



Welcome to *Module 5*

# American History Overview

1. From Colony to Nation  
(1600-1789)



2. From Nation to Continental  
Power  
(1789-1849)



3. From Continental to World  
Power  
(1850-1898)



4. The Vacillating Giant  
(1898-1939)



5. Leader of the Free World  
(1939-1963)

6. Master of the world  
(1963-2001)

7. America and the multi  
polar world  
(2001-2025)

# Module 5: Leader of the Free World

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk
30	Isolationism interrupted	1939-1941	January 20th
31	The European War	1941-1945	February 3rd
32	The Pacific War	1941-1945	February 17th
33	America and the Post War World	1945-1948	March 3rd
34	The Age of Consensus	1948-1960	March 17th
35	The Cold War	1948-1960	March 31st
36	Camelot	1961-1963	April 7th

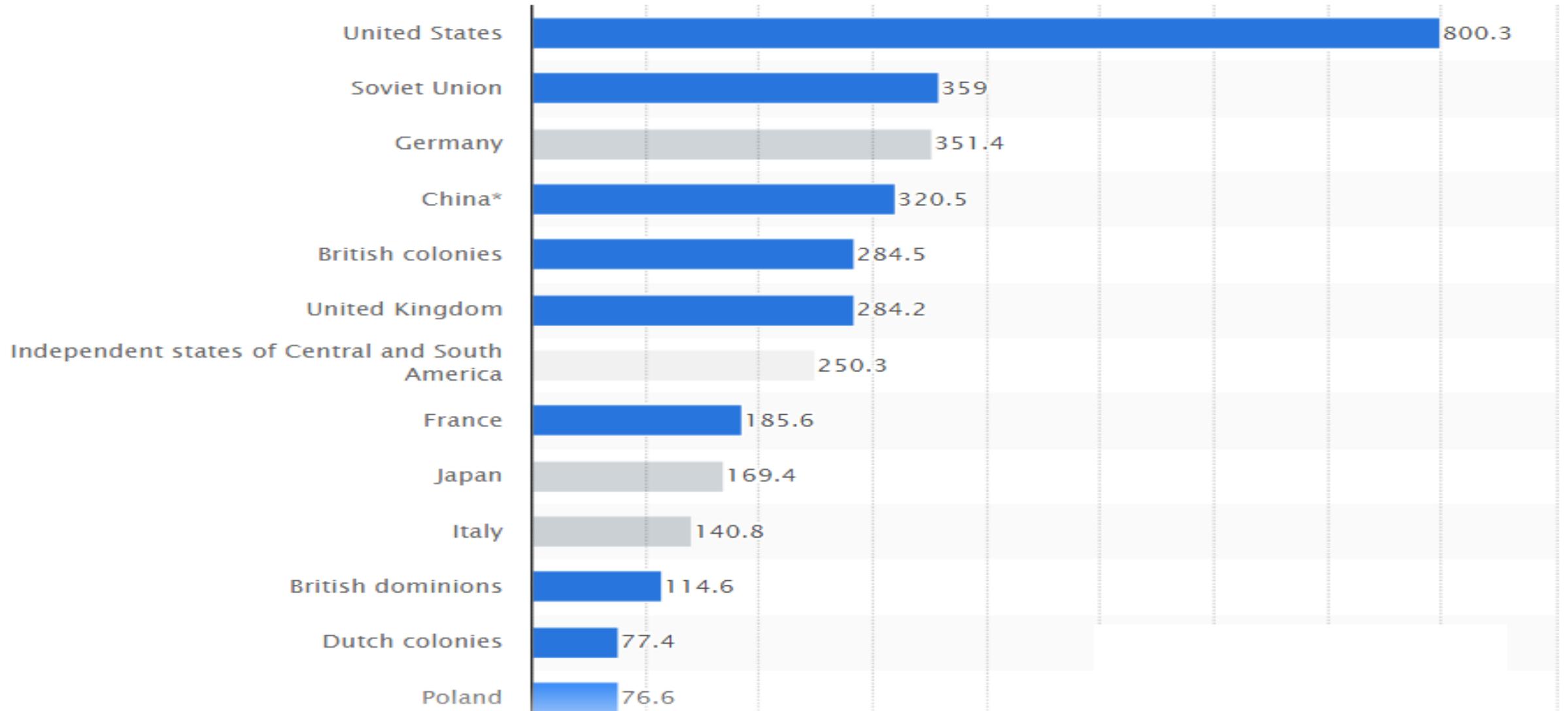
# Isolationism Interrupted

- US and world war 1939-1941
- Pearl Harbour
- Intermission
- Pearl Harbour aftermath
- The US Home Front
- WW2 at the end of 1941

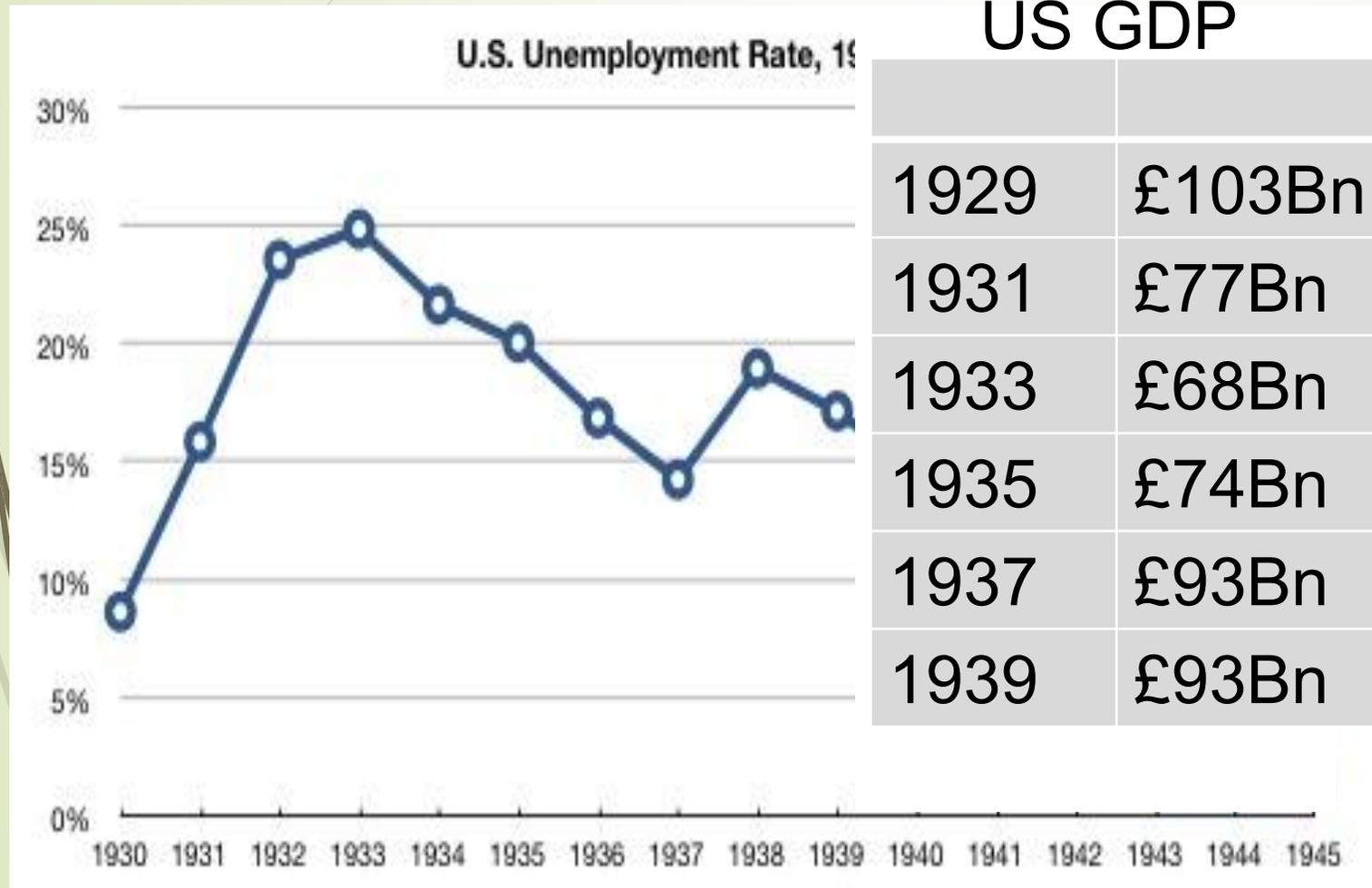


USA 1939

# US already the largest economy ...twice size of USSR and Germany (1990\$)



'New Deal' not delivering prosperity  
...economy still smaller than before 1920  
...unemployment "stuck" at 17%



Economy boosted by  
....financial stability  
....3m employed by WPA  
...oil and gas exports to Japan

Depressed by  
....Price and Wage regulations  
...budget cuts to reduce debt  
...high tariffs preventing trade

Growing opposition to Big Government offset by hatred of "Big Business"

# Isolationism dominant 1920-1937

## 1920's Anti war mood

- “All Quiet on Western Front”, 1934 best seller “Merchants of Death”
- German propaganda ..Versailles unjust, 70% believed US tricked into WW1
  
- “Nye Committee” 1935: Senator Nye... Anglophobe Anti Semitic
  - “Right : Jewish conspiracy tricked US into WW1
  - “Left”: industrialists seeking profit
  - Creates “America First Movement” ...US to remain neutral, arms sales banned
  
- 1936 Neutrality Act
  - Embargoed sales of arms to belligerents/ US citizens travel “at own risk”
  - FDR “Interventionist” but signs Act....reluctantly

