

Introduction to Australia at war (1939–1945)

The years from 1918 to the present have been some of the most turbulent and significant in human history. The world has changed more over the last century than it has during any other period. The signing of peace treaties (such as the **Treaty of Versailles**) after the end of World War I in 1918 forced members of the defeated Central Powers, such as the German Empire, Ottoman Empire and Austria–Hungary, to admit fault for causing the war and agree to pay reparations (compensation) to the Allied powers. Once-great empires were broken up and new countries such as Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were created in their place. Members of the Allied powers, such as Britain, France, Italy and the United States, dominated negotiations leading up to the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. At this time, Britain, France and Russia controlled vast empires around the world, making them the most powerful nations on Earth.

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chapter

8

8A

What events defined the years between World War I and World War II?

1 text to come

8B

What were the key events of World War II?

1 text to come

8C

What was the significance of World War II?

1 text to come

Source 1 The Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra records and commemorates members of the Australian armed forces who have died during or as a result of war service. More than 100 000 Australians died serving in World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945). Families and friends remember their sacrifice by placing poppies in the roll next to their names.

Unit 1 Australia at war

This unit is MANDATORY:

- World War II (1939–1945).

It must be completed by all students.

8.1 The aftermath of World War I

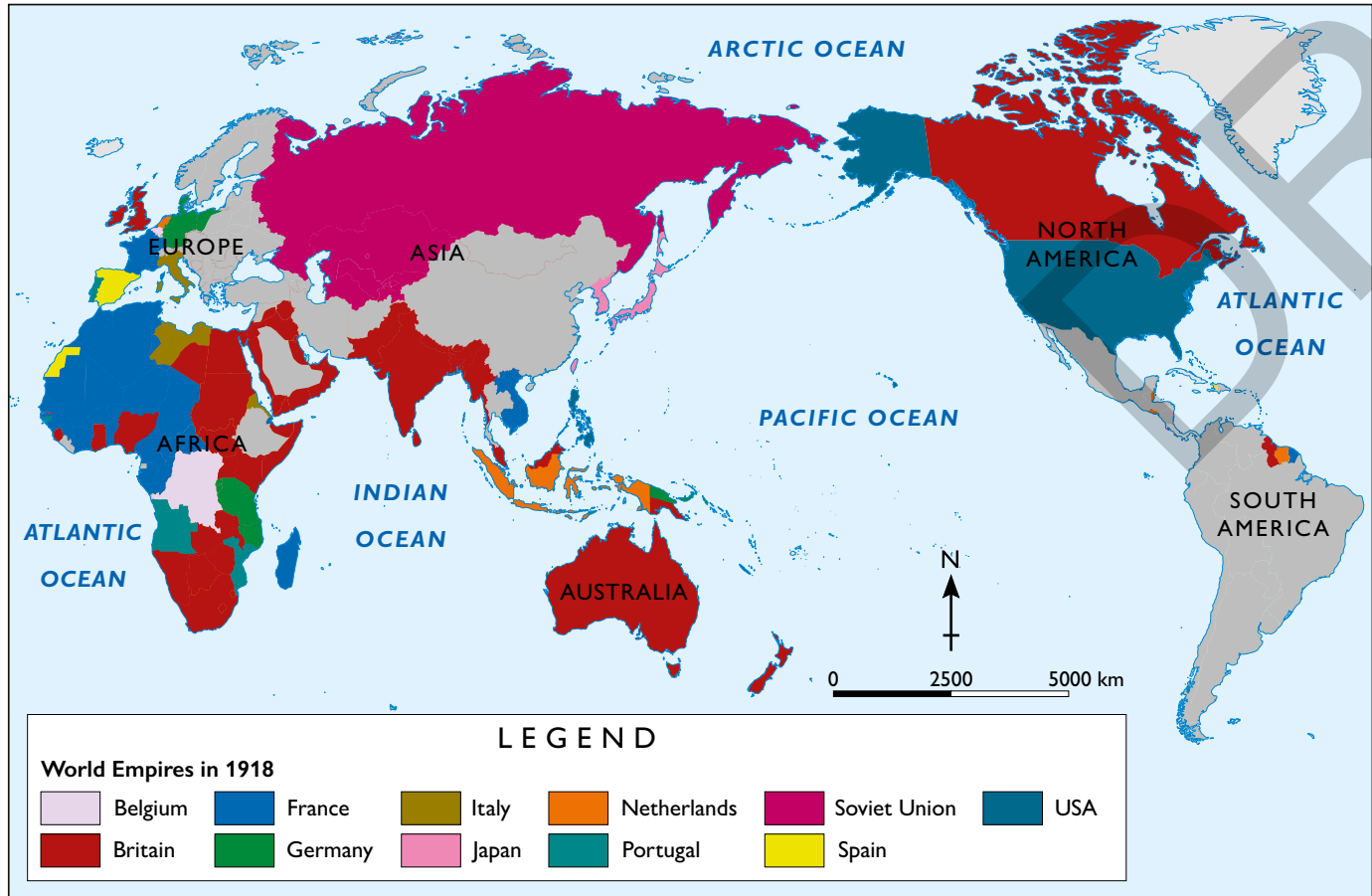
In *Unit 1 – Australia at war (1914 – 1945)* you will learn more about the political situation in Europe at the end of World War I as well as some of the social and economic factors (such as the **Great Depression**) that led to the outbreak of World War II in 1939, just 20 years after the signing of the **Treaty of Versailles**. This period became known as the interwar years.

