

A Supplementary Syllabus  
For The Development Of A State Instructional Guide for Teaching The  
History of World War II At The Appropriate Grade Levels In Washington  
State Public Schools.

© Prepared By William R. Merifield  
Professor Emeritus  
Chairman Washington State World War II  
Memorial Educational Foundation

## Prologue

This instructional syllabus is a position statement of the of World War II Veterans Community for the need of teaching the historical components of History of W.W.II in Washington State Public Schools. Many Historians take the position that W.W.II was the major pivotal event of the twentieth century and as such needs to be a part of public school curriculum. This syllabus has incorporated the span of events that ultimately influenced the declaration of W.W.II and the major battles and historical events of that extensive global conflict. The syllabus also addresses the issue of the surfacing of tensions and a clash of political ideologies and the events that led to armed conflict in the post war world. This work is based on carefully researched historical documents of the United States entry in W.W.II and the memories of many Washington State Veteran's personal combat experiences and civilian contributions to the war effort. This syllabus has been compiled and submitted with the opinion that today's education may create tomorrow's peace.

Tomorrow's generation will have the responsibility to craft their world but without the knowledge of the consequences of total war they may be poorly prepared for that task. The knowledge of the human price tag which was in excess of 55,000,000 W.W.II related deaths, the holocaust, and a world standing on the door step of a nuclear Armageddon, is their birth right and needs to be taught as a deterrent to war.

Many of the technical, scientific, medical, economic and social changes in today's world are directly attributed to W.W.II. The need for women to serve in uniform and tool America's war time defense industry as well as ethnic minorities to serve in the armed forces has also as served as a catalyst for positive changes in civil right's issues. Without the rocket research of W.W.II it is questionable that man would have reached the moon or be able to deploy today's research, commercial, and weather satellites. The speed and effectiveness of the military jet aircraft of W.W.II have substantially altered today's commercial aviation.

As a result of the research and the medical needs of W.W.II many countries of today's world enjoy higher standards of medicine and health care. The development of the atom bomb has also created nuclear energy for the production of electricity in a world that is experiencing an increase in the need electrical energy. During W.W.II many of the leaders of the Western Powers were responsible for the development of the United Nations an international organization designed to help effect world wide peace, security, and cooperation.

Today's hi-tech, jet propelled rocket powered nuclear weapons potentially place the world in harm's way and makes the study of war and its human and economic impact a required subject for our nation's youth. From the study of W.W.II students should learn to work together as individuals and as nations and be taught to question propaganda and acquire the ability to objectively look at both sides of a potential conflict. While our nations youth should be prepared to protect our nation they must also realize there is no "glory in war" only the likelihood of human suffering and extensive economic loss. Students should also be taught to respect the courage and commitment of our nation's citizen soldiers whose military accomplishments and sacrifices have protected the many freedoms enjoyed by our nation. Of greater importance they need to learn that living in a Nuclear Armed world demands an international solution to conflict rather than risk a war of probable cataclysmic proportions.

- A Pre-World War I overview of the major powers prior to the declaration of war.
- The assassination of the Arch Duke Ferdinand (the spark that eventually ignited World War I).
- The belligerent power's, new additions to the weapons of modern warfare, tanks, airplanes, poison gas, wireless, telephone, and radio. The use of new weaponry and tactics influenced the conduct, duration, outcome, the human losses and economic costs of World War I. The defeat of Germany and her allies in 1918.
- The Treaty Of Versailles and its post war impact on Germany. The overthrow of the German Monarchy, the demonitization of the German Mark, the unpopular Weimar Republic, massive unemployment in Germany, riots, and political unrest contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party and the election of Adolph Hitler.
- The revolution in Imperial Russia, the assassination of the Royal Family, the rise of Marx, Lenin, and Communism in Russia.
- The League of Nations the world's first major attempt to establish international peace keeping policies and humane rules for the conduct of war.
- The development of an Italian dictatorship under Mussolini.
- The Stock Market crash of 1929 and the subsequent worldwide depression.
- Pre-World War II geopolitical and economic overview of the major world powers.
- Germany refuses to honor the Treaty Of Versailles and initiates massive rearmament and military buildup in defiance of the treaty - the first step that eventually led to World War II.
- Haljmar Schacht an economist who financed German reconstruction through the cartel system of trading with European nations on terms favorable to Germany through the threat of "comply or we will invade and take what we want".
- The persecution of Jews in Hitler's Germany.
- England's diplomatic role of the appeasement of Hitler through the abortive efforts of Chamberlain to secure "Peace in Our Time."
- All diplomatic attempts to prevent open conflict fail.
- The German annexation of the Rhineland, the occupation of Austria and the Balkan Nations.
- The German occupation of Poland in 1939 and the subsequent declaration of war by Great Britain marked the beginning of World War II.
- The Allies, the Axis Powers, the neutral nations, the world leaders at the onset of World War II. The pre-war state of military preparation by the axis and allied powers.
- The Tripartite Pact between Germany, Italy, and Japan produced a unified military coalition referred to as the Axis.
- The "Phony War".
- The excellence of German military intelligence and counter intelligence programs played a key role in its early military success. The development of psychological warfare as a method of producing fear to weaken the resolve of an enemy country or their military units was successfully utilized by the German armed forces.
- Internal propaganda was used by the German Government to justify its military conquests and the control and subjugation of the German people.

