

# America in WWII, 1941-1945



# Japan Eyes the Pacific

Japan needed resources

1931: Japanese troops took over Manchuria (in northeastern China)

1937: Japanese armies attack the heartland of China in what was called The Rape of Nanking

Japanese killed over 300,000 Chinese  
Japanese eyed the rich European colonies of Southeast Asia

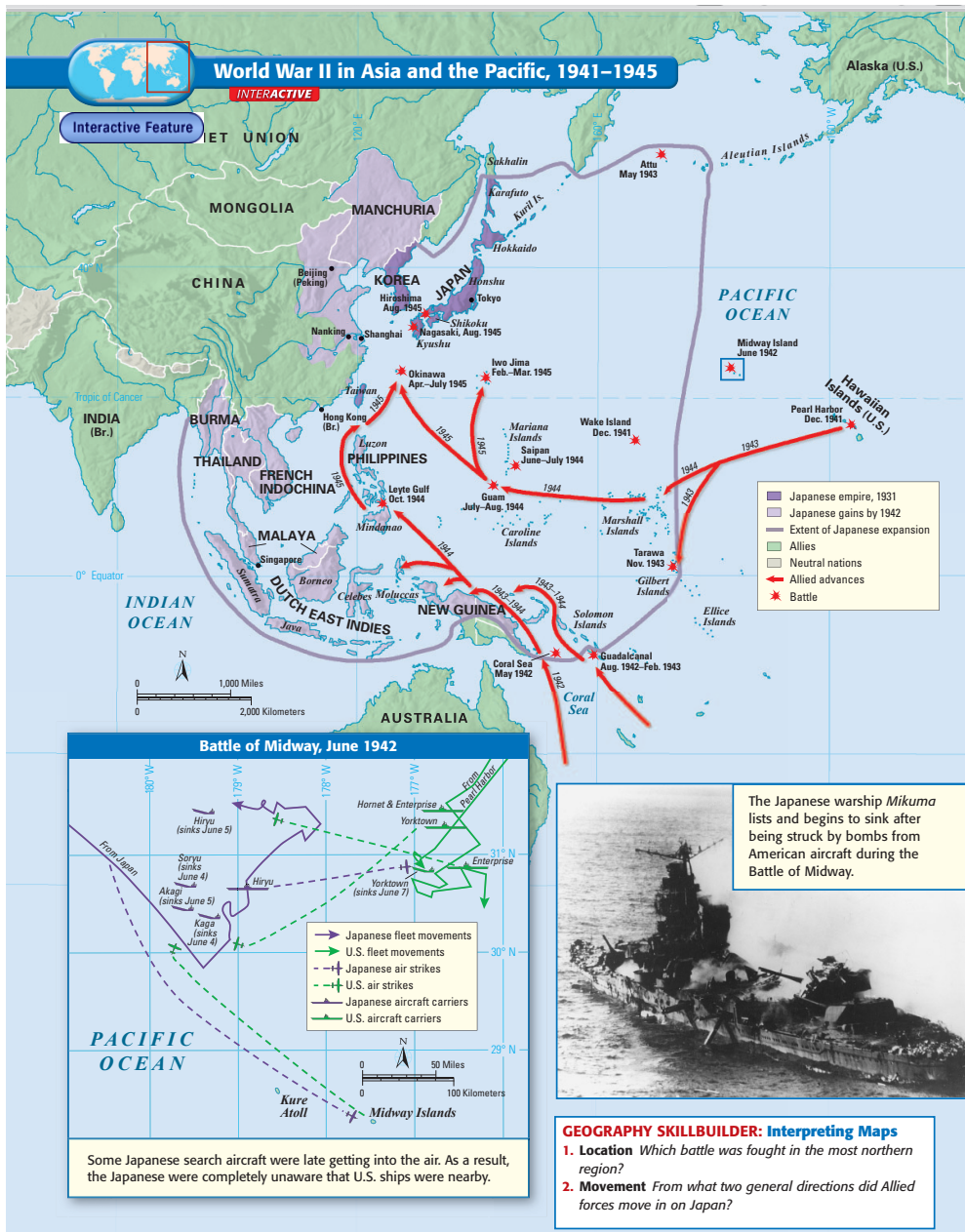
1940: Americans cracked a Japanese coded message: Japan wanted to take over foreign-controlled areas in Southeast Asia

we thought they might take American-controlled Philippines and Guam

1941: Japanese overran French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos)

