

Chapter Summary

Section 1: Dictators and Wars

Economic problems and nationalist pride led to the rise of aggressive totalitarian and militaristic regimes in the Soviet Union, Italy, Germany, and Japan after World War I.

Section 2: From Isolation to Involvement

Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939 led Britain and France to declare war, while isolationists and interventionists in the United States debated the merits of giving aid to the Allies.



Chapter Summary (continued)

Section 3: America Enters the War

Japan's expansion in the Pacific and a United States embargo against Japan strained relations between the two countries. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, caused the United States to enter World War II.

Objectives

- Explain how dictators and militarist regimes arose in several countries in the 1930s.
- Summarize the actions taken by aggressive regimes in Europe and Asia.
- Analyze the responses of Britain, France, and the United States to the aggressive regimes.



Terms and People

- **totalitarianism** – theory of government in which a single party or leader controls the economic, social, and cultural lives of its people
- **Joseph Stalin** – dictator and head of the Communist Party in Russia
- **Benito Mussolini** – founder of the Fascist Party and Italian dictator
- **Adolf Hitler** – leader of the Nazi Party in Germany who seized power and attempted world domination
- **anti-Semitic** – prejudiced against Jewish people

Terms and People (continued)

- **Spanish Civil War** – Spanish conflict fought from 1936 to 1939
- **appeasement** – policy of granting concessions to a potential enemy in the hope that it will maintain peace
- **Anschluss** – union in which Hitler forced Austria to become part of Germany's territory
- **Munich Pact** – agreement in which Britain and France attempted to preserve peace by allowing Hitler to take more territory

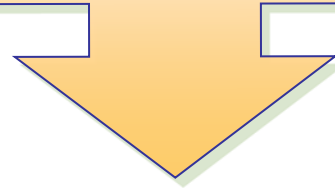


Why did totalitarian states rise after World War I, and what did they do?

World War I and the Great Depression had devastating effects throughout the world.

In some countries, people turned to new leaders who would be responsible for creating an even deadlier global conflict.

World War I ended when Germany surrendered to the Allies. An uneasy peace followed.



- Germans resented the terms of the [Treaty of Versailles](#), feeling humiliated in defeat.
- Italy and Japan were angered by the treaty, expecting to receive more land as Allied victors.
- [Worldwide depression](#) brought despair to many already suffering from war.

Overwhelming problems led some to turn to a new form of government called **totalitarianism**.

Characteristics of a Totalitarian State

- Single-party dictatorship exerting control over all aspects of life
- Strong, charismatic leader often at head of government
- State control of the economy
- Use of police, spies, and terror to enforce the will of the state
- Government control of the media and use of propaganda to indoctrinate citizens
- Use of schools and youth organizations to spread ideology to children
- Strict censorship of artists, intellectuals, and political rivals with dissenting opinions

Totalitarian governments developed in several countries during the 1930s.

Country	Leader
Soviet Union	Joseph Stalin
Italy	Benito Mussolini
Germany	Adolf Hitler

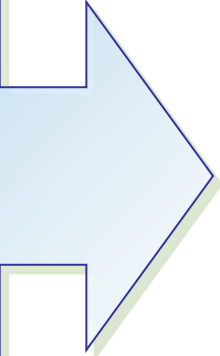
Each of these countries faced crushing problems. **Unemployment, hunger, and homelessness** were rampant.

Totalitarian leaders promised to bring jobs, food, and prosperity.

They promised to make their countries great again.

In reality, however, the brutal tactics used by totalitarian leaders resulted in the deaths of millions of people.

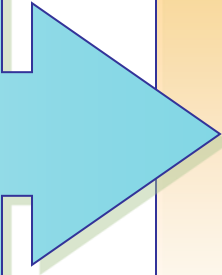
**Joseph Stalin
took control
of the Soviet
Union
following the
death of
Vladimir
Lenin.**



- Attempted to turn the Soviet Union into an **industrial power**
- **Forced people to work** in factories and on state-run farms
- Killed or imprisoned suspected traitors during the **Great Terror**
- Ruled through **fear** and massive **propaganda**

Another totalitarian regime formed in Italy.



- The government seemed unable to deal with the country's many problems.
 - Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party.
 - Mussolini and his followers, the Black Shirts, fought to gain power.
- 

Mussolini, called *Il Duce*, took control of the government, using secret police to maintain control.

In Germany, the **Weimar Republic** struggled with overwhelming economic and social problems.



Adolf Hitler, the leader of the **Nazi Party**, was appointed chancellor.

Hitler seized power and created a totalitarian state.