- “The Blitzkrieg” – a new air, land, and sea concept of lightening war initially produced a unique success story for the German armed forces. The defeated nations relied on traditional fixed fortifications such as the French Maginot Line, obsolete weapons, and a military philosophy which was outmoded. A classical example occurred during the German incursion of Poland with the use of Polish horse cavalry against armored tanks.
- The German occupation of the Lowland and Scandinavian countries.
- The German invasion and the fall of France.
- The German invasion of Russia.
- The African theater of war.
- America’s Lend Lease to Britain.
- The bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii by the Government of Japan in 1941, and the declaration of war by the Government of the United States against Japan.
- The lack of military strength in the United States and the United Kingdom seriously contributes to Japan’s early military successes.
- The Axis Powers declare war against the United States.
- The detention of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast at the onset of World War II.
- The arming of America, a massive industrial retooling and civilian home front support of the war effort by the United States. A rapid conversion to a total war economy.
- Food, gas, clothing rationing and scrap drives on the home front.
- The establishment of the Office of Price Administration (OPA) and its function of national price control during World War II.
- The rapid expansion of the air, sea, and land armed forces of the United States.
- Selective Service and the military service draft.
- Ethnic participation in the war effort:
  1. The Navaho Indian code talkers.
  2. Japanese American military units, i.e. the 442<sup>nd</sup>.
  3. The all black Tuskegee airmen.
- Women in war industry and uniform.
- The major geographic scope of the combat theaters of World War II.
- The war in the Pacific and the early success of Japan against the allies and the Pacific Rim nations.
  1. The fall of Corregidor
  2. The Bataan death march.
  3. The surrender of the Philippines.
  4. The invasion of the Aleutian Islands
- The Doolittle raid on Tokyo.
- The United States enters the European conflict by initiating daylight bombing missions against Germany and targets in occupied Europe in 1942.
- The Allied invasion of North Africa.
- The Allied invasion of Italy
- The fall of Mussolini and the surrender of Italy.
- D-Day- the Allied invasion of France and the expansion of the war in Europe.

- The Allied invasion of Germany and occupied Europe revealed proof of the Holocaust and concentration camps in Germany and occupied Europe that systematically liquidated in excess of 6,000,000 Jews and other minorities that were considered racially undesirable.
- The Russian advance and entry in Germany.
- Plots against the life of Adolph Hitler within the German military forces.
- Russian forces enter Berlin.
- Hitler commits suicide and Germany surrenders to the Allies.
- The use of the atom bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki leads to the surrender of Japan in 1945 and concludes World War II.
- During the course of World War II the leaders of the Allied Nations conducted periodic conferences concerning the objectives and conduct of the war. The conference at Yalta in Russia in 1945 planned for the geographic and political division of the defeated Axis nations at the conclusion of World War II.
- Disagreement among the Allied nations relative to the political administration and post war division of Europe played a major role in the development of increased tension between Russia and the Allied Nations and produced an uneasy peace referred to as the "cold war". At the conclusion of World War II Russia had access to captured German scientific advances in rocketry, jet aircraft, weaponry and nucleonics. Through research in nuclear physics and the successful results of Russian espionage, Russia became a nuclear power and an adversary to the Western World.

**The World War II major battles and engagements of United States armed forces from 1941 through 1945:**

- |                      |                       |                         |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Pearl Harbor      | 18. Gustav Winterline | 35. Palu                |
| 2. Wake Island       | 19. Kawjalien Atoll   | 36. Leyte Gulf          |
| 3. Fall Of Guam      | 20. Anzio             | 37. Guam                |
| 4. Bataan/Corregidor | 21. Hollandia         | 38. Bouganville         |
| 5. Doolittle's Raid  | 22. Cassino           | 39. Hurtgen Forest      |
| 6. Coral Sea         | 23. Schweinfurt       | 40. Battle of the Bulge |
| 7. Midway            | 24. Atlantic Battles  | 41. Alsace/Lorraine     |
| 8. Savo Island       | 25. Eniwtok           | 42. Dresden             |
| 9. Guadalcanal       | 26. Truk              | 43. Ruhur Valley        |
| 10. Operation Torch  | 27. Rome              | 44. Gothic Line         |
| 11. Kasserine pass   | 28. China/Burma/India | 45. Remagen Bridge      |
| 12. North Africa     | 29. Normandy          | 46. Po Valley           |
| 13. Sicily           | 30. St. Lo            | 47. Okinawa             |
| 14. Ploesti          | 31. Northern France   | 48. Kamakaze Attacks    |
| 15. Attu/Kiska       | 32. Southern France   | 49. Iwo Jima            |
| 16. Rapido           | 33. Saipan/Tinian     | 50. Hiroshima/Nagasaki  |
| 17. Tarawa           | 34. Philippine Sea    |                         |

