

World War II

As you read, look for

- causes of World War II,
- the bombing of Pearl Harbor,
- West Virginians who gained fame during World War II,
- ways in which West Virginia aided the war effort at home,
- changes in West Virginia's economy as a result of the war,
- terms: *dictator*, *fascism*, *Nazi*, *Mein Kampf*.

People all over the world experienced the Great Depression. In some countries, **dictators** (individuals who rule countries through military might) came to power as a result of the economic distress by promising a return to better times. The dictators of four nations—Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union, and Japan—used the unsettling times as an opportunity to expand their power and territory.



In Italy, Benito Mussolini organized the Fascist Party in 1919. **Fascism** is a form of government in which a dictator controls the economic and social lives of citizens, stresses nationalism at the expense of human rights, and eliminates all opposition. Mussolini gained power because the Italian people thought he could restore Italy to its previous glory and fame. In 1935, Mussolini sent Italian troops into Ethiopia in North Africa. He wanted to make Ethiopia part of an Italian colonial empire.

In Germany, economic conditions led to the organization of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party. One of its leaders was Adolf Hitler. In his book *Mein Kampf* (or "My Struggle"), Hitler outlined his plans for Germany and described his hatred of the Jews. He believed that the Germans, or Aryans, were a superior race, and he blamed the Jewish people for all of Germany's problems.

In 1933, the Nazis gained control of the German government. Once in power, Hitler began a program of economic improvements. He formed groups like the American CCC to build parks and roads. The men in these

And Adolf Hitler was chancellor of Germany during World War II. Opposite page: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini created the Berlin-Rome Axis.



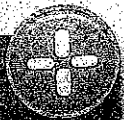
groups, however, also received military training. Soon the men's shovels were replaced with guns as Hitler rebuilt the German war machine, creating a navy and an air force from scratch. He started persecuting Jews and other "undesirables." In 1936, Hitler and Mussolini signed a treaty and formed the Berlin-Rome Axis. Japan joined the Axis Powers in 1940.

By 1930, Joseph Stalin had become a dictator in the Soviet Union. He rapidly built up the country's industries and forced the peasants onto collective farms. Although Hitler and Stalin did not trust each other, they signed a **nonaggression pact** (an agreement not to wage war against each other) in August 1939. In a secret part of the agreement, the two countries divided eastern Europe between themselves. Germany got the western part, and the Soviet Union received the eastern part.

World War II Breaks Out

In the late 1930s, most countries watched these hostile countries from afar. They were concerned with their own problems and did not want to become involved in a confrontation. As a result, when Hitler began to expand German territory in the late 1930s, Great Britain and France agreed to let him take over the lands. This act of **appeasement** (a policy of giving an aggressor nation what it wants in order to avoid war) did not work for long.

Something
Extra!



In 1934, Hitler gave himself the title of **Führer** (leader).

2.1.00 This American-made jeep was used by the Polish First Army as part of the U.S. Lend-Lease program. On opposite page 100 The USS *Reuben James* was the first U.S. Navy ship sunk by hostile action in World War II. On opposite page 101 This photograph was taken by a Japanese aircraft as it attacked Pearl Harbor. The explosion in the center is a torpedo strike on the USS *West Virginia*.

When Hitler invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, Great Britain and France finally declared war on Germany. However, since neither Great Britain nor France was ready for war, they were unable to really help Poland. As a result, by the end of September, Germany and the Soviet Union had divided Poland between themselves. After the fall of Poland, Europe was quiet for a while.

As hostilities heated up in Europe, similar situations occurred in the Pacific region. Japan, an industrial nation, did not have such basic raw materials as coal, iron ore, and rubber to use in its manufacturing plants. As a result, it decided to take those materials from China. During the 1930s, the military gained almost complete control of Japan, and it was during this time that the Japanese attacked China and took over the province of Manchuria and most of the Chinese coastal area.

