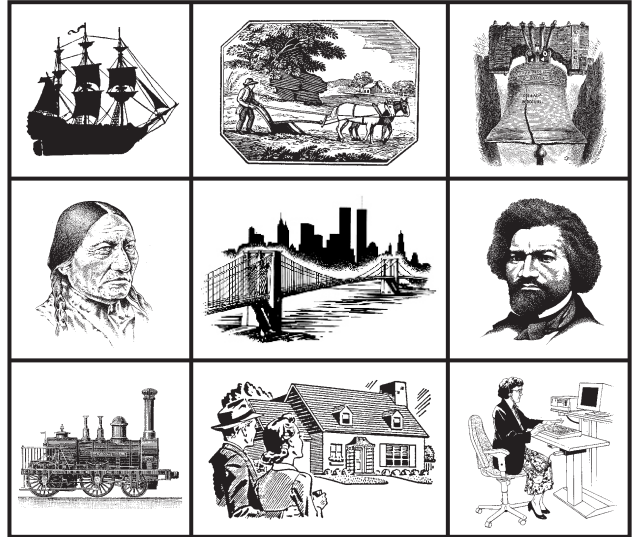


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# *Fasttrack to America's Past*

Age of Discovery to Present 7th Edition



An interactive learning guide for students of U.S. History

by David Burns

## **Section 7: Becoming a World Leader 1900 - 1950**

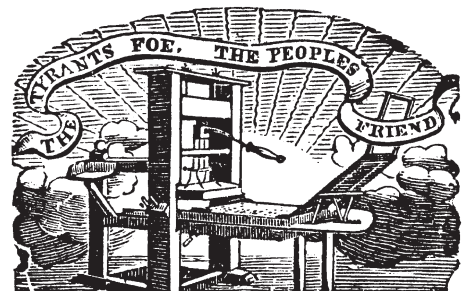


**The Teacher Key and additional resources to  
use with these pages are at:**

**[www.fasttrackteaching.com/ftap7](http://www.fasttrackteaching.com/ftap7)**

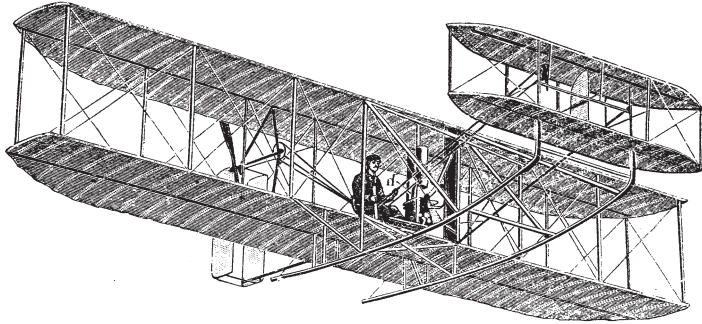
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# 7

## Becoming a World Leader: 1900 - 1950



*“Speak softly and carry a big stick.”*

*“And we won’t come back ’till it’s over over there!”*

*“Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?”*

*“I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a New Deal for the American people.”*



*“Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”*

# Study Checklist

When you have completed this section, you should be able to:



Identify and explain the context of the **Famous Quotes** shown on the Section Title Page.



Identify and explain the importance of the **Famous Names and Terms** listed on the topic summary pages in this section.



Identify on a map and explain the importance of the **Famous Places** shown on the maps in this section.



Explain the general sequence of events in this period and tell from memory the **Famous Years**:

- World War One began in Europe (**1914**).
- The stock market crashed (**1929**).
- Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president (**1932**).
- Pearl Harbor was attacked, bringing the U.S. into World War Two (**1941**).

## Take a Practice Test!



*A multiple-choice practice test for this section can be found on the Internet support site.*

**Textbook Page References:**



**Discuss or write briefly on such questions and topics as these:**

1. *What were the goals of the Progressive movement? What impact did the movement have on American life and laws?*
2. *What were the main reasons why World War One began? Why was the war so deadly? How did America's response to the war change? What were the main goals of President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points plan?*
3. *What were the main reasons the U.S. stock market rapidly grew, then crashed, in the late 1920s?*
4. *Explain the main steps FDR took to try to end the Great Depression. Were his policies successful? How did his policies change the role of the federal government in the lives of the American people?*
5. *An American leader during World War Two said Hitler and the Axis powers were not just after new territory, but were fighting "a counter-revolution against our ideas and ideals." In what ways was the war really about ideas and ideals?*
6. *How did America respond to the threat of the Soviet Union and communism in the years just after World War Two?*

# Timeline 1900 - 1950

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As you study the timeline, fill in the blanks using the word bank at the bottom of the page.

**First airplane flies** - It was invented by Wilbur and Orville \_\_\_\_\_.

**Panama Canal work begins** - It was \_\_\_\_\_ Roosevelt's big project.

**Pure Food and Drug Act** - It was a victory for the \_\_\_\_\_ movement.

**Model T Ford introduced** - Henry Ford also pushed for higher \_\_\_\_\_ for workers.

**World War I begins** - One terrible feature of this war was deadly \_\_\_\_\_ gas.

**U.S. enters WW I** - The war had already been underway for about \_\_\_\_\_ years.

**WW I ends** - Germany signed an \_\_\_\_\_ agreement to stop the killing.

**Prohibition begins** - It didn't stop abuse of \_\_\_\_\_, and ended in 1933.

**Women get voting rights** - It was the 19th Amendment to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Stock market crash** - The worst day was called "Black \_\_\_\_\_."

**FDR elected** - He promised voters what he called a "\_\_\_\_\_ Deal."

**New Deal programs begin** - Many, like the CCC, were aimed at creating new \_\_\_\_\_.

**Social Security Act** - It still provides many Americans' \_\_\_\_\_ money.

**World War II begins** - Hitler's attack on \_\_\_\_\_ started the war in Europe.

**Hitler takes France** - The attack was lightning fast warfare, called \_\_\_\_\_.

**Pearl Harbor attacked** - FDR called it "a day that will live in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Germany surrenders** - The date was called "\_\_\_\_\_ Day," for victory in Europe.

**Japan surrenders** - It surrendered after being hit with two \_\_\_\_\_ bombs.

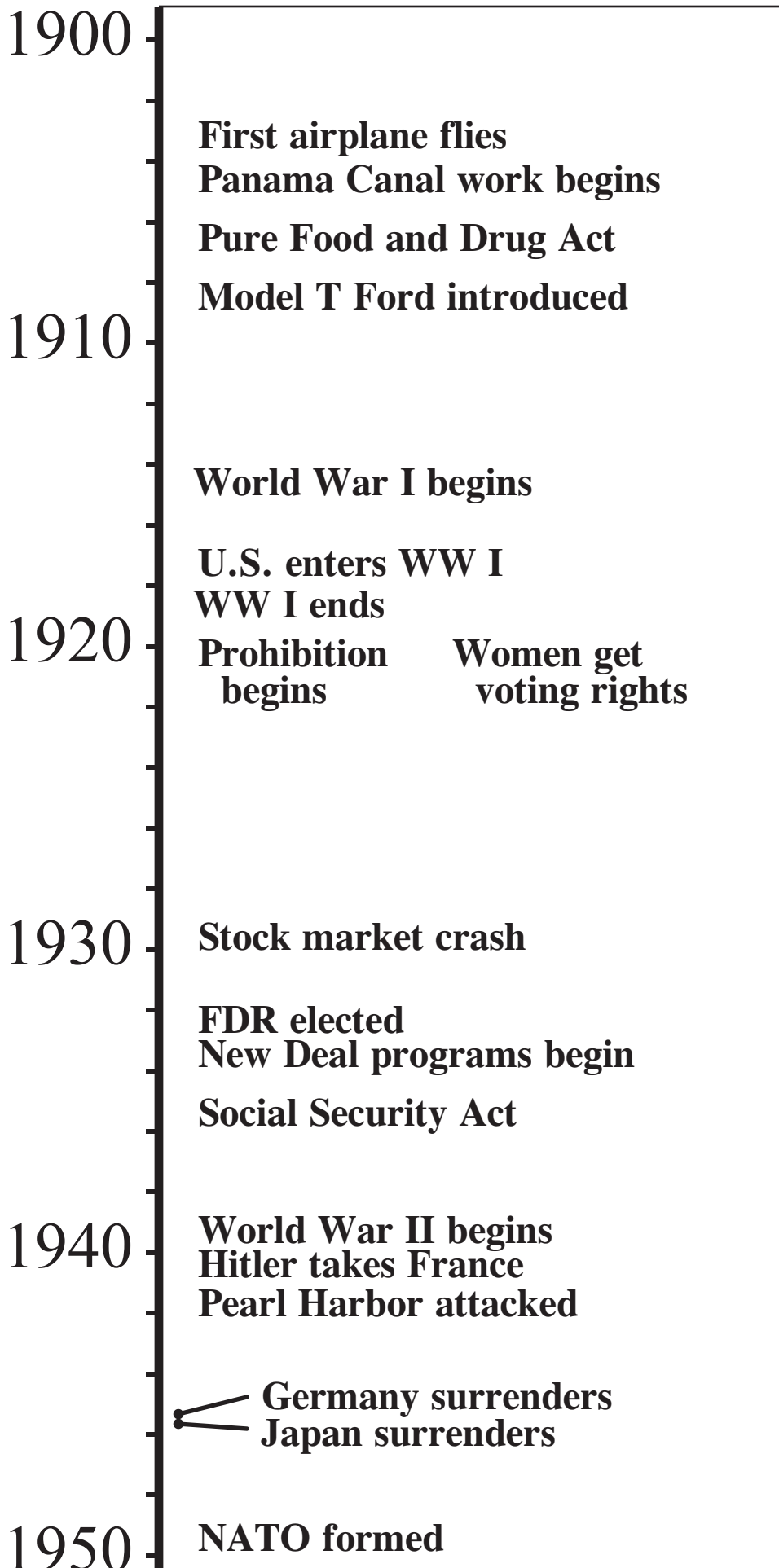
**NATO formed** - The countries of Western Europe were now worried about \_\_\_\_\_.

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Word bank to fill in the blanks: alcohol, armistice, atomic, blitzkrieg, Constitution, infamy, jobs, New, poison, Poland, Progressive, retirement, Russia, Theodore, three, Tuesday, VE, wages, Wright

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**TIMELINE: BECOMING A WORLD LEADER**



McKinley
Theodore Roosevelt
William Taft
Woodrow Wilson
W. Harding
Calvin Coolidge
Herbert Hoover
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Harry S. Truman



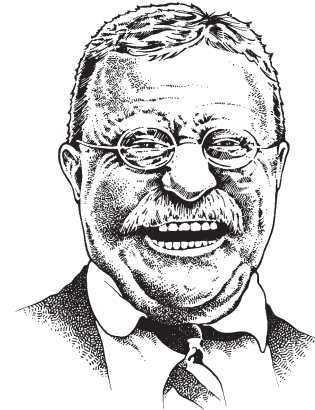
## DECADE: 1900s THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

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Theodore Roosevelt, imperialism, Panama Canal, Progressive movement, conservation, muckrakers, *The Jungle*, Pure Food and Drug Act, monopolies/trusts, socialism/socialist, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Henry Ford, Mother Jones, NAACP, W.E.B. Du Bois

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As 1900 rolled around, America was becoming a world power. In the Spanish American War (1898) our country helped free Cuba from Spain. The peace treaty transferred control of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico to the U.S. We kept control of these islands partly to help them, and partly to benefit ourselves. Many Americans were proud of America's expanding presence around the globe. Critics, however, called it imperialism and "un-American."