World War II was fought from 1939 until 1945. It took global conflict to new levels and was responsible for the deaths of around 60 million people, including the deaths of around 6 million Jews at the hands of the Nazis during the **Holocaust**.

By the end of World War II in 1945, Europe was in ruins and crippled financially after years of fighting. In the years after the war, the map of Europe and the world was redrawn. Germany was divided into two

separate countries, Russia took control over a number of countries in Eastern Europe such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and a number of colonies controlled by the Japanese, Dutch, French and British empires all declared their independence. It was during this time that the USA and the Soviet Union emerged as the new ‘superpowers’ of the post-war world. With their opposing political and economic ideologies, the communist Soviet Union and the capitalist USA become bitter political and military rivals, involved in a **Cold War** that lasted from 1947 through to the early 1990s. Although no direct military action broke out during this time, the tension and paranoia of the Cold War years effectively split the world into two opposing regions of influence (see Source 2).

WORLD: GLOBAL EMPIRES POST-WORLD WAR I

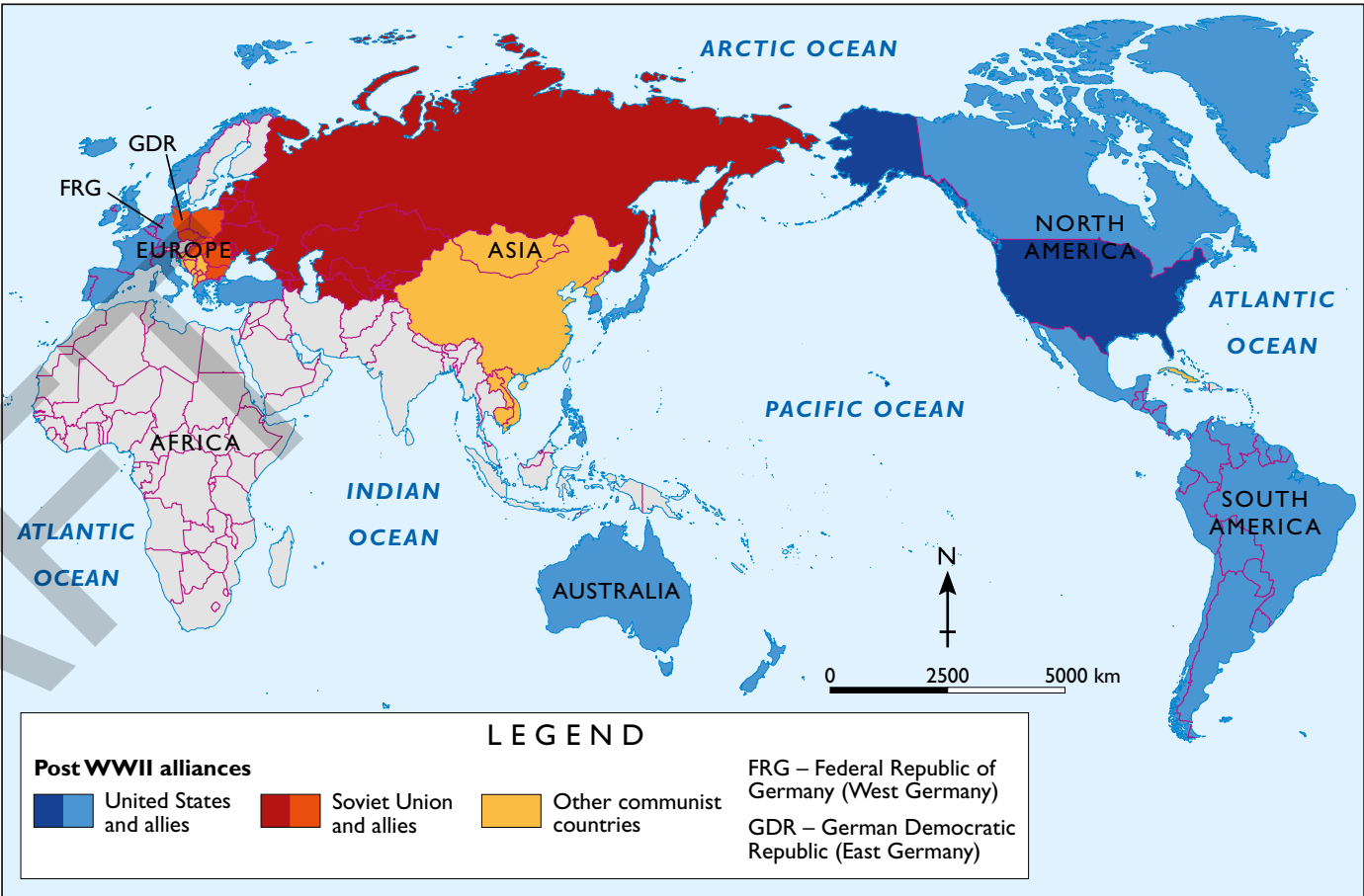


Source 8.1

Source: Oxford University Press

The events that took place during this period continue to influence the modern world in many ways – and Australia’s place in it.

