Chapter 25: Americans and a World in Crisis, 1933-1945

**Nationalism and the Good Neighbor:**

* “Good Neighbor” policy—renounced any nation’s right to intervene in affairs of another (Dominican/Haiti)
* Tested by Cuba/Mexico—Indirectly ended left gov. by sending leader/took over oil companies, Amer. did nothing

**The Rise of Aggressive States in Europe and Asia:**

* Benito Mussolini took control of Italy—Dictator, suppressed dissent/rights, strictly controlled economy
* Adolph Hitler of National Socialists took control of Germany—Purify country of Jews, rearmed Germany. Took over Rhineland, Austria, Sudentenland. Britain/France yielded to his demands… that’s called appeasement.
* Japan occupied Manchuria in China, and eventually waged war against whole country

**The American Mood- No More War:**

* Americans didn’t respond to aggressive states—isolationism, focus set on economy during Depression
* Neutrality Acts of 1935-37 outlawed arms sales; can’t give loans/travel on ships of nations at war

**The Gathering Storm, 1938-1939:**

* Hitler took over Czechoslovakia, signed German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact—would not fight each other, & split Poland
* Roosevelt wanted to check Fascism, asked them to pledge not to invade 31 nations; appropriated money/production

**America and the Jewish Refugees:**

* Nuremberg Laws took Jews’ German citizenship, limited rights… During *Kristallnacht* (Night of the Broken Glass), Jews were killed and robbed, houses/business burned down
* Roosevelt/America did nothing to aid the Jews or increase immigration quotas

**The European War:**

* Took over Poland (Cause Britain/France to declare war). FDR amended Neutrality Acts to allow countries at war to buy weapons from America if they paid in cash and carried them away in their own ships
* Took over France, pinned British army to the sea; Air Force assaulted England by air, PM Winston Churchill begged for aid

**From Isolation to Intervention:**

* FDR won 3rd term—signed Selective Service/Training Act (1st peacetime draft), traded “destroyers for bases” w/ Britain
* The America 1st Committee was isolationist— included Lindbergh and Ford… said America could stand alone
* FDR’s “lend-lease” program lent/leased supplies to any country that was vital to the defense of America
* Roosevelt/Churchill signed Atlantic Charter—condemned intl. aggression, affirmed self-determination, free trade

**Pearl Harbor and the Coming of War:**

* Japan/Amer. wouldn’t compromise—Japan wanted a Greater East Asia Co-prosperity sphere, America wanted open door
* Amer. ended trade treaty w/Japan, who signed Tripartite Pact, creating Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Alliance
* Japan took over all Indochina, so FDR froze Japanese assets, started a fuel embargo, banned trade with Japan
* Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and America declared war. Caused Germany/Italy to declare war on Amer.

**Organizing for Victory:**

* War Production Board managed materials, limited production of civilian goods; War Manpower Commission supervised mobilization of people for the military/production; Natl. War Labor Board mediated disputed between management and labor
* Office of Price Admin. rationed products, controlled prices to check inflation
* Amer. CRANKED out rubber/weapons/ships, but amount of gov. employees/offices and spending skyrocketed

**The War Economy:**

* War ended Depression, started industrial boom. Most govt. money went to the West. South helped with cloth, oil, gas, metal
* Workers got better conditions and union popularity soared. Strikes were unpopular: Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Act let president take over factory where strikes slowed war production
* OPA rationed gas, coffee, sugar, butter, cheese, meat: people gave scrap metal, bought bonds to help with war
* Washington raised taxes to pay for war: Revenue Act of ’42 raise top income tax, taxed lower/middle classes

**“A Wizard War”**

* Called the Wizard War for all the new technology being invented: Office of Scientific Research & Development
* Incl. weapons, food, computers, blood transfusions, DDT (insecticide). Manhattan Project made atom bomb

Propaganda and Politics:

* Office of Censorship controlled overseas letters/disclosure of info; Office/War Info. “explained” the war
* Made war look like good vs. evil: Japanese were “evil”, normal American middle-class rights had to be protected
* Politics became more Conservative: cancelled New Deal programs, but gov. power still expanded

Liberating Europe:

* In Operation TORCH, Amer. landed in Northern Africa and moved east; Turning point=Stalingrad, Russia won
* Allies started in Southern Italy and caused Mussolini’s overthrow; Bombed Germany nonstop, crushing cities
* On D-Day of Operation OVERLORD, allies stormed Normandy, pushed inward, and freed Paris
* At the Battle of the Bulge, near German border, German troops drove a bulge into Amer. lines—America won after a month!