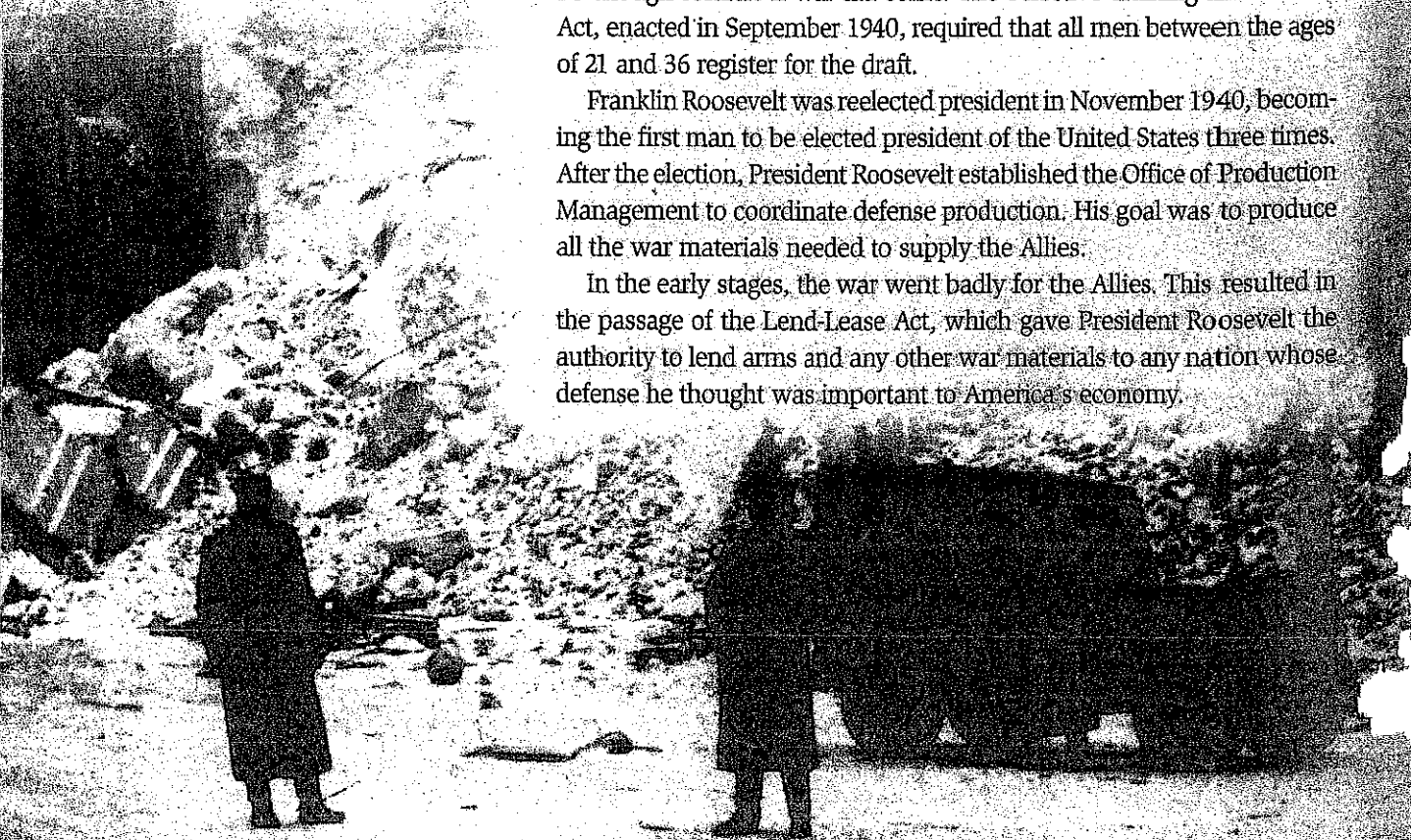
In 1941, Hideki Tojo became the prime minister of Japan. He, like Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini, was a dictator. Unlike the other three, he was not an absolute dictator. He supported a strong military to assure that Japan would have a strong industrial economy.

