

The New Deal

In 1932, President Hoover ran for re-election. His opponent was Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York. When Roosevelt accepted his party's nomination, he told the audience, "I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people." Campaigning was difficult at times, because Roosevelt had been struck with polio in 1921, and his legs were paralyzed. He wore steel leg braces, but most people did not know about his paralysis. However, his spirits were high as he campaigned for the presidency, and he became very popular with the American people.

Roosevelt won the election. In his inaugural address, Roosevelt said:

We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep. . . .

His speech and his natural optimism won the people's confidence. They believed Roosevelt would try new ways to end the depression, which was, by then, felt all over the world. When Roosevelt took office on March 4, 1933, he took steps to fulfil his promise of "a new deal for the American people."

Roosevelt had no clear idea of how to deal with the depression. He gathered a group of advisers from all over the country; they became known as the "brain trust." With their help and at Roosevelt's urging, Congress passed a series of laws that came to be known as the **New Deal**. The purpose of these laws was to bring about economic recovery, relieve the suffering of the unemployed, reform defects in the economy, and improve society.

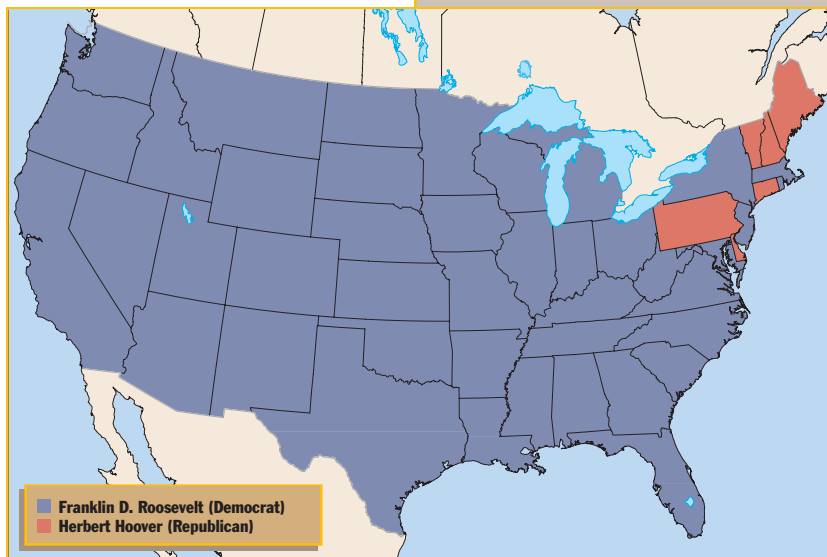
The first objective of the New Deal was economic recovery. The day after his inauguration, Roosevelt closed all banks until each could be investigated for soundness. The sound banks were allowed to re-open. The government loaned money to others to reopen. This action went a long way in helping the citizens regain faith in America's banking system. Other economic recovery programs were designed to help farmers and manufacturers.

A number of New Deal programs were designed to help the unemployed. The New Deal tried to correct weaknesses in the economy that may have added to the depression. Finally, the New Deal went beyond trying to solve

Section Preview

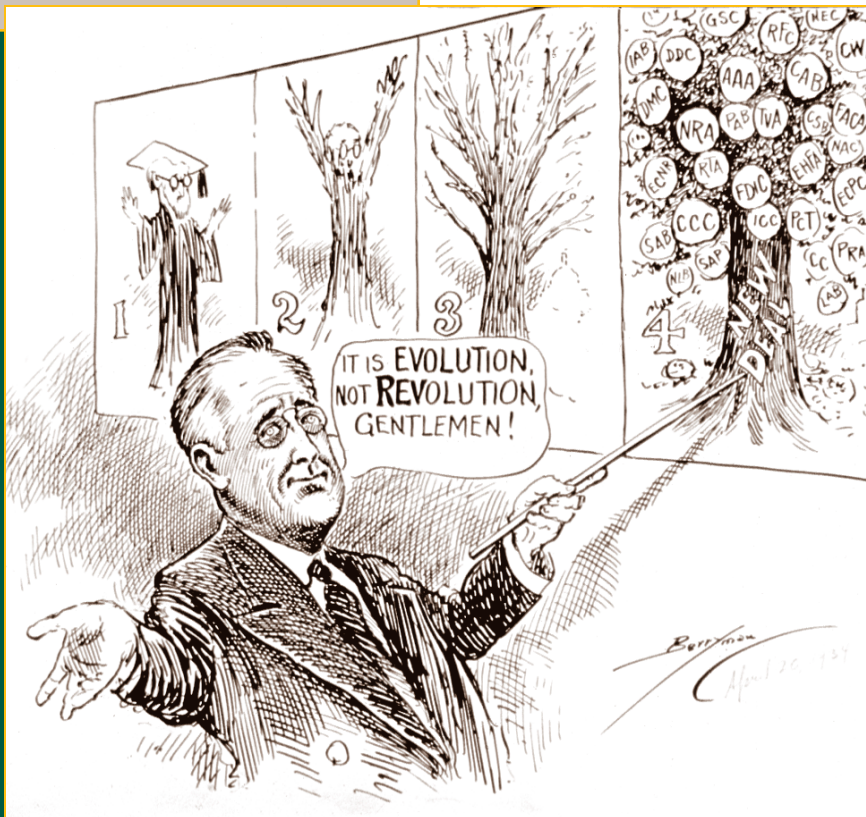
As you read, look for:

- New Deal programs,
- New Deal programs in Georgia,
- Georgia's governors, and
- **vocabulary terms:** New Deal, minimum wage, stretch out, collective bargaining, rural electrification, subsidy, and integrate.



Map 42 The 1932 Election

Map Skill: Which candidate won Georgia?



Above: This 1934 cartoon pokes fun at President Roosevelt and the many “alphabet” agencies created under the New Deal.

Georgia and the New Deal

One of the president’s New Deal programs that did not work was the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA). It was designed to help workers by setting minimum wages, permitting them to organize unions, and allowing factories to cut back on production. (A **minimum wage** is the least amount an employer can pay an employee for a certain number of hours worked.) In Georgia, this legislation mainly affected the textile industry. Although labor unions had been active in the North for many years, most manufacturers in the South had forbidden unions, and workers were not allowed to even discuss them. Those who did were often fired for being “trouble makers.”

Roosevelt’s NIRA posed a major threat to mill owners, and it did not take long for trouble to break out. Mill owners began using the **stretch out**, a practice requiring workers to tend more machines. Under this practice, workers had to do the same

the problems of the depression by trying to improve people’s lives.

Congress implemented so many programs that the New Deal agencies became known by their initials. There were so many agencies that Roosevelt’s administration was called “government by alphabet.” Figure 39 lists a number of the New Deal programs, many of which are still in place.

Although some of Roosevelt’s New Deal programs worked better than others, together they provided the nation with the chance for recovery that it so desperately needed. The New Deal did not end unemployment, and it did not bring the depression to a halt. But it paved the way for recovery, and it showed Americans that they could believe in government again.

Did You Know?

That **dime** in your pocket has **Roosevelt’s face** on it. The coin honors his founding of the **March of Dimes**, which was established to **fight polio**.



Figure 39 New Deal Programs and Legislation

Program/Legislation	Date	Purpose
Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)	1933	Built dams on the Tennessee River to control flooding and generate electricity. Three north Georgia lakes are now a part of the TVA.
Public Works Administration (PWA)	1933	Put people to work building roads, buildings, and other public works projects.
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)	1933	Insured individual savings accounts so that people did not lose their money if banks failed or closed their doors.
Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)	1933	Provided federal funds for state and community relief efforts.
Civil Works Administration (CWA)	1933	Provided temporary federal jobs for the unemployed.
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)	1933	Provided jobs for young single men building forest trails and roads, planting trees to reforest the land and control flooding, and building parks.
Federal Housing Administration (FHA)	1934	Insured home loans for low-income families.
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	1934	Regulated stocks and gave stock information.
Social Security Administration (SSA)	1935	Created a system for retirement and unemployment insurance.
Works Progress Administration (WPA)	1935	Employed out-of-work Americans to repair roads, build or repair bridges, paint murals, write guidebooks, put on plays and musical performances, and create statues in parks.
National Labor Relations Act	1935	Guaranteed the right of employees to organize and to bargain collectively with their employers. Created the National Labor Relations Board to hear unfair labor practices.
National Youth Administration (NYA)	1935	Provided job training and part-time work for college students.
Fair Labor Standards Act	1938	Established a maximum workweek and a minimum wage, prohibited child labor in certain industries, and set a minimum age for child workers.

amount of work in an 8-hour shift that they had previously done in a 12-hour shift. It was a brutal, if not impossible, schedule and clearly against the intent of the law.