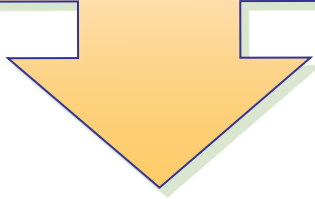
Hitler **rebuilt the nation's army**. His economic policies put people back to work. Many cheered his success.

Yet Hitler ruled with unlimited power.

- Controlled the **press** and **education system**
- Used **propaganda** to boost his popularity
- Used the **secret police** to silence opposition

Violently **anti-Semitic**, Hitler openly attacked Jews, blaming them for all of the country's problems.

Japan did not become a totalitarian dictatorship, but it did come under the influence of strong military leaders.



These leaders attempted to solve their country's economic problems through aggressive military conquests.

Japanese Expansion, 1931-1939



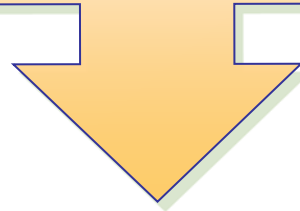
Japan invaded Manchuria, then China.

The attack on Nanjing was especially brutal.

Acts of Aggression in Europe and Asia

<p>Germany</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rebuilt military • reclaimed Saar region from France • invaded the Rhineland • Anschluss • invaded the Sudetenland
<p>Italy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invaded Ethiopia
<p>Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fascists rebel against the government
<p>Japan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conquered Manchuria and parts of China

A weak League of Nations did little to stop the aggression of the totalitarian states or of Japan.



- Many feared involvement in another war.
- Some believed the Soviet Union posed a greater threat than Nazi Germany.
- Others questioned the resolve of their own country and their allies, and embraced a policy of isolationism.

The appeasement of Hitler continued with the **Munich Pact**.



Britain and France sacrificed the Sudetenland to Germany in return for peace.

But peace was not to come.

Objectives

- Understand the course of the early years of World War II in Europe.
- Describe Franklin Roosevelt's foreign policy in the mid-1930s and the great debate between interventionists and isolationists.
- Explain how the United States became more involved in the conflict.



Terms and People

- **blitzkrieg** – lightning war
- **Axis Powers** – Germany, Italy, Japan, and other nations that fought together during World War II
- **Allies** – Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and other nations that fought against the Axis Powers during World War II
- **Winston Churchill** – British prime minister during World War II

Terms and People (continued)

- **Neutrality Act of 1939** – American law that allowed nations at war to buy U.S. arms if they paid cash and carried them away on their own ships
- **Tripartite Pact** – three-party agreement establishing an alliance between Germany, Italy, and Japan
- **Lend-Lease Act** – American law that allowed the U.S. to lend, lease, sell, or otherwise provide aid to other nations if doing so helped in the defense of the United States

Terms and People (continued)

- **Atlantic Charter** – document signed by Roosevelt and Churchill that endorsed national self-determination and an international system of general security



How did Americans react to events in Europe and Asia in the early years of World War II?

Americans were shocked by Japanese and German aggression.

Yet they remained deeply divided over American involvement in another war—especially as they fought the despair of the Great Depression.

Hopes for peace in Europe faded as it became clear that efforts to appease Hitler had failed.

- Hitler violated the Munich Pact, taking over the remainder of Czechoslovakia
- Germany launched a series of attacks on its neighbors marked by speed and massive firepower—a **blitzkrieg**, or “lightning war.”

Poland,
Denmark,
Norway, and the
Netherlands fell.

So, too, did France.



Hitler then turned his fury on Britain.

The **Battle of Britain** was waged in the air as pilots fought for control of the skies.

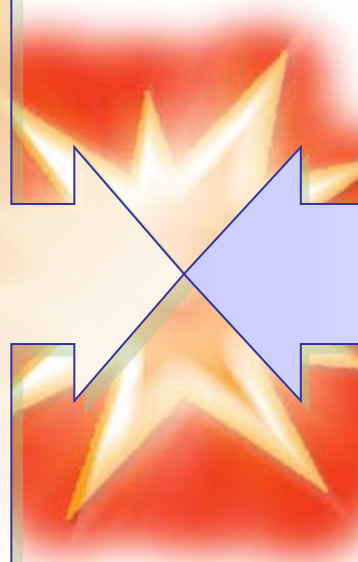
The British hid in shelters and darkened homes as bombs rained down.

Despite terrible destruction, the British held on.

Europe was again at war. In time, major powers around the world joined in alliances.