The United States Enters World War II

Although most Americans disliked Hitler, they did not want to become involved in a war. In 1939, President Roosevelt declared that the United States would remain neutral. He did ask Congress to allow the United States to sell arms to the Allies if the Allies paid cash for the goods and used their own ships to transport them. This policy was called "cash and carry." The president also asked Congress for money to build up the defenses of the United States and for legislation to ensure that there would be enough soldiers if war did come. The Selective Training and Service Act, enacted in September 1940, required that all men between the ages of 21 and 36 register for the draft.

Franklin Roosevelt was reelected president in November 1940, becoming the first man to be elected president of the United States three times. After the election, President Roosevelt established the Office of Production Management to coordinate defense production. His goal was to produce all the war materials needed to supply the Allies.

In the early stages, the war went badly for the Allies. This resulted in the passage of the Lend-Lease Act, which gave President Roosevelt the authority to lend arms and any other war materials to any nation whose defense he thought was important to America's economy.

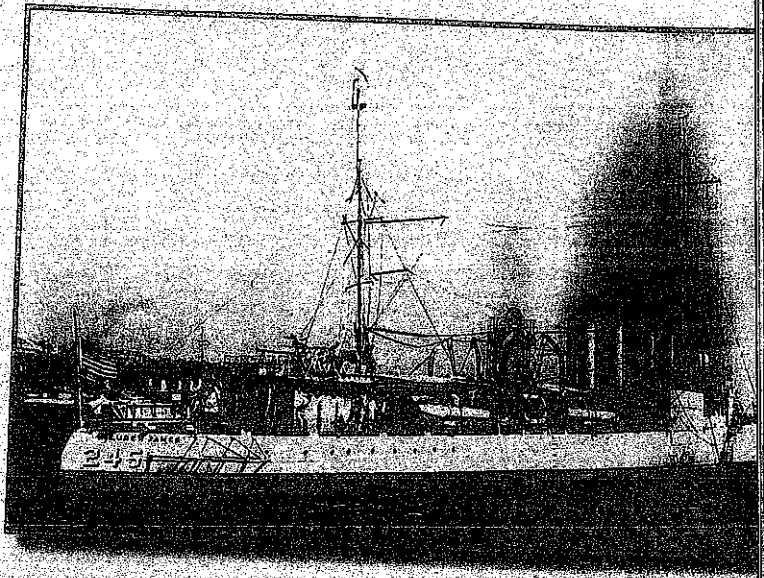


In the Atlantic Ocean, Allied merchant ships increasingly came under attack by German ships and submarines. To protect the ships, President Roosevelt ordered the United States Navy to escort the vessels carrying lend-lease supplies and to fire on any German warships they encountered. On October 30, 1941, a German submarine sank the U.S.S. destroyer *Reuben James* off the coast of Iceland, killing over one hundred sailors. The sinking of the *Reuben James* gave President Roosevelt a reason to declare war on Germany. However, he still hesitated.

THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

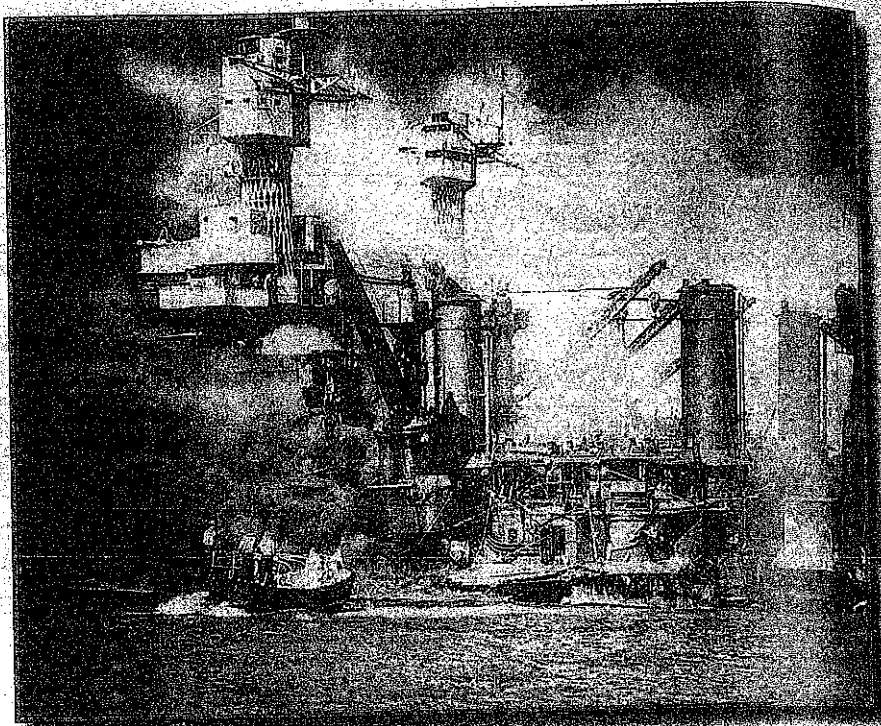
Japan continued to expand into the islands of the Pacific Ocean. To protest that aggression, the United States cut off the sale of oil and metal, raw materials that Japan needed to maintain its industries. Then, when Japan invaded French Indochina (present-day Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam), President Roosevelt froze all Japanese assets in the United States. Japan protested these actions and entered into negotiations with the United States to resolve the issue. When negotiations between the two countries broke down, Japan began to plan a secret attack on the United States.

Around 7:55 a.m. Honolulu time, on Sunday December 7, 1941, over 360 Japanese planes bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. In the two-hour surprise attack, 8 battleships and 3 destroyers were sunk, more than 150 planes were destroyed, and 2,400 people were killed.



Something Extra!

On December 7, the *West Virginia* was hit by seven torpedoes and two armor-piercing bombs.



One of the battleships sunk was the U.S.S. *West Virginia*. Six months later, the ship was raised; the next year was spent rebuilding it. In 1944, the *West Virginia* returned to battle duty in the Philippines. When the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the *West Virginia* was only a few miles away, anchored in Tokyo Bay. The ship carried veterans home after the war.

President Roosevelt described December 7 as a "date which will live in infamy." On December 8, he asked Congress for and received a formal declaration of war against Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The United States could no longer isolate itself from what was happening throughout the world. Although it had tried to avoid another war, it now found itself an active participant in the largest war ever fought.

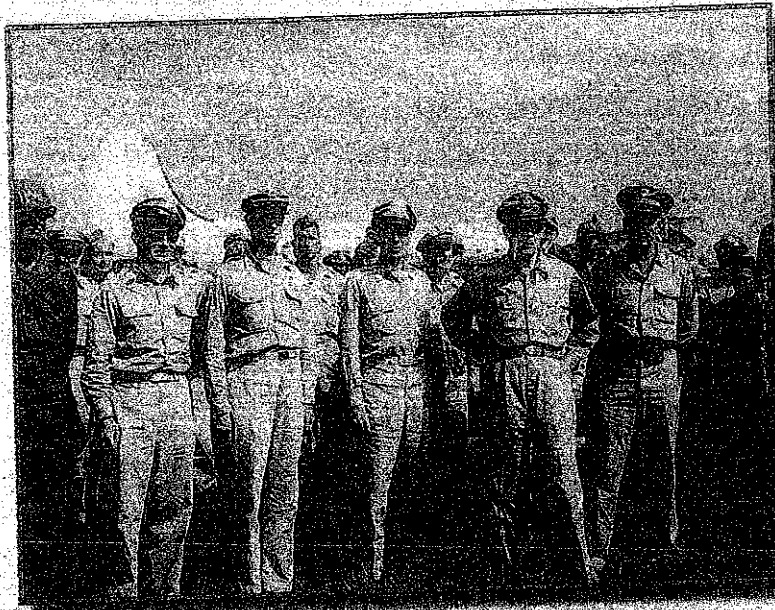
WEST VIRGINIANS IN THE WAR

Millions of Americans enlisted in the armed forces after the attack on Pearl Harbor. A total of 233,985 West Virginians served in the armed forces during the war, including 66,716 volunteers. An estimated 4,691 died in action, while 11,777 were wounded. Many women also served. They were restricted to women's branches, but they served faithfully. These women's branches included the Women's Army Corps (WAC), Women in the Air Force (WAF), and the Women Air Service Pilots (WASP).

