

## War on the Home Front

### **Terms to Remember:**

Office of War Mobilization (OWM), Office of Price Administration (OPA), cost-plus system, deficit spending, rationing, wildcat strikes, Smith-Connally Act, Rosie the Riveter, Double-V Campaign, Exec. Order 8802, Exec. Order 9066

### **Government at War**

1. Necessity of increased production required government interaction with and direction of industrial production. (OWM)
2. To foster industrial production Secretary of War Henry Stimson realized that industry must be allowed to make a profit on the production of war materials.
3. Limitations on consumer goods became necessary as production was geared toward military needs. (OPA)
4. John Maynard Keynes – deficit spending (War bonds, bank loans, private investors)

### **Citizens at War**

1. By the millions, American citizens supported the war effort by rationing their consumption of vital goods (New spending habits emerged – pocket books, women's baseball, new music, movies)
2. Although rationing and conservation helped, millions of dollars needed to be borrowed to finance the war effort.
3. Revenue Act of 1942 increased the number of Americans paying taxes
4. Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau used Capitalism and wealth to sell the war effort to the American people.
5. War production caused employment opportunities to expand and ended the Great Depression.
6. Wildcat strikes broke out after 1943 to protest low pay and shortages of vital goods for the domestic economy. (Industrialists getting rich, workers getting little due to price and wage fixing of OPA) Inspired Smith-Connally Act limiting strikes

### **Women at War**

1. Women began to take jobs in industry as ship-builders, welders, airplane manufacturers, etc. (Rosie the Riveter)
2. Although they were paid less than men in the same occupation, women began to earn money independently of men.
3. At wars end, women were expected to return to a domestic capacity.
4. Expectations placed upon women as wives, mothers, and sex-objects.

## **Minorities at War**

1. While war expanded opportunities for most, African-Americans were expected to fill service roles in the war effort.
2. While fighting for democracy overseas, many black activists began advocating for increased democracy and racial equality at home. (Double-V Campaign)
3. A. Phillip Randolph organized a march on Washington D.C. in 1941 that was put off when Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 prohibiting discrimination in hiring for government defense jobs.
4. Bracero program increased employment opportunities for Mexican farm workers.
5. Exec. Order 9066 authorized the placement of Japanese-Americans into internment camps. (*Korematsu v. United States*)