



These soldiers are scrambling across a trench that used to be a city street in Stalingrad.

### Analyzing Primary Sources

**Drawing Inferences** What does this quotation suggest about the importance of the Battle of Stalingrad?

History Makers Speak

**Stalingrad.** In Europe, German troops had penetrated far into the Soviet Union after their initial attack in June 1941. As the Germans advanced, they captured many industrial centers as well as rich grain-fields in the Ukraine. By winter German forces were closing in on Moscow. The Germans also laid siege to Leningrad. For months the men, women, and children defending the city endured a nightmare of shell fire and starvation.

In the summer of 1942, German troops that had been pushing toward the oil fields of southern Russia approached the key city of Stalingrad. By the fall of 1942, German troops were fighting for control of the city. A German officer described the fighting.

“We have fought during fifteen days for a single house. The ‘front’ is a corridor between burned-out rooms; it is the thin ceiling between two floors. . . . From story to story, faces black with sweat, we bombard each other with grenades in the middle of explosions, clouds of dust and smoke, heaps of mortar, floods of blood, fragments of furniture and human beings.”

—German officer, quoted in *The Century*, by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster

The Soviet forces refused to surrender, however, and eventually surrounded the German soldiers in Stalingrad. Throughout a terrible winter the Germans hung on, forbidden by Hitler to surrender. Trapped in the ruined city with few supplies and little food, the Axis troops finally surrendered in late January 1943. The German force suffered about 200,000 casualties. The Allied victories at El Alamein and Stalingrad broke the momentum of the Axis advance. Said British prime minister Winston Churchill: “Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat.”

✓ **READING CHECK: Summarizing** Why was the Axis defeat in Stalingrad important?

## SECTION 1 REVIEW

### 1. Identify and explain:

War Production Board  
Office of War Mobilization  
Selective Training and Service Act  
Douglas MacArthur  
Bataan Death March  
Chester Nimitz  
Battle of the Coral Sea  
Battle of Midway  
Erwin Rommel  
Bernard Montgomery

### 2. Analyzing Information

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to list battles, their leaders, and their outcomes.

Battle	Leader	Outcome

### 3. Finding the Main Idea

- How did mobilization for World War II end the Great Depression in the United States?
- What was the significance of the U.S. victories at the Battles of Midway and Guadalcanal?
- Why were the Battles of El Alamein and Stalingrad turning points for the Allies?

### 4. Writing and Critical Thinking

**Comparing** Imagine that you are a military adviser to President Roosevelt. Write a brief report comparing the strengths and weaknesses of the Allied Powers and the Axis Powers in 1941.

**Consider:**

- the results of the attack on Pearl Harbor
- when the United States entered the war
- the multiple fronts of the war

## SECTION 2

### READ TO DISCOVER

- How did the U.S. government try to keep wartime morale high?
- What was life like in the United States during World War II?
- How did women contribute to the war effort?
- What actions did the government take to protect the rights of minority groups?
- How were Japanese Americans affected by the war?

### DEFINE

braceros  
riot-suit riots  
internment

### IDENTIFY

Office of War Information  
Rosie the Riveter  
A. Philip Randolph  
Fair Employment Practices Committee  
Carlos E. Castañeda  
Norman Mineta

### WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Fair treatment of workers continues to be a major concern in the United States. Use **primary** or other **current events** sources to find out one method or government agency that deals with issues of fairness in the workplace. Record your findings in your journal.

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# The Home Front

### EYEWITNESSES TO History

“When my son enlisted in the air force, he went to McDill Field in Florida. So I went there. . . . Then I came back to Westminster . . . [and] found that people who didn’t have someone overseas were not too concerned. They were interested in bacon and sugar and gas, which I was not. . . . I did a lot of war work . . . when I was at McDill, I worked in the hospital. . . . I started to do some volunteer work in Westminster, like rolling bandages, but I couldn’t make it. The people I was doing it with were not in my situation at all. They were more concerned with what they were having to give up than with what was happening in Europe. I had people call me up and ask, ‘Do you have coupons? We can get butter tomorrow.’ I never stood in a line for a thing. I thought that if the men could do without it, so could I.”

—Mary Speir, quoted in *Americans Remember the Home Front*, by Roy Hoopes

Mary Speir of Westminster, Maryland, understood all too well the sacrifices people made to support the war effort. Her husband and son fought in the war, and her son was killed in combat.



Americans eagerly planted victory gardens to support the war effort.

## Promoting the War

Most Americans supported U.S. involvement in World War II. Many families proudly displayed window banners with a star. A blue star represented a loved one in the service. A gold star stood for a death in combat.

The U.S. government tried to keep morale high. This was particularly important in the early days of the war, when Allied troops faced many setbacks. The government encouraged the media to do their part. Moviemakers, songwriters, and radio-station programmers responded by urging all-out participation in the war effort.

Movie stars advertised war bonds and traveled overseas to entertain the troops. Hollywood studios produced hundreds of war movies. *So Proudly We Hail*—a story about army nurses in the Philippines—was just one of the patriotic films that built support for the war. Striking a lighter note were comedies like Bob Hope’s *Caught in the Draft*. A few films, such as *Wake Island* and *Report from the Aleutians*, offered more realistic views of combat.

Radio stations broadcast both war news and entertainment. Foreign correspondents such as Edward R. Murrow and Eric Sevareid gave on-the-scene accounts of war-ravaged Europe. The government-run **Office of War Information** controlled the flow of war news at home.



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