**Chapter 26**

America in a World War

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Twenty-Six should enable the student to understand:**

1. The efforts of the federal government to mobilize the nation’s economy for war production.
2. The effects of American participation in the war on the Depression and on New Deal reformism.
3. The changes that the wartime involvement brought for women and racial and ethnic minorities.
4. The contributions of the United States military to victory in North Africa and Europe.
5. The contributions of the United States military to victory in the Pacific.

# Summary

The United States entered World War II ideologically unified but militarily ill-prepared. A corporate-government partnership solved most of the production and manpower problems, and the massive wartime output brought an end to the Great Depression. Labor troubles, racial friction, and social tensions were not absent, but they were kept to a minimum. Roosevelt and the American generals made the decision that Germany must be defeated first, since it presented a more serious threat than Japan. Gradually American production and American military might turned the tide in the Pacific and on the western front in Europe. The key to victory in Europe was an invasion of France that would coincide with a Russian offensive on the eastern front. Less than a year after D-Day, the war in Europe was over. In the Pacific, American forces—with some aid from the British and Australians—first stopped the Japanese advance and then went on the offensive. The strategy for victory involved long island-to-island leaps that bypassed and

isolated large enemy concentrations and drew progressively closer to the Japanese homeland. Conventional bombing raids pulverized Japanese cities, and American forces were readied for an invasion that the atomic bomb made unnecessary.