# Road to war 1936-1939

Rules based order of 1919 collapses: League impotent

- ▶ Italy invades Libya 1932, Ethiopia 1938

- ▶ Japanese invades Manchuria 1932, China 1938

- ▶ Failure of Appeasement

- ▶ Germany occupies northern Czechoslovakia 1938

- ▶ Alliance of “Totalitarians” 1939 Molotov/Ribbentrop Pact 1939

- ▶ German/ USSR invasion of Poland September 1939

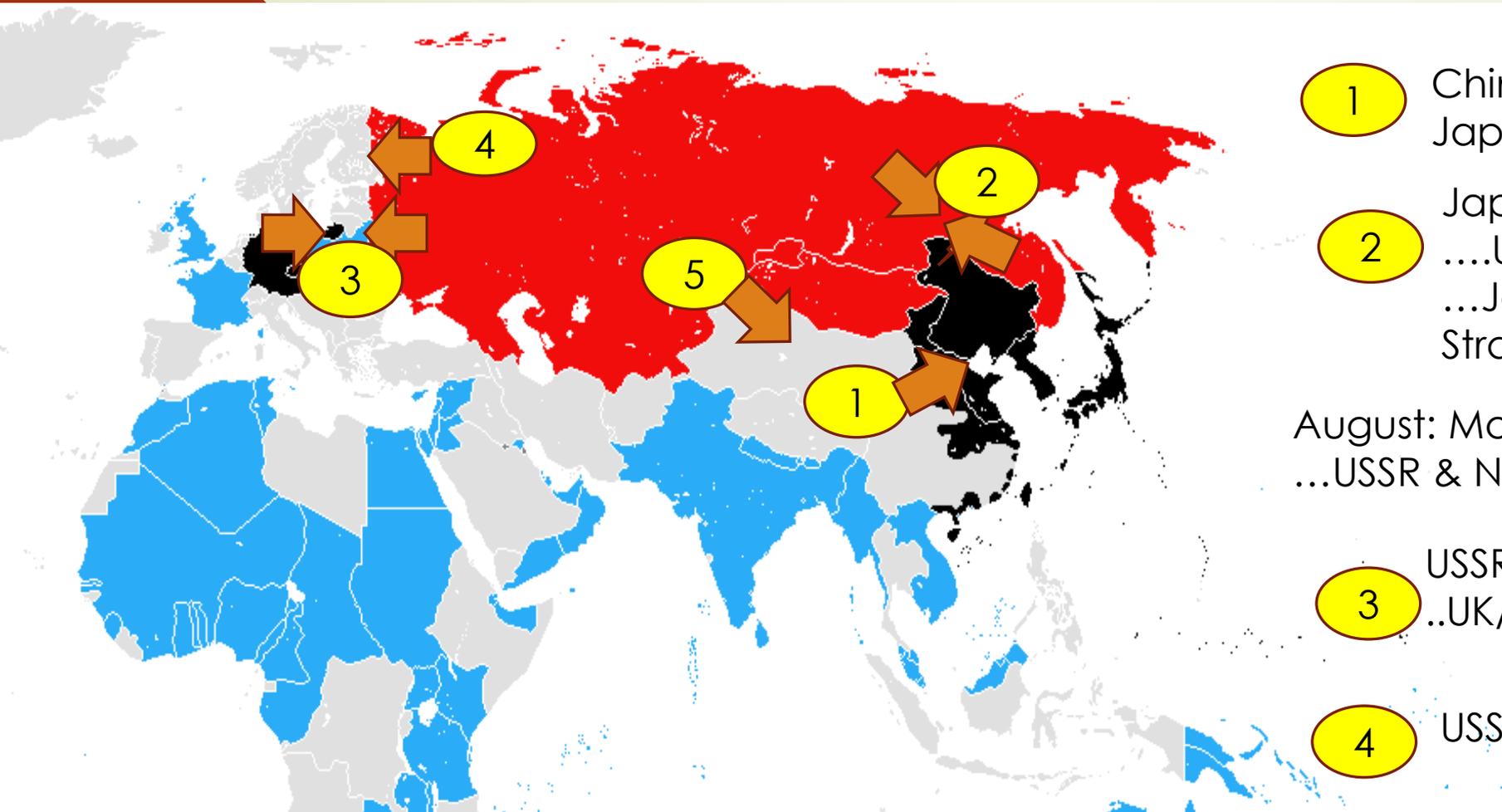
- ▶ France and Britain declare war on Germany

80% US Public “support” allies, but do not want US directly involved.

# FDR Response

- ▶ Favours allies, but cannot put re-election in 1940 at risk
  - ▶ Isolationism still strong...Germany no threat to USA
  - ▶ Needs German/ Italian/ Irish vote
- ▶ Commits US to neutrality November 1939
- ▶ Secures “Cash and Carry” Amendment to Neutrality Act
  - ▶ Arms can be sold to anyone , but must be collected
  - ▶ Biased toward Britain ....huge navy

# World War 1939



- 1 Chinese KMT counter attack Japanese...block advance
- 2 Japanese push "North"  
...USSR defeats army  
...Japanese adopt "Southern Strategy"

August: Molotov -Ribbentrop Pact  
...USSR & Nazi Germany "allies"

- 3 USSR & Germany invade Poland  
..UK/ France declare war
- 4 USSR invades Finland "Winter War"
- 5 USSR invades Sinkiang  
..install puppet/warlord

End year:3m Germans face 2.5m French  
+ 500K British in West Europe  
....."Phoney War"



# US and World War 1939-1941

# USA and war 1940

- ▶ Democrat/ Republican Agreement: make America too strong to threaten
- ▶ Conscription introduced
  - ▶ All males over 21 must register...many exemptions
  - ▶ National lottery by date of birth call to select drafted
  - ▶ Army increased from 180,000 (1939) to 1,400,000 by December 1941)
- ▶ Rearmament agreed by all parties.....debt constraint removed
  - ▶ Defence budget increased from \$2Bn to \$10Bn
  - ▶ “Two Ocean Navy” Act: Pacific fleet moved from California to Hawaii
  - ▶ Mass uplift in arm sales to Britain/ China...”Cash and Carry” basis
  - ▶ Keep America safe....too strong to threaten

Conscription introduced  
...all males over 21 to register  
....picking the dates for those to serve



# Destroyer for Bases Agreement

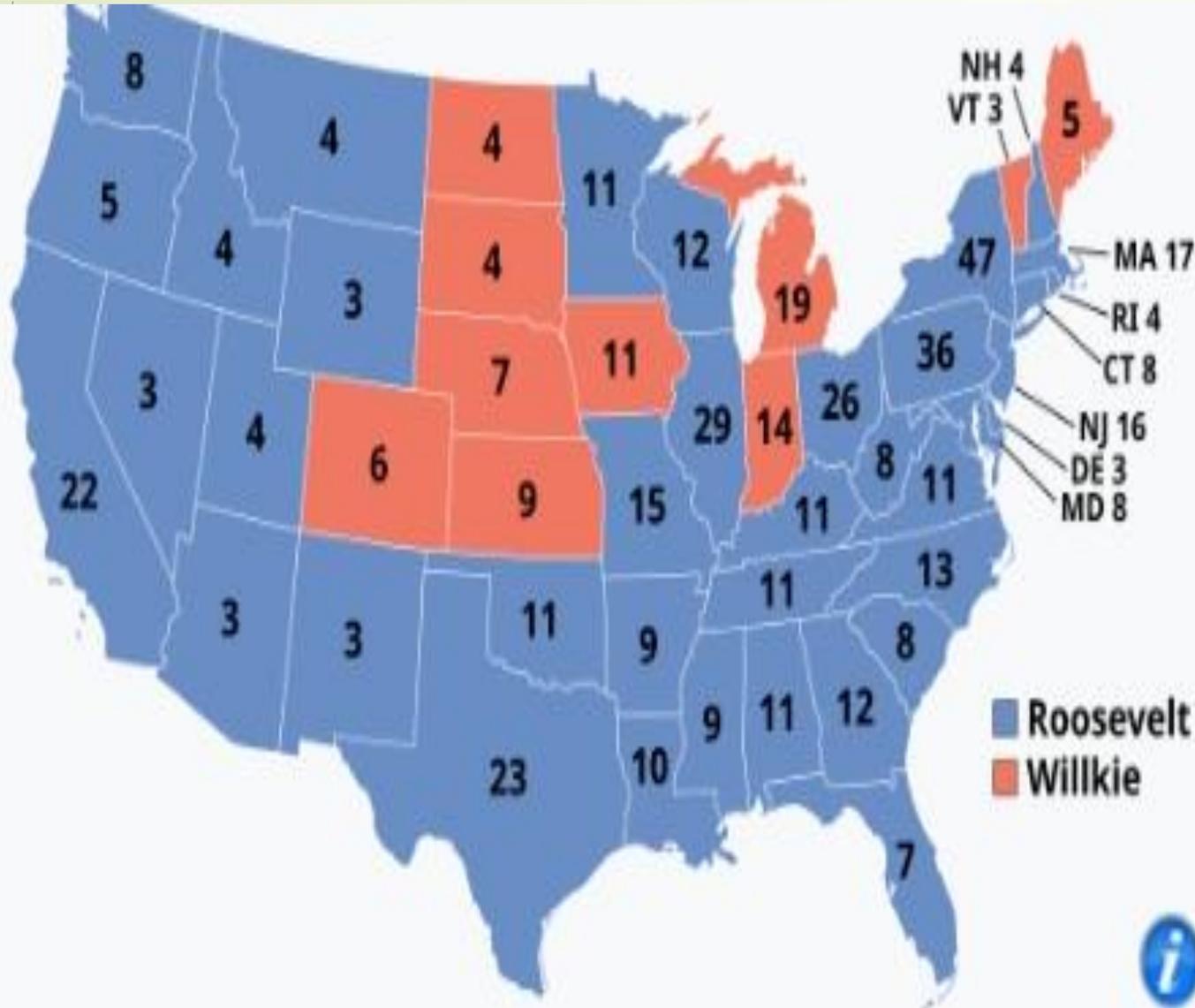
## Battle of the Atlantic intensifies

- Germans update torpedoes, British adapting new radar
- 1,059 merchant ships sunk 1940, 100 U boats deployed, 200 more due
- Britain 2 months supply of food....and dwindling
- Churchill (PM in May 1940) proposes deal September 1940
  - Britain transfer naval bases in West Indies, Bahamas, Newfoundland to US
  - US to supply Britain with 50 WW1 Destroyers
- Isolationists attack FDR....in breach of Neutrality Act
  - Real estate deal
  - Vital to US security

# Presidential Election 1940

- ▶ Democrats: Interventionist...support allies, but no direct involvement
  - ▶ Roosevelt decides to run for 3rd Term....."Make America Safe" agenda
  - ▶ Radical left discredited by Ribbentrop Pact
  - ▶ No challenge to "Jim Crow" White Southern Segregationists (despite Eleanor)
- ▶ Republicans: divided "isolationists vs interventionists"
  - ▶ Isolationist convinced FDR pulling US to war....88% Americas
  - ▶ Hard "Right" discredited by German conquest of France, admiration of British resistance
  - ▶ Select Wendell Willkie, 38 year old pro British industrialist, no political experience

# 1940 Election Results



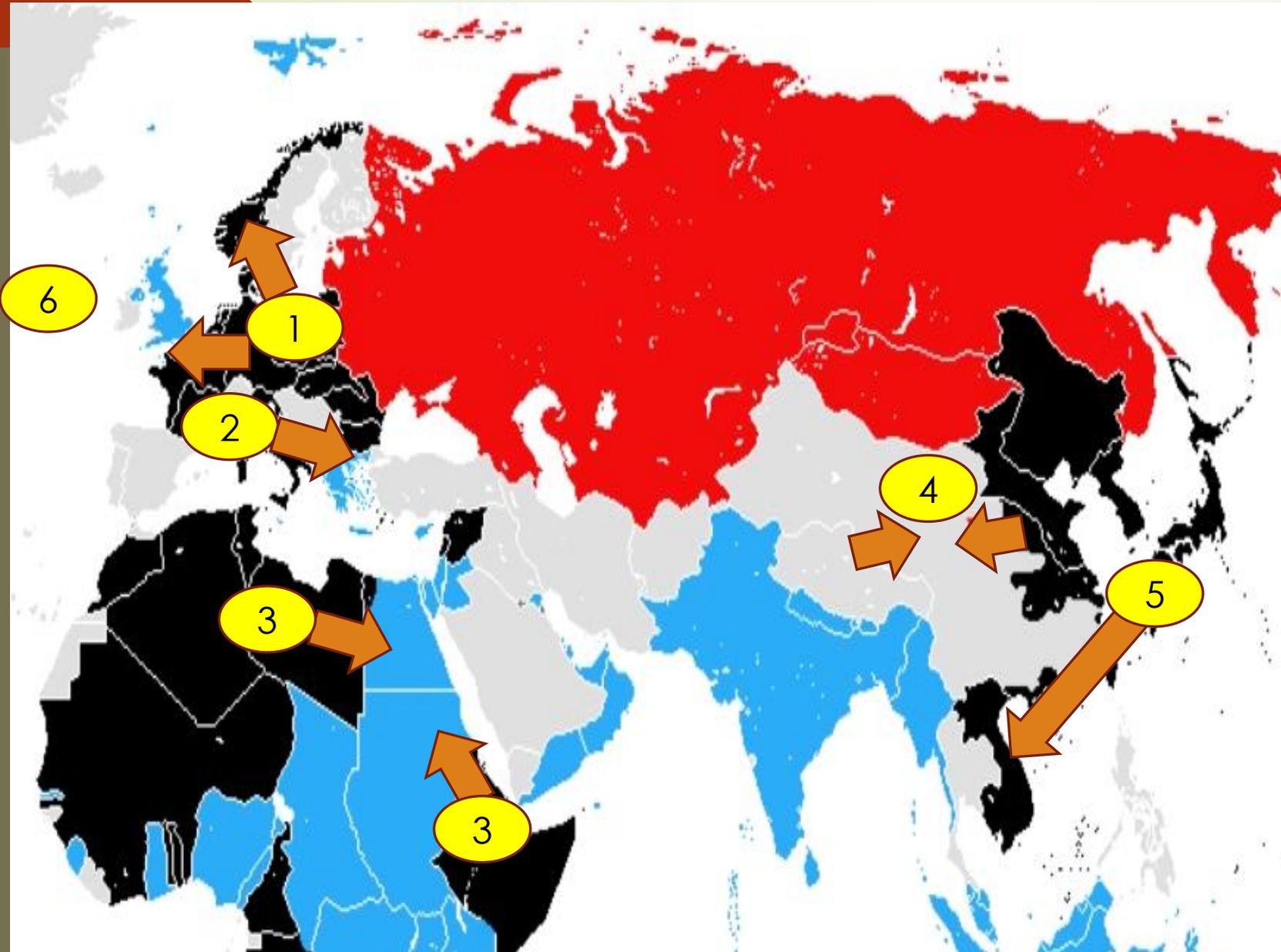
Willkie attacks FDR for 3<sup>rd</sup> Term  
,,,"if one man is indispensable,  
none of us are free

