**I. The Mobilization of Peoples: Four Examples** *(pages 612–614)*

**A.** Even more than World War I, World War II was a total war. Economic **mobilization** was more extensive. The war had an enormous impact on civilian life in many parts of the world.

**B.** In the Soviet Union initial defeats led to drastic emergency measures. For example, Leningrad was under siege for nine hundred days. Over a million people died there due to food shortages. People had to eat dogs, cats, and mice.

**C.** Soviet workers dismantled factories in the west and shipped them to the east, out of the way of the attacking German army. At times workers ran machines as new factory buildings were built up around them.

**D.** The military and industrial mobilization of the Soviet Union produced 78,000 tanks and 98,000 artillery pieces. In 1943, 55 percent of the national income went to war materials. As a result there were severe shortages of food and housing.

**E.** Soviet women were an important part of the war effort. Women working in industry increased 60 percent. They worked in industries, mines, and railroads. They dug antitank ditches and worked as air raid wardens. Some fought in battles and flew in bombers.

**F.** The war did not come to the home territory of the United States. The country became an arsenal for the Allies. The United States produced much of the military equipment needed to fight the Axis. In 1943, the United States was building six ships a day and ninety-six thousand planes per year.

**G.** The American mobilization created some social turmoil. There were widespread movements of people. For example, many women and men enrolled in the military moved frequently. Also, as millions of servicemen and workers looking for jobs moved around, their wives and children or girlfriends often moved with them.

**H.** African Americans were profoundly impacted by the war. Over a million African Americans moved from the South to cities in the North and West to work in war industries. At times the influx of African Americans led to social tensions and even violence. A million African Americans joined the military. They served in segregated units. Angered by their treatment, many returned from the war ready to fight for their civil rights.

**I.** Japanese Americans on the West Coast were moved to internment camps away from the ocean. Sixty-five percent of them had been born in the United States. In spite of that, they were required to take loyalty oaths and were forced to live in camps surrounded by barbed wire. The government claimed to do this for national security. Of American descendants of the Axis Power countries, Japanese Americans were the only group to be put into camps.

**J.** In 1939 in Germany, many civilians feared that the war would bring disaster. Hitler understood the importance of the home front. He believed that lack of civilian support had led to the German defeat in World War I. To keep up public morale, Hitler refused to cut consumer-goods production for the first two years of the war. This decision may have cost Germany the war. After defeats on the Russian front, the policy changed.

**K.** Early in 1942, Hitler increased arms production and the size of the army. **Albert Speer** became minister for armaments and munitions. He tripled armament production between 1942 and 1943. In July 1944, the German economy was totally mobilized. Schools, theaters, and cafes were closed. However, this came too late to avoid defeat.

**L.** Before the war, the Nazis tried to keep women out of the job market. As the war progressed, more and more men had to serve in the military. The Nazis changed their policies and encouraged women to work. However, the number of working women increased very little between 1939 and 1944.

**M.** Wartime Japan was a highly mobilized society. The government controlled prices, wages, labor, and resources. Citizens were encouraged to sacrifice for the national cause. In the final years of the war, young Japanese volunteered to serve as suicide pilots against U.S. ships. They were called **kamikaze** (“divine wind”) pilots.

**N.** The Japanese government opposed employing women. **General Hideki Tojo**, the Japanese prime minister from 1941 to 1944, argued that employing women would weaken the family system and the nation. Female employment increased only in areas in which women had traditionally worked, such as textiles and farming. The Japanese met labor shortages by using Korean and Chinese laborers.

**II. Frontline Civilians: The Bombing of Cities** *(pages 615–616)*

**A.** Bombing was used against military targets, enemy troops, and civilian populations. World War II was the first war in which large masses of civilians were bombed.

**B.** At the end of World War I, there had been a few bombing raids against civilian targets. The raids had caused great public outcry. After the war, European nations began to think that bombing civilian targets could be used to force governments to make peace. During the 1930s, European nations developed long-range bombers.

**C.** The first sustained civilian bombing was done by the Germans against **London.** For months, the Germans bombed the city nightly. There were heavy casualties and tremendous damage. In time, the blitz, as the bombing was called, was carried to other British cities. In spite of the heavy bombing, British morale remained high. The idea that bombing civilians would force peace was proved wrong.

