

1: World War II Timeline

On April 29, , the National World War II Memorial opens in Washington, D.C., to thousands of visitors, providing overdue recognition for the 16 million U.S. men and women who served in the war.

Using the high altitude B, it was necessary for the raids to be conducted in daylight for the drops to be accurate. As adequate fighter escort was rarely available, the bombers would fly in tight, box formations , allowing each bomber to provide overlapping machine-gun fire for defense. The tight formations made it impossible to evade fire from Luftwaffe fighters, however, and American bomber crew losses were high. One such example was the Schweinfurt-Regensburg mission , which resulted in staggering losses of men and equipment. In part because of their heavier armament and armor, they carried smaller bomb loads than British bombers. Also, both the U. Government and its Army Air Forces commanders were reluctant to bomb enemy cities and towns indiscriminately. They claimed that by using the B and the Norden bombsight , the USAAF should be able to carry out "precision bombing" on locations vital to the German war machine: The text of the Casablanca directive read: Formations of unescorted bombers were no match for German fighters, which inflicted a deadly toll. In despair, the Eighth halted air operations over Germany until a long-range fighter could be found in ; it proved to be the P Mustang, which had the range to fly to Berlin and back. USAAF leaders firmly held to the claim of "precision bombing" of military targets for much of the war, and dismissed claims they were simply bombing cities. Within two weeks of the arrival of these first six sets, the Eighth command gave permission for them to area bomb a city using H2X and would continue to authorize, on average, about one such attack a week until the end of the war in Europe. In reality, the day bombing was "precision bombing" only in the sense that most bombs fell somewhere near a specific designated target such as a railway yard. Conventionally, the air forces designated as "the target area" a circle having a radius of feet around the aiming point of attack. In the fall of , only seven percent of all bombs dropped by the Eighth Air Force hit within 1, feet of their aim point. Nevertheless, the sheer tonnage of explosive delivered by day and by night was eventually sufficient to cause widespread damage, and, more importantly from a military point of view, forced Germany to divert resources to counter it. This was to be the real significance of the Allied strategic bombing campaignâ€”resource allocation. For the sake of improving the US air-force Fire bombing capabilities a mock-up German Village was built up and repeatedly burned down. It contained full-scale replicas of German residential homes. Fire bombing attacks proved quite successful, in a single attack on Hamburg roughly 50, civilians were killed and practically the entire city destroyed. With the addition of the Mustang to its strength, the Combined Bomber Offensive was resumed. Gen Jimmy Doolittle signaled a change in how the American bombing effort went forward over Europe. When the Combined Bomber Offensive officially ended on 1 April, Allied airmen were well on the way to achieving air superiority over all of Europe. German prisoners of war escorted by American soldiers in Cherbourg, Operation Overlord The second European front that the Soviets had pressed for was finally opened on 6 June , when the Allies attacked the heavily fortified Atlantic Wall. Supreme Allied commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower had delayed the attack because of bad weather, but finally the largest amphibious assault in history began. Army Rangers scaled the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under intense enemy fire and destroyed the German gun emplacements that could have threatened the amphibious landings. Also prior to the main amphibious assault, the American 82nd and st Airborne divisions dropped behind the beaches into Nazi-occupied France, in an effort to protect the coming landings. Many of the paratroopers were not dropped on their intended landing zones and were scattered throughout Normandy. As the paratroops fought their way through the hedgerows , the main amphibious landings began. The landing craft bound for Utah, as with so many other units, went off course, coming ashore two kilometers off target. The 4th Infantry Division faced weak resistance during the landings and by the afternoon were linked up with paratroopers fighting their way towards the coast. At Omaha the Germans had prepared the beaches with land mines , Czech hedgehogs and Belgian Gates in anticipation of the invasion. Intelligence prior to the landings had placed the less experienced German th Division in charge of the defense of the beach. However, the highly trained and experienced nd moved in days before the

invasion. As a result, the soldiers from the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions became pinned down by superior enemy fire immediately after leaving their landing craft. In some instances, entire landing craft full of men were mowed down by the well-positioned German defenses. As the casualties mounted, the soldiers formed impromptu units and advanced inland. The small units then fought their way through the minefields that were in between the Nazi machine-gun bunkers. After squeezing through, they then attacked the bunkers from the rear, allowing more men to come safely ashore. By the end of the day, the Americans suffered over 6, casualties. Landings here were necessary in order to link up the British landings to the east at Gold Beach with the American landing to the west at Utah Beach, thus providing a continuous lodgement on the Normandy coast of the Bay of the Seine. Taking Omaha was to be the responsibility of United States Army troops, with sea transport and naval artillery support provided by the U. Navy and elements of the British Royal Navy. Army Rangers redirected from Pointe du Hoc, were to assault the western half of the beach. The battle-hardened 1st Infantry Division was given the eastern half. The initial assault waves, consisting of tanks, infantry, and combat engineer forces, were carefully planned to reduce the coastal defenses and allow the larger ships of the follow-up waves to land. The primary objective at Omaha was to secure a beachhead of some five miles eight kilometres depth, between Port-en-Bessin and the Vire River, linking with the British landings at Gold Beach to the east, and reaching the area of Isigny to the west to link up with VII Corps landing at Utah Beach. Opposing the landings was the German nd Infantry Division, a large portion of whom were teenagers, though they were supplemented by veterans who had fought on the Eastern Front. The nd had never had any battalion or regimental training. Of the 12, men of the division, only 6, were experienced combat troops, detailed to defend a kilometre-long mile front. The Germans were largely deployed in strongpoints along the coastâ€”the German strategy was based on defeating any seaborne assault at the water line. Difficulties in navigation caused the majority of landing craft to miss their targets throughout the day. The defenses were unexpectedly strong, and inflicted heavy casualties on landing US troops. Under heavy fire, the engineers struggled to clear the beach obstacles; later landings bunched up around the few channels that were cleared. Weakened by the casualties taken just in landing, the surviving assault troops could not clear the heavily defended exits off the beach. This caused further problems and consequent delays for later landings. Small penetrations were eventually achieved by groups of survivors making improvised assaults, scaling the bluffs between the most heavily defended points. The US VII Corps immediately began making their push after the beaches were secured on 6 June, facing mix of weak regiments and battlegroups from several divisions who used the bocage terrain, flooded fields and narrow roads to their advantage which slowed the American advance. After being reinforced, VII corps took control of the peninsula in fierce fighting on 19 June and launched their assault on Cherbourg on 22 June. The German garrison surrendered on 29 June, but by this time they had destroyed the port facilities, which were not made fully operational until September. The battle took place between 10 and 15 June , on the approaches to and within the city of Carentan, France. The objective of the attacking American forces was consolidation of the U. The defending German force attempted to hold the city long enough to allow reinforcements en route from the south to arrive, prevent or delay the merging of the lodgments, and keep the U. The 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division, ordered to reinforce Carentan, was delayed by transport shortages and attacks by Allied aircraft. The attacking st Airborne Division, landed by parachute on 6 June as part of the American airborne landings in Normandy, was ordered to seize Carentan. In the ensuing battle, the st forced passage across the causeway into Carentan on 10 and 11 June. A lack of ammunition forced the German forces to withdraw on 12 June. Operation Cobra After the amphibious assault, the Allied forces remained stalled in Normandy for some time, advancing much more slowly than expected with close-fought infantry battles in the dense hedgerows. However, with Operation Cobra, launched on 24 July with mostly American troops, the Allies succeeded in breaking the German lines and sweeping out into France with fast-moving armored divisions. This led to a major defeat for the Germans, with , soldiers trapped in the Falaise pocket , and the capture of Paris on 25 August. The offensive is also referred to in American and British histories of the Battle of Normandy as the Mortain counter-offensive. The assault was ordered by Adolf Hitler, to eliminate the gains made by the First United States Army during Operation Cobra and the subsequent weeks, and by reaching the coast in the region of Avranches at the base