In August 1934, textile workers all over the South joined in a strike called by the Textile Workers of America union. Workers immediately left their jobs and went into the streets of cities such as Macon, where 3,500 mill workers protested their treatment. Across Georgia, some 45,000 union workers took part, a large portion of the 60,000 mill hands in the state. Groups of striking

workers, called “flying squadrons,” traveled from mill to mill stirring up workers and closing down production. At one point, things were so bad that Governor Eugene Talmadge called out the National Guard and had thousands of workers arrested.

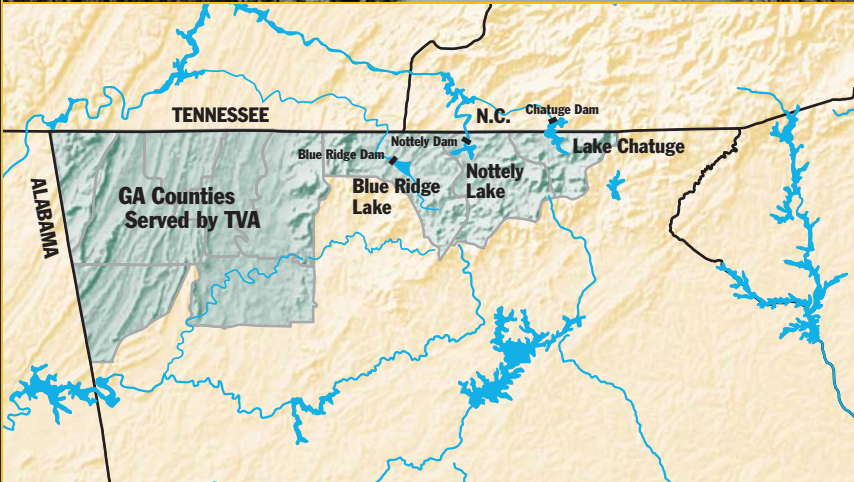
For many mill workers, however, the strike caused financial hardships. On September 22, the union called off the strike. Although mill workers returned to their jobs, many things were never the same. Feuds between strikers and nonstrikers increased. Some union activists were blacklisted and unable to find work. Workers were forced to leave their mill homes. The failed strike and the hardships that followed made an impression on Georgia workers that lasted for years.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the NIRA unconstitutional. To replace it, Congress quickly passed several laws to protect workers. The Wagner Act of 1935 guaranteed workers the right of **collective**

bargaining, discussions between a union and employer to determine such things as working conditions and employees’ wages, hours, and benefits. It also outlawed many unfair labor practices (such as firing union members) and established a board to enforce the law. Congress hoped workers would organize for higher wages. With higher wages, workers could buy more consumer goods and help the economy recover.

One New Deal program was more popular in Georgia and is still enjoyed today. As a result of the TVA, we now have Blue Ridge Lake (which was actually created in 1925), Lake Chatuge, and Lake Nottely.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was popular in Georgia in part because of its work at Camp Brumby with the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. The CCC also built many of the facilities at Roosevelt State



Map 43 Georgia's TVA Lakes

Map Skill: In which counties are these lakes located?

Top: Lake Chatuge is an important part of the TVA's system for flood control and electricity generation.



Park in Pine Mountain. Other CCC projects in Georgia included construction of sewer projects in many of the state's cities; flood control and drainage projects such as Tybee Island's seawall; recreational facilities such as ball fields, band stands, and theaters throughout the state; and a host of municipal facilities such as Augusta's Savannah River Levee, Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium, St. Simons' airport, Macon's airport, Stewart County's courthouse and jail, and renovations of Dalton's city hall. The CCC also worked to build, expand, or improve schools and hospitals throughout the state. For example, much of the work on Grady Hospital in Atlanta was done by the CCC.

Rural electrification was an important New Deal program. In the 1920s, power companies mainly ran lines to towns and cities. Because the rural population was spread out, power lines were expensive to build and maintain. The Rural Electrification Authority (REA) reportedly was a result of President Roosevelt's first night at Warm Springs, Georgia. He was sitting on the porch of his small cottage, trying to catch a breeze on a hot, sultry summer night. He noticed that no lights were showing from neighboring farms. When he received his electrical bill at the end of the month, he saw that it was many times higher than what he paid at his mansion in Hyde Park, New York. Roosevelt never forgot that night, and on May 11, 1935, he signed into law the act creating the REA. The REA loaned over \$300 million to farmers' co-operatives to help them extend their own power lines and buy power wholesale. This program was one of the most important and far-reaching of the New Deal programs. By 1940, a significant percentage of farmers in Georgia and other parts of the nation had electricity. Electric water pumps, lights, milking machines, and appliances made farm life much easier.

Above: More than 3 million young men earned a dollar a day from jobs with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Did You Know?

Workers in the CCC made \$30 per month. They were expected to send most of that money home to their families.



Above: These black sharecroppers are working in a field near White Plains in Greene County.

African Americans During the New Deal

Although most African Americans supported Roosevelt's candidacy for president, they did not, as a whole, make great gains under the New Deal. For example, under the Agricultural Adjustment Act, farm **subsidies** (grants of money from the government) went to property owners rather than to the tenant farmers, who were predominantly black. The Social Security Act was not designed to provide an income for farm and household workers, so African Americans working at those jobs were not covered.

When the WPA and other federal employment programs were organized, President Roosevelt ordered state relief officials "not to discriminate . . . because of race or religion or politics." Despite a lack of support from Governor Eugene Talmadge, those responsible for New Deal programs in Georgia made every effort to equally distribute WPA programs.

Several prominent African Americans were instrumental in leading

Did You Know?

On **February 17, 1930**, the folk drama ***Heaven Bound*** was first performed at the **Big Bethel AME Church**. The performances were so **popular** that it has been **repeated hundreds of times** over the years. Today it is still a **tradition**.

the New Deal programs. Clark Foreman, a staff member at the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, brought qualified African Americans into government agencies and investigated complaints about racial discrimination. Robert Weaver started his government career during the New Deal and later, in the 1960s, became the first head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. William Hastie was the assistant solicitor (lawyer) for the Department of the Interior. In 1937, he became the first African American federal judge. Educator Mary McLeod Bethune was appointed to an advisory committee for the NYA. She made sure that African Americans received a fair share of federal funds to provide jobs for young people. Those four influential African Americans made up what some called Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet."



Above: Mary McLeod Bethune was perhaps the most prominent African American to serve in the government during the New Deal. In the glass behind her, you can just see a portrait of President Roosevelt. **Left:** William Hastie was a lawyer, federal judge, law professor, law school dean, and governor of the Virgin Islands.



Above: This 1939 photograph shows some of the governors who served Georgia from 1911 to 1941. They are, left to right, Ed Rivers, Eugene Talmadge, Richard B. Russell, Jr., Clifford Walker, Thomas Hardwick, Hugh Dorsey, and John Slaton.

Georgia's New Deal Governors

The depression years brought new leadership to Georgia. Like the people in the rest of the nation, Georgians based their hopes for a better future on this new leadership.

Richard Russell, Jr.

On June 27, 1931, Winder resident Richard Russell, Jr., succeeded Lamartine Hardman as governor. Administering the oath of office was his father, Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard B. Russell, Sr.

Richard B. Russell, Jr., used his experience as a former member and speaker of the Georgia house of representatives to make some needed changes. One of his first acts was to combine 102 state offices into 17 agencies. In an equally daring political move, he combined the boards of trustees of state colleges and universities into one governing group—the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. During the creation of the new system, some colleges were closed while others were combined. Russell appointed Hughes Spalding, an Atlanta lawyer, as the first chairman of the board of regents.

Russell tried to run the state like a successful business. His approach eased some of the problems brought on by the depression. In 1932, Governor

Russell was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served for the next thirty-eight years. Russell favored national military preparedness and states' rights. He served on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, which was responsible for funding government programs. He became a respected advisor to six United States presidents and, when he served as president pro tempore of the Senate, he was third in line for the presidency.

