WWII in America
Organizations

- After Pearl Harbor, military spending $2B/mo.
- **War Production Board (WPB) (1942)**
  - Convert to a war economy ➔ Production ↑ to $100B
  - Allocation of resources a priority (oil, rubber, etc.)
  - Food allocation and science/tech boosted as well
  - **BLUM**: Success b/c allowed US to out-produce the rest of the world in a short period of time.
How do you pay for that?

- GDP $99B in 1940 to $211B in 1945
- $320B spent by US (2x as much as all US history); $280B debt
- Solution:
  - By 1944 – Rise in surtaxes (94% on top bracket); $130B
  - War Bonds – $100B sold
  - 1941 – Office of Price Adm. (OPA) – tries to control “inflationary gap”; really hard w/ 15%↑ in cost of living
    - Price controls and rationing
    - War Labor Board (1942) – Just raise wages!
    - Sec. of State Byrnes put in charge of making this work→ Stabilization Act (1942)→ BLUM: Although unpopular, successful
And, Of Course, Canada

- Enters war 9/10/1939 to support UK
- RCAF plays major role in Battle of Britain
- 1.1M CAN soldiers fought
- W.L. MacKenzie King tries to mediate WC & FDR
  - But, shockingly, no one listens to him
- Ogdensburg Agreement (1940) – Plan w/ FDR in case N. America attacked
- Hyde Park Declaration (1941) – Coordination of purchasing b/t US (needed stuff) & CAN (needed $$)
Domestic Changes

• FBI gets permission to wiretap
  – GER & ITA Americans treated mostly ok
  – Japanese internment camps established; 100K interned

• Only accepted 1K Jewish immigrants; War Refugee Board (1944) too little too late

• 6.5 women worked b/c of shortage of labor
  – Paid less, but didn’t figure they’d stay in workforce
  – Discrimination faded during war, but picked up after
Canadian Homefront

- 1940 – 47%↑ in CAN production
- By 1944 – 1M women in factories
- **Marsh Report (1943)** – Commitment to full employment, social programs, family allowances to keep CAN out of postwar depression
  - Rich didn’t like this idea, and stalled its effectiveness
- More socialist policies follow WWII & rise of CCF
  - Law in 1943 to right to organize
  - King takes more liberal socialist platform to win in 1945
    - Family: Vets’ Land Act housing, rehab, farm subs, export insurance
    - Admin: National Health & Welfare, Veterans’ Affairs
Minorities at War

- African-Americans still unequal at work
  - Segregated in army, unions
  - Lower wages
  - Tougher to find work
  - Orgs. created to prevent discrimination; CORE & FEPC

- Zoot Suit Riots (1943) – 200 sailors attack 12yo. Mexicans in LA → race riot possibly encouraged by Nazis → More race riots in NYC & Detroit
US Strategy

• Defeat Hitler, then focus on the Pacific – WHY?
  – Closer to W. Hemisphere
  – Closer to WMDs
  – Choose UK over CHN b/c more fragile
  – GER attack of USSR give Allies more of a chance
  – Defeat of GER will lead to JPN collapse, not v.v.
European Plans

- **AMBROSE**: “Strange Alliance” – Mistrusted each other, but each knew they needed both others (15)
  - **Churchill**: Red Army to do most of the fighting vs. GER and let US/UK create a 2\(^{nd}\) Front (16)

- Two choices for US offensive in late 1942
  - **Marshall**: SLEDGEHAMMER – suicide mission to take pressure from USSR
  - **Churchill**: TORCH – Invade French N. Africa
  - **FDR**: Chooses TORCH & explains to Stalin (20)
    - FDR gets US involvement in EUR & WC gets Mediterranean support
    - Works under Eisenhower & Montgomery ➔ Rommel surrenders ’43
Interlude: France (22-23)

- **Marshal Petain** – Hitler’s fascist puppet and in control of Vichy France
  - Controlled most of FR army
- **Charles de Gaulle** – pre-War president & leader of Free France
  - Led Resistance in exile from London
  - Leads N. Africa campaign in ’43
- **Jean Francois Darlan** – Anti-British & Anti-Semitic, but hates Petain.
  - Allies to go against all principles to give him N. Africa, which was a PR disaster, but Darlan is assassinatated
- **Casablanca Conference** (1943) – Big 3 – Unconditional surrender becomes Allied policy. AMBROSE: FDR brilliant!
D-DAY

