



# The Home Front



# World War II at Home

- World War II affected every aspect of American life.
- Americans were asked to make sacrifices in support of the war effort and the ideas for which we fought.
- American involvement in World War II brought an end to the Great Depression. Factories and workers were needed to produce goods to win the war.
- Americans at home supported the war by conserving and rationing resources.

- Factories in the United States converted from civilian (consumer products) to war production (military products) with amazing speed.
- Firms that had made vacuum cleaners before the war began to produce machine guns.
- As men went into the armed forces, women took their places in war plants.
- GM, Ford, and Chrysler went from creating cars to tanks.
- Boeing from regular airplanes to bombers and fighter jets.
- With the country in full war mode, the U.S. was producing weapons faster than anybody around thought that it would or could.
- In one month, the U.S. was able to produce up to 4,000 tanks and 4,500 planes.

# Sacrifice

- The federal government encouraged Americans to conserve and recycle materials such as metal, paper, and rubber, which factories could then use for wartime production.
- Lots of everyday household trash had value: kitchen fats, old metal shovels, even empty metal lipstick tubes.
- In the spring of 1942, the War Production Board dictated styles for civilian apparel that would conserve cloth and metal for the war effort.
- For example, menswear rid itself of vests, elbow patches on jackets, and cuffs on pants.
- Women's clothing also relied on fewer materials and skirts became shorter and narrower.

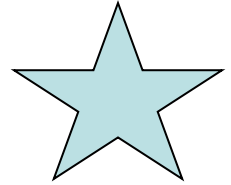
- The federal government also compelled Americans to cut back on foodstuffs and consumer goods.
- Americans needed ration cards to purchase items such as gasoline, coffee, sugar, and meat. Rationing eventually frustrated many Americans.
- For the first time in years, they had money to spend, but there were few goods available for purchase. This frustration kept mounting until the end of the war.
- When the war finally came to a close in 1945, industries returned to consumer production and Americans went on a buying spree of unprecedented proportions.

# Government Agencies



- The Office of Price Administration placed limits on the prices businesses could charge for products and materials in order to control inflation.
- The War Production Board made sure the military got the products and resources it needed.
  - The WPB placed limits on clothing manufacturers.
  - The WPB placed restrictions on clothing. For examples, jackets were only allowed to be a certain length.

# War Bonds



- War Bonds provided a crucial source of revenue for the war effort.
- Americans bought millions of dollars worth of war bonds.
- Over half of the population did their civic duty and bought war bonds.



# VICTORY GARDENS:

- As certain food products became scarcer, Americans turned their attention to growing their own.
- Government campaigns encouraged all citizens to plant and grow home "Victory Gardens," and posters proclaimed "Dig for Victory, Plant for Peace."
- There were competitions for the best Victory Gardens, and published recipes to make use of home-grown items.
- At one point during the war years, America's Victory Gardens produced nearly half of all U.S. vegetables.



# SALVAGE DRIVES:

- To aid the war effort, Americans were encouraged to salvage their tin cans, bottles, odd bits of rubber, waste paper, nylon and silk (to make parachutes), scrap metal and even fats left over from cooking (to make into explosives).
- Scrap Metal Drives were held all over the country and farmers were encouraged by the John Deere Company to "Sink A Sub From Your Farm: Bring in Your Scrap."
- Metal, glass, rubber, and gasoline were scarce goods.

# Blackouts

- The government also set up a civil-defense system to protect the country from attack. Many cities practiced "blackouts" in which cities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts dimmed their lights. Ordinarily, the glare from their lights made ships near the shore easy targets for submarines.
- "Evening" meant everything prior to dinner which in most households was served to the adults at eight or nine o'clock (children ate separately and earlier).
- No light was permitted to be visible in windows or doors. Street lights were off. Cars could not even use their headlights to drive. Bicycles could be sensed only by the creak of their pedals and chains. Air Raid Precaution (ARP) wardens and police enforced compliance.

# Rationing



- The United States began rationing items such as coffee, butter, sugar, and meat to provide more resources for the military.