Axis Powers

- Germany
- Italy
- Japan

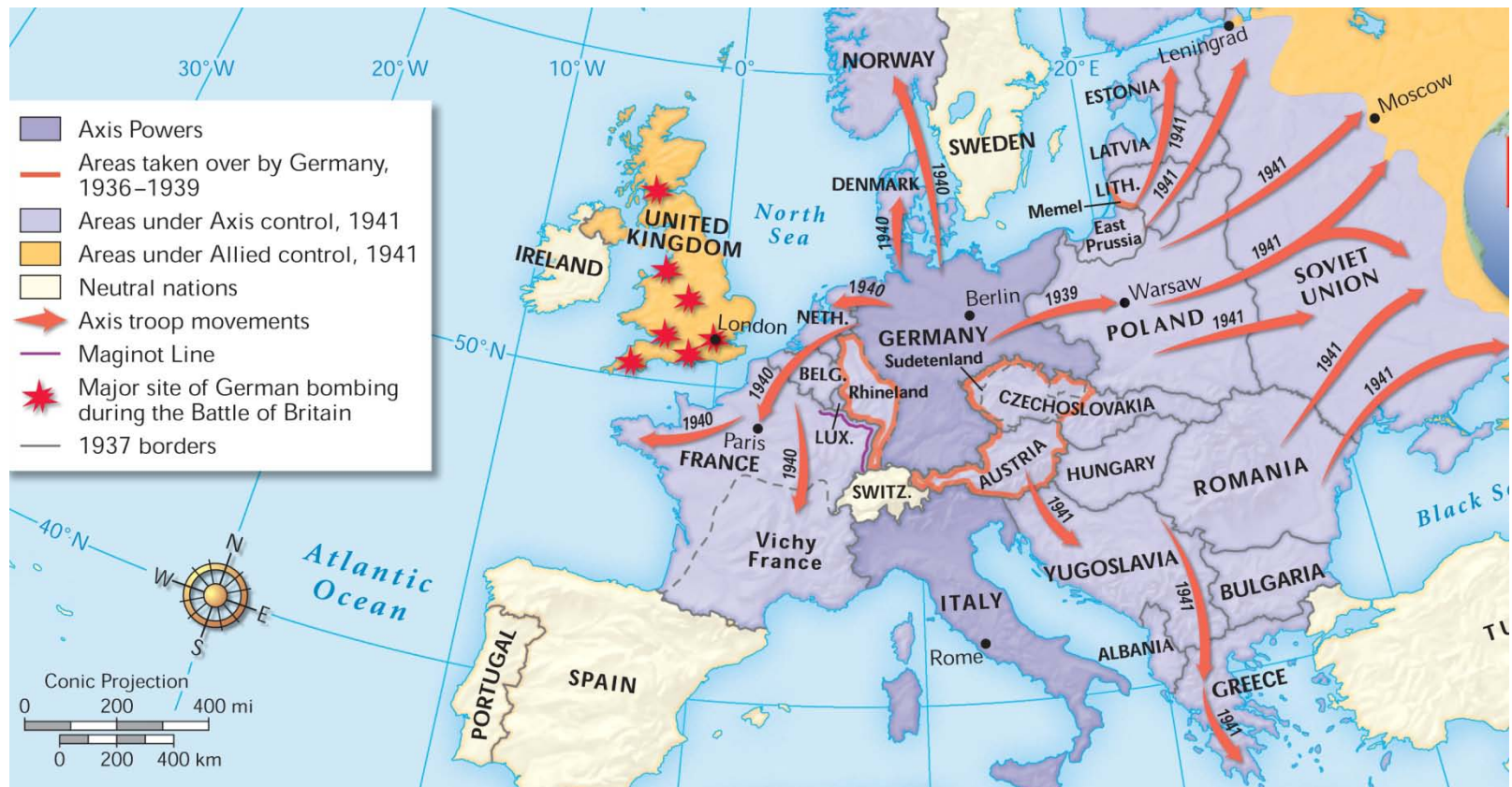


Allies

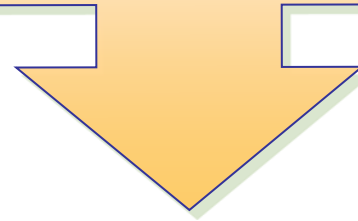
- Britain
- France
- Soviet Union
- United States
- China

German Aggression, 1936-1941

Many feared that Hitler was unstoppable.



In the early days of the war, Congress declared neutrality. But as the war raged on in Europe, the United States began to take steps to support Europe's democracies.



- The **Neutrality Act of 1939** contained a **cash-and-carry provision** favoring the Allies.
- The **Selective Service Act** provided for a military draft.
- FDR agreed to **give Britain battleships** in exchange for defense bases.

Not everyone agreed with FDR's pro-Allies position. A loud debate soon raged between **isolationists and **interventionists**.**

Should the United States Enter World War II?