FDR Response Willkie "industrialist"  
Am friend of common man

Landslide for FDR  
..wins 27m, 55% of vote  
...449 electoral vote vs 82

FDR controls Senate and House  
...Most Republican support Intervene  
...Republican isolationists marginal  
....strong enough to block legislative

# World War end 1940....war everywhere



April – June

1

Germany conquers Norway ,  
DK and France  
May-Sept...Battle of Britain..

June...Italy joins Germany  
...Japan USSR “peace”

2

Italy invades Albania, Greece  
...rescued by Germans

3

Italy invades Egypt & British  
Somalia ,

4

Stalemate in China

5

Japan occupies French  
(Vichy) Indochina

6

100 German u boats active  
Atlantic..150 in construction  
...1,300 ships sunk/ 24 U-boats  
Britain “losing” battle

# FDR "The New Order" Speech January 1941

"Nazi forces are not seeking mere modifications in colonial maps or in minor European boundaries. They openly seek the destruction of all elective systems of government on every continent, including our own. They seek to establish systems of government based on the regimentation of all human beings by a handful of individual rulers who seize power by force. Yes, these men and their hypnotized followers call this a "New Order." It is not new, and it is not order."

FDR aware Germans could be developing Atomic bomb...Einstein letter....commission of inquiry set up ....support for Britain based on conviction Germany threat to USA

# “Lend Lease”

British running out of gold to pay cash for munitions and food

- US Public opinion shifting: 70% with conditions “as long as it doesn’t get into the war”
  - “Promote the Defence of the USA Act” ( Lend Lease ) signed March 1941
    - 69% Democrats, 40% Republicans support in Congress
    - “Buy now” return later....or not at all if destroyed, useless. eaten
    - UK receives £38Bn (\$400Bn in \$2024) in weapons and food by war end
    - US gets radar/ jet engines/ nuclear research in return
- ...nothing loaned, nothing leased...this is AID

# Opposition to Lend Lease

Isolationist claim “Lend Lease” = aid, pulling US into war without authority

FDR “Garden Hose” argument:

"I don't say ... 'Neighbour, my garden hose cost me \$15; you have to pay me \$15 for it' ... I don't want \$15—I want my garden hose back after the fire is over."<sup>[48]</sup>

Senator Robert Taft (R-Ohio and leader of isolationists

"Lending war equipment is a good deal like lending chewing gum—you certainly don't want the same gum back."

# Lend Lease .....munitions

## Chrysler tank factory 1943

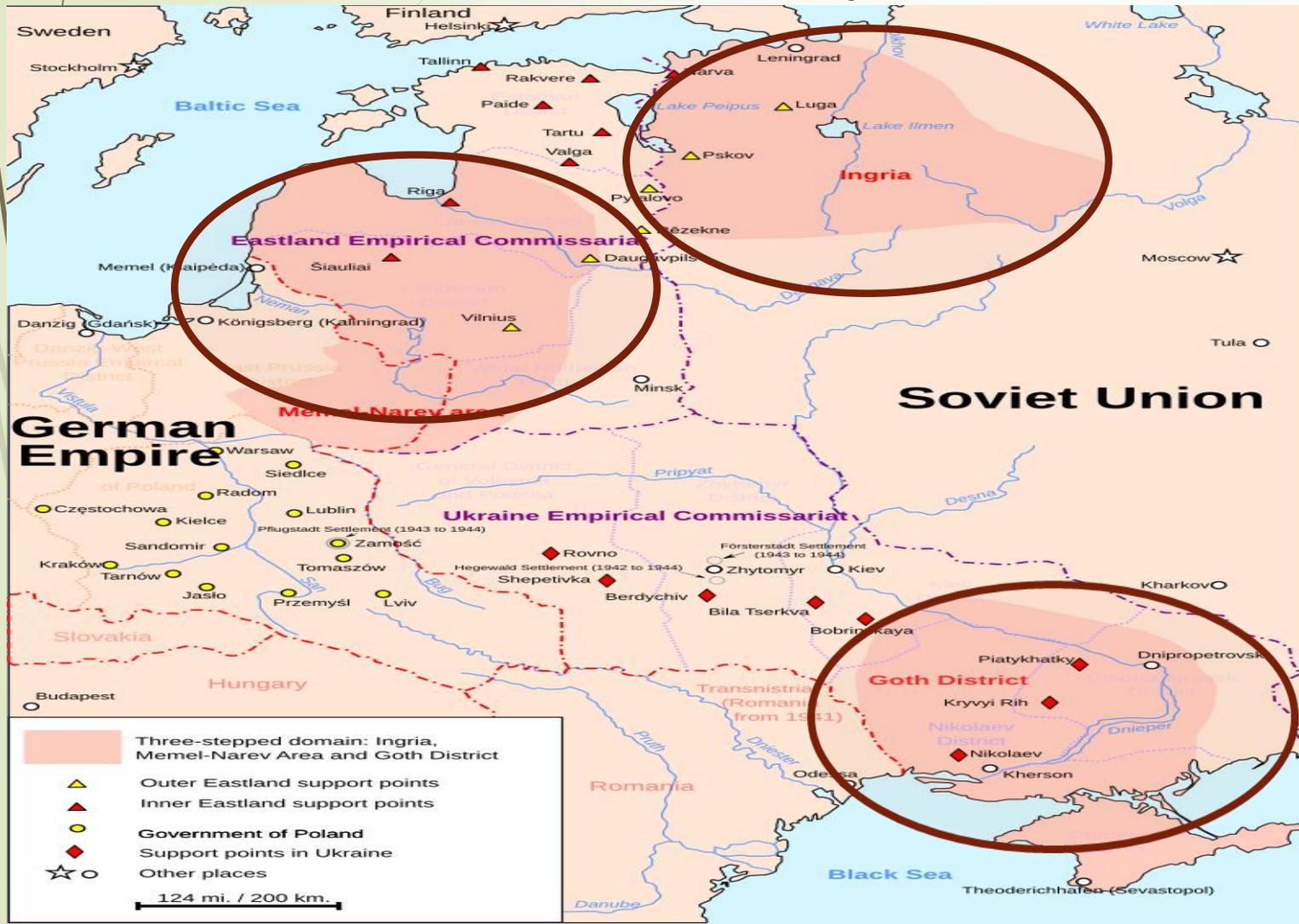


Lend Lease...and food (leased?)  
ham and eggs for British school children 1941



# German Invasion of USSR – June 1941

Planned German resettlement areas  
 „rest to be “slave camps”



Non aggression Pact  
 Agreed Aug 1939 USSR recover Empire  
 (Poland, Baltics, Bessarabia)

USSR Negotiating energy treaty June 41

British warn Stalin Hitler planning attack  
 ...ignored

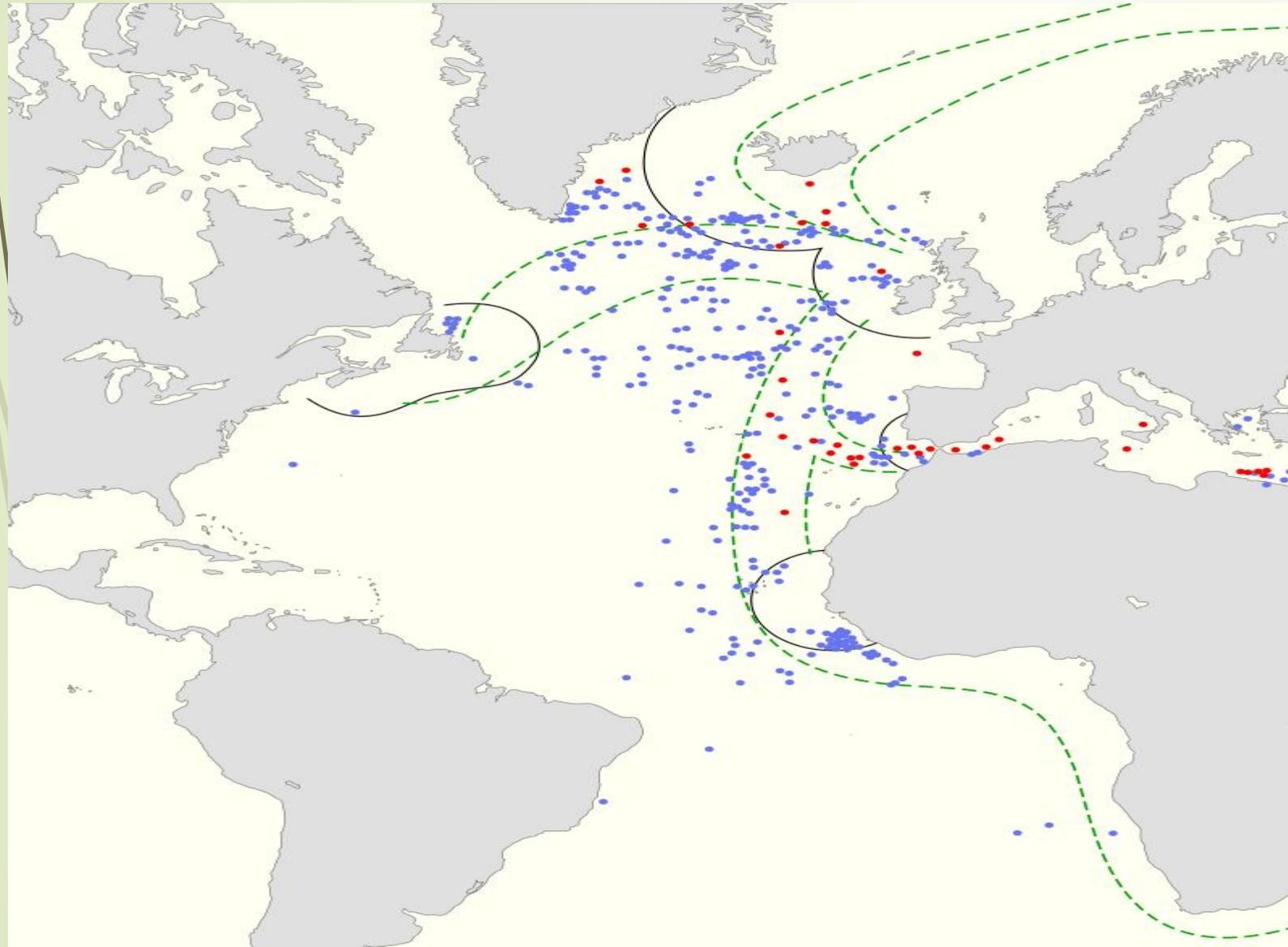
4m German 3,400 tanks vs 5m  
 Russians Russians + **25,000 tanks**

