

Topic #24 Overview

Main Themes:

1. In the 1920s, the United States tried to increase its role in world affairs, especially economically, while avoiding commitments.
2. How America, in the face of growing world crises in the 1930s, turned increasingly toward isolationism and legislated neutrality.
3. How war in Europe and Asia gradually drew the United States closer and closer to war until the attack on Pearl Harbor finally sparked American entry into World War II. 1. That the vast productive capacity of the United States was the key to the defeat of the Axis.
4. That the war had a profound effect on the home front.
5. How three major western offensives combined with an ongoing Russian effort to defeat Germany.
6. How sea power contained the Japanese, and how Allied forces moved steadily closer to Japan and prepared for an invasion until the atomic bomb ended the war.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. The new directions of American foreign policy in the 1920s.
2. The effects of the Great Depression on foreign relations.
3. The pattern of Japanese, Italian, and German aggression that eventually led to World War II.
4. The factors that led to the passage of neutrality legislation in the 1930s.
5. The sequence of events that brought the United States into the war. The efforts of the federal government to mobilize the nation's economy for war production.
6. The effects of American participation in the war on the depression and on New Deal reformism.
7. The changes that the wartime involvement brought for women and racial and ethnic minorities.
8. The contributions of the United States military to victory in North Africa and Europe.
9. The contributions of the United States military to victory in the Pacific.