

WWII Homefront: Building an “Arsenal of Democracy”

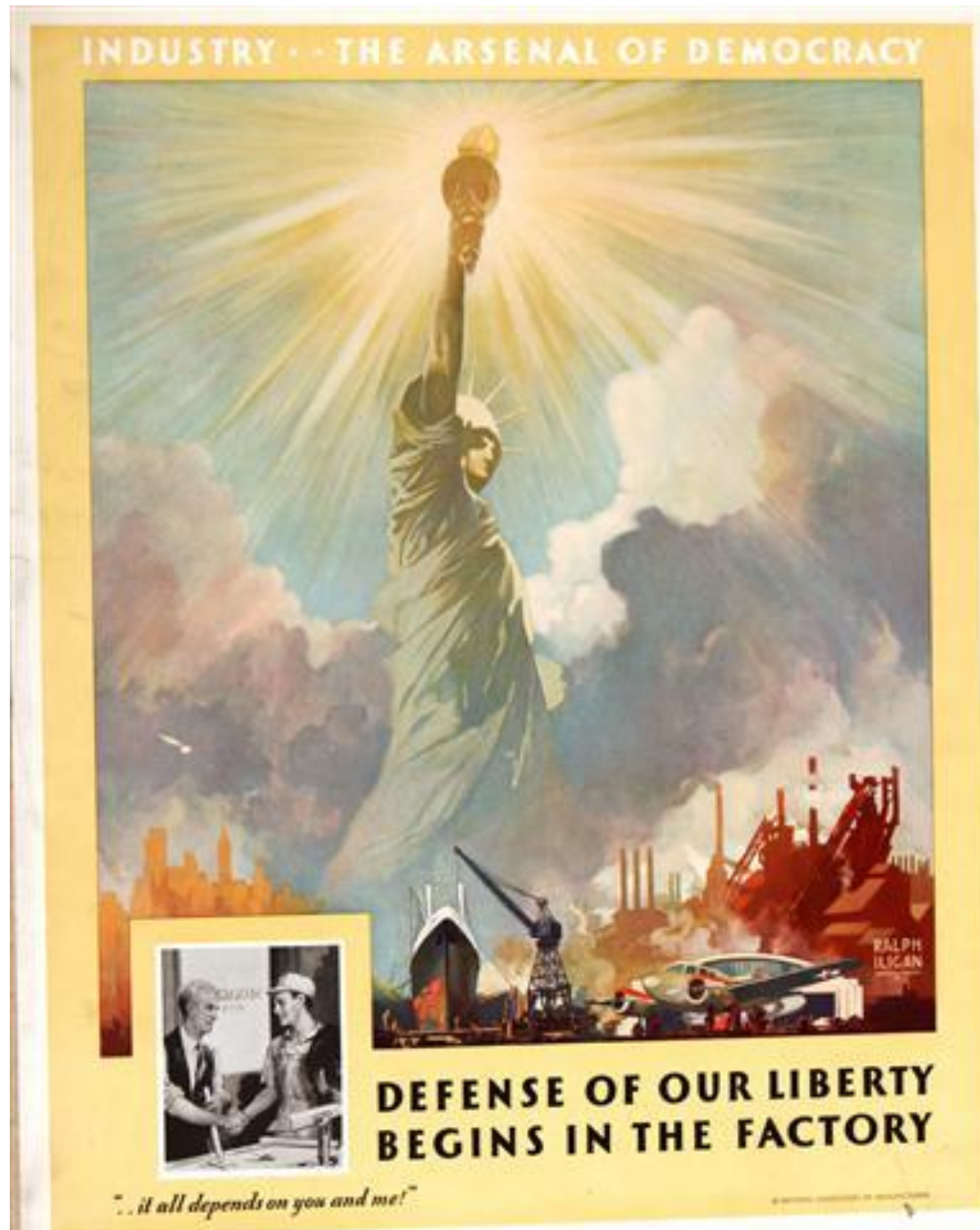
Building an “Arsenal of Democracy”

- Name given to America’s industrial mobilization for WWII
- The U.S. produces and supplies war materiel to fight on two fronts
- Detroit was considered the center of this “arsenal”
- War Conversion:** factories that once made consumer products now become war factories

