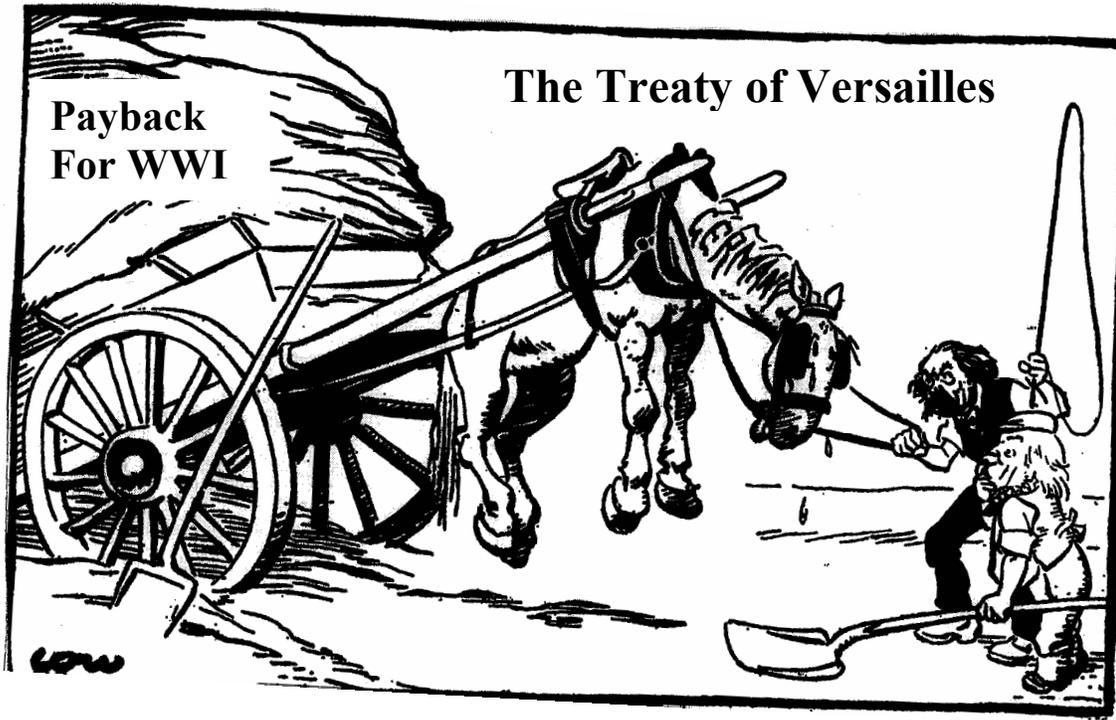


Historian's Notebook - The Treaty of Versailles



The Treaty of Versailles

After WWI, the League of Nations made Germany sign the Treaty of Versailles. Germany didn't have any choice whether to sign it or not. Some people think that the treaty made Germany suffer too much. Many people thought (especially Germans) that the German people were forced to suffer because of what was in the peace treaty.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions:

Based upon the picture

1. Based upon the reading, what is one country that lost WWI?

2. What did the artist think about what Germany had to pay back after WWI?

3. Who do you think that the other two people in the picture might represent?

4. Who does the horse represent?

5. How do you think the Treaty of Versailles led to WWII?

Historian's Notebook - United States Intervention



U.S. Involvement in WWII

After WWI, many people in the United States were isolationists. This meant that they didn't want to become involved in the problems of the world. When Nazi Germany invaded the country of Poland in 1939, Great Britain and France declared War on Germany because of what they did. The United States didn't do enter the war against Germany. Many people, especially those in Great Britain became angry at the United States. When Germany started openly attacking Great Britain and France, both of those countries turned to the United States for help. The United States gave them money and weapons but wouldn't commit any troops. This cartoon was made in the 1940s by Dr. Seuss, before he was an author of Children's books. He was from England and was criticizing the United States for not coming to the aide of its allies. It was only much later after the war that Dr. Seuss became more famous for his children's books, than his political cartoons that he drew during World War II.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions: Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:

1. Based upon the reading, how did the United States first act during WWII?

2. What do you think Dr. Seuss felt about the United States?

3. Who does the bird represent in this picture?

4. What is the United States "doing" in this picture?

5. Which two countries came to the immediate aide of Poland?

The Homefront!



