overwhelming volunteerism (5 million), the Selective Service gave 100% more forces to the war effort (10 million)

### America goes to war!

\*Issue: Industry vs. Military



- Retool auto plants to make vehicles of war
- Treasury Dept. encouraged purchase of *war bonds* and discretionary spending
- OPA (Office of Price Administration) – raised taxes and created *rations*
- WPB (War Production Board) – ensure supplies
- Collect scrap metals and other raw materials

### Women in Wartime

- "Rosie the Riveter" → 
- How should the social role of women change in a time of war?
- Women could contribute to the war effort in many ways
- Factories, nurses, drivers, skilled crafts, typists
- Formation of the WAAC – Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (noncombat duties)

## Americans asked to Sacrifice

- ◉ Minorities in war – Native, Mexican, Asian and African Americans serve in large numbers despite **segregation** of the armed forces.
- ◉ *Tuskegee Airmen* – all African American pilots who fought bravely and successfully against the German *Luftwaffe* (air force)
  - African Americans also integrated many factories



## Manhattan Project (1942)

- ◉ In 1939, German scientists split Uranium atoms (fission) creating massive energy
  - Einstein's letter to FDR is key!!!
    - He warns of the destructive capability that the Germans could soon have...get on it, let the race begin!!!
- ◉ Led by Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer
- ◉ Research was based at Columbia University in Manhattan, New York
- ◉ As you may already know, we won the race...



## Battle of the Atlantic

- ◉ Focus on Germany as the biggest threat
- ◉ U-Boat creates a problem for US ships
  - **Radar** and **Sonar** technology developed
  - Problem solved! Depth charges and torpedo's easily take out detectable German subs...this technology changed the game!



## Battle of Stalingrad

- ◉ After getting tossed for awhile, the Russians come to life!
- ◉ Stalin demanded the defense of the city bearing his name
- ◉ The winters and an influx of Russian tanks and troops in a counterattack led to a huge German defeat (January 1943)
- ◉ The Soviets now push west...bad news for Hitler...good news for the Jews and the allies



## Other Fronts vs. Euro Axis

- ◉ Africa
  - Battle of El Alamein turns the tide in 1942
  - Eisenhower smokes out Rommel (Germany's most gifted commander) by 1943
- ◉ Italy
  - Essentially defeated when Sicily falls in the summer of 1943 and Mussolini loses power (later executed)

## D-Day - "Operation Overload"

- ◎ Dwight D. Eisenhower – supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe
  - Great strategist and future president
- ◎ Divert German forces to Calais and attack on the Normandy and Omaha beaches in coastal France
- ◎ Carried out on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944
- ◎ Success! 3 months later the allies would recapture France, Belgium and Luxembourg...Germany is on the ropes



## Battle of the Bulge (October 1944)

- ◎ Hitler's "last gasp"
- ◎ Last major German offensive
- ◎ Malmédy Massacre – German SS troops executed 120 American prisoners
- ◎ Little ground gained & the German losses crippled their capability to wage war...they would soon be defeated



## The Death of Two Influential Leaders

- ◎ FDR dies of a stroke on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1945
  - Harry Truman succeeds him as President
- ◎ As the allies invade Berlin and liberate concentration camps, Hitler and his wife Eva Braun commit suicide on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1945
- ◎ V-E Day (Victory in Europe) – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945
- ◎ What about Japan...???



## Pacific Theater

- ◎ General Douglas MacArthur commanded the Allies in the Pacific
- ◎ Fought simultaneously with the European Theater
- ◎ Primarily naval and air engagements
- ◎ Japanese were somewhat successful early, but could not advance the aims
- ◎ Battle of Midway is crucial!
  - Cracked the Japanese codes and caught them off guard
  - Destruction was said to "avenge Pearl Harbor"
  - The allies began taking back the Japanese Empire



## Pacific Theater

- ◎ Japan becomes desperate
  - Resorts to kamikaze warfare – pilots fly suicide missions using their planes as weapons (sort of like 9/11)
  - They will never surrender...
- ◎ Iwo Jima (February 1945)
  - Great, yet costly American victory...epic photo on Mount Suribachi
- ◎ Atomic Bombs end war
  - V-J Day (Victory in Japan) – August 14, 1945