For their service in World War II, eleven West Virginians received the Medal of Honor, the highest military award given by Congress. One of them, Sergeant J. J. Spurrier of Bluefield, was the most decorated Army ground force volunteer in the war. He received his award for singlehandedly killing twenty-five German soldiers and capturing twenty-two others at Achain, France. In 2009, the only surviving Medal of Honor winner from West Virginia was Hershel Woodrow (Woody) Williams from Fairmont. Williams received his award for the continuous attacks he made on Japanese machine gun batteries on Iwo Jima.



The USS *West Virginia* after being hit on December 7, 1941.
Hershel W. Williams after being awarded the Medal of Honor.



Several West Virginians achieved high military positions during the war. General Delos C. Emmons from Huntington became the Army commander and military governor of the Hawaiian Department ten days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Lieutenant General Richard K. Sutherland of Elkins served as chief of staff to General Douglas MacArthur and received the Japanese surrender papers at Manila. Lieutenant Commander Frederick B. Warder of Grafton was the commander of the submarine *Seawolf*.

Admiral Felix Stump of Parkersburg commanded the aircraft carrier *Lexington* and was cited for heroism in the assaults on the Gilbert and Marshall islands.

THE HOME FRONT

West Virginians at home supported the war in a number of ways. They purchased war bonds, the money from which was used to finance the

war. Schoolchildren in Wood County sold enough war bonds and stamps to purchase 153 jeeps. Schools also organized committees to gather scrap metal and paper for recycling into the war effort. In West Virginia, as in the rest of the nation, citizens had to ration (limit their use or consumption of) such scarce items as butter, sugar, gasoline, and tires. It was not until 1946 that West Virginians could again buy sugar without ration coupons. Many families also planted "victory gardens."

On December 17, 1941, the general manager of The Greenbrier received a telephone call from the U.S. State Department asking if the resort could accommodate certain diplomats and foreign citizens who were being expelled from

Washington, D.C. Two days later, 159 German and Hungarian diplomats arrived at White Sulphur Springs on a secretly scheduled, eleven-car Pullman train from Washington. By mid-May 1942, the number of diplomats funneled through The Greenbrier reached its peak of 1,000. By the time these "guests" were sent to other detention centers, The Greenbrier had hosted a total of 1,697 persons representing five different nations, including Japan.



Top: Lt. General Richard Sutherland (center) with General Douglas MacArthur in Japan in 1945. Bottom: Japanese guests at the Greenbrier. Opposite Page: This political cartoon illustrates how President Roosevelt fueled patriotism during the war.

West Virginians action after the departure of the foreign diplomats, representatives of positions during the U.S. Army and Navy contacted the management of the resort. The C. Emmons from branches of the armed forces wanted to use The Greenbrier as a the Army convalescent and recuperation center. To gain control of the facility, the federal government "condemned" The Greenbrier under the War Powers Act. A few days after the condemnation, however, the government did pay the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway (the resort's owner) about \$3.3 million for its loss of the resort. The new army facility, named Ashford General Hospital, was the chief of staff to the resort until the war ended. On June 30, 1946, it was officially closed. Six months later, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad bought The Greenbrier and returned the resort to its original owner, paying a little less than the 1942 selling price.

Commander Frederick Grafton was the first submarine skipper to be cited for heroism.

A number of war bonds and stamps were used to finance the war effort. Schools and churches were used to gather scrap metal, which was recycling into war materials. In West Virginia, as in other states, citizens had to ration sugar, gasoline, and other necessities. In 1946, West Virginia was the only state that had no sugar without rationing. Families also had to ration other necessities.