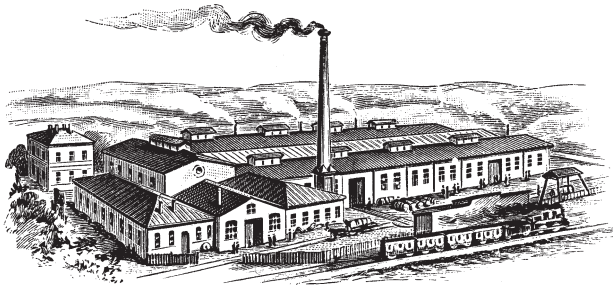


Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901. He believed America had a big role to play in the world, and should not avoid it. One good example is the Panama Canal, begun by the U.S. in 1904. The canal was a great engineering achievement, and cut the cost of world trade dramatically.

Theodore Roosevelt was also a great supporter of conservation measures designed to protect natural resources for future generations. He pushed for more wildlife sanctuaries, protected large areas of forests, and added a number of new national parks.

Many people, including Roosevelt, believed that reforms to help "the average guy" were badly needed because of the changes that had been occurring in America. This attitude was expressed in the Progressive movement. Journalists called muckrakers kept attention on the issues of Progressivism. They took photographs and wrote about problems like child labor, sweatshops, and the life of the poor in big cities. They exposed the ways big city bosses still controlled many American cities. They also wrote about unsafe practices in the food industry, and the danger of many medicines. Upton Sinclair's famous book *The Jungle* is the best

known example. It helped win Roosevelt's support for the proposed Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act, which were passed in 1906.



Roosevelt felt the power of the federal government had to grow to match the growing power of big business. He became known as the "trust buster" because of his efforts to stop businesses that joined together

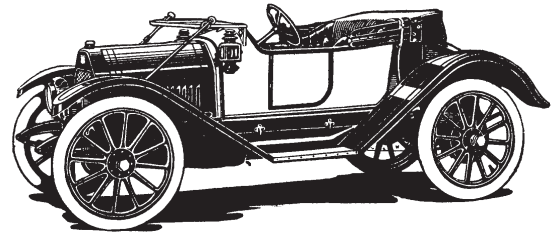
to form monopolies (also called trusts at that time). His administration sued in the courts to break up dozens of trusts controlling oil, beef, sugar, steel, and other products. He also pushed Congress to give the Interstate Commerce Commission more power to regulate businesses that operated across state lines, such as the railroads.

One reason the Progressive movement was so successful was that it had broad appeal to middle class Americans, not just the working classes and farmers. Many feared that if reforms were not made to improve life for workers, voters might turn instead to the more radical ideas of socialism. Socialists wanted the government to take over and operate the nation's factories and railroads. Socialists did help push many ideas of the Progressive movement forward. But the vast majority of Americans wanted to get ahead in the existing system of capitalism and free enterprise, not replace it. They wanted reform, not revolution.



The Progressive movement did not instantly solve all of America's problems. But it proved that the American system of government could respond to modern problems affecting ordinary citizens. (Compare this to Russia, where the Czar's refusal to make any reforms was already leading to a violent revolution.) The Progressive movement was not just part of national politics, however. At the local level, reform-minded mayors in many cities worked to improve schools, parks, and water systems. Some state governments began passing laws to improve workplace safety, and set up workmen's compensation systems to help support people injured on the job.

The main engine of growth and change in America, however, was not the government, but private industry and private individuals. Wilbur and Orville Wright, two bicycle mechanics from Ohio, went to the windy dunes of North Carolina to prove they could fly! The automobile, especially the Model T developed by Henry Ford, began changing the look of America in this decade. Ford began using moving assembly lines to achieve mass production of automobiles at a price ordinary people could afford. He later pushed the idea of paying workers higher wages to give them a better life and keep them productive.



The Progressive movement continued well into the 1910s and 1920s. Labor unions like the United Mine Workers and labor leaders like Mother Jones continued fighting against excessive work hours, dangerous work conditions, and child labor. Black leaders, including W.E.B. Du Bois, organized the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (the NAACP) to fight against racial discrimination. Success for most of these efforts was many years away. Still, there was a widespread feeling that progress for the common man was being made in America. The long lines on Ellis Island in the harbor of New York City proved that millions of immigrants from many other countries agreed.



Roosevelt helped his fellow Republican, William Taft, win the White House in the 1908 election, but was not satisfied with the job he did. In 1912 he ran as the candidate of a new political party, the Progressive Party (also called the Bull Moose Party), but the three-way split gave the election to Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat.

## MOTHER JONES FOR THE MINERS

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*Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was a fiery Irish immigrant who took up the cause of miners. She helped organize strikes for better conditions and pay, and fought against child labor. In 1903 her efforts took her to Colorado. This is a condensed excerpt from her autobiography.*

The state of Colorado belonged not to a republic but to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, the Victor Company and their dependencies [other companies]. The governor was their agent. Whenever the masters of the state told the governor to bark, he yelped for them like a mad hound.

The people of Colorado had voted overwhelmingly for an eight-hour work day. The legislature passed an eight hour law but the courts had declared it unconstitutional. Then when the measure was submitted directly to the people, they voted for it with a 4,000 votes majority. But the next legislature, which was controlled by the mining interests, failed to pass the bill.

The miners saw that they could not get their demands through peaceful legislation. That they must fight. That they must strike. All the metal miners struck first. The strike extended into New Mexico and Utah. It became an ugly war. The metal miners were anxious to have the coal miners join them in their struggle.

The executive board of the United Mine Workers was in session in Indianapolis. The board asked me to go to Colorado, look into conditions there, and make a report.

I went there immediately, first to the office of The Western Federation of Miners where I heard the story of the industrial conflict.

I then got myself an old calico dress, a sunbonnet, some pins and needles, elastic and tape and such sundries, and went down to the

southern coal fields of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

As a peddler, I went through the various coal camps, eating in the homes of the miners, staying all night with their families. I found the conditions under which they lived deplorable. They were in practical slavery to the company, which owned their houses, owned all the land, so that even if a miner did own a house he must vacate whenever it



pleased the land owners.

They were paid in scrip [paper certificates] instead of money so that they could not go away if dissatisfied. They must buy at company stores and at company prices.

The coal they mined was weighed by an agent of the company and the miners could not have a check weighman to see that full credit was given them. The schools, the churches, the roads belonged to the Company. I felt, after listening to their stories, after witnessing their long patience, that the time was ripe for revolt against such brutal conditions.

*Mother Jones' account goes on to tell how miners in part of the state won some improvements through the strike. But in other areas they were defeated by mine owners using violent tactics. Her work helped bring attention to the need for better labor laws to protect workers.*

**Group Discussion:** *What does Mother Jones say was the political situation in Colorado that made it difficult to create a state law setting an eight hour work day? What practices did the mine owners use to keep an unfair advantage over workers?*



# THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY CALLS FOR CHANGES

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*The views of many reform-minded Americans around 1910 can be found in the “platform” or official position statement of the Progressive Party. Theodore Roosevelt ran as the Progressive Party’s presidential candidate in the 1912 election. He lost that election to Woodrow Wilson, but many of the party’s proposals became law over the next few decades. These excerpts are condensed from the party’s 1912 platform.*

The conscience of the people, in a time of grave national problems, has called into being a new party, born of the nation’s sense of justice. We of the Progressive Party here dedicate ourselves to the fulfillment of the duty laid upon us by our fathers to maintain the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Political parties exist to secure responsible government and to execute [put into effect] the will of the people.

From these great tasks both of the old parties have turned aside. They have become tools of corrupt interests. Behind the ostensible government [the government we see] sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people.

To destroy this invisible government, to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day.

In particular, the party declares for direct election of United States Senators by the people.

The Progressive Party pledges itself to the task of securing equal suffrage [voting rights] to men and women alike.

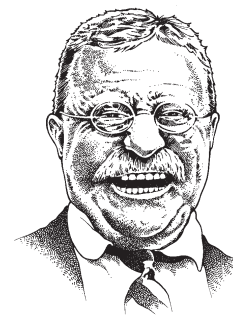
We pledge our party to legislation that will compel strict limitation of all campaign contributions and expenditures.

We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly in State and Nation for:

Effective legislation looking to the prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases, overwork, and unemployment.

The fixing of minimum safety and health standards for the various occupations.

The prohibition of child labor.



Minimum wage standards for working women, to provide a “living wage” in all industrial occupations.

One day’s rest in seven for all wage workers.

The eight hour day in continuous twenty-four hour industries.

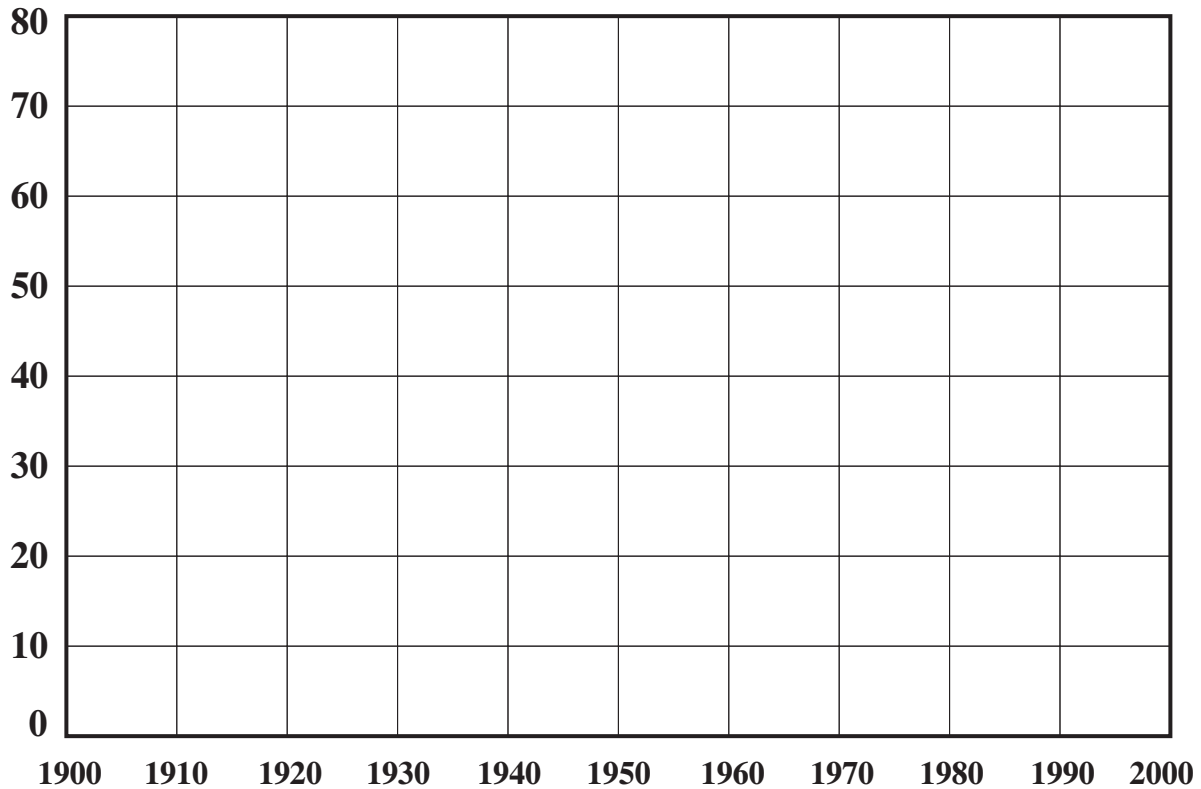
The protection of home life against the hazards of sickness, irregular employment and old age through the adoption of a system of social insurance. [*Social insurance was the term used at that time for what today is known as Social Security and unemployment insurance.*]

We favor the organization [into labor unions] of the workers, men and women, as a means of protecting their interests and of promoting their progress.