Isolationist Viewpoint

- The United States should avoid alliances with other nations.
- Americans should focus on issues at home, such as the depression.
- Complete neutrality was the way to keep the United States safe.
- Intervention in a foreign war would be a mistake, just as World War I was.

Interventionist Viewpoint

- The United States should work with other nations to promote collective security.
- Axis aggressions were wrong and threatened American interests.
- The United States should aid the Allies, who were fighting for democracy and freedom.
- The United States should put pressure on the Axis Powers and prepare for war.

As conditions worsened overseas, Roosevelt described what was at stake in an address to Congress.

He highlighted four freedoms precious to Americans.

- freedom of speech
- freedom of worship
- freedom from want
- freedom from fear

All of these freedoms, he argued, were threatened by German and Japanese militarism.

Congress then took another step to aid the British.


The **Lend-Lease Act**, symbolically numbered 1776, amounted to an economic declaration of war.

Many people, however, remained divided over American involvement in the war.




In 1941, Roosevelt and British prime minister **Winston Churchill** signed the **Atlantic Charter**, deepening the alliance between the two nations.

German submarines began to **fire on American ships** supporting the Allies.



Roosevelt ordered the navy to attack the **U-boats** on sight.



War seemed inevitable.

Objectives

- Explain why Japan decided to attack Pearl Harbor, and describe the attack itself.
- Outline how the United States mobilized for war after the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Summarize the course of the war in the Pacific through the summer of 1942.



Terms and People

- **Hideki Tojo** – Japanese general and prime minister during World War II
- **Pearl Harbor** – site in Hawaii of the United States Navy's main Pacific base
- **WAC** – Women's Army Corps; volunteer organization that provided clerical workers, truck drivers, instructors, and lab technicians for the army
- **Douglas MacArthur** – general who served as commander of United States Army forces in Asia

Terms and People (continued)

- **Bataan Death March** – grueling march in which Japanese troops forced sick and malnourished prisoners of war to walk more than 60 miles to prison camps
- **Battle of Coral Sea** – battle that provided a strategic American victory and marked the key role of aircraft carriers and fighter planes in the war in the Pacific



How did the United States react to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

A surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, ended the debate between isolationists and interventionists.

The United States was going to war.

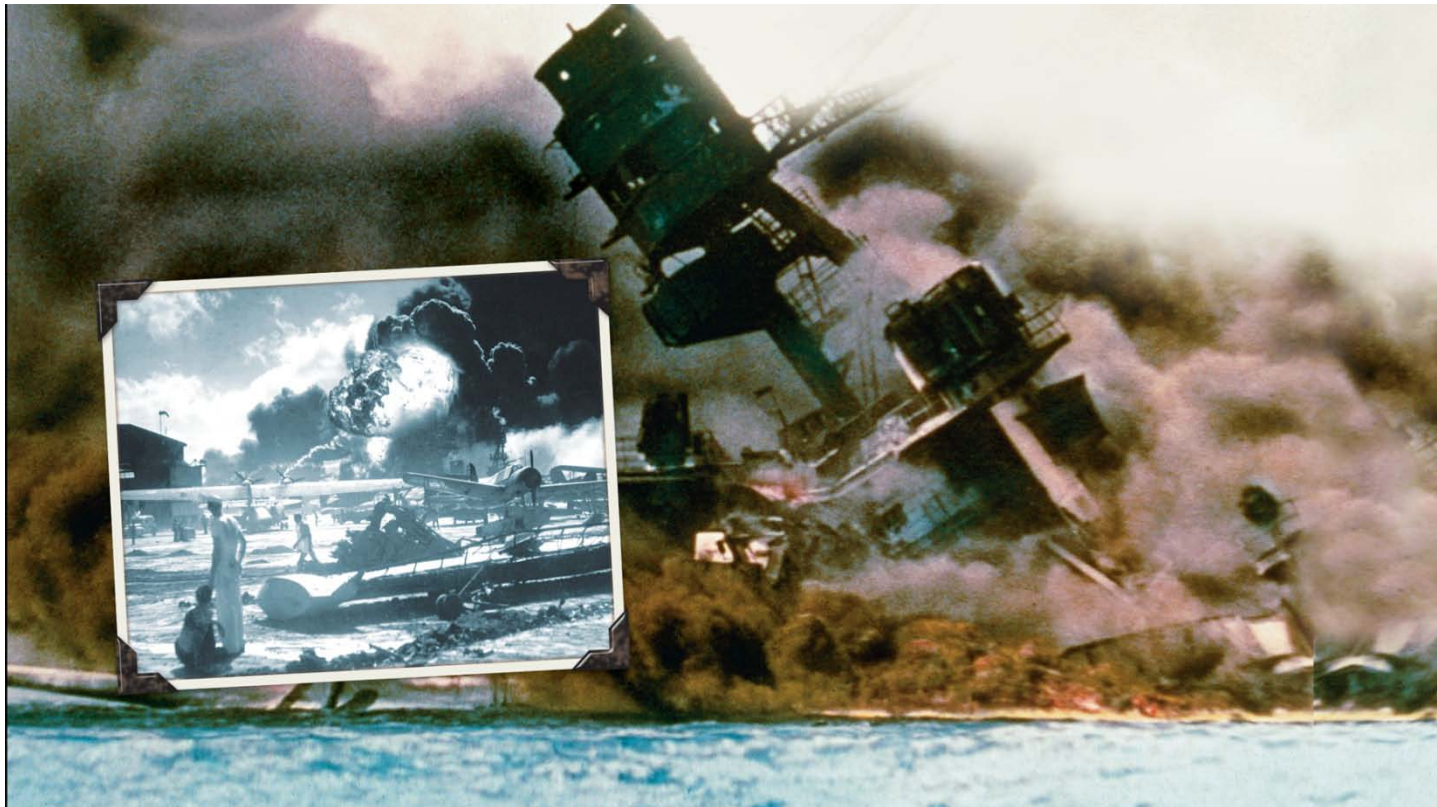
Tensions mounted as Japan continued its march into new lands, gaining territory and valuable natural resources.