- Producing 24hrs/day

- Smith-Connally Act:** federal government will take over any factory under threat of a strike - need the war effort “full-steam”

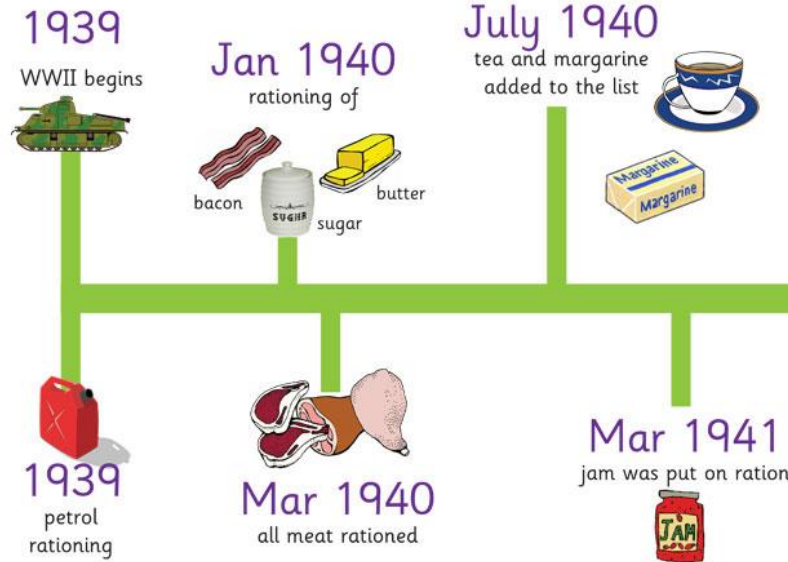
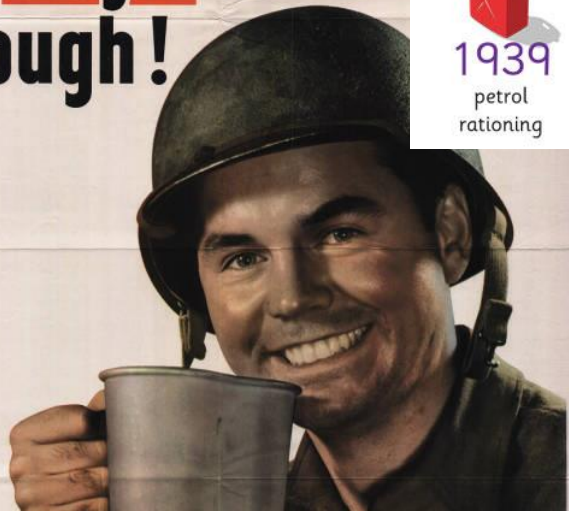
- Income tax will be taken out of paychecks so that the government can collect revenue quickly



Civilian Contribution

- War Production Board** (Executive Order 9024): called on Americans to ration products, buy bonds, take other measures to control inflation
 - Consumer products were **rationed**; ration booklets were distributed
- Kids would gather anything that can be **recycled**, such as tires, aluminum, scrap steel, etc.
- Because of full-employment and decreasing consumer products to buy, people bought **war bonds** to help pay for the war

Do with less—so they'll have enough!



They've got more important places to go than you!...

**Save Rubber
CHECK YOUR TIRES NOW**

Women in WWII

- Worked in defense plants and volunteered for war-related organizations
 - In addition to managing their households
- “Rosie the Riveter” helped assure that the Allies would have the war materiel needed to defeat the Axis
- 350,000 served in uniform, both at home and abroad
 - Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs, later renamed the Women’s Army Corps), Navy Women’s Reserve (WAVES), Marine Corps Women’s Reserve, Coast Guard Women’s Reserve (SPARS), Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS), Army Nurses Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps



Women's Duties During Service

-Drove trucks, repaired airplanes, worked as laboratory technicians, rigged parachutes, served as radio operators, analyzed photographs, flew military aircraft across the country, test-flew newly repaired planes, and even trained anti-aircraft artillery gunners by acting as flying targets

Decorations:

- 16 nurses were killed as a result of direct enemy fire
- 68 service women were captured as POWs in the Philippines
- Over 1,600 nurses were decorated for bravery under fire and meritorious service, and 565 WACs in the Pacific Theater won combat decorations
- Nurses were in Normandy on D-Day



