

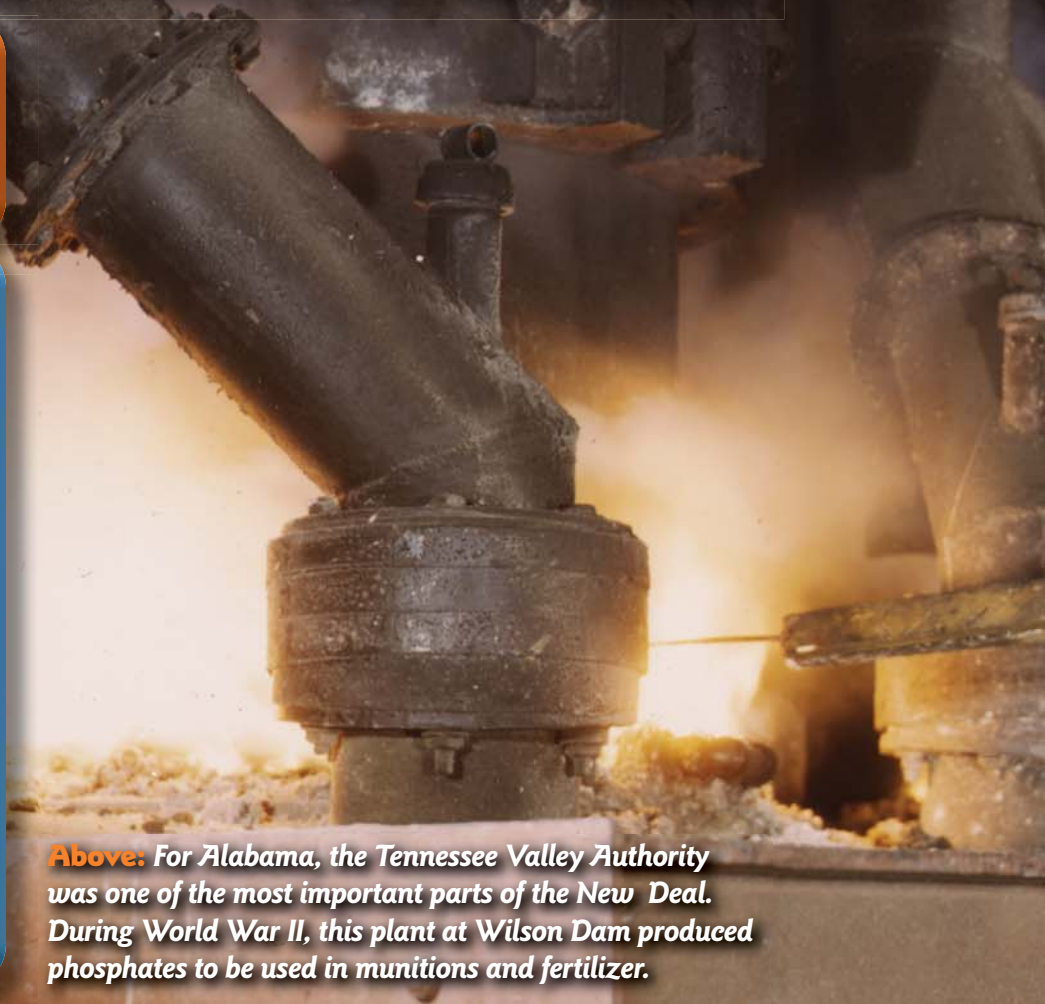
Chapter II

From Prosperity to Poverty and Back Again

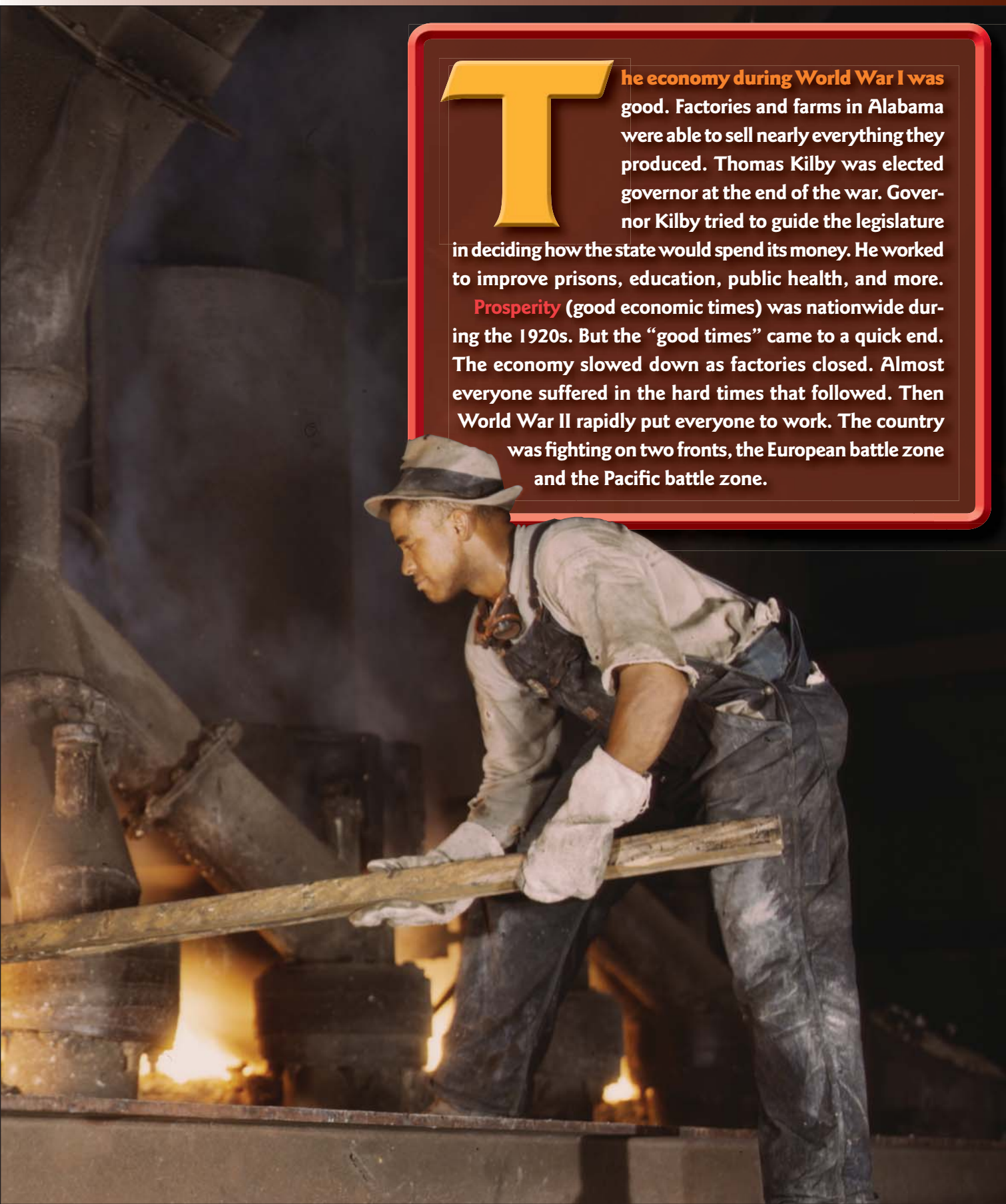
Chapter Preview

TERMS

prosperity, suffrage,
depression, stock,
supply and demand,
unemployment, New Deal,
civilian, Social Security
Act, Nazi, Holocaust,
Allies, Axis powers,
combat, amphibious,
posthumous, navigator,
bombardier, prisoner
of war, ration,
distinguished, democratic,
communist, Cold War,
truce, maintenance



Above: For Alabama, the Tennessee Valley Authority was one of the most important parts of the New Deal. During World War II, this plant at Wilson Dam produced phosphates to be used in munitions and fertilizer.



