

# **The Home Front**

## **FOCUS QUESTION:**

**What changes to society resulted from the treatment of various groups during WWII?**

Women: joined women's divisions of the military as photographers, nurses, code analysts, typists & switchboard operators (WACS and WAVES)



## Female War Photographer



Women's Army Air  
Corps Pilot



# “Rosie the Riveter”

- New job opportunities to women with men away at war – 4.5 million go to work
- Shipyards, steel mills, electricians, lawyers, doctors, etc.
- Helps to break down gender discrimination post-war



# Mexican Americans



As many workers went off to war, there were intense labor shortages.

Temporary workers from Puerto Rico and Mexico, or *braceros*, were brought in through the **Bracero Program**, a 1942 labor agreement between the United States and Mexico

**Zoot Suit Riots**—received their name from the type of clothing, known as a “zoot suit,” worn by many young Mexican Americans. In the summer of 1943, a dispute between a Mexican American and a white man erupted into widespread rioting. A spree of attacking and beating Mexican Americans wherever they were found occurred afterward.

# African Americans during WWII

Tuskegee Airmen—African American fighter pilots were trained as a part of the Army Air Force, but only at a segregated base located in Tuskegee, Alabama.

A. Philip Randolph—led a protest against segregation in the armed forces and defense industries during the war. Randolph successfully threatened to bring thousands of blacks to protest in Washington, DC in 1941. It led FDR† to issue Executive Order 8802, stating that there should be "no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or Government because of race, creed, color, or national origin." The Committee on Fair Employment Practices was established to handle discrimination complaints.

Race Riots—in 1943 African Americans rioted in Detroit, as well as in Harlem, NY and Columbia, TN.

# 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*

# Af-Ams in Segregated Units

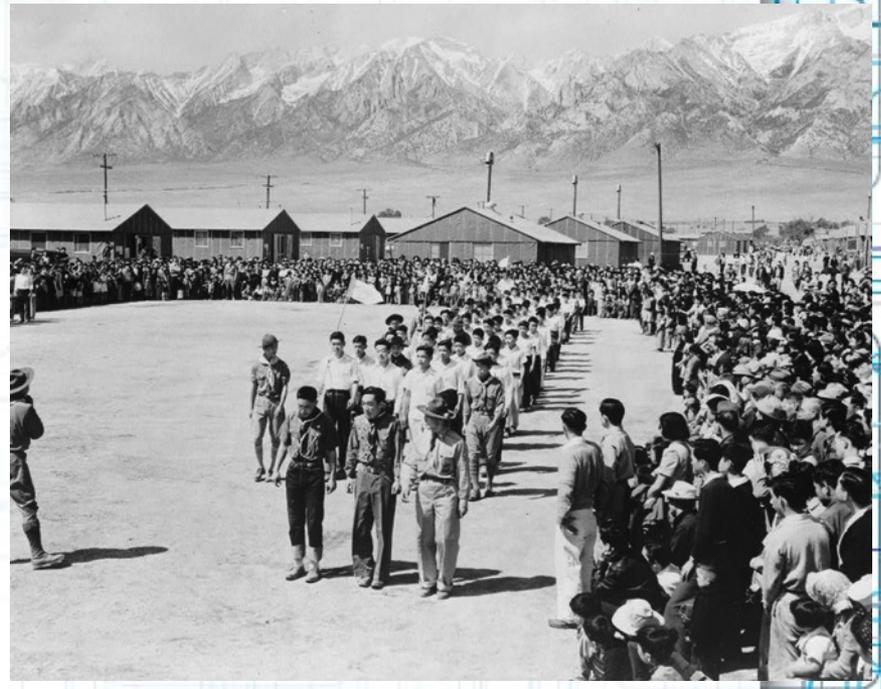


# Japanese Internment

- Feb 1942, FDR authorized the restriction & removal of civilian residents who were threats to national security
- Target: Japanese Americans
- 110,000 Japanese moved to detention camps on the west coast – lost homes & businesses
- *Korematsu v. United States* (1944)  
Supreme Court Case authorizing the internment camps, allowing the President to limit civil rights during wartime if necessary for national security

*“A Jap is a Jap. It makes no difference whether he is an American citizen or not”*





## Relocation Camps

Early in 1942, responding to the hysterical fear that Japanese Americans living on the West Coast might engage in sabotage, the government ordered over 100,000 Japanese Americans (many of them citizens) into relocation camps. A larger group of Japanese Americans living in Hawaii did not have their lives disrupted or their property confiscated.



