

Spring Semester 2020:

Distance Learning Assignments: World And U.S.

Each week, there will be a reading assignment from your textbook. For each assignment, you will need to read the assigned pages AND:

1. Write a 5+ sentence summary in your own words of the material covered in the reading.
2. Include 2 vocabulary definitions from the reading. The definitions should be in your own words.
3. You will need to email me at dalmasc@luhsd.net your summary and vocabulary. (both should be in the same email.)
BE SURE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL YOUR FULL NAME (First and last) AND Period AND THE TITLE OF THE READING ASSIGNMENT. (for example, US Reading Assignment Week One)

You can email throughout each week day (Monday through Friday) 8:15 a.m. - 3:00p.m. if you have any questions.

Email: dalmasc@luhsd.net

The United States Prepares for War When war broke out in Europe, isolationism lost some of its appeal for Americans. Most wanted to help the Allies, but they did not want the United States to become involved in the fighting. Yet France and Britain needed weapons, and the Neutrality Acts banned arms sales to belligerent nations. So in November 1939, Congress passed another Neutrality Act that repealed the arms embargo. However, the new law included a “cash-and-carry” provision. Nations had to pay cash for materials and carry them away in their own ships.

After the fall of France, the United States finally began to prepare for war. Defense spending soared, as did the size of the army. In September 1940, Congress enacted the first peacetime military draft in U.S. history. Yet during the 1940 election campaign, President Roosevelt assured Americans, “Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” Still hoping to avoid war, Americans elected him to an unprecedented third term.

In December 1940, with the Battle of Britain still raging, Churchill declared that his country was nearly bankrupt. Roosevelt was determined to provide Britain “all aid short of war.” He urged Congress to adopt a plan to lend, not sell, arms to Britain. This legislation, the Lend-Lease Act, passed in March 1941, but only after heated public and congressional debate.

In June 1941, Hitler broke his pact with Stalin by attacking the Soviet Union. The Soviet army retreated in the face of the invasion. With Churchill’s support, the United States began sending supplies to the Soviets under the Lend-Lease Act. In August, Churchill and Roosevelt secretly met aboard warships in Canadian waters of the North Atlantic. There they prepared a declaration of post-war aims known as the [Atlantic Charter](#), which later influenced the charter of the United Nations. Both agreed to not use the war to seek new territory or to make peace with the Axis Powers separately. They also asserted the right of all peoples to self-government. Three months later, Congress voted to allow American merchant ships to arm themselves and sail to Britain.



Two young Royal Air Force pilots concentrate on flying their bomber. During the Battle of Britain in 1940, British RAF pilots downed so many German aircraft that German production of new planes could not keep up with the losses. Despite widespread destruction, the British successfully defended their country from the German attack.

The United States Enters the War Japan took advantage of the raging war in Europe to continue its expansion in Asia. After Hitler conquered France, Japanese troops pushed into French Indochina in Southeast Asia. Japan also set its sights on the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) that were colonies of German-occupied Netherlands, and on British Malaya. These regions would provide the oil, rubber, and other raw materials needed by Japanese industries.

Meanwhile, hoping to keep the United States out of the war, Hitler sought to expand his alliance. In September 1940, Germany, Italy, and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact, making Japan a member of the Axis Powers. The three nations agreed to provide mutual support in the event that any one of them was attacked by a country not yet in the war. The attacker they had in mind was the United States. Japan viewed the United States as a threat to its imperialist plans. If the United States entered the war, it would be forced to fight in both Asia and Europe. Hitler hoped that the threat of a two-front war would ensure American neutrality for a while longer. However, events caused his Japanese allies to pursue different plans.

The United States reacted strongly to Japan's actions in Indochina. In August 1941, it froze Japanese assets in the United States and banned the export of American oil and other vital resources to Japan. When efforts to peacefully obtain oil from the Dutch East Indies failed, Japanese leaders decided that war with the United States could not be avoided. In October 1941, General Hideki Tojo became prime minister of Japan, replacing a civilian leader. Tojo, an aggressive militarist, prepared the nation for war.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft carriers approached Hawaii, where the U.S. Pacific Fleet was anchored at Pearl Harbor. From these carriers, more than 300 bombers and fighter planes launched an attack on Pearl Harbor. In just over two hours, the Japanese damaged or destroyed 18 American warships and about 300 military aircraft. More than 2,400 Americans were killed and some 1,200 wounded. However, the Japanese failed to sink any American aircraft carriers, which had been out to sea during the attack. This failure would prove critical in the Pacific war that followed.



The attack on American territory at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, rallied American support for joining the war. This image shows the wrecked remains of the USS *Arizona* battleship, destroyed by Japanese bombs in Pearl Harbor.



The Afrika Korps was the German force sent to Africa during World War II. Here, a German tank and troops fight in the Battle of Torbruk in 1941.

The Battle of Stalingrad The decision to invade North Africa left the Soviet Union on its own. In June 1942, Axis troops began to push farther into Soviet territory. Hitler split his forces so they could seize the rest of the Caucasus and also take Stalingrad, a large city on the Volga River. At Stalingrad, German firebombs set most of the city ablaze, but Stalin ordered his soldiers not to retreat. By mid-September, Axis troops had a large Soviet force trapped in a strip of the city along the Volga.

Fierce street-by-street fighting followed for two months. Then, in November, the Soviet Red Army began a [counterattack](#), sending its troops forward against the Nazi assault. In a few days, the Soviets had encircled the German troops. Hitler insisted that his soldiers fight to the death, which most of them did. In January 1943, the remains of Hitler's army, starving and frozen in the bitter Russian winter, surrendered. The Battle of Stalingrad cost Germany more than 200,000 troops, while more than one million Soviet soldiers died. However, the Soviet victory forced the Germans to retreat, giving up all they had gained since June 1942.

Allied Bombing Campaigns Hitler's losses in the Soviet Union left Germany with only one major source of oil—Romania. The Romanian oil fields became a prime target of Allied bombing. However, the Allies' main target in their air campaign was Germany.

American pilots typically launched daytime raids. They favored aiming at specific targets such as oil refineries, railroads, and factories with the intent of disrupting Germany's ability to supply and equip its fighting forces. By the end of the war, Germany's infrastructure and economy were in ruins.

British pilots relied mainly on saturation bombing, or the rapid release of a large number of bombs over a wide area. They usually flew nighttime raids over enemy cities. The strategy behind bombing cities, with its appalling loss of life, was to destroy civilian morale and force a surrender. This tactic turned German cities like Dresden and Hamburg into rubble-strewn graveyards. However, it did not bring an early end to the war.

In August 1944, American planes dropped more than a thousand bombs on an oil-production facility in Poland. Five miles to the west stood Auschwitz, the largest Nazi death camp. Jewish organizations and others urged the United States to bomb Auschwitz. If the gas chambers or nearby rail lines were destroyed, they said, thousands of lives could be saved. American military officials denied these appeals. They said they could not afford to divert resources from military targets. Their main goal was to hasten the end of the war.



The British bombed German cities to try to weaken civilian morale. The German city of Dresden was firebombed into absolute ruin. In this image, bodies lay in the street among the smoldering rubble of Dresden.