

United States History

Chapter 20 – Day 1

America and WWII 1941-1945

Section 1 Mobilizing for War

- Roosevelt was concerned about fighting on 2 fronts
- Industrial output during the war astounded everyone. American workers 2X as productive as Germans, and 5X more productive than Japanese
- After attack on Pearl our military build-up had to speed up
- Gov't starts the “cost plus” program
- By summer of 1942 all major industries and 200,000 companies had converted to war production
- Henry Ford built a plant to produce B-25 bombers
- Henry Kaizer’s shipyards built the Liberty Ships
- The War Production Board established priorities, production goals, and distribution of raw materials
- After France fell Congress proposed the 1st peace time draft in our history. (we did not convert back to an all volunteer military until 1973)
- At the start of the war our military was segregated (Pres. Harry Truman signed Ex. Order 9981 on July 26, 1948 ending segregation in the military.
- Double V Campaign—African Americans fight for victory over Hitler’s racism and America’s racism at home
- FDR promoted Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Sr. to Brigadier General making him the highest ranking African American officer
- The 99th Pursuit Squadron was the 1st African American army air corp unit
- 332nd Fighter Group were Tuskegee Airman who flew over 200 missions protecting bombers and did not lose a single bomber
- Women joined the armed forces but were barred from combat—women’s branches—WACS (army), WAVES (navy), WASPS (air corp)
- Of all the major powers involved in the war, the US suffered the fewest casualties

Section 2 The Early Battles

Holding the Line in the Pacific

- The Pacific Fleet was badly damaged, but Japan had missed the aircraft carriers
- After the attack on Pearl, Japan attacked American airfield in the Philippines
- American and Filipino forces were outnumbered