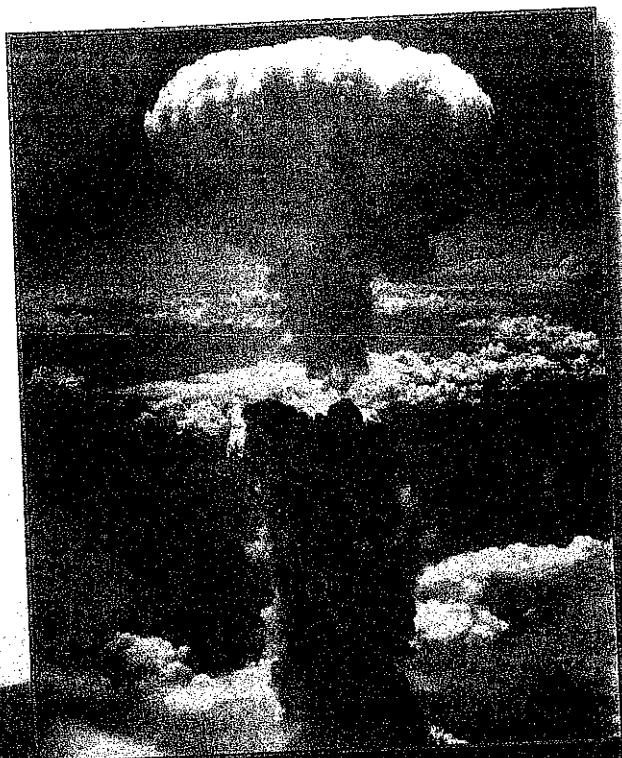
On December 17, 1941, the Greenbrier was designated as a war training ground. The terrain (land and its natural features) in northeastern West Virginia was similar to German-held northern Italy. For that reason, the resort could be used for training troops bound for Italy. Thousands of soldiers were used in training troops bound for Italy. Thousands of soldiers were sent to Grant, Pendleton, Randolph, and Tucker counties to learn combat techniques in mountainous terrain. Nationally known mountain climbers and skiers taught assault climbing using Seneca Rocks and Skywater Canyon. Evidence of this training can still be found at Seneca Rocks. Many of the 30,000 pitons (spikes) and spiked rings driven into the rock as climbing supports can still be seen. In addition, new explosives and firing devices were field tested at Bear Rock Range in the Alleghenies.

World War II Comes to an End

The United States fought on two fronts during World War II. Troops in Europe concentrated their efforts against Italy and Germany, while forces in the Pacific fought against Japan.

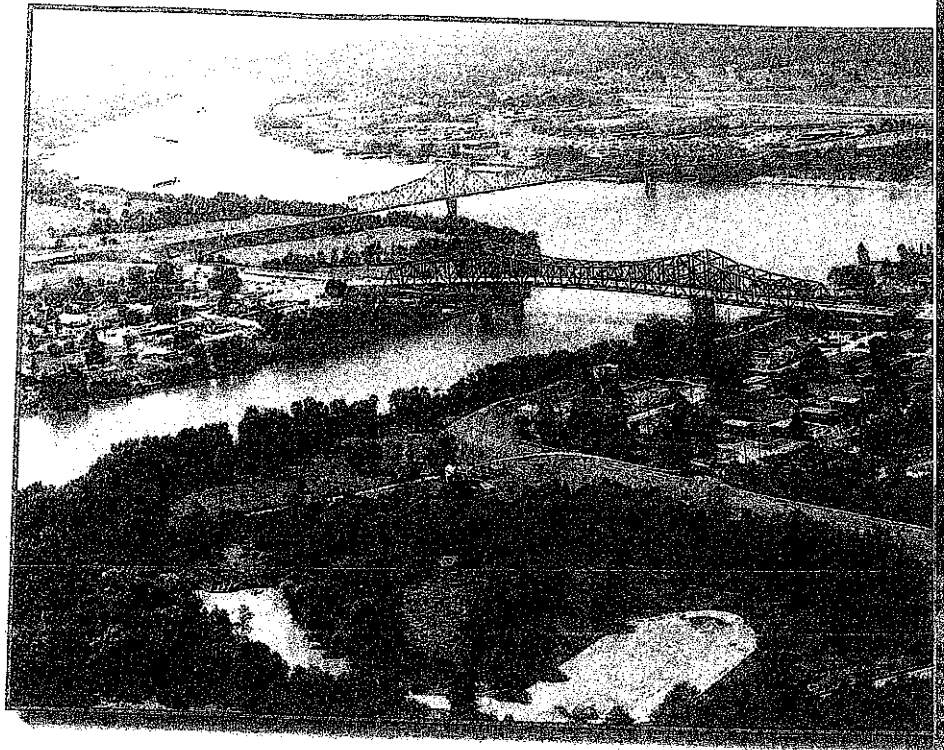
By early 1945, Allied troops had pushed the German army back across the Rhine River into Germany. Europe was freed from Hitler's control in April 1945, when the Soviet and American troops came together at the river Elbe in central Germany. Hitler committed suicide on April 30, and the last German forces surrendered to the Allies in May.