“The contribution of the women of America, whether on the farm or in the factory or in uniform, to D-Day was a sine qua non of the invasion effort.” – Gen. Eisenhower

-Anti-Japanese hysteria spread throughout the West Coast after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

-Japanese Americans became targets of violence

-Executive Order 9066 (19 Feb. '42)

-FDR's order for 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans to be resettled in relocation camps throughout the West
-Japanese Americans lost their homes and were deprived of due process

-No evidence of subversion was ever found

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 5

**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.

Sites Associated with Japanese Americans During World War II



Source: National Park Service:
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/japanese-american-internment-archeology.htm>

Korematsu v. U.S. ('44)

-Supreme Court ruled that the internment of people based on race or ethnicity during a national emergency is constitutional

- Civil Liberties Act of 1988

-Signed by Ronald Reagan

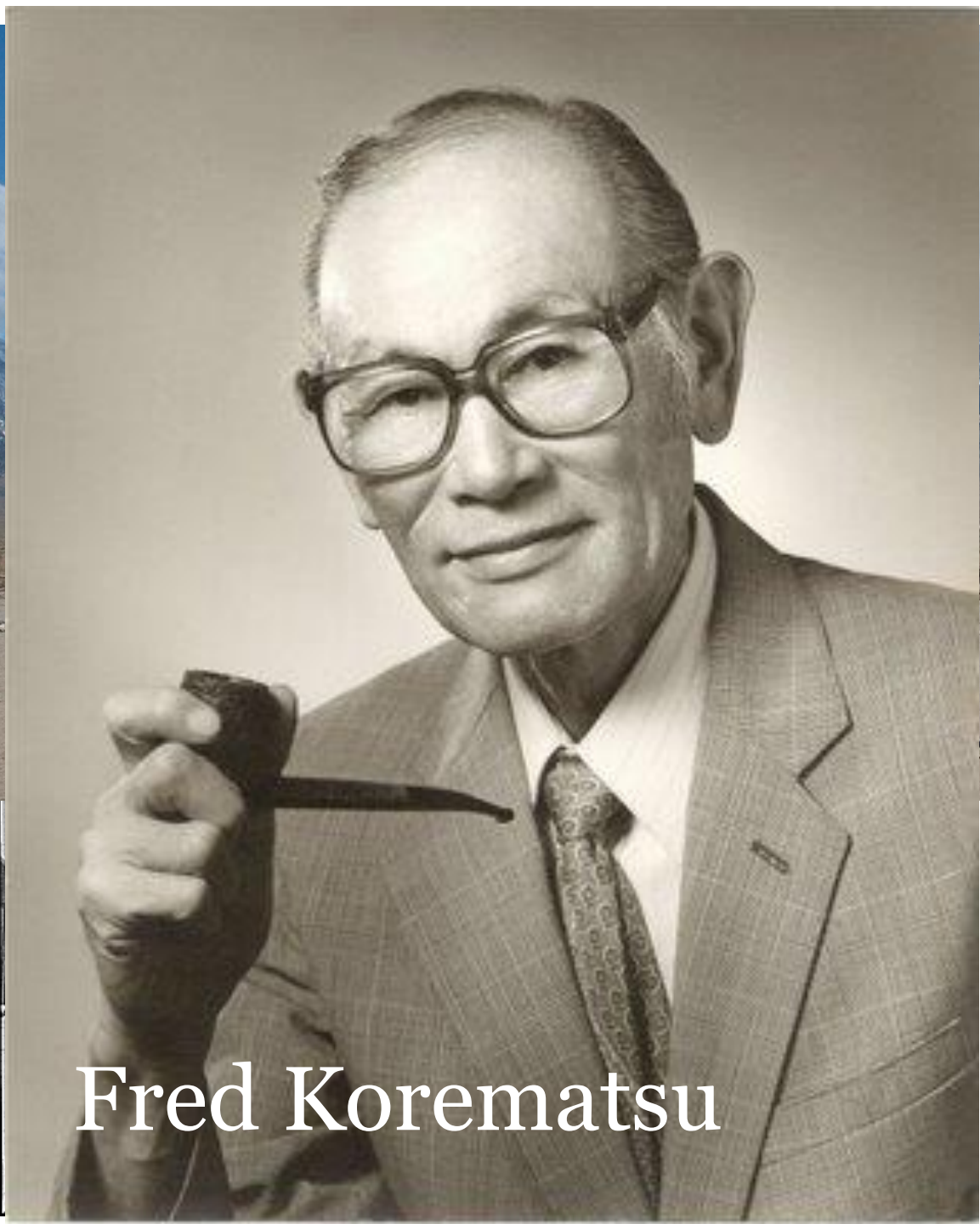
- Apologized to those who were interned

-Awarded each intern \$20,000

-Discouraged the U.S. from ever repeating such internment again

Chief Justice Roberts, majority opinion of *Trump v. Hawaii* in 2018:

“The forcible relocation of U. S. citizens to concentration camps, solely and explicitly on the basis of race, is objectively unlawful and outside the scope of Presidential authority. But it is wholly inapt to liken that morally repugnant order to a facially neutral policy denying certain foreign nationals the privilege of admission”



Fred Korematsu

-More than
33,000 2nd-
generation
Japanese
Americans
(Nisei)
volunteered

-Of those,
19,000 served
in the 100th
Infantry
Battalion,
442nd
Regimental
Combat Team
Military
Intelligence
Service

-One of the
most decorated
units in WWII



S. Phil Ishio and Arthur K. Ushiro (second and third from left) interrogate a Japanese prisoner in Papua New Guinea, early 1943.

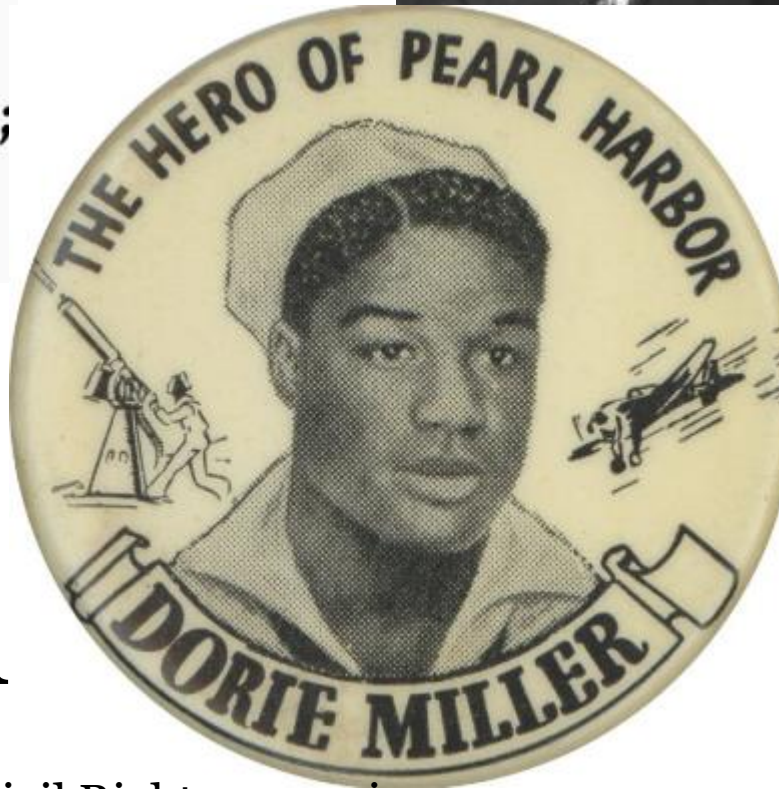


**Freedom is never given;
it is won.**
- A. Philip Randolph

A. Philip Randolph

“Double-V Campaign” - Civil Rights campaign

- Victory over fascism
- Victory over Jim Crow



← First black soldier to
be awarded the U.S.
Navy Cross

Eleanor Roosevelt

A. Philip Randolph

- Leader of the black labor union, **Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters** (1925)
- Befriended by Eleanor Roosevelt, he convinced FDR to integrate war factories
- Executive Order 8802:**
 - FDR's order that all war factories with federal contracts must be integrated
 - Steel mills in Birmingham, Alabama were integrated despite Jim Crow, but re-segregated after the war ends
 - NAACP** became active in the South
- FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Commission)**
 - Federal government will investigate discrimination in war factories