Form OPA K-501

**BUY**  
UNITED STATES  
WAR  
BONDS  
AND  
STAMPS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION  
**GASOLINE RATION CARD**  
No. 2958622 -A **A**

THE ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF THIS CARD CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT THAT THE HOLDER WILL OBSERVE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING GASOLINE RATIONING AS ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

OWNER'S NAME: *Albert Miles*

STREET ADDRESS: *367 Main*

CITY OR POST OFFICE: *Manfield* STATE: *Ny*

MAKE: *Chevrolet* BODY STYLE: *4pt Sedan*

VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO. *FC 1700* STATE OF REGISTRATION: *Ny*

READ INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS CARD

*Albert Miles*  
(SIGNATURE)



# Propaganda

- The Office of War Information spread propaganda, or information and ideas designed to promote a cause.



The more **WOMEN** at work  
the sooner we **WIN!**



**WOMEN ARE NEEDED ALSO AS:**

FARM WORKERS	WAITRESSES	TIMEKEEPERS	LAUNDRESSES
TYPISTS	BUS DRIVERS	ELEVATOR OPERATORS	TEACHERS
SALESPeOPLE	TAXI DRIVERS	MESSENGERS	CONDUCTORS

— and in hundreds of other war jobs!

**SEE YOUR LOCAL U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**

Are you a girl with a  
**Star-Spangled heart?**



**JOIN THE WAC NOW!**

**THOUSANDS OF ARMY  
JOBS NEED FILLING!**

**Women's Army Corps  
United States Army**

# Women & Minorities

American Experiences in World War

II

# Women in the War



- Women made labor gains as they assumed roles in factories traditionally held by men.
- By 1943, more than two million women were working in American war industries.
- Earned about 65% of what men made.
- Thousands of American women took jobs in defense plants during the war.
- Welded hulls, shipbuilding, operated cranes, etc.
- Officials discovered that women could perform the duties of eight of every 10 jobs normally done by men.





- **Women's work in factories during the war was essential. They were recruited with images of strong women like Rosie the Riveter.**
- **Women were of all ages, ethnic and economic groups**
- **Women viewed their jobs with delight because they were able to earn their own money**
- **At the end of the war, pressured to give up their jobs to returning soldiers**



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# Women in the Military

- More than 300,000 women joined the armed service and for the first time served in positions other than nurse.
- Women's Auxilliary Army Corp (WACS)
- Served as mechanics, radio operators, civilian pilots, translators
- Women gained a new sense of their potential

# The Japanese – American Experience

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
April 1, 1942

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY**

### **Living in the Following Area:**

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

### **The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:**

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

# Background

- 1907 Gentleman's Agreement – blocks Japanese labor immigration
- Japanese women come as picture brides
- 1913 – California Alien Land Law – if not eligible for citizenship, cannot buy land
- 1924 National Origins Act – halts all Japanese immigration until 1952 (except WWII brides who marry American soldiers)

- In the days and weeks following Pearl Harbor, many people on the west coast feared that another attack was imminent.
- Many believed that Japanese people living in California were a threat to the United States.
- The fear was so strong that two months after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt signed an order removing "all persons of Japanese ancestry" from the west coast and settling them in internment camps.

- After Pearl Harbor, military officials began to investigate the Japanese American community for signs of spying or other illegal activity.
- It was recommended that all people of Japanese background be removed from the West Coast.
- Order 9066 established military zones and could force people to leave these zones.
- Japanese Americans in California, Washington, Oregon, and Arizona were forced into War Relocation Camps.
- Many lost their homes and businesses.



# Overview



- During the opening months of World War II, almost 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of them citizens of the United States, were forced out of their homes and into detention camps established by the U.S. government.
- Why? Because seen as a potential threat as spies and saboteurs.
- Many would spend the next three years living under armed guard, behind barbed wire.

# Issei

- Between 1861 and 1940, some 275,000 Japanese people moved to Hawaii and to the U.S. mainland.
- Many of the first Japanese immigrants were recruited to work in the sugar cane fields of Hawaii and fruit and vegetable farms of California.
- The Issei, or first generation immigrants from Japan, faced the difficulty of forging a new life that included elements of their traditional culture and the culture of their newly found homes.



