

# Chapter 15 – Section 1

The Shift to Wartime Production

# End of the Depression

- The Allies' (France & Great Britain) factories had been destroyed by Germany
- By supplying them with **goods that were mass produced in the U.S.** it **bolstered our economy**



# Office of War Mobilization (OWM)

- Agency set up by FDR to **coordinate the war effort at home**
- **Stopped making consumer goods** like cars and lawn mowers and **instead made supplies for the war**
- OWM decided what materials were needed



# “Assistant President”

- **Head of the OWM** was called this because while FDR ran the war, he **basically ran the country** saying what people could and couldn't buy or use



# Wartime Production



- Examples
  - Typewriter plants made machine guns
  - Shirt factories made mosquito netting
  - **Ford car factories made bombers/planes**
  - Very few people were allowed to buy cars – only those who really needed them (like rural doctors)



# Lots of Military Supplies

- **300,000 airplanes**
- **80,000 landing craft**
- **100,000 tanks & armored cars**
- **6 million rifles & machine guns**
- **41 billion rounds of ammo**
- **5,600 Liberty ships**



# “Liberty Ships”

- **Used to carry supplies or troops**
- **Ships built for the war using assembly line techniques to mass produce them instead of building one from the bottom up**



- Built different sections in different parts of the shipyard
- Huge cranes moved them and then welded together
- **Could build in 46 days rather than 150 (set record in 4 days!)**





# Pride & Patriotism

- Besides just making money, companies like Coca-Cola wanted to “get a bottle of Coca-Cola to every man in uniform wherever he is and whatever it costs”
- **Produced an army of consumers after the war** who had enjoyed it while in uniform



# Unemployment & Wages

- **Unemployment dropped dramatically to 2% by 1945**
- **Pay went up 27% in just 3 years**

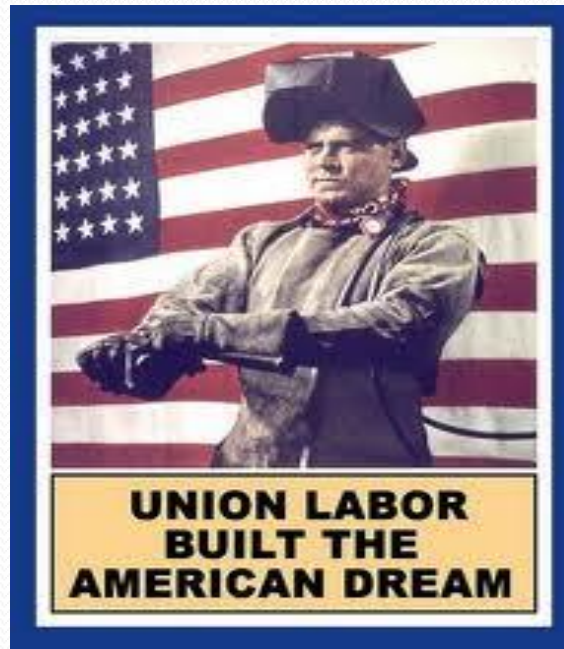






# Unions & Owners

- Unions and business owners **agreed not to strike or have lockouts** (keeping employees out to avoid meeting their demands)
- Didn't last b/c profits for companies got bigger, but increased wages couldn't keep up with cost of living



# Cost of the War?

- \$321 billion – **10 X more than WWI**
- Paid for by **raising taxes** on income and consumer goods for half of it
- **Borrowed the other half** (from banks, private investors, and the public)



# Deficit Spending

- **Govt. spending of borrowed money**
- Turned the economy around overnight, but created a huge national debt that caused economic problems later





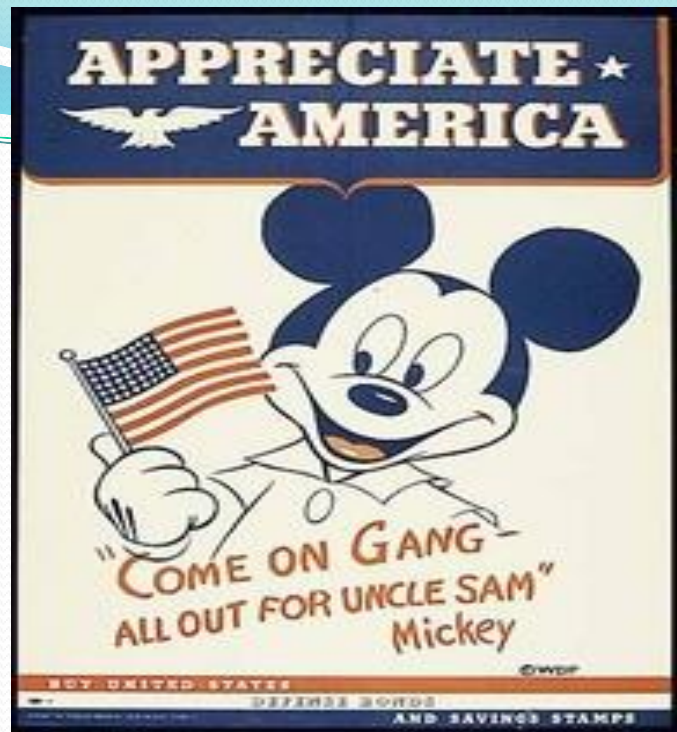
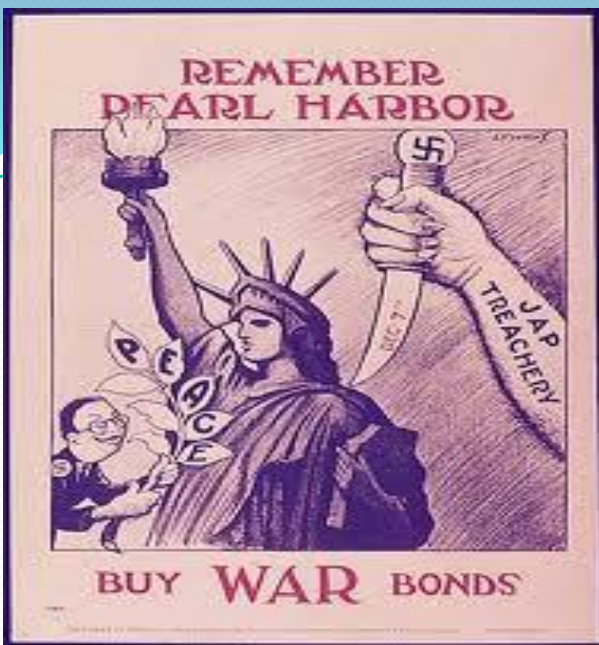
# War Bonds