of the Cotentin peninsula, cut off the units of the Third United States Army which had advanced into Brittany.

2: Latin America during World War II - Wikipedia

World War Two, U.S. - Quick Battle Timeline USA and World War II, With the gains made by the Allies in North Africa and Italy during , the military commanders continued preparations for a land war across Europe, the invasion of France to wrest control of western Europe from the Axis.

In the Pacific, the U. To be sure, neither tactical deception nor cloak-and-dagger espionage alone makes the difference. Historian Sir Max Hastings, a chronicler of tradecraft , reminded his readers that, in the end, soldiers, sailors, and airmen ultimately win wars. This high-stakes battle of wits continued in as Germany tried to guess where the Allies would launch a land invasion of France from England and both sides raced to develop a nuclear bomb. At the same time, codebreaking helped usher in the computer age. In , the U. After attacking the sub from the air, American sailors boarded the U in time to plug the valves and keep it from sinking. They hauled it to Bermuda to reverse-engineer the giant vessel while Germany assumed it had gone to the bottom of the Atlantic. Americans denied the International Red Cross access to the captured crew to keep them a secret. While the U story gained traction because of the cipher, these tools were available on the open market between the wars and were well-understood; codebooks were more important. There was no single code to break, but rather multiple codes across various military channels army, navy and air forces, etc. One flaw of German ciphers was that no one letter ever translated into itself, allowing the computers to eliminate that possibility, and cribbers also learned that the Kriegsmarine often started its dispatches from the Atlantic with weather reports, a crucial starting point for codebreaking. One key for scaling up computations was using binary 2-digit code rather than the decimal system like older calculating machines. With 16 four-rotor Enigma-analogues, the U. Shipping was key, in turn, to saving Britain and preparing for an assault on Germany. When Germany figured out that the Allies were deciphering Enigma codes, they built an even harder-to-detect rotor cipher. Firmly in control of the Atlantic, with the Wolfpacks at bay, the Allies prepared to invade German-occupied France. British Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay implemented the detailed plans, including opening two mine-clear paths across the English Channel for the flotilla, blocking the eastern and western portions of the channel, setting up artificial Mulberry Harbors on the French coast, and construction of two oil pipelines across the channel Operation Pluto. Despite all that, they retained an element of surprise with an elaborate ruse to convince Adolf Hitler that the Allies would attack Norway and cross at a different spot in northwest France than Normandy: Operations Fortitude and Bodyguard. At one point, they feared their secret was out because five of their key code words showed up in the same English crossword puzzle. But they correctly concluded after interrogating the author that it was a coincidence. The Allies also caught a lucky break because of the German-Japanese alliance. A network of spies in France carefully and courageously fostered the Calais deception among Nazis. To prepare for their real landing at Normandy, west of Calais, the Allies dropped paratroopers into France weeks prior to kill Germans and bombed to soften up resistance, killing thousands of French villagers and American paratroopers in the process. Friendly fire , while so controversial today it leads to cover-ups e. Pujol then faked his own death and escaped to Venezuela. On June 6th, a massive flotilla carrying k Allied troops hit beaches across northwest France, while a smaller force invaded southern France. The Navy started bombing the German Atlantic Wall along the shore at 3: Stateside, FDR used a radio fireside chat to lead what was probably the biggest mass prayer in history. Others popped out of Higgins boats like Marines in the Pacific into a buzzsaw of incoming fire from Nazi bunkers. For many, like those at Omaha Beach, Normandy was a near-suicidal sacrifice. If they managed to make it off the boat, they had to wade to shore and make it across hundreds of yards of mined beach and barbed wire. Resistance varied because Germans struggled to get their equipment to the shore at certain beaches and some of their troops were less dedicated because they were actually Ostroopen: Soviet POWs who chose to fight rather than be killed or stay in the camps. Memorials and get-togethers commemorate their heroics. The Allies paid a price for their deception, though. There were numerous German counter-offensives within this seemingly bucolic landscape. Allied intelligence saw the hedges in photos but assumed they were only four or five feet tall, not twenty or more. They blocked tanks and were impossible to climb, constituting a maze filled with

