

AP US History Lesson Plans  
Unit: World War II and the Cold War up to 1953

### **DAY 1: MILITARY AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW OF WWII**

#### **Objectives:**

*Students will be able to...*

- ...work in small groups to review the major causes, developments, and effects of WWI.
- ...trace the development of the events causing WWII on a worldwide scale, and compare it to the events happening at the same time in the US.
- ...use primary documents to gain a greater sense of the public sentiment towards foreign involvement and how it changed over time.
- ...evaluate America's motivations for entering WWII.
- ...draw conclusions about major difference between WWI and WWII to generalize about the advances made in social, political and military institutions in America.

**Materials:** Whiteboard and marker, lecture notes, WWI vs. WWII comparison chart, Copies of documents: FDR speeches and Lend-Lease Agreement, Century Series Video

#### **Warm-Up/Introduction: (15-20 minutes)**

-In groups of 2-3 (students may choose their own groups), students will complete the left side (the WWI side) of a comparison chart between WWI and WWII.  
-After groups have filled out each section of the chart on the WWI side, we will go over it as a class to review the important characteristics of WWI.

-This will set the context for understanding the development of WWII. After completing the chart, I will ask some questions to set the context for today's discussion:

\*Given the effects of WWI and America's standing in the 1930s, what was the US's general attitude toward foreign policy and involvement at the time?  
ISOLATIONISM

\*Did we stay isolationist through WWII? NO!

\*How did this change? Students will respond with some events leading up to WWII, showing the main question of today's class:

*How did we get from isolationism and trying to avoid involvement in WWII to full-out, total mobilization in the 1940s?*

#### **Lecture-Based Discussion and Document Analysis: (45 minutes)**

-A time line from 1933-1945 will be drawn on the board. As we discuss the major military and political events of WWII, we will document the events happening within the US underneath the line and the events in the rest of the world on the top of the line.

-The discussion will be divided into three time periods: 1933-38, 1938-41, and 1941-45.

After discussing each time period, we will take a break from our lecture-discussion in which students will read a primary source document from each time period and answer analysis questions. (see attached notes and documents)

-1933-38 lecture, document: FDR's "Quarantine" speech,

-1938-41: FDR's 4 Freedoms Speech AND the Lend-Lease Act