# Nisei



- A person born in America of parents who emigrated from Japan.

# Issei

- A first generation Japanese immigrant.

# Exec Order 9066

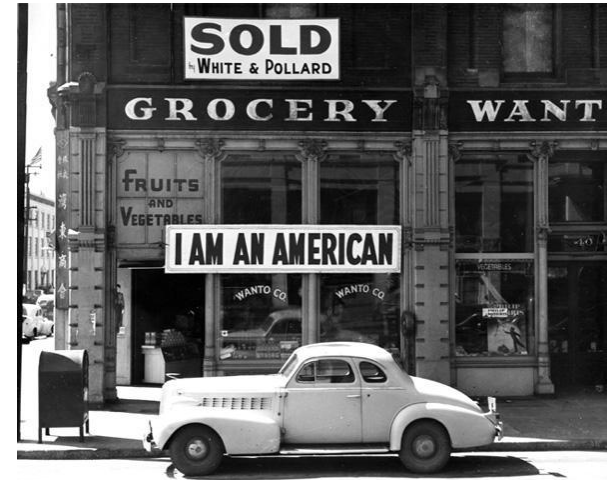


- The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 stunned the United States, and became a catalyst for challenging the loyalty of all Japanese people living in the U.S.
- **On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing military authorities to exclude "any and all persons" from designated areas of the country as necessary for national defense.**
- E.O. 9066 was the first step in a program that uprooted Americans of Japanese ancestry from their West Coast communities and placed them under armed guard for up to four years.

# Registration

- Registration of all Japanese Americans, both resident aliens and citizens, was the first step toward forced removal.
- In the spring of 1942, scenes like these were repeated in every Japanese American community along the Pacific Coast.

- For thousands of Japanese American homeowners and small businessmen, moving out also meant selling out — quickly, and at an enormous loss.
- The total dollar value of the property loss has been estimated at as much as 1.3 billion dollars.
- Net income losses may have been as high as 2.7 billion dollars (both in 1983 dollars).



# Assembly Centers

- Temporary assembly centers were the first stop for most internees. Sixteen centers were established in California, Oregon, Washington State, and Arizona.
- Fairgrounds, racetracks, and other public facilities were pressed into service to handle the influx of Japanese Americans.
- Internees remained in these centers, under the control of the Army's Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA), until the War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps were ready.





# Internment

- By the end of 1942, more than 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry had been uprooted from their homes.
- Their final destinations would be one of 10 camps — "instant cities" — constructed by the War Relocation Authority in seven states.



- Conditions varied from the heat and dust of Manzanar, Poston and Gila River, to the rains of Jerome and Rowher, and the bitter winter cold of Heart Mountain and Minidoka.
- The one thing that all 10 camps had in common was geographic isolation.

**KEY**

**○ ASSEMBLY CENTERS**

- Puyallup, Wash.
- Portland, Ore.
- Marysville, Calif.
- Sacramento, Calif.
- Tanforan, Calif.
- Stockton, Calif.
- Turlock, Calif.
- Merced, Calif.
- Pinedale, Calif.
- Salinas, Calif.
- Fresno, Calif.
- Tulare, Calif.
- Santa Anita, Calif.
- Pomona, Calif.
- Mayer, Ariz.

**■ RELOCATION CENTERS**

- Manzanar, Calif.
- Tule Lake, Calif.
- Poston, Ariz.
- Gila, Ariz.
- Minidoka, Ida.
- Heart Mountain, Wyo.
- Granada, Colo.
- Topaz, Utah
- Rohwer, Ark.
- Jerome, Ark.

**● JUSTICE DEPARTMENT  
INTERNMENT CAMPS**

- Santa Fe, N. Mex.
- Bismarck, N. Dak.
- Crystal City, Tex.
- Missoula, Mont.
- (See also Appendix 3)

**△ CITIZEN ISOLATION CAMPS**

- Moab, Utah
- Leupp, Ariz.