Nazi snipers and ambushers. The Western Allies found themselves in the same rattenkrieg rat warfare the Soviets experienced in Stalingrad a year-and-a-half earlier. Hand-to-hand combat was common as the Allies cleared Germans from barns, groves, and villages. Tanks came of age toward the end of WWI as a way to break the stalemate of the trenches, and Eisenhower and Patton both specialized in tank warfare between the wars. Tanks were in the North African desert, Russia, and France. In France, many Sherman Tanks even had a special clipper mounted on the front to help it plow through hedgerows. Nonetheless, they fought on for most of the next year, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and crossing of the Rhine. Patton has a false reputation for having been reckless with human life because he was so aggressive, but his troops experienced below-average casualties precisely because their aggression and quickness kept the enemy on their heels and unable to entrench or re-supply. However, Germany was now caught in a pincer. When Nazis diverted troops to deny the Western Allies access to the port at Antwerp, Belgium, that only made things easier for the Soviets as they rolled into eastern Germany toward Berlin, clearing out concentration camps and filling them with their own prisoners along the way. First, an airborne invasion of the Rhine Valley called Operation Market Garden failed in its objective to capture the number of bridges needed to cross into Germany. Second, Hitler pushed back against the least experienced part of the American lines in eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. Malmedy Massacre In the weeks leading up to the attack, photo surveyors missed the Wehrmacht amassing 20 divisions on the front in the Ardennes Forest. SS Panzer divisions seasoned in the Russian war launched their offensive in cloudy weather to prevent air support and killed 20k Americans over a period of weeks, including a massacre of 84 POWs at Malmedy. The Germans likewise massacred thousands of Americans and French villagers in Northern France in the days following the Normandy Invasion. In Operation Greif , English-speaking German troops in stolen American uniforms cut wires and switched road sign behind the lines, creating panic among Americans who quizzed each other on baseball and pop culture at checkpoints. Everyone in the military including desk clerks goes through basic training and the Battle of the Bulge is a good example of why. Clerks took up arms and, four years before official integration, black and white troops fought alongside each other for the first time in American history. The Allies needed everyone they could muster to keep the Germans from puncturing the line and reversing their hard-won gains from The 1st and 82nd Airborne Divisions paratroopers battled hunger, trench foot, and frostbite as they blunted the German offensive in key battles at Bastogne and the area east of the Meuse River. Two factors turned the tide in the Allies favor: German Soldier in Ardenne Offensive w. StG Assault Rifle 52nd Infantry Crossing Rhine River Remagen Bridge, May The Allies prevailed in Belgium and made their way into Germany, repairing torn up bridges and railroad tracks as they went, and encountering young and old soldiers as Germany ran out of fighting-age troops. The Allies fought there for the intact Ludendorff Bridge , using it to cross tanks and supplies for ten days before it collapsed killing 28 , all the while drawing off Germans from other parts of the line who were trying to destroy it. Journalist Andy Rooney, later famous on 60 Minutes, reported the scene, describing how the Germans used bombardment, frogmen, and V-2 rockets to take down the bridge. Holocaust American and British forces came across their first concentration camps as they made their way into Germany, along with the Jewish slave rocket factory at Mittelbau-Dora near Buchenwald. Leaders were aware of the camps and neither FDR nor Winston Churchill seemed overly concerned about them in their letters, but they were a shock to the military. Roosevelt learned of the camps in To his credit, FDR established the War Refugee Board in January to aid survivors, but historians disagree on how complicit the president was in restricting immigration and information prior to then. The Soviets discovered their first camps in the East in and reported them, but many Westerners thought they were exaggerating, as warring countries often do to demonize their opponents e. While more civilians might have died in Stalinist Russia than the Holocaust, the Nazis reveled in the slaughter and torture in a more perverse way, exploring the bounds of evil. Some captives at the Mauthausen camp in Austria were forced to carry boulders up and down hills all day. Friends were forced to push each other off the cliffs of the quarry. Not only were prisoners forced to kill each other, but they left corpses strewn around the living. At some camps, prisoners were forced to bury the dead. A recently discovered diary of SS Director Heinrich Himmler reveals him ordering mass killings while getting a massage and feasting at a banquet just after watching hundreds of women and girls getting gassed to death. Polish

prisoners at the Auschwitz slave and extermination camp were thrown into the snow so doctors could measure the rate at which people froze to death. Jews had to buy tickets for the trains that took them to the death camps, where millions were gassed, worked to death, and used for medical experiments. Nazis delighted in making lamps and other artifacts out of Jewish hair and skin. Auschwitz claimed more victims 1. Next worst after Auschwitz was Treblinka , an extermination camp in Poland masquerading as a train station. Crematorium at Buchenwald, Photo By W. Gays were pink, for instance, while Polish citizens were red. At many sites, they left thousands of new arrivals in boxcars to suffocate or freeze to death. Concentration Camp Marking System, U. Holocaust Museum The number of facilities associated with the Holocaust has only recently come to light, exceeding 40k according to one report. Tireless research by French Catholic priest Patrick Desbois has uncovered hundreds of unmarked mass burial sites in the fields and forests of Eastern Europe. His Yahad-In Unum project has interviewed elderly witnesses who remember, as children, seeing villagers coming out to watch mass shootings. Estimates as to how many people died have risen dramatically to million. History is full of governments trying to wipe out ethnic groups or, short of extermination, to at least displace and relocate them. Ethnic cleansing, Lieberman argues, is the key to understanding the modern map of Europe. Indeed, one might argue that ethnic cleansing, if defined loosely enough, is the key to understanding many maps around the world. Buchenwald Concentration Camp, The Nazi Holocaust is the most unsettling instance of evil in recorded history because of the systematic and sick way it was carried out. Allied soldiers who came upon the camps toward the end of the war described them as peering into the depths of Hell. For Arendt, Jews were a convenient scapegoat, or proxy, for a deeper megalomania. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions. He ordered journalists to film the macabre scenes. During the early de-Nazification process, the U. The Soviets also filmed at Majdanek and Auschwitz in Poland. Alfred Hitchcock took time off from his work in Hollywood to contribute, inserting maps that showed the proximity of camps to big cities e.

3: The U.S. Home Front During World War II - HISTORY

World War II cost the United States an estimated \$ billion in dollars - equivalent to 74% of America's GDP and expenditures during the war. In dollars, the war cost over \$ trillion. In dollars, the war cost over \$ trillion.

One of the ways countries, like the United States, curb this is by creating propaganda. In World War II, the United States ramped up the propaganda to get the public behind the war effort and to unite the country. This article looks at the types of propaganda used to help unite the war effort in the United States, during World War II. Development The United States government was not into the idea of propaganda at first. It would take businesses and media pressuring the United States government into putting out campaigns, for it to actually happen. Even so, the government still viewed it as them simply giving out information, as opposed to propaganda. Agencies were created to help aid in the writing and distribution of propaganda. The Writers War Board handled the actual writing of propaganda and was made up of infamous American writers. The agency was a success but was dissolved following the end of war in September of . Media Types Used The United States had propaganda in just about every aspect of media you could imagine, except for television. Media types used included radio, posters, leaflets, comic books, books, movies, magazines, and newspapers. Posters Posters were widely used by the United States for propaganda during World War II, so much that there were over , poster designs created and printed during the war. The posters mostly had a positive message, which differed from other countries and they were designed by artists who were not compensated for their work. August edition of a comic featuring a cover of a war bond defeating world leaders. Comic Books Comics were not an exception to American propaganda. Many comics had common themes among them associated with the war effort whether that be the characters fighting Axis Powers or purchasing war bonds, production, etc. A leaflet bomb being loaded up with leaflets by a U. Leaflets Leaflets were an important aspect of the spread of propaganda, as they could be used to reach those in rural areas. The leaflets would be dropped by planes over these areas, by the thousands. There was even a B bomber group that was completely dedicated to the distribution of leaflets. The leaflets were also distributed to enemy troops, who could use them to surrender. But the main purpose of this was to display how powerful the United States was, due to the fact they could use planes for this sole purpose. Following the atomic bombings in August of , the United States dropped pamphlets in Japan that suggested they were working on a more powerful bomb to be used if necessary. Movies At first, movies were more neutral to the war than anything, not portraying any one party in any particular way. Following Pearl Harbor, this changed completely, and movies began favoring the Allied cause. Most movies produced during this time feature some sort of wartime aspect. They were either based on the war, or they were set in a war atmosphere. This was true even if the movie had nothing to do with warfare. The films were used as a way to justify American soldiers fighting in the war as well as a way to get the U. The United States government was able to get the film released in theaters to the public. Radio Radio was likely the most widely used form of propaganda during the war. Shows could be broadcasted all across the United States as well as the world, which helped broaden its reach. The show was created in the s, but he did several of them during World War II. Themes No matter the propaganda, it had a main theme and an underlying theme. The main theme was always to support the war effort, the underlying theme could be anything from buy war bonds to something anti-German or anti-Japanese. The most popular types of propaganda were those asking for people to assist in the war effort. That could be anything from getting a factory job, to buying bonds, or converting goods. Posters were produced asking Americans to try and conserve products such as fats, butter, coffee, and rubber. Conservation was the largest theme among posters produced during the war, as one in seven posters carried this theme. One such example is the amount of paper that was recycled, 46 billion pounds. American propaganda advising viewers that the English are their friend and not the enemy. Propaganda was a very powerful tool for each country that used it during World War II. The United States was no exception to this, as it helped unite the public and the military in the fight to win the war.