- After Allied invasion of Sicily expels GER from ITA
- Jan. ’44 – US @ largest all-time mobilization
  – DDE in UK preparing OVERLORD (Marshall’s cross-channel assault plan from ’42)

AMBROSE: Supreme mil & pol act of WWII. USFP goal was firmly to maintain balance of power (26); US has replaced UK as dominant world power (27)

  – Air raids & USSR attack in East severely weakens GER
Aftermath (28-30)

• Dispute over location: S. FRA (US) vs. YUGO (UK)
  – WC couldn’t justify it to Stalin, so S. FRA invaded
  – GER just about surrounded

• Plan of Attack
  – DDE: Broad front of US/UK; BM: Quick UK-led strike
  – Choice of broad front took longer, allowed USSR to acquire E. Europe sphere of influence.
  – WC & JS meet → USSR domination of East unavoidable

• FDR: Doesn’t care. USSR has right to East. Wants to create UN and BoP led by “Four Policemen”
End of European War

- DDE stops @ Elbe when he realizes how many lives he’d be saving in not invading Berlin. Lets Red Army do it.

- Reds suffer 100K casualties, and give W. Berlin to UK/FRA/US w/out any losing a single life.

- AMBROSE: War ended without sharp break w/ USSR (33)

- 5/8/1945 – VE Day
War in the Pacific

- 40% of US war effort to Pacific
- FDR wants to destroy JPN, but $ went a lot further in EUR due to shipping costs.
  - US only controls periphery and never really fights
  - Doesn’t want status quo of colonialism in Asia
  - Worries that USSR/Mao would just replace JPN (36)
Island Hopping

- Win, est. base, move to next island, repeat.
- **Leapfrogging** – jumping over major JPN bases to make quick attacks, then continue advance.
- JPN takes early lead in Pacific
  - Wants to form **Greater E. Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere** to mobilize behind navy & army wall
- After Pearl Harbor, Allies ok because no aircraft carriers were destroyed & supply lines remained
Dark Before Dawn...

- 4/1942 – Philippines lost @Bataan; Death March
  - Split in army (MacArthur) & navy (Nimitz) = 2 Theaters
    - Mac from AUS north thru NEI, PHL, FORM, JPN
    - Nimitz from Hawaii to JPN via islands
    - Both used & both work

- 1942 – Allies win 1st battle @Coral Sea; JPN stopped @Midway

- 1943 – More resources to Pacific war

“I shall return.” - Mac
2nd Priority: China (37-41)

- Chiang Kai-Shek – corrupt, inefficient, dictatorial, but friendly toward the West (AMBROSE)
- US wanted to get rid of JPN & Mao w/out troops
  - US essentially bribes Chiang to keep him fighting JPN
  - Stalin agrees to support Chaing (hates Mao) in exchange for Port Arthur & part of Outer Mongolia
- FDR (@Tehran, 1943) wants SE Asia be controlled by US, CHN, USSR, UK → Stalin agrees
...And Whatever (42-43)

- Vietnam – Communist Ho Chi Minh wants freedom in 5yrs., writes US-based constitution, wants univ. suffrage → US turns on him to appease FRA & de Gaulle; JPN surrenders @ 17th Parallel

- Korea – Divided @ 38th Parallel → US South/USSR North

– AMBROSE: Decisions made quickly b/c of low priority
End of the Pacific War

- Oct. 1944 – Mac returns to Leyte Gulf & destroys JPN navy → completely surrounded w/Nimitz
- Feb. 1945 – Iwo Jima – Largest battle in history…
- Apr. 1945 – … until Okinawa
- JPN still held mainland & had most of army & air force; although resorting to kamikaze
  - Unconditional surrender necessary
  - If Red Army would fight, US wouldn’t need bomb
  - JPN wanted emperor to save face & US would have to destroy JPN…
How to Win a World War

• 8/6/1945 – Hiroshima
• 8/9/1945 – Nagasaki
• 9/2/1945 – VJ Day; End of WWII