Roosevelt **condemned Japanese aggression.**

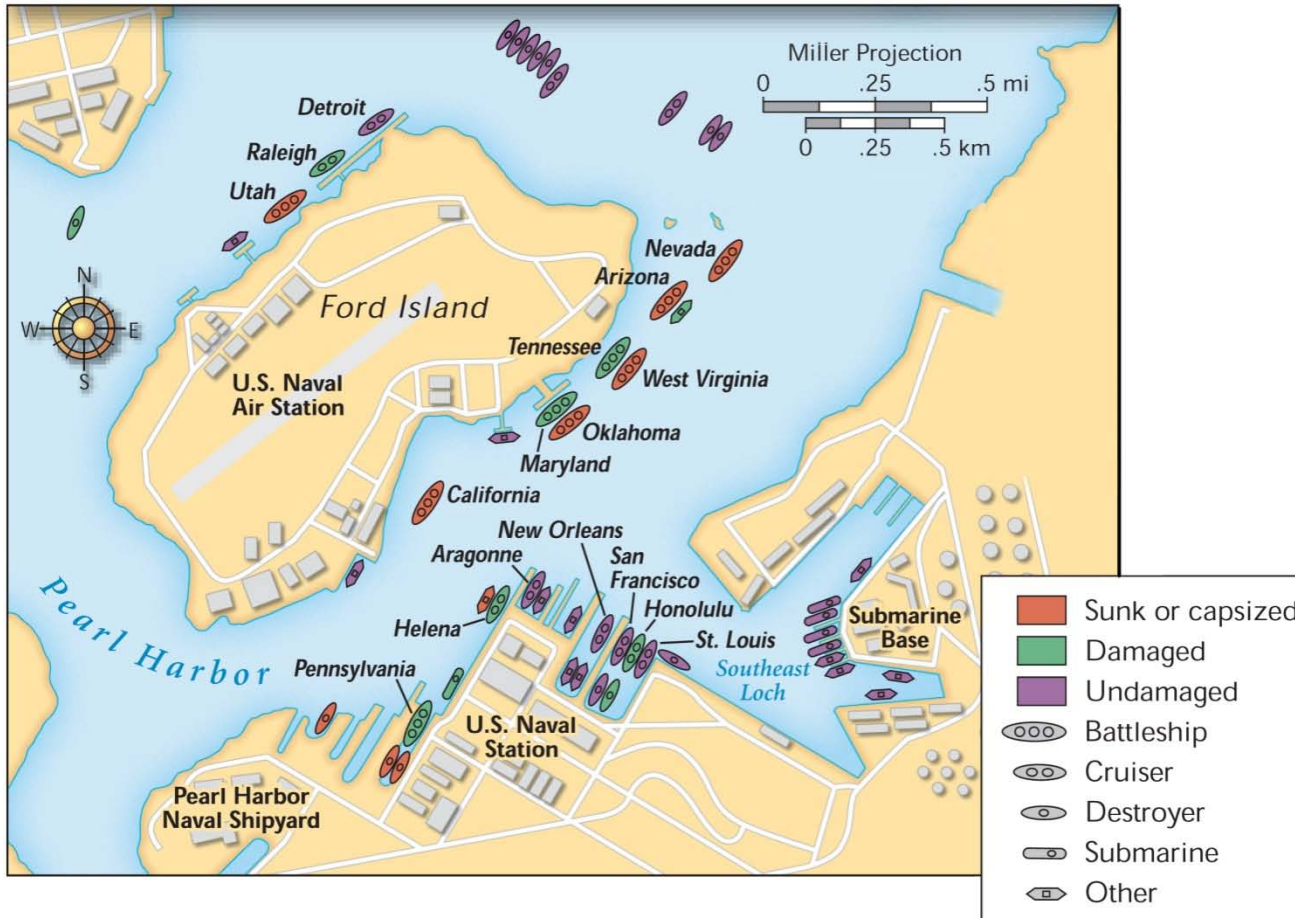
He worked to slow Japan's expansion with an **embargo.**