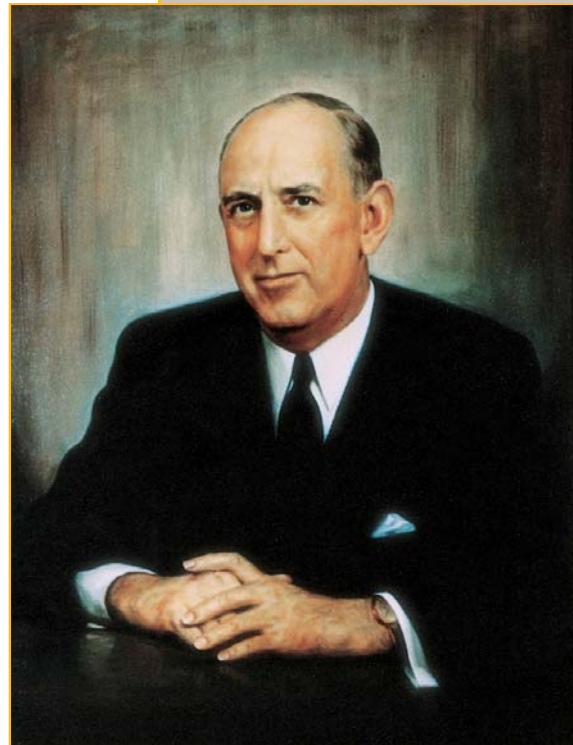
Eugene Talmadge

State government changed greatly when Eugene Talmadge became governor in 1933. The Forsyth farmer, lawyer, and sawmill owner had been elected commissioner of agriculture in 1926 and had served three years in that position. Talmadge was a dramatic politician in the style of Tom Watson. He often compared himself with Watson, especially when trying to get the support of rural voters. You may have heard the expression that politicians “stumped the state” giving speeches to voters. Talmadge actually took a stump with him, a sawed off section of an oak, two feet high and three feet in diameter. He put it in the middle of the crowd, stood on it, and delivered fiery speeches. He often told rural Georgia voters that they had three friends – Sears Roebuck, God Almighty, and Eugene Herman Talmadge.

Talmadge was a conservative white supremacist who did not like federal government intervention or government debts. He especially disliked relief efforts, public welfare, and federal assistance programs. After becoming governor, he tried to rid the state of New Deal programs. He used federal funds to build highways more often than to help the unemployed. He reduced property taxes, utility rates, and some license fees.

Talmadge was elected to a second term in 1934 by a landslide. Officials who disagreed with Talmadge were fired and replaced with his supporters. Once, Talmadge ordered the highway commissioner to reduce spending or resign. The commissioner refused. Talmadge called in the National Guard, declared martial law, and had the commissioner physically removed from his office. A Talmadge supporter was named as the new commissioner. When Talmadge refused to follow federal New Deal regulations, the federal government took over New Deal programs in Georgia.

In 1934, during the state's worst textile strike, the governor declared martial law again and used the National Guard to arrest strikers. However, Talmadge's political power plays did not change the fact that Georgia law would not allow him to serve more than two consecutive terms. Because he could not run for governor, Talmadge ran for the U.S. Senate in 1936 against Richard Russell and was soundly defeated.



Top: As governor, Richard Russell, Jr., reorganized state government. **Above:** Eugene Talmadge was a master at campaigning on the “stump.”



Above: During the 1936 governor's race, Eurith "Ed" Rivers campaigned across the state in support of New Deal policies.

Did You Know?

When **Arnall** became governor in 1943, he was the **youngest** governor in the nation.

Eurith Rivers

Talmadge's hand-picked successor for governor, Charles Redwine, was beaten by Lanier County resident Eurith "Ed" Rivers. A former newspaperman and speaker of the Georgia house of representatives, Rivers supported President Roosevelt's New Deal programs. He also supported and gained passage of constitutional amendments granting health services for all Georgians, old age pensions, teacher pay raises, a seven-month school year, homestead exemptions for taxes, and expansion of the state's highway system.

Under Rivers's leadership, electrical services were expanded to rural areas of the state. Georgia moved from the lowest-ranked state to the top of the list in the number of rural electrification associations. While he was in office, the State Bureau of Unemployment Compensation was created, allowing Georgians to receive unemployment benefits.

After Rivers's re-election in 1938, he ran into problems financing many of his improvement programs. Although the budget was reduced by 25 percent, he was able to convince the legislature to create the Georgia Housing Authority and obtain federal funds to build public housing. It was during this time that Atlanta's Techwood Homes and University Homes were built. Several

other Georgia cities also began public housing programs.

During Rivers's second term, there were political scandals and charges of corruption. Some staff members did not follow proper procedures in awarding highway contracts. Some of them sold prison pardons. Many of Rivers's appointees and staff members were charged with corrupt practices, and the charges reflected poorly on the governor.

Talmadge Re-Elected

In 1940, Eugene Talmadge ran for governor again and was elected. Talmadge had softened his anti-Roosevelt stand and began using modified versions of New Deal legislation. The state's economy grew. Then, a series of events angered the voters and put Georgia in a bad light.

A Talmadge supporter was an instructor at the University of Georgia. He told the governor that one of the deans at the university and the president of the Teachers College in Statesboro (now known as Georgia Southern University) had plans to **integrate** the school (open it to members of all races and ethnic groups). Talmadge convinced the board of regents to fire the two individuals. He also got rid of several members of the board of regents who publicly opposed his interference in the university system.

There was a great deal of national publicity, strongly against the governor's stand. The situation so offended the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that they voted to take away the accreditation of white Georgia colleges. Georgians were upset with both the association and the governor.

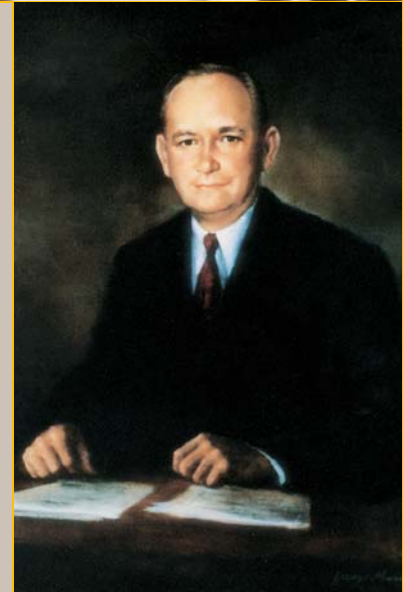
Ellis Arnall

Ellis Gibbs Arnall defeated Talmadge in the governor's race in 1942, taking office in 1943. A native of Newnan, Arnall had served as the state's attorney general. A constitutional amendment passed during Governor Talmadge's third term made Arnall the first Georgia governor to serve a four-year term.

Arnall quickly took steps to correct the problems with university accreditation. The General Assembly passed a constitutional amendment that made the board of regents a separate entity, no longer under the influence of the governor's office. The terms of regents were staggered so there were always experienced members serving on the board. These actions led the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to restore accreditation to Georgia's colleges and universities.

Arnall also removed the prison system from the governor's control. He established a board of corrections to oversee state prisons and a pardon and parole board to handle those requests. Arnall abolished the poll tax, and, under his leadership, a new state constitution was adopted in 1945.

Governor Arnall is probably best known for leading Georgia to become the first state in the nation to grant eighteen-year-olds the right to vote. When young men were drafted into the armed forces during World War II, Arnall argued that youths old enough to fight for their country were old enough to vote for their country's leadership.



Top: This photograph shows Eugene Talmadge in his trademark white shirtsleeves and red suspenders. **Above:** Ellis Arnall was the first Georgia governor to serve a four-year term.

It's Your Turn

1. What were the four aims of New Deal legislation?
2. What did the term *stretch out* mean in the textile mills?
3. Who made up Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet" during the New Deal?
4. Which New Deal governor do you think brought about the most changes in Georgia?
5. Which New Deal programs do you think were most important? List your top five choices and indicate why each made your list.

Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the reasons for World War II,
- why the United States entered the war,
- how the war affected Georgia's economy,
- how Georgians contributed to the war effort, and
- **vocabulary terms:** isolationism, dictator, appeasement, World War II, Holocaust, ration, and G. I. Bill.

Below: In this photograph, Adolf Hitler is shown in a triumphal procession after the fall of France in June 1941.

World War II

The United States was still struggling to get out of the Great Depression when war broke out in Europe in September 1939. In the late 1930s, the United States tried to maintain a policy of **isolationism** (not taking part in the affairs of other nations), but that came to an end as the war came to America's shores.