WORLD: USA AND SOVIET UNION AND ALLIES POST-WORLD WAR II



Source 8.2

Source: Oxford University Press

Check your learning 8.1

Remember and understand

- How does Source 1 help to explain why Great Britain, France and Russia emerged as some of the most powerful nations on Earth after the end of World War I?
- What was the Cold War? How long did it last for?
- List two reasons why the British and French empires lost some of their power after World War II.

Apply and analyse

- Examine Source 2. Using an atlas, list all of the countries shown in orange on the map. Many of these countries had strong ties and alliances with the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

- Why do you think this was the case?
- Research one of these countries more closely. What did they gain through their alliance with the Soviet Union? What did they have to offer in return?

- At the end of World War II, the government of Australia chose to continue building a strong alliance with the government of the United States of America. Why do you think they did this? How might an alliance like this benefit Australia?

8.2 The Treaty of Versailles

The Great War (as World War I is also known) left many countries across Europe devastated. Many historians regard it as the first 'total war', meaning that nations dedicated all available resources (both military and civilian) to the war effort and suffered casualties at a level never experienced before. Over 8 million soldiers and sailors lost their lives during the war and a similar number of civilians died as a result of fighting, starvation and disease. A further 21 million people were wounded. Almost immediately after the end of the war was declared in 1918, the world was hit by a deadly flu pandemic (called the Spanish influenza). The pandemic lasted for about a year and resulted in the deaths of over 30 million people, most of them between 20 and 40 years of age.

The Treaty of Versailles

In January 1919, the victorious nations of World War I met at the Paris Peace Conference in France to come up with a plan for rebuilding Europe and ensuring ongoing peace in the future. The leaders of 32 countries attended the conference, but negotiations were dominated by the leaders of four major powers:

- Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Britain
- Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France
- President Woodrow Wilson of the USA
- Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando of Italy.

The French had suffered greatly during World War I, and wanted revenge and compensation for the damage done to their country. Clemenceau wanted to weaken Germany so it would never be able to take up arms again. President Wilson, on the other hand, wanted to achieve lasting peace with a treaty that punished Germany, but not so harshly that they would one day want their own revenge.



Source 1 French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau (left), American President Woodrow Wilson (middle) and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George (right) greet the crowd after signing the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919

GERMANY: TERRITORIAL LOSSES AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES, 1919



Source 2

Source: Oxford University Press

After months of negotiations, the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919. While large sections of the German public were opposed to the terms of the treaty, German representatives at the negotiations knew that if they did not sign, Allied troops would invade Germany. With Germany's army in ruins, Germany would be powerless to stop them.

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles

As part of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was required to surrender large sections of its territory (see Source 2) and all of its overseas **colonies** (including the former German New Guinea which was given to Australia).

Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was required to limit its army to 100 000 men who were mostly volunteers. It was also prohibited from possessing an air force, tanks, submarines or heavy artillery. Germany was required to accept full responsibility for starting the war and forced to pay **reparations** (compensation) to the Allies. It was agreed that Germany should pay an amount close to £7 billion British pounds (the current equivalent of around \$526 billion Australian dollars).

Germany's allies in the war were also punished by the treaty. For example, Austria–Hungary was also required to pay reparations to the Allies, and the empire was broken up. The borders of Austria and Hungary were redrawn and the territory lost was used to create the new nations of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.



Source 3 This cartoon, by Australian political cartoonist Will Dyson, was published in 1920. It is highly critical of the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles. It shows the French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau (together with Woodrow Wilson and David Lloyd George) leaving the Paris Peace Conference. Clemenceau, known as 'The Tiger', says 'Curious! I seem to hear a child weeping'. The child shown represents the '1940 class' – the German children of the 1920s who will become 'cannon fodder' (soldiers likely to die) by 1940 when the next war starts.

Establishment of the League of Nations

The **League of Nations** was an international organisation formed at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 to maintain world peace and prevent the outbreak of future wars by encouraging nations to negotiate with each other rather than engage in military conflicts. To help ensure its success, the League of Nations had the power to order countries in conflict to discuss their differences at an assembly of member countries. At these hearings, aggressors could be warned, punished with economic sanctions or threatened with military action. Forty-two countries (including Australia) joined the League of Nations. At its peak in 1935, there were 58 member countries. Although the idea for the League of Nations had been suggested by US President Wilson, the USA did not join the League. This was largely due to the reluctance of the American people to get involved in European affairs. Although the League of Nations had some early successes, it ultimately failed in its principal mission of preventing the outbreak of future wars.