Roosevelt cut off

oil shipments to Japan



# Surprise Attack on Pearl Harbor

Photo # 80-G-19930 Rescuing survivor near USS West Virginia, during Pearl Harbor raid



On December 7, 1941 The Empire of Japan attacked  
the American Naval Base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

within two hours, the Japanese had sunk or damaged 19 ships, including 8 battleships  
more than 2,300 Americans were killed and over 1,100 were wounded

On December 8, President Roosevelt declared that December 7th  
would be “a date which will live in infamy”

Congress quickly accepted his request for a declaration of war on Japan and its allies  
(Germany & Italy)

# US Mobilizes for War: The Office of Price Administration

They regulated prices and rationed certain items, like meat and butter, to make sure there was enough for everyone AND enough to send to the soldiers.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

**WAR RATION BOOK No. 3** Fold if altered

Identification of person to whom issued: PRINT IN FULL  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Street number or rural route \_\_\_\_\_

City or post office \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

AGE	SEX	WEIGHT <small>Lbs.</small>	HEIGHT <small>Ft. In.</small>	OCCUPATION
-----	-----	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Person to whom book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf.)

**WARNING**  
 This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell it to any other person, or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods in accordance with regulations of the Office of Price Administration. Any person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it. Persons who violate rationing regulations are subject to \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both.

LOCAL BOARD ACTION  
 Issued by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Local board number) (Date)

Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of issuing officer)

OPA Form No. R-130

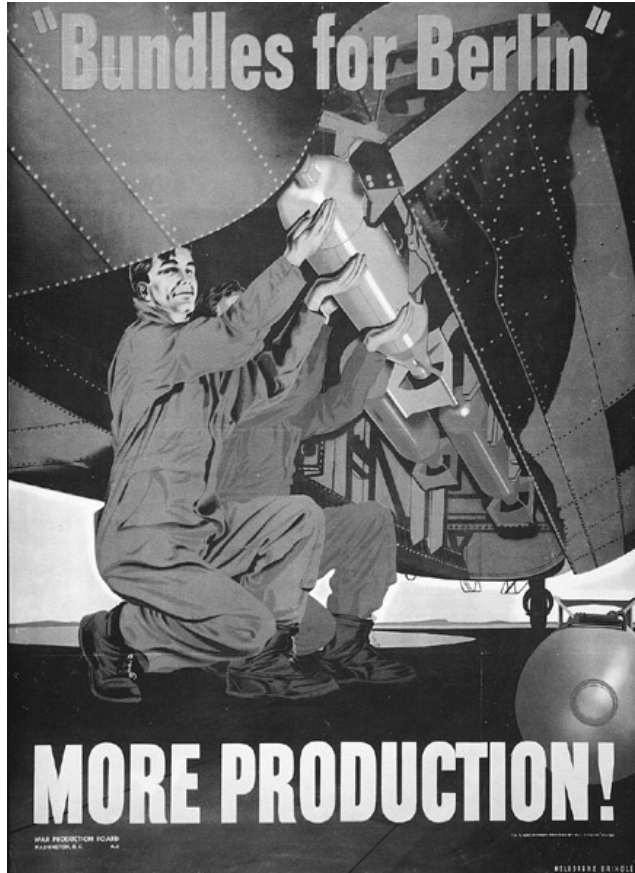
# US Mobilizes for War: The War Production Board



“Rosie the Riveter”



took control of industry  
and halted production of non-essential items  
(like washing machines and passenger cars)



A Gas Mask requires 1.11 pounds of rubber	A Life Raft requires 17 to 100 pounds of rubber
A Scout Car requires 306 pounds of rubber	A Heavy Bomber requires 1,825 pounds of rubber

