

Ch 25 The United States in World War II

Section 1 Mobilizing for Defense

Americans Join the War Effort

Selective Service and the GI

- After Pearl Harbor, 5 million men volunteer for military service
- 10 million more drafted to meet needs of two-front war

Expanding the Military

- General **George Marshall**—Army Chief of Staff—calls for women’s corps
- **Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC)**—women in noncombat positions, such as nurses and radio operators.
- Thousands enlist; “auxiliary” dropped, get full U. S. army benefits

Dramatic Contributions

- 300,000 Mexican Americans join armed forces
- 1 million African Americans serve; live, work in segregated units
- 13,000 Chinese Americans and 33,000 Japanese Americans serve
- 25,000 Native Americans enlist

A Production Miracle

The Industrial Response

- Factories convert from civilian to war production
- Shipyards, defense plants expand, new ones built
- Produce ships, arms rapidly
 - use prefabricated parts
 - people work at record speeds

Labor’s Contribution

- Nearly 18 million workers in war industries; 6 million are women
- Over 2 million minorities hired; face strong discrimination at first
- **A. Philip Randolph**, head of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- Organizes march on D.C. July 1, 1941; FDR executive order forbids discrimination

Mobilization of Scientists

- Office of Scientific Research and Development— technology, medicine
- **Manhattan Project** develops atomic bomb

The Federal Government Takes Control

Economic Controls

- **Office of Price Administration (OPA)** freezes prices, fights inflation
- Higher taxes, purchase of war bonds lower demand for scarce goods
- **War Production Board (WPB)** says which companies convert production
 - allocates raw materials
 - organizes collection of recyclable materials

Rationing

- **Rationing**—fixed allotments of goods needed by military