Check your learning 8.2

Remember and understand

- 1 The Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919.
 - a Summarise the restrictions placed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles in terms of territory, the military and finance.
 - b Why did the German people oppose many of the terms outlined in the treaty?
 - c If so many Germans opposed the treaty, why did German representatives at the Paris Peace Conference sign it?
- 2 Summarise the different positions taken by the French Prime Minister and the US President at the Paris Peace Conference with regards to how Germany should be treated.
- 3 What was the League of Nations and why was it created?

Apply and analyse

- 4 Examine Source 3 and complete the following tasks.
 - a Name the three men shown in the cartoon. Why has the cartoonist chosen to show one man more prominently than the others?
 - b Who is the child supposed to represent?
 - c Why do you think the child is shown naked?
 - d What comment is the cartoonist making in this source?

8.3 The Roaring Twenties

Although Germany suffered a severe economic downturn during the 1920s (as it struggled to meet the terms set out in the Treaty of Versailles), this decade was a time of great economic prosperity in many other parts of the world, including the USA, Britain, France and Australia. Economic prosperity, together with a new hope and optimism brought about by the end of war, resulted in a wide range of social changes and technological advances during this decade – hence the term ‘the Roaring Twenties’.

During the 1920s, the production of cars and consumer goods (such as household appliances) rose dramatically. Automated methods of mass production, using machinery and assembly lines, meant that large volumes of cars and a wide range of goods could be produced more quickly and efficiently. As a result, these items were no longer luxury products that could only be bought by the rich. For the first time since the war, people had regular work and money to spend. Advertising campaigns encouraged ordinary people to buy these new labour-saving appliances, with toasters, vacuum cleaners (see Source 1) and refrigerators in high demand.

During the 1920s in Australia, electric lighting was installed in many homes for the first time, although many did not have power points. Electrical appliances such as vacuum cleaners, fridges and irons became available in the 1920s, but their use did not become widespread until the 1940s. Cars were mostly imported from overseas until Ford and General Motors established themselves in Australia in 1925. In 1921, there were just under 100 000 cars registered in Australia. By 1939, this had risen to over 560 000. By comparison, there were 26 201 400 passenger cars registered in the United States by 1939.

Another influential innovation of the time was the radio, which became the first mass broadcasting medium. The advertising industry grew rapidly as companies began to deliver their sales pitches over the airwaves to families who gathered nightly around the radio. Radio also helped bring in the Jazz Age of the 1920s. Originating in black communities in New Orleans around the turn of the century, jazz became an international phenomenon thanks to radio broadcasts. Australia’s first radio station, using the call-sign 2SB, went to air on 23 November 1923. It was later renamed 2BL then 702 ABC.



Source 1 An advertisement for Electrolux vacuum cleaners from the 1920s

The Hollywood motion-picture industry also emerged during the 1920s. Silent films had been popular for some years, but in 1927 the first ‘talking picture’ (or ‘talkie’) was released. *The Jazz Singer* was the first motion picture to feature synchronised sound and spoken words. It revolutionised the film industry. By 1930, over 100 million Americans were going to the movies every week. Actors and actresses like Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo and Rudolf Valentino became the first ‘movie stars’ and were recognised all over the world.

Fashion in the 1920s celebrated youth and freedom. Women in particular saw changes in the way they could present themselves publically. A boyish ‘flapper’ style became popular, with daringly short skirts (showing the knees), and waistlines slung low on the hip (see Source 2).

Women covered their short cropped hair under tight bell-shaped hats. For the first time, flappers danced, smoked and drank alcohol in public. They also went out without chaperones (adults who supervised young unmarried women during social events), flaunting their disregard for more traditional codes of behaviour. This behaviour outraged more conservative elements of Australian society and churches called for a return to traditional family values. In many ways, flappers were rebelling against the social expectations that had been placed upon them during the war and shaking off traditional expectations of women that were common at the time.

During the war the range and variety of jobs available to women had grown. For the first time in the 1920s, many girls leaving high school now expected to work. Pay rates for women, however, were still half those of men. Male-dominated trade unions argued that if they supported females, they would be putting the hard-working men of Australia out of work. The government was also generally opposed to the working ambitions of women. There was still a common perception that a woman’s primary responsibility was to maintain the home and raise children.

The 1920s may have been a time of prosperity for non-Indigenous Australians, but many Indigenous people suffered hardship and turmoil from government policies of **protection** and **assimilation**. This involved the forced segregation of Indigenous Australians on **missions** and **reserves**, and the forced removal of children from their families.



Source 2 A group of ‘flappers’ showing off fashion trends popular during the 1920s

Check your learning 8.3

Remember and understand

- 1 What types of changes took place during the 1920s that led to the use of the term ‘Roaring Twenties’?
- 2 Was the economic prosperity of the ‘Roaring Twenties’ experienced by all nations around the world? Why/why not?
- 3 What was the name given to films that featured synchronised sound and spoken words? What effect did these movies have on the film industry?