Angered by American interference, Prime Minister **Hideki Tojo** decided it was time to **eliminate the U.S. presence in the Pacific.**

On December 7, 1941, Japanese fighter pilots attacked the American naval base at **Pearl Harbor**, Hawaii.



Damage at Pearl Harbor



The United States suffered terrible losses.

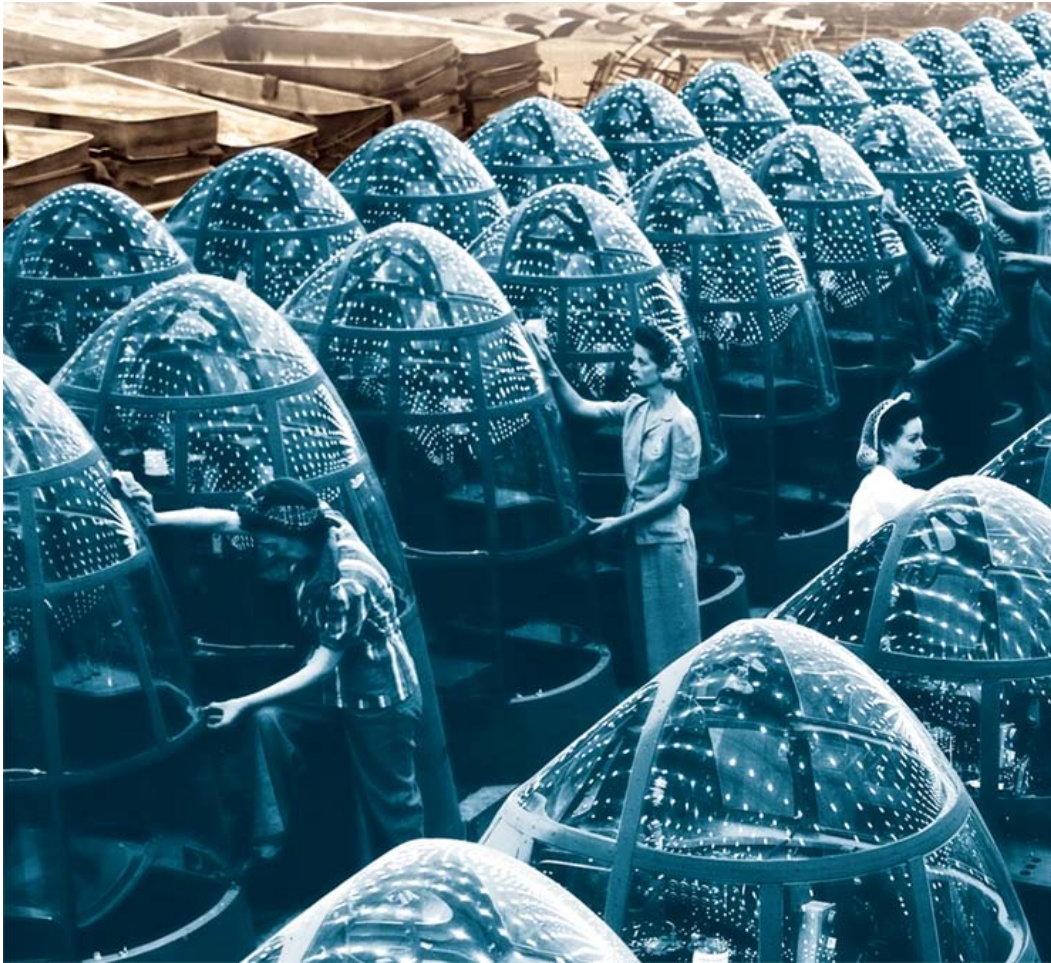
After the attack, the United States declared war on Japan.

Japan's allies, Germany and Italy, then declared war on the United States.

A wave of patriotism swept the United States following the attack.



- Americans joined the **military**, the **Red Cross**, and other organizations.
- Women responded by joining the **Women's Army Corps**, **Army Nurse Corps**, and other military auxiliaries.
- Americans took new **jobs making weapons and supplies** that supported the war effort.