4: Military history of the United States during World War II - Wikipedia

11 World War II, ; 12 World War II, but misdirection was undoubtedly helpful for the Allies in World War II. To be sure, neither tactical deception.

Ask for it at the next National Park you visit. Courtesy Library of Congress. That, of course, would change. Their neutrality had always been an allied stance with the nations of Europe fighting Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan even during the first two years of war, but without troops. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, , the sleeping bear would awaken, forced into the fight with full mettle. They would fight the remaining five years of war in theaters around the world, from the European theater to the Pacific Ocean nations of the Orient. And the final act would succumb to use of weapons not thought possible, with a ferocity unsurpassed in warfare to that point with the dropping of two atom bombs on Japan. Your banner or text ad can fill the space above. Click here to Sponsor the page and how to reserve your ad. World War Two, U. Postponed for two years while other priorities took precedence, the eventual battles after the invasion of Normandy, coupled with United States and Allied successes in the Pacific as battles along the island chains leading to Japan gained more and more ground, showed slow, but steady progress against both remaining powers of the Axis alliance. Allies 55,; Axis 20, Series of four assaults against the Winter Line in northern Italy caused many Allied casualties but eventual withdrawal of German forces. Allies 43,; Axis 40,, including 4, prisoners. Allied amphibious landing and flanking maneuver around the Winter Line leads to the fall of Rome, although initial surprise landing is wasted for months until breaking out to capture the Italian capitol held by German troops on June 4. USA 46,; Japan 8, plus. USA 1,; Japan 8,, captured. Twin assaults on the main islands of Kwajalein Atoll lead to victory after vigorous Japanese defense. First victory within the outer ring of the Japanese Pacific sphere for the USA in their campaign to battle island to island toward Japan. Allies 2,,; Germany 1,, Allies ,; Germany ,, including captured. Operation Overland and Operation Neptune, known as D-Day, invades Western Europe with one hundred and sixty thousand troops on June 6, rising to over two million Allied troops within two months to battle the German defenses. Initial foothold expanded to victories at Cherbourg on June 26 and Caen on July Paris liberation occurred on August USA 71,; Japan 32, USA 13,; Japan 29,, plus captured. Bombardment of Saipan by fifteen battleships lead to USA landing on island and face a vibrant defense for nearly one month before securing the island. Costly attack which would place American forces within one thousand three hundred miles of the islands of Japan. USA warships, including 28 submarines, aircraft; Japan 90 warships, including 24 submarines, aircraft. USA plus aircraft, 1 battleship damaged; Japan 2,, plus 5 ships sunk, aircraft. Largest carrier to carrier battle in history. USA 59,; Japan 18, USA 7,; Japan 18,, plus 1, captured. United States recaptured the territory of Guam lost in the 1st Battle of Guam on December 10, and use the island as a base for air raids against the Pacific and Japan home islands for the remainder of the war. USA 41,; Japan 8, USA 1,; Japan 7,, plus captured. United States eliminates the Japanese garrison and adds Tinian to Guam and Saipan as Allied air bases with camps for fifty thousand troops at Tinian. Allies ,; Germany , Allies 21,; Germany 28,, plus , captured. Postponed Operation Dragoon meant to accompany D-Day landing succeeds after one month, inflicting heavy casualties on German forces and occupying the majority of southern France. USA 47,; Japan 10, USA 10,; Japan 10,, plus captured. New Japanese defense tactics lead to costly battle over questionable valued target lasting months instead of predicted days with eventual American victory. USA ,; Germany 18, USA 5,; Germany 5,, 5, captured. German surrender after difficult battle that slowed Allied progress further into German territory. USA ,; Germany 80, USA 33,; Germany 28, Western front battle that lasts for five months, the longest single battle in U. German defensive victory allows German winter offensive Watch on the Rhine. USA ,; Japan 85, USA 15,; Japan 49, Amphibious assault of Philippine gulf led by General MacArthur reduces Philippine presence of Japanese army by fifty percent with guerrilla warfare continuing into USA ships, 1, aircraft; Japan 67 ships, aircraft. USA 3,, plus 6 ships, aircraft; Japan 12,, plus 28 ships, aircraft. Largest naval battle in World War II held in four phases in conjunction with land battle for Leyte reduces Japanese capacity for further naval action. First use of organized kamikaze tactics. Allies , plus; Germany , Allies 90,, including captured;

Germany 67., Last major German offensive of the war in Ardennes forest gains element of surprise, but defensive positions of Allies lead to eventual German defeat and retreat to the Siegfried Line. Photo of troops during the Normandy invasion. Allied troops attacking the beaches of Normandy , France on June 6, General Walter Bedell Smith. Tedder; General Dwight D. Eisenhower; General Sir Bernard Montgomery.

5: Articles Archive - America in WWII magazine

America and World War II World War II effectively stopped the world between and To this day, it remains the most geographically widespread military conflict the world has ever seen.