**RACE UNITES FOR
DRIVE TO SECURE
REAL DEMOCRACY**

In continuing the policy of The Courier to fight for the rights of the Negro race, the paper recently started the "Double V" drive for victory at home against prejudice and discrimination as well as victory abroad against the enemies of democracy. Since this "Double V" emblem has been



Race Relations and Minority Contributions During WWII

- 1m black men fought in the war (still) in segregated units
 - 555 Airborne (“Triple Nickels”) who participated in Operation FIREFLY in Oregon and California → Japanese balloon bombs and natural fires were causing forest fires along the Pacific Coast
 - Tuskegee Airmen based out of Alabama
- 1m Southern blacks migrate North and to California to work in war factories
 - Faced discrimination in housing and jobs
 - Race riots instigated by white Americans out fear of job competition



THIS NEGRO (CENTER) HAS JUST BEEN SLUGGED BY YOUNG WHITE HOODLUMS IN DETROIT'S RACE RIOT AND IS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO ESCAPE BEFORE THEY HIT HIM AGAIN

RACE WAR IN DETROIT

Americans maul and murder each other as Hitler wins a battle in the nation's most explosive city



CORE (Congress of Racial Equality)

- Started in Chicago
- Used civil disobedience to protest discrimination in the North
- Millions of black veterans will work with civil rights groups in the South after the war



Navajo "Windtalkers"

- Native Americans who worked in top secret communications in the Pacific
- The U.S. military communicated in NA languages, most commonly Navajo
- As many as 150,000 Native Americans fought in WWII

1934: Dawes Act of 1887 REPEALED through the Indian Reorganization Act





A bracero card - 1951

Mexican Workers Wanted in October

Farmers and orchardists in Washington state have placed orders for approximately 6000 imported Mexican workers for the month of October, according to reports sent to

Figure 14. A description of the demand for Mexican laborers (Source: Northwest Farm News, September 9, 1943).

Bracero Program

- Program to invite Mexicans into the U.S. to work as migrant farmers or work in war factories
- As many as 3 million Mexicans settled in California
- **Zoot Suit Riots of Los Angeles**
 - Week-long riots between whites and Mexicans
 - “Zoot Suits” were a style of clothes worn by many Mexican youths (baggy pants and long coats)
 - Required more yardage of cloth than what was rationed
 - Many sailors and soldiers resented that Mexicans were ignoring the rationing of cloth and kept making zoot suits



Good Neighbor Policy



-FDR repudiates the Roosevelt Corollary & treats Latin America as equals

-U.S. as a “Good Neighbor”: non-intervention and non-interference in the domestic affairs of Latin America

-Expected outcome: create new economic opportunities in the form of reciprocal trade agreements; reassert the influence of the U.S. in LA

Good Neighbor Actions:

-Withdrew troops from Haiti

-Did **not** send troops to Cuba

-1936: FDR visited Buenos Aires to arrange a meeting of Latin American nations supporting peace

-Many Latin American governments were not convinced

The G.I. Bill

-Officially the “Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944”, the G.I. Bill was created to help veterans of WWII

-Established hospitals, made low-interest mortgages available, and granted stipends covering tuition and expenses for veterans attending college or trade schools

-From 1944 to 1949, nearly 9m veterans received close to \$4 billion from the bill’s unemployment compensation program

-Education and training provisions existed until 1956, while the Veterans’ Administration offered insured loans until 1962

-The Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 extended these benefits to all veterans of the armed forces, including those who had served during peacetime



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



“The Greatest Generation”