The economy during World War I was good. Factories and farms in Alabama were able to sell nearly everything they produced. Thomas Kilby was elected governor at the end of the war. Governor Kilby tried to guide the legislature

in deciding how the state would spend its money. He worked to improve prisons, education, public health, and more.

Prosperity (good economic times) was nationwide during the 1920s. But the “good times” came to a quick end. The economy slowed down as factories closed. Almost everyone suffered in the hard times that followed. Then World War II rapidly put everyone to work. The country was fighting on two fronts, the European battle zone and the Pacific battle zone.

Focus on Reading Skills

Using a Primary Source

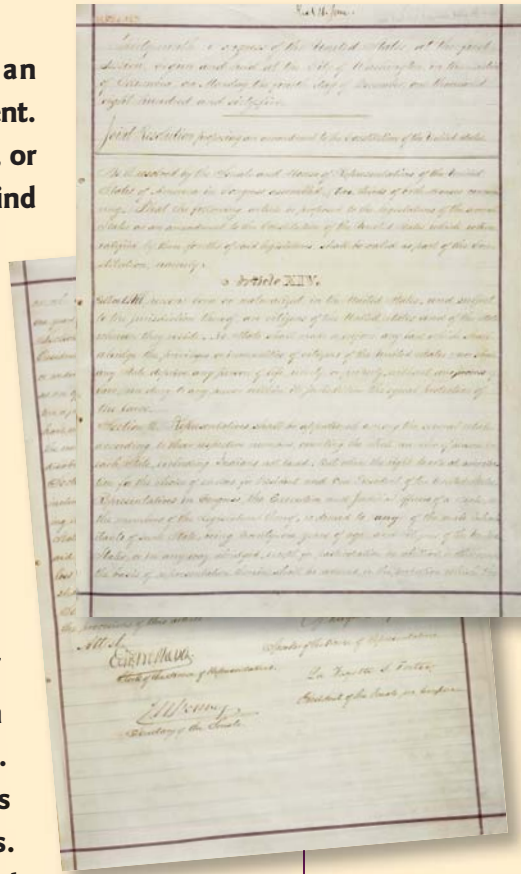
Learning

A **primary source** is an original artifact or document. It can be a diary, a letter, or a photograph. You can find primary sources all around you. A school progress report and a party invitation are primary sources. They tell something about you, where you are, and the date.

How would you learn more about the history of a country or a group of people? You could search for copies of speeches. You could look for lists of people and their jobs. Documents about laws and wars could also help you. Each primary source could have important information. If your questions are not answered, then find more sources. Many sources can be found on the Internet.

Practicing

Above is a reproduction (copy) of a primary source. It is Amendment XIV (14) of the United States Constitution.



Section I. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Number from 1 to 3 on a separate piece of paper. Read Section I of the 14th Amendment and answer these questions.

1. All slaves born in the U.S. were made citizens by this amendment. True or False.
2. The amendment includes all people who were _____ or _____ in the United States.
3. Equal protection of the laws can be denied by any state. True or False.

Section I

Alabama—100 Years Old

As you read, look for

- the economic boom of the 1920s;
- when women gained the right to vote;
- the Great Depression;
- how poverty affected lives;
- terms: **suffrage, depression, stock, supply and demand, unemployment.**

Alabama became a state in 1819, so the year 1919 was its centennial (100 years old) celebration. The U.S. government made a 50-cent coin to honor the state's birthday. There was a likeness of William Wyatt Bibb, the state's first governor, and

Figure 22
Timeline:
1920 to 1955



1927
"Showplace of the South" opened



1933
TVA built dams on the Tennessee River



1953
Alabama ratified the 19th Amendment

1920

1920
Women gained right to vote nationwide

1925

1930

1929
Stock market crash, Great Depression began

1935

1933-1945
President Franklin Roosevelt served

1940

1941
United States entered World War II

1945

1945
World War II ended

1950

1950
Korean Conflict began

1955

1953
Korean Conflict ended



Governor Kilby was the first living person to have his likeness on a United States coin. The coins cost \$1.00 each when issued but are worth hundreds of dollars today. Kilby served from 1919 to 1923.



Pattie Ruffner Jacobs

Governor Kilby, the governor at that time, on one side of the coin. The other side showed the state seal. When will the state celebrate 200 years?

Women's Suffrage

Like blacks, women had to battle for the right to vote. As early as 1848, some women in the United States began trying to get the right to vote (**suffrage**). By 1900, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado allowed women to vote. Susan B. Anthony fought nationwide for suffrage. Her efforts were honored in 1979 with a special coin, the Susan B. Anthony dollar. It was the first United States circulating (in use) coin with a female image of a real woman.

During the writing of the Alabama Constitution of 1901, a proposal was made to allow women to vote. The proposal was rejected. In 1911, Pattie Ruffner Jacobs began the Birmingham Equal Suffrage Association to work for women's right to vote. She also worked in the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Women marched, made speeches, and wrote articles asking for the right to vote. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution gave women suffrage. Alabama was one of the few states that did not ratify the amendment at the time. In 1953, Alabama finally ratified the amendment. It was already law, of course, because three-fourths of the states ratified the amendment soon after it passed Congress.