If the Japanese military could successfully attack Hawaii and inflict damage on the naval fleet and casualties among innocent civilians, many people wondered what was to prevent a similar assault on the U. Visit Website This fear of attack translated into a ready acceptance by a majority of Americans of the need to sacrifice in order to achieve victory. During the spring of , a rationing program was established that set limits on the amount of gas, food and clothing consumers could purchase. Families were issued ration stamps that were used to buy their allotment of everything from meat, sugar, fat, butter, vegetables and fruit to gas, tires, clothing and fuel oil. Meanwhile, individuals and communities conducted drives for the collection of scrap metal, aluminum cans and rubber, all of which were recycled and used to produce armaments. Many of these workers were women. Indeed, with tens of thousands of American men joining the armed forces and heading into training and into battle, women began securing jobs as welders, electricians and riveters in defense plants. Until that time, such positions had been strictly for men only. Soon afterward, Walter Pidgeon , a Hollywood leading man, traveled to the Willow Run aircraft plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan , to make a promotional film encouraging the sale of war bonds. One of the women employed at the factory, Rose Will Monroe , was a riveter involved in the construction of B and B bombers. During the war years, the decrease in the availability of men in the work force also led to an upsurge in the number of women holding non-war-related factory jobs. By the mids, the percentage of women in the American work force had expanded from 25 percent to 36 percent. Just over two months after Pearl Harbor, U. President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law Executive Order , which resulted in the removal from their communities and the subsequent imprisonment of all Americans of Japanese descent who resided on the West Coast. Executive Order was the offshoot of a combination of wartime panic and the belief on the part of some that anyone of Japanese ancestry, even those who were born in the U. Despite the internment of their family members, young Japanese-American men fought bravely in Italy, France and Germany between and as members of the U. By the end of the war, the th had become the most decorated combat unit of its size in Army history. Baseball and the Battlefield In January , Kenesaw Mountain Landis , the national commissioner of baseball, wrote a letter to President Roosevelt in which he asked if professional baseball should shut down for the duration of the war. During the war, 95 percent of all professional baseball players who donned major league uniforms during the season were directly involved in the conflict. Feller, in fact, enlisted in the U. Navy one day after Pearl Harbor. Because baseball was depleted of so many able bodies, athletes who otherwise likely never would have made the big leagues won spots on rosters. One of the more notable was Pete Gray , a one-armed outfielder who appeared in 77 games for the St. Louis Browns in Not all those who served in the military were superstars. Over minor leaguers also were killed. Other players overcame debilitating wartime injuries. One was Bert Shepard , a minor league pitcher turned air force fighter pilot. The following year, he pitched three innings for the Washington Senators in a major league game. The movie-going experience included a newsreel, which lasted approximately 10 minutes and was loaded with images and accounts of recent battles, followed by an animated cartoon. While many of these cartoons were entertainingly escapist, some comically caricatured the enemy. As for the main program, movie theaters showed non-war-related dramas, comedies, mysteries and Westerns; however, a significant segment of feature films dealt directly with the war. Scores of features spotlighted the trials of men in combat while demonizing the Nazis and Japanese who perpetuated the conflict. Many appeared in government-produced training films and morale-boosting short subjects. Others participated directly in the fighting. Clark Gable , the beloved, Academy Award-winning actor, served as a tail-gunner with the U. Army Air Corps and flew combat missions over Germany. James Stewart , another equally adored Oscar winner, had enlisted in the corps even before Pearl Harbor. He eventually became a B combat pilot and commander and also flew missions over Germany. They were riveted by the frontline reports from such legendary journalists as Edward R. Meanwhile, big bands, most famously the orchestra headed by Glenn

Miller , and entertainers such as Bob Hope performed before thousands at military bases. These programs were aired directly on the radio to listeners from Maine to California. Dramatic radio programming increasingly featured war-related storylines. Citation Information The U.

6: Immigration Policy in World War II | Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

The history of Latin America during World War II is important because of the significant economic, political, and military changes that occurred throughout much of the region as a result of the war.

Visit Website Did you know? It holds the graves of more than 9, U. In the months and weeks before D-Day, the Allies carried out a massive deception operation intended to make the Germans think the main invasion target was Pas-de-Calais the narrowest point between Britain and France rather than Normandy. In addition, they led the Germans to believe that Norway and other locations were also potential invasion targets. Many tactics were used to carry out the deception, including fake equipment; a phantom army commanded by George Patton and supposedly based in England, across from Pas-de-Calais; double agents; and fraudulent radio transmissions. June 5, Eisenhower selected June 5, , as the date for the invasion; however, bad weather on the days leading up to the operation caused it to be delayed for 24 hours. On the morning of June 5, after his meteorologist predicted improved conditions for the following day, Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord. He told the troops: The eyes of the world are upon you. June 6, By dawn on June 6, thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were already on the ground behind enemy lines, securing bridges and exit roads. The amphibious invasions began at 6: According to some estimates, more than 4, Allied troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion, with thousands more wounded or missing. Less than a week later, on June 11, the beaches were fully secured and over , troops, more than 50, vehicles and some , tons of equipment had landed at Normandy. For their part, the Germans suffered from confusion in the ranks and the absence of celebrated commander Rommel, who was away on leave. At first, Hitler, believing the invasion was a feint designed to distract the Germans from a coming attack north of the Seine River, refused to release nearby divisions to join the counterattack. Reinforcements had to be called from further afield, causing delays. He also hesitated in calling for armored divisions to help in the defense. Moreover, the Germans were hampered by effective Allied air support, which took out many key bridges and forced the Germans to take long detours, as well as efficient Allied naval support, which helped protect advancing Allied troops. In the ensuing weeks, the Allies fought their way across the Normandy countryside in the face of determined German resistance, as well as a dense landscape of marshes and hedgerows. By the end of June, the Allies had seized the vital port of Cherbourg, landed approximately , men and , vehicles in Normandy, and were poised to continue their march across France. Victory in Normandy By the end of August , the Allies had reached the Seine River, Paris was liberated and the Germans had been removed from northwestern France, effectively concluding the Battle of Normandy. The Allied forces then prepared to enter Germany, where they would meet up with Soviet troops moving in from the east. The Normandy invasion began to turn the tide against the Nazis. A significant psychological blow, it also prevented Hitler from sending troops from France to build up his Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets. The following spring, on May 8, , the Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Hitler had committed suicide a week earlier, on April Start your free trial today.

7: The Way We Won: America's Economic Breakthrough During World War II

America was the only country to emerge after the war relatively unscathed, and in fact, it was better off after the war than before. The gross national product more than doubled, as did corporate profits.

