

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Arsenal of Democracy: A 9th Grade WWII Synthesis Challenge

Evaluate the complex ethical and strategic dilemmas of total war through deep-dive analysis of domestic policies and global theaters.

1. The 1944 GI Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act) was primarily designed to prevent a repeat of which post-WWI domestic crisis?

Answer: B) The Bonus Army protests and economic instability

Lawmakers feared that millions of returning veterans with no jobs would trigger a second Depression or social unrest, as seen during the Great Depression-era Bonus Army march.

2. Executive Order 8802, issued by FDR, was the first federal action to prohibit employment discrimination in the national defense industry based on race.

Answer: A) True

Prompted by A. Philip Randolph's threat of a march on Washington, this order established the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC) to curb racial discrimination in war contracts.

3. The _____ of the U.S. Army, consisting of Nisei soldiers, became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history while their families were incarcerated in internment camps.

Answer: B) 442nd Regimental Combat Team

The 442nd was composed of second-generation Japanese Americans who fought in Europe, demonstrating extreme valor despite the domestic violation of their civil liberties.

4. How did the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference represent a shift in U.S. foreign policy compared to the period after the First World War?

Answer: C) It created an international financial system to promote global economic stability.

By establishing the IMF and World Bank, the U.S. abandoned interwar isolationism in favor of leading a structured, interdependent global economy.

5. Admiral Chester Nimitz utilized the strategy of _____ to bypass heavily fortified Japanese islands and seize strategically vital airfields closer to mainland Japan.

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Answer: C) Island Hopping

Island hopping (or leapfrogging) allowed U.S. forces to neutralize Japanese strongholds by cutting off their supplies rather than engaging every single garrison.

6. The Supreme Court case *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) ruled that the internment of Japanese Americans was unconstitutional and ordered their immediate release.

Answer: B) False

In a controversial 6-3 decision, the Court upheld the internment, arguing that 'military necessity' outweighed individual civil rights during wartime.

7. Which scientific project, directed by J. Robert Oppenheimer, synthesized theoretical physics and industrial manufacturing to alter the nature of global warfare?

Answer: B) The Manhattan Project

The Manhattan Project was the R&D undertaking that produced the first nuclear weapons, marking the transition into the Atomic Age.

8. The ____ campaigns were a domestic effort where Black Americans fought for victory over fascism abroad and victory over racism at home.

Answer: B) Double V

The 'Double V' campaign was a slogan championed by the Pittsburgh Courier to highlight the irony of fighting for freedom abroad while being denied it at home.

9. What was the significance of the Zoot Suit Riots in Los Angeles during 1943?

Answer: C) They highlighted racial tensions and prejudice against Mexican-American youth during the war.

The riots involved clashes between American sailors and young Mexican Americans, exacerbated by wartime anxieties and racial profiling of those wearing 'unpatriotic' zoot suits.

10. The United States initially maintained a policy of 'Cash and Carry,' which required warring nations to pay for non-military goods in cash and transport them in their own ships.

Answer: A) True

This policy was a middle ground that allowed the U.S. to support the Allies while avoiding the risk of American ships being sunk in war zones, maintaining 'technical' neutrality.

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