Germans take 2,000,000 prisoners  
 Kill wound 1,000,000...reach Moscow  
 by December Lose 1,000,000

Russians replace losses Germans can't

FDR extends Lend Lease to USSR  
 ....Stalin rejects...at first  
 ...Arctic Convoys begin

# Battle of the Atlantic 1941



Britain losing Battle of Atlantic  
...improved torpedoes/ engine  
Vs improved radar/ convoys

Britain "survives" ....just

- 1,300 Merchant ship
- 35 U boats

U boat fleet increased to 300  
...longer range, submersed attack

Britain running out food  
And materials, seek US support

FDR agrees US navy provides  
Convoy escorts from Mid Atlantic  
.....April 1941

# Greer Incident September 1941

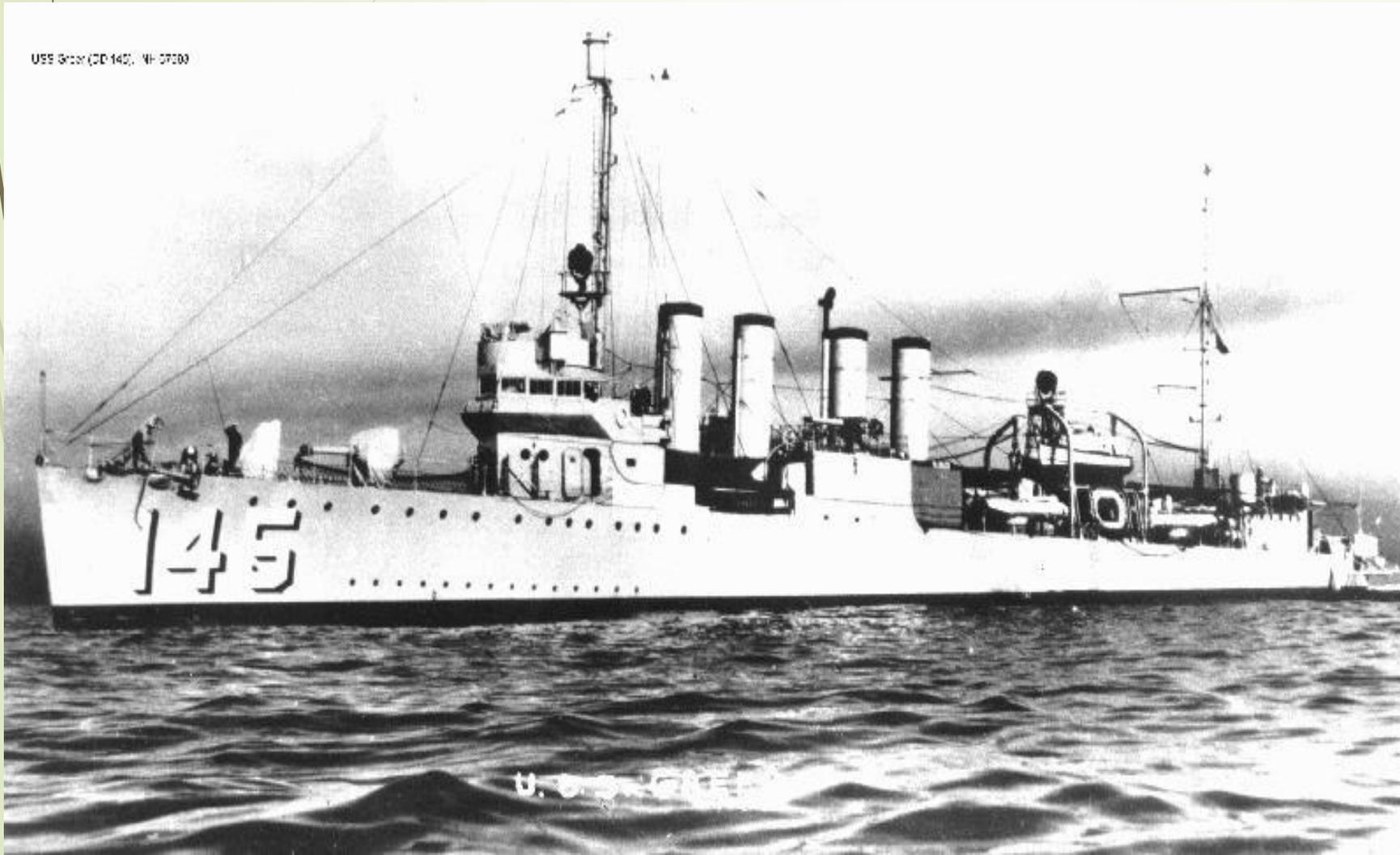
## USS Greer

FDR escalates early 1941 . US to escort convoys Out to Atlantic. Meet British

Greer escort attacked By U Boat torpedoes ....they miss

Greer attempts to sink Submarine....fails

“He said”/ “she said”  
...who attacked first



# Fire side chats



“The *Greer* was flying the American flag. Her identity as an American ship was unmistakable. She was then and there attacked by a submarine. Germany admits that it was a German submarine

Claims “act of piracy”

FDR “Shoot on site policy”

..No u boats sunk

.. USS Reuben James sunk by u boat  
October 1941..115 sailors drown

# Atlantic Charter August 1941



Secret meeting Mid Atlantic HMR Prince of Wales...suggested by Churchill

First of 10 F2F FDR/ Churchill Meetings  
...alliance/ trust

Statement of principles

....no territorial gains

....self determination (FDR

...free trade

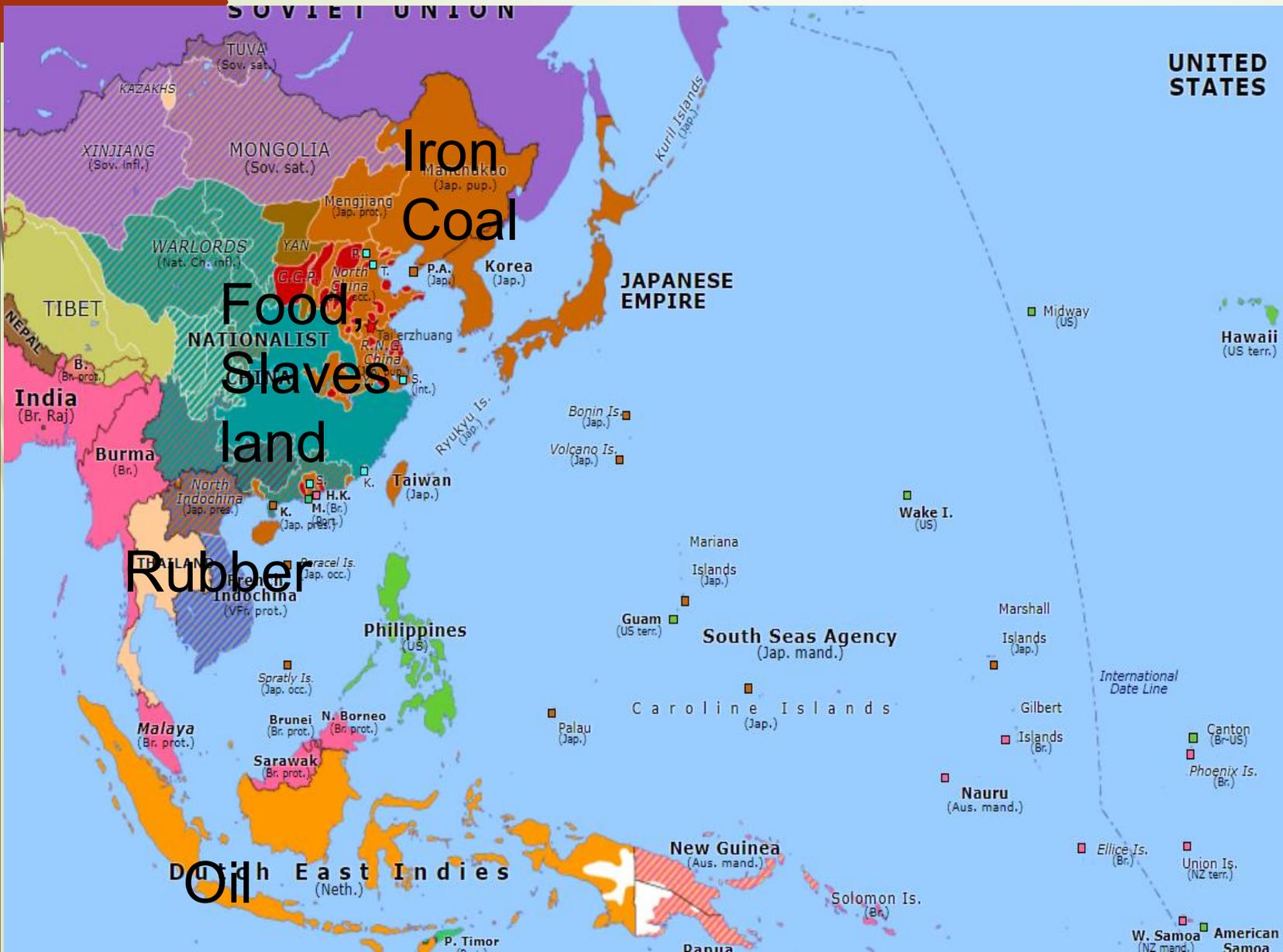
...no punitive sanctions on defeated

US support dependent on UK agreeing to end Empire at war's end



# Pearl Harbour

# Japanese and East Asia 1940



Democracy overrun by 1936  
..politics of assassination  
...army independent  
..New Emperor Hirohito

Far East “Co-prosperity Sphere”  
.....East Asia colonies  
...Japanese “master race”  
... restriction...raw materials

Expansion  
..Korea 1910, ..Manchuria 1931  
...China 1938  
...Indo China 1940

US impose total oil embargo  
October 41...Japan to leave  
Indo China, and China

# Hideki Tojo (1884-1948)

## Tojo 1945



Japanese “casts” prior to 1868—  
Merchants, artisans peasants,  
...samurai persist/ control military  
...independent of parliament

Tojo from Samurai family  
...successful military career  
...anger at Treaty of Portsmouth  
Contain Japanese expansion

visits US ...disgusted by materialism

Committed to Empire...no retreat

"I am just an ordinary man possessing  
shining talents. Anything I have achieved  
I owe to my capacity for hard work and  
never giving up."