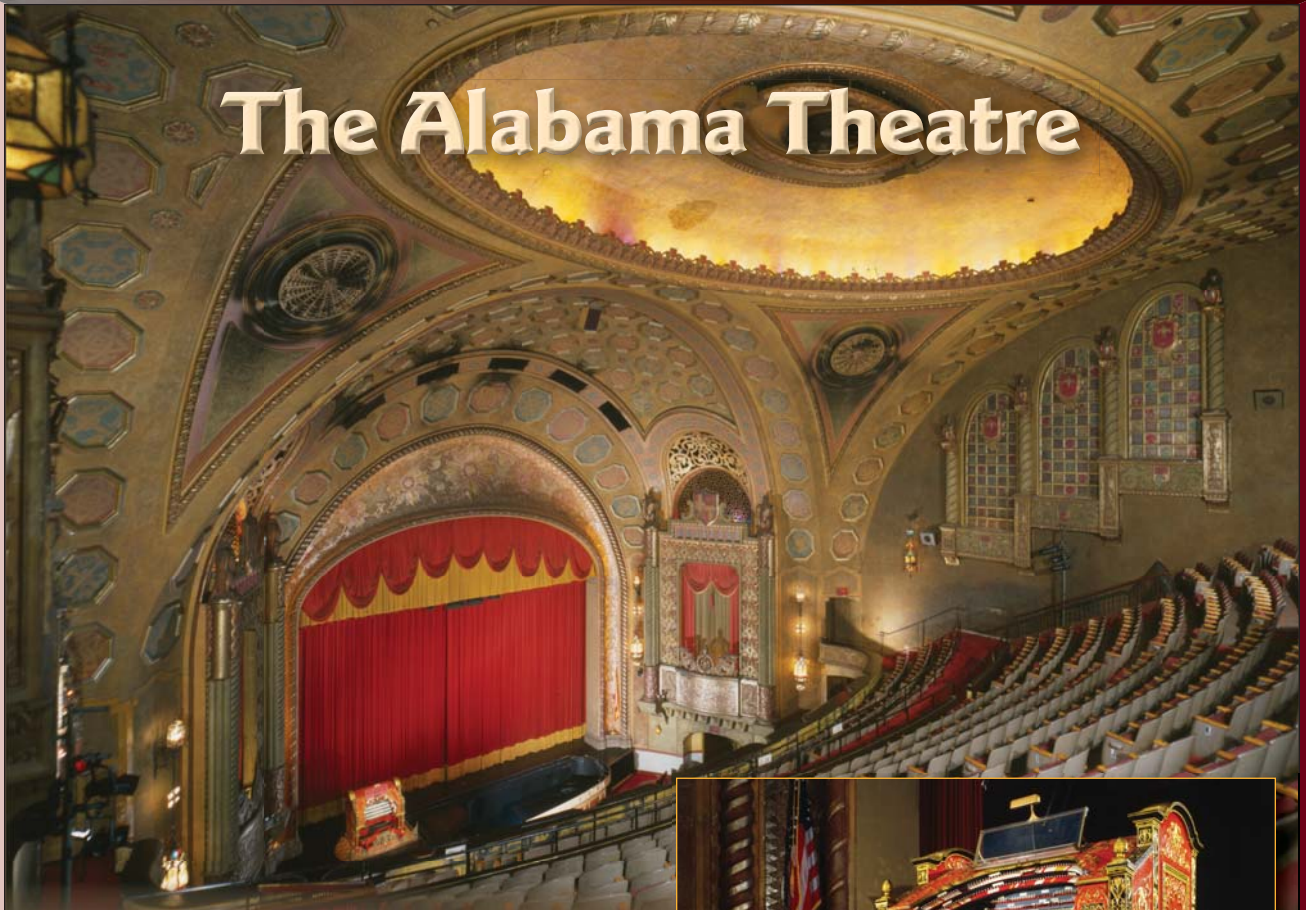
The "Roaring Twenties"

In the years after World War I, jobs were easy to find and the pay was high. This time, the 1920s, is known as the "Roaring Twenties." Most houses in towns had electricity. Many families bought refrigerators, electric stoves, and radios. People were able to go to the movies. However, people in rural Alabama had no electricity. They lived as before without refrigerators or electric lights.

In Alabama, the 1920s were a time of progress in many areas. The State Board of Education was set up to improve schools. Edgar Murphy was an Episcopalian minister in Montgomery. He led the fight to keep school-aged children from working in factories. Treatment of prisoners improved in the state. A new prison

Spotlight on Architecture

The Alabama Theatre



During the 1920s, special theater organs provided music for silent films. These early movies were called silent because they did not have a soundtrack (music and people talking). That technology was not widely used until 1928.

In 1927, a special new theater called the Alabama Theatre opened in Birmingham. People named it the Showplace of the South. The theater had valuable art, furniture, statues, and paintings. You can still visit this historic theater.

This lavish (deluxe) theater required many workers to keep it running. There were musicians, stagehands, projectionists, cashiers, doormen, and many others. Air-conditioning



was rare at this time, so the theater also had two air-conditioning engineers on staff.

One outstanding feature of the Alabama is the Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ called “Big Bertha” (inset). This organ has 20 sets of pipes and 4 keyboards. It has a magnificent sound. Big Bertha is on a lift and thrills the audience as the red organ rises out of the orchestra pit.

Today, the image we have of the Great Depression is formed mainly by pictures taken during that time. Many different photographers took pictures all over the country. One of the most famous was Walker Evans. He spent several months in Hale County, Alabama. There he took pictures showing the lives and homes of the area's white sharecroppers. Below: Evans's photo of the post office in Sprott. Opposite page: Evans's portrait of Floyd Burroughs, one of the sharecroppers.



named for Governor Thomas Kilby was built in Montgomery. Many new roads were built and paved. Laws were passed to help the poor. The State Docks Commission built state-owned docks in Mobile.

The Great Depression

As the 1920s ended, good times began turning into bad ones. Many banks and businesses failed. People lost their jobs. The country fell into a depression. (A **depression** is a time of severe economic problems.) This time is called the Great Depression.

The Stock Market Crash of 1929

A key event in the Great Depression was the crash of 1929. Many Americans had bought stocks. (**Stock** is a share of ownership in a business.) They hoped to make a lot of money when prices went up. Some of them borrowed money to buy stocks.

Prices of stocks started falling on October 24, 1929. By October 29, 1929, people were trying to sell their stocks at any price. As prices kept falling, more and more people lost money.

The nation's economic problems continued with a huge loss in personal wealth. People did not have much money and could not buy goods. Many people lost their jobs, and some people lost their homes and businesses. The stock market crash was the beginning of the Great Depression.

How the Depression Happened

Another major cause of the Great Depression was simply **supply and demand**. This means that American industries and farms were producing more (supply) than they could sell (demand). The needs of the war years were over. During World War I, many countries bought goods from the United States. Those countries now made their own

goods. They no longer needed to import things from America.

Most Americans thought they would always have good jobs. They borrowed money to buy houses. Many workers used credit to buy automobiles and other things they wanted.



Factories began to lay off workers or close. The price for farm products dropped. Many people could not earn enough to pay their debts. By 1932, over one-fourth of American citizens were out of work. The years between 1930 and 1940 were called the

“hard times.” **Unemployment** (being without a job) was very high in Alabama for both whites and blacks in those years. Alabama’s nonfarm unemployment rate was the highest of all southern states. The Great Depression changed many people’s lives.

Banks were not able to collect their loans. Some banks did not have enough money to operate, so they closed. People who had money in those banks lost all of their savings.



Above: *This father and his family on the road in Georgia are hoping to get a ride to take them to Alabama. He hopes he can find work there.*

Alabamians Remember the Great Depression

Alabamians who lived during the depression years will never forget what it was like. A woman in Autauga County ran a small grocery store with her husband. They also had a gristmill where they ground corn. The woman remembers that her family often gave food to people who needed it.

One farm family recalled that they did not have much money but always had enough food to eat. They grew vegetables and canned them to provide food for the winter. They smoked pork in the farm’s smokehouse. They often made clothes from the cotton sacks that held flour and sugar. Church picnics and group games were popular. Some of the games people played were hide-and-seek, baseball, and marbles.

One woman remembers living with her aunt and six cousins on a farm near Selma.

Their three-room house did not have electricity, running water, or an inside bathroom. She said that during the depression, the food at many meals was cornbread, buttermilk, and fat pork. But the family had chicken or pork, grits, gravy, and biscuits almost every Sunday. This was possible because they had farm animals to provide milk, eggs, and meat. Mostly, she remembers, “No one had anything.” At the local store, she sometimes swapped eggs for coffee, sugar, candy, or soap.

An immigrant family from Norway settled near Birmingham. The father was working with a steel company. When the depression came, the company closed. After that, the father would do small jobs in exchange for food such as flour, milk, or eggs.



Every day, railroad detectives removed hundreds of people who were illegally riding railcars. Sometimes whole families were moving to look for work. They were homeless with no money and no jobs.

The Worst Year of the Depression

By the fall of 1932, the depression was at its worst. That year Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president. He believed he could help the nation get over the depression. When he became president, Roosevelt said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”



Think It Through!

