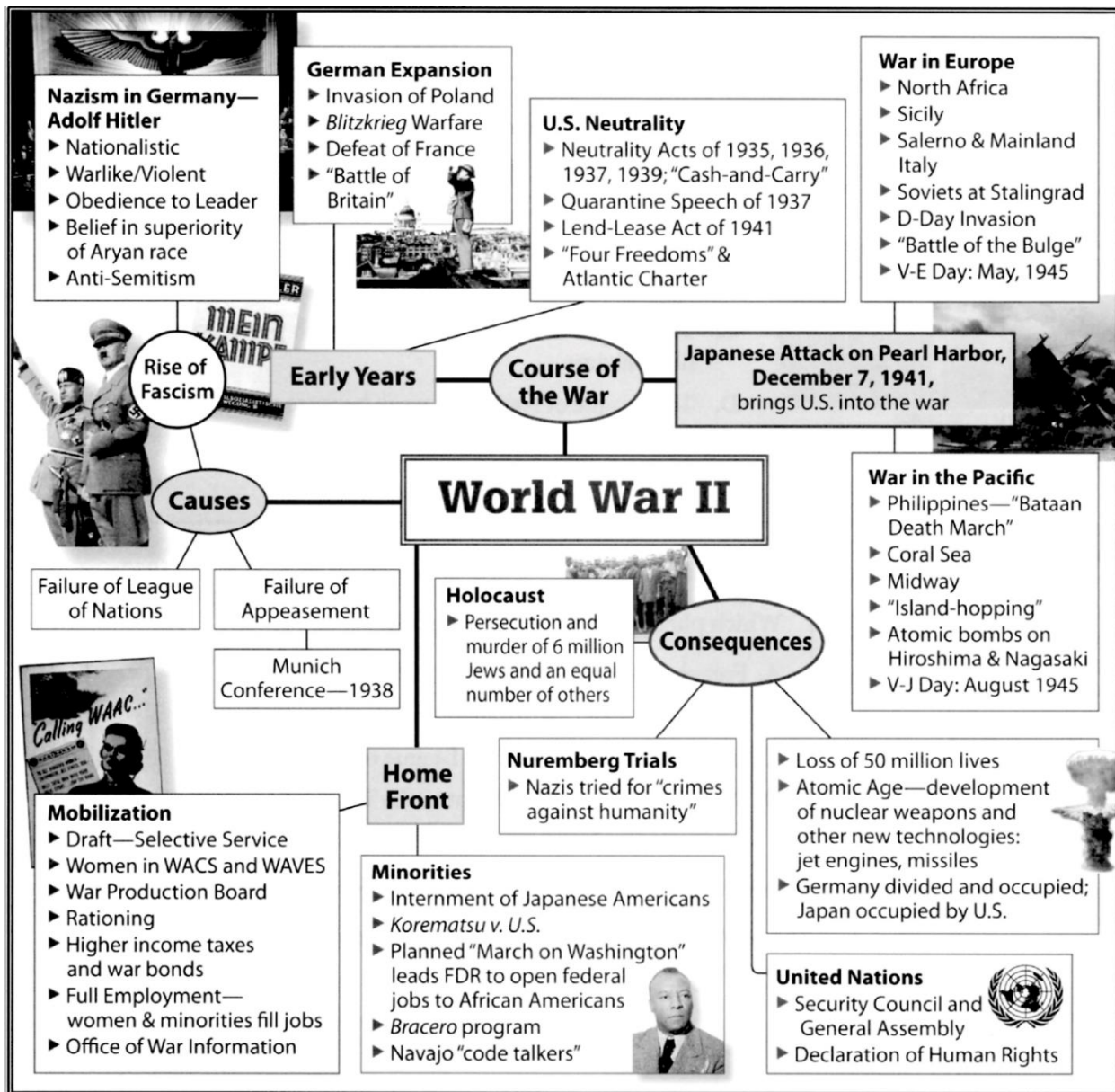


The Essentials

World War 2

Unit 8



Rise of Nazism

- ▶ **Adolf Hitler**, the leader of the Nazi Party, believed that Germans were a superior race.
- ▶ After the Great Depression raised unemployment in Germany, the Nazis gained in popularity. In 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor. The German legislature gave Hitler emergency dictatorial powers after the *Reichstag* fire.
- ▶ All German institutions were brought under Nazi control or closed. The army took an oath of loyalty to Hitler. Opponents were sent to concentration camps or killed.