# Japanese Options

(1) Abandon Imperial project:

(2) Withdraw Indochina, China inland, pacify USA

(3) Seize Japanese destiny

- Wipe out US Pacific fleet, take British, Dutch colonies, Philippines
- Construct ring of island fortresses. Make American response too costly
- Complete conquest of China

Tojo: December 41 “Golden moment”....Russia “busy,  
British, French Dutch defeated, US rearmament incomplete”

# The Pear Harbour Gambit: Destroy Pacific Fleet

	Japan 1941	US Navy 1941	
		Pacific	Atlantic
Battleships	10	9	4
Aircraft Carriers	6 large 4 escort	3	0
Cruisers	38	20	10
Submarines	65	40	25

# Pear Harbour Attack



# US Battleships "sitting ducks"



# US West Virginia





Everything is changed!



# Intermission

WE'LL MEET AGAIN  
(Vera Lynn)

201

We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"  
To the folks that I know  
Tell them I won't be long  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go  
I was singing this song

We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day



Next Talk: The War in Europe



# Pearl Harbour Aftermath

# Military Impact

- ▶ Japanese secure naval supremacy in Pacific
  - ▶ 6 US battleships sunk (4 will be resurfaced), 188 planes lost ---2,800 lives
- ▶ Open door for Japanese expansion to SE Asia
  - ▶ Invades Hong Kong, Malaya, & Dutch East Indies
  - ▶ Attack US occupied islands Wake Guam,
  - ▶ Land troops on Philippines
- ▶ British rush battleships Prince of Wales and Repulse to block Japanese  
Attack on Malaya

# Prince of Wales and Repulse sunk Dec 8



Both sunk by Japanese dive bombers....British retreat to Indian Ocean  
Japan ...total dominance in Pacific

# Impact on German decision making

Hitler unaware Japanese plan to attack

- Believes war with US inevitable
  - Battle of the Atlantic ...US escorts..prevent Germany defeating Britain
  - US a “non military race and decadent”
  - US will take too long to mobilize
  - Convinced victory over USSR imminent (army outside Moscow)
  - New long range U Boat + 300 plus operational...supremacy imminent
- Declares war with Italy on USA December 11<sup>th</sup> 1941



# Strategic Impact

Winston Churchill on news of Pearl Harbour: “So, we had won after all! ...We had won the war. England would live; Britain would live; ....How long the war would last or in what fashion it would end no man could tell, nor did I at this moment care. . . . but now we should not be wiped out. Our history would not come to an end. We might not even have to die as individuals. Hitler's fate was sealed. Mussolini's fate was sealed. As for the Japanese, they would be ground to powder.”

Churchill wants alliance with US to prevent defeat of USSR  
..... US focused on Japanese & revenge  
.....Invites himself to White House ...stays 3 weeks

# The Christmas Visit...3 weeks in White House

Crowds outside Capital waiting to hear Churchill address to Congress



Agree strategy:

(1) Prioritise defeat of Germany  
....support USSR  
....win battle of Atlantic  
..... Open 2nd front. Eventual

(2) "hold Japan"  
....prevent future expansion  
....build resources to counter

Extend offer of alliance to  
USSR

Peak Britain

# Domestic Impact

- USA united, isolationists demolished
  - FDR “Fireside Chat”....”Day that will live in infamy”
  - 97% US public support war with Japan
  - 90% support war vs Germany and Italy...Germany co conspirator
- US economy shift to mass mobilisation
  - All mechanisms and institutions in play (New Deal + Rearmament)
  - Budget restraints removed
- Mobilisation of people resources accelerated
  - Mass volunteer to join Navy to get revenge
  - Army...harder sell

*...we here highly resolve that these dead  
shall not have died in vain...*



**REMEMBER DEC. 7th!**

*Allen Suttberg*



# AVENGIE

December 7

gettyimages®  
Credit: Vernon Lewis Gallery/Stocktrek Images

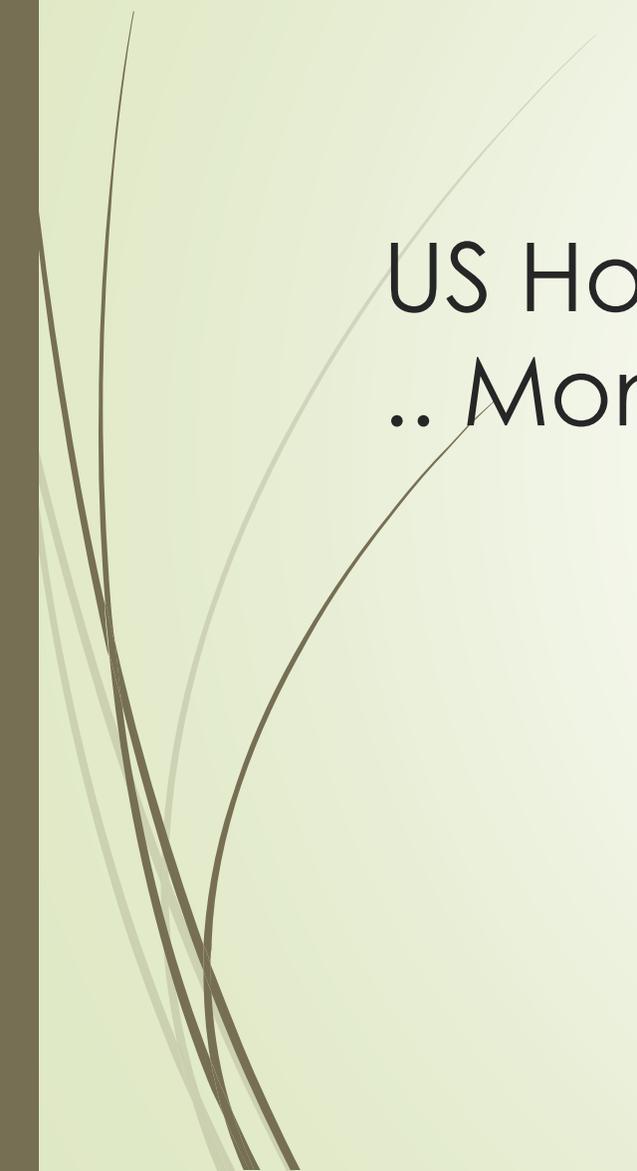


*These Colors*  
**WON'T RUN**

*Remember*  
**PEARL HARBOR**

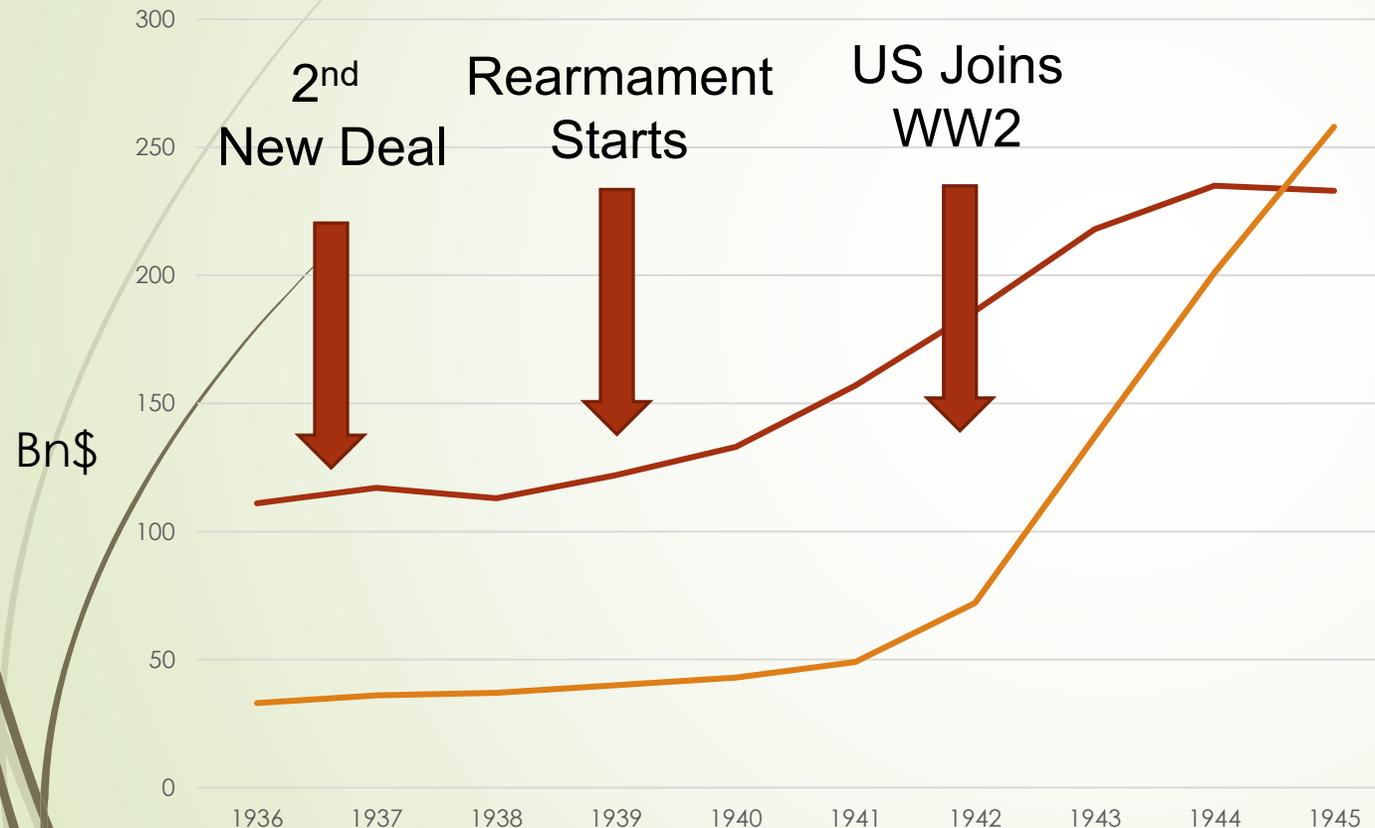


US Home Front 1941-1945:  
.. Money, people, behaviour,



# War financed by economic growth increases in debt and taxation

## US Economy and Debt 1936-1945



Economy doubles  
In size as US rearms  
and delivers aid

Debt increase from 30%  
To 111% of GDP  
....from \$33BN TO \$210bn  
,,, 800%!

