

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Arsenal of Democracy: A College-Level WWII Synthesis Quiz

Evaluate the geopolitical shifts, complex legislative maneuvers, and multi-ethnic social dynamics that redefined the American state during the 1940s.

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**1. Which of the following best analyzes the significance of the 1941 Atlantic Charter in the context of American grand strategy prior to formal belligerency?**

**Answer:** B) It articulated a vision of post-war self-determination and collective security, aligning US interests with British war aims.

The Atlantic Charter, drafted by Roosevelt and Churchill, established ideological commonalities—such as freedom of the seas and sovereignty—that laid the groundwork for the United Nations.

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_, established by Executive Order 8802, represented a watershed moment in federal intervention against racial discrimination in the defense industries.**

**Answer:** A) Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC)

Executive Order 8802 was issued after A. Philip Randolph threatened a march on Washington; the FEPC was the body created to enforce the ban on discriminatory hiring in the defense sector.

**3. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) held that the compulsory exclusion of Japanese Americans was unconstitutional but permitted under 'emergency' military necessity.**

**Answer:** B) False

The Court actually upheld the constitutionality of the exclusion order, ruling that the need to protect against espionage outweighed Korematsu's individual rights.

**4. How did the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference fundamentally reconfigure the global economic hierarchy?**

**Answer:** C) By establishing the IMF and World Bank, pegging global currencies to the US dollar.

Bretton Woods ensured US economic hegemony by making the dollar the world's primary reserve currency, backed by gold, and creating institutions to manage global financial stability.

**5. In the 'Double V' campaign, African American activists advocated for victory over fascism abroad and victory over \_\_\_\_\_ at home.**

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**Answer:** C) Jim Crow/Racism

The Pittsburgh Courier first championed the 'Double V' campaign to connect the fight against Nazi racial ideologies abroad with the fight against systemic racism in the United States.

**6. The 'Bracero Program' was a bilateral agreement between the US and Mexico to address labor shortages in the agricultural sector during the war years.**

**Answer:** A) True

Launched in 1942, the program brought millions of Mexican guest workers to the US, significantly altering the demographic and labor landscape of the American West.

**7. Which operation, characterized by complex deception via 'Operation Fortitude,' was essential for the success of the Normandy landings?**

**Answer:** B) Operation Bodyguard

Operation Bodyguard was the overarching deception plan; Fortitude was the specific sub-plan that used inflatable tanks and fake radio traffic to convince Hitler the invasion would occur at Pas-de-Calais.

**8. The \_\_\_\_\_, passed by Congress in 1944, aimed to prevent a post-war depression by providing veterans with education subsidies and low-interest mortgage loans.**

**Answer:** B) Servicemen's Readjustment Act

Commonly known as the GI Bill, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act was pivotal in expanding the American middle class, though its benefits were often inequitably distributed along racial lines.

**9. Synthesize the impact of the 'Zoot Suit Riots' in Los Angeles (1943). What does this event reveal about the home front?**

**Answer:** C) Tensions between wartime 'patriotism' codes and the cultural identity of Mexican-American youth.

The riots highlighted the intersection of racial profiling and wartime hysteria, as the oversized suits were viewed by white servicemen as a 'slacker' defiance of fabric rationing.

**10. The Manhattan Project's Trinity Test in New Mexico was the first time a plutonium-based implosion device was successfully detonated.**

**Answer:** A) True

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The Trinity Test on July 16, 1945, proved the viability of the complex implosion mechanism used in the 'Fat Man' bomb, a different design from the uranium-based 'Little Boy' bomb.