Apply and analyse

- 4 The 1920s saw the rapid growth of the automobile industry. What effects do you think this growth had on people’s everyday lives (and on society in general) at this time? Draw up a cause and effect flowchart.
- 5 Examine Source 1 and complete the following tasks.
 - a In what ways would the availability of this product have changed the lives of ordinary people at the time?
 - b Compare this source with a modern advertisement for a vacuum cleaner. Identify as many similarities and differences between the two advertisements as you can.
- 6 Examine Source 2 and complete the following tasks.
 - a Describe the appearance of a typical ‘flapper’. In what ways did this style of dress differ from more traditional women’s fashions?
 - b Why was the behaviour of many ‘flappers’ considered by some to be outrageous at the time? Why do you think they chose to act in this way?

Evaluate and create

- 7 Conduct some research into the major technological innovations of the 1920s. Create a cartoon that highlights the major changes and advances brought about by the availability of new technologies.

8.4 The Great Depression

In the late 1920s, the world economy began to slow. Work became harder to find and companies that were producing large quantities of consumer goods could no longer find people to buy them. Quickly, prices for mass-produced consumer goods and agricultural staples (such as crops, timber and wool) dropped worldwide, and unemployment began to rise in many industrialised nations. It is possible that these problems may have been overcome had they not been followed by the collapse of the New York stock exchange in 1929. The combination of these events plunged the world into a period of severe economic downturn and hardship known as the Great Depression.

Throughout the 1920s, the New York stock market had been a popular place for people to invest their money because shares could be bought on credit (i.e. using borrowed money) and sold for a profit when the prices of the shares rose. By the late 1920s, so many investors were involved in this type of trading that share prices became inflated and were pushed to unreasonable highs. When a number of shareholders began to lose confidence in the market and sell their shares, prices fell rapidly and the market crashed. Many investors, stockbrokers and business owners lost everything.



Source 1 A family living in a shanty town in Sydney during the Great Depression

As confidence in the economy evaporated, businesses closed down and unemployment grew. Workers lost their jobs or their wages were severely slashed. As a result, they bought less, which then led to further cutbacks in production and jobs. Governments seemed powerless to stop their economies spiralling out of control and poverty spread.

Australia and the Great Depression

During the 1930s, the Australian economy was heavily dependent on overseas countries, particularly Great Britain. When the American economy collapsed in 1929, two-thirds of world trading ceased. Almost overnight, almost 50 000 Australians found themselves unemployed. By 1932, around 32 per cent of all Australians were out of work.

The Great Depression's impact on Australian society was devastating. Without jobs or a steady income, many people lost their homes and were forced to live in substandard housing. Shanty towns, built from discarded materials on waste ground, sprang up on the edges of major cities.

Many men took to the roads in search of jobs such as fruit picking or cattle mustering. Often, children and women became the main breadwinners, as they were cheaper to employ. Soup kitchens and charity groups did their best to feed the starving and destitute, but many went without. Soldiers who had returned home to Australia after fighting in the war a decade earlier were often hit the hardest. Many were still recovering from the traumas of their wartime experiences. Without work, families broke down and many ex-soldiers became homeless. During this time, the suicide rate among returned soldiers increased dramatically.

The susso

The government provided relief to the unemployed in the form of sustenance payments – more commonly known as the 'susso'. By 1932, more than 60 000 people depended on the susso merely to survive. It was only granted to the truly destitute; those who had been unemployed for a sustained period of time, and had no assets or savings. The susso was given in the form of food rations (such as bread and potatoes) or coupons. It became the subject of a popular children's rhyme from the time (see Source 3).



Source 2 A line of men receiving food handouts during the Great Depression in Australia in the 1930s

Source 3

We're on the susso now,
We can't afford a cow,
We live in a tent,
We pay no rent,
We're on the susso now.

A contemporary Australian children's rhyme from the Great Depression

Source 4

People were forced into all sorts of tricks and expediences to survive, all sorts of shabby and humiliating compromises. In thousands and thousands of homes, fathers deserted the family and went on the track (became itinerant workers), or perhaps took to drink. Grown sons sat in the kitchen day after day, playing cards, studying the horses, and trying to scrounge enough for a three-penny bet, or engaged in petty crime ... mothers cohabited with male boarders who were in work and might support the family, daughters attempted some amateur prostitution and children were in trouble with the police.

A survivor of the Great Depression reflects on the hardship in *Weevils in the Flour: an oral record of the 1930s depression in Australia*, Wendy Lowenstein, 1998

Check your learning 8.4

Remember and understand

- 1 How did the collapse of the New York stock exchange affect the world economy at the end of the 1920s?
- 2 Why did events overseas affect jobs in Australia?
- 3 Explain what the 'susso' was and who qualified to receive it.
- 4 Who was hit the hardest by the Great Depression in Australian society? Why do you think this was the case?