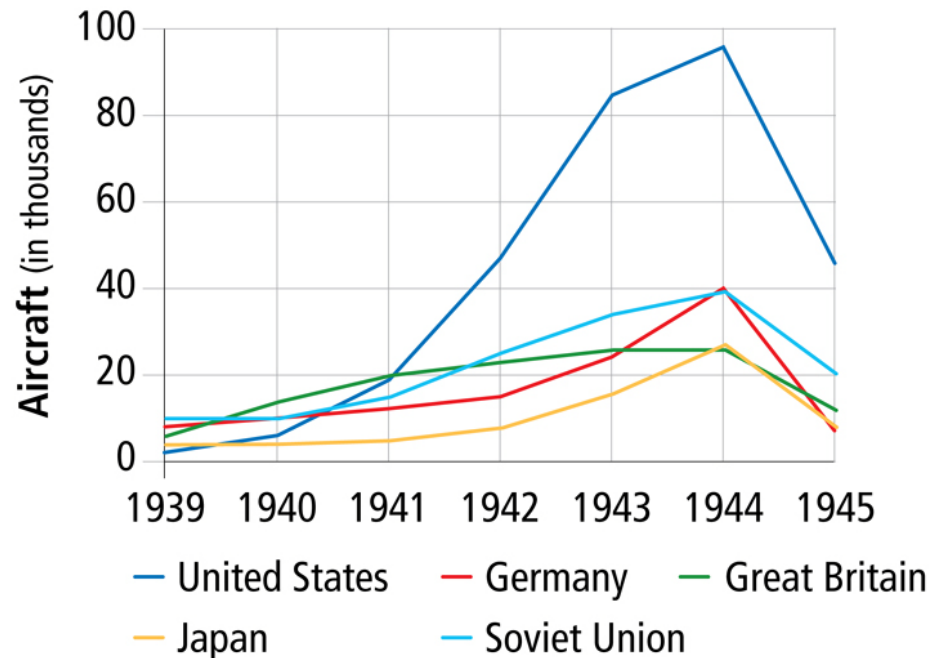
The peacetime economy soon shifted to a wartime economy.

Companies that once produced consumer goods mobilized to build ships, planes, and tanks.

The money poured into defense spending finally ended the Great Depression.

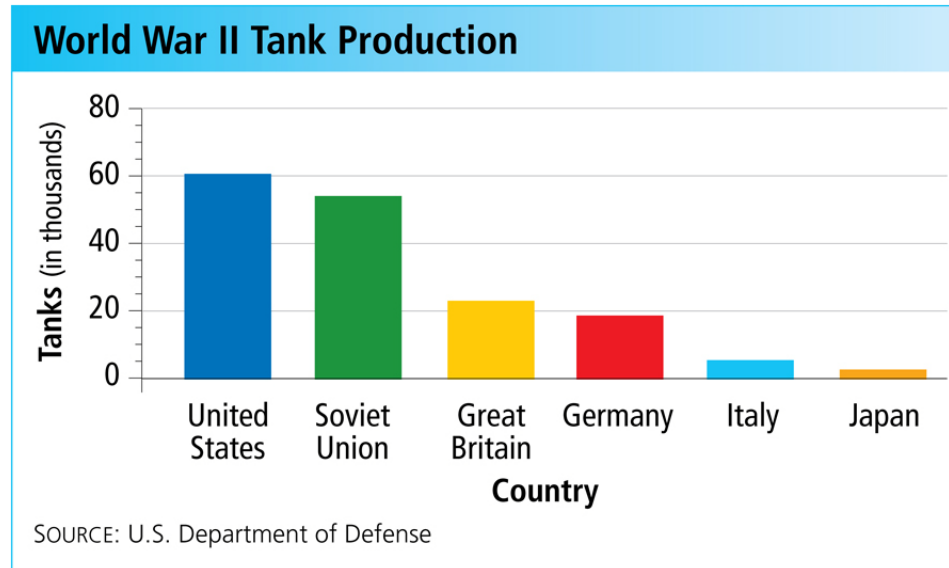
American workers could once again find jobs.

World War II Aircraft Production



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Defense

In 1944, American production levels were double those of all the Axis nations combined.



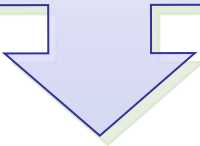
This “production miracle” gave the Allies a crucial advantage.

In the early years of the war, the outlook for the Allies was grim.