Increasing Tensions

The 1930s was a time for the rise of **dictators**, individuals who wanted to rule countries through military might. Four nations—Japan, Italy, Germany, and the Soviet Union—were trying to expand their power and territory. Germany was led by Adolf Hitler, Italy was led by Benito Mussolini, Japan was led by Emperor Hirohito, and the Soviet Union was led by Joseph Stalin.

Japan was an industrial nation, but it did not have basic raw materials such as coal, iron ore, and rubber. In 1937, Japan seized most of the coastal area of China. It then announced a “new order in Asia.” It would take the resources it needed from China.

In 1935, Benito Mussolini sent Italian troops into the African nation of Ethiopia. In 1939, Italy conquered Albania.

Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933. He had promised to make Germany a great nation again and to regain the territory it lost after World



War I. Hitler began a program of economic improvements. He also rebuilt the German military forces, which violated the treaty ending World War I. Because he believed that German Jews were responsible for Germany's defeat in World War I, he began to persecute them. At the same time, Hitler and his followers (called Nazis) silenced all opponents.

In 1936, Hitler and Mussolini signed a treaty and formed the "Berlin-Rome Axis." In 1940, Japan joined the Axis Powers.

By 1930, Joseph Stalin had seized control in the Soviet Union. He quickly built up the country's industries, but he also forced the peasants onto collective farms. In 1939, Hitler and Stalin signed a nonaggression pact; that is, they agreed not to wage war against each other.

The War Begins

In Hitler's quest for power, he tried to unite all the Germanic peoples of Europe. By early 1938, he had seized the Rhineland (an area between France and Germany) and annexed Austria. In 1938, Great Britain and France agreed to let Hitler take over the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia. This action by Great Britain and France was **appeasement**, the policy of giving an aggressor what it wants in order to avoid war. When Hitler seized the rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939, Great Britain and France warned Hitler not to seize any more territory.

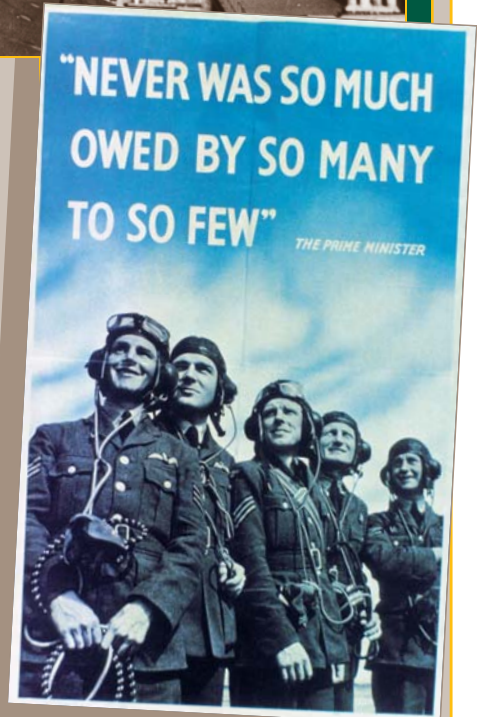
On September 1, 1939, German troops invaded Poland. Shortly thereafter, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. But before Great Britain or France could send troops, German and Soviet forces had divided Poland between them. The Soviet Army also took over Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and invaded Finland. **World War II** had begun.

Hitler struck again in April 1940. Within a month, the German army conquered Denmark and Norway. In May, German troops overran Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and a large part of France. The British Army retreated from the continent across the English Channel. Hitler then made plans to invade Great Britain. His air force heavily bombed British cities from August through December 1940. The Royal Air Force, however, was able to hold off the German bombers, and Great Britain was not invaded.

Did You Know?

People in England were urged to eat **carrots** during the war so that they would have better **nighttime vision** to watch for **enemy planes**.

Below: This man is standing on a London roof looking for enemy planes. **Bottom:** This World War II poster celebrates the bravery of British fighter pilots during the Battle of Britain.





Top: The Italian foreign minister (left) and the German foreign minister in Berlin for the signing of the alliance between Germany, Italy, and Japan. **Above:** Lend-Lease supplies—in this case, bacon—being unloaded in England.

A Neutral United States

President Roosevelt watched as Japan, Italy, the Soviet Union, and Germany carved up the world. Most Americans felt strongly that we should not get involved, but Great Britain was an ally and Roosevelt wanted to help. He thought that only the British could stop Hitler from crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

In the 1930s, Congress had passed neutrality acts to keep the United States out of another war. One of those acts would not allow the president to sell weapons to any warring nation. In 1939, Roosevelt asked for and got a new law that allowed the Allied Powers to buy arms if they paid cash and carried them

in their own ships. In 1940, Roosevelt gave Great Britain old weapons and traded fifty destroyers for British bases in the Western Hemisphere.

In early 1941, when the British ran out of cash with which to buy American supplies, Congress authorized Roosevelt to lend or lease arms to them. After Germany turned on and invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Roosevelt gave lend-lease aid to the Soviets as well. To make sure the supplies got to them, Roosevelt built air bases in Greenland and Iceland. Planes from these bases tracked German submarines. Roosevelt also ordered the U.S. Navy to convoy (escort) British ships part of the way across the Atlantic. In late 1941, German submarines sank an American destroyer. The United States was engaged in an undeclared war that was about to become a declared one.

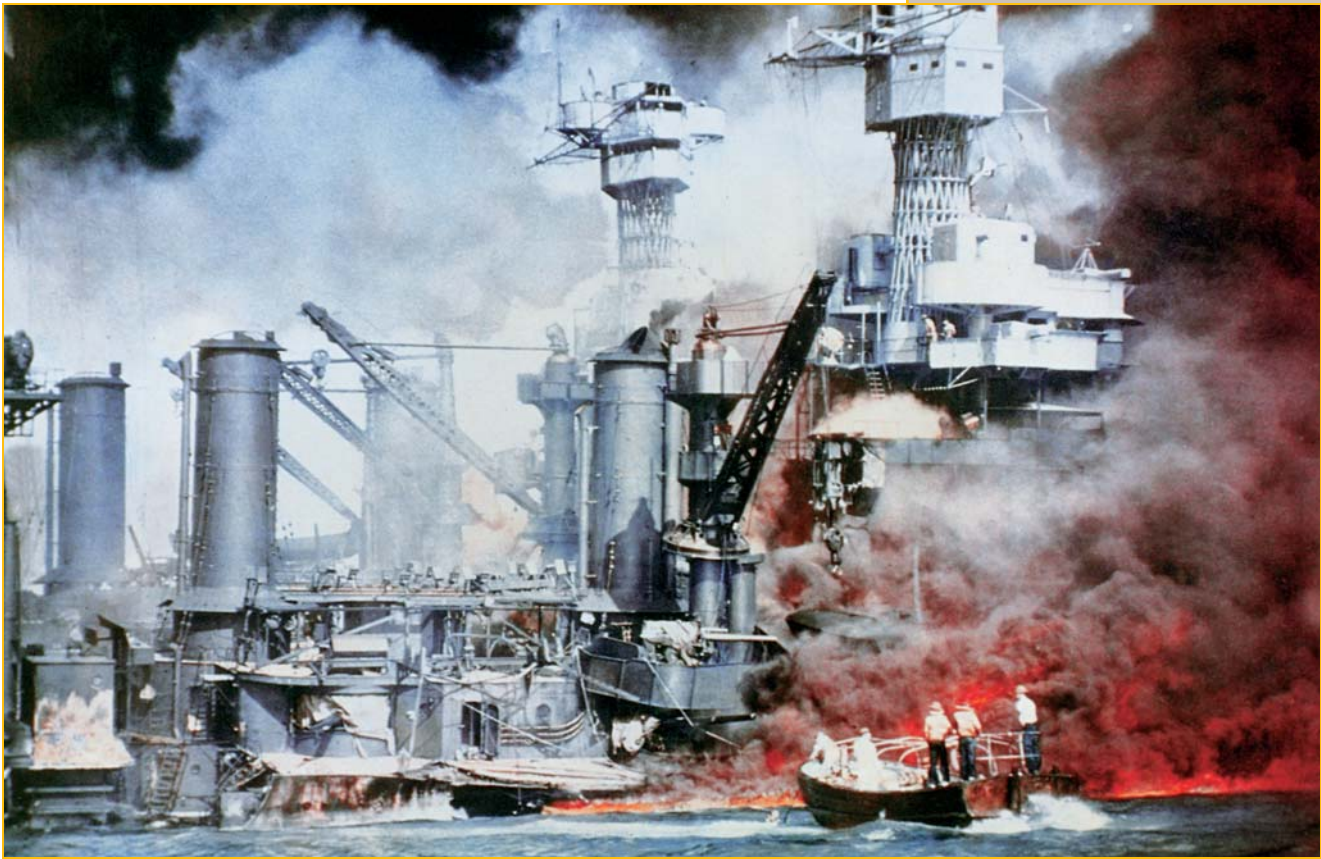
“A Day That Will Live in Infamy”

Meanwhile, American-Japanese relations got worse. To protest Japanese expansion, the United States stopped exporting airplanes, metals, aircraft parts, and aviation gasoline to Japan. After Japan invaded French Indochina in 1941, Roosevelt seized all Japanese property in the United States.