In the Pacific, President Harry Truman, who had become president upon the death of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945, authorized the use of a new weapon—an atomic bomb—on Japan. On August 6, the *Enola Gay*, a U.S. bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The bomb virtually destroyed the city of approximately 225,000 people. Since the Japanese refused to surrender, a second atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki on August 9. Six days later, on August 15, Japan surrendered to the Allies, ending World War II.



Effects of World War II

World War II pulled the United States out of the last stages of the Great Depression and brought a number of economic changes to West Virginia. Because Japan controlled most of the world's rubber supply at the beginning of the war, the United States had to manufacture synthetic rubber. The world's largest plant for this purpose was built in Institute, near Charleston. In addition, ocean-going vessels were produced at the Point Pleasant shipyards. Gun barrels were made at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Plant in South Charleston. Because so many workers were required to run the plant, the Navy built a housing development for employees in nearby St. Albans.



Reviewing the Section

Reviewing the Content

1. Why did the United States enter World War II?
2. Name two West Virginians who gained fame during World War II.
3. Name some businesses that were established in West Virginia during World War II.

Using the Content

Prepare a list of ten questions that you would like to ask one of West Virginia's Medal of Honor recipients.

Extending the Reading Skill

1. What is the subject of the cartoon on page 601?
2. Why do you think the cartoon was drawn?
3. Why did the author use the words *inspiration* and *patriotism*?

Opposite Page, Top: Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.
Opposite Page, Bottom: Nagasaki as it looked after the atomic bomb was dropped.
Above: Shipyards at Point Pleasant produced ocean-going ships during the war.

CHAPTER 15: FROM FLAPPERS TO WORLD WAR II

Section 3: World War II

Directions: Use the information from pages 594-603 to complete the following statements.

Introduction

1. In some countries, _____ came to power as a result of the _____ distress by promising a return to _____ times.
2. In Italy, Benito _____ organized the _____ Party in 1919.
3. Fascism is a form of government in which a _____ controls the economic and _____ lives of citizens, stresses _____ at the expense of _____ rights, and eliminates all _____.
4. In 1935, Mussolini sent Italian troops into _____ in North _____.
5. In Germany, economic conditions led to the organization of the National Socialist (_____) Party. One of its leaders was _____.
6. In 1933, the Nazis gained control of the _____ government.
7. Once in power, _____ began a program of economic _____. He formed groups like the American _____.
8. The men in these groups, however, also received _____ training.
9. He started persecuting _____ and other “_____.”
10. In 1936, Hitler and Mussolini signed a _____ and formed the _____ Axis. _____ joined the Axis Powers in 1940.
11. By 1930, Joseph _____ had become a dictator in the _____.
12. Although Hitler and Stalin did not trust each other, they signed a _____ pact.

