

# Chapter Twenty Seven The World War II Era

Please study your Powerpoint slides!

## **WORLD WAR II** –*Take two, the World is bleed & Horrific deeds are done*

- Dictators controlled the nations of Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Soviet Union in the years prior to and during World War II
- Dictatorships are characterized by a lack of person freedoms (such as speech, religion, and assembly) and political rights
- A major cause of World War II was the expansion and aggressiveness of Germany and Japan
- A major factor in Hitler and the Nazi Party's rise to power in Germany was the resentment towards the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I.
- British and French appeasement was shown towards Germany by allowing Hitler to seize the Sudetenland at the Munich Conference
- America adopted a policy of isolationism during the 1930's when it failed to join the League of Nations
- The Neutrality Acts illustrated the belief that the US should not get involved in the affairs of Europe
- World War II began on September 1, 1939 when Britain and France declared war on Germany following the invasion of Poland
- When the war began, the U.S. maintained a policy of isolationism and neutrality
- The U.S. became the "Arsenal of Democracy" by providing war supplies and equipment to the Allied powers through the Lend-Lease Act
- Japanese aggression in the Pacific was aimed at acquiring raw materials and labor for it's nation
- The U.S. entered World War II following Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941
- Following the attack on the U.S. by Japan, the United States joined the Allied Powers. The Allied powers consisted of Britain, the Soviet Union, the U.S. and what was left of the French forces following their surrender to Germany in June 1940
- The Allies were opposed by the Axis Powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan
- Rationing, the planting of victory gardens, and rubber and scrap drives were efforts made by Americans to aid the war effort on the Homefront
- The goal of the government's rationing program was to make sure that everyone received an equal amount of scarce items

- Sacrifices were demanded from all classes and age groups of Americans on the Homefront
- As a result of World War II the Great Depression ended and unemployment decreased due to the huge increase in employment opportunities in industry, agriculture, and the military
- World War II affected women because many took jobs in war-related industries
- “Rosie the Riveter” was the nickname given to females who worked in the defense industry producing war materials during World War II
- During the war, Japanese-Americans were forced from the West Coast of the U.S. and made to move into internment camps for fear that they might act as spies or saboteurs
- The strategy of island hopping, used by American forces in the Pacific occurred when the U.S. attacked the Japanese forces on selected islands in their approach to Japan
- D-day was the code name for the Allied invasion by air and sea forces of Europe at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944.
- D-Day was significant because it surrounded the Germans between the Americans and British in the west, and those of the Soviet Union in the east
- One of the Nazi Germany’s main goals was to eliminate all of the Jews from Europe, and expand their borders into Eastern Europe
- Germany’s attempt to kill all European Jews and other minorities was known as the Holocaust
- Nuremberg was the place where German government officials and soldiers were put on trial for committing crimes “against humanity” from the Holocaust
- President Truman decided to use the atomic bomb because he wanted to reduce the loss of American lives in the Pacific
- The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the targets of America’s atomic bombs
- Japan finally surrendered after the US used atomic bombs against them
- A major result of World War II was that the United Nations was created, which was designed to help prevent future wars