**Group Discussion:** *What were the Progressive Party’s main ideas for improving the political system? What were its main proposals to improve conditions for American workers?*

# CHARTING 20th CENTURY VITAL STATISTICS

*“Vital statistics” is the term for the basic figures about life, health, and death in a nation or community. Finish these line graphs to chart the data. Do the graphs support the argument that the Progressive Era was a period of improving conditions for the average American?*



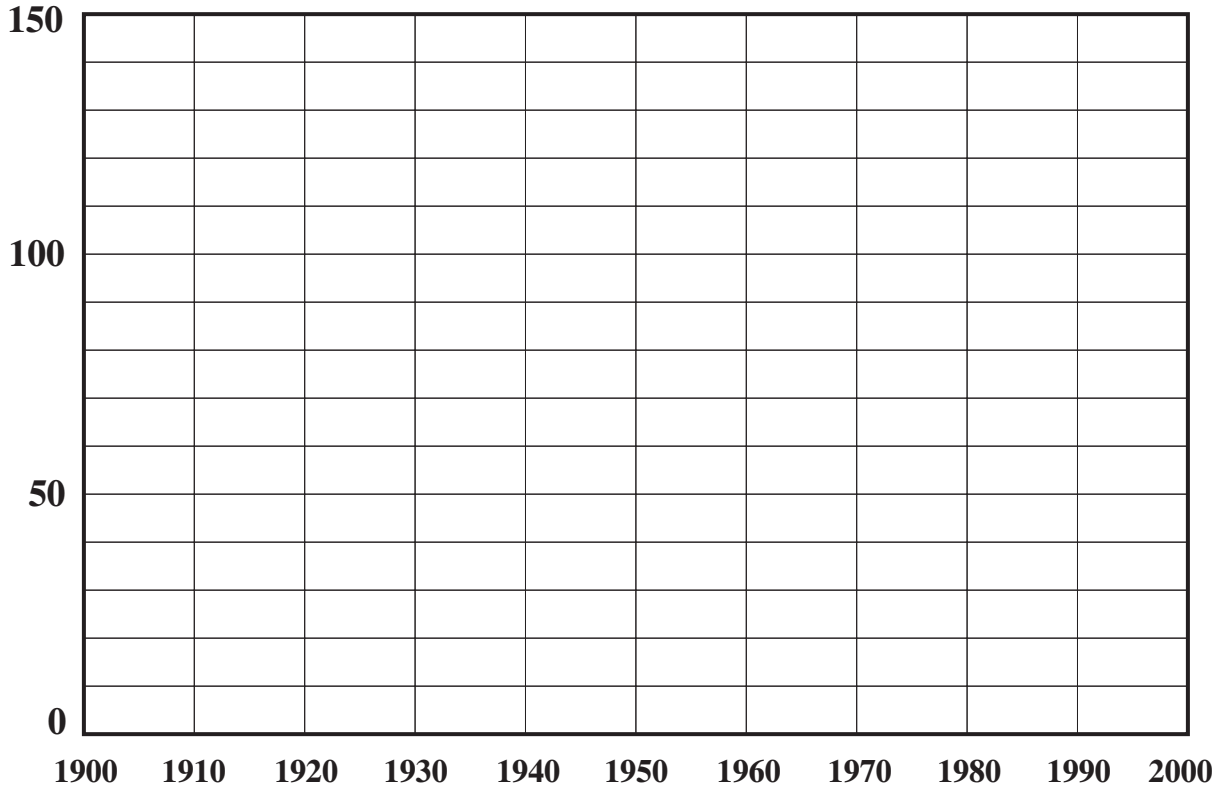
**Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) 1900 to 2000**

*Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above.*

Year	Life Expectancy	Year	Life Expectancy	Year	Life Expectancy	Year	Life Expectancy
1900	47.3	1930	59.7	1960	69.7	1990	75.4
1910	50.0	1940	62.9	1970	70.8	2000	76.9
1920	54.1	1950	68.2	1980	73.7		

sources: *Historical Statistics of the United States* and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

The infant mortality rate is especially valuable for showing health conditions in a society. It tells the number of children out of each 1,000 live births who die before reaching their first birthday. What factors do you think contributed most to the pattern shown on these graphs?



**Infant Mortality Rate 1900 to 2000**  
**(Deaths Within 1<sup>st</sup> Year per 1,000 Live Births)**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above.

Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Year	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	141.4 *	1930	64.6	1960	26.0	1990	9.2
1910	116.7 *	1940	47.0	1970	20.0	2000	6.9
1920	85.8	1950	29.2	1980	12.6		

\* figure available for Massachusetts only

sources: *Historical Statistics of the United States* and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

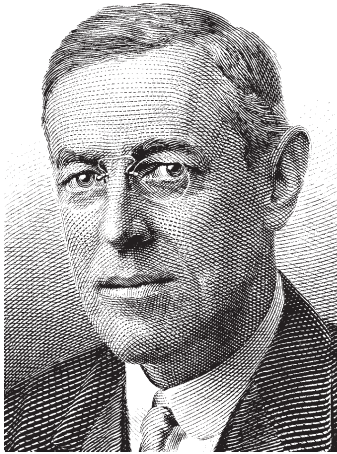
## DECADE: 1910s WORLD WAR ONE

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Woodrow Wilson, Federal Trade Commission, Clayton Act, Federal Reserve System, income tax, Central Powers, Allied Powers, isolationism, *Lusitania*, Espionage Act/Sedition Act, communism, League of Nations, reparations

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This decade opened with the optimistic spirit set by the Progressive movement the previous decade. But people might well have taken the sinking of the *Titanic*, a British ship that was a floating symbol of modern industrial progress, as a warning to beware.



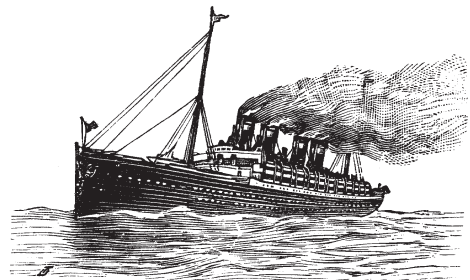
In 1912 Woodrow Wilson was elected president. He agreed with the Progressives on many issues of the day. For example, he pushed for creation of the Federal Trade Commission. It had the power to investigate illegal dealings by businesses and take action against them. A new law called the Clayton Act was a strong legal weapon against businesses that tried to form monopolies. It also set up the first solid legal protection for labor unions. Public anger over a fire that killed more than a hundred women and girls at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City (1911) helped create public support for other new laws designed to protect workers.

The Federal Reserve System was created by Congress in these years to serve as the nation's central bank. It was given the responsibility to keep regular banks honest and the nation's money supply reliable. Also in this decade, a federal income tax system was created by Congress. That helped the working class by shifting a larger share of the nation's tax burden to people with higher incomes.

World War I broke out in Europe in 1914. It was caused by a number of factors. Most of the big countries of Europe were competing with each other for power. They had entered into various alliances with each other for self-protection. The big nations were all armed to the teeth, and some leaders seemed to be just itching for a fight.

The spark to ignite the war flashed when a Serbian group assassinated the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. The complicated web of treaties and alliances in Europe led one country after another to gear up for war. Germany moved first, marching across Belgium to attack France. Germany became head of the Central Powers. This group also included Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey (at that time, part of the Ottoman Empire.)

On the other side were the Allied Powers: England, France, Russia, and Italy. Many Americans wanted to stay out of the fight. This attitude is usually called isolationism. But deadly attacks on ships like the



*Lusitania* by German U-boats (submarines) angered many people, and helped sway public opinion. America entered the war in 1917 on the Allied side.

Suddenly, anti-German feelings exploded nationwide. As the war fever grew, Congress passed the Espionage Act and the Sedition Act to stop critics of the war from protesting against the American involvement. There were objections that the laws violated the right of free speech guaranteed by the Constitution, but hundreds of Americans were arrested and jailed none the less.

Submarines, machine guns, tanks, poison gas, trench warfare, and airplanes made this war especially brutal. The incredible death and destruction shook the traditional social order of Europe. It also broke the confidence that reason and technology would bring only progress for mankind. People later said this war was “the end of innocence” for the human race.



The most extreme example of the breakup of the old order came in Russia. The Bolsheviks, a communist group, seized power in the chaotic conditions there during the war. The communists killed the Czar and his family, and overthrew the old system of government. Socialists everywhere cheered for the Russian Revolution and its leader, Lenin. They hoped communism (a form of socialism) would point the way to a better future for mankind without poverty and warfare. Instead, the new Communist Party government of Russia itself became an oppressive and brutal dictatorship.

America sent about two million troops to the war. By the end of 1918, Germany asked for an armistice (a cease-fire) to end the fighting. The peace treaty was negotiated at Versailles, outside Paris. President Wilson came with his Fourteen Points plan, which he felt would create a stable peace. It was designed to settle boundary disputes and eliminate some of the problems that had led to the war in the first place. For example, it called for an end to secret treaties and for a general reduction in each nation's military strength.

The 14th Point in the plan called for creation of a League of Nations to settle future international disputes before they became wars. The U.S. Senate voted to reject the treaty, however, and America did not become a member of the League of Nations.



In a move that proved a big mistake, the Allies demanded that Germany accept total responsibility for causing the war, and pay billions of dollars in reparations to the Allies. The payments made it difficult for Germany to get back to a normal economy after the war. Resentment over the reparations requirement later helped thugs like Nazi leader Adolf Hitler rise to power. The stage was set for another deadly World War just twenty years later.



# FORD'S PROGRESSIVE WAGE PLAN

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*The Ford Motor Company was the first of the industrial giants to take up the challenge of improving the lives of factory workers. Henry Ford and his business partner, James Couzens, described their new plan in a famous announcement (condensed here) in 1914.*

The Ford Motor Company, the greatest and most successful automobile manufacturing company in the world, will, on January 12, inaugurate the greatest revolution in the matter of rewards for its workers ever known in the industrial world.

At one stroke it will reduce the hours of labor from nine to eight, and add to every man's pay a share of the profits of the house. The smallest amount to be received by any man 22 years old and upwards will be \$5.00 per day. The lowest wage is now \$2.34 per day of nine hours.

This will apply to every man of 22 years of age or upward without regard to the nature of his employment. In order that the young man, from 18 to 22 years of age, may be entitled to a share in the profits, he must show himself sober, saving, steady, industrious, and must satisfy the superintendent and staff that his money will not be wasted in riotous living.

"The commonest laborer, who sweeps the floor, shall receive his \$5.00 per day," said Henry Ford.