- **Government savings bonds bought by individuals to finance the war (brought in \$156 billion)**
- **Advertised by movie stars and war heroes**
- **Even schoolchildren brought dimes and nickels to school each week, buying defense stamps that would eventually add up to the price of a bond**







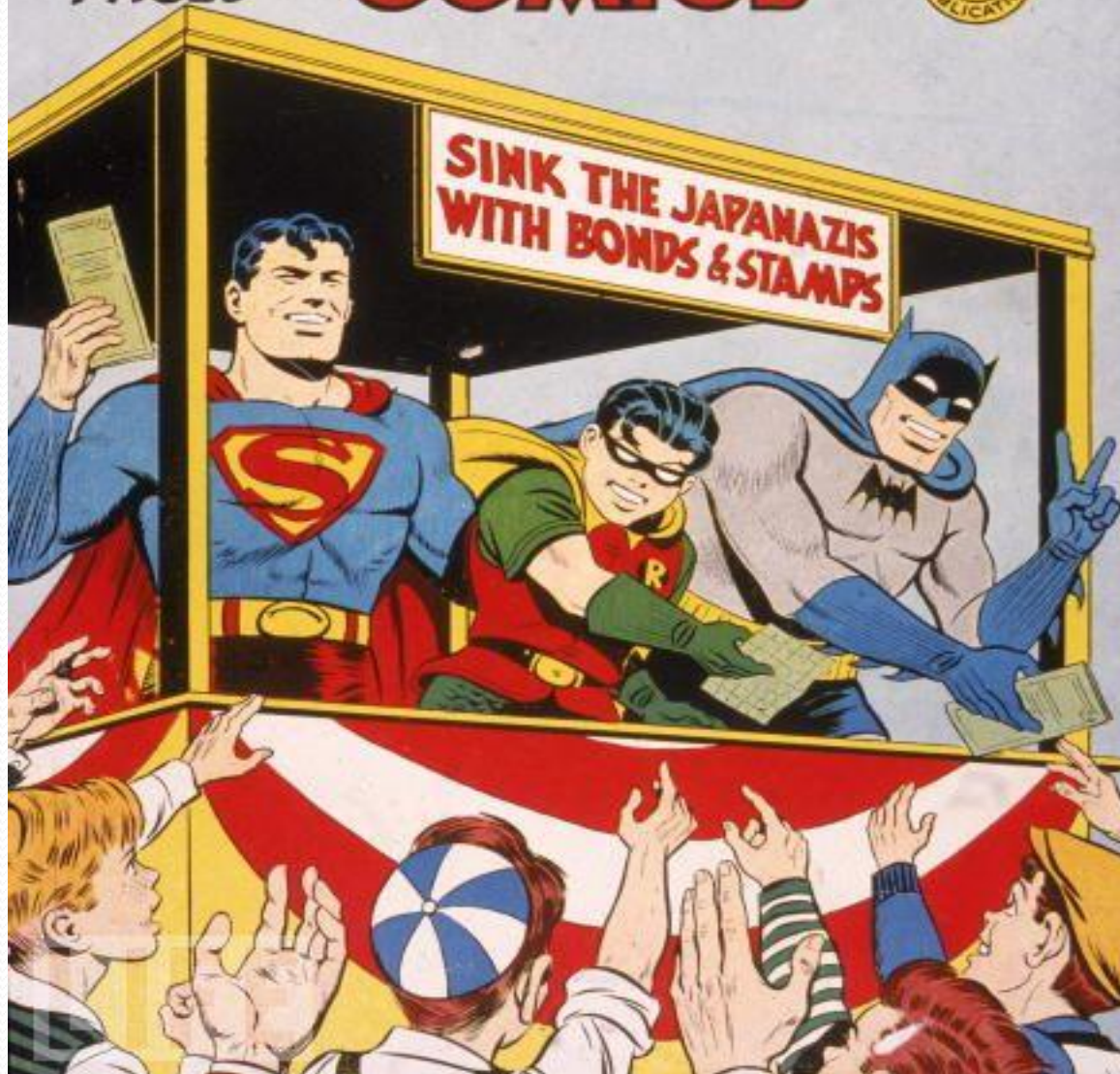


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# Create a War Bonds Poster

- You have been hired by the government to design a poster to help sell war bonds.
- Use an image and phrase that you think will help persuade the American people to invest in these bonds to help finance the war.
- The message should be *simple yet powerful*.  
(and appropriate!)