- Guided by the subsequent results of the Versailles Treaty of World War I, The allies impose a fair and just treaty aimed at rehabilitation and the reconstruction of the defeated axis nations.
- The war crime trials in Germany and Japan and the military occupation of the former axis powers, the political, cultural, and economic impact of occupation within the defeated nations.
- The cumulative human and economic costs of World War II.
- The search for the German V-1 and V-2 rocket scientists by the former World War II allies. (The Beginning of the space race.
- The Marshall Plan and economic aid for the defeated nations.
- The development of United Nations and its role as an international peace-keeper.
- The post war geographic and political realignment of Europe.
- The post war GI educational bill in the United States and its influence in economic and technical expansion.
- The establishment of occupation zones in Berlin by the Russian former allies.
- The closing of access to Berlin by the communist powers that led to the United States and her allies creating an "Around the Clock Air Lift" in order to provide food, fuel, clothing, and medicine for the citizens of West Berlin.
- The "Iron Curtain" a political residual of World War II designed by the communist countries to contain the western powers, and a further attempt to prevent the citizens of communist countries from leaving or viewing the success of capitalism.
- The erection of a wall between East and West Berlin and its impact on the citizens of both zones and its impact on Russian/American relationships.
- Russia builds and tests an atom bomb.
- The "Cold War" and the threat of nuclear war produce's an international "Sword of Damocles" philosophy and the rise of the fear of possible imminent destruction.
- Europe and the United States build and designate buildings as public bomb shelters in the event of a nuclear attack.
- The growth of communism in both Europe and Asia produces a state of potential armed conflict between the capitalist and communist powers.
- The Warsaw Pact a military coalition of the communist block countries that was developed in response to the western NATO coalition.
- The Russian involvement in Cuba, Bay of Pigs incident, and the American interception of Russian rockets en route to Cuba increases the threat of nuclear confrontation.
- The eventual administrative and economic collapse of communism in Russia opens the Berlin Wall, and eventually ends the communist control of the satellite countries. The first free election's in Russia leads to the dissolution of the dominant communist party's national political control and ultimately an end to the Cold War.

## REFERENCES

### EUROPE

1. TITLE -THE GUNS OF AUGUST-BARBARA TUCHMAN -SIMON/SHUSTER 1978
2. TITLE- WORLD WAR 11-ERIC SEVAREID-PRENTICE/HALL PRESS -1989
3. TITLE- THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE THIRD REICH- JOHN - BRADLEY- GROSSET/DUNLAP-1979
4. TITLE- THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH-WILLIAM SCHIRER
5. TITLE- THE RISE AND FALL OF THE LUFTWAFFE 1918-1940-HERBERT MASON THE DIAL PRESS -HENRY HOLT- 19516.TITLE- AIR WAR EDWARD JABLONSKI- DOUBLEDAY-1971
6. TITLE- AUSCHWITZ- DR MIKLOS NYISZLI- CREST BOOKS- 1960
7. TITLE- HITLER'S SECRET CONVERSATIONS FROM 1941- 1944-FARRAR, STRAUS, AND CUDAHY-SIGNET BOOKS- 1953
8. TITLE- PANZER LEADER-GENERAL HEINZ GUDERIAN- FUTURIA
9. PUBLICATIONS-1952
10. TITLE- CRUSADE IN EUROPE- DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER- DOUBLEDAY AND CO. 1949
11. TITLE- POLITICIANS AND THE WAR- 1914-16- DOUBLEDAY- 1928
12. TITLE- A SOLDIERS STORY-OMAR BRADLEY- HOLT & CO.- 1951

### ASIA

1. TITLE- THE RISE AND FALL OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE- GARY GORDON-MONARCH BOOKS -1962
2. TITLE- JAPAN'S IMPERIAL CONSPIRACY- DAVID BERGAMINI- MORROW PRESS - 1971
3. TITLE- THE DEVINE WIND- CAPT. RIKIHEI INOGUSHI- BANTAM BOOKS-1951
4. TITLE- PACIFIC WAR DIARY 1942-1945- JAMES J. FAHEY- KENGINGTON PUBLISHING CO.-1971.
5. TITLE- MIDWAY THE BATTLE THAT DOOMED JAPAN- MITSUO FUCHIDA MASTAKE OKUMIYA.UNITED STATES NAVAL INSTITUTE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND- 1955.
6. TITLE- AN INSTANCE OF TREASON-OSAKI HOTSUMI STANFORD PRESS
7. TITLE- A HISTORY OF JAPAN -MALCOM KENNEDY- WIEDENFELD AND NICOLSON- 1963.
8. TITLE-REMINISCENCES-DOUGLASMARTHUR-MCGRAW HILL AND CO. 1964
9. TITLE-TARGET TOKYO- THE HALSEY DOOLITTLE RAID- JAMES MERRILL- RAND MCNALLY CO. 1964
10. TITLE- A SHORT HISTORY OF NIPPON- HOKUSEIDO PRESS 1943
11. TITLE- KAMIKAZE-YASUO KUWAHARA AND GORDON T. ALLRED BALLANTINE BOOKS 1957