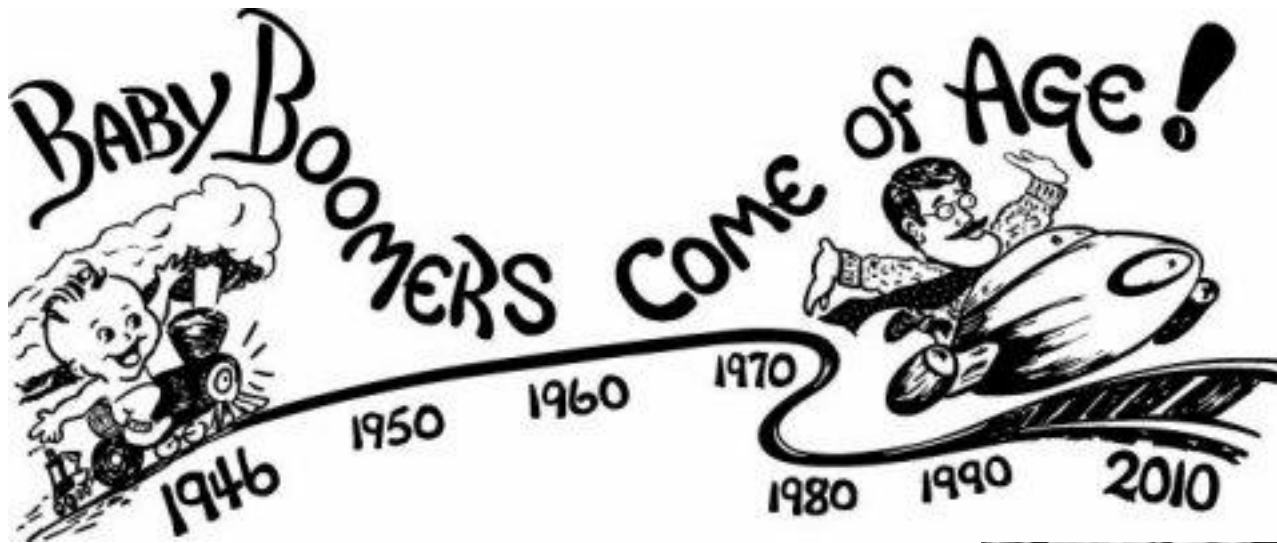
- Americans who lived through the Great Depression *and* sacrificed in effort to help win WWII
- The parents of the “Baby Boomers”
- All races in the U.S. united for the war effort (think Du Bois’ argument for WWI)
- As many as 15m men volunteered or were drafted through the Selective Service to fight



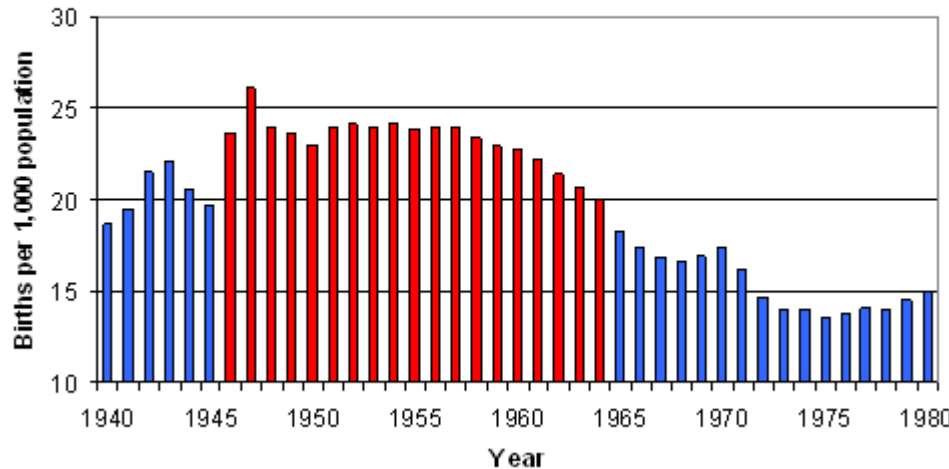
It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced.

— Tom Brokaw —

“Baby Boomers”: the demographic of people born during post-WWII **baby boom** between the years 1946 and 1964
-Becomes a cultural term



U.S. Birth Rate: 1940-1980
(Baby Boomer Generation in Red)



Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials: '45-'52

The Charter of the International Military Tribunal (or Nuremberg Charter) was annexed to the 1945 London Agreement and outlined the tribunal's constitution, functions, and jurisdiction. The Nuremberg tribunal consisted of one judge from each of the Allied powers, which each also supplied a prosecution team. The Nuremberg Charter also provided that the IMT had the authority to try and punish persons who "committed any of the following crimes:"

- (a) Crimes Against Peace: namely, planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression, or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances, or participation in a Common Plan or Conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the foregoing;
- (b) War Crimes: namely, violations of the laws or customs of war. Such violations shall include, but not be limited to, murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave labor or for any other purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war or persons on the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns, or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity;
- (c) Crimes Against Humanity: namely, murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population, before or during the war, or persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds in execution of or in connection with any crime within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, whether or not in violation of domestic law of the country where perpetrated.