

## **Ch. 24 Sec. 2: The United States at War**

**Why It Matters** When World War II began, the United States tried to remain \_\_\_\_\_. But most Americans opposed \_\_\_\_\_ and aggression. The United States built up its military and sent aid to Great Britain. Finally, in 1941, a Japanese attack on U.S. soil brought America into the war.

### **Moving Toward War**

In 1940, President \_\_\_\_\_ sought reelection to a third term. His decision broke the precedent set by \_\_\_\_\_ that Presidents serve only two terms. Roosevelt promised to maintain American neutrality. He told voters, "Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." FDR won reelection easily.

**Lend-Lease Act** Roosevelt sympathized with the \_\_\_\_\_. Even before Roosevelt had started campaigning, \_\_\_\_\_ had appealed to him for military aid. Selling war supplies to Britain would violate the \_\_\_\_\_, Still, Roosevelt reached a compromise with Congress. The United States could sell supplies to Britain, but Britain would have to pay cash for all goods it received.

However, by the end of \_\_\_\_\_, Britain's treasury was empty. Fearing that Britain would fall to the Nazis, Roosevelt persuaded \_\_\_\_\_ to pass a law he called Lend-Lease. It allowed the United States to lend or lease supplies to Britain and other nations fighting the Nazis. \_\_\_\_\_ objected that the law would draw the United States into war. Most Americans, however, favored the plan.

Lend-Lease convoys soon began moving across the \_\_\_\_\_. Later, the Lend-Lease arrangement was extended to China and the Soviet Union. Under Lend-Lease, the United States became, in Roosevelt's words, "\_\_\_\_\_".

**Military Buildup** The United States prepared for possible entry into the war. Congress approved greater spending for the army and navy. In \_\_\_\_\_, it passed a law that set up the first peacetime draft in American history.

Roosevelt took another unprecedented step in 1940. He ordered the \_\_\_\_\_ to organize an African American unit under the command of black officers. A flight training program was set up at \_\_\_\_\_ in Alabama. The Tuskegee Airmen would later compile a superb combat record.

**Atlantic Charter** In August 1941, Roosevelt and Churchill issued the \_\_\_\_\_, outlining their goals for the postwar world. They agreed that their nations would seek no territorial gain from the war and \_\_\_\_\_ the right of all people to choose their own government. They also called for a new international organization that might succeed where the \_\_\_\_\_ had failed.

## **The United States Enters the War**

Events in Asia, not Europe, finally drew the United States into war. In July 1941, Japan invaded the French colony of \_\_\_\_\_ (present-day Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). In response, Roosevelt banned American exports of iron and steel scrap to Japan. He also restricted the sale of \_\_\_\_\_ to Japan.

Facing a shortage of fuel for their navy, Japanese leaders decided on war. Plans for an attack on the United States were soon underway.

**Pearl Harbor** On \_\_\_\_\_, Japanese bombers launched a surprise attack on American naval, air, and ground forces at \_\_\_\_\_, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu (oh ah hoo). The attack destroyed nearly half of the island's 400 military aircraft and damaged 8 battleships, two beyond repair. About \_\_\_\_\_ Americans were killed.

The assault on Pearl Harbor caught American military leaders by surprise. Though aware of the possibility of a Japanese attack, they did not expect the attack to come as far east as Hawaii.

The next day, a grave President Roosevelt addressed Congress.

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

-Franklin Roosevelt, speech, December 8, 1941

Later that day, Congress declared war on Japan. Japan's allies, Germany and Italy, then declared war on the \_\_\_\_\_. Against their wishes, Americans were again involved in a world war.

**A Global Conflict** Even more than World War I, World War II was truly a \_\_\_\_\_. On one side were the \_\_\_\_\_, an alliance made up of Germany, Italy, Japan, and six other nations. Opposing the Axis powers were the \_\_\_\_\_. Before the war was over, the Allied powers would include Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and 45 other countries.

More than any war before it, World War II was a total war. \_\_\_\_\_ is conflict involving not just armies but entire nations. Countries on each side put all their resources into the war effort. Civilian populations often became targets of bombings.

## **Europe and North Africa**

In early 1942, the Allies faced a bleak situation on all fronts. Germany controlled most of \_\_\_\_\_. Although Britain had not fallen, it was powerless to challenge the Nazi position on the continent. In \_\_\_\_\_, the Nazis had advanced deep into Soviet territory. Soviet losses numbered in the millions. Still, in 1942, the \_\_\_\_\_ began to swing in the Allies' favor.

**The Soviets Resist** Hitler had expected the \_\_\_\_\_ to collapse swiftly in the face of his ferocious assault. But in December 1941, Soviet troops—assisted by the brutal Russian winter—halted the German advance just miles from \_\_\_\_\_.

The Germans mounted another offensive in mid-1942. A major battle took place in and around the Russian city of \_\_\_\_\_. Months of bitter fighting ended in a clear Soviet victory. From then on, the Soviets slowly drove the Germans back westward.

**The Tide Turns in North Africa** In North Africa, \_\_\_\_\_, Germany's most respected general, won a number of quick victories. Then, in October 1942, British troops defeated German forces at \_\_\_\_\_ (el al uh mayn) in Egypt. Slowly, the British drove Rommel's tank corps westward into Tunisia.

Meanwhile, in November, the first American ground troops in combat landed in North Africa. Under the command of General \_\_\_\_\_, they occupied Morocco and Algeria. Hemmed in on both sides, Rommel's army surrendered in May 1943.

### **Japan Sweeps Through the Pacific**

In the days after Pearl Harbor, Japanese armies swiftly took control of Hong Kong, Malaya, Thailand, Burma, Guam, and Wake Island. To the south, they occupied the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia) and the Solomon Islands and threatened \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Philippines Fall** Hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft bombed airfields in the \_\_\_\_\_, the island chain governed by the United States. The Japanese air force destroyed most of the planes that could defend the islands against their invasion.

Two weeks later, a Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ force landed on Luzon, the key Philippine island. There, General \_\_\_\_\_ commanded a Filipino-American force. As the enemy closed in on Manila, the capital city, MacArthur withdrew his forces onto the \_\_\_\_\_ (bah tahn) peninsula. He was then ordered by President Roosevelt to go to Australia and take command of all U.S. troops in the region. But as he left the Philippines, MacArthur vowed, "\_\_\_\_\_."

On Bataan and the nearby island of \_\_\_\_\_, the trapped Americans and Filipinos waged a heroic defense. By early March, they were the only major forces in the Pacific that had not given way to the Japanese. The defenders of Bataan finally surrendered on April 9. Corregidor fell the following month.

**Bataan Death March** At Bataan, the Japanese captured nearly \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers. Already weak from hunger, the American and Filipino prisoners were then forced to walk \_\_\_\_\_ to a prison camp. Along the way, so many prisoners died of starvation, disease, or violence that their trek soon became known as the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Coral Sea and Midway** The tide began to turn in the \_\_\_\_\_ with two historic naval battles. In May 1942, at the \_\_\_\_\_, American and Japanese navies waged a new form of warfare. For the first time, opposing ships did not see one another. Instead, planes

taking off from the decks of huge aircraft carriers attacked enemy ships many miles away. Both sides suffered heavy losses, but the United States halted the Japanese drive to

\_\_\_\_\_.

A month later, the Japanese sought to take the island of \_\_\_\_\_, home of a key American military base. But the Americans sank 4 Japanese aircraft carriers, destroyed 322 Japanese aircraft, and reduced Japan's supply of highly trained pilots. After the \_\_\_\_\_, Japan's navy no longer ruled the Pacific.