 Military Area 2 or

"Free Zone" until March 29, 1942



"The sound of the camp gates closing behind us sent a searing pain into my heart. I knew it would leave a scar that would stay with me forever. At that very moment my precious freedom was taken from me." — Mary Tsukamoto, *We the People*



Individuals arriving at a camp were shocked to find that they would live behind barbed-wire fences, watched over by armed military police in guard towers.

# Creating a Normal Life



# Loyalty

- While interned, Japanese Americans were forced to answer questions about their loyalty to the United States.
- The same government that questioned their loyalty to the United States simultaneously recruited internees to serve in the Army.
- Communities divided, splitting generations, families, and ideologies. Some internees chose to defy the United States government. Others chose to join its forces on the battlefields.

# Questionnaires

- In 1943, every resident in the internment camps was required to complete one of two questionnaires misleadingly entitled "Application for Leave Clearance" to distinguish whether they were "loyal" or "disloyal". After Pearl Harbor, all citizens of Japanese ancestry had been classified 4-C: "enemy aliens."
- The first form was aimed at draft-age Nisei males, the second at all other residents. Many feared that even satisfactory completion of this second form might jeopardize them. If they were accepted as loyal, they might be forced to leave camp. Forbidden by law to return to their homes in the West Coast military zones, and with little or no money and virtually no hope of finding work, many internees chose to remain in camp.

- On both forms, Question 27 asked if an individual would be willing to serve as a combat soldier, nurse, or in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.
- This test of loyalty was by no means objective.
- For internees, military service would mean leaving parents and family behind in the harsh conditions of the camps.
- Japanese men had also been told they would serve in a segregated combat unit, a prospect many found distasteful.
- Finally, when the draft came to camp, many believed they should resist the draft as long as their constitutional rights were being violated.



- Question 28 was even more complex: "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States... and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, to any other foreign government, power or organization?"
- Many internees feared this question was a trap. Would a "yes" answer indicate that they had once sworn allegiance to Japan? Some refused to answer, or answered "no" to both questions, as a matter of principle.
- For Issei, who had been denied U.S. citizenship on the basis of race, the issue was even more complex, because either response could conceivably make them stateless.

# Segregation Camp: Tule Lake

- Tule Lake was the largest of the camps - the only one turned into a high-security segregation center, ruled under martial law and occupied by the Army.
- Of the 18,422 people finally incarcerated at Tule Lake, 69 percent were citizens, most of them minor children; 39 percent had requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan; 26 percent had answered the loyalty questionnaire "unsatisfactorily"; and 31 percent were family members of "troublemakers."

# Service

- Some 25,000 Japanese Americans served in U. S. military units during World War II.
- The valor of these Americans, many of whom had family and friends living behind barbed wire, was extraordinary.
- Their combat record aided the post-war acceptance of Japanese Americans in American society and helped many people to recognize the injustice of wartime internment.



- Never numbering more than 4,500 men, the 100th/442nd consisted of extraordinarily aggressive fighters.
- By war's end, the combined unit, composed almost entirely of Japanese Americans, was the most decorated U.S. military unit for its size and length of service.
- The soldiers of these units earned a total of 18,143 individual decorations and took a casualty rate of 300 percent.
- 442<sup>nd</sup> was the most highly decorated of all units!

- During the war, a gold star sewn on a service flag meant that a family member had been killed in service.
- Few images of America's participation in World War II are more poignant than that of the Japanese gold star mother or wife locked away behind barbed wire.
- The irony that Nisei soldiers were dying to preserve the world's freedom while their families were imprisoned is harrowing testament to their humanity in the face of prejudice.

# Justice

- By 1946, Japanese Americans were released from the internment camps, but the injustice of the war years was not forgotten.
- Many members of the Japanese American community were determined to create a public understanding of the injustices they had suffered and to resolve the basic Constitutional issues related to their wartime incarceration.
- In addition to seeking to correct justice in the courts, Japanese Americans sought legislative redress for the injustice, hardships, and suffering that resulted from wartime incarceration.