Apply and analyse

- 5 Look carefully at Source 8.8. What evidence does the source provide about the circumstances faced by typical Australians during the Great Depression?
- 6 Read Source 8.11 carefully. What exactly do you think the author means by the 'shabby and humiliating compromises' people were being forced to make?

8.5 Key events of World War II

Although World War I had been called ‘the war to end all wars’, by 1939, just 20 years after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, the world was once again at war. The nature and scale of this war was unlike anything that the world had ever seen. It took global conflict and ‘total war’ to new levels and was responsible for the deaths of around 60 million people – both civilian and military. Britain was among the first nations to introduce strategies to support a ‘total war’ effort. These included **conscription**, the rationing of food and supplies, and the introduction of a range of policies designed to encourage the British people to join the war effort (see Source 1).

Learning about the many issues and events of World War II in detail can sometimes be a bit overwhelming. The following tables provide a quick reference to some of the main content you will be expected to learn about in *Depth Study 1 – World War II*. They can be used as a reference to help you navigate the content more easily, a summary of key points or a tool to help you identify connections between significant events.

Source 2 Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party rose to power in Germany during the 1930s by rallying the support of the German people. Hitler was a charismatic and gifted public speaker who promised to restore Germany’s reputation as a strong and proud nation after the economic hardships of the post-World War I era.



Source 1 During World War II, nations on both sides used propaganda campaigns to rally public support for the war and influence people’s behaviour. This propaganda poster produced in Britain from 1939 to 1945 was designed to encourage British military personnel and civilians to unite against Germany behind their wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



An overview of the causes of World War II, why men enlisted and where Australians fought		
Causes of World War II	Section 8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A combination of short- and long-term factors contributing to the outbreak of conflict in 1939, including German resentment of terms in the Treaty of Versailles, economic depression, weakness of the League of Nations and unchecked acts of aggression by Germany and Japan in the 1930sRise of Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist (Nazi) Party in GermanyThe actions of the Nazi government in the 1930s (including re-arming and regaining territories lost after WWI breach the terms of the Treaty of Versailles)Invasion of Poland in September 1939, causing Britain and France to declare war
Why Australians enlisted to fight	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initially Australians were less enthusiastic to enlist (after the experiences of WWI), but numbers increased significantly after Germany’s invasion of France in 1940Surge in recruitment after the fall of Singapore to the Japanese in 1942 when Australians felt more directly under threat
Where Australians fought	Section 8.2 Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Major campaigns involving Australian forces: Europe (Greece 1940–41), the Middle East (Syria and Lebanon 1941), Africa (Libya and Egypt) 1941–1942, South East Asia (Malaya and Singapore) 1942, Battle of the Coral Sea 1942, New Guinea 1942, Guadalcanal (South-west Pacific) 1942

The scope and nature of warfare during World War II		
The changing scope and nature of warfare	Section 8.1 Section 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Aircraft and long-range tanks are used for the first time in a German invasion tactic known as <i>Blitzkrieg</i> (a term meaning ‘lightning war’); German forces invade France despite French ‘super-trenches’ known as the Maginot Line; bombing of civilians in strategic cities such as LondonCode-breaking technology used to influence outcomes of battles
Where World War II was fought	Section 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The war in Europe 1939–1945: fighting took place in Western Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the Soviet UnionThe war in the Pacific 1941–1945: Allies opposed Japanese invasions in the Pacific region with fighting taking place in Singapore, Midway Islands, Coral Sea, and Papua New Guinea
The Holocaust	Section 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The deliberate and systematic persecution of Jews and other minority groups by the Nazi government in Germany in the lead-up to war, and in Nazi-occupied territories throughout World War IIDeaths in Nazi labour camps, systematic killings in concentration camps by means of poison gas and mass shootings.
Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki	Section 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allied campaigns in the Pacific recapture many Pacific Islands taken by Japan. Allies eventually push the Japanese back to Japan’s ‘Home Islands’. Heavy Japanese casualties and bombing of Japanese cities fail to force a Japanese surrender.The first atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 followed by a second bomb dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August. Both cities are devastated and Japan formally surrenders.



Source 3 Australian women played an important role during the war, filling jobs at home left empty by men fighting overseas. This propaganda poster produced in 1943 by the Australian government emphasises the importance of work being done by women in clothing factories to support men working and fighting overseas.