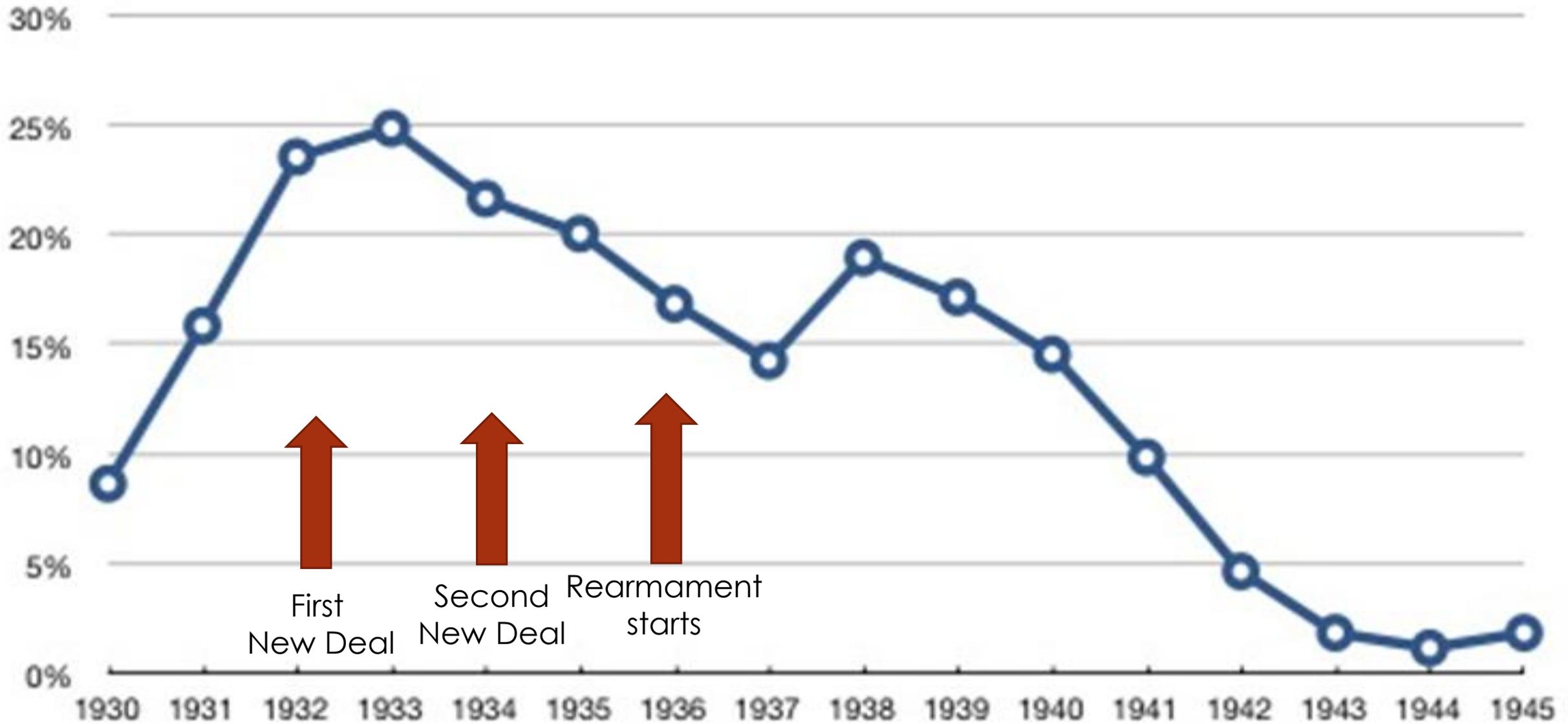
Interest rates pegged at  
1.7% ..supported by high  
Rates of taxation

# War taxation

- Income tax prior to 1940
  - Paid by 5% Americans
  - 60% rate top marginal rate for highest earners
- Income tax during war
  - 40% paying income tax war end due to lower thresholds
  - Top marginal rate increased to 94%
  - “Victory Tax” added 1944
- Tax Yield increases from \$,2Bn 1949 to \$35Bn 1945

# Unemployment disappears.....for 30 years

**U.S. Unemployment Rate, 1930-1945**



Bond Drives boosts debt...



Cartoons...don't consume...invest

**STARVE THE SQUANDER BUG**



**BUY WAR BONDS**



US economic capacity takes off

# Sherman tanks: 50,000 made 1940-45



# Willys MB Ford Jeep: 640,000 made

...75,000 given to USSR (total German production 50,000)



# Douglas Aircraft



# Douglas Aircraft



US ..the logistics giant: 50% more than all Axis combin  
... quality, quantity improves throughout war

## Aircraft Production 1941-1945

Allies

	USA	USSR	UK	Total
Bombers	97	65	24	186
Fighters	99	27	55	181
Transports	30	7	6	43
Total	226	99	85	410

Axis

	Germany	Italy	Japan	Total
Bombers	18	6	38	62
Fighters	74	3	15	92
Transports	5	1	5	11
Total	97	10	58	165



# Government funded Propaganda

# Appeal to Recruits



**I WANT YOU**  
**FOR U.S. ARMY**  
NEAREST RECRUITING STATION

Appeal extends to women to join army

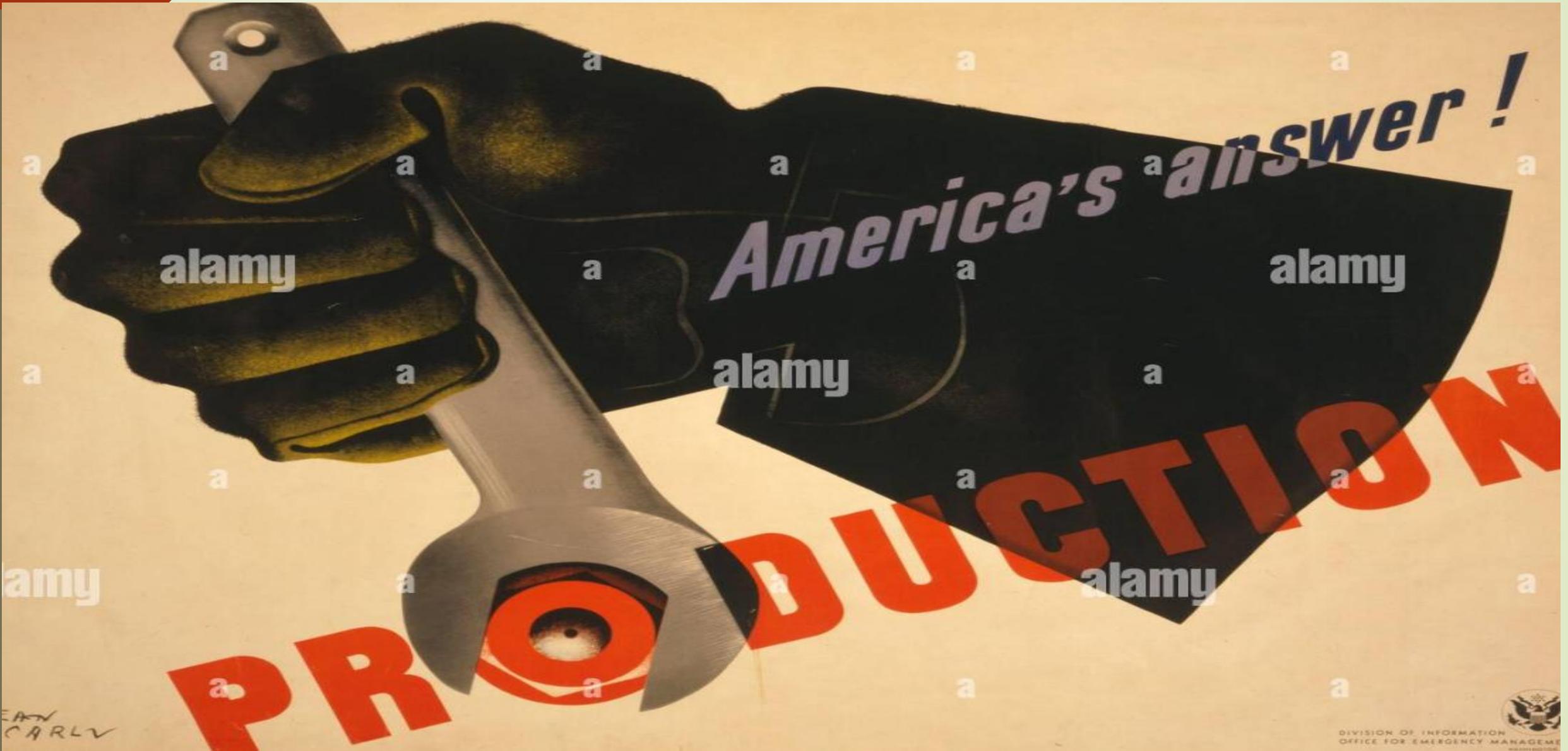


**THIS IS MY WAR TOO!**  
**WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS**  
**UNITED • STATES • ARMY**

Persuading women to join workforce  
rise from 20% to 30% employed by 1945



Central planning turbo-charged  
....Alliance Government. "cartels" **and** unions



Russia transformed from threat to ally

**This man is your FRIEND**

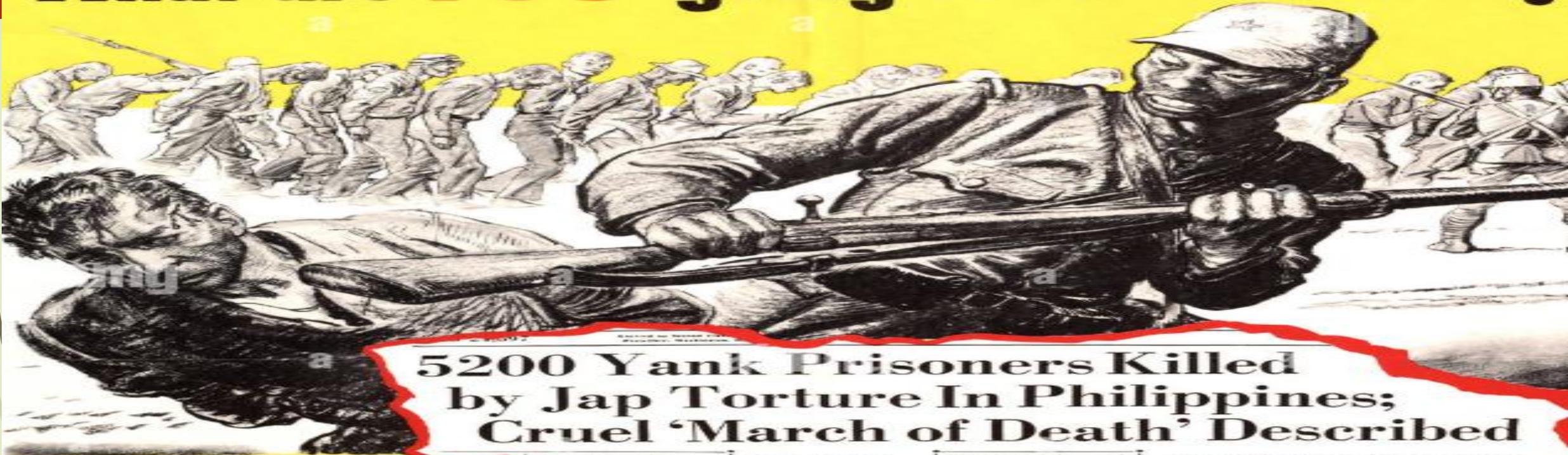
**Russian**

**He fights for FREEDOM**



Rise war fever...racism vs Japanese

What are **YOU** going to do about it?