- For these fundamental violations of the basic rights of individuals of Japanese descent, Congress apologized on behalf of the nation.
- Success came with the passage of the bill H.R. 442 by the 100th Congress.
- On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed that bill into law; it is now known as the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.
- Each surviving internee was guaranteed \$20,000

- **Four major court cases testing the constitutionality of wartime treatment of Japanese American citizens reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943 and 1944.**
- **Lawsuits brought by Minoru Yasui, Gordon K. Hirabayashi, and Fred T. Korematsu related to violations of curfew and other discriminatory regulations imposed on Japanese Americans prior to relocation.**
- **In these cases, the justices chose to rule narrowly on the specific issues, rather than consider larger Constitutional issues of relocation. Accepting government justifications of national security and military necessity, the Supreme Court refused to block Executive Order 9066 and the programs it generated.**



# Korematsu v. United States (1944)



- The Supreme Court tried to find the right balance between the rights of Japanese Americans and wartime needs.
- Fred Korematsu refused the executive order that relocated 110,000 Japanese Americans to internment camps.
  - Korematsu was born in Oakland, California, and was an American citizen.
  - He was arrested and then appealed his case to the Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court ruled against Korematsu stating that the relocation order was justified as a temporary wartime measure and matter of military necessity.
  - He continued to work for civil rights and had his conviction overturned in 1983.

- In 1984, the U.S. District Court for Northern California set aside Fred Korematsu's 1944 conviction.
- Three years later, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth District handed down a similar decision in the Hirabayashi case.
- As a result of these decisions, the Supreme Court of the United States did not have an opportunity to reverse the original 1944 rulings on the basic constitutional issues involved.

# The Mexican – American Experience in World War II

- 350,000 joined the armed services – earned 17 Medals of Honor.

# Zoot Suit Riots



- A series of riots that erupted in Los Angeles, California in 1943, between sailors and soldiers stationed in the city and Hispanic youths, who were recognizable by the zoot suits they favored.