It killed more people, cost more money, damaged more property, affected more people, and caused more far-reaching changes in nearly every country than any other war in history. The number of people killed, wounded, or missing between September 1, 1914, and September 1, 1918, can never be calculated, but it is estimated that more than 55 million people perished. More than 50 countries took part in the war, and the whole world felt its effects. Men fought in almost every part of the world, on every continent except Antarctica. The United States hoped to stay out. Drawing on its experience from World War I, Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts between 1917 and 1935, which were intended to prevent Americans becoming entangled with belligerents. Americans in general, however, while not wanting to fight the war, were definitely not neutral in their sympathies and the acts were manipulated, to the frustration of genuine isolationists, to lend more support to the Allies than the Axis. Historians do not agree on the exact date when World War II began. Most consider the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, to be the beginning of the war. Others say it started when the Japanese invaded Manchuria on September 18, 1931. War officially began on September 1, 1939, when Germany attacked Poland. Germany then crushed six countries in three months — Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and France — and proceeded to conquer Yugoslavia and Greece. By early 1941, all major countries of the world were involved in the most destructive war in history. World War II would go down in the history books as bringing about the downfall of Western Europe as the center of world power, leading to the rise of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.). That, combined with the outcome of World War I, led to major repositioning of world power and influence. That was fertile ground for the emergence of various forms of totalitarian governments in the Soviet Union, Japan, Italy, and Germany, as well as other countries. Many countries had liberal democratic governments following World War I, but dictatorship developed during the 1920s and 1930s, which destroyed democratic rights. The Germans found it easy to blame the harsh Treaty of Versailles for their troubles. Germany set up a republican form of government in 1919. Many Germans blamed the new government for accepting the hated treaty. People who could not find jobs began to drift into the Communist and National Socialist parties. Prior to 1914, Britain, France, and Germany were the industrial and financial centers of the world. Following World War I, those countries lost their positions and the United States filled their place. America dominated the world market of food, minerals, and industry. When the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929, the financial crisis had worldwide consequences and the reaction of nations to the dire financial straits of the Depression had a huge impact. After World War I, Germany, Italy, and Japan — all anxious to regain or increase their power — adopted forms of dictatorship. The League of Nations was unable to promote disarmament. When Adolf Hitler came into power, he promised to end the humiliating conditions caused by German defeat in World War I. Economic problems were among the fundamental causes of World War II. Germany, Italy, and Japan considered themselves unjustly handicapped in trying to compete with other nations for markets, raw materials, and colonies. The Depression destroyed the market for imported silk from Japan, which had provided the country with two-fifths of its export income. Military leaders took control of the government, and in 1937, Japan invaded China, looking for more raw materials and bigger markets for her factories. The League of Nations called a conference of 60 nations in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1932. The conference was one in a long line of disarmament conferences that had been occurring since the end of World War I. Germany, whose military power had been severely limited by the Treaty of Versailles, announced that world disarmament had to be accomplished, or Germany would rearm and achieve military equality. France refused to disarm until an international police system could be established. The conference adjourned temporarily and by the time it was back in session, Hitler had become chancellor of Germany and was already preparing to rearm. Germany withdrew from the conference, which ended in failure, without any hope for disarmament. America prepares for war After the war began in Europe in 1939, people in the Americas were divided on whether their countries should take part or stay out. Most Americans hoped the Allies would win,

but they also hoped to keep the United States out of war. The isolationists, wanted the country to stay out of the war at almost any cost. Another group, the interventionists, wanted the United States to do all in its power to aid the Allies. Canada declared war on Germany almost at once, while the United States shifted its policy from neutrality to preparedness. It began to expand its armed forces, build defense plants, and give the Allies all-out aid short of war. Roosevelt called upon the United States to be "the great arsenal of democracy," and supply war materials to the Allies through sale, lease, or loan. The Lend-Lease bill became law on March 11, 1941. During the next four years, the U. S. At the height of its strength in 1945, the United States had six million in the Army; 3.5 million in the Navy; 2.5 million in the Army air forces; 1 million in the Marine Corps; and 1 million in the Coast Guard. In 1945, the United States had about 2,000 airplanes and warships. By 1945, it had about 80,000 airplanes and 2,000 warships. The United States used draft laws to build their armed forces. Factories in the United States converted from civilian to war production with amazing speed. Firms that had made vacuum cleaners before the war began to produce machine guns. As men went into the armed forces, women took their places in war plants. By 1945, more than two million women were working in American war industries. In shipyards and aircraft plants, Rosie the riveter became a common sight. Officials discovered that women could perform the duties of eight of every 10 jobs normally done by men. Most governments, both Allied and Axis, had to ration the amount of consumer goods each person could use. In the United States, rationed items included meats, butter, sugar, fats, oil, coffee, canned foods, shoes, and gasoline. Congress gave the president power to freeze prices, salaries, and wages at their levels of September 15, 1941. The United States imposed a special excise tax on such luxury items as jewelry and cosmetics. The government also set up a civil-defense system to protect the country from attack. Many cities practiced "blackouts" in which cities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts dimmed their lights. Ordinarily, the glare from their lights made ships near the shore easy targets for submarines. Every country in the Americas eventually declared war on the Axis, but only Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United States actually provided military forces. Great Britain and the United States worked out the broad strategic outlines of the war. They considered Germany the greater and closer enemy. The Allies fought to preserve their countries and stabilize Europe, as well as destroy Nazism and establish democracy. The Soviet aim was to drive out the Nazis and emerge strong enough to continue communization of the world. Germany and its six allies were known as the Axis. The Allies mobilized about 62 million men and women, while the Axis mobilized about half that number. The goal of the Axis powers was simple. Germany intended to build up a powerful empire by occupying territory to the east and south. Then, after overrunning France, it would use air assaults to force Britain to make peace. Hitler had two aims: His ally, Benito Mussolini, had his own aims: Italy hoped to take advantage of German successes to grab territory for itself. Japan had no plans for invading the United States mainland. That was followed by moves into Austria and Czechoslovakia, and finally, on September 1, 1939, German forces invaded Poland. That brought a declaration of war from France and Britain. Some historians believe that the Soviet Union leadership knew in the spring or early summer of that Germany planned to invade Poland in September. Thus, the Soviet Union signed a nonaggression pact with Germany just two weeks before the attack. They also made a secret agreement to divide Poland with the Germans after the conquest. Also, despite having signed a non-aggression treaty with Joseph Stalin, Hitler turned on his ally and prepared to become the master of Europe. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941. It was quite important in strategic terms, with the Mediterranean and the British African Empire at stake. It was the only theater in which the Western Allies engaged both German and Italian ground forces. Hitler did not want British planes within striking distance of his one major oil source, the Ploiesti fields in Romania, and in November 1941, he prepared his soldiers to join in the fight. More than 1 million German and Italian prisoners of war were taken. Following seesawing control of Libya and parts of Egypt, British Commonwealth forces succeeded in pushing the Axis back. The dispersion of the Axis forces throughout Europe during this time was an important reason why the Allies were able to gain the upper hand in North Africa. Hitler was preoccupied with the Russian front and many divisions of the German army were already committed to it. North Africa was essentially used as a springboard for the Allied invasion of Sicily in July and Italy in September of the same year. Along with worldwide domination, Hitler also aimed to rid the world of various ethnic, religious, national, and secular groups. The Holocaust began in 1941 and continued until 1945. The goal of the

Nazis was to attempt, on an industrial scale, to assemble and exterminate as many people as possible. Concentration camps were established and mass executions carried out. The Jews of Europe were the main targets, but Hitler also targeted Poles, Slavs, gypsies, the disabled, and gay men. By the end of the war, approximately six million people had been killed by the German Gestapo or the SS.

