

**World War II****Section 2****MAIN IDEAS**

1. Businesses, soldiers, and citizens worked to prepare the United States for war.
2. The war brought new opportunities for many women and minorities.
3. Japanese Americans faced internment during the war.

**Key Terms and People**

**War Production Board** board that converted factories for war production

**A. Philip Randolph** African American labor leader

**Tuskegee Airmen** African American pilots who trained in Tuskegee, Alabama

**Benjamin O. Davis** group leader of Tuskegee Airmen and later the first African American general in the U. S. Air Force

**zoot-suit riots** Los Angeles riots in which white mobs attacked Mexican Americans

**internment** imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II

**Section Summary****PREPARING FOR WAR**

The Great Depression finally ended as the United States mobilized for war. The **War Production Board** was created. The Selective Training and Service Act started the first peacetime draft in the history of the United States. More than 16 million Americans served in World War II.

To fund the war, the government raised taxes and sold war bonds. Americans also gathered scrap metal for war production factories. Government rations curbed the nonmilitary use of gasoline, rubber, shoes, and some kinds of food.

**Circle the number of Americans who served in World War II.**

**WARTIME OPPORTUNITIES**

Women took on a new role in World War II. Because so many men left to fight in the war, women were urged to fill factory jobs. Women also served in the armed forces, some as pilots and as nurses. Over 300,000 women served in the armed forces during World War II.

**Why did women take factory jobs during the war?**

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**Section 2, continued**

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The Great Migration continued as African Americans moved north to find jobs. A march was planned by **A. Philip Randolph** to protest lower wages for African Americans. It was called off when Roosevelt ended the practice of racial discrimination in factories that produced war goods.

About 1 million African Americans served in the armed forces during the war. Most of them were sent to support jobs in segregated units. The **Tuskegee Airmen**, under the leadership of **Benjamin O. Davis**, flew thousands of successful missions in North Africa and Italy.

About 300,000 Mexican Americans served in the military during the war. Many also found wartime jobs in the West and Midwest. Mexico supplied farm workers to ease a lack in the United States. Groups of sailors attacked Mexican Americans in 1943. This started the **zoot-suit riots**.

**Explain how World War II helped some African Americans.**

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**Underline the name of the African American unit of pilots who flew in World War II.**

**JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT**

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, fear of Japanese Americans on the West Coast increased. No evidence to back up the fear was offered, but the government began the process of **internment** of Japanese Americans. About 120,000 people, many of them native-born Americans, were forced to move and were held in internment camps. Many lost their jobs, homes, and belongings.

After Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans could not join the military. This policy was ended in 1943. About 33,000 Japanese Americans served in segregated units in World War II.

**When were Japanese Americans moved to internment camps?**

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Analyzing** What assumptions did the U.S. government make about Japanese Americans when it moved them to internment camps?

Section 2, *continued*

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**DIRECTIONS** In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches each term or person.

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. War Production Board | a. group of African American pilots trained in Alabama                              |
| _____ 2. A. Philip Randolph   | b. racially-motivated attacks against Mexican Americans                             |
| _____ 3. Tuskegee Airmen      | c. the government agency that oversaw the conversion of factories to war production |
| _____ 4. Benjamin O. Davis    | d. became the first African American general in the U.S. Air Force                  |
| _____ 5. zoot-suit riots      | e. organized the fight for equal pay for African Americans                          |
| _____ 6. internment           | f. forced relocation or imprisonment  |

**DIRECTIONS** Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term.

7. War Production Board \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. A. Philip Randolph \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Tuskegee Airmen \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. Benjamin O. Davis \_\_\_\_\_  
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11. zoot-suit riots \_\_\_\_\_  
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12. internment \_\_\_\_\_  
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