Japan's Advantages

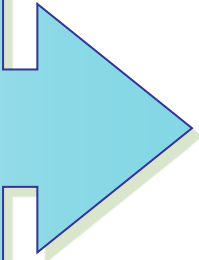
- Dominance of the Pacific
- Technologically advanced weapons
- Highly motivated and well-trained military

Japanese armies quickly took **Guam, Wake Island, and Hong Kong.**



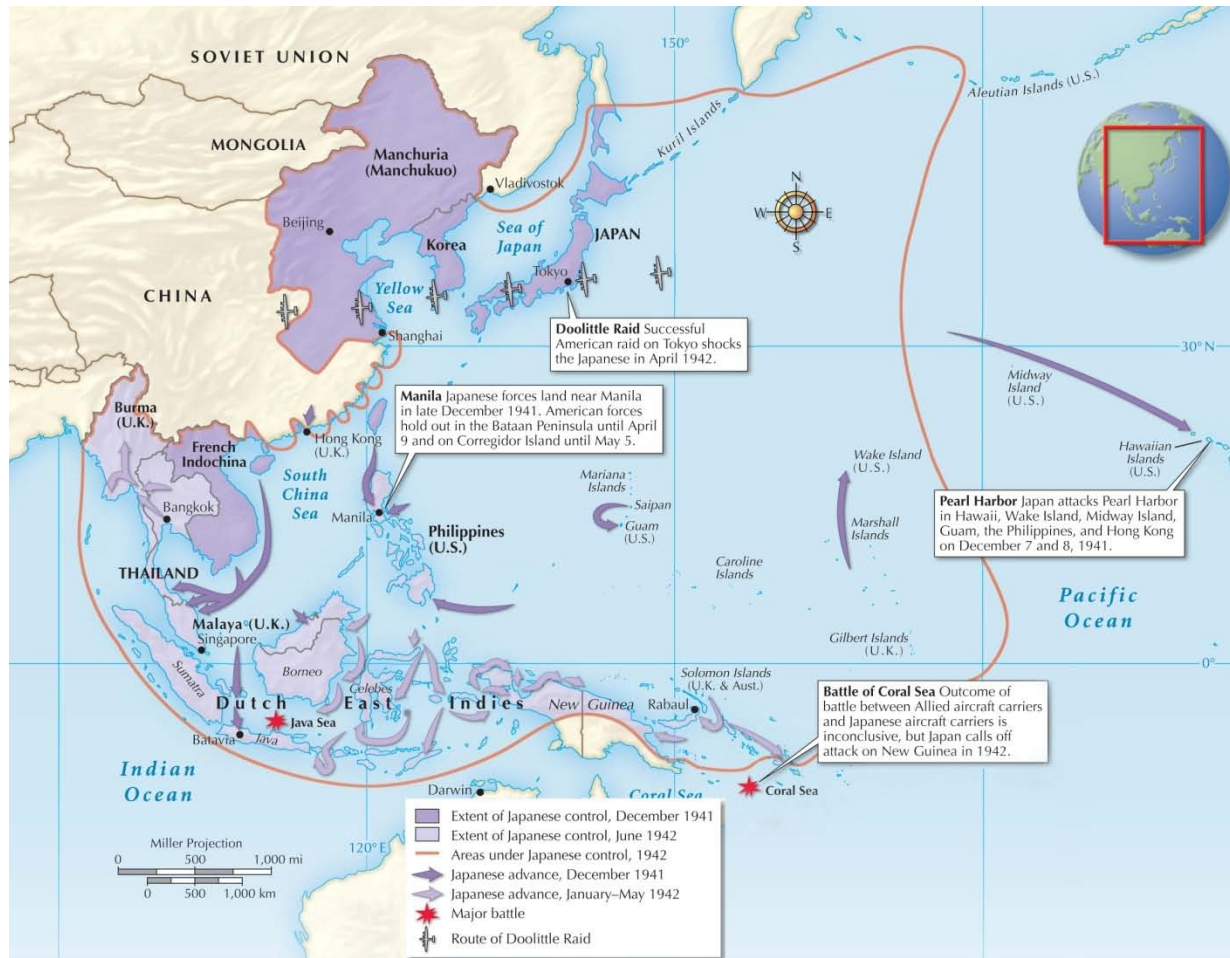
Then they moved into the **Philippines**, forcing American General **Douglas MacArthur** to retreat.

The troops were surrounded, trapped.



After a terrible **siege**, thousands died when they were forced to walk to prison camps during the **Bataan Death March.**

Japanese Aggression, December 1941–June 1942



With hopes for a quick victory fading, Americans finally got some good news.

Colonel James Doolittle's surprise raid on Tokyo

The American victory at the **Battle of Coral Sea**

A long fight lay ahead, but the darkest days of 1942 seemed to be over.