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During the war 17 million new civilian jobs were created, industrial productivity increased by 96 percent, and corporate profits after taxes doubled. The government expenditures helped bring about the business recovery that had eluded the New Deal. War needs directly consumed over one-third of the output of industry, but the expanded productivity ensured a remarkable supply of consumer goods to the people as well. America was the only that saw an expansion of consumer goods despite wartime rationing. By , as a result of wage increases and overtime pay, real weekly wages before taxes in manufacturing were 50 percent higher than in . The war also created entire new technologies, industries, and associated human skills. The war brought full employment and a fairer distribution of income. Blacks and women entered the workforce for the first time. Wages increased; so did savings. The war brought the consolidation of union strength and far-reaching changes in agricultural life. Housing conditions were better than they had been before. In addition, because the mobilization included the ideological argument that the war was being fought for the interests of common men and women, social solidarity extended far beyond the foxholes. Public opinion held that the veterans should not return jobless to a country without opportunity and education. That led to the GI Bill, which helped lay the foundation for the remarkable postwar expansion that followed. The war also made us more of a middle-class society than we had been before. It is no exaggeration to say that America won the war abroad and the peace at home at the same time. But we have much to learn from that achievement as we face our troubles today. Historians, economists, and politicians have long wondered why this remarkable social and economic mobilization of latent human and physical resources required a war. The answer, I think, is partly ideological. World War II provided the ideological breakthrough that finally allowed the U. Despite the New Deal, even President Roosevelt had been constrained from intervening massively enough to stimulate a full recovery. By he had lost his working majority in Congress, and a conservative coalition was back, stifling the New Deal programs. When the economy had begun to bounce back, FDR pulled back on government spending to balance the budget, which contributed to the recession of . The war was like a wave coming over that conservative coalition; the old ideological constraints collapsed and government outlays powered a recovery. For a time the government became the purchaser of one-half of all the goods produced by the American people. The stereotype of FDR as a regulation-lover flies in the face of experience in the s, when Roosevelt ended his cold war with business. Wartime planning was far more corporatist than New Deal planning, with far less class warfare. Eleanor Roosevelt was still much more anti-business than Franklin, and was often furious at him. After , antitrust enforcement virtually shut down. Despite the entente with business, FDR was still willing to go forward on the employment of blacks and women, in part because he believed that full productivity and wartime morale required it. He also continued to advance trade unionism. He did insist, for example, that Ford Motor Company live up to its responsibilities under the Wagner Act. When Ford refused, Roosevelt cancelled a lucrative government contract. This helped to produce the momentum for the big Ford strike in the spring of that brought the first union into Ford. But on other regulatory issues FDR compromised. A government that depended on these businesses to mobilize during the war could not be slapping them with antitrust suits at the same time. Basically, Roosevelt made the decision that he had to mobilize the proprietors of the mines, the factories, and the shops. He realized Congress could provide the money, but it could not build the planes, design the tanks, or assemble the weapons. Without the cooperation of industry, massive production would never get off the ground. He recognized also that private business could not find all the capital required for the expansion of the plants nor take the risk that the end of the war would leave them with no orders and excess capacity. So the federal government, through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, advanced the necessary money to expand the factories, often leasing them to industry. The government developed new sources of supply for raw materials and created quick mass transportation. The government also went into the business of producing synthetic rubber and aluminum, as well as other emerging industries,

and helped stimulate new technologies. Contrary to the stereotype of a wartime "command economy," there was a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit in sharp contrast to the situation in Germany or in socialist, centrally planned economies. He allowed business to realize profits. He used government to create markets and to help business set up new plants and equipment, which business often leased and later bought cheaply after the war. It is hard for us to imagine today how such an entrepreneurial spirit could co-exist with war mobilization, but one did. One reason, of course, was the opportunity to profit, though the wartime tax on excess profits prevented the kind of windfalls made during World War I. More fundamentally, a spirit developed within each business enterprise to produce better than its competitors to serve the country. In his fireside chats, Roosevelt explained to the people over and over again why their productive genius had to be mobilized to win the war. Buoyed by the strong morale the president fostered, business and labor worked together to get the "E-for-excellence" citations that he spread around. It was not just producing more than your competitor, it was producing more than you did the previous quarter, and the quarter before that. Overall, the economy grew at a rate of 11 or 12 percent annually throughout the war. When he was being urged by his military advisers to function more as a economic czar, Roosevelt rejected that role. The military was constantly urging him to institute compulsory national service, in which people had either to enlist or work in one of the military plants to which the government would assign them. Roosevelt successfully resisted that idea throughout the war, on the theory that, somehow, the momentum of democracy would be sufficient: If the jobs were out there, people would put their mattresses on top of their cars and go to where the jobs were. He had this extraordinary vision of the highways filled with people going south, going west. In one fireside chat, he advised people to get maps. And the Hammond company in New York sold out their entire stock of 2, maps in a single morning. Even though the mobilization was chaotic and there were sometimes too many people in some places and too few people in other places, it worked. And America still produced more than any other country without the regimented manpower that some in the military wanted. Roosevelt resisted and delayed most of the decisions that concentrated government power. For example, in the spring of , when there was a rudimentary system of wage and price control, Harold Smith, his budget director, declared it was time for comprehensive controls. But the president was worried that it was adding up to an overly regimented economy, and he rejected the proposal. Despite the mobilization, large segments of the economy were unaffected by the controls. No one was told where to move or work. Production for the government was still freely entered into by producers and government in a contractual arrangement; and business argued about those contracts all the time. Private property remained predominant throughout the country and still there were profits. In the World War II experience, the things we revere about capitalism the parts that spur energy, efficiency, and entrepreneurial skill were still in place. What the war did was tap that energy, not constrain it. In the early years of the war, Roosevelt consciously pursued a conversion program to shift industry to a wartime footing. Lingerie factories began making camou- flage netting, baby carriages became field hospital food carts. Lipstick cases became bomb cases, beer cans went to hand grenades, adding machines to automatic pistols, and vacuum cleaners to gas mask parts. Behind these shifts was planning; someone had to perceive the similarity between lipstick cases and cartridges. Though FDR delayed converting large consumer industries, such as autos, as long as possible, there was a clear and deliberate plan. But it was not without a measure of planning. But the Cold War has now ended, and there is not even a shred of a conversion policy. And one of the dominant lessons of World War II is that unless there is a plan for conversion or reconversion, people are subject to the whims of the free market. Wartime conversion was not without hardships, but most of them resulted from too little planning, not too much. In , after delaying, the government finally had to force the automobile industry to convert their plants to the manufacture of planes. Four hundred thousand automobile workers were thrown out on the streets until that conversion could take place. All the auto dealers and salespersons were suddenly out of jobs. Eleanor Roosevelt had an altercation with General Motors Chairman William Knudsen because he had been unwilling to accept a plan a year earlier. What made it finally work was the recognition that there had to be a plan, that the government was behind the plan, and the plan had public support. In , despite all the talk about it, there is no collective effort to plan for the aftermath of the Cold War. World War II produced remarkable social gains. At war production plants, attempts to boost morale such as holding more softball