1. What amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote?
2. Why was America so prosperous after World War I?
3. Explain the major causes of the Great Depression.
4. Name some hardships of the Great Depression.
5. Who was elected president in 1932?

Top: Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the Democratic nominee for president in 1932. Here, he is campaigning in the South.

Above: As bad as the Depression was for white farmers, it was even worse for blacks. Compare this photo to the pictures on pages 242 and 155. Very little has changed.

Section 2

The New Deal

About Alabama

DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne has several structures built by the CCC. One of the most interesting is an unfinished stone bridge. It is believed that the project ended when the young CCC workers left to fight in World War II.

As you read, look for

- programs for the unemployed and poor;
- retirement benefits for older Americans;
- what prevents flooding and generates electricity;
- how money deposited in banks is insured;
- terms: **New Deal, civilian, Social Security Act.**

After his election, President Roosevelt asked Congress to set up several programs to help people during these hard times. Together, these programs were called the **New Deal. Some of these programs are still in existence today.**

New Deal programs employed many jobless citizens. These workers built a large number of public buildings and parks during the depression.



Programs to Create Jobs

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was the first work program set up by Roosevelt. (A **civilian** is a person who is not military.) Young men between the ages of 18 and 25 could work with the CCC. They did such jobs as planting trees and building dams. CCC employees built some of Alabama's state parks.

The Public Works Administration (PWA) provided jobs to thousands of unemployed people. These workers built highways,



bridges, and dams. Another job-creation program was the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Begun in 1935, WPA workers built many schools and other public buildings in Alabama. The WPA also sponsored projects in the arts.

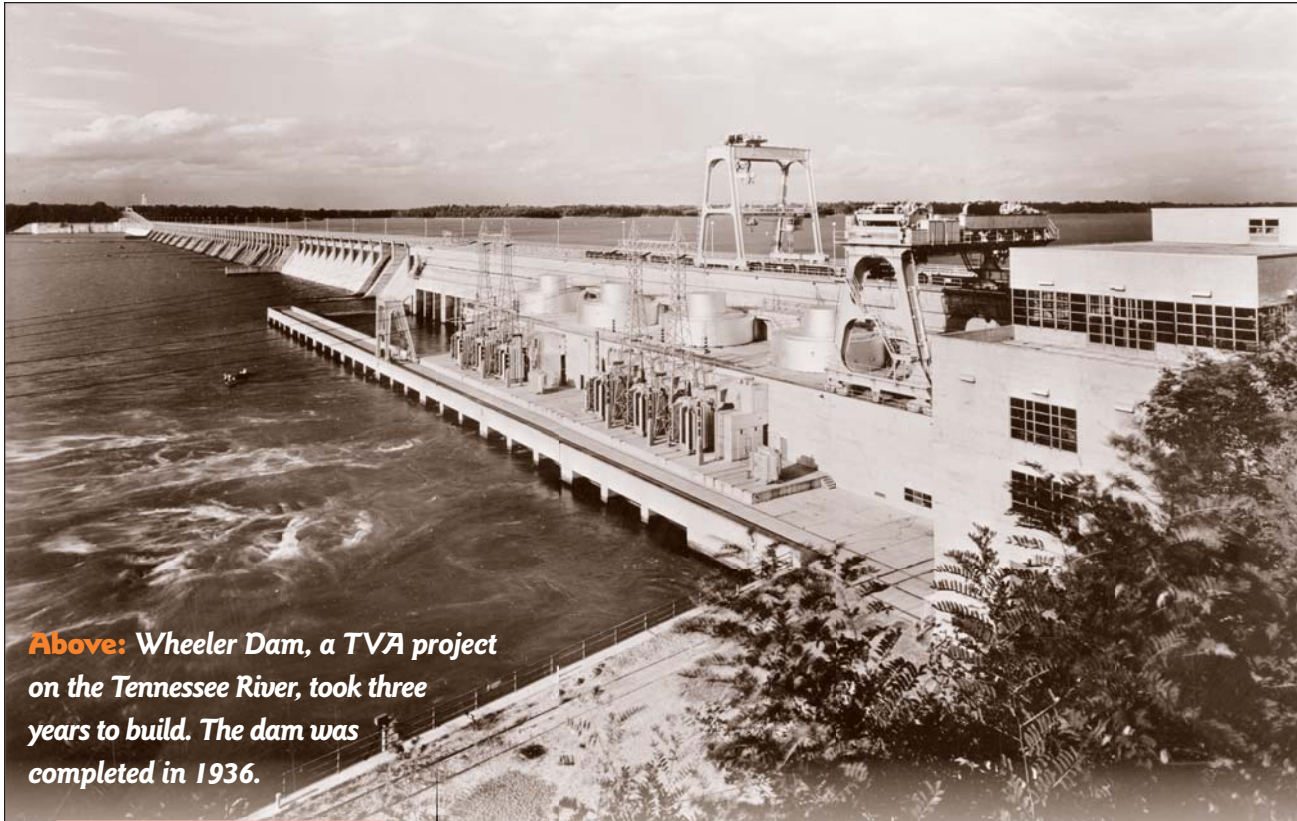
Programs to Improve Lives

Two programs brought electricity to more areas of the state. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) supplied electricity to farms and thousands of homes. Having electrical power made life easier for people in the country. They could finally have modern things such as radios and refrigerators.

Congress set up the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1933. TVA built dams on the Tennessee River. The dams were to stop floods and allow boats and barges to travel on the river. TVA projects brought electricity to this poor and rural part of the South. The soil in the area was worn out, and new industries were needed to provide jobs. But without electricity, factories would not come to the area.



Opposite page: *The Spring Park Bridge in Tuscumbia was built by the WPA. Top: Bunker Tower stands atop Mount Cheaha, the highest point in Alabama. It was built by the CCC. Above: These CCC workers are building a road.*



Above: Wheeler Dam, a TVA project on the Tennessee River, took three years to build. The dam was completed in 1936.



About Alabama

Browns Ferry Power Plant is located on the shore of Wheeler Reservoir near Athens, Alabama. It was TVA's first nuclear power plant.

TVA helped the Tennessee River Valley by supplying low-cost electricity for houses and industries. It also provided jobs. Stopping soil erosion was another TVA project. The work of TVA improved living conditions for people.

TVA is the largest public power company in the country. It generates electricity at seven sites in Alabama.

Financial Safety Nets

The **Social Security Act** (SSA) had several parts. One of its goals was to provide basic retirement benefits for older Americans. Another part was to give money to workers who had lost their jobs. The SSA also aided needy children. The states received grants to provide medical care for the poor. Social Security helped people who were disabled and unable to work. Many Social Security programs are still in effect today. These plans include retirement benefits and disability payments.

Many banks went out of business during the depression. People lost their savings. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was an answer to the bank closings. The FDIC was set up to make banking safer. It protected people from losing money they had deposited in banks. The FDIC still insures the



money people deposit in banks today. Look for the FDIC sign where your family banks.

Effect of the New Deal

By the late 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs were helping to lift the country out of the depression. Roosevelt was reelected to the presidency in 1936, 1940, and 1944. He was the only U.S. president to be elected four times. It turned out that a war was in the future. And that war would finally end the depression.

Above: *The WPA sponsored a series of murals by Mobile artist John Augustus Walker for the 1939 Alabama State Fair.*

Think It Through!

1. What was President Roosevelt's group of programs called?
2. Which program provided retirement benefits and is still in force today?
3. Which program brought electricity to poor areas?

