

Chapter 12 Lesson 1

Building the Military

- 1) Congress approved the Selective Training and Service Act in 1940. (1st peacetime draft in US history)
- 2) The Army's training facilities were overwhelmed by the number of recruits after Pearl Harbor.
- 3) Troops went to a variety of bases for basic training. This training helped them to learn how to work as a team and helped to unite them and break down barriers.
- 4) The military was still segregated. African American troops served in segregated units, most often under white leadership.
- 5) Double V—African Americans saw service as a way to win a double victory—over racism abroad and racism at home.
- 6) Many AA units served with distinction and valor. The Tuskegee Airmen was the 1st AA unit in the Air Force. Other AA Air Force units flew missions as protection for bomber squadrons. The 332nd Fighter Group flew 200 missions without losing a single member to enemy aircraft.
- 7) Japanese Americans were not allowed to serve at first, but as the war progressed 2nd generation JA were allowed to serve. They served with great distinction and became the most decorated units in the history of the US military.
- 8) About 500,000 Hispanic Americans served in the war. 17 were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 9) Many Native Americans served in WWII. The Navajo Code Talkers are one of the most famous groups. They used the Navajo language as code to radio messages during the war.
- 10) Jewish Americans fought in large numbers (About ½ million) and many were decorated for their bravery.
- 11) The military slowly began the move towards desegregation by integrating military bases in 1943 and increasing the role of minorities. President Truman integrated the military in 1948.
- 12) The Army enlisted women for the first time (no combat). WAAC—Women's Army Auxiliary Corps—was later replaced with the WAC—Women's Army Corps
- 13) The other branches of the military followed and set up women's units. The WASP's (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) flew planes to deliver them to the war effort.

The Economy during the War

- 1) After Pearl Harbor war production increased rapidly.
- 2) The government used cost-plus contracts to encourage companies to produce more, faster.
- 3) The RFC (Reconstruction Finance Corporation) gave loans to companies to convert to war production.
- 4) The auto industry quickly converted over to military production. They produced tanks, jeeps, trucks, helmets, rifles, artillery and Ford even produced bombers.
- 5) Henry Kaiser's shipbuilding methods reduced the time it took to build a ship. The new method involved bringing prefabricated parts to one location and building the ship there, instead of building the ship from the keel up.
- 6) War Production Board(WPB)—directed priorities and production goals

Life on the Home Front

- 1) 19 million new jobs were created and the Great Depression ended.
- 2) Not all positive—workers had to move—housing shortages—longer work hours—higher taxes—rationed goods
- 3) Due to the lack of white male workers, many factories began to hire female workers. During the war, the number of working women increased by about 6 million and about 2.5 million worked in shipyards, aircraft factories and other manufacturing plants.
- 4) Employers still resisted hiring African American workers, so A. Philip Randolph informed the President that there would be a march on Washington to protest and demand better treatment for AA workers. FDR responded with Executive Order 8802, which stated that there would be no discrimination in the defense industries.
- 5) The Bracero program was instituted to hire Mexican farmworkers to harvest crops in the SW US. This program lasted until 1964.

A Nation on the Move

- 1) About 15 million Americans moved during the war.
- 2) The Sunbelt (Across the south of the US) rose as a new industrial area
- 3) Racial violence broke out in many parts of the US.
 - a. Detroit—race riots—1943—between white and African American teens—25 AA dead and 9 whites dead
 - b. Zoot Suit Riots—zoot suits were popular among young Hispanic males, hence the name of the riots—1943—a rumor that Hispanic males had attacked sailors led to a riot in which about 2,500 white soldiers and sailors attacked Mexican neighborhoods in LA—the riots continued and spread—victims of the harassment were sometimes as young as 12 or 13—riots mostly occurred in California but there were zoot suit riots in other locations as well
- 4) The west coast was declared a military zone in 1942 (after a Japanese sub attacked an oil refinery). This led to the removal and internment of the Japanese who lived on the west coast. Around 120,000 Japanese were removed to camps in the interior, over half were American citizens.
- 5) About 5,000 German and Italian unnaturalized residents were arrested and held in internment camps. Unnaturalized residents from Germany and Italy had their travel restricted and their personal property was often seized.

Daily Life

- 1) Wages and prices both rose.
- 2) FDR created government agencies to control inflation.
- 3) The government helped to settle over 17,000 disputes to prevent strikes.
- 4) Many types of food were rationed, driving distances were restricted and the speed limit was lowered.
- 5) Victory gardens were planted all over the nation.
- 6) The government organized drives all over the nation to collect valuable resources such as rubber, tin and steel.
- 7) The government spent \$300 billion during the war, raised taxes and sold bonds.

- 8) OWI—Office of War Information—worked with Hollywood to produce movies that served a purpose.