**“At Gila, there were 7,700 people crowded into space designed for 5,000. They were housed in mess halls, recreation halls, and even latrines. As many as 25 persons lived in a space intended for four.”**

**“When we first arrived at Minidonka, everyone was forced to use outhouses since the sewer system had not been built. For about a year, the residents had to brave the cold and the stench of these accommodations.”**

**"In desert camps, the evacuees met severe extremes of temperature. In winter it reached 35 degrees below zero, and summer brought temperatures as high as 115 degrees. Rattlesnakes and desert wildlife added danger to discomfort."**

# Consumers & the Office of Price Administration (OPA)

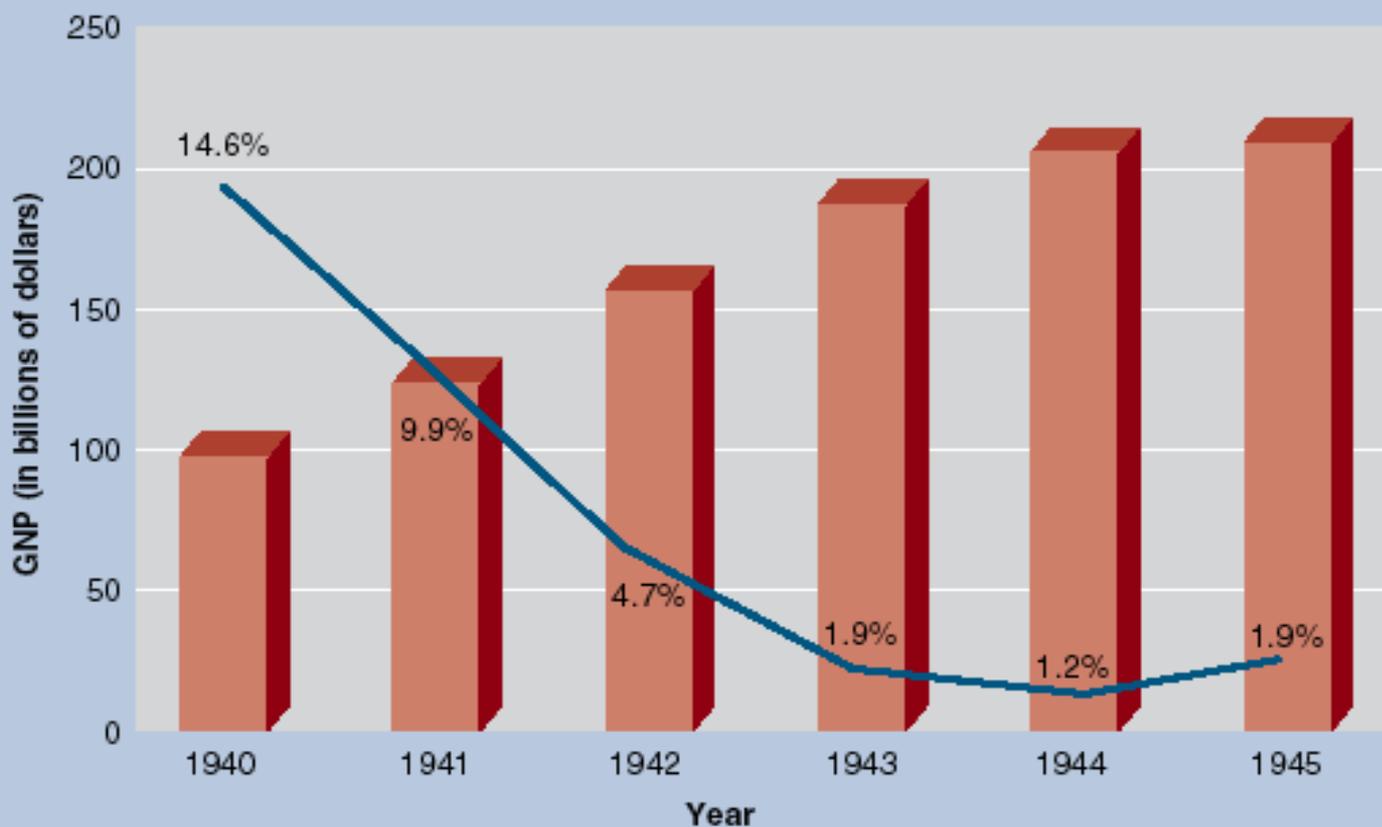
- Price controls & rationing – limited the amount of a product people could purchase
- Examples: gas, food, rubber, metal, cloth
- Convinced people to buy war bonds to finance the war

*“Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without”*



## Gross National Product and Unemployment, 1940–1945

The war economy virtually wiped out unemployment and increased production to unprecedented levels.



