

At the time of WWII, America was in a time of turbulent change. During this time period of 1890-1945, WWII lies at the end of several decades of radical change and development. During the 1890s, the Gilded Age continued to characterize the country as the managerial revolution changed the work place and the first modern corporations emerged with middlemen and supervisors to supervise supervisors. Taylorism thought was introduced to maximize the productivity of the workplace and schools. Towards the 1890s, as a reaction to the unchecked growth of corporations (many "robber barons" such as John D Rockefeller, JP Morgan, and Andrew Carnegie monopolized business through vertical and horizontal integration), the progressive movement took hold. Muckrakers such as Ida Tarbell (who wrote A History of Standard Oil against Rockefeller's Standard Oil trust) and Upton Sinclair (who exposed the meat-packing industry through his book the Jungle) agitated for change. Many progressives took up the call for reform, pushing for referendums, the direct election of senators (which was achieved by the 16th amendment), women's suffrage (which was achieved through the 19th amendment), child labor reform, and many other social causes. After WWI, tired from Wilson's "moral crusade" and failed idealism, the 20s saw conservative backlash as Americans retreated into an isolationist shell (despite much intervention in the Americas). It was in this context of a changing that America entered WWII, and in this context that the US experienced drastic domestic change as the government took a heavy hand in domestic affairs, African Americans agitated for civil rights, and the lives of individuals were changed.

In Doc 1, the Washington Post reports about the FDR's peacetime draft. The first peacetime draft in history, some were concerned over the reception of such measures, given that much of America remained isolationist. However, as seen in Doc 1, FDR's actions were met with support, as Americans agreed that the circumstances called for such measures. This document, an editorial written by the Washington Post, comes from the perspective of a respected journalism source. Washington Post's motto, "Democracy dies in darkness," reflects that the Washington Post would criticize the peacetime draft if they felt criticism was due. Thus, because the Washington Post does not criticize the draft, but rather supports it, this perspective demonstrates that the American mood supported FDR's efforts and heavier hand in domestic affairs.

Another example of government expansion during WWII can be FDR's creation of the War Production Board, which regulated war time production to ensure that the Allies were prepared to fight the Axis powers. The Wartime Production Board regulated labor, mandating that corporations recognize unions so that strikes would not hinder production. The government even told Ford to stop production of cars and replace it with production of airplanes and ships (every 5 minutes a plane was produced, and every day a ship was produced at the peak of production). This high level of control the government assumed was not, however, met with disdain. Most Americans were relieved to simply hold down a job after the Great Depression. And for many, this level of government control was redefined as increased government involvement in domestic affairs became normalized. Never again would the question be whether the government should intervene, simply how much.

Doc 5 provides yet another, although much more negative, example of increased government control. Fearful of Japanese collusion with Japanese-Americans (although without any concrete evidence for this fear), FDR ordered internment camps for Japanese-Americans.

Given only day or two of notice, Japanese-Americans were told to pack their things, herded into secluded camps, forced to live in makeshift barracks, and watched carefully. According to Doc 2, the conditions were horrible—meager food, sanitation problems, and the underlying question that this could not be the America with an ideal of freedom. (In the case *Korematsu vs US*, the Supreme Court defended FDR's actions; although much later a formal apology and some monetary compensation to victims and their descendants were made.)

Beyond the relationship of the government to the American public, the relationship between Americans was also shifting. According to FDR, WWII was being fought for the four freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of belief, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. In America itself, however, freedom often wasn't reality for many African Americans. As detailed in Doc 5, an African American soldier questions why German prisoners of war are being treated better than African Americans. Doc 5 asks what he and fellow African American soldiers are fighting for because their reality of America did not match the expectation of freedom or pluralism. This perspective from an African American effects his viewpoint because his viewpoint of America is different from what the mainstream, predominately white perspective would be. An African American soldier would have likely experienced racism in a "free" America and therefore have a much different understanding of WWII then the probably white writer of the Washington Post editorial in Doc 1.

The answer for many to this question was the so-called "double victory." Many African Americans encouraged their fellows to support the war effort, even though they experienced injustice at the hand of the American system. Their hope was to win the victory abroad for FDR's Four Freedoms and at home for equal rights. In many ways, African American's succeeded. FDR began mandated that companies must not discriminate on the basis of race, and although this was often difficult to enforce, this legislature helped many African Americans land jobs in wartime production factories. This "double victory" campaign was also the roots for the Civil Rights Movement, which emerged shortly after the war and continued to agitate for the freedom and equality that the "double victory" supporters had worked for.

More than overarching social or political changes, WWII also changed the lives of Americans on an individual level. Doc 7 discusses the dramatic technological development spurred by the war, citing prefabricated houses, passenger planes, packaged foods, improved gasoline, and improved healthcare. These technological innovations and scientific and medical advancements would impact American's daily lives. Moreover, many soldiers (who had seen Europe and travelled across the world to fight) and wartime production workers (who had moved across the country to seek factory jobs) did not move back to their home after the war. Their horizons were broadened and they intended to stay in their new cities. Doc 6 discusses this phenomenon on the west coast, which had witnessed dramatic growth as western cities became hubs for wartime production, and these migrant workers decided to remain out west rather than returning home.

In many ways, the domestic changes sparked by WWI can be compared to the domestic changes caused by WWII. Like WWII, WWI caused increased government interaction as Wilson took control over railroads and war-related industries, social change as women began agitating for their right to vote, and impact on individual life as the result of the conservative backlash in the 20s (anti-immigrant sentiment surged as well as the KKK). Just as WWI in many ways

defined domestic America for the decades until WWII, WWII would do the same, dramatically increasing government involvement, pushing civil rights for African Americans to national attention, and redefining Americans' lives on an individual level.