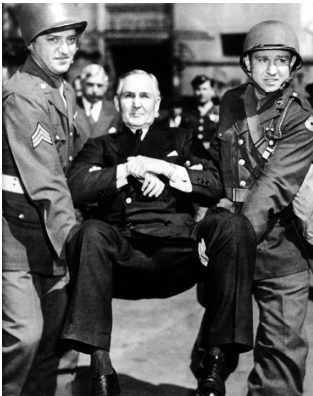
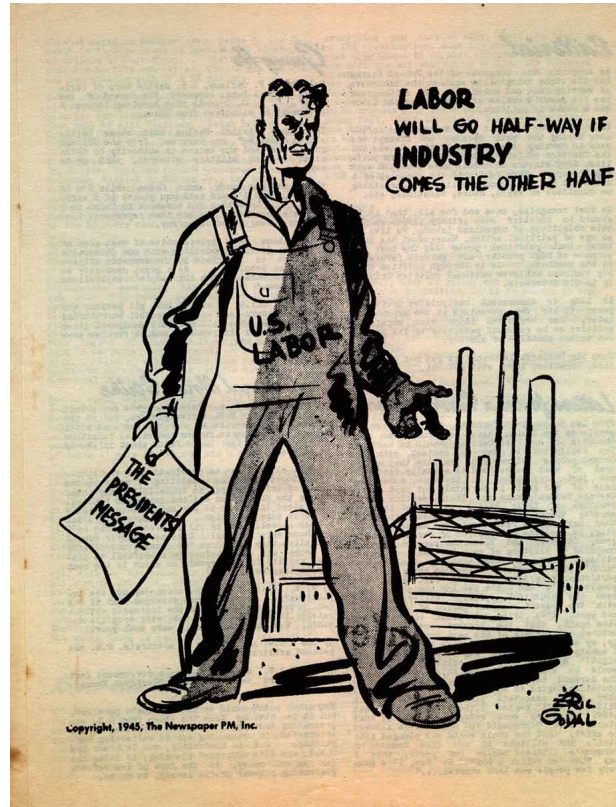
**America needs your SCRAP RUBBER**

“I've found the job where I fit best!”

**FIND YOUR WAR JOB**  
In Industry - Agriculture - Business

# US Mobilizes for War: The War Labor Board

set ceilings on wages (lower wages means lower prices)



# US Minority Groups in WWII

## African-Americans Fight For The "Double V"


**WHY SHOULD WE MARCH?**

What Are Our Immediate Goals?

1. To mobilize five million Negroes into one militant mass for pressure.
2. To assemble in Chicago the last week in May, 1943, for the celebration of

**"WE ARE AMERICANS - TOO" WEEK**

And to ponder the question of Non-Violent Civil Disobedience and Non-Cooperation, and a Mass March On Washington.



15,000 Negroes Assembled at St. Louis, Missouri  
20,000 Negroes Assembled at Chicago, Illinois  
23,500 Negroes Assembled at New York City  
Millions of Negro Americans all Over This Great Land Claim the Right to be Free!

**FREE FROM WANT!  
FREE FROM FEAR!  
FREE FROM JIM CROW!**

*"Winning Democracy for the Negro is Winning the War for Democracy!" — A. Philip Randolph*



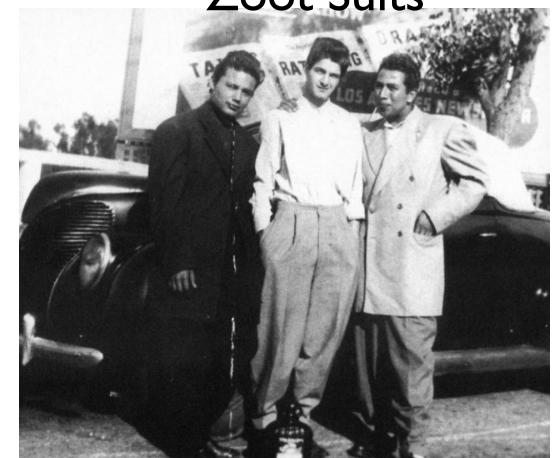
## Bracero Program



## Code Talkers



## Zoot Suits



# Japanese-American Internment

(1942)

127,000

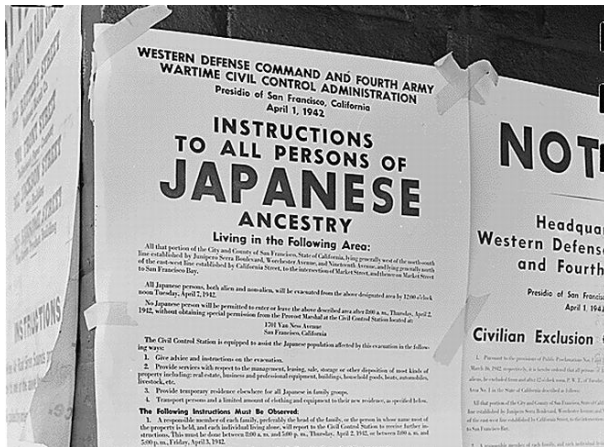
Japanese Americans lived in the US at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack

112,000 resided on the West Coast

most were nisei (second generation) or sansei (third generation)

afraid the Japanese-Americans would become spies for Japan, the US government passed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the War Department to construct detention camps to hold people of Japanese ancestry