Badly needing the oil that Roosevelt had cut off, Japan decided to invade the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) in late 1941. The only force that could stop the Japanese was the U.S. Navy stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

December 7, 1941, was a peaceful Sunday morning. Many of the sailors stationed on the island were eating breakfast or going about their early morning routines. Suddenly, around 8:00 a.m., the air was filled with the sounds of machine gun fire and low level bombing. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was over by 10:00 a.m., but the damage to the Navy's Pacific fleet was incredible. All eight battleships in port were destroyed or severely damaged; more than 180 planes were destroyed. Over two thousand people were killed, and over one thousand were wounded. President Roosevelt called the attack a “day that will live in infamy.”

On December 8, Congress declared war on Japan, and the United States entered World War II. A few days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. Now it was a full-fledged war between the *Allied Powers*



Did You Know?

Almost **half** of the U.S. casualties at Pearl Harbor were aboard the U.S.S. **Arizona**, which sank with most of her crew aboard. Today the **National Park Service** manages the site of the **Arizona's** sinking as a **national monument**.

led by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union and the *Axis Powers* of Germany, Japan, and Italy. Joining the Allies meant the United States had to fight on two fronts, facing Germany and Italy in Europe and Africa and Japan in the Pacific.

American Military Forces

Millions of Americans enlisted in the armed forces after the Pearl Harbor attack. The nation's military ef-

fort in World War II was not limited to any one group, race, or gender. Close to 400,000 Mexican Americans served in the armed forces during the war.

Over 330,000 women served in the war in jobs that ranged from nurses to clerks to aides and drivers. Women in World War II were not allowed to go into combat, but they took over jobs to free men to fight on the battlefronts. The WASPs (Women's Air Force Service Pilots) trained as pilots and delivered planes from factories to airfields. They also served as pilots testing the newest planes the Army Air Force was building, and they flew target planes, pulling targets behind them for male pilots to practice on.

Above: Within two hours, Japanese bombers destroyed, sank, or capsized **18** ships and over **180** airplanes. Most of the casualties were on the U.S.S. **Arizona**.

Of Special Interest

The Tuskegee Airmen



In World War I, Eugene Bullard had made history in France as the first African American to fly in combat. World War II did not represent much of an improvement in the area of discrimination in the military. However, one group of flyers made the Pentagon rethink its position on the role of African Americans in combat. The military referred to their flying as an “experiment,” but the Germans, who faced the fighters, called them the “Black Bird Men.”

Each flight crew was composed of six men. Working out of a training facility at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, these men made history as the “Tuskegee Airmen.” At first, funding for the training facility was a huge problem. Few gave the program any chance of succeeding. But the training continued under the direction of Chief Flight Instructor Charles Anderson who, twelve years earlier, had taught himself to fly in a plane he purchased.

One day in May 1941, Eleanor Roosevelt arrived at Tuskegee to visit while the president rested at Warm Springs. She arrived at the airstrip, visited briefly, and told the small assembled group that she wanted to fly with Mr. Anderson. After the successful and highly publicized flight, the training facility received money to continue its program.

After their training, the airmen were assigned as escorts for allied bombers. At first, the bomber flight crews wanted nothing to do with their escorts, but the airmen’s reputation quickly spread, and flyers clamored to have the Tuskegee Airmen by their side. In over two hundred missions, the flight squadron never lost a single bomber they were escorting.

By the end of the war, close to 1,000 young African Americans had completed the training. Their skills were demonstrated by shooting down or damaging over 4,000 enemy planes and flying over 1,500 missions, while losing only 98 pilots. One hundred fifty pilots received decorations, including Flying Crosses, Purple Hearts, and Silver Stars.

Many of these pilots’ names are familiar today. Daniel “Chappie” James became America’s first black four-star general. General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., became the Air Force’s first black lieutenant general. Others included Coleman Young, who served as Detroit’s mayor; cable television mongol Percy Sutton; and Roscoe Brown, president of Bronx Community College in New York.

The Tuskegee “experiment” was a success and led the way for the integration of the armed forces.

Restrictions and segregation reduced the participation of African Americans in the war effort at first. Those who did participate served in segregated units. But military records indicate that approximately 700,000 African Americans served in the Army, 165,000 in the Navy, 5,000 in the Coast Guard, and 17,000 in the Marines. The Red Ball Express, a trucking unit that supplied gasoline and supplies to the American soldiers moving through France and into Germany, was manned primarily by African Americans. The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 sorties and completed 1,578 missions with the Army Air Force.

Native Indians had their role in America's war efforts too. Over 425 Navajo served in the Marine Corps as communication specialists using their native



language as a code that was never broken. Navajo "Code Talkers" took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. When the war ended, the Navajo were told to keep their part in the war effort a secret in case the code was needed again. It was not until 1969 that the truth about the role of the Navajo in World War II became public knowledge.

Did You Know?

The **highest-ranking African American officer in the armed forces** was **Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.**, who was the **first African American general in the U.S. Army.**



The War in Europe

In late 1942, British and American troops invaded North Africa and won control of the area by May 1943. From Africa, the Allied armies moved into Sicily and Italy. The Italian people overthrew Mussolini and joined the Allies. Germany and Japan were the remaining Axis Powers.

In 1943, American General Dwight D. Eisenhower was named Supreme Commander of Allied Forces. It was his responsibility to coordinate and plan the Allies' efforts to recapture Europe. On June 6,



Top and above: During World War II, women served in all branches of the service. At home, they worked in factories, as nurses, journalists, farmers, mail deliverers, garbage collectors, builders, and mechanics. Women made major contributions to the war effort.



Above: On June 6, 1944, Allied forces invaded the beaches of Normandy, France, in an action called Operation Overload. Future President Dwight D. Eisenhower led the assault that involved 4,000 ships, 11,000 planes, and 176,000 soldiers.

1944, D-Day, Allied forces landed at Normandy in northern France. By early 1945, Allied troops had pushed the German army out of France and across the Rhine River to Germany. At the same time, the Russian Army recaptured four smaller countries that were part of the German alliance: Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, and Romania.

Europe was freed from Hitler's control in April 1945, when the Soviet and American troops came together at the river Elbe in central Germany. Adolf Hitler committed suicide on April 30, and the last German forces surrendered to the Allies in May.

Did You Know?

May 8, 1945, was declared **VE Day**—Victory in Europe Day.

Georgia Loses a Friend

President Roosevelt had been a frequent visitor to Georgia, spending time at the “Little White House” in Warm Springs. On March 30, the president returned to the Little White House. He planned to rest and work on a speech for the United Nations. On April 24, Roosevelt was sitting for a portrait. Suddenly, the president put his hand to his head and said, “I have a terrific headache.” At 5:48 p.m., a stunned nation learned of the death of the man who had led

the country through recovery from the depression, through the New Deal, and to the brink of victory in World War II. He had suffered a massive stroke.

As Roosevelt's body was carried by train from Warm Springs back to the nation's capital, the tracks were lined by thousands of crying Georgians who had come to think of Roosevelt as one of their own. Whole families stood alongside the railroad tracks to say goodbye to their beloved president. And, it was not just Georgia. All along the route to Washington, Americans stood with their hands over their hearts in a final salute.

Vice President Harry S Truman became president on the death of Roosevelt and was the nation's commander-in-chief during the final months of World War II.