■ GNP    — Unemployment rate

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## The War Productions Board (WPB)

- Offered businesses lucrative contracts for retooling for the war effort
- Large commercial farmers also received incentives for war production
- Labor unions offered “no strike pledges” for the duration of the war
- Taxes were raised, bonds were sold and the general tax based was increased

# The Military

**I WANT YOU**



- By 1945, 11.7 million men & women on active duty
- 25,000 Native Americans & 1 million African Americans served in WWII

# Navajo "Code Talkers"



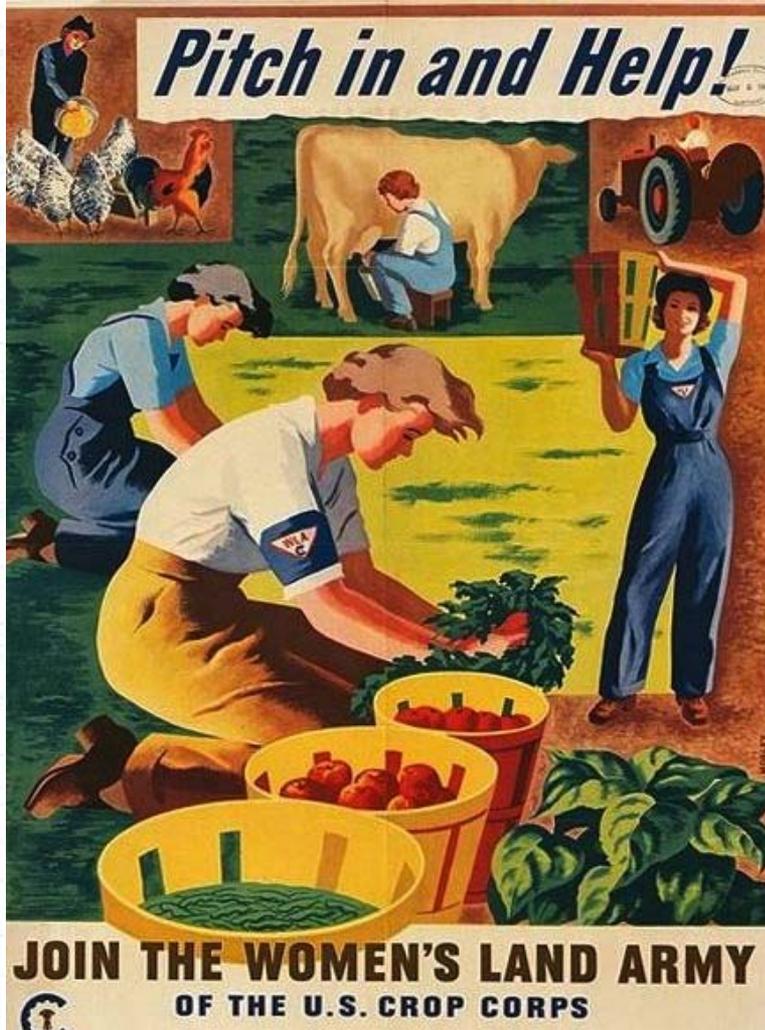
# War Propaganda & Censorship

- Government kept people of all ages committed to the war effort

Examples:

- Victory Gardens
- Rationing Posters
- War films
- Soldier's letters were screened
- Only pictures of enemy atrocities from war