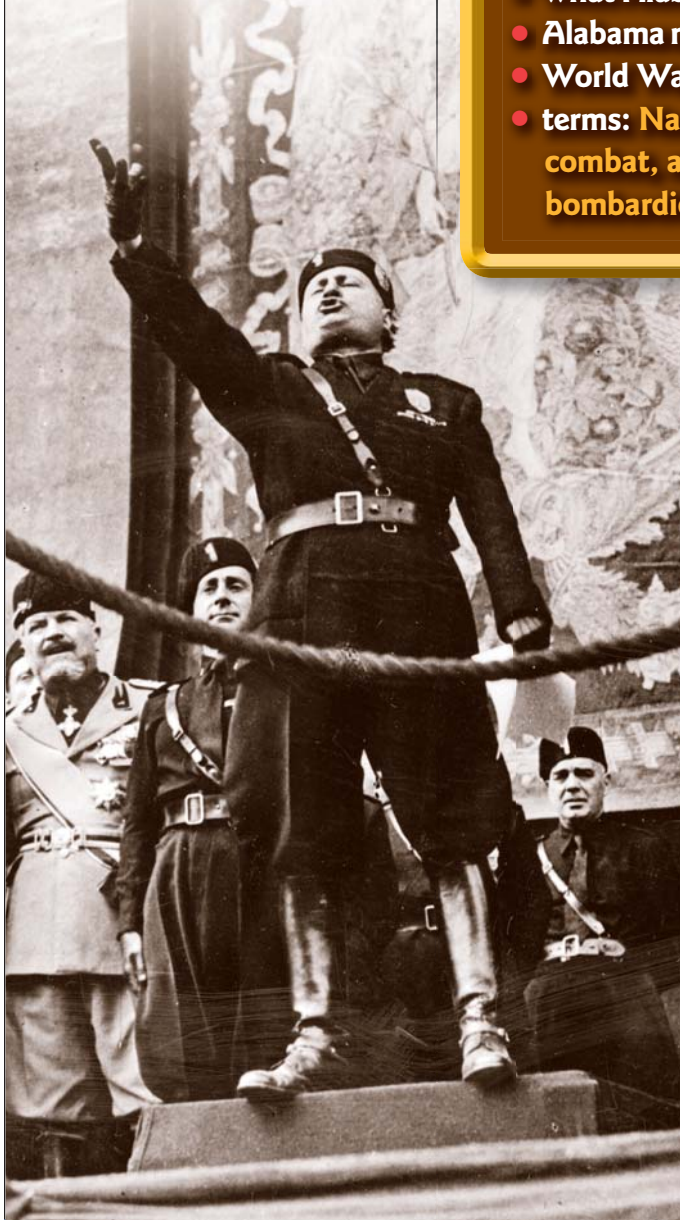
About Alabama

Under New Deal programs, murals were painted in the federal courthouse in Huntsville and 23 post offices in the state.

Section 3

World War II

Below: Benito Mussolini became the dictator of Italy in 1922. His army invaded Ethiopia, a country in Africa, in 1935.



As you read, look for

- which countries fought in World War II;
- what Alabama citizens did for the war effort;
- Alabama military men and women during the war;
- World War II military bases in Alabama;
- terms: **Nazi, Holocaust, Allies, Axis powers, combat, amphibious, posthumous, navigator, bombardier, prisoner of war, ration.**

In the 1930s, there were several wars and invasions taking place in the world. Japan invaded the Chinese state of Manchuria in 1931. Then Italy conquered Ethiopia in 1935. At that time, Ethiopia was one of Africa's few independent nations. Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, took over Austria in 1938. These conflicts were some of the causes of World War II.

Europe at War

Hitler became bolder. His troops grabbed Czechoslovakia, a country that bordered Germany. In his speeches, Hitler began talking about taking over Poland. England and France said they would fight if the Germans moved onto Polish soil. German forces crossed the Polish border in the fall of 1939. England and France declared war on Germany, and World War II began.



Hitler blamed the Jewish people for Germany's problems. Hitler also said that his people were the "master race." The **Nazis**, Hitler's followers, put all Jews that they could in prison. Six million of these innocent people were imprisoned and killed. This murder of the Jewish people is called the **Holocaust**.

The Soviet Union (now the Russian Federation) was Germany's ally at first. The two countries agreed not to attack the other. Germany broke the agreement and attacked its ally in 1941. From 1941 to 1945, the Russians fought against Germany.



The United States Enters the War

The United States stayed out of the war for two years. After France lost to Germany in 1940, our country prepared to help England. But in the end, Japan brought the United States into the war.

On December 7, 1941, more than 300 Japanese planes flew over the Pacific Ocean. They made a surprise raid on American ships in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack killed more than 2,000 Americans. It also destroyed many U.S. ships and airplanes.

Top: German dictator Adolf Hitler celebrated the invasion of France with a parade in Berlin, Germany. **Above:** The German air force bombed England for 9 months starting in 1940. In London, 40,000 people were killed. It was called the Blitz.

Below: This is a ship at the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, after a surprise attack by Japan's air force. This deadly event brought the United States into World War II.

Opposite page: Shown here are two heroes of World War II from Alabama, both of whom were in the U.S. Marine Corps. General Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith (above) is called the "father of amphibious warfare." General Franklin A. Hart (below) was decorated for his service on the Pacific front.

On December 8, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. In his speech to Congress, the president referred to Japan's attack as "a date that will live in infamy." (Infamy means to behave in a shameful way.) We now call December 7 "Pearl Harbor Day."

Our country was looking west and planning its war with Japan. Then, on December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. Now America had to fight on two fronts—east (Europe) and west (Pacific).

The United States, England, France, and the Soviet Union were known as the **Allies**. We called our enemies, Germany, Italy, and Japan, the **Axis powers**.

