

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Diplomacy and Destruction: A Collegiate Inquiry into WWII

Grand strategy, the Bretton Woods system, and the Manhattan Project—examine the complex geopolitical and scientific shifts that defined America's global ascendancy.

1. Which 1944 economic conference established the U.S. dollar as the world's primary reserve currency, linked to gold, to ensure post-war financial stability?

Answer: B) The Bretton Woods Conference

Bretton Woods created the IMF and World Bank, cementing U.S. economic hegemony by pegging international currencies to the dollar.

2. The Supreme Court case *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) ruled that the detention of Japanese Americans was a 'military necessity' rather than based on race.

Answer: A) True

The Court upheld Executive Order 9066, arguing that the need to protect against espionage outweighed individual rights during wartime.

3. The _____ was a secret intelligence mission that successfully recruited German scientists, like Werner von Braun, to the U.S. after the war.

Answer: C) Operation Paperclip

Operation Paperclip was a controversial program to harvest Nazi scientific expertise for the Cold War arms and space races.

4. Which military strategy, championed by Admiral Chester Nimitz, focused on bypassing heavily fortified islands to seize vital airfields closer to the Japanese mainland?

Answer: A) Leapfrogging (Island Hopping)

Island hopping allowed U.S. forces to advance rapidly across the Pacific by neutralizing Japanese strongholds through isolation rather than direct assault.

5. The Double V Campaign was a movement by African American leaders to achieve victory over fascism abroad and victory over racism at home.

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Answer: A) True

Orchestrated by the Pittsburgh Courier, it highlighted the hypocrisy of fighting for democracy while maintaining Jim Crow segregation.

6. In 1941, A. Philip Randolph threatened a march on Washington, which pressured FDR into signing _____ to ban discrimination in defense industries.

Answer: B) Executive Order 8802

Executive Order 8802 established the Fair Employment Practice Committee, a landmark precursor to the Civil Rights Movement.

7. What was the primary ideological friction point between the 'Big Three' at the Tehran Conference in 1943?

Answer: A) The timing of the opening of a second front in Western Europe

Stalin grew increasingly resentful of the U.S. and UK delays in launching a cross-channel invasion, as the USSR bore the brunt of Nazi ground forces.

8. The Manhattan Project was solely located in Los Alamos, New Mexico, throughout the duration of the war.

Answer: B) False

The project was a massive industrial enterprise with major sites in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Hanford, Washington, for material production.

9. The _____ was a series of violent clashes in Los Angeles in 1943 between U.S. servicemen and Mexican American youths, illustrating domestic ethnic tensions.

Answer: B) Zoot Suit Riots

The riots were fueled by racial prejudice and the perception that the flamboyant zoot suits were unpatriotic during wartime fabric rationing.

10. Critical historians often cite the 'Stimson Doctrine' or 'Moral Embargo' regarding what pre-war U.S. policy toward Japanese expansion?

Answer: A) The refusal to recognize territories acquired by force

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The Stimson Doctrine (1932) established a policy of non-recognition for international territorial changes executed via aggression, specifically targeting Japan's actions in China.