**5200 Yank Prisoners Killed  
by Jap Torture In Philippines;  
Cruel 'March of Death' Described**

Soviets Near

Heavy Action

Rises in Fury

Crack Unit

**RAF Hurls**

**New Blows**

**at Europe**

Other Thousands of Victims Were  
Filipinos; Captives Were Starved,  
Beaten, Bayoneted, Shot and Even  
Beheaded, Army and Navy Report

**STAY ON THE JOB UNTIL EVERY  
MURDERING JAP  
IS WIPED OUT!**



U. S. ARMY OFFICIAL POSTER

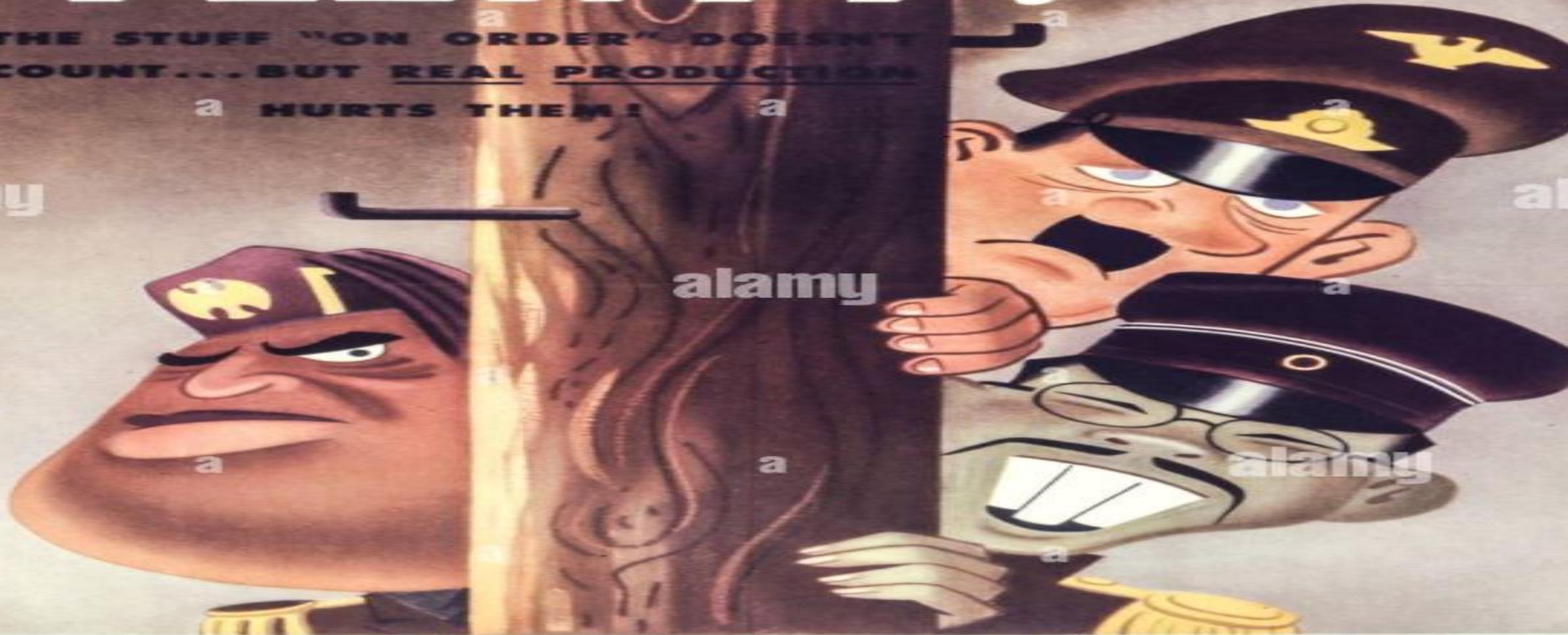
Appeal to labour unions ...using racist cartoons.....highly effective



Axis...easy to demonise?

**THEY'RE WATCHING US...  
PLENTRY!**

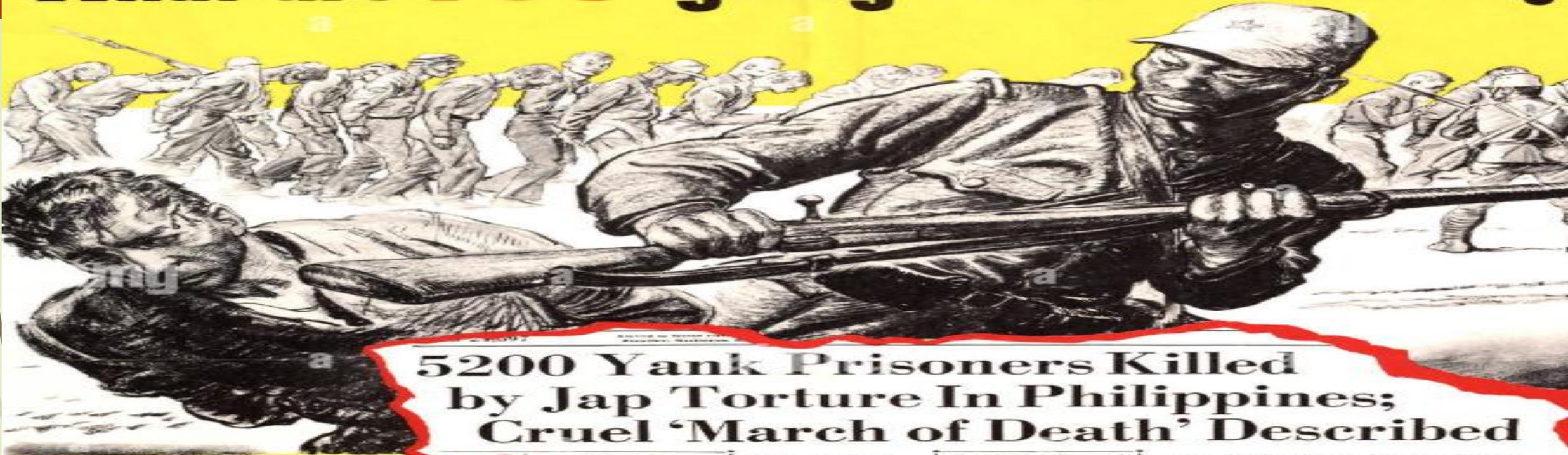
THE STUFF "ON ORDER" DOESN'T  
COUNT... BUT REAL PRODUCTION  
HURTS THEM!



PUT **ALL** YOUR POWER IN THE JOB!

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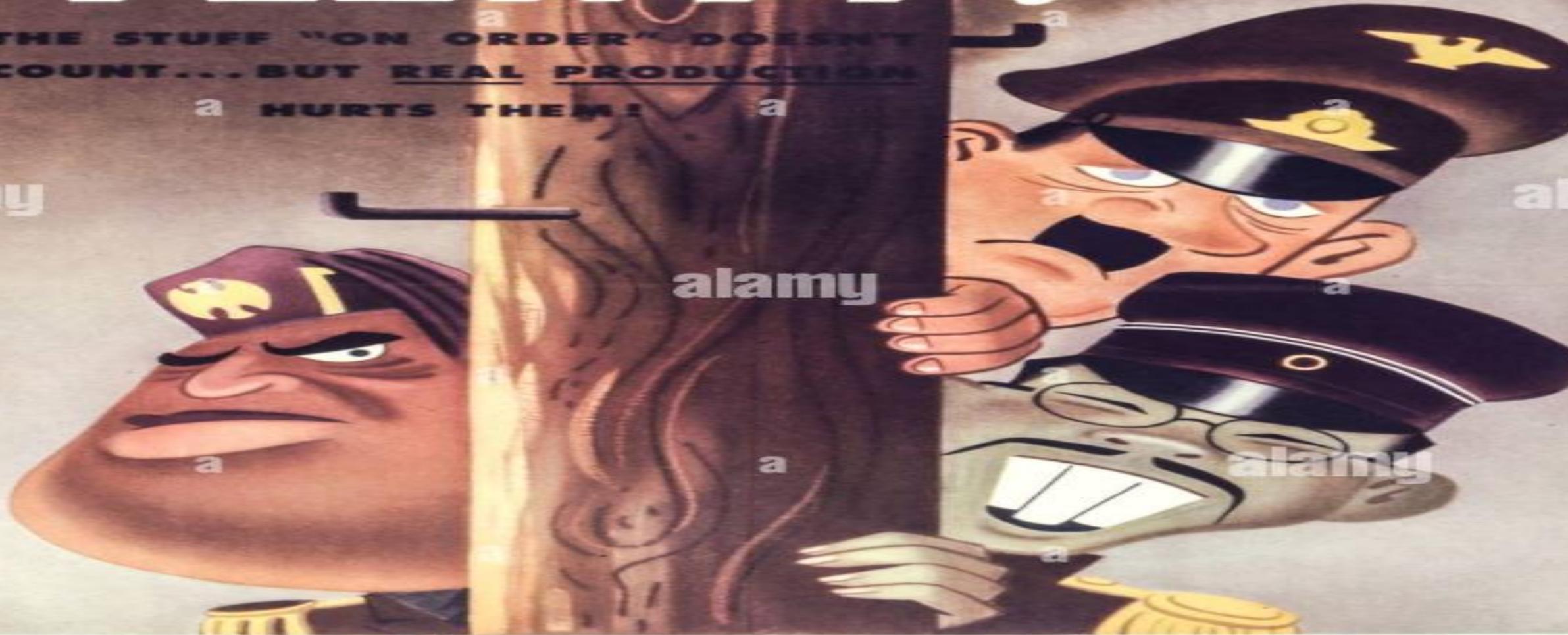
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# Changing behaviour



# The US problem: match massive new demands with limited resources

## ➤ Constraints

- Negative publicity vs WW1 restrictions

- “Freedom” central to US politics.. Need positive messages

## ➤ FDR “Office of Price Administration” (New Deal) sets policy Rat

- Food ...needed for army, British and European allies

- Rubber...Japanese seize in Malaya....US not yet oil super

- Vehicles: stop civilian production 1942

Propaganda. High level of Trust ensures high level of compliance

**When you ride ALONE  
you ride with Hitler!**



**Join a  
Car-Sharing Club  
TODAY!**

Rationing...the problem rubber, not oil

**They've got more important places to go than you!...**



**Save Rubber**  
**CHECK YOUR TIRES NOW**



# Positive propaganda...New Deal legacy



**RATIONING MEANS A FAIR SHARE FOR ALL OF US**



Office of Price Administration  
Washington, D. C.