**D.** In 1942, the British began major bombing campaigns against German cities. Ignoring their own experience, the British hoped that the bombing would break the morale of the German people. Thousands of bombers were used to attack major German cities.

**E.** The bombing of Germany added to civilian terror. The Germans particularly feared incendiary bombs, which spread fire when they exploded. In some cities, such as **Dresden,** enormous firestorms resulted from the bombing, killing hundreds of thousands of people and burning everything that could burn.

**F.** The bombing of Germany by the Allies may have killed a half-million civilians. Millions of buildings were destroyed. In spite of the terrible destruction, the bombing did not seem to sap the morale of the German people or destroy the German industrial capacity. However, the destruction of transportation systems and fuel supplies strongly impacted the ability of the Germans to supply their military forces.

**G.** In November, 1944 the Allies began attacks on Japanese cities. By that time, the Japanese air force could no longer defend Japan. The crowded Japanese cities, filled with highly-combustible structures, were especially vulnerable. By the following summer, a fourth of Japanese dwellings had been destroyed and many of its industries. The bombing of civilians then reached an unprecedented level when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945.

**III. Peace and a New War** *(pages 616–618)*

**A.** After the end of World War II, a new international conflict emerged, the **Cold War.** The Cold War was primarily an ideological conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. It dominated world politics until the end of the 1980s.

**B.** In November 1943, Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt met in **Tehran** to decide the future course of the war. Their countries were known as the Big Three of the Grand Alliance. The Big Three decided that the Americans and British would attack Germany through France in 1944. They would then meet the Soviet forces somewhere in a defeated Germany. This meant the Soviet troops would probably liberate most of Eastern Europe. They also agreed to partition postwar Germany.

**C.** In February of 1945, the Big Three powers met at **Yalta** in southern Russia. By that time, they knew that the Germans were beaten. Roosevelt and Churchill realized that eleven million Soviet troops were taking possession of much of Eastern and Central Europe. Roosevelt favored the idea of self-determination for postwar Europe. This meant that each country would choose its own form of government. Stalin was suspicious of the Western powers and wanted a Communist buffer between the West and the Soviet Union.

**D.** Roosevelt also sought Soviet military help against Japan. In return for military aid, Roosevelt agreed that the Soviets could take Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, two warm-water ports and railroad rights in Manchuria.

**E.** Roosevelt wanted to create the United Nations organization to help resolve difficult international disagreements. The Big Three powers at Yalta accepted his plans and set the founding meeting of the United Nations for April 1945, in San Francisco.

**F.** The Big Three also confirmed at the Yalta Conference that Germany would have to surrender unconditionally. They agreed to divide Germany into four zones. The zones would be occupied and governed by France, Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union. Stalin agreed to hold free elections in Poland at some future date.

**G.** The Soviets and the Americans were deeply split about free elections in Eastern Europe. The Soviets wanted these nations to be pro-Soviet. The Americans wanted free elections. These conflicting goals were never reconciled.

**H.** The **Potsdam Conference** was held in July 1945. Roosevelt had died in April and was replaced by Harry Truman. Truman demanded that free elections be held throughout Eastern Europe. Stalin refused to concede. Stalin wanted absolute military security for his country. He thought this could only happen if all the Eastern European states had Communist governments. He saw free elections as a direct threat. The only way to force free elections in Eastern Europe would have been to invade the Soviet-held territory.

As World War II had just ended, very few people favored that course.

**I.** The Allies agreed that leaders who had committed crimes against humanity during the war should be tried for their crimes. In 1945 and 1946, Nazi leaders were tried and condemned at trials in Nuremberg, Germany. Trials were also held in Japan and Italy.

**J.** Many Western leaders thought that the Soviets intended to spread communism throughout the world. The Soviets saw Western policy, particularly that of the United States, as global capitalist expansionism.

**K.** In March 1946, Winston Churchill declared that an “iron curtain” had “descended across the continent.” This iron curtain divided Europe into two hostile sides. Stalin responded by calling Churchill’s speech a “call to war with the Soviet Union.” The world seemed to be bitterly divided again.