"It is our belief," said James Couzens, "that social justice begins at home. We want to help those who have helped us to produce this great institution and who are helping to maintain it to share our prosperity."

"If we are obliged," said Mr. Ford, "to lay off men for want of sufficient work at any season, we propose to plan our year's work

so that the lay-off shall be in the harvest time, not in the winter.

"No man will be discharged [fired] if we can help it, except for unfaithfulness or inefficiency. No foreman in the company has the power to discharge a man. He may send them out of his department if they do not make good. The man is then repeatedly tried in other work until we find the job he is suited for."



"We shall still pay,"

Mr. Couzens said, "we are quite sure, good, handsome dividends [profits] to our stockholders, and will set aside reasonable amounts for additions and improvements. And after that it is our hope to be able to do still better by our employees. We want them to be in reality partners in our enterprise.

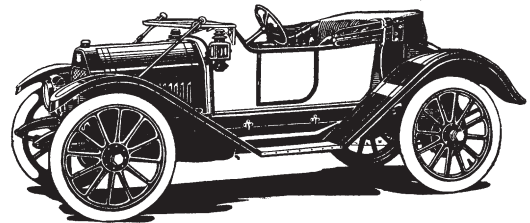
"Believing as we do, that a division of our earnings between capital [owners] and labor [workers] is unequal, we have sought a plan of relief suitable to our business. We think that one concern [business] can make a start and create an example for others. And that is our chief object.

"The public need have no fear that this action of ours will result in any increase in prices of our products. On the contrary we hope to keep up with our past record of reducing prices each year."

**Group Discussion:** *How does Ford's wage plan show the influence of Progressive Era ideas about social justice and workers? Why was the new policy probably a good business decision for Ford, as well as a good step from a social point of view?*

# CHARTING AUTOMOBILE USE

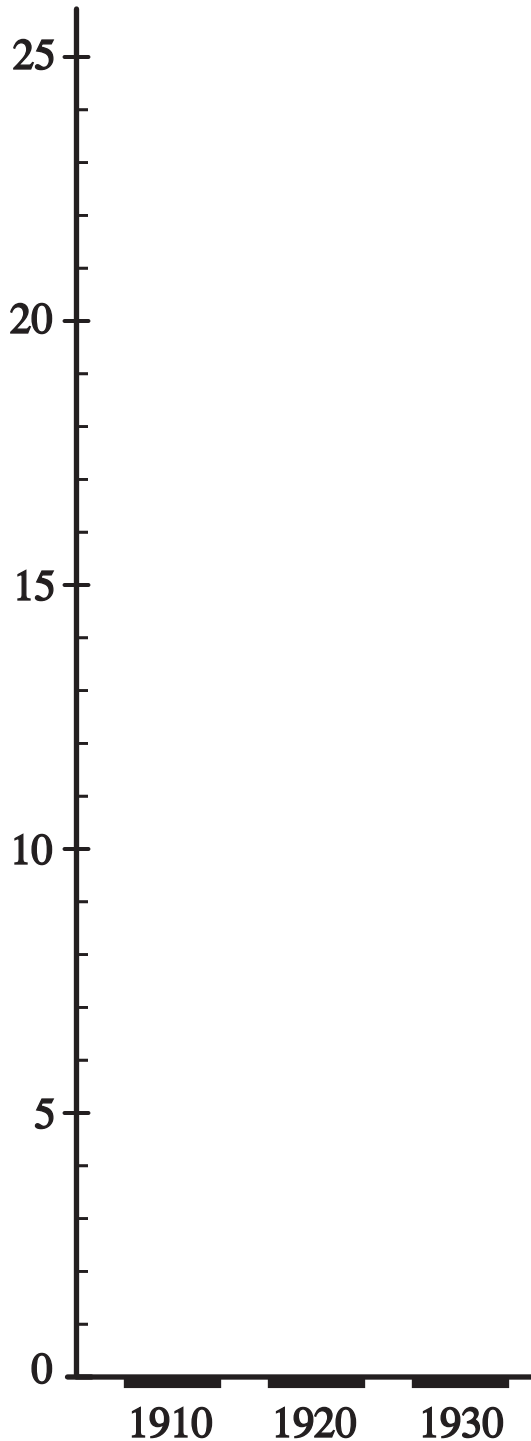
During the decades of the 1910s and 1920s the automobile became a big part of American life. Its success, and the growth of related industries, helped create new jobs and prosperity. On this page, create a bar graph to show the number of automobiles registered in this period. What advantages did automobiles have over horses that made them desirable to city residents?



Use the table shown below to find the information to finish the bar graph on the left. Draw a vertical bar for each year shown, with the length corresponding to the number of automobiles registered in the U.S.

Year	Automobiles Registered in the U.S.
1910	458,000
1920	8,132,000
1930	23,035,000

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*



# MAP - WORLD WAR ONE: WHO'S WHO

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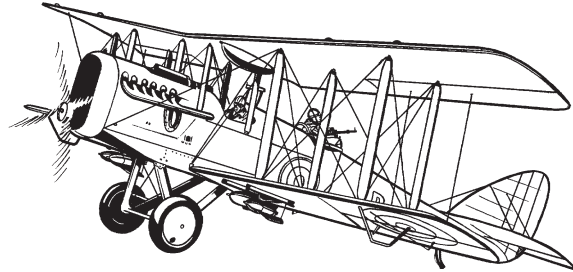
Finish labeling and coloring the map to show the items listed in bold. The dotted lines will help guide you. Fill in the blanks using the word bank below.

**Central Powers** in 1917

**Allied Powers** in 1917

**Neutral Countries** in 1917

**The Western Front** of 1915 - 1917



## GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

**Atlantic Ocean**, where the sinking of the \_\_\_\_\_ and other ships by German U-Boats helped swing public opinion in the U.S. against Germany.

**Mediterranean Sea**

**Suez Canal**

**Black Sea**

## NATIONAL CAPITALS AND OTHER FAMOUS CITIES

**Sarajevo**, the city in Austria-Hungary where the \_\_\_\_\_ of an Austrian archduke by a Serbian group became the spark that led to war.

**London**, the capital of Great Britain and the \_\_\_\_\_-wide British Empire, which included Egypt and other parts of Africa, as well as India.

**Paris**, the capital of France, whose empire included chunks of Africa and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Berlin**, the capital of Germany, eager to \_\_\_\_\_ up in the empire game.

**Petrograd**, also known as St. Petersburg, the capital of the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire when the war began. Not long after the communist revolution of 1917, Moscow became the new capital. In 1924 Petrograd was renamed Leningrad.

**Rome**, the capital of \_\_\_\_\_, whose empire included Libya in North Africa.

**Constantinople**, also called \_\_\_\_\_, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. After the war, this empire was broken up into Turkey and several other countries in the Middle East.

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Word bank to fill in the blanks: *assassination, Asia, catch, Istanbul, Italy, Lusitania, Russian, world*

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## World War One: Who's Who

### Alliances in 1917

Pre-war national boundaries shown

0 600 miles

### Key to Alliances in 1917

*Central Powers*

*Allied Powers*

*Neutral Nations*

## DECADE: 1920s THE ROARING TWENTIES

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woman suffrage, Amelia Earhart, flappers, Margaret Sanger, Scopes trial, Prohibition, Great Migration, Duke Ellington, Harlem Renaissance, Ku Klux Klan, Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh, Stock Market Crash of 1929

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World War I devastated Europe, but America thrived in the decade after the surrender of Germany. For a great many Americans, the future seemed bright. Cities and wealth were growing. Airplanes in the sky, radio broadcasting, and Hollywood films in the theaters were just some of the signs that a new age had indeed arrived.

Women won the right to vote – called suffrage – in 1920. Social expectations still divided jobs into some proper for women, and some not. But women were increasingly found in business offices, and the famous airplane pilot Amelia Earhart showed that women were ready to break traditional barriers. The flapper became one symbol of the times, with short bobbed hair and a new style of clothing her mother probably didn't approve of.



Not everyone was happy with the arrival of new ideas, new styles, and other changes in American life. Margaret Sanger, a nurse and social reformer, was actually jailed in New York City for her campaign to make birth control information more available. The sensational trial of teacher John Scopes drew even wider attention. He broke a state law in Tennessee that prohibited the teaching of evolution in public schools. The case revealed a deep split between people with traditional religious beliefs and those who embraced different views.

People with religious and traditional views were certainly the main force behind another famous aspect of the decade. In 1920 America outlawed the making and selling of alcoholic beverages. All during the years of Prohibition, however, bootleggers and gangsters kept an illegal supply flowing. Illegal clubs where alcohol was served were called speakeasies. Many people became convinced that the new law made alcohol more destructive to society than it was when it was legal. Prohibition was repealed 13 years later the same way it began, with a constitutional amendment.



Black Americans in the South began moving to the North in great numbers during World War I. Many were drawn by factory jobs in big cities like Chicago and Detroit. This trend, called the Great Migration, continued in the 1920s. New York City's neighborhood called Harlem grew as a center of African American literature, music, dance, and painting in these years. The term Harlem Renaissance is often used to describe this flowering of African American culture. Duke Ellington, a jazz musician and composer, first won fame there. Shocking news stories about lynchings of blacks, however, and the reappearance of the Ku Klux Klan, demonstrated the sad state of race relations nationwide.



The automobile, now being produced by the millions on assembly lines, became a key force shaping American social and economic life in the 1920s. By the middle of the decade the average family owned a car. Roads were steadily improved, and many businesses related to automobiles and tourism began growing rapidly.

In this decade silent movies were replaced by the new “talkies” out of Hollywood as sound-on-film technology was developed. Sports figures like baseball great Babe Ruth and daring aviators like Charles Lindbergh also captured the public imagination. The age of the celebrity had begun.



The high life of the rich could be followed by the envious reader in daily newspapers. But writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald criticized the times in books like *The Great Gatsby*. Many Americans, he suggested, were losing their character and values in a never-ending chase after status, wealth, and glamour.

In 1929 the Roaring Twenties came crashing down. Business had been growing, and stock market prices had been rising for years. Many investors, eager to jump on the wagon, were even borrowing money to buy stocks. As prices rose, more buyers wanted a piece of the action. Stock prices shot up beyond any reasonable value.

In fact, the economy was not as good as it seemed. Farmers, using tractors and reapers, were producing plenty of food. They were growing more than they could sell, however, and prices for farm products were slumping. Factories were turning out plenty of things to buy.

Yet the nation’s consumers, as a whole, did not have enough income to buy all that the nation's factories could produce.



There were other troublesome economic signs as well. High tariffs (taxes on imports) passed by Congress in these years hurt international trade. In addition, many American banks had loaned money recklessly, and were not on solid financial ground.

Suddenly the bubble burst, as a growing number of people decided to get their money out of the stock market. Soon there were more sellers than buyers, and stock prices slipped. Once the fall started, most investors wanted out. The market crashed as fearful stock owners tried to sell at any price. Many people saw a lifetime of saving (and even borrowed money) wiped out in days. It was a dark ending to a decade in which everything had seemed possible.

