

# WWII Extra Credit Assignment

## Overview

For this unit, we have been focused on the American perspective fighting in WWII — this is U.S. history! However, looking at this war from a different perspective helps us gain an even better understanding of why this war came into being, the effects on the lives of those living closest to the battles, and how we can better understand the United States actual role in the conflict. For this assignment, we're going to focus on a more global perspective of WWII to try and understand how far war reaches — even to those that never wanted to be involved in the first place.

## Crash Course European History: [World War II Civilians and Soldiers](#)

DIRECTIONS: FOLLOW THE LINK TO WATCH THE VIDEO. RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

JOHN GREEN STATES THIS:

"WE SEE AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT EVIL IS NOT THE PRODUCT OF DEMENTED INDIVIDUALS, IT IS THE PRODUCT OF DEMENTED SOCIAL ORDERS."

WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THIS? EXPLAIN.

Evil is not innate, it is created by necessity and fear. People get desperate for food and heat, their will to live is diminishing, and they don't really believe things will be okay. But then someone comes along and gives them what they need, but of course there's a price. It starts low, but then escalates to "slaughter anyone with brown hair" or something to that extent.

HOW WAS FIGHTING DIFFERENT FOR EUROPEANS COMPARED TO AMERICANS? (THINK ABOUT WHERE THEY WERE FIGHTING, THE HOMEFRONT AND THE BATTLEFRONT)

Americans fought because it was "good", they didn't face any real consequences other than rationing or getting drafted. Europeans were literally fighting for their life. If the Germans took that river, then your home, where your family sleeps and your children play, is right on the other side and will be under direct fire, if it isn't already (think all of the UK). Americans had an entire ocean between us and the fighting and nothing short of pivoting all of their attention to invading America was going to get the Axis across it.

LIST THREE EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON THE LIVES OF CIVILIANS:

Starvation

Destruction of family units, relationships, destruction of your home and all you owned

Subjection to tyranny in the name of national security

IN WHAT WAYS DID THE GOVERNMENTS WORK TO BOOST MORALE DURING WWII? WHAT DID THEY FUND/ENCOURAGE FROM CITIZENS?

Encouragement of joining the military, donation of household items, rationing, "doing your part"

Propaganda, misinformation

Appeal to one's morals and faith

**HOW WERE WOMEN EXPECTED TO ACT UNDER FASCIST REGIMES COMPARED TO IN ALLIED NATIONS?**

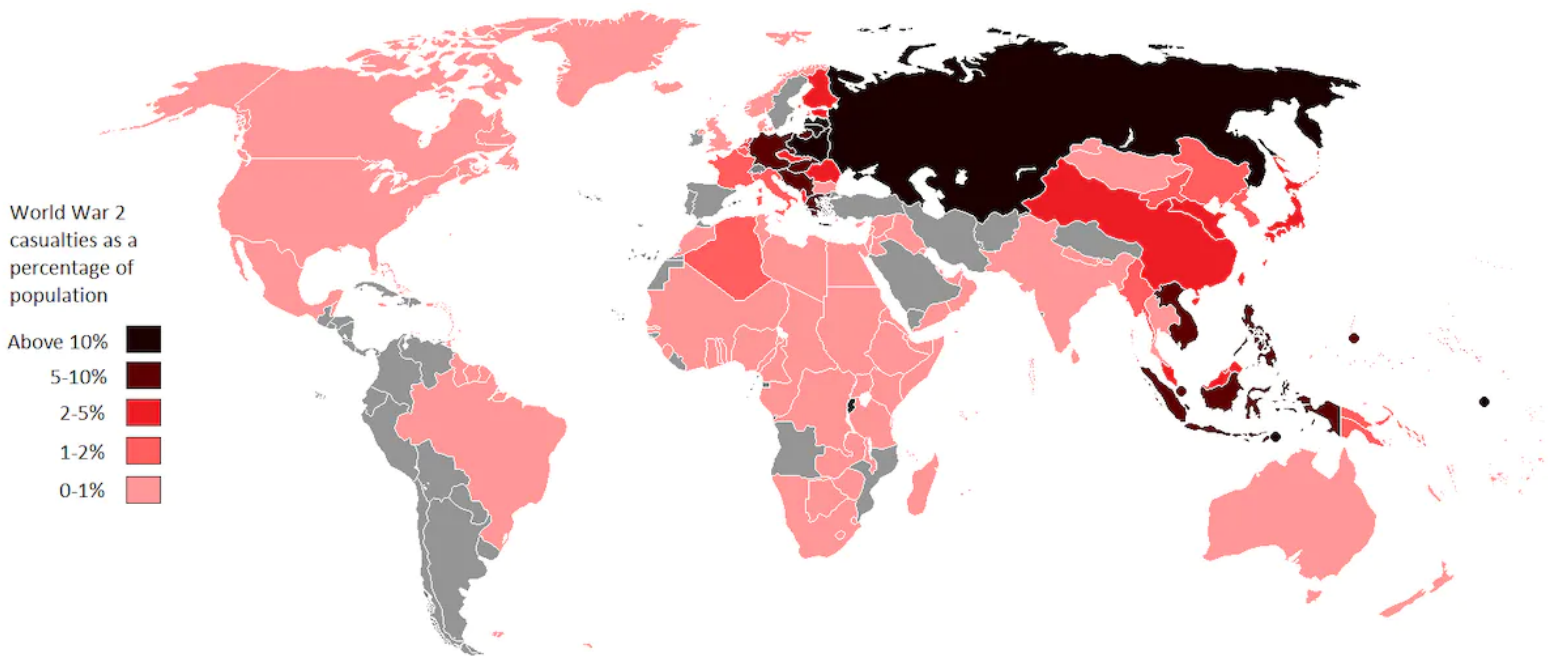
To essentially be a homemaker, just pop out babies and clean shit. Oh what, those Americans had their guns made by women? Hehehe I bet they're going to misfire and jam, am I right Heinrich?