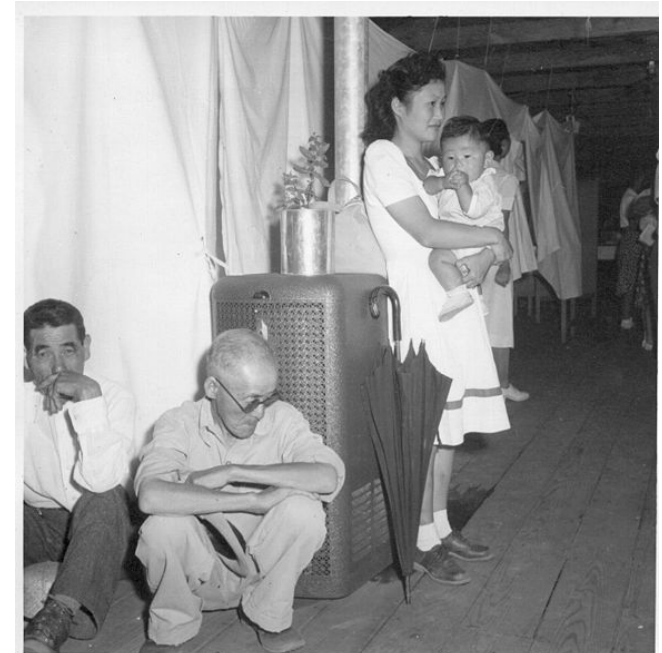
nearly 122,000 men, women, and children on the west coast were relocated across the country and held in internment camps



## Manzanar

The site of one of ten camps where over 110,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada in California, it is approximately 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles

*Approximately 14,500 people of German and Italian ancestry and 2,200 ethnic Japanese deported from Latin American countries were also subject to the wartime confinement program.*

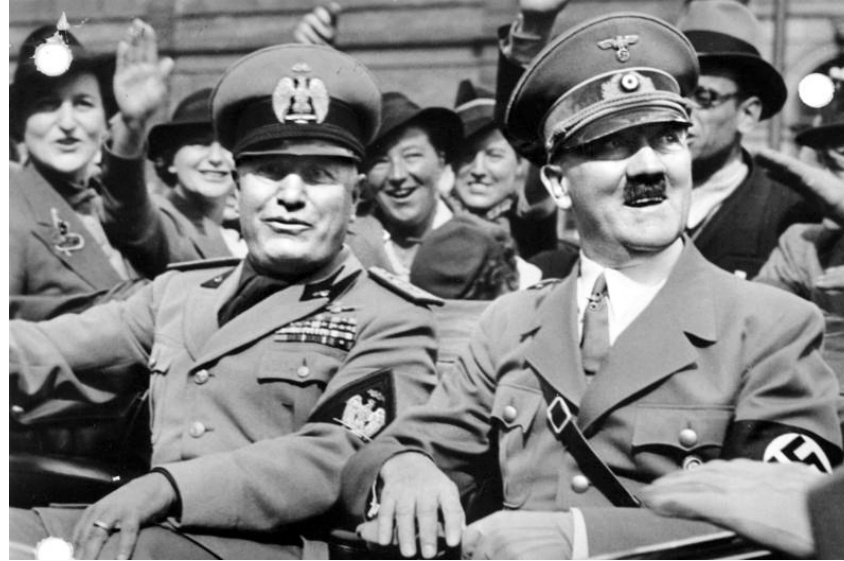




# Internment Camp Locations



# European Axis Leadership



**Benito Mussolini**

Duce of Fascism  
(Italy)

December 24, 1925 – July 25, 1943

**Adolf Hitler**

Führer of Germany  
April 20, 1889 – April 30, 1945

# Allied Leaders



**Sir Winston Churchill**

Prime Minister of  
the United Kingdom



**Joseph Stalin**

General Secretary of the  
Communist Party  
of the Soviet Union



**Franklin D. Roosevelt**  
President of the US





# General Dwight Eisenhower

1st Supreme Allied Commander Europe



Eisenhower with U.S. paratroopers of the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division on June 5, 1944