# TALK OF THE TWENTIES

*As you read the passages below and study the images from magazines of that era, tell how each reflects or illustrates some aspect of the decade of the 1920s.*

**“America’s present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy, not revolution, but restoration; not surgery but serenity.”**

– Presidential candidate Warren G. Harding, 1920

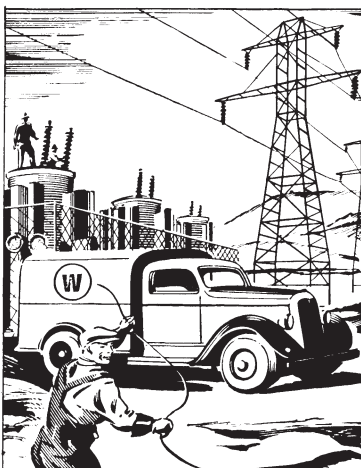


**My candle burns at both ends;  
It will not last the night;  
But, ah, my foes, and, oh, my friends –  
It gives a lovely light**

– Poet Edna St. Vincent Millay

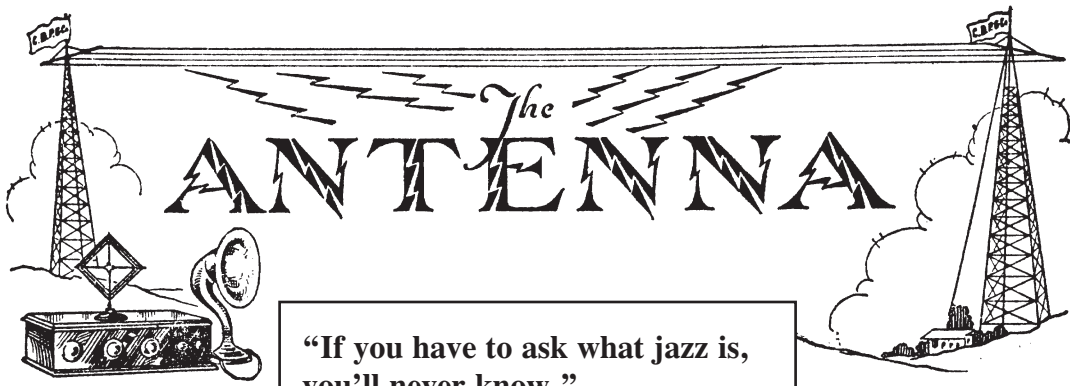
**“The business of America is business.”**

– President Calvin Coolidge, 1925



**Bryan: I believe that everything in the Bible should be accepted as it is given there.  
Darrow: But when you read that Jonah swallowed the whale – or that the whale swallowed Jonah – do you literally interpret it?  
Bryan: Yes, sir. If the Bible says so.**

– Attorney Clarence Darrow questioning William Jennings Bryan in the Scopes Trial, 1925



**“If you have to ask what jazz is,  
you’ll never know.”**  
– Jazz musician Louis Armstrong



**“The business of evading Prohibition and making  
mock of it has ceased to wear any aspects of crime  
and has become a sort of national sport.”**  
– Newspaperman H.L. Mencken



**I swear to the Lord  
I still can’t see  
Why Democracy means  
Everybody but me.**  
– African American Poet  
Langston Hughes

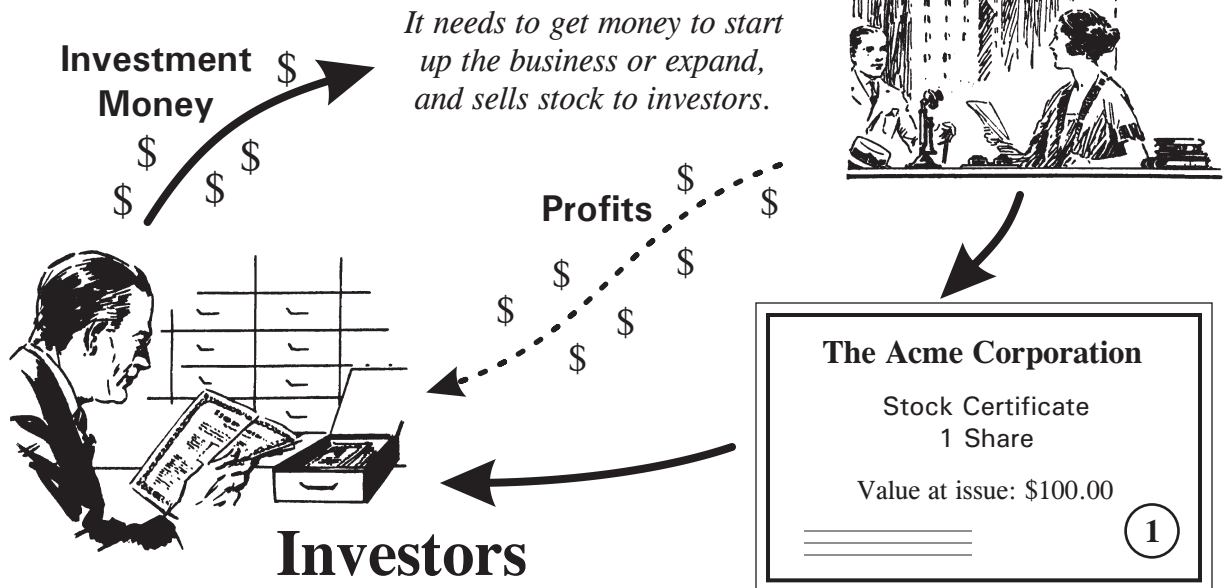
**“The restlessness approached hysteria.  
The parties were bigger. The pace was  
faster, the shows were broader, the  
buildings were higher, the morals were  
looser and the liquor was cheaper. But  
all these benefits did not really minister  
to much delight. Young people wore  
out early – they were hard and languid  
at twenty-one.”**  
– Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald



# CHARTING THE CRASH OF 1929

During the decade of the 1920s the rapid growth of American business was reflected in rising stock values. Before completing the line graph on the next page, review this page to be sure you understand the terms and concepts involved.

## The Acme Corporation



*These are people who have saved money and want to invest in a corporation by purchasing stock.*

*Shares of stock represent part ownership of the business.*

*Investors make money from stocks in two ways:*



If the company makes a profit, it is divided among all the stockholders. The stockholders receive these **dividends** in a check sent to them.

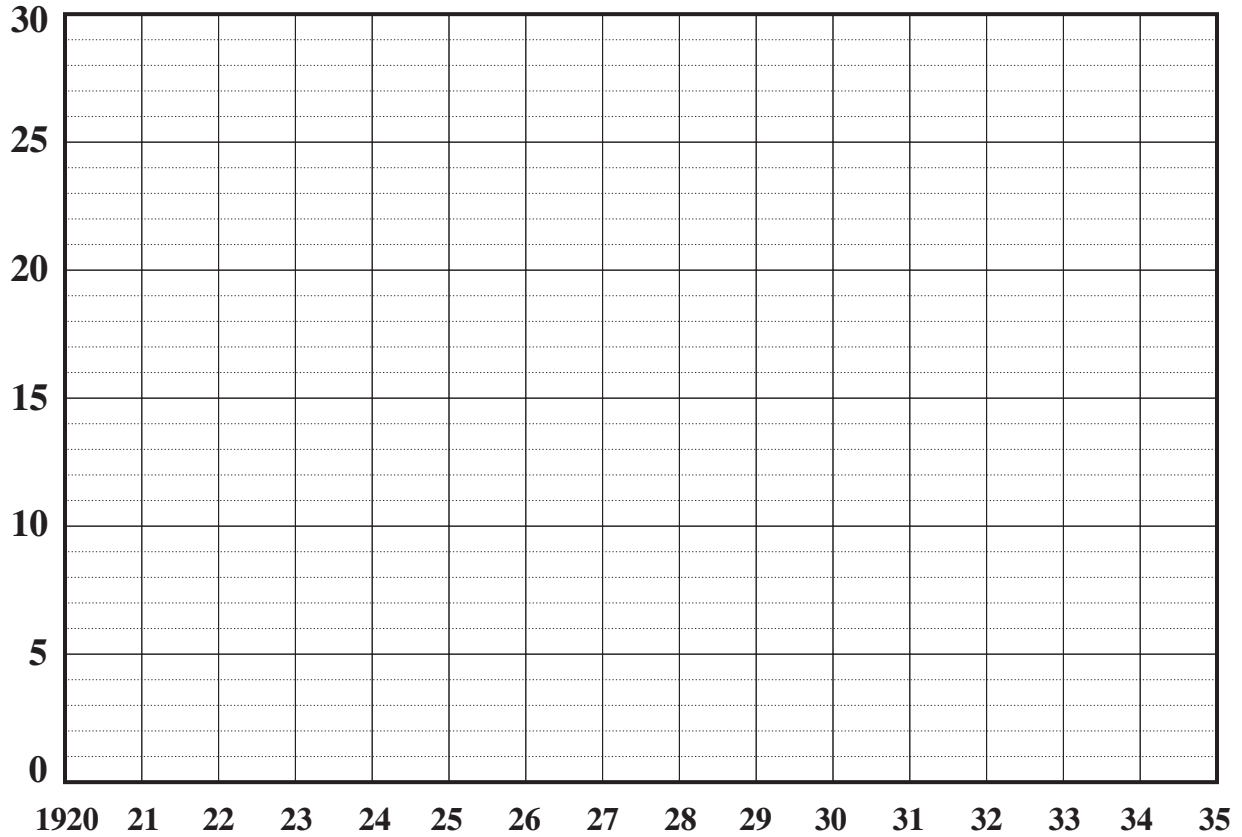


Investors can sell their stock certificates to someone else. If the company is very successful, other people will pay a higher price to purchase the stock from a current shareholder.



Sometimes, as in the 1920s, a condition called a **bubble** occurs. A bubble is a rapid rise in stock prices far above what actual business conditions can justify. Investors keep buying stocks at high prices because they don't want to miss out on the chance to sell later at even higher prices. But eventually the bubble bursts and stock prices crash.

Complete the line graph below to show stock prices from the 1920s and early 1930s. To help investors keep track of overall trends in stock prices, calculations are done to create “index” figures. One well known index is the Standard and Poor’s Index of Common Stocks.



**Standard and Poor’s Index of Common Stocks  
1920 to 1935**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above.

Year	S&P Index	Year	S&P Index	Year	S&P Index	Year	S&P Index
1920	7.9	1924	9.05	1928	19.95	1932	6.93
1921	6.86	1925	11.15	1929	26.02	1933	8.96
1922	8.41	1926	12.59	1930	21.03	1934	9.84
1923	8.57	1927	15.34	1931	13.66	1935	10.60

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*



## DECADE: 1930s THE GREAT DEPRESSION

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depression, Herbert Hoover, bank run, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, New Deal, Social Security, Dust Bowl, Adolf Hitler, Nazi, Benito Mussolini, fascism, appeasement

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The Stock Market Crash in 1929 was not the only cause of the Great Depression. Improved methods of production led farms and factories to produce more than consumers as a whole could afford to buy. An economic slowdown can easily start when farms and factories are unable to sell what they produce. Soon there are layoffs and falling prices, but as people lose their jobs, they buy even less.

While experts still debate the causes of the Great Depression, everyone agrees that the results were terrible. In big cities tens of thousands of people were unemployed while factories sat idle. Many Americans went hungry while crops on many farms went unharvested. Thousands of banks failed, and many people's life savings were wiped out. As if things weren't bad enough already, a severe drought struck the Great Plains region and lasted most of the decade. People started using the term "Dust Bowl" to describe Oklahoma and many neighboring states.