Significant events and experiences of Australians during World War II		
Significant events	Section 8.1	<p>In Europe</p> <p>The Battle of France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 1940, Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium and France using <i>Blitzkrieg</i> tactics.• On 22 June 1940, France surrenders to Germany. <p>The Battle of Britain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After Germany invades France, it turns its attention to defeating Britain.• From July–October 1940, Germany launches a large-scale air attack on the UK targeting key industrial cities (a period known as the <i>Blitz</i>).• Germany fails to achieve its objective. <p>Operation Barbarossa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 22 June 1941, Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) invade the Soviet Union. More than 3 million troops, 3600 tanks and 4300 aircraft take part in the campaign, making it the largest military operation in human history. It resulted in huge casualties.• The Axis powers won many battles but ultimately failed to take the capital Moscow, because of harsh winter and fierce resistance by Russian troops. <p>In the Pacific</p> <p>The Fall of Singapore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 15 February 1942, Singapore surrendered to the Japanese. Around 130 000 Allied troops (including 22 000 Australians) were taken as prisoners of war. <p>The Kokoda campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1942, Japanese forces launch an assault to seize Port Moresby, a possible base of attack on Australia, via the Kokoda Trail.• A small force of soldiers from Australia's local militia and army reinforcements fight a series of battles in difficult conditions, forcing the Japanese to withdraw.
Prisoners of war	Section 8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 8000 Australian prisoners in Europe, and over 22 000 Australians captured in South-East Asia, mainly after the fall of Singapore• Forced labour and poor treatment in prison camps led to a high death rate of prisoners captured by the Japanese
Participation of women	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian women were encouraged to join the armed services after 1940; the majority joined auxiliary forces that operated on the home front.• Women were still not permitted to take combat roles or serve overseas, with the exception of nurses.
Participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During WWII, restrictions for Indigenous Australian volunteers were officially lifted or unofficially relaxed.• An estimated 3000 Indigenous Australians served in the armed forces.• On their return, many Indigenous soldiers found they were not eligible for soldier resettlement schemes that were offered to white Australians.

Impact of World War II on the Australian home front		
Specific military attacks on Australia	Section 8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 and towns in northern Australia until November 1943• Direct attack on an Australian ship (HMAS <i>Kuttabul</i>) in Sydney Harbour by a Japanese midget submarine on 31 May 1942 resulting in the deaths of 19 Australian sailors
Conscription	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conscription for overseas military service in the Pacific was introduced in 1943 with little opposition, as Australians felt the real threat of Japanese invasion.
Use of government propaganda	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of propaganda produced by the Australian government was used throughout the war. It was designed to encourage Australians to enlist in armed forces, work and save for the war effort and unite against a common enemy. For the first time, propaganda posters, radio and newspaper campaigns were supported by the use of cinema newsreels.
The changing role of women	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some women served in the armed forces, and over 60 000 women served in auxiliary services on the home front.• With so many Australian servicemen deployed overseas, the work of women in the auxiliary services and civilian groups (such as the Women's Land Army) was increasingly important.• An increase in employment for women was crucial for Australia's war economy. After the war, women were expected to return to traditional roles, which happened for the most part.
The treatment of 'enemy aliens'	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some Australians of German and Italian heritage living in Australia were thought to pose a threat to national security. These people were declared 'enemy aliens' and detained in internment camps.• All people of Japanese heritage living in Australia during the war were thought to pose a risk and were sent to internment camps.
War-time controls and censorship	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <i>National Security Act 1939</i> gave the Australian government greater powers, including powers of censorship, the detention of 'enemy aliens', the banning of groups opposed to war, and other war-time controls.

Check your learning 8.5

Remember and understand

- 1 World War I was known as the 'war to end all wars'. Was this an accurate description?
- 2 What kinds of strategies did governments around the world introduce during World War II to support a 'total war' effort?
- 3 How many people died during the course of World War II? Were they all soldiers?

Apply and analyse

- 4 Examine Sources 1 and 3 and complete the following tasks.
 - a What are these posters examples of and who were they produced by?
 - b What is the goal of each poster? What types of techniques are used to achieve these goals?
 - c Which poster do you feel is more successful at achieving its desired goal? Justify your point of view.
- 5 How do you think asking women to give up their war jobs and go back to traditional roles would have affected the growing women's movement and why?

Evaluate and create

- 6 Conduct some research into the *National Security Act 1939*. In a short paragraph, summarise what the Act was designed to achieve and what powers it granted the government of the time. Based on your research, do you think the government was justified in its decision to pass the Act? Why or why not?

8.6 The significance of World War II

The events of World War II remain some of the most significant in human history and have influenced almost every aspect of the modern world. World War II ended with Japan's surrender after the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (see Source 1). By the end of the war, many European cities lay in ruins and the traditional imperial powers of Britain and France were severely weakened. In the years immediately following the end of the war, the

economic and political power of the USA and Soviet Union increased dramatically, filling the gap left by Britain and France. Over the coming decades, these two nations would become the world's new superpowers ushering in a new era in world politics.

In addition to a shift in world powers, World War II was responsible for many other significant effects in the short- and long-term – both in Australia and around the world.