War in the Pacific:

* US vs. Japan at Coral Sea slowed Japanese advance; knew Japan’s plans at Battle at Midway and OWNED them!
* Under Chester Nimitz, soldiers “island-hopped” across the Pacific to seize bases and get closer to Japan
* American navy completely destroyed Japanese fleet at Battles of Philippine Sea/Leyte Gulf

The Grand Alliance:

* FDR wanted to defeat Axis and get strong world order; Others wanted to retain colonies, weak Germany & East Europe
* PROMISES, PROMISES, PROMISES!
  + Attack Italy before invading France
  + Return Manchuria/Taiwan to China, free Korea
  + Divide Germany into zones of Occupation
  + Stalin join war with Japan when Germany surrendered

The GIs’ War:

* War changed soldiers’ views on different cultures, prejudice, bigger goals, distrust of foreigners, cruelty

The Home Front:

* People flocked to the West and urban areas for jobs: problems with divorce, mental illness, violence, etc.
* Women got factory jobs (most married and older). “Rosie the Riveter” was the symbol of woman war worker
* Women served in the Women’s Army Corps, Navy Volunteer Emergency Service, Air force Service Pilots
* School attendance dropped, while books, theatre, and music prospered: about romance/loneliness, dreams

Racism and New Opportunities:

* Smith v. Allwright— Texas all-White primary unconstitutional. Congress of Racial Equality used nonviolence to desegregate
* A. Philip Randolph (Brotherhood/Sleeping Car Porters) got FDR to issue Executive Order 8802, which banned discriminatory employment by feds and war-related factories; Created Fair Employment Practices Comm. to enforce
* Most blacks served in segregated units; race riots in America (Detroit) killed hundreds of blacks
* Blacks were reached out to by political parties looking for votes; America was racist despite their power in a nonwhite world, and the war being fought against racism… wow, idiots.

War and Diversity:

* Native Americans served as “code talkers” for the military, and left their reservations for better economic status
* America imported braceros, temporary workers, for agribusiness and treated them poorly (deported if they complained)
* Zoot-suited Mexican-Americans, pachucos, messed with servicemen in CA: led to beatings of pachucos and no punishments
* Gays were banned from the military, formed Veteran’s Benevolent Asso, 1st organization to combat discrimination

The Internment of Japanese-Americans:

* Executive Order 9066 forced both native-born Japanese-Americans (Nisei) and 1st-generations (Issei) to be placed in camps during war
* Korematsu case upheld constitutionality. Reports later showed its pointlessness, and Japanese were compensated

The Yalta Conference:

* The Yalta Accords between the USSR, America, and England said:
  + USSR would declare war on Japan 2-3 months after Germany’s surrender
  + Promised USSR Manchuria and other Japanese lands
  + Governments in Eastern Europe that would eventually be freely elected permanent establishments
  + Founding of the United Nations

Victory in Europe:

* Allies surrounded Germany, FDR died of a hemorrhage, and Hitler committed suicide. 8 days later, Germany surrendered
* Truman took over, was tough on USSR: forced free elections/Poland, reduced assistance. Relations deteriorated

The Holocaust:

* People found out about the Holocaust in ’42, but there was hardly any evidence at all
* America was more focused on winning the war quickly. Didn’t want influx of Jews, anger Arabs by moving Jews

The Atomic Bombs:

* At Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the casualty rates were high. Japan wasn’t giving up. America sent the Potsdam Declaration, warning them to surrender or get destroyed
* We dropped a bomb first on Hiroshima, then sent leaflets warning the Japanese against another
* They ignored it again, so America dropped another on Nagasaki. Only after that did Japan surrender in ‘45