# S..t..r..e..t..c..h That Food!



**When you ride ALONE  
you ride with Hitler!**

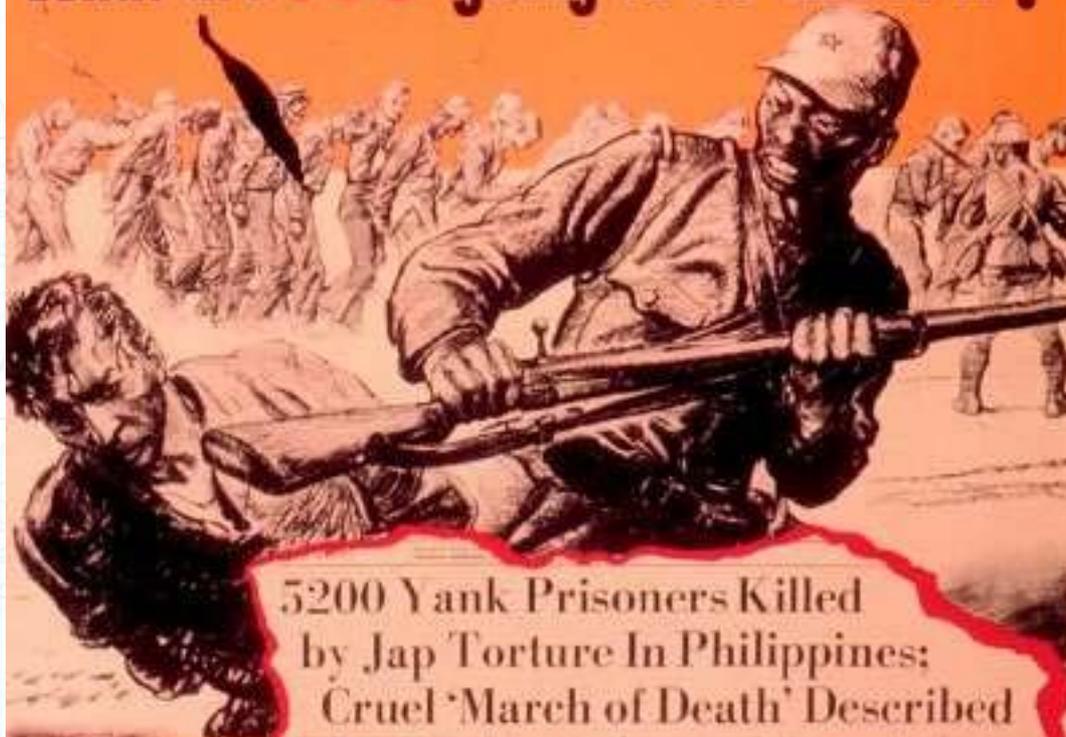


**Join a  
Car-Sharing Club  
TODAY!**



Don't Let That Shadow Touch Them  
*Buy* **WAR BONDS**

What are **YOU** going to do about it?



5200 Yank Prisoners Killed  
by Jap Torture In Philippines;  
Cruel 'March of Death' Described

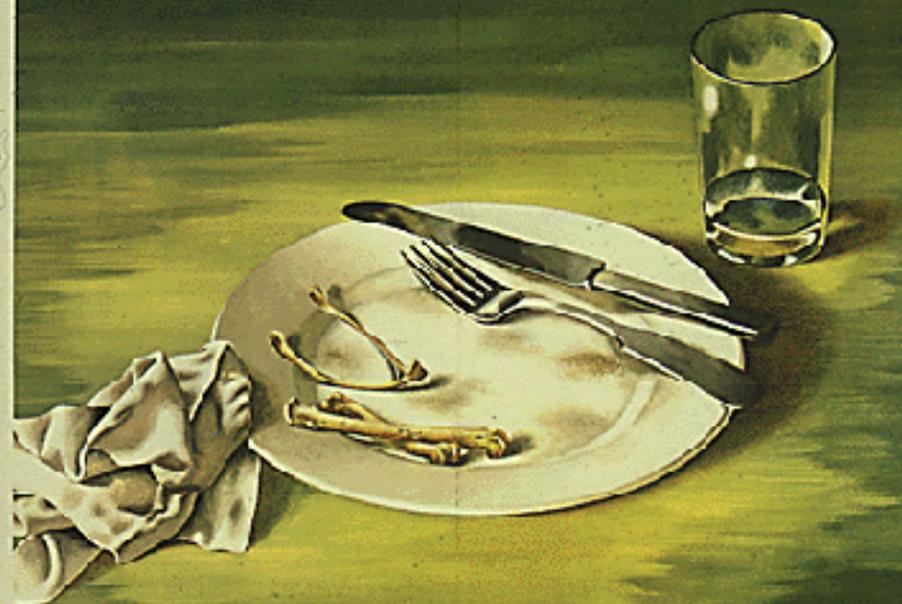
Includes News - Home Action - *RAF Hurl's* - Other Thousands of Victims Were  
Filipino Captives Who Starved,  
Beaten, Reasoned, Shot and Even  
Sawed. Army and Navy Report

**STAY ON THE JOB UNTIL EVERY  
MURDERING JAP  
IS WIPED OUT!**



U.S. ARMY OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

**FOOD IS A WEAPON**



**DON'T WASTE IT!**

**BUY WISELY - COOK CAREFULLY - EAT IT ALL**

**FOLLOW THE NATIONAL WARTIME NUTRITION PROGRAM**



PICK-UPS  
"GOOD TIME" GIRLS  
PROSTITUTES

**SPREAD SYPHILIS AND GONORRHEA**

You can't beat the Axis if you get VD