An overview of the significance of World War II in Australia		
Impact of the war on returned soldiers and civilians	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nearly 600 000 Australians served overseas during WWII, with around 250 000 still serving in the Pacific and Europe when the war ended. Although there were fewer deaths in comparison to WWI, more than 20 000 returned servicemen suffered from the long-term effects of the brutal treatment they received from the Japanese as prisoners of war.The government continued to support war veterans with medical care, pensions, home loans, training and education and employment assistance.
Changing relationship of Australia with other countries after World War II	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The experiences of World War II altered the average Australian's view of their place in the world. Australia's relationship with Britain changed after the fall of Singapore. It caused the Australian government to build strategic relationships with other nations closer to home and form a partnership with the United States for extra military support in the Pacific region.One million American servicemen came to Australia in the immediate post-war period, beginning a 'cultural invasion' of American cinema, music, language and popular culture in the decades after WWII.The mass migration of people from Europe to Australia after WWII changed the nature of Australian society and influenced its relationships with the rest of the world. The arrival of immigrants from a wide range of countries ultimately led to the end of the discriminatory laws of White Australia policy and the birth of multicultural Australia.

An overview of the significance of World War II around the world		
Shift in world powers	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WWII left the old powers of Europe (such as France, Britain and Germany) broke and in ruins.Old empires started to break up post-WWII as former colonies saw a chance to claim independence.New world powers emerged in the form of the USA and the Soviet Union.Germany was divided into a capitalist West and the communist East.The United Nations (UN) was formed with the goal of preventing future wars (see Source 2).The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN in 1948.
Mass migration of refugees	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Millions of Europeans were left homeless after WWII and many were looking for a fresh start in a new country.The nation of Israel was formed in the Middle East to provide a home for Jews displaced by the war and who had survived the horrors of the Holocaust (see Source 3).
Nature of future warfare	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The atomic bomb was unlike any other weapon used in human history. Its capacity to cause death and destruction on a massive scale would change the world forever. The threat of nuclear attack loomed large over the post-WWII world and fuelled the Cold War that lasted until the early 1990s.
Growth of US cultural influence	Section 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As the US emerged as a new superpower, its cultural influence grew and spread across the world through modes of mass communication like film, music and television.



Source 1 The atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 was one of the most significant events of World War II. The only building left standing in the centre of the city was the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall (shown left in 1945). The ruin, now known as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (shown right in 2015), commemorates the people who were killed in the atomic bombing. More than 70 000 people were killed instantly, and another 70 000 suffered fatal injuries from the radiation.

8C What was the significance of World War II?

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Source 2 The United Nations (UN) was formed on 24 October 1945 as a direct result of World War II. The primary goal of the UN was to prevent another world war from ever breaking out. Today, there are 193 member states. They meet regularly in the UN Headquarters in New York.

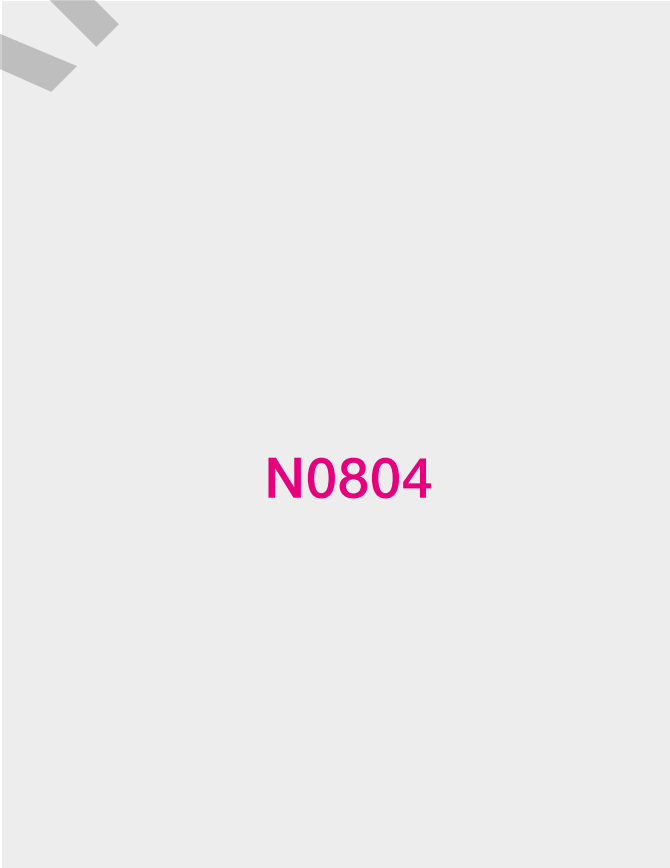
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Source 4 Australia's relationships with nations around the world changed dramatically as a result of World War II. In the immediate post-war period, American cinema, music and popular culture influenced a generation of young Australians. This trend continues to this day.

Check your learning 8.6

Remember and understand

- Why was the State of Israel created after World War II? What event influenced this event?
- How many Australians served overseas during World War II? How did the government try to support these returning soldiers?
- How did Australia's relationships with other world nations change after World War II?



Source 3 The State of Israel was founded in 1948 to provide a homeland for Jews who had survived the horrors of the Holocaust in Europe during World War II. Today, many young Israelis travel to visit the concentration camps in order to honour relatives who were murdered during World War II.