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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?

- A. The Potsdam Agreement
- B. The Bretton Woods Conference
- C. The Casablanca Conference
- D. The Dumbarton Oaks Proposal

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Manhattan Project
- B. Operation Torch
- C. Operation Paperclip
- D. Venona Project

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

- A. Leapfrogging (Island Hopping)
- B. The Anaconda Plan
- C. Saturation Bombing
- D. Operation Overlord

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. The GI Bill
- B. Executive Order 8802
- C. The Tydings-McDuffie Act

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D. The Smith Act

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

- A. The timing of the opening of a second front in Western Europe
- B. The division of the Ottoman Empire
- C. The use of biological weapons in China
- D. The immediate independence of India

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

- A. True
- B. False

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.

- A. Bracero Riots
- B. Zoot Suit Riots
- C. Watts Uprising
- D. Sleepy Lagoon Murder

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

- A. The refusal to recognize territories acquired by force
- B. The immediate declaration of war after the invasion of Manchuria
- C. The secret alliance with the Chinese Communist Party
- D. The mandatory evacuation of all U.S. citizens from East Asia