

Reader's Guide

American *Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources* tells the story of the American home front during World War II in the words of the people who lived and shaped it. Approximately thirty excerpted documents provide a wide range of perspectives on this period of history. Included are excerpts from presidential addresses and proclamations; government pamphlets; magazine articles; and reflections by individuals who lived through the tumultuous times.

Format

The excerpts in *American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources* are divided into eight chapters. Each of the chapters focuses on a specific theme: Mobilizing America, Civil Defense, Working Women on the Home Front, Home Front Communities, Black American and Japanese American Experiences on the Home Front, Through a Youngster's Eyes, Praise and Practical Advice, and Newlyweds and Families. Every chapter opens with an historical overview, followed by reprinted documents.



Each excerpt (or section of excerpts) includes the following additional features:

- **Introductory material** places the document and its author in an historical context.
- **Things to remember while reading** offers important background information about the featured text.
- **Excerpt** presents the document in its original spelling and format.
- **What happened next . . .** discusses the impact of the document and/or relevant historical events following the date of the document.
- **Did you know . . .** provides interesting fact about the document and its author.
- **Consider the following . . .** poses questions about the material for the reader to consider.
- **For More Information** offers resources for further study of the document and its author as well as sources used by the authors in writing the material.

Other features of *American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources* include numerous sidebar boxes highlighting interesting, related information. More than sixty-five black-and-white photos illustrate the text. In addition, each excerpt is accompanied by a glossary running in the margin alongside the reprinted document that defines terms, people, and ideas. The volume begins with a timeline of events and a “Words to Know” section, and concludes with a general bibliography and subject index of people, places, and events discussed throughout *American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources*.

American Home Front in World War II Reference Library

American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources is only one component of the three-part U•X•L American Home Front in World War II Reference Library. The other two titles in this set are:

- *American Home Front in World War II: Almanac* (one volume) presents a comprehensive overview of events and everyday life that occurred within the United States while

the nation was at war from 1941 to 1945. The volume concentrates on the actual events related to the World War II effort rather than simply relating all general happenings of the time period. Each of the thirteen chapters focuses on a particular topic, such as mobilization of American industry and agriculture, the miracles of war production and economic growth, the experience of women and minorities on the home front, growth of civil defense and other organizations to assist the war effort, the changes to various home front communities, the effects of war on everyday life, and the preparations for a changed postwar world.

- ***American Home Front in World War II: Biographies*** (one volume) presents the life stories of twenty-six individuals who played key roles on the American home front while the nation was at war from 1941 to 1945. Individuals from all walks of life are included. Some held prominent national roles in guiding America through the war, others were among the millions who eagerly did their share in contributing to the war effort. Profiled are well-known figures such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, painter Norman Rockwell, social activist A. Philip Randolph, industrialists Donald Douglas and Henry Kaiser, entertainers Betty Grable and Dorothy Lamour, movie director Frank Capra, and journalist Elmer Davis, as well as lesser-known individuals such as industrial worker Peggy Terry, artist and author Mine Okubo, physicist Elda Anderson, and labor leader Luisa Moreno.

A cumulative index of all three titles in the U•X•L American Home Front in World War II Reference Library is also available.

Dedication

The *American Home Front in World War II* volumes are dedicated to our new grandson Luke Clay Hanes. May he and his generation be spared the trauma and ravages of war.

Special Thanks

Kelly Rudd contributed importantly to the *Biographies* volume. Catherine Filip typed much of the manuscript for the

Primary Sources volume. Constance Carter, head of the Library of Congress science research department, assisted in searching out primary source materials.

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on *American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources* and suggestions for other topics to consider. Please write: Editors, *American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Rd. Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331-3535; call toll free: 1-800-877-4253; fax to (248) 699-8097; or send e-mail via <http://www.gale.com>.

Words to Know

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aliens: Immigrants who hold citizenship in a foreign country.

Allies: Over thirty nations, including the United States, Great Britain, and Soviet Union, who united in the fight against Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II.

appeasement: Giving in to the demands of another nation in order to maintain peace.

atomic bomb: A bomb whose massive explosive force comes from the nuclear fission of uranium or plutonium.

Authoritarian: A political system in which authority is centered in a ruling party that demands complete obedience of its citizens and is not legally accountable to the people.

auxiliary: Volunteers who provide additional or supplementary assistance, or an organization that is supplemental to a larger one, such as the auxiliary police or firemen.

Axis powers: Nations who fought against the Allies in World War II including Germany, Italy, and Japan.