**HOW DID THE WAR AFFECT COLONIES OUTSIDE OF EUROPE, LIKE IN INDIA? WERE THESE EFFECTS AN ACCIDENT OF WAR, OR WERE THEY AVOIDABLE?**

India starved. No relief, ever. They just got milked for their resources with zero regard for their wellbeing by the British. This could've been and should've been avoided, but the Brits did not care.

**Casualties of WWII**

**DIRECTIONS: ANALYZE THE MAP AND TABLE BELOW AND RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS.**



**Table 1** Famine deaths during WWII

Soviet Union	7 to 9 million
– Of which, under German control	6 to 7 million
– Under Soviet control	1 to 2 million
Bengal province, India	2.1 million
Henan province, China	2 million
Java	1.3 to 2.4 million
Vietnam	1 million
Greece	300,000
Austria	100,000
Netherlands	15,000 to 25,000

**WHAT COUNTRY HAD THE MOST CASUALTIES IN WWII?**

The Soviet Union, because wave tactics never fail!  
 And famine too, it's awfully hard to feed an army and roughly 15 million civilians when 3/4ths of your land is frozen wasteland and your tiny bits of farmland is occupied by the Nazis.

(fun fact if you didn't already know, America was responsible not only for arming the Soviets but also feeding them. We sent them TONS of Spam and other canned goods, with Spam in particular becoming a huge deal over east, becoming known as

tushonka and transforming into salty and fatty canned stew. It was a staple food item for the Soviets during the Cold War, and still is for Russia proper. Same goes for sweetened condensed milk, otherwise known as sguschyonka, or sguha.)

**LOOK AT THE CASUALTIES OF PLACES LIKE JAVA AND VIETNAM. DO THOSE NUMBERS SURPRISE YOU? WHAT CAUSED THEM TO BE SO HIGH, IF NOT FOR DIRECT FIGHTING?**

Japan did their own genocide of the Chinese and pretty much all of Asia. Disease, starvation, and marauding Japanese really did Asia in even if Vietnam wasn't directly involved.

Also smaller nations got milked for their resources in the name of war by bigger nations with more reach, and often received nothing in return ala India, occupied African states, etc.

## The Cost of War

DIRECTIONS: RESPOND TO THE QUESTION BELOW USING THE QUOTE.

“

**THERE'S ENOUGH ON THIS  
PLANET FOR EVERYONE'S  
NEEDS BUT NOT FOR  
EVERYONE'S GREED.**

– MAHATMA GANDHI

”

THINK OF THIS QUOTE FROM GHANDI ALONG WITH THE VIDEO YOU JUST WATCHED. IN WHAT WAY IS THIS TRUE? USE ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE FROM THE LESSON TO JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWER.

*We have enough resources to feed ourselves, but only if we remember there's seven billion other people here, just like us. Take only what you need, remember to feel and to be compassionate, and we will be okay.*