The Failure of the League of Nations and Appeasement

- ▶ The **League of Nations** failed to stop aggressors. It did nothing to stop Hitler from moving troops into the Rhineland, Japan from attacking Manchuria, Italy from attacking Ethiopia, or Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union from acting in the Spanish Civil War.
- ▶ **Failure of Appeasement:** The Western powers also failed to stop the aggressive acts of the Fascist powers. At the **Munich Conference** in 1938, Britain and France attempted to appease Hitler by giving him part of Czechoslovakia. Hitler concluded that the Western powers were weak and would not stop him.

World War II Begins in Europe

- ▶ **Nazi Invasion of Poland:** After Hitler signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Stalin, he ordered the invasion of Poland in September 1939. France and Britain then declared war on Germany.
- ▶ **Blitzkrieg Warfare:** Germany had developed new tactics based on the coordinated use of airplanes, tanks, and motorized troop carriers. The rapid advance of German forces became known as *Blitzkrieg* (lightning warfare).
- ▶ **Fall of France:** In the spring of 1940, Germany attacked Denmark and Norway and marched through Holland and Belgium to defeat France. The British expeditionary force escaped at Dunkirk by sailing across the English Channel.
- ▶ **“Battle of Britain”:** Hitler tried to use his air force to bomb the British into submission but failed. British fighter pilots attacked German planes. Radar helped the British defend themselves by pinpointing German attacks.

U.S. Neutrality

- ▶ **The Neutrality Acts of 1935–1937** were aimed at keeping the United States out of war in Europe. The first Neutrality Acts prohibited Americans from sending arms to countries at war. The Neutrality Act of 1937 prohibited Americans from traveling on the ships of nations at war, but allowed Americans to sell non-military goods to countries at war on a **“cash-and-carry”** basis. The buyer had to pay cash and transport the goods.
- ▶ **Quarantine Speech:** When Japan invaded China in 1937, Roosevelt tested American public opinion with his “Quarantine Speech.” He proposed isolating nations that violated treaties and attacked civilians.
- ▶ **The Neutrality Act of 1939** expanded “cash-and-carry” to include the sale of arms. Roosevelt was concerned to help the British, who faced Nazi Germany alone.
- ▶ In March 1941, Roosevelt pushed the **“Lend-Lease” Act** through Congress: the United States could supply arms to the British, who could pay for or return them after the war.
- ▶ **Four Freedoms:** Roosevelt promised Americans freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.
- ▶ **Atlantic Charter:** Roosevelt met Churchill in the Atlantic in August 1941 where they agreed to the Atlantic Charter, defining their post-war goals.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

- ▶ In September 1940, Japan allied with Germany and Italy. Japan had only limited oil supplies after a U.S. embargo was imposed. They wanted to seize the oil fields of the Dutch East Indies, which would bring the United States into the war. They decided to attack the United States first and launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at **Pearl Harbor** on **December 7, 1941**—“a date that will live in infamy.”
- ▶ Germany and Italy also declared war on the United States.

The War in Europe

- ▶ Roosevelt decided to defeat “Germany first” since he believed that Germany was the greater danger. Churchill persuaded Roosevelt to delay the invasion of France. Instead, British and American forces landed in **North Africa** in 1942, where they defeated German and Italian forces. Afterwards, the Allies conquered **Sicily** in Italy. When Mussolini’s Fascist government collapsed, the Allies decided to invade mainland Italy. They landed at **Salerno**, where they met with fierce German resistance. Meanwhile, Soviet forces defeated a large German army at **Stalingrad**, often seen as the turning point of the war.
- ▶ American and British forces landed on the beaches of **Normandy** on June 6, 1944, known as **D-Day**. General **Dwight D. Eisenhower** acted as Supreme Commander.
- ▶ The Western Allies advanced rapidly and liberated Paris two months later. Allied forces faced a German counterattack at the **Battle of the Bulge**. The Nazi counterattack failed and American, British and French forces advanced into Germany from the west while Soviet armies advanced from the east. Soviet forces entered Berlin and Hitler committed suicide at the end of April 1945. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, known as **V-E Day**.

