

The Home Front

The U.S. now faced fighting a war on two fronts: the Atlantic and the Pacific. Americans had to ready themselves for war. They had to greatly increase the size of their armed forces and to step up production to meet enormous wartime needs. This production finally ended the unemployment of the Great Depression.

Meeting War Needs

In order to fight the war, The United States set up a **draft** requiring all able-bodied men **between 18 and 45** to serve in the armed forces. **Fifteen million** people served in the military during the war.

Among them were **1 million African-Americans**, who were forced to serve in **segregated units**. Also, for the first time in US history, **women could enlist**. These men and women in uniform served and fought on the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Pacific islands, North Africa, and Europe. Many gave their lives for their country.

Meeting War Needs cont.

American **factories quickly changed from producing consumer goods to wartime production.** As a large number of men went into the armed forces, **many women and African-Americans** took their places. In order to pay for the huge cost of the war, **taxes were raised.** Americans also bought **war bonds**, which were to be repaid by the government after the war. **America's industrial strength and the ability of the economy to produce large numbers of ships, tanks, airplanes and guns was an important factor in helping the Allies to win the war.**