The War in the Pacific

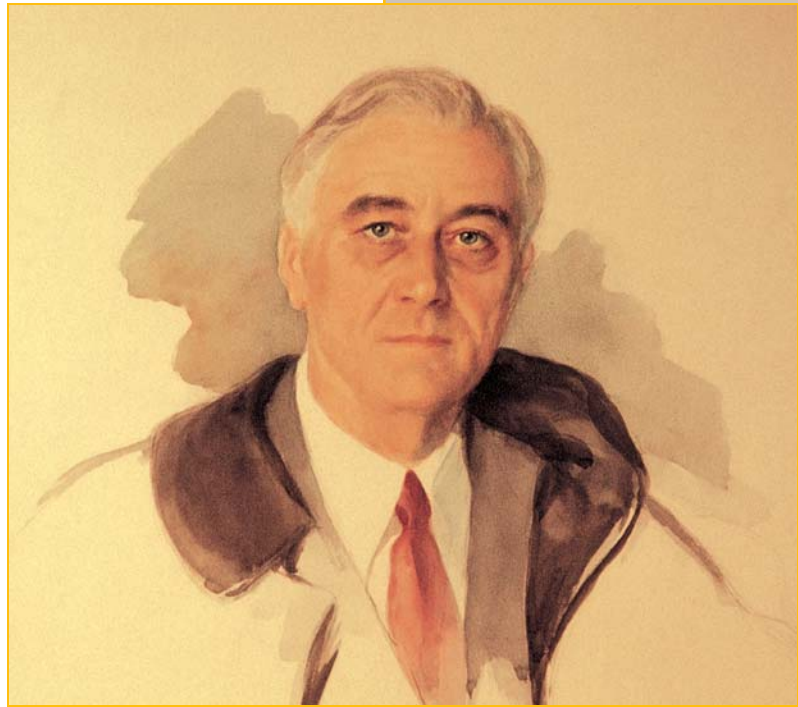
By early 1942, Japan had captured Burma, Hong Kong, Malaya, Thailand, and the Philippines. Japan threatened New Guinea and Australia before its advance in the Pacific was stopped.

Allied forces began to retake the Pacific islands, the Philippines, and Burma. In the summer of 1945, Allied forces began daily air raids on Japan. On July 26, Allied leaders demanded that Japan surrender. Japan refused. To bring an earlier end to the war and avoid the loss of perhaps half a million American lives, President Truman authorized the use of a new weapon. On August 6, the *Enola Gay*, a U.S. bomber, dropped

an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. It virtually destroyed the city of 255,000 people.

Still, the Japanese refused to surrender. A second atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki on August 9. Japan surrendered to the Allies on August 15, 1945. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first and last times to date that atomic warfare has been used to settle differences between nations. At last, World War II was over.

The war had been costly. Over 50 million people—military and civilian—died in the war. The United States lost over 300,000 soldiers; Great Britain lost over 450,000. The Soviet Union lost some 20 million people during the war. In addition to casualties, the war cost a great deal of money. The United States alone spent over \$360 billion.



Top: President Roosevelt was sitting for this portrait, now unfinished, when he was stricken. **Above:** A U.S. Navy corpsman helps a wounded Marine on Guam. Japan captured Guam in 1942; the Allies were not able to retake it until 1944.

American Spotlight

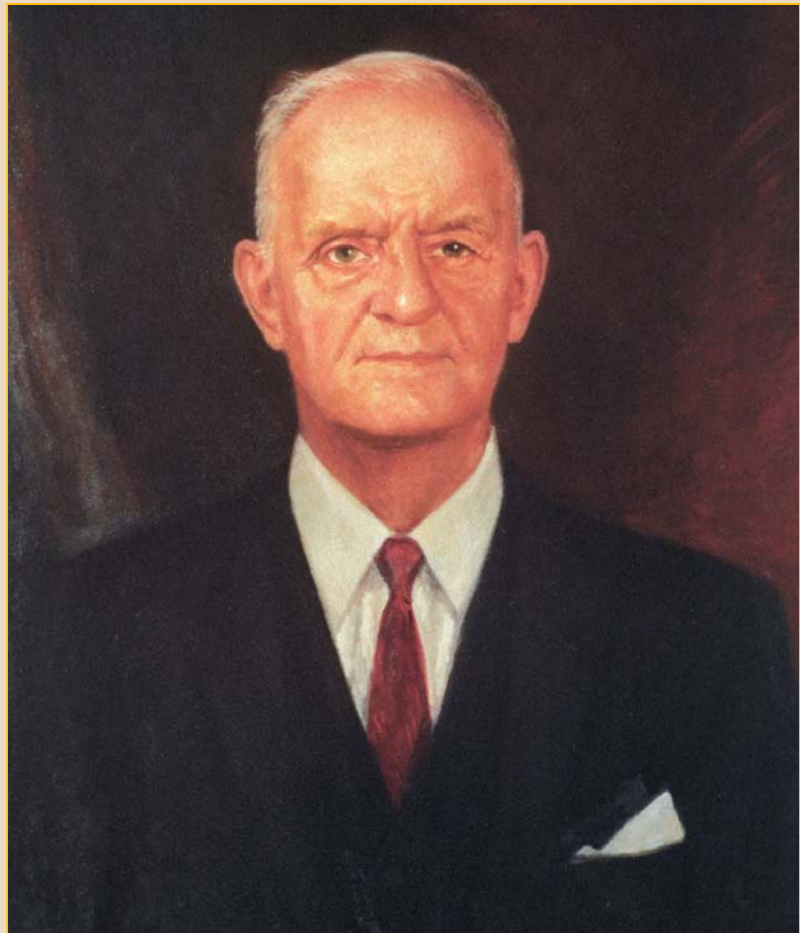
Carl Vinson, Father of the Two-Ocean Navy

It is impossible to review World War II without examining the contributions of one of Georgia's most influential leaders, Carl Vinson. Vinson is often referred to as the "father of the two-ocean navy." He served twenty-five consecutive terms representing Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 1914 to 1965. When he retired, he had established a record for longevity in the House.

Vinson, a native of Baldwin County, served as chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee for 16 years and its successor, the House Armed Services Committee for 14 years. Even before World War II, Georgia's economy had grown to depend heavily on the state's military installations, and Vinson represented Georgia's interest in the military through his committee work.

Vinson was a major influence in promoting a strong national defense. Alarmed by rising tensions in Europe, President Roosevelt and Vinson worked to increase the country's military readiness. Almost two years before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Vinson maneuvered two important bills through Congress. One bill expanded the naval aviation system to 10,000 planes, trained 16,000 pilots, and established 20 air bases. The second piece of legislation eased labor restrictions in the shipbuilding industry and allowed faster construction of navy ships.

Even after World War II, Vinson continued his dominance in Congress, pushing for a strong defense throughout the Cold War with the Soviet Union. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Carl Vinson the Presidential Medal of



Above: Congressman Carl Vinson was a powerful force in the growth of America's land, sea, and air forces.

Freedom. After serving for over 50 years in the nation's Congress, Vinson retired to his Milledgeville farm in 1965. In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon honored Vinson by naming the country's third nuclear carrier for him. He died in 1981.

The Holocaust

In the spring of 1945, as Allied troops pushed into Poland, Austria, and Germany, nothing could have prepared them for what they found. Auschwitz, Buckenwald, Dachau, Treblinka, Bergen-Belsen, and other concentration camps were set up by the Nazis as the “final solution to the Jewish problem.” Those who were left alive in the camps were emaciated skeletons from years of starvation, disease, cruel treatment, and forced labor.

The **Holocaust** was the name given to the systematic extermination (killing) of 6 million Jews. An additional 5-6 million people, labeled as “undesirables,” were also killed by the Nazis. In the camps, many died from starvation; others died from disease, mistreatment, and medical experiments. Prisoners, including children, were gassed in chambers they thought were showers. Their bodies were incinerated in huge ovens or thrown into mass graves. The deaths of these Jews, Poles, Czechs, Russians, Gypsies, homosexuals, and the mentally or physically disabled all fit Hitler’s plan to rid Europe of what he called “inferior” people.

Those who survived the German concentration camps had a daily reminder of the horrors they experienced—a number branded into their arms.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, established by an act of Congress, opened in Washington, D.C., in April 1993. The museum was created as a memorial to the 6 million Jews and millions of other victims who perished in the Holocaust.

Georgia During World War II

After the United States’s declaration of war, over 320,000 Georgians between the ages of 21 and 35 put on military uniforms. Of that number, 7,388 died in battle. Eight Georgians received the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military decoration.