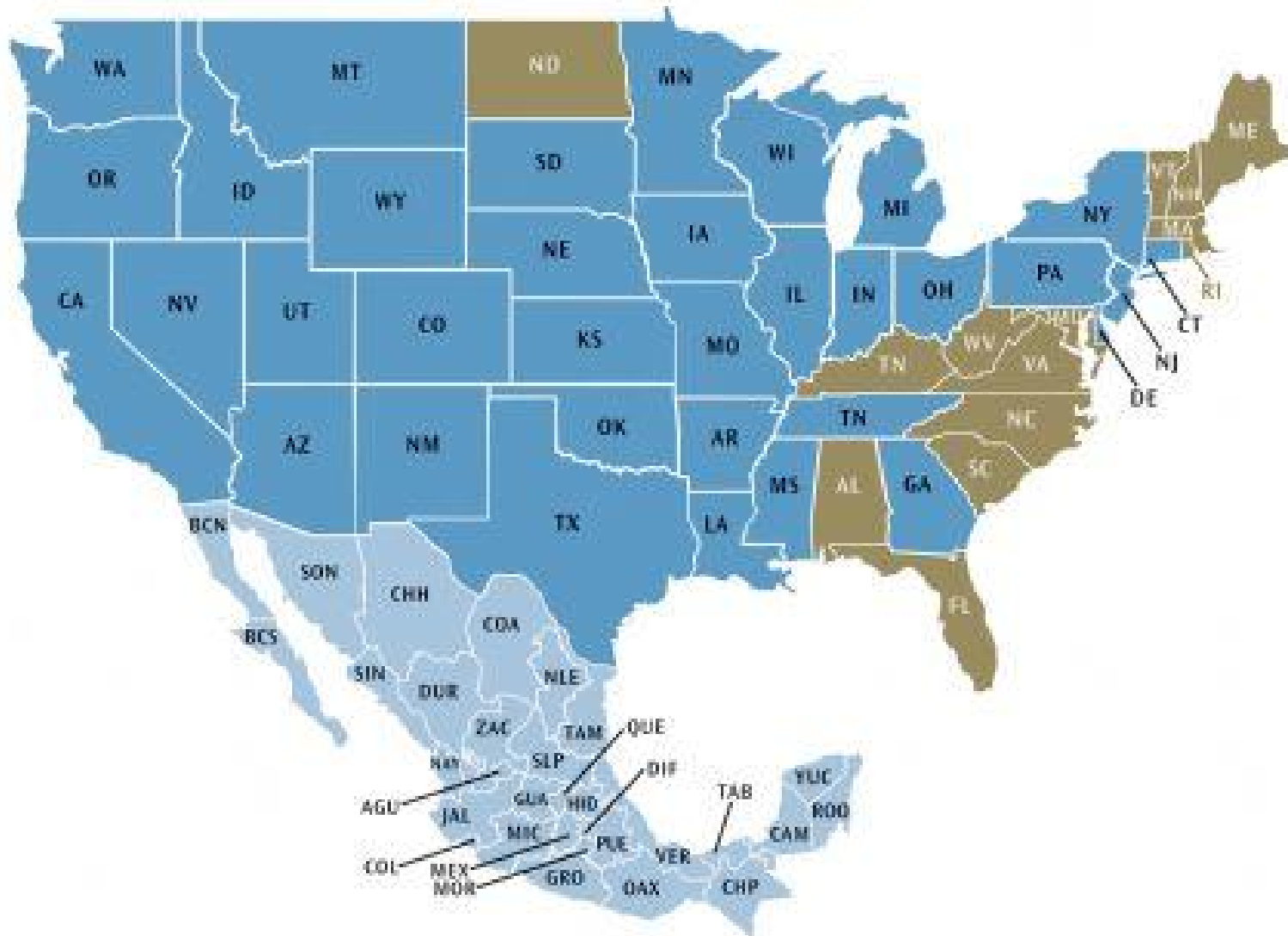
# Bracero Program



- In 1942, facing labor shortages caused by World War II, the United States initiated a series of agreements with Mexico to recruit Mexican men to work on U.S. farms and railroads. These agreements became known as the bracero program.
- Between 1942 and 1964, an estimated two million Mexican men came to the United States on short-term labor contracts.



- States in the U.S. receiving braceros/  
*Estados en los E.U. recibiendo braceros*
- States in Mexico sending braceros/  
*Estados en México mandando braceros*



Source/fuente: MapArt, MicroMaps Software

- On farms, Braceros worked cotton, citrus, dates, and such backbreaking stoop-labor crops as sugar beets, lettuce, and strawberries. Early in the program, they also maintained railroad tracks. Over time, Braceros were sent to California, Texas, Oregon, Washington, Arkansas, and 29 other states. Contracts ranged from a few weeks to 18 months. Camps ranged in size from just a few Braceros to a thousand.





# The African – American Experience in World War II

# Double V Campaign



- In a 1942 letter to the *Pittsburgh Courier*, James G. Thompson called for a Double V Campaign to achieve two victories: over the Axis powers in World War II and over racial prejudice in the United States.



# Tuskegee Airmen



- America's first black military pilots, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism.
- Served in Europe.

- Membership in the NAACP – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – multiplied 10 times.
- At least 50 blacks die in race conflicts on army bases.



# Philip Randolph



- Led a march on Washington to protest discrimination against African Americans. This leads to Executive Order 8802.

# Executive Order 8802



- Prohibited racial discrimination in the employment of defense workers in the defense industry or government.



- Created Fair Employment Practices Commission to ensure minorities did not miss out on federal jobs.
- 2 million African Americans were employed
- About 1 million served in the armed forces
- Horrors of Nazi racism made Americans more sensitive to the harm caused by their white supremacist attitudes & practices.



# Native Americans



- 25,000 served in the armed forces – most notable were the Navajo Code Talkers who used their language to relay secret messages between US command centers.
- About 40,000 Native American men and women, aged 18 to 50, left reservations for the first time to find jobs in defense industries.

