

African Americans

July 1941 - massive march on Washington led by A. Philip Randolph
 ↳ 100,000 black workers
 ↳ in protest of discriminatory hiring by US military contractors.

↳ creation of the Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC)
 ↳ need for labor in war plants → ↑ migration from rural South into industrial cities of A.A.

- ⊖ urban tensions + violence (race riot Detroit - 1943 - 34 killed including 25 black)
- ⊕ improved eco. conditions

↳ creation of **Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)** in 1942 → mass popular resistance to discrimination

↳ Randolph, B. Rustin, J. Farmer, ... organized sit-ins + demonstrations. segregated theaters & restaurants.

↳ organized **"Freedom Riders"** = desegregate buses
Roses efforts strengthened a culture of civil rights activism in black communities.

pressure for change:

- ⊖ armed forces kept A. Americans in **segregated training camps** and units
- ⊕ end of war: black servicemen = 700,000 → A. Americans were allowed to serve on ships with white sailors
 ↳ more black units into combats
 ↳ some training camps were partially integrated but still riots in protest of mistreatment and **segregation**

Mexican Americans

↳ braceros = contract laborers admitted to the US for a limited time
 ↳ migrant farm laborers
 ↳ factory jobs
 ↳ concentrated in the West, Chicago and Detroit

↳ **their expansion created tensions and conflicts**

- ↳ some of them joined street gangs (pachucos)
- ↳ their outfit: "zoot-suit"
- ↳ 4 day riot in L.A. → Anglo sailors in Long Beach invaded M.A. communities & attacked them.

THE U.S. Homefront

Native Americans

↳ 25,000 Indians in military - WW2
 ↳ military **code talkers**

↳ speaking their own language over radios and phones
 ↳ brought Indians intimate contact with white society = developed a taste for the material benefits of life in **Capitalist America**

↳ **govt subsidies** became smaller, so young natives left the reservations to serve in military or work in war production ⇒ creating workforce shortages in some tribes

↳ **New pressures** emerged to eliminate the reservation system and require the tribes to assimilate into white society.

↳ I.A. passed a law prohibiting **zoot suits**.

↳ burned their clothes + beat them

- ↳ **govt propaganda + popular culture** = create an image of the Japanese as devious, malign, savage ppl
- ↳ 127,000 concentrated in California
- ↳ 1/3 unaturalized (Issei) immigrants
- ↳ 2/3 naturalized or native-born citizens (Nisei)

social animosity

↳ Japanese preserved their traditional cultural patterns, while Anglo Americans imagined them conspiring on behalf of their ancestor-homeland. to **"intern"**

↳ president authorized the army Japanese Americans (100,000) = leaving/abandoning their house to "isolated centers" (located in western mountains, desert)

= 3 years in "isolat", minimal medical care, no lucrative employment, no school for children

↳ 1944: Supreme Court put in place the **Korematsu decision**

Love, Family and Sexuality in Wartime

- ↳ war = difficult → women = a motivational figure
- ↳ **150 girls** + members of dance brigades were created to entertain men (= prostitution)
- ↳ military - **red out gay people**, dismissing them with undesirable discharges
- ↳ women in workforce = ↑ by 60% (still race ≠ ^{had equal})
- ↳ image of "Rosie the Riveter" (can shaft, vintagem)
- ↳ **white crime** (can shaft, vintagem) = ↑ marriage, divorce, birth rates => **BABY BOOM**

Internment of Japanese Americans