World War II Breaks Out

13. When Hitler began to _____ German territory in the late 1930s, Great Britain and _____ agreed to let him take over the lands. This act of _____ did

Name: _____

Date: _____

not work for long.

14. When Hitler invaded _____ on September 1, 1939, _____ and _____ finally declared war on _____.
15. Japan, an _____ nation, did not have such basic _____ as coal, iron ore, and rubber.
16. It decided to take those materials from _____. During the 1930s, the _____ gained almost complete control of _____.
17. It was during this time that the _____ attacked _____.
18. In 1941, Hideki _____ became the _____ of Japan. He, like Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini, was a _____.

The United States Enters World War II

19. In 1939, President _____ declared that the United States would remain _____.
20. Franklin Roosevelt was _____ president in November 1940, becoming the _____ man to be elected president of the United States _____ times.
21. In the early stages, the war went _____ for the Allies. This resulted in the passage of the _____ Act, which gave President Roosevelt the authority to lend _____ and any other war materials to any nation whose _____ he thought was important to America's _____.
22. On October 30, 1941, a German _____ sank the U.S.S. destroyer _____ off the coast of Iceland, killing over one hundred _____.
23. Japan continued to expand into the islands of the _____.
24. To protest that _____, the United States cut off the sale of _____ and metal.
25. Then, when Japan invaded French _____, President Roosevelt _____ all Japanese _____ in the United States.
26. Around 7:55 a.m. Honolulu time, on Sunday, _____, over 360 _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

- planes bombed the U.S. naval base at _____ Harbor in _____.
27. One of the battleships sunk was the U.S.S. _____. Six months later, the ship was _____; the next year was spent _____ it.
28. President Roosevelt described December 7 as a "date which will live in _____."
29. On December 8, he asked _____ for and received a formal declaration of war against _____. Three days later, _____ and _____ declared war on the United States.
30. A total of _____ West Virginians served in the armed forces during the war, including _____ volunteers.
31. For their service in World War II, _____ West Virginians received the Medal of _____, the highest military award given by _____.
32. General Delos C. _____ from Huntington became the Army commander and military governor of the _____ Department.
33. Lieutenant General Richard K. _____ of Elkins served as chief of _____ to General Douglas _____ and received the Japanese _____ papers.
34. West Virginians at _____ supported the war in a number of ways. They purchased war _____, the money from which was used to _____ the war.
35. In West Virginia, as in the rest of the nation, citizens had to _____ such scarce items as butter, sugar, _____, and _____.
36. On December 17, 1941, the general manager of The _____ received a telephone call from the U.S. _____ Department asking if the resort could accommodate certain _____ and _____ citizens who were being expelled from _____.
37. By the time these "guests" were sent to other _____ centers, The Greenbrier had hosted a total of _____ persons representing _____ different nations, including Japan.

Name: _____

Date: _____

38. The two branches of the armed forces (U.S. Army and Navy) wanted to use The Greenbrier as a _____ and _____ center. To gain _____ of the facility, the federal government “_____” The Greenbrier under the _____ Act.
39. During 1943 and 1944, the state was used as an army _____ and _____ ground. The terrain in _____ West Virginia was similar to German-held northern _____.
40. Nationally known _____ climbers and _____ taught assault climbing using _____ Rocks and _____ Canyon.

World War II Comes to an End

41. By early 1945, _____ troops had pushed the _____ army back across the _____ River into Germany.
42. Europe was freed from _____ control in April 1945.
43. In the Pacific, President Harry _____, who had become president upon the _____ of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945, authorized the use of a new weapon—an _____ bomb—on Japan. On August 6, the _____, a U.S. bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on _____.
44. On August 15, _____ surrendered to the Allies, ending _____.

Effects of World War II

45. World War II pulled the United States out of the last stages of the _____.
46. Because Japan controlled most of the world’s _____ supply at the beginning of the war, the United States had to manufacture _____ rubber. The world’s largest _____ for this purpose was built in _____, near Charleston.
47. In addition, _____-going vessels were produced at the _____ shipyards.