Women at War

While women were not allowed to fight in battle as soldiers, there were many things they could do to help the war effort. The first thing they could do was to help conserve precious resources by not overspending and by saving what they could. The graphic on the left is a real propaganda poster that tried to convince women not to overspend when they went shopping. Many women didn't simply just save money by being thrifty, some also entered the workforce so that their husbands could enter the marines.

War work was dirty work; You needed to work fast, accurately and possibly beat previous records. So the intrusion of women into heavy industrial work was a culture shock for their male colleagues. Some reacted resentfully, but most accepted working women. In the end, women performed far better than expected and were a good addition to the work force.

Women had a hard time adapting to the work schedule. They needed to change their dress habits and had to limit their time to do other things like shopping, housekeeping and supervising children. Luckily there was help for them; Some companies ordered special work clothes for women that were fashionable, yet practical. Also grocery stores and department stores stayed open later so that they could meet the working women's needs. Lastly, the federal government, helped build and operate some, 2,800 childcare centers to help working women.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions:

Based upon the picture

1. Based upon the graphic, who does the bug represent?

2. What are two different ways that women could support the war effort?

3. How did conserving food and money actually help the war effort?

4. What were some challenges that women faced when entering the workplace?

5. How many child care centers opened across America during WWII?

Historian's Notebook - African Americans in WWII



During the 50th anniversary of World War II, as we honor those Americans who undauntedly and courageously contributed to the defense of our nation, often overlooked in our remembrances are the valiant efforts of African Americans. Throughout the war years they repeatedly had to battle adversaries on two fronts: the enemy overseas and racism at home. Black Americans recognized the paradox of fighting a world war for the "four freedoms" while being subjected to prejudicial practices in the United States. Thus, as the war unfolded, they vehemently insisted on the privileges of full citizenship. African Americans were ready to work and fight for their country, but at the same time they demanded an end to the discrimination against them.

To that end, over 2.5 million African-American men registered for the draft, and black women volunteered

in large numbers. While serving in the Army, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, they experienced continuing discrimination and segregation. Despite these impediments, many African-American men and women met the challenge and persevered. They served with distinction, made valuable contributions to the war effort, and earned well-deserved praise and commendations for their struggles and sacrifices.

On the homefront, black Americans also did their part to support the war. They worked in war industries and in government wartime agencies, sold war bonds, voluntarily conserved goods needed for the war, performed civil defense duties, encouraged troops by touring camps as entertainers, risked their lives on the front lines to report the war, and performed many other vital services.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions: *Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:*

1. What were two things that African Americans did to help the war effort?

2. What were some things that African Americans "demanded" as the war unfolded?

3. How do you think it was different for black soldiers compared to white soldiers??

4. How many African Americans fought in the war in some capacity?

5. Name two causes of WWII.

Historian's Notebook - Victory in Europe



VE Day finally arrived on May 8, 1945 after fierce efforts by the allied forces. The previous year British, Canadian, and U.S. troops invaded Normandy, and began to drive the Nazis out of France. At the same time, the Soviets were launching their own counter-offensive. They pushed the German army completely out of Europe. Seizing their advantage, the Soviets advanced into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania.

By 1945, the German defenses had begun to collapse. The Soviet army occupied the eastern one-third of Germany. Eventually, the allies surrounded Berlin. On April 30, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. Germany surrendered soon after.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions: Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:

1. What do you think V-E stands for?

2. How were the allies eventually able to defeat the Nazis?

3. Why are these people celebrating in the picture?

4. When did Hitler kill himself?

5. Why do you think Hitler committed suicide?

Historian's Notebook - The Final Solution



The “Final Solution” was the plan that the Nazis had to kill all of the Jews in Europe. Under this plan, they were able to kill nearly 6 million Jews. They did this either in mass slaughter sites in towns or by forcing Jews to relocate to one of the 8 extermination camps.

An SS has the woman (whose hair is covered in the tradition of an Orthodox Jewish wife) with her infant child to join those being sent to the crematoria (picture below). We also can see a man that is standing between the columns missing his pants and one shoe. This was a common occurrence in the overcrowded boxcars. On the left stand inmates in striped camp clothing. The main gate to the death camp under which the train pass is at the rear left of this historic photograph.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions: Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:

1. What was the Holocaust?

2. Why do you think the Nazis wanted to kill all the Jews in Europe?

3. What were two of the ways that Nazis would kill large numbers of Jews?

4. Based upon the evidence, what do you think the smoke could be from?

5. What is a similar situation that is happening right now in the world?

The D-Day Invasion



D-Day

D-Day is a military term that refers to the basic date and time from which an important event, usually an attack, could be scheduled. In other words, the "D" in D-Day merely stands for *Day*. For military planners, the days before and after a D-Day were indicated using plus and minus signs: D - 4 meant four days before a D-Day, while D + 7 meant seven days after a D-Day. The best known D-Day was June 6, 1944, during World War II, when Allied forces landed in Normandy, France.