By 1932 about one quarter of the nation's workers had no job. President Herbert Hoover tried helping banks and industries with federal loans. But he wanted to avoid involving the federal government in direct help for individual citizens. That, he feared, would represent a dangerous change in American ideas about the proper role of the government.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt promised in the 1932 elections to give a "New Deal" to Americans. Once elected, he was willing to try anything that might help, starting with federal relief money for desperate families. He launched the Civilian Conservation Corps to give jobs to unemployed young men, mostly working in parks or on soil conservation projects. The Public Works Administration put people to work building bridges, hospitals, and airports. Roosevelt hoped such projects, and their huge payrolls, would get money circulating and boost the economy.

One of Roosevelt's first steps, however, was to close all banks briefly until they proved they were financially stable. Better banking regulations were created to protect deposits and stop bank runs. (In a bank run, panicky depositors rush to withdraw their money all at once, which can cause the bank to fail.)

Roosevelt tried to deal with the basic causes of the depression as well. The Agriculture



Adjustment Administration paid farmers to leave some of their land unplanted, so the price of farm products would go back up enough to give farmers a reasonable profit. The National Recovery Administration created a program that brought together manufacturers to agree on reasonable production levels, prices, working hours, and wages. The goal was to break up the pattern of over-production by industry that resulted in low profits, low wages, and layoffs of workers.

Later New Deal programs included the Social Security Act, which created pensions for retired workers as well as payments to support widowed spouses and their children. Another important law was the Fair Labor Standards Act, which set up the first national minimum wage.



Critics said FDR's policies gave too much power and influence over the economy to the federal government. Two New Deal programs were, in fact, declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Critics also noted that while FDR helped restore confidence in the economy, the depression did not quickly end. It took World War II to accomplish that.



The New Deal did greatly expand both the size of the federal government and the roles it plays in American life. These years mark the start in America of what is usually called a “welfare state.” That’s the term for a country in which the government has taken on a major responsibility for planning and promoting the well-being of its citizens.

Fortunately, the vast majority of Americans avoided extreme ideas of the sort that led to dictatorships in some European countries. Russia had Stalin as a communist dictator in these years. Germany and Italy both developed fascism, a brutal political system that glorifies war and aggression. It helped that America’s economy was not a complete disaster, in spite of the depression. Many people and businesses actually did well in this period. Labor unions, helped by a new federal labor law, fought for and won a bigger place in mines, steel mills, and auto plants. It was a great decade for Hollywood, and films like *The Wizard of Oz* expressed the hope that a brighter future would arrive.



By the time FDR was re-elected in 1936, serious trouble was brewing around the world. Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party had risen to power in Germany. The dictator Benito Mussolini ruled Italy. European leaders followed a policy of appeasement, rather than making a stand against the rising threat of the fascist dictators. In 1937 Japan invaded China.

Americans watched, but most were reluctant to do anything that might involve the country in another war. Then, in 1939, Germany invaded Poland, and World War II began. The president had once warned, “This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with Destiny.” Now, the shape of Destiny was becoming visible.

# FDR ATTACKS THE GREAT DEPRESSION

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*As Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, he declared again his plan to give the federal government a large and central role in attacking the Great Depression. These are condensed excerpts from two of his most famous speeches as president.*

## First Inaugural Address – 1933



This is the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it has endured, will

revive and will prosper.

So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that support of the people themselves which is essential to victory.

In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. The withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence, and an equally great number toil with little return [work for low wages].

This nation asks for action, and action now. Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government

itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects.

This task can be helped by definite efforts to raise the values of agricultural products, and with this, the power to purchase the output of our cities.

It can be helped by preventing the tragedy of the growing loss, through foreclosure, of our small homes and our farms.

It can be helped by unifying relief [welfare] activities which are often scattered, uneconomical, and unequal.

Finally, there must be a strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments.

We do not distrust the future of essential democracy. The people of the United States have not failed. In their need they have registered a mandate that they want direct, vigorous action.

They have asked for discipline and direction under leadership. They have made me the present instrument of their wishes. In the spirit of the gift, I take it.

*The New Deal programs developed by FDR and Congress created jobs for a great many unemployed people. Other measures were also adopted to improve the economy.*

*As he began his second term in 1937, FDR outlined an even more ambitious goal for the federal government.*

## Second Inaugural Address – 1937

Nearly all of us recognize that as the intricacies of human relationships increase, so power to govern them must also increase – power to stop evil; power to do good.

True, we have come far from the days of stagnation and despair. Vitality has been

preserved. Courage and confidence have been restored. Mental and moral horizons have been extended.

I see a great nation, upon a great continent, blessed with a great wealth of natural resources. Its 130 million people are at peace among themselves; they are making their country a good neighbor among the nations.

But here is the challenge to our democracy: In this nation I see tens of millions of its citizens – a substantial part of its whole population – who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standards of living of today call the necessities of life.

I see millions of families trying to live on incomes so meager that the pall [threat] of family disaster hangs over them day by day.

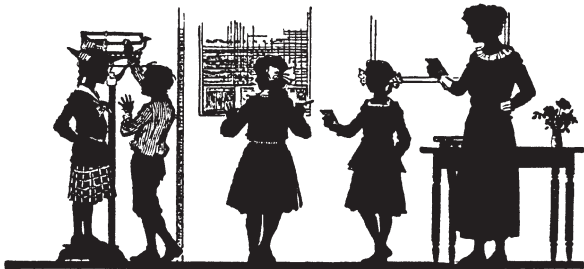
I see millions whose daily lives in city and on farm continue under conditions labeled indecent by a so-called polite society a century ago.

I see millions denied education, recreation, and the opportunity to better their lot and the lot of their children.

I see one third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, and ill-nourished.

It is not in despair that I paint you that picture. I paint it for you in hope – because the nation, seeing and understanding the injustice in it, proposes to paint it out.

We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of his country's interest and concern; and we will never regard



any faithful, law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous [unwanted].

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.



Today we reconsecrate our country to long-cherished ideals in a suddenly changed civilization. In every land there are always at work forces that drive men apart and forces that draw men together. In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up, or else we all go down, as one people.

In taking again the oath of office as President of the United States, I assume the solemn obligation of leading the American people forward along the road over which they have chosen to advance.

### Group Discussion:

1. *In the first speech, what does FDR say is the primary task the federal government must do as the first step in fighting the depression? What other measures does he say are also needed to boost the economy?*

2. *In the second speech, what goals does FDR set for the American government? How does he explain or justify his call for expanding the role of government in American life?*



# CHARTING THE NEW DEAL AND UNEMPLOYMENT

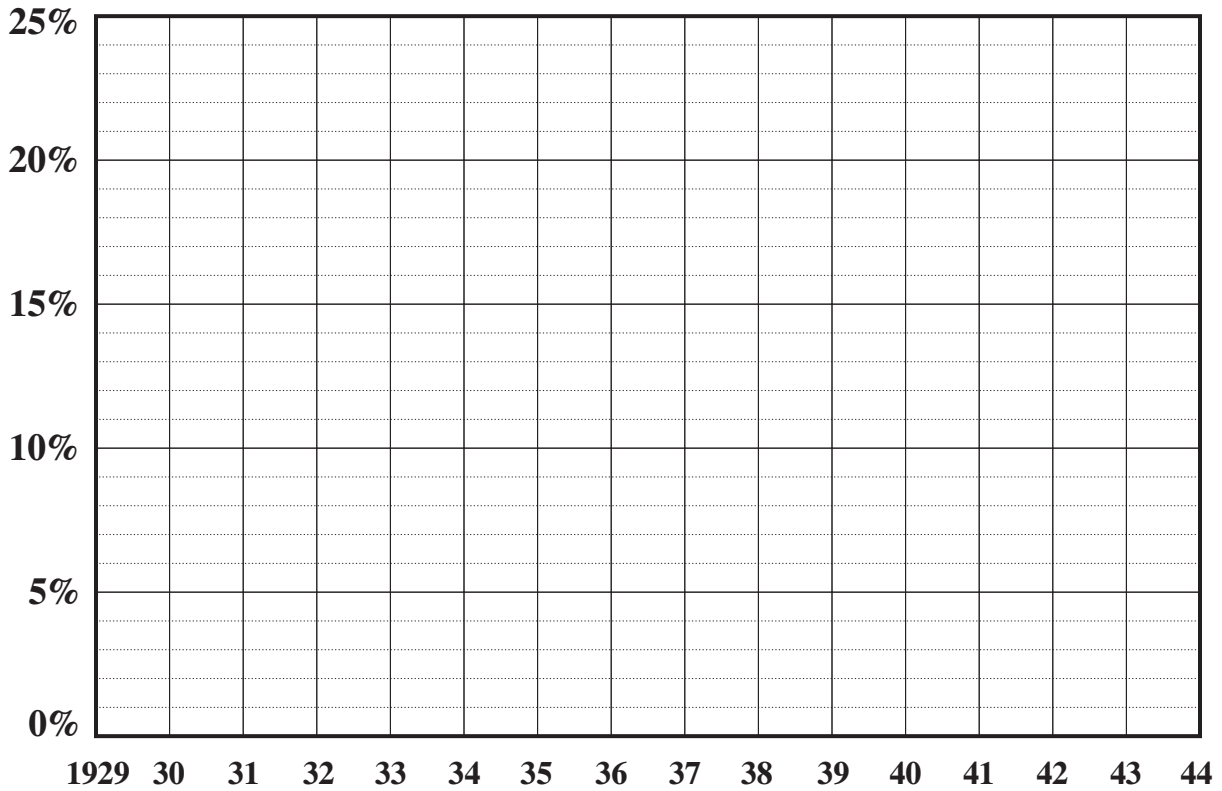
*FDR's New Deal programs had three main purposes:*

- *Relief for the needy with government money and jobs.*
- *Recovery of the economic health of industry and farms.*
- *Reform of the problems that had helped create the depression.*

*Classify the programs listed below into one of those three categories. If you decide a program falls into two of the categories, list both. Be able to explain your decisions.*

<b>Program or Law</b>	<b>What it Did</b>	<b>Category</b>
<i><b>Federal Emergency Relief Administration</b></i>	Sent millions of dollars to states to use in direct relief payments and food for the unemployed.	
<i><b>Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)</b></i>	Created jobs for over two million young unmarried men in conservation work and parks.	
<i><b>Agriculture Adjustment Administration (AAA)</b></i>	Paid farmers to reduce the amount of crops they planted, in order to cut excess production.	
<i><b>Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)</b></i>	Protected people's bank deposits, thus eliminating the problem of "bank runs" that were a serious problem in the early 1930s.	
<i><b>National Recovery Administration (NRA)</b></i>	Set up voluntary agreements among businesses to cut excess production. The agreements covered production, prices, wages, and hours of work.	
<i><b>Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)</b></i>	Built hydroelectric power plants and flood control dams in seven states in the Tennessee River region.	
<i><b>Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)</b></i>	Created to supervise the stock market and protect investors from dishonest practices.	
<i><b>Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA)</b></i>	Created jobs for millions of unemployed people constructing roads, hospitals, post offices, parks, and many other projects. The WPA also included a program that hired out-of-work artists, photographers, actors, and writers for a wide range of artistic and educational projects.	
<i><b>National Labor Relations Act</b></i>	Gave labor unions the right to organize and represent workers in collective bargaining.	
<i><b>Social Security Act</b></i>	Created a federal system of old-age pensions and assistance for orphans and the disabled. It also created an unemployment insurance system.	
<i><b>Fair Labor Standards Act</b></i>	Set up the first national minimum wage law and abolished child labor.	