Alabamians in the War

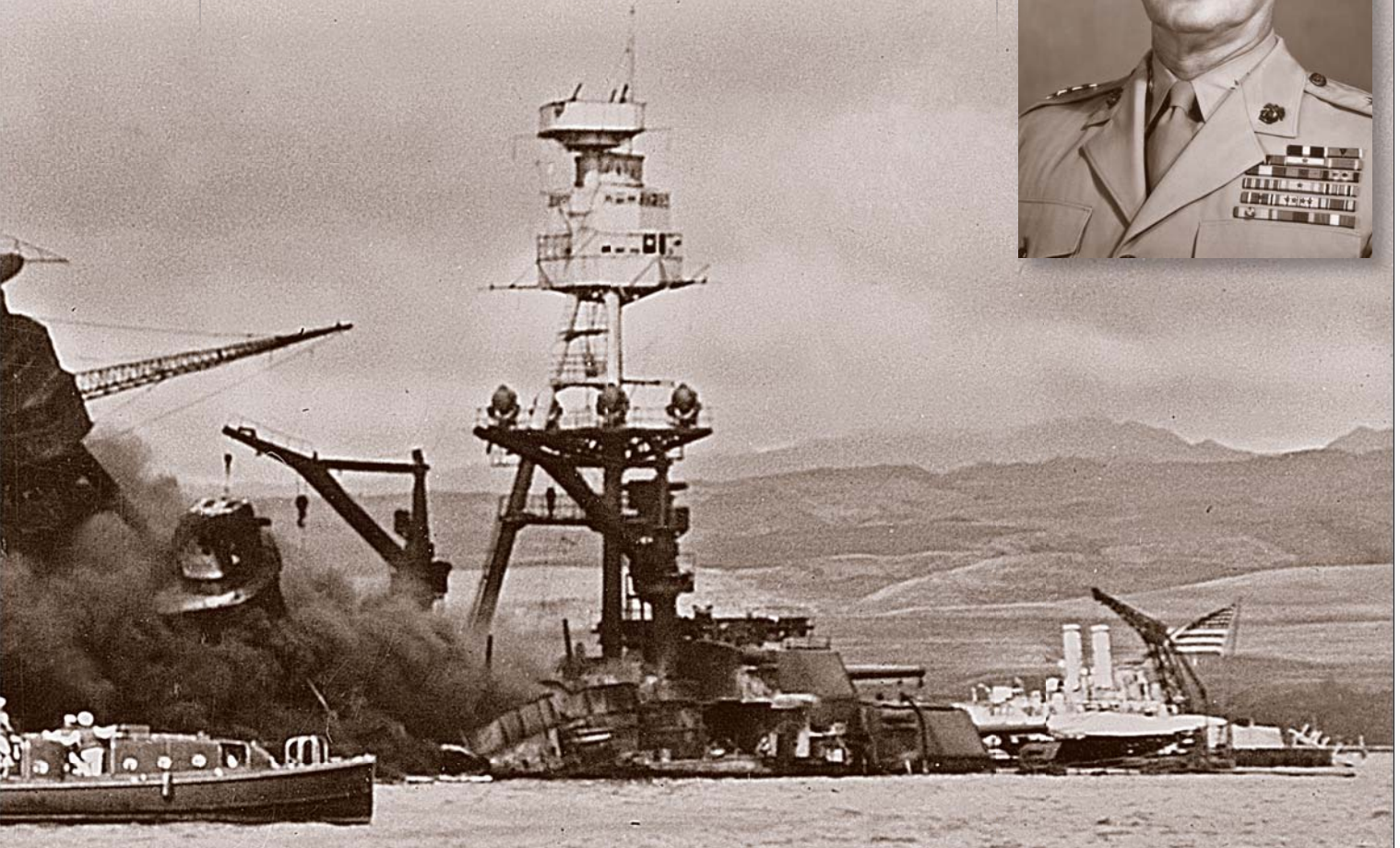
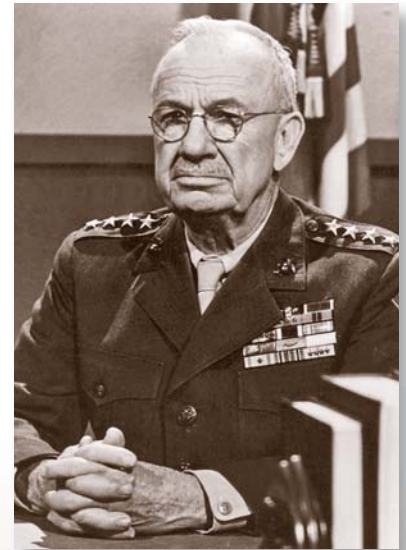
About 288,000 men and women from Alabama served in World War II. Over 6,000 Alabamians lost their lives in the war.



The Medal of Honor was awarded to 13 men from our state for their courage in **combat** (fighting).

Alabama had many heroes in World War II. One of the most outstanding was General Holland M. Smith. He was born in Hatchechubbee in Russell County and raised in Seale. A World War I veteran, General Smith's nickname was "Howlin' Mad." He is called the "father of modern amphibious warfare." (**Amphibious** means living on land and in water.) Amphibious troops are trained to fight on land and in water. General Smith commanded the U.S. forces in the invasion of Iwo Jima. A famous battle in the Pacific was fought over control of this small Japanese island. Iwo Jima had two airfields that the United States needed for the war against Japan.

Another hero was General Franklin A. Hart of Eufala. An Auburn University graduate, Hart was also at Iwo Jima and other battles in the Pacific. He was awarded several medals including the Navy Cross. He last served as Commandant of the Marine Corps Schools.





About Alabama

The USS *Alabama* was in many battles in Asia. It proudly led the U.S. naval fleet into Tokyo Bay after Japan surrendered. The ship now sits in Mobile Bay. Visitors can tour it to see what a battleship looks like inside and up close.

Private George Watson of Birmingham received the Medal of Honor **posthumously** (after death) in 1997. Private Watson is the only African American to receive the Medal of Honor for action in the Pacific. He saved the lives of 12 shipmates when their ship sank. His heroism is honored with a painting displayed in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum.

Alabama's Military Bases

Alabama helped train several fighting groups. More than 200,000 airmen were trained in Alabama for World War II. Maxwell Field in Montgomery had its beginning as the Wright Brothers Flying School. It became Maxwell Air Force Base, a military flight center. The base added Gunter Field to train pilots and is now called Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. The Southeast Air Corps Training Center trained pilots, navigators, and bombardiers. (**Navigators** find routes for the flight and the targets. **Bombardiers** drop bombs from the planes.)

As more fighter pilots were needed, many were trained at Craig Field near Selma. A huge air base was set up at Brookley Field in Mobile to train glider pilots. Some of today's regional airports were once military bases. These include Deatsville,

Shorter, Elmore, Napier Field near Dothan, and Courtland Field in north Alabama.

Founded in 1917, Fort McClellan near Anniston was a major training center. That facility and the Anniston Ordnance Depot hired thousands of new workers. Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville trained men for the artillery. Nearby in Gadsden, Camp Sibert handled chemical warfare training. Camp Rucker in Dale County was a large training center for infantry.

The Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were called “Red Tail Angels” for the red paint on their planes’ tails. But the Germans called them “Black Birdmen.” The Tuskegee Airmen broke the race barrier in the U.S. armed forces by flying in World War II. There was a segregated training program for black pilots. It began at Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute in the early 1940s. Alfred Anderson was a flight instructor at the school. Graduates of the program say he was a major reason for the project’s success.

There were 992 graduates of the Tuskegee pilot training program. These airmen formed the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which was a part of the 332nd Fighter Group. Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a Tuskegee pilot, was the group commander. Colonel Davis convinced the U.S. Army that the airmen could complete their missions.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew 1,578 successful combat runs over Europe and North Africa. They destroyed enemy railroads, vehicles, and other military targets. African American pilots earned over 800 awards during World War II. After the war, Davis and Daniel “Chappie” James became two of the first black generals in the U.S. Air Force.



Above: Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, commander of the Tuskegee Airmen (left), scans the skies above their base in Italy with pilot Edward Gled.