In the early morning of June 6, thousands of Allied paratroopers landed behind enemy lines, securing key roads and bridges on the flanks of the invasion area. As the sun rose on the Normandy coastline, the Allies began their amphibious landings, traveling to the beaches in small landing craft lowered from the decks of larger ships anchored in the Channel. The attack on four of the beaches went according to plan. But at Omaha Beach between Utah and Gold, the bravery and determination of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division was tested in one of the fiercest battles of the war.

Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Conclusions:

Based upon the picture

1. What was D-Day?

2. When did D-Day occur?

3. What do you think the men in this picture are doing?

4. What were the paratroopers trying to do?

5. Name **one** cause of WWII?

Historian's Notebook - The Holocaust

The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the mass murder of six million Jews and millions of other people leading up to and during the Second World War.

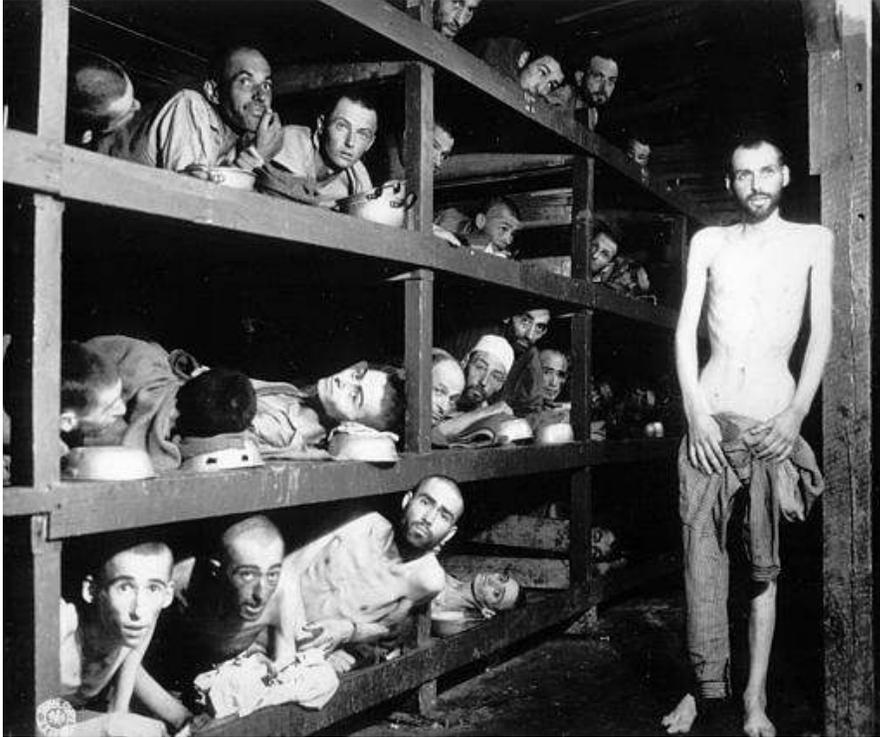
The killings took place in Europe between 1933 and 1945. They were organized by the German Nazi party which was led by Adolf Hitler.

The largest group of victims were Jewish people. Nearly 7 out of every 10 Jews living in Europe were murdered.

Most of the victims were killed because they belonged to certain racial or religious groups which the Nazis wanted to wipe out. This kind of killing is called genocide.

The Nazis also killed large groups of people who they thought were inferior. We will never know exactly how many died but there were many millions of non-Jewish victims, including:

- Civilians and soldiers from the Soviet Union
- Catholics from Poland
- Serbians
- Romany Gypsies
- Disabled people
- Homosexuals
- Jehovah's Witnesses



Observations: Make a list of what you see in this picture.

Conclusions: *Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:*

1. Based upon the reading, what do you think this is a picture of?

2. Why do you think these men look like this?

3. Why do you think people allowed such a horrible thing as the holocaust to happen?

4. What is a situation that is happening in the world that is similar to the Holocaust?

5. What percentage of Jews in Europe were killed?