After you complete the line graph on this page, study the pattern and the dates of the elections won by Franklin D. Roosevelt. (He won the presidential elections of 1932, 1936, 1940, and 1944.) How does the pattern help explain FDR's political success?



**Unemployment Rate (Percent) 1929 to 1944**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above.

Year	Unemployed (Percent)	Year	Unemployed (Percent)	Year	Unemployed (Percent)	Year	Unemployed (Percent)
1929	3.2	1933	24.9	1937	14.3	1941	9.9
1930	8.7	1934	21.7	1938	19.0	1942	4.7
1931	15.9	1935	20.1	1939	17.2	1943	1.9
1932	23.6	1936	16.9	1940	14.6	1944	1.2

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*



## DECADE: 1940s WORLD WAR TWO

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Axis, Allies, blitzkrieg, Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill, Lend-Lease, Pearl Harbor, Japanese American internment, rationing, Rosie the Riveter, D-Day, Holocaust, Harry S. Truman, Marshall Plan, containment, United Nations, NATO, Cold War, Red Scare

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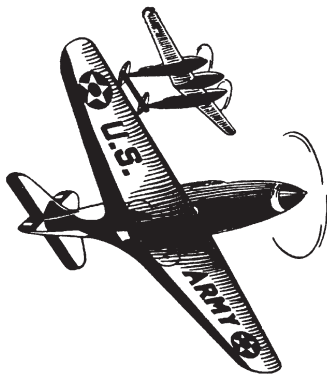
By 1940 Germany, Italy, and Japan – the Axis powers – had already attacked neighboring countries. In June of that year France fell to the German “blitzkrieg” method of lightning fast attack. Adolf Hitler next turned waves of German airplanes against England in the Battle of Britain. Prime Minister Winston Churchill rallied British spirits with his stirring declarations that England would never surrender. President Franklin Roosevelt watched the aggression of the Axis powers with alarm, but most Americans were not yet ready to join the fight. He did, however, push Congress to approve the Lend-Lease program, which sent desperately needed weapons and supplies to England.



When Japan attacked the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in December of 1941, America entered the war as one of the Allies. In a move that would later be heavily criticized, Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were relocated and confined to internment camps as possible security risks.

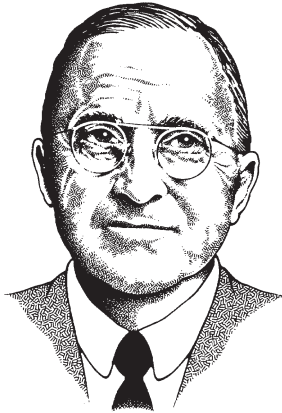
Roosevelt knew that victory would depend on out-producing the enemy. Thousands of factories were converted to make weapons. A system of rationing with coupons was started to conserve oil, food, and other products, and make sure everyone got a fair share of what was available. Scientists and engineers went to work to develop or improve radar, aircraft design, and the super-secret atomic bomb. Women took many jobs held by men before the war, and even joined special military units like the Women’s Army Corps.

Germany’s grip on Europe was too strong to attack immediately. To buy time, American and British forces first attacked Germans holding North Africa in 1942. Russians held their battle lines against the German invasion with almost unbelievable courage.



The direct assault on Hitler’s empire began on the shores of Normandy in France on D-Day – June 6, 1944. After liberating France, American and other Allied soldiers fought on toward Germany. As the Allied armies advanced into Germany early in 1945, the true horror of Nazi concentration camps like Dachau was exposed. Russians advancing against Germany from the east through Poland found more proof of the Holocaust in Nazi death camps like Auschwitz. Berlin, the German capital, fell to Russian troops in April of 1945. Hitler killed himself in an underground bunker.

On the other side of the world the fight against the Japanese Empire continued even after Germany and Italy had been defeated. Japan's area of control was pushed back in brutal battles closer and closer to Japan itself. Yet Japan still refused to surrender.



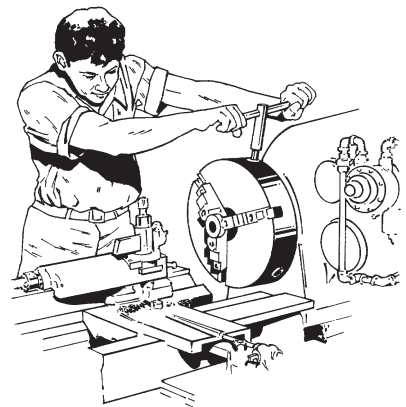
FDR died during the war, in April of 1945. President Harry Truman, a few months later, made the decision to use the newly developed atomic bomb against Japan. They finally surrendered after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed with the deadly weapon. Truman said he made the decision to save the countless lives that would have been lost on both sides if the war continued.

After the war Americans led the way in creating a new international peacekeeping organization called the United Nations. The U.S. helped European countries get back on their feet with a generous program of financial aid called the Marshall Plan.

Americans also helped Japan rebuild its economy and form a new government.

Russia had fought alongside the other Allies, but the terrible war losses convinced its leaders that it would be safest to keep control over the countries of Eastern Europe. Russia forced these nations, including Poland and the eastern part of Germany, to form communist governments. American leaders hoped to block the further spread of communism with a policy called "containment." The policy included direct help for any nation trying to resist a communist take-over. Many European nations, now as fearful of Russia as they had been of Germany, joined with America in a defense alliance called NATO. This period of tension without actual fighting, named the Cold War, would last until 1990.

Back in America, fear of Russia's intentions created a "Red Scare" and led to some controversial laws and accusations against suspected communists. But the years after 1945 were mostly good ones. Returning soldiers came back to a hero's welcome. The G.I. Bill paid their tuition to college or technical school, and helped veterans get loans for buying homes. Factories converted back to making cars and refrigerators instead of tanks and bombs. "Rosie the Riveter" went home, eager to start a family, but aware of new possibilities in herself.



The war against Hitler's racist system helped America declare its ideals more clearly than ever. One result was that people were more willing to confront racism in our own society. In 1947 Jackie Robinson broke the "color line" in professional baseball when he was recruited for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1948 President Truman issued an order calling for complete racial equality in the armed forces. Years of struggles were still ahead in the fight for the full civil rights of African Americans, but now there could be no turning back.

# FDR AND WORLD WAR TWO

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*These selections are condensed from two famous speeches by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the early 1940s.*

## **December 1940: America as the Arsenal of Democracy**

Never before since Jamestown and Plymouth Rock has our American civilization been in such danger as now.

The Nazi masters of Germany have made it clear that they intend not only to dominate all life and thought in their own country, but also to enslave the whole of Europe, and then use the resources of Europe to dominate the rest of the world.



Some of our people would like to believe that wars in Europe and in Asia are no concern to us. But if Great Britain goes down, the Axis powers will control the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the high seas. It is no exaggeration to say that all of us in all the Americas would be living at the point of a gun. Frankly and definitely there is danger ahead – danger against which we must prepare.

The plain facts are that the Nazis have proclaimed, time and again, that all other races are their inferiors and therefore subject to their orders. And most important of all, the vast resources and wealth of this American hemisphere constitute the most tempting loot in all the round world.

The experience of the past two years has proven beyond doubt that no nation can appease [satisfy] the Nazis. We know now that a nation can have peace with the Nazis

only at the price of total surrender.

Some tell you that the Axis powers are going to win anyway, that the United States might just as well throw its influence into the scale of a dictated peace and get the best out of it that we can. They call it a “negotiated peace.” Nonsense.

Such a dictated peace would be no peace at all. It would only lead to the most gigantic armament race and the most devastating trade wars in all history. And in these contests the Americas would offer the only real resistance to the Axis powers. With all their vaunted [boasted] efficiency, with all their parade of pious purpose in this war, there are still in their background the concentration camp and the servants of God in chains.

The history of recent years proves that the shootings and the chains and the concentration camps are not just the transient [temporary] tools but the very altars of modern dictatorships. They may talk of a “new order” in the world, but what they have in mind is only a revival of the oldest and worst tyranny. In that there is no liberty, no religion, no hope.

The people of Europe who are defending themselves do not ask us to do their fighting. They ask us for the implements of war: the planes, the tanks, the guns, the freighters which will enable them to fight for their liberty and our security. We must get these weapons to them so that we and our children will be saved the agony and suffering of war which others have had to endure.

**Group Discussion:** *Why does FDR believe the U.S. cannot just ignore the war in Europe? What arguments does FDR use to win support for the idea of sending American military equipment to help Great Britain and the other Allies?*

*America responded and Congress approved millions of dollars of aid for the Allies. But the December 7, 1941 attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor ended any hope that America could avoid joining the fight. A month after the attack, FDR made a report on the war situation.*

### **January 1942: First War Address Before Congress**

I am proud to say to you that the spirit of the American people was never higher than it is today. The response of the American people has been instantaneous, and it will be sustained until our security is assured.

Japan's scheme of conquest goes back half a century. It is not merely a policy of seeking living room, but a plan which included the subjugation [conquering] of all the peoples in the Far East and in the islands of the Pacific.

A similar policy of criminal conquest was adopted by Italy. The Fascists first revealed their imperial designs in 1935. Their goal was the domination of all North Africa, Egypt, part of France and the entire Mediterranean world.

But the dreams of empire of the Japanese and Fascist leaders were modest in comparison with the aspirations of Hitler and his Nazis. Their plans called for the ultimate domination of the whole earth. When Hitler organized his Berlin-Rome-Tokyo alliance, all these plans of conquest became a single plan.

Our own objectives [goals] are clear: the objective of smashing the militarism imposed by warlords upon their enslaved peoples; the objective of liberating the subjugated nations; the objective of establishing and securing freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear everywhere in the world.

We know that modern methods of warfare make it a task not only of shooting and fighting, but an even more urgent one of working and producing. The superiority of the Allies in munitions [weapons] and ships must be overwhelming. We must strain every existing armament producing facility to the utmost. We must convert every available plant and tool to war production.



We are fighting today for security and progress and for peace, not only for ourselves, but for all men; not only for one generation, but for all generations.

Our enemies are guided by a brutal cynicism, by unholy contempt for the human race. We are inspired by a faith which goes back through all the years to the first chapter of the Book of Genesis [in the Bible]: "God created man in His own image."

We on our side are striving to be true to that divine heritage. We are fighting, as our fathers have fought, to uphold the doctrine that all men are equal in the sight of God. Those on the other side are striving to destroy this deep belief and to create a world in their own image, a world of tyranny and cruelty and serfdom.

This is the conflict that day and night now pervades [completely fills] our lives.

**Group Discussion:** *What does FDR say the three Axis nations want? What does he say are the objectives of the Americans? What does he say it will take to win the war? How does FDR contrast the different values and beliefs of the Allies and the Axis nations?*



# MAP - AXIS AGGRESSION IN EUROPE

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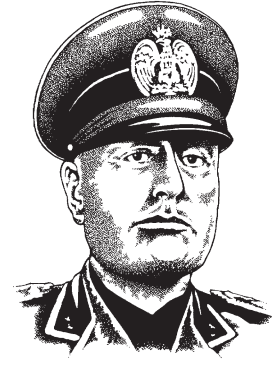
Finish labeling and coloring the map to show the items listed in bold. The dotted lines will help guide you. Fill in the blanks using the word bank below.