The War in the Pacific

- ▶ In the Pacific, the Japanese advanced into Southeast Asia and the Pacific after their attack on Pearl Harbor. In the Philippines, MacArthur retreated from Manila; surrendering U.S. forces went on the “**Bataan Death March**.”
- ▶ Japanese and U.S. aircraft carriers fought at the **Battle of the Coral Sea** in May 1942; a few months later, the U.S. sank four Japanese aircraft carriers at the **Battle of Midway** (1943), the turning point of the war in the Pacific. American forces then began a process of island-hopping, pushing the Japanese back island by island.
- ▶ The U.S. government invested \$2 billion in the “**Manhattan Project**,” a secret project to develop the **atomic bomb**. U.S. leaders feared Nazi Germany might develop such a bomb first. American scientists tested the bomb in New Mexico in 1945. Atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** in August 1945. Japan surrendered on **V-J Day**.

Florida in World War II

- ▶ **German U-boats** sank ships near Florida’s shoreline. German saboteurs were captured and executed.
- ▶ Florida became a training ground for the armed services. **Camp Blanding** became the fourth largest city in Florida. The U.S. government rented hotel rooms and other facilities to house troops, and spent \$98 billion in Florida to further the war effort. Many of the people who trained or worked in Florida during the war came back later to visit or to live.
- ▶ Florida producers sold their orange juice, cattle, and other products to the armed forces. The use of the insecticide DDT to kill mosquitos was introduced during the war. Florida’s shipyards helped build “**Liberty Ships**.”

The Home Front

- ▶ The **Selective Service System** oversaw the draft. Eventually 15 million Americans served in the armed forces during the war. Women enlisted as **WACS** or **WAVES**.
- ▶ The **War Production Board** was placed in charge of wartime production. Factories began making tanks, “Liberty Ships,” and other wartime goods. Essential goods like steel, copper, and aluminum were reserved for military purposes. Even food was **rationed**. People grew their own fruits and vegetables in makeshift “**Liberty Gardens**.”
- ▶ Increased personal income taxes and the sale of **war bonds** helped pay for the war.
- ▶ The **Office of War Information** was in charge of maintaining popular support for the war.
- ▶ **A. Philip Randolph** planned a “**March on Washington**” to assure jobs for African Americans. To avoid the march, President Roosevelt signed **Executive Order 8802**, throwing all federal jobs and jobs with defense contractors open to African-American employees. More than a million African Americans served in the armed forces during the war, in segregated units. Through the “**Double V**” **campaign**, African Americans sought victory over Nazism abroad and over racism at home.
- ▶ Mexicans came to the United States to take wartime jobs. The *Braceros* program recruited Hispanic workers in Mexico and other Latin American countries to work as migrant field workers or in factories in the United States. In Los Angeles, fashionable Hispanic young men were attacked in the “zoot suit” riots.
- ▶ A large proportion of American Indians served during the war. “**Navajo code talkers**” communicated in a code based on the Navajo language, which was never broken by the Japanese.
- ▶ **Japanese Americans** on the West Coast were forcibly removed by **Executive Order 9066** and sent to internment camps further inland. President Roosevelt’s order was upheld by the Supreme Court in *Korematsu v. United States* (1944). Most historians now agree that the relocation was motivated by racial prejudice rather than by any evidence of disloyalty.

The Holocaust

- ▶ **Nazi anti-Semitism** (*hatred of Jewish people*) led to the Holocaust. At first, German Jews were barred from many jobs and from intermarrying non-Jews. Jewish synagogues and business were closed and Jews had to pay a fine after *Kristallnacht* in 1938.
- ▶ After Germany conquered Poland, Jews from Germany and Eastern Europe were forced into **ghettos**—crowded, sealed-off sections of cities where people died of starvation and disease. After 1941, all Jews had to wear a yellow Jewish star on their clothing.
- ▶ Early in 1942, Nazis adopted the “**Final Solution**”: the murdering of all the Jews in Europe. Trains carried Jews to **Auschwitz** and other extermination camps where they were gassed and their bodies were burned. Those who were not immediately killed were starved, tortured, and worked to death. Six million Jews were killed, as well as an equal number of non-Jews (gypsies, Poles, Russians, political prisoners, homosexuals, individuals with disabilities, and others).

Consequences of World War II

- ▶ **Nuremberg Trials**: Nazi leaders were tried by an international tribunal of allied judges for “Crimes against Humanity.” Most of the accused were executed.
- ▶ Germany was divided into four occupation zones; Japan was occupied by the United States.
- ▶ The League of Nations was replaced by the **United Nations**, a new peacekeeping organization. The United Nations consists of the **Security Council**, **General Assembly**, **Secretariat**, and several other bodies. **Mary McLeod Bethune** assisted in its creation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. The U.N. General Assembly drafted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.