

Analyze the impact of war on the US homefront

POSSIBLE INTROS AND THESIS STATEMENTS

SCENARIO ONE

The USA played a key role in WW2 against Germany and its Allies, leading ultimately to victory. Throughout this period, the war had a smaller impact on the USA than its Allies: Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, who all suffered extreme losses in lives, financial stability, and social unity. However, the USA's involvement in this war transformed the country. By having to mobilize for war, full production, and employment were needed, therefore ending the Great Depression, (which was also primarily due to increased government spending). Major social changes nevertheless remodeled the American lifestyle. This essay will analyze the impacts of war on American culture, but more specifically the economic triumph of the 1930s, the way foreigners and ethnic groups were perceived and treated, and the crucial integration of women into the workforce.

SCENARIO TWO

Until December 7th 1941, the US remained neutral regarding World War II. But after a concerted **Atlantic** torpedo campaign by the Nazi and the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbour, the American people unified behind war. Thus leading to December 8 when the Senate voted to approve a declaration of war against Japan which led to war with its European allies too. America had entered WWII and the consequences on its homefront would be massive. This essay will analyze the profound impacts of the war on the US homefront by *initially* focusing on the change it created on American domestic life. *It also upended traditional societal norms and impacted upon the structure of traditional families.*

SCENARIO THREE

As the Second World War hit the United States, many soldiers left their homes to fight a foreign and unknown enemy in 1941. But the war did not merely impact the armed soldiers. It also created an environment where wives and children fought to keep the country alive. But the government was also deeply involved in a drastic change. **Whilst troops were mobilized in the European and Asian theatres of war, the resulting impact of total war on US society coalesced into a definable homefront.** This essay will demonstrate the war's profound impact on the economy, racial ethnicity, and the position of women in the United States. *(The sentence in red needs to be refined)*

SCENARIO FOUR

World War II was a global conflict that took place during 1939 until 1945 that not only reshaped the geopolitical landscape, but also had a profound influence on the global public. Particularly within the US, WWII transformed American society to its core by creating unprecedented large amounts of investments within the economy but also new modifications within its culture and had profound societal impacts. These modifications included an entire new population becoming included within the workforce to fuel the US home front for the War, enormous amounts of money invested in order to mechanize build mechanical industries and new points of views towards these innovations. Throughout this mobilization of its resources into support of the war effort, the US entirely broke free from its Great

Depression. Furthermore, entering an era of prosperity due to providing loans and equipment for the allies along with joining the War greatly boosted their economy. Thus this essay will argue that the entry of America in WW2 led by Roosevelt was envisioned as an economical solution for the G.D. providing stability to the American public and the soon-to-be U.S. home front.

PLAN

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

End of GD (particularly end of mass unemployment and deflation, *industrial sluggishness / lethargy*, US unemployment rates above 14% from 1931 to 1940 and fell to 9.9% in 1941 and 4.7% by 1942, 1.9% by 1943).

Federal govt expenditure MASSIVELY ROSE – it totaled \$321 billion (1941-45) – equates to twice the spending of the preceding 150 years. National debt increased from \$49 billion in 1941 to \$259 billion in 1945.

GDP rose **from** \$91 billion **in** 1939 **to** \$166 billion **by** 1945. Personal incomes augmented in some regions by 100% (e.g. California – home to US aircraft industry).

SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION

Women – 60% increase in workforce, participation encouraged by propaganda (e.g. Rosie the riveter) to work in factories – started to join unions

World War II provided unprecedented opportunities for American women to enter into jobs that had never before been open to women, particularly in the defense industry. 350 000 served in Armed forces, 5m entered the workforce in total during the war years.

RACIAL INTEGRATION

African Americans – number of black servicemen rose from 100 000 to 700 000. Some training camps were partially integrated (Fort Dix, NJ).

Special units for black pilots (e.g. Tuskegee Squadron, Alabama),

Native Americans – 25 000 served in military (approx. 5-10% of entire population) – many worked as code speakers and left their village structures and cultures after experiencing modern capitalist US society.

(Exclusion) Mexican Americans – many to Southern California (location of war industry infrastructure) – this led to culture clashes / exacerbating racial tensions involving Mexican street gangs (dressed in distinctive zoot suits which went against wartime fabric rationing).



(Exclusive) Japanese Americans – widespread animosity towards Japanese-Americans, Executive Order 9066: Resulting in Japanese-American Incarceration (1942). The West Coast was divided into military zones, and on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 that authorized military commanders to exclude civilians from military areas. Although the language of the order did not specify any ethnic group, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt of the Western Defense Command proceeded to announce curfews that included only Japanese Americans.

Japanese-Americans were targeted because of the fear of spying on military bases..

2/3 of the Japanese Americans who were relocated were native born (the rest were alien).

Camps established in the interior states (far from coastal military installations) such as Wyoming, Utah, Arizona etc. US issued an official apology in 1988 and paid \$20 000 to each survivor.

See link below for details on this decision.

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/executive-order-9066>

Site with more information + 6m propaganda video:

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/japanese-american-relocation>

RACIAL EXCLUSION