**Germany and Italy in 1937**

**Axis Controlled Areas in mid-1942**

**Allied Controlled Areas in mid-1942**

**Neutral Nations in mid-1942**



## GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

**English Channel**

**Atlantic Ocean**

**North Sea**

**Mediterranean Sea**

**Suez Canal**

**Black Sea**

## FAMOUS PLACES IN THE STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE EUROPE

**Dunkirk**, where more than 300,000 British and French soldiers were saved from being captured as Germany attacked France in 1940. A large fleet of British ships and boats of all kinds crossed the English \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue them and carry them to safety in England.

**London**, capital of Great Britain, which suffered months of deadly attacks from German airplanes after the fall of France in 1940. This air war was called the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Leningrad, Stalingrad, and Moscow**, all cities in Russia. Heroic fighting by Russians and the bitterly cold winter of 1942-43 helped \_\_\_\_\_ the advance of the German army. (Leningrad and Stalingrad now go by their former names, St. Petersburg and Volgograd.)

**Casablanca and El Alamein**, where the Americans and British began their attack on Hitler's army in North Africa late in 1942. The Allies fought on to Tunisia, then up into Italy itself in 1943. The capital of Italy, **Rome**, was liberated by the Allies in 1944. By this time, many Italians were turning \_\_\_\_\_ their fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini.

**Normandy Beaches**, on the coast of France. This was the landing site for the Allied attack on Hitler's European empire. The date was June 6, 1944, also known as \_\_\_\_\_. The Allies liberated France and its capital, **Paris**, then fought on into Germany. In April 1945 **Berlin** fell to the armies of Russia advancing from the east through Poland. Hitler \_\_\_\_\_ himself in the last days of fighting. Nazi Germany surrendered in May of 1945.

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Word bank to fill in the blanks: *against, Britain, Channel, D-Day, killed, stop*

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# Axis Aggression in Europe

## 1937 - 1942

1937 national boundaries shown

0 600 miles

### Key to Areas of Control

Germany and Italy in 1937

Axis Controlled Areas in mid-1942

Allied Controlled Areas in mid-1942

Neutral Nations in 1942



# MAP - THE JAPANESE EMPIRE

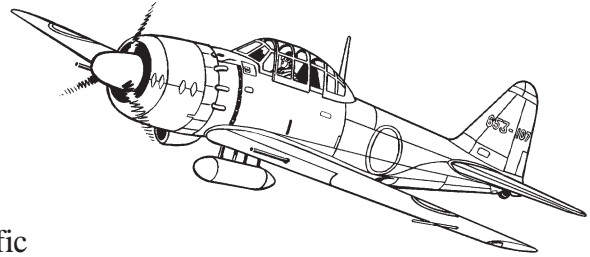
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Finish labeling and coloring the map to show the items listed in bold. The dotted lines will help guide you. Fill in the blanks using the word bank below.

## Japan

### Areas Under Japanese Control in mid-1942

### Farthest Extent of Japanese Control in the Pacific



## ISLANDS FAMOUS FOR THEIR PART IN AMERICA'S COUNTER-ATTACK

**Pearl Harbor**, in the Hawaiian Islands, hit by the Japanese in a \_\_\_\_\_ attack that brought the U.S. into World War II in December 1941. Over 2,400 Americans were killed. Once the base was fully restored, it became the launching point for the American counter-attack on the Japanese Empire.

**Midway**, an American island where a big Japanese attack was turned back and four Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ carriers sunk in the Battle of Midway in 1942. This battle proved that airplanes were becoming the new weapons of naval warfare. There was no actual ship to ship contact in this key victory for the American Navy.

**Solomon Islands**, where an American

action on **Guadalcanal** late in 1942 won an important \_\_\_\_\_ as the push toward Japan began.

**Philippines**, the islands America was driven from early in the war by the Japanese. Gen. Douglas MacArthur pledged, "I shall \_\_\_\_\_," and he did, in a massive assault late in 1944.

**Marshall Islands, Guam, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa**, all Pacific islands through which the American forces "leapfrogged" closer to Japan during 1944 and 1945. Japan was given a warning to \_\_\_\_\_. It did not, and American forces dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 to end the war.

## OTHER PLACES INVOLVED IN THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

**Aleutian Islands**, American islands which stretch off the coast of Alaska. Several of these were \_\_\_\_\_ by Japan.

**Pacific Ocean**, the scene of many naval battles during the war involving surface ships, airplanes, and \_\_\_\_\_.

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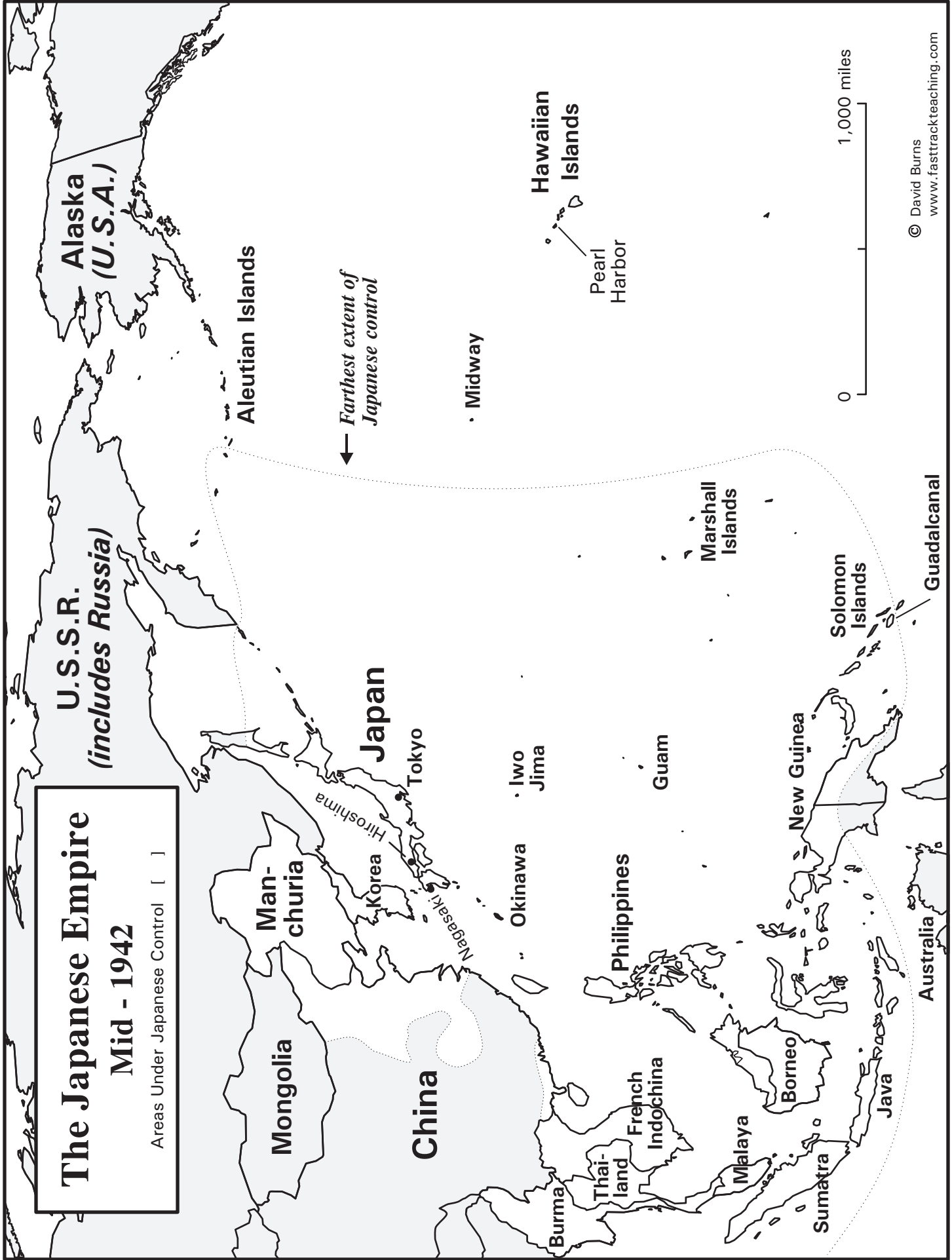
Word bank to fill in the blanks: *aircraft, occupied, return, submarines, surprise, surrender, victory*

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# The Japanese Empire

Mid - 1942

Areas Under Japanese Control [ ]



# THE STRUGGLE OF THE COLD WAR BEGINS

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*Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War Two, came to America after the war to warn of the new threat posed by the Soviet Union. His 1946 speech, condensed here, is famous for coining the term “the iron curtain.”*

## Winston Churchill’s Warning

The United States stands at this time at the pinnacle [peak] of world power. It is a solemn moment for the American democracy. For with this primacy in power is also joined an awe-inspiring accountability to the future.

The awful ruin of Europe, with all its vanished glories, and of large parts of Asia glares us in the eyes. Our supreme task and duty is to guard the homes of the common



people from the horrors and miseries of another war. We are all agreed on that.

Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate future. It is my duty, however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.

Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe: Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia.

All these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form and another, not only to Soviet influence, but to a very high and in some cases increasing

measure of control from Moscow.

The Communist parties have been raised to pre-eminence and power far beyond their numbers, and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control.



In a great number of countries throughout the world, Communist fifth columns [secret agents] are established, and work in complete unity and absolute obedience to directions they receive from the Communist center.

I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines.

But what we have to consider here today, while time remains, is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as rapidly as possible in all countries.

Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed by closing our eyes to them. They will not be removed by mere waiting to see what happens, nor will they be removed by a policy of appeasement.

If the Western Democracies stand together in strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter, their influence for furthering those principles will be immense and no one is likely to molest them. If, however, they become divided or falter in their duty, then indeed catastrophe may overwhelm us all.

**Group Discussion:** *What does Churchill warn is happening in Europe? What does Churchill say Russia and its communist leaders want to accomplish? What does he want the non-communist countries to do?*

*In 1947 President Harry S. Truman urged the U.S. to take an active stand on the side of any nation that asked for help resisting communist take-over attempts. His speech before Congress, condensed here, declared "The Truman Doctrine."*

### **The Truman Doctrine**

One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion [force]. This was a fundamental issue in the war with Germany and Japan.

Our victory was won over countries which sought to impose their will, and their way of life, upon other nations.

To ensure the peaceful development of nations, free from coercion, the United States has taken a leading part in establishing the United Nations. The United Nations is designed to make possible lasting freedom and independence for all its members.



We shall not realize our objectives, however, unless we are willing to help free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose upon them totalitarian regimes [governments].

This is no more than a frank recognition that totalitarian regimes imposed on free peoples, by direct or indirect aggression, undermine the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the United States.

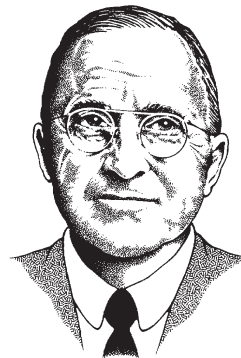
At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression [elimination] of personal freedoms.

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation [take-over] by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.



The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died. We must keep that hope alive.

The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world – and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our own nation.

**Group Discussion:** *Why does President Truman believe it is important for the U.S. to help other nations that are threatened by communism? What conditions does he say promote the growth of communism and other totalitarian government systems?*