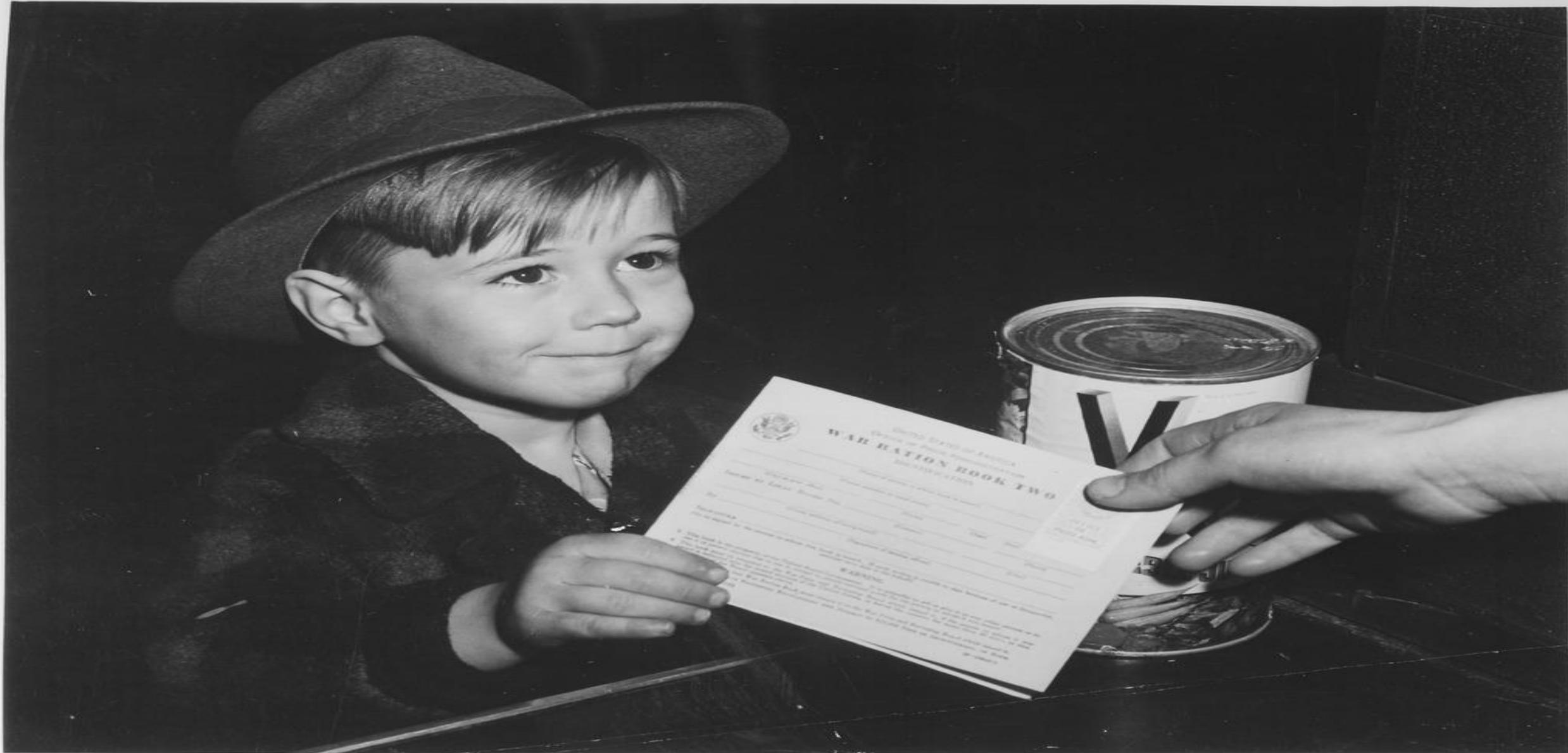
# Positive advertising

**Do with less—  
so they'll have  
enough!**



**RATIONING GIVES YOU YOUR FAIR SHARE**

# Coupon book ---right to purchase



# Anna Rosenberg

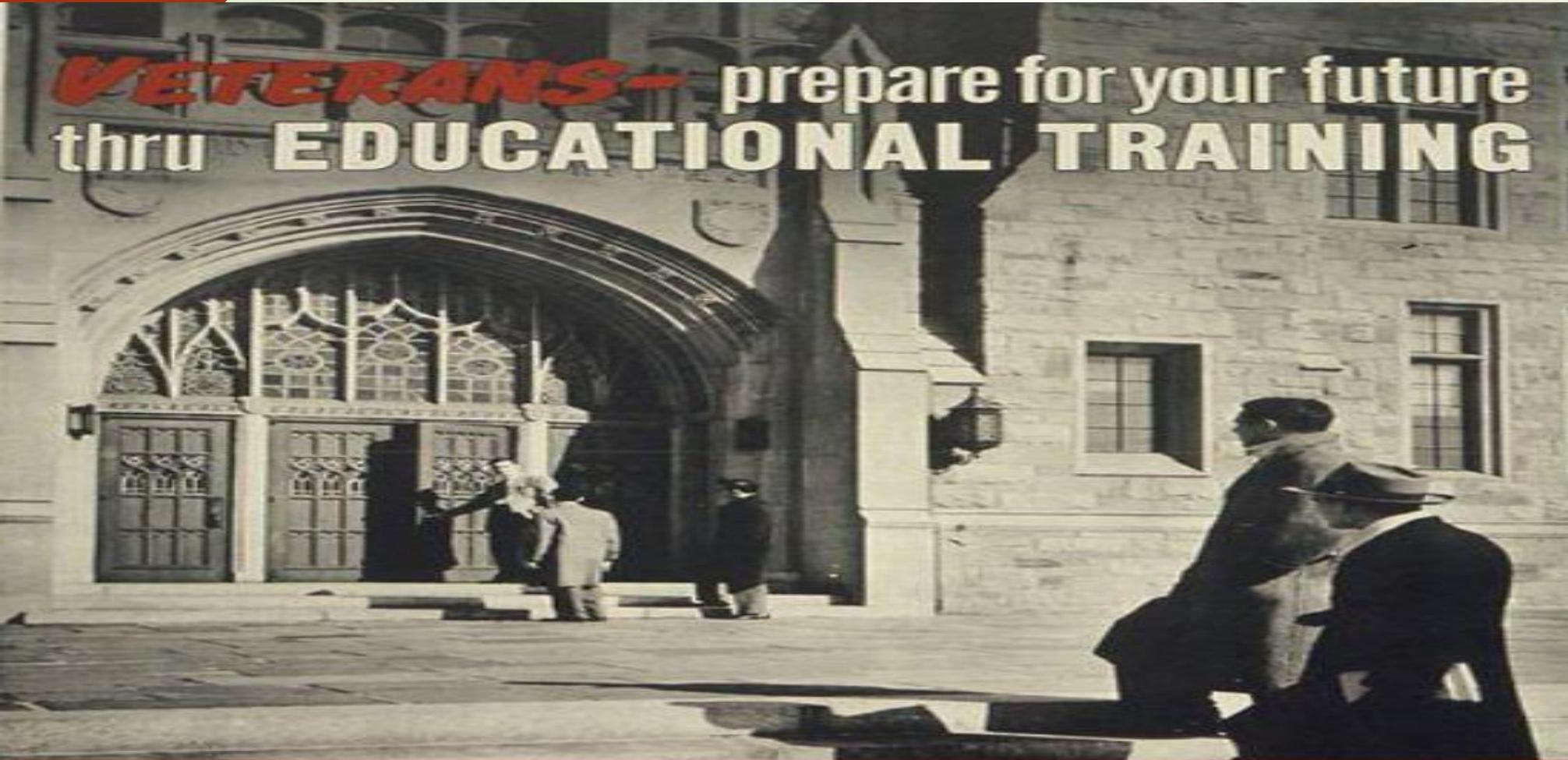


FDR wants to avoid  
“Bonus” Army issue  
From WW1 ...send Anna  
Rosenberg to interview  
soldiers

Hungarian immigrant  
Student organiser at  
High school....works for  
FDR election....New Deal  
agencies

Tours army camps.  
....men want Education  
...access to professional  
world

You join the armed forces...we will take care of you...GI Bill 1944



**VETERANS** - prepare for your future  
thru **EDUCATIONAL TRAINING**

CONSULT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE OF THE  
**VETERANS ADMINISTRATION**

Education grants up to 4 years

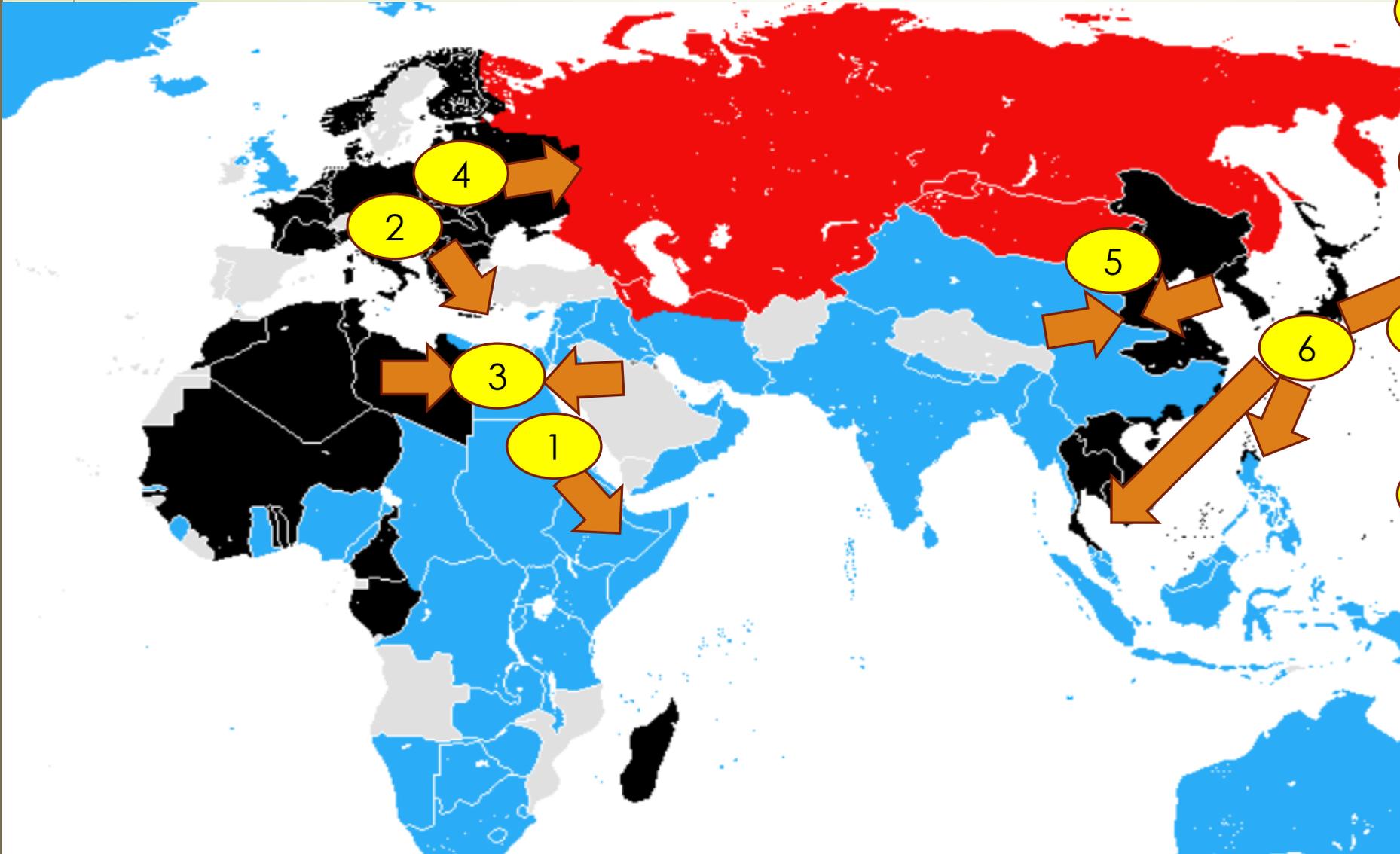
One year basic income

Discount mortgages

Yes

...Whites Only

# World at War... 1941



- 1 British destroy Italian Army in Ethiopia, 140,000 prisoners
- 2 April. May Germany /Italy Invade SE Europe
- 3 ..British destroy Italian invasion of Egypt 150,000 prisoners ..German reinforce ...Stalemate
- 4 3m Germans Invade USSR
- 5 Japan Vs China (KMT & CCP 'united ...stalemate')
- 6 Japan attacks Hawaii, HK, Malaya Philippines,

# USA end 1941

- United by economic class and race
- Mobilising fast and massively
  - 1940 – 485,000
  - 1941- 1,800,000
  - 1942- 3,915,000
  - 1943- 9,195,000
  - 1944 – 11.700,000
  - 1945 –12, 200,0000
- Totally committed and confident of victory

# Time for Goodbyes





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Credit: George Rinhart

# On the way to war



gettyimages®  
Credit: Bettmann

# The day before leaving



WE'LL MEET AGAIN  
(Vera Lynn)

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We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"  
To the folks that I know  
Tell them I won't be long  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go  
I was singing this song

We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day



Next Talk: The War in Europe