games, and building additional canteens and health clubs also fostered a sense of community. The logic of mobilization produced a logic of social advance. She proved that absentee rates were high in the factories because worried women were going home to care for their children. She got restaurants to prepare hot meals so women could bring home hot dinners. The productivity rates soared as a result of these measures. When Henry Kaiser built his big shipyard in California, the government paid for a twenty-four-hour child care center. It was a state-of-the-art facility with the best nursery school teachers, because it was seen as a pioneering test of early education. Workers on every shift could bring their children. If they worked at night they could bring their children to sleep. If they worked the day shift their children received an education that they had never had before. The children, especially those from lower class families, showed enormous gains. But when the war ended, all the centers were shut down.

9: American Propaganda in World War II

Introduction. World War II was the mightiest struggle humankind has ever seen. It killed more people, cost more money, damaged more property, affected more people, and caused more far-reaching changes in nearly every country than any other war in history.

It spent millions on radio broadcasts and motion pictures, hoping to reach a large audience. Madison Avenue techniques generated a push back in Mexico, especially, where well-informed locals resisted heavy-handed American influence. A deal was reached whereby , Mexican citizens living in the United States served in the American forces; over were killed in combat. Following the December 7, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor , most of Latin America either severed relations with the Axis powers or declared war on them. As a result, many nations including all of Central America , the Dominican Republic , Mexico , Chile , Peru , Argentina , and Venezuela suddenly found that they were now dependent on the United States for trade. The parties agreed upon set prices, often with a high premium, but the various nations lost their ability to bargain and trade in the open market. Shortages of consumer goods and other products were also a problem during the war years. The demands of the American war industry and a scarcity of shipping caused many goods to be unavailable in Latin America, and so the prices for what was available increased. Gasoline and other oil products were expensive and difficult to obtain. Food shortages were a problem in the cities. Ultimately, all of these factors resulted in inflation. Peru, however, was an exception. In Peru, the government placed price controls on various products; hence, its foreign reserves did not increase as much as some of the other Latin American states and it lost badly-needed capital. Argentina, despite its pro-German leanings and its hostility towards the United States, did very well as trade increased rapidly. Panama also benefited economically, mainly because of increased ship traffic and goods passing through the canal. In Puerto Rico , the alcohol industry boomed because access to European markets ceased. Petroleum-rich Mexico and Venezuela benefitted from the elevated price of oil. Mexico used this commodity to force a deal on its terms with American and European oil companies for the nationalization of its oil industry in The United Kingdom and other European nations, including their colonies, logically received the majority of the aid, because the chaos of war was much closer to them. Brazil received three-quarters of the Lend-Lease assistance distributed in Latin America. Ecuador received some, mainly for the building of an airbase in the Galapagos , and both Colombia and the Dominican Republic used Lend-Lease to modernize their militaries in exchange for their participation in the defense of the Panama Canal and the Caribbean sea lanes. Peru received some aid, but by the western coast of South America had lost all strategic significance, because it was so far away from the main theaters of war, and thus Peru lost its immediate justification for Lend-Lease weaponry. The Central American nations suffered a similar fate as Peru. By , the Pan-American Highway , which the United States was building for defense purposes, ceased to be a priority, and so work on the road, as well as military aid, was halted. Ecuador also was unhappy because, at the end of the Ecuadorian-Peruvian War , it had lost to Peru. President Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, for example, admired Hitler for his style and his militaristic rallies. According to Leonard, in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, the strong sense of unity and purpose created by fascism was quite attractive. All three nations had an influential fascist political party[dubious “ discuss]. With the start of the war in September , Axis ships could no longer cross the Atlantic for commerce, and so trade between Latin America and Germany and Italy ceased. Losing trading partners hurt some of the Latin American states, and in most cases the United States was the only country that was able to replace the Germans and Italians. Mexico, and to a lesser extent Brazil, cooperated with the United States in shutting down Axis cells. Chile and Argentina, on the other hand, allowed enemy agents to operate in their countries for most of the war, which was a source of considerable discord between the two nations and the United States. Many of the Latin American states also had to deal with large numbers of immigrants from Axis countries. Colombia, for example, had a population of about 4, German immigrants in , as well as a small village of Japanese farmers in Cauca. Many of the Germans in Colombia were involved in the air transportation industry as employees of SCADTA , so the United States was concerned that they might be

engaged in espionage or even plot to convert civilian aircraft into bombers for an attack against the Panama Canal. As a result, the United States government pressured Colombia into monitoring and interning the immigrants or, in some cases, deporting them to the United States. The same occurred in other Latin American countries as well. Throughout much of the war, the Germans operated spy networks in all of the most prominent countries of the region, including Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, and others. Operation Bolivar, as it was called, was centered on clandestine radio communications from their base in Argentina to Berlin in Germany, but it also utilized Spanish merchant vessels for the shipment of paper-form intelligence back to Europe. The latter was possible because of Spanish cooperation with German intelligence agencies during the war. Although Argentina and Chile eventually "cracked down" on the Axis agents operating in their countries in early 1945, some Bolivar activity continued up until the end of the European war in May 1945. From Guatemala the propaganda made its way to the German embassies in other countries, often as packages aboard the Salvadoran airline TACA. The war led to a diplomatic thaw more generally: This was however a very quiet and unrecognized part of El Salvador contribution in World War 2. On September 5, 1945, after four hours of fighting in Santiago, Chilean authorities rounded up and executed nearly sixty rebels who had surrendered. About twenty others were killed during the fighting.

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