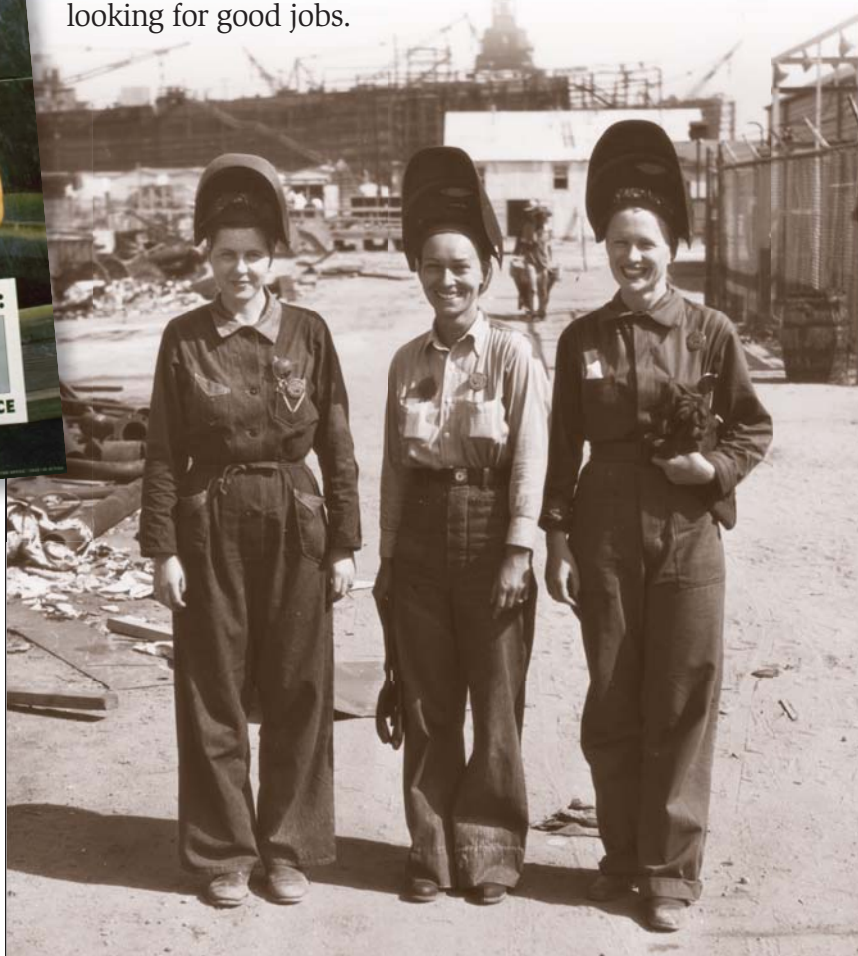


Women in the Armed Forces

Women served as nurses in the Army Nurse Corps beginning in 1901. But World War II was the first time that women were allowed to serve as regular members of the U.S. Army. Members of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) served in many roles including as radio operators, mechanics, and office workers. There were also women in other branches of the military. They served in almost all areas not involving combat. In today's military, women serve in all roles.

Alabama Works and Sacrifices for the War

Alabama seemed perfect for war training and industry. The warm climate made the state a good place for training soldiers and airmen all year round. TVA provided cheap electricity in north Alabama for industries. There were many people looking for good jobs.



Above: World War II offered many new opportunities for women. They served in the armed forces (top) and were urged to take jobs working in wartime industries (above).

Right: These three women worked as welders at the Mobile shipyards.

Alabamians worked hard in the war effort. The government recruited women to work in war industries. They used slogans such as “The more women at work, the sooner we win.” Women worked in factories replacing men who had gone to war. Women made up one-fourth of the workforce. They ran machinery, drove trucks, and became assembly-line workers in many factories.

Alabama was asked to fill some of the war needs for steel, iron, textiles, food, munitions, and chemicals. Plants worked around the clock to fill orders. The Muscle Shoals facilities that missed World War I were put to work. They produced over 60 percent of the phosphorus needed for making munitions. Plenty of high-paying jobs meant that money flowed into the state. The hardships of the depression began to go away.

The War Means Growth for Mobile Area

Poor farmers moved by the thousands into Mobile for jobs. The area became crowded very quickly. Workers had to live in tents or other temporary shelters. Shipbuilders in Mobile built 196 new ships. The two largest firms were ADDSCO and Gulf Shipbuilding. More than 2,000 ships were brought to Mobile for repairs during the war years. The Alabama State Docks handled millions of tons of shipping.

Inland Steel Works in Decatur built military landing craft and other ships. Decatur Iron & Steel and Ingalls Iron Works were two of the major builders of boats and ships for the military.

Huntsville and Childersburg Work for Victory

A \$40 million chemical plant was built in Huntsville during the war. Cotton was no longer the main economic driver in the area. Redstone Arsenal made artillery shells and explosives. The area’s 3 textile mills employed 5,500 people. The mill workers made cloth for tents, bags, and uniforms.

Construction workers flocked to Childersburg to build a huge plant for DuPont. The little town grew from a population of 500 to 14,000 almost overnight. The chemical plant manufactured smokeless gunpowder and explosives.



Above: The shipyards in Mobile attracted thousands of men and women looking for work. Almost 200 new ships were built in Mobile during World War II.



About Alabama

During World War II, most of the prisoners of war held in Alabama were German. The POW camp at Fort McClellan had a newspaper, a zoo, a theater, art studio, orchestra, camp college, and library. Two of the POWs, Albin Sagadin and Herbert Belau, decorated the walls of the main lounge of the Fort McClellan officer's club with a series of murals (above).

Textile, Steel, and Aluminum Plants

Textile mills had an important role in war work too. Avondale Mills and Russell Mills made cloth for uniforms, tents, and other military goods.

Birmingham was called the “Great Arsenal of the South.” The entire area worked night and day to produce steel for bombs and other war needs. The area’s industries also produced plated tin from Fairfield and mined ore and coal. Bechtel-McCone Aircraft equipped and modified half of the B-29 bombers used in the war. TCI, Ingalls, and O’Neal were also important suppliers of the country’s war needs.

Aluminum was needed for building aircraft. The Reynolds plant at Listerhill and Alcoa in Mobile were two of the nation’s largest aluminum mills.

Prisoners of War

All farmers did not leave their farms to fight in the war. Cotton was needed for the war. More food was needed for the military and war industry workers. The many new buildings called for more timber. There was a shortage of workers to harvest the crops and fell the trees. **Prisoners of war** (POWs) were sometimes contracted (hired out) to help on farms. These POWs were captured military men from the countries of the Axis powers. About 15,000 prisoners were held in Aliceville, Opelika, Anniston, and Camp Rucker.

Rationing

Many products needed for the war became scarce (hard to find) at home. Gasoline, tires, meat, coffee, sugar, and other goods were **rationed** (limited). People were issued ration stamps to use when buying these items. Because the supply of goods was limited, the government controlled prices. They did this to prevent inflation.

Other goods were scarce but were not rationed. Cigarettes, stockings, and chewing gum were all hard to find during the war years. When a store received new deliveries of such items, people waited in long lines to buy them. Can you imagine standing in a long line for chewing gum?

The Greatest Generation

The American men and women who served in the military in World War II are called “The Greatest Generation.” But people at home also served their country to help win the war.

People feared another surprise attack. Civilians watched the skies for enemy planes. Birmingham had blackouts where the residents turned off their lights. They did this to protect the steel industry from possible bombing. Lookouts watched the Gulf of Mexico for enemy boats and submarines. German boats were seen in the Gulf. These Germans would have liked to attack Alabama.

