

AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

“Early Difficulties”

Objective 1:

What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Allied Powers and Axis Powers in 1941?

Allied Powers Advantages

- Production capacity of U.S. and manpower of Soviet Union were advantages.

Allied Powers Disadvantages

- Disadvantages included the enormous amount of land in enemy hands, the multi-front aspect of the war, and the long fight that had to be faced.

Axis Powers Advantages

- Axis was better prepared economically and had been rearmed since the 1930s.
- Axis had firm control over invaded areas and already had airfields, barracks, and military training centers.

Axis Powers Disadvantages

- Axis powers' main difficulty was defending multiple fronts.
- Were resource deficient for long term war

Objective 2:

What steps did the United States take to prepare for war?

- increased production
- expanded the government
- began to direct the economy
- began to raise the army

Objective 3:

Where did the
Japanese military
attack after Pearl
Harbor?

- The Philippines
- Singapore
- The Dutch East Indies
- Wake Island
- Hong Kong
- Burma

Objective 4:

What were the early turning points of the war in the Pacific?

- Battle of the Coral Sea (May 4 to May 8, 1942)
- Prevented Japanese from disrupting US supply line to Australia
- 1st naval battle in world history fought entirely by air

Battle of Midway (June 4 to June 7, 1942)

- Turning point at sea. 4 of 6 Japanese aircraft carriers that attacked Pearl Harbor are sunk

Guadalcanal (August 7, 1942 - February 9, 1943)

- Turning point on land
- Start of “island-hopping” campaign

Objective 5:

What were the major battles in Europe and North Africa in 1942?

2nd Battle of El Alamein

in North Africa (October
23 to November 4,
1942) British defeat
Germans & Italians

Battle of Stalingrad
in Soviet Union
(August 21, 1942 to
February 2, 1943)
Soviets defeat
Germans

The End

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