

# Focus Lesson 2

How did life change after World War II?

## VOCABULARY

ration  
suburb  
commute  
United Nations  
civil rights  
pollution

## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

**Prefixes** The prefix **sub-** means "beneath" or "secondary." **Urb** comes from a word meaning "city." What do you think **suburb** means?

## READING STRATEGY

**Sequence Events** Choose four events from this lesson and put them in the order in which they occurred.

  
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# World War II and the American Century

On December 8, 1941, a grim-faced President Franklin Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war:

*"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy [shame]—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."*





## Another World War

By 1941, most of the countries of Europe and Asia were involved in World War II. President Roosevelt tried to keep Americans out of the war, but Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

### The United States at War

The United States again joined the Allies—Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union—in the war against Germany, Italy, and Japan.

New Yorkers pitched in to win the war. Nearly two million New Yorkers served in the military. Many soldiers sailed to Europe from New York Harbor. New York City mayor Fiorello LaGuardia organized civilian defense. Factories in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and other cities produced war supplies. The Brooklyn Navy Yard built warships. One factory on Long Island turned out more planes than any other factory in the world!


- Damaged battleships burn after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941.

### The Home Front

Everyone helped with the war effort. Some people held scrap drives to collect metal and rubber to make into war supplies. People also **rationed**, or used less of, gasoline, rubber, certain foods and other supplies. Americans were encouraged to “make do with less” so troops could have more food, equipment, and supplies. New York farmers grew food for the Allies. Even city residents grew “victory gardens” to increase food production.

Bond drives raised money to pay for the war. A bond is a kind of loan. The buyer of a bond is paid back in a certain amount of time. Bondholders also get interest, a percentage of the loan as a reward for loaning the money.

The war came to an end in August 1945. The war was over, but America faced a new enemy—the Soviet Union.

 **QUICK CHECK** How did New York contribute to winning World War II?  
*Sequence Events*