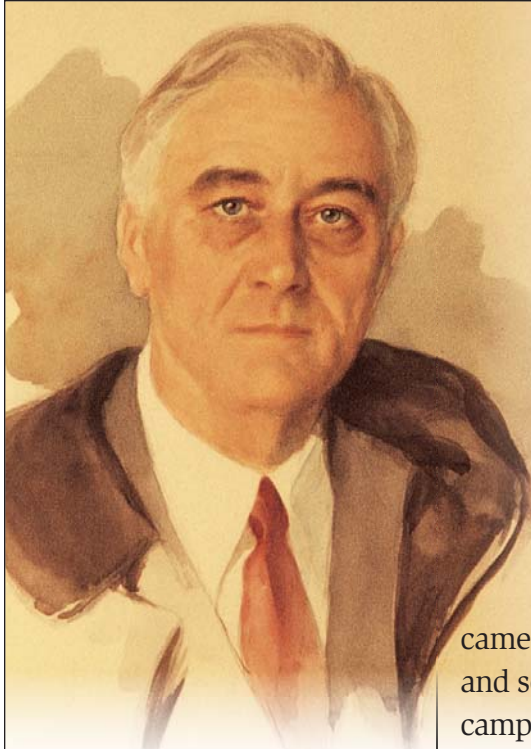
Alabama’s civilians worked and its military fought with all their might to win the war. Civilians grew gardens and knitted warm gloves and sweaters. They collected scrap metal and paper to be recycled. Some entertained soldiers with shows. Others gave cookies and coffee to traveling soldiers at train stations. The people at home supported the troops.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt Dies

President Roosevelt was elected to a fourth term as president in 1944. He was loved and admired by most Americans. His New Deal programs had helped many people during the Great Depression. He also led the United States during most of World War II. But President Roosevelt did not live to see America and



Above: Nicknamed after the pilot’s mother, the Enola Gay was a United States B-29 bomber. On August 6, 1945, this plane had a role in history. The Allies were trying to force Japan into surrender. They decided to use a new, powerful weapon called an atomic bomb. The Enola Gay dropped one of these bombs on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The plane took off from Tinian Island in the Pacific. Shown with the Enola Gay is Imogene Speegle Lit. She served in the Army as a physical therapist and was stationed at the U.S. military base on Tinian. Lit was born in Trimble, Alabama, and grew up in Hayden.



Above: Like Abraham Lincoln before him, President Roosevelt did not live to enjoy his nation's victory in war. He became ill while sitting for this portrait, and died soon after.

its allies win the war. He died in April 1945 in Warm Springs, Georgia. Vice President Harry Truman became president. Victory was only a few months away.

The War Ends

In 1945, after years of fighting, Germany and Italy surrendered. A few months later, the war ended in the Pacific. The United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrendered and World War II was over on both fronts. Over 400,000 Americans died in World War II.

World War II brought many changes to America. Large numbers of women had jobs for the first time. The women were asked to give up their jobs when the men came home. The war introduced new uses for radios, radar, and sonar. It was also the first use of large-scale aerial bombing campaigns in war. The shortage of workers during the war affected farming too. Farmers began using more machines to help them in their work. There were fewer farms than before the war.

Black citizens fought in the war and worked in the war industries. They were not always welcome in the factories. Segregation in the military did not end until after World War II. African Americans, both military and civilian, filed lawsuits seeking the right to vote.

American military men and women were welcomed home. People hoped the peace would last. Many military people moved after seeing new places during the war. The Alabama black population dropped 4 percent between 1940 and 1950.

Think It Through!

1. Which countries were the Allies? The Axis powers?
2. Name the place in Alabama where a large number of ships were built and repaired.
3. What group was sometimes used as contract workers on farms?
4. How many times was Franklin Roosevelt elected as president?
5. In what year did World War II end?

Alabama Portraits

The Famous Crommelin Brothers

The Crommelin brothers were World War II heroes. These five men (Charles, Henry, John, Quentin, and Richard) from Wetumpka were outstanding in so many ways. All of them graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland—the only time five siblings have done that.

Four of the five brothers became pilots. Henry's eyesight prevented him from gaining his wings. The brothers were very brave and patriotic. *Time* magazine called them "The Indestructibles." For a time, it seemed that they were. But within three months, Charles and Richard were killed in action in the Pacific. The *USS Crommelin* was named in honor of the two brothers.

The Crommelins became one of the most decorated families in naval history.



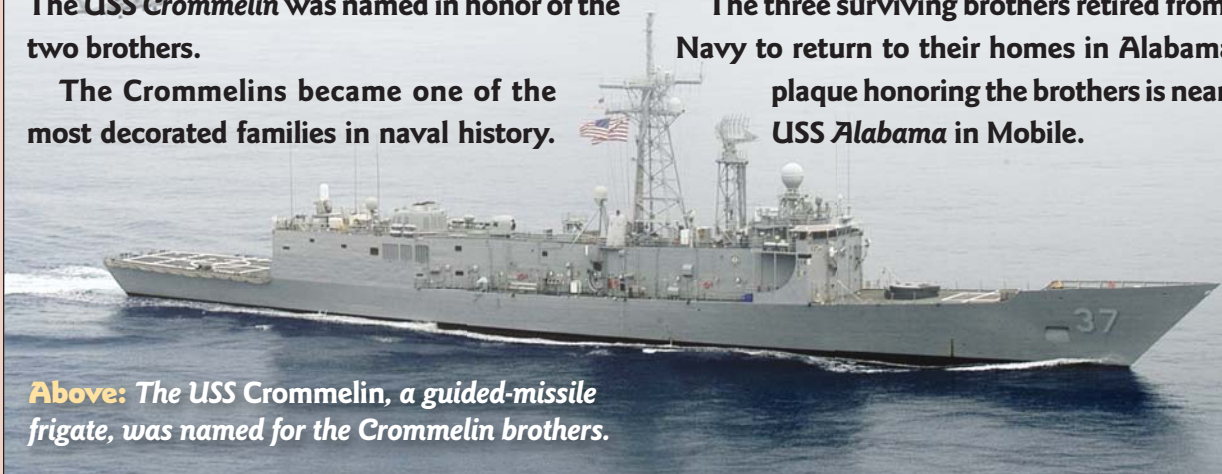
A plaque at Birmingham's Southern Museum of Flight honors the four flying Crommelin brothers.

Admiral Henry served as Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel. He commanded the cruiser *USS Des Moines* and was Commander of Battleship Division Two. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star with combat "V" for heroism.

Admiral John and Captain Quentin were honored for fighting in the Battle of Midway. Charles earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for a series of victorious attacks against the

Japanese. (**Distinguished** means the person is especially talented or achieved something special.) Richard received the Navy Cross for bravery for his role in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The three surviving brothers retired from the Navy to return to their homes in Alabama. A plaque honoring the brothers is near the *USS Alabama* in Mobile.



Above: The *USS Crommelin*, a guided-missile frigate, was named for the Crommelin brothers.

Section 4

The Cold War Leads to the Korean Conflict

Below: President Roosevelt (center) met with Joseph Stalin (left), leader of the Soviet Union, and Winston Churchill (right), leader of Great Britain, when the countries were allies during World War II. After the war, the United States and the Soviet Union were no longer partners.

As you read, look for

- why the Cold War developed;
- the differences between democratic and communist governments;
- causes of the Korean Conflict;
- result of the Korean Conflict;
- terms: **democratic**, **communist**, **Cold War**, **truce**.



After World War II, Alabama was changing and growing. At the same time, the political differences between the superpowers (the United States and the Soviet Union) were growing. Although the two countries had been allies in the war against Hitler, they had major differences. America has a **democratic** form of government. That means the people elect their leaders and have a lot of freedom and rights. In a democracy, people can own private property and businesses. The Soviet Union had a **communist** form of government. A communist state owns all property and the government makes all economic plans. The people do not have a say in who governs the country. Citizens in those countries have few freedoms and are often unhappy. China also had a communist government and it became an ally of the Soviet Union.

The Cold War

These differences in government and viewpoints turned into a big problem. This was because of actions taken by the Soviet Union and its allies. They began forcing communism on other countries. Sometimes they just took over the government and put in communist leaders. A