

## Study Guide: World War II (1941-1945)

### THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- To what extent did the United States adopt an isolationist foreign policy in the 1920s and 1930s, and how effective was that policy?
- To what extent did World War II change the U.S. economic system and society?

### IN A NUTSHELL:

- World War II began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.
- The U.S. entered World War II when Japan attacked Hawaii in December 1941.
- The leaders of the Allied nations held several wartime conferences to discuss military strategies as well as decide the character of the postwar world.
- World War II ended after Germany surrendered in May 1945 and after Japan surrendered in August 1945.

### EVENTS

Washington Armaments Conference, 1921-22  
Mussolini becomes dictator of Italy, 1922  
Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928  
Stimson Doctrine, 1932  
Good Neighbor Policy announced, 1933  
Italy invades Ethiopia, 1935  
Neutrality Acts, 1935-1937  
Germany occupies the Rhineland, 1936  
Japan invades China, 1937  
Germany occupies Austria (“Anchluss”), 1938  
Munich Conference, 1938  
Germany invades Czechoslovakia, 1939  
Non-Aggression Pact, 1939  
Germany invades Poland (WWII begins), 1939  
Battle of Britain, 1940  
Lend Lease Act, 1941  
Germany attacks the Soviet Union, 1941  
Atlantic Charter, 1941  
Pearl Harbor attack, US entered WWII, 1941  
Battle at Midway, 1942  
Executive Order 9066 issued, February 19, 1942  
Tehran Conference, 1943  
Zoot Suit Riots, 1943  
Normandy invasion (D-Day), June 6, 1944  
GI Bill (Servicemen’s Readjustment Act), 1944  
Yalta Conference, 1945  
Germany surrenders, 1945  
V-E Day, May 8, 1945  
Potsdam Conference, 1945  
Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombed, August, 1945  
Japan surrendered, September 2, 1945

### PEOPLE

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Harry S. Truman  
Winston Churchill  
Joseph Stalin  
Benito Mussolini (“Il Duce”)  
Adolph Hitler  
George Marshall

### KEY TERMS

#### OTHER TERMS

isolationism  
fascism  
policy of appeasement  
National Socialist party (Nazis)  
Axis powers  
Allied Forces  
“merchants of death”  
cash-and-carry policy  
Blitzkrieg  
“arsenal of democracy”  
Royal Air Force  
“Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere”  
War Production Board  
Office of Price Administration  
rationing  
WACS/WAVES  
Rosie the Riveter  
Double V campaign  
Bracero program  
Japanese-American internment  
Operation “Overlord”  
island hopping/“Leap-frogging”  
The Holocaust/“final solution”/genocide  
Manhattan Project  
Potsdam Declaration  
Nuremberg Trials

Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Douglas MacArthur  
Chester Nimitz  
Clement Atlee  
A. Philip Randolph  
J. Robert Oppenheimer