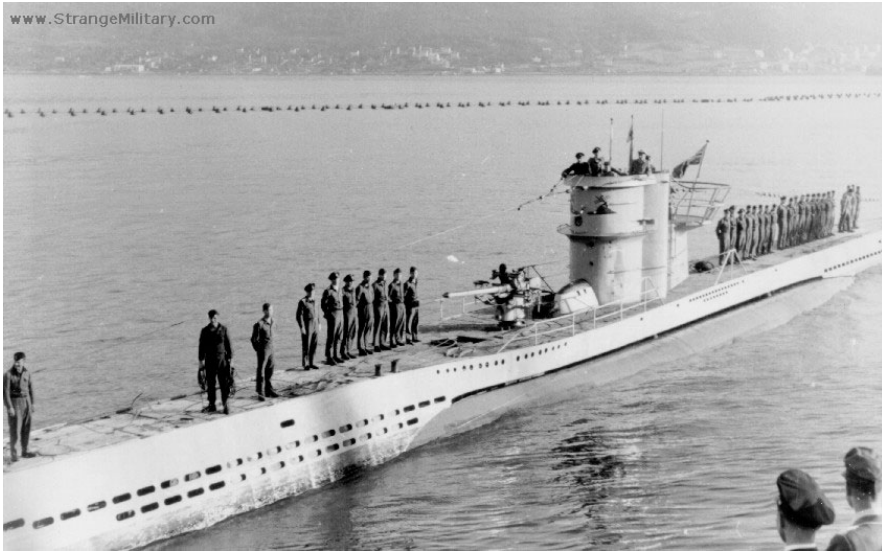
British Field Marshal  
Bernard

Montgomery

nicknamed "Monty"



# Halting Hitler's Advance



German u-boats traveled in what they called  
“ wolfpacks ”  
the German “ enigma code ” was broken  
decoded messages helped the Allies locate  
German u-boat wolfpacks

German Gen. Erwin Rommel

nicknamed the “ Desert Fox ” because he was so clever  
won many battles in North Africa

the Battle of Stalingrad (Sep. 1942)  
Soviets stopped the German eastward advance

the Battle of El Alamein (Oct. 1942)  
Brit. Gen. Bernard Montgomery stopped the Germans in Egypt



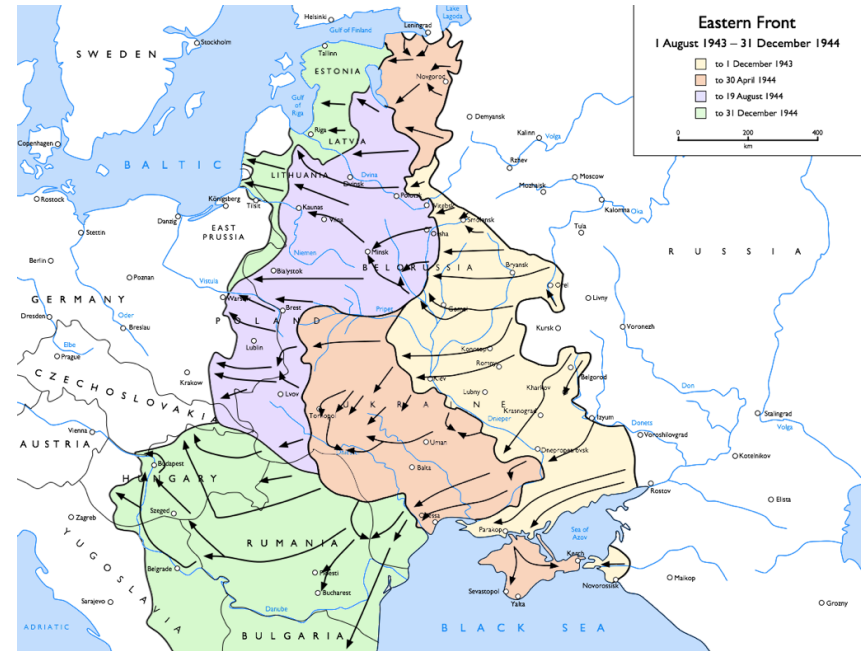
# The Fighting Continues

the Soviet Union wanted the Allies to open a second front against Germany

America wanted to attack the Nazis through France

Winston Churchill suggested they attack from North Africa up through Italy

Gen. Eisenhower attacked North Africa (Nov. 1942)



Casablanca Conference (Jan. 1943)

Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to seek the

" unconditional surrender "  
of Germany

Germans were pushed out of Africa (May 1943)

Allies moved up to Sicily

Mussolini overthrown; Italy surrenders (Sept. 1943)

the Tehran Conference, November-December 1943

Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill met in Tehran, Iran

Britain and the US agreed to open a second front against Nazi Germany

# The Second Front

## D-Day, June 6, 1944