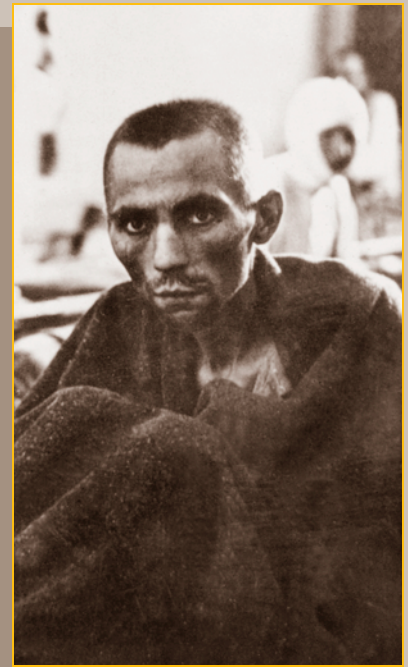
A Boost to the Economy

World War II brought prosperity to Georgia. Millions of federal dollars poured into the state, strengthening the economy. Because of its climate and the influence of politicians like Senator Richard Russell, Jr., Senator Walter F. George, and Representative Carl Vinson, the state became the site of several military installations.

Major military bases included Fort Benning in Columbus, Camp Gordon in Augusta, Fort Stewart and Hunter Air Field in Savannah, and Warner Robins Air Field near Macon. Airmen from Glynco Naval Air Station, near Brunswick, flew blimps along the southern Atlantic coast in search of German submarines.

In fact in April 1942, the war came frighteningly close to Georgia’s shores. A German submarine sank the S.S. *Oklahoma*, a merchant marine vessel, and the Esso *Baton Rouge* tanker off the coast of St. Simons Island. The community rallied quickly, and fishing boats and yachts raced to the waters to pick up survivors of both boats.

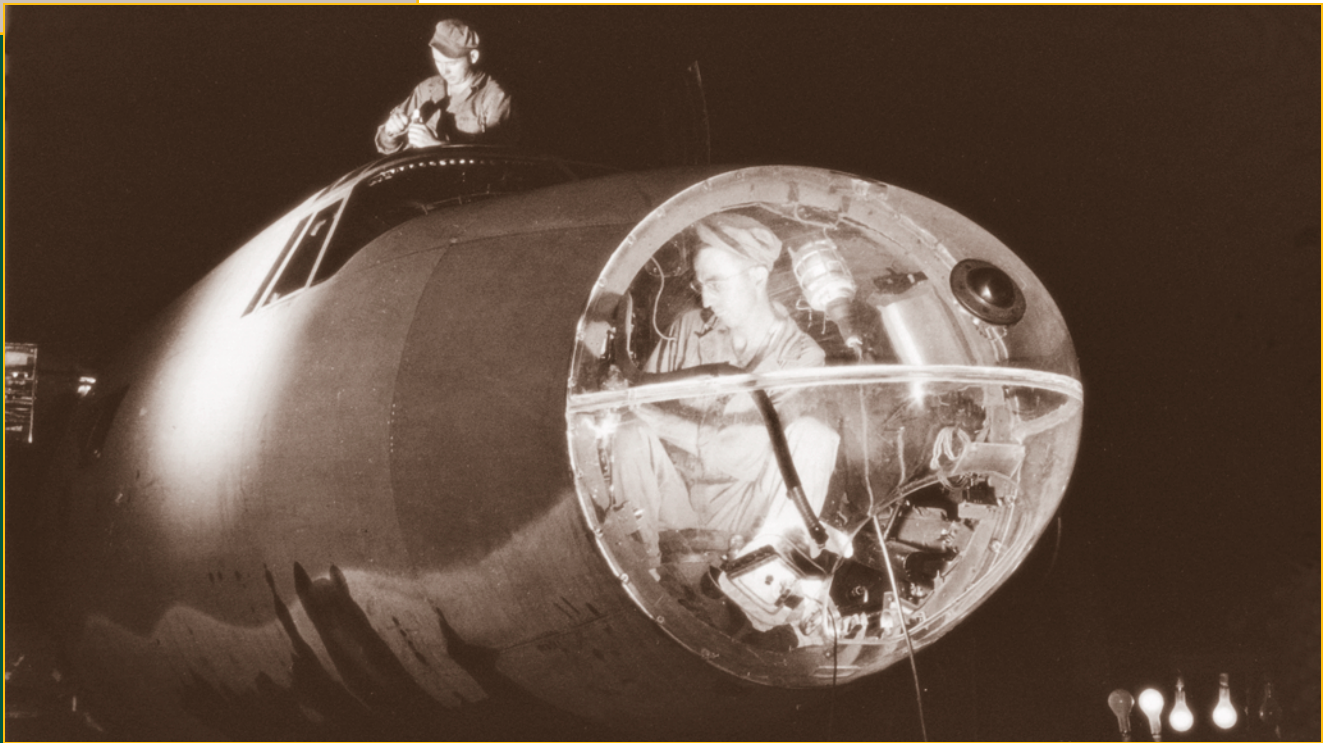
Fort McPherson, in the Atlanta area, was a major induction center for newly drafted soldiers from all over the country. A military hospital, which had been



Above: The German government set up concentration camps to imprison and later kill Jews, Gypsies, other victims of ethnic and racial hatred, and political opponents of Nazism. This is a survivor of the Gusen camp in Austria.

Did You Know?

Holocaust is a word of Greek origin that means “sacrifice by fire.”



Above: Aircraft mechanics work on the nose and cockpit of a B-26 bomber at Warner Robins Air Field near Macon in July 1943.

Did You Know?

During 1943 alone, school children across the country bought enough stamps and bonds to pay for 13,500 airplanes and 44,200 jeeps.

used in World War I, was reopened in Atlanta. In nearby Clayton County, Fort Gillem, an army storage facility and railroad yard, began operation.

In 1943, the Cobb County Airport became the Marietta Army Airfield. At Fort Oglethorpe, some of the 150,000 women who served in the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corp, later known as WACs) trained to become postal workers, clerks, typists, switchboard operators, code clerks, and drivers or aides.

In Marietta, 30,000 men and women built B-29 bombers at the Bell Bomber Plant. Thousands of Georgians were also employed in automobile and textile plants that were being used to produce military vehicles and uniforms. The Atlanta airport became an air base in 1941, and Delta Airlines named Atlanta the home of its fast growing fleet.

Georgians Support the War Effort

Georgia farmers planted peanuts for their oil, grew vegetables, and raised cotton and livestock to help feed the country and its allies. By 1944, the annual farm income was \$454, over three times what it had been in 1940.

Gasoline, shoes, and food items such as meat, butter, and sugar were **rationed**; that is, their consumption was limited. Women used leg makeup because it was hard to get silk and nylon stockings. Georgia joined the rest of the nation in donating 13 million pints of blood for the war wounded.

Children and young people helped in the war effort too. Students collected everyday items soldiers might need like toothbrushes or a washcloth, soap, pencils, or small writing pads. In some schools, students made candles to send to Great Britain, where much of the household electricity had been destroyed by German air raids.

Spotlight on the Economy

Georgia's Wartime Industries



A large part of Georgia's contribution in World War II came from the military installations in our state, which trained men and women to function in a variety of military activities. Georgia's thirteen military installations add over \$25 billion to Georgia's economy each year.

But, as World War II opened, industries in Georgia were also contributing to the war effort. One effort was the building of Liberty ships at Brunswick and Savannah shipyards. President Roosevelt named the cargo ships "Liberty ships" after Patrick Henry's famous quotation, and the ships were essential to the war effort. The first of Georgia's Liberty ships was launched in November 1942—the U.S.S. *James Oglethorpe*, which was sunk by a German submarine the next year. In all, eighty-eight Liberty ships were built in Savannah by 15,000 workers, many of whom were women.

In Brunswick, over 16,000 men and women worked around the clock in 1943 and 1944 on six ships at a time. In December 1944, they set a national record by building seven ships in just one month. The crews even worked on Christmas Day and donated their checks for that day to the war effort. In all, Brunswick's shipyards produced ninety-nine Liberty ships. Both of Georgia's port cities can be proud of their tremendous contributions to the war effort.

Another massive effort was undertaken at Warner Robins Air Force Base. During the war years, 23,670 employees repaired thousands of planes and trained 60,000 field

Above: In Marietta, a bomber plant was built to produce B-29 aircraft, called the "Superfortress" because of its size and bomb-carrying capacity.

mechanics who were deployed throughout the world wherever there was fighting. They also supplied needed equipment like spark plugs, parachutes, and radio sets, even small arms.

While coastal Georgians were building ships, Marietta was transformed from a bedroom community of Atlanta to a major industrial area. In spring 1943, Bell Aircraft Company began assembling B-29 bombers for the U.S. Army Air Force. The bomber plant was the largest facility in the Deep South, with over 4.2 million square feet. Between the end of 1943 and the close of the war, over 28,158 employees finished 668 planes.

In addition to those major efforts, many other mills and factories in the state switched to making war supplies, weapons, equipment, and even military vehicles. While Georgia did not enter this period as a major industrial state, at the close of World War II, the industrial base in Georgia was fully developed. A boom in industry and manufacturing after the close of the war led to some of the state's most prosperous times. As the decade drew to a close, more Georgians were engaged in manufacturing than in agriculture for the first time in the state's history.

The popular student magazine, *The Weekly Reader*, kept students informed about the war and had instructions for spotting enemy planes. Students were encouraged to save their money and buy war bonds and defense stamps to finance the war effort.

Students were also expected to help plant, maintain, harvest, and even can foods from the family's "Victory Garden." Young people took children's wagons and collected any scrap metals along the roadside or in vacant fields. Those scraps were melted down and reused in American factories. Children

picked milkweed floss, which was used in making life jackets and clothing for the sailors and soldiers.

Figure 40 Social Effects of World War II

- In 1944, Congress passed the Serviceman's Readjustment Act. The **G. I. Bill**, as it was called, made low-cost loans to veterans who wanted to buy homes or start businesses. The G.I. Bill also gave all returning soldiers the opportunity for a college education, which, in turn, changed job availability and heralded a new middle working class.
- In 1943, Congress imposed a withholding system on taxpayers. Federal income tax was withheld from workers' pay and sent directly to the U.S. Treasury. The number of taxpayers jumped from 4 million in 1939 to 42.7 million in 1945.
- Racial segregation was no longer acceptable to returning African American soldiers.
- Women who had experienced a new sense of freedom and independence were not ready to leave the workplace and return to the homemaker roles that had been their only option before the war. And, new inventions were releasing women from many of the time-consuming "homemaking" responsibilities.
- The horrors of the Holocaust forced Americans to re-examine their policy of isolationism.

POW Camps in Georgia

Many Georgians do not realize that many of our military bases were also POW (Prisoner of War) camps for German, Austrian, and Italian soldiers captured during the war. Fort Oglethorpe, Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, and Camp Wheeler provided housing for hundreds of POWs. At one point during the war, there were over four thousand prisoners. POWs received housing, medical care, food, and canteen visits. In some places, the POWs had educational opportunities; in others, they took part in work programs, toiling in fields or nearby factories.

At the end of the war, the POWs were "re-educated" about what to expect when they returned to their war-torn countries. Some of the prisoners, when released, chose to make Georgia their permanent home.

The War's Effects on Society

Once the United States declared war on Japan and joined the Allies, the nation turned its full attention to the war effort. Almost overnight, women replaced men in the workplace, rationing became a way of life, and everyone (including children) was expected to share in ensuring an American, and an Allied, victory. In addition, war production pulled the United States out of the last stages of the Great Depression and pushed the throttle fully open on the economy.

When the war finally ended in 1945, many changes faced the nation and returning GIs (see Figure 40). The war changed the role of women and helped attack prejudice and discrimination.

It's Your Turn

1. Why did President Roosevelt feel so strongly about helping the British?
2. What event finally led the United States to enter the war?
3. What events led to the surrender of Japan?
4. Which military installation was located in Columbus?

A Final Note

Our Constitution ensures that we have the freedom to believe as we wish. The pledge that is said daily in our schools along with the words on the coins in our pockets—"In God We Trust"—are reminders for us to have **respect for our creator**. In a sermon given about the 1942 Bataan Death March, in which thousands of Filipinos and Americans died or were imprisoned, William T. Cummings said, "There are no atheists in foxholes." What do you think he meant by that comment?

In World War II, 2,278 Catholic priests, 243 rabbis, and 5,620 Protestant chaplains served our country. In what ways do you think the military Chaplain Corps helped soldiers maintain respect for their creator?

Chapter Summary

- The 1920s, known as the Roaring Twenties, was a time of prohibition, illegal liquor, mobs and speakeasies, flappers, jazz, and the blues.
- The prosperity of the 1920s ended with the stock market crash.
- Failures of banks and businesses caused massive, widespread unemployment across the country.
- After Roosevelt's election, a series of New Deal programs put people back to work, provided insurance and pensions for retirees, and delivered electrical power to the nation's rural areas.
- During this period, most Georgia governors supported New Deal legislation.
- Governor Talmadge did not at first support Roosevelt's economic policies, but he later softened his opposition.
- World War II broke out in Europe in 1939, and the United States entered the war in 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Germany surrendered in May 1945, and Japan followed suit in August 1945.
- During the war, the economies of both the United States and Georgia prospered, pulling the country and the state out of the Great Depression.
- World War II made the United States a superpower and changed the nature of the American work force and the roles of women.



Above: In August 1945, the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by atomic bombs in an attempt by the United States to shorten the war.

Chapter Review

Reviewing People, Places, and Terms



Use the following terms in a paragraph describing the United States during the Great Depression and World War II.

1. dictator
2. Great Depression
3. isolationism
4. laissez-faire
5. New Deal
6. ration
7. rural electrification
8. Social Security Act
9. stock market

Understanding the Facts



1. What was Georgia's first radio station?
2. What natural disaster struck Georgia's cotton growers during the 1920s?
3. What were some of the reasons that African Americans moved in large numbers from the South to the North during this era?
4. Name two ways in which President Hoover tried to help the economy recover.
5. Name three problems in the U.S. economy that led to the Great Depression.
6. After President Roosevelt took office, what was his first act to prevent the nation's banks from failing?
7. What New Deal laws were intended to help the nation's workers?

8. Which Georgia governor refused to go along with New Deal programs?
9. In what ways did the United States protest Japanese aggression in the Far East?
10. What was the country's "Little White House" during Roosevelt's presidency?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. Do you believe that another stock market crash is possible in this country today? Why or why not?
2. Do you think a guaranteed minimum wage is a good thing? Why or why not?
3. What might have been the impact on history if the United States had not entered World War II?
4. Why do you think gasoline, shoes, women's nylons, and certain food items were rationed during World War II?
5. How do you think minority soldiers felt when they returned to their own country after the war and found segregation and discrimination still in place?

Checking It Out



1. Check local historical records and find out what CCC projects took place in your county and whether those projects are still in place today. Which major CCC projects happened in the section of the state where you now live?
2. Research the Bataan Death March and answer the following question: Could the May 6, 1942,

surrender of Corregidor have been prevented? How? What role did Douglas MacArthur have?

3. Use your research skills to find information on the Manhattan Project. What would have been the likely outcome of the Japanese war had we not developed and used the atomic bomb? How might our world be different today?
4. Use your research skills to find out more about Winnie the Pooh. Did you know she was an actual bear and was a mascot for a Canadian regiment of soldiers? Pooh died in 1934 at age 20, but she was the very bear A. A. Milne wrote about.



Writing Across the Curriculum

1. Prepare a short report on one of the New Deal programs or laws. Include information on when the program was created or when the law was passed, its purpose, and its effectiveness.
2. Political cartoons and propaganda slogans were widely used in World War II.



“Loose lips sink ships” was one favorite that reminded people not to talk about war secrets to anyone, especially civilian workers in defense plants. Examine some of the cartoons of the famous World War II cartoonist Bill Mauldin and some of the recruitment posters used in World War II, then try your own hand. Either be a cartoonist and represent an attitude about any event that happened in Georgia during this period or be an editorialist and develop wartime slogans for Georgia during this period. Try to prepare at least two cartoons or two slogans that will teach your classmates some facts about this chapter’s time period.



Applying Your Skills

1. The number of shares of stock traded on the New York Stock Exchange for certain years between 1920 and 1935 are shown below. Prepare a bar chart using this information. What does the chart suggest about the nation’s attitude toward buying stock after the stock market crash?

1920	227,636,000 shares
1925	459,717,623 shares
1929	1,124,800,410 shares
1930	810,632,546 shares
1935	381,635,752 shares

2. Timelines are an important way of looking at history. Use your research skills and prepare a timeline that shows the twenty-five most famous Georgians who were born between 1920 and 1945. The individuals could be politicians, noted sports people, entertainers, or business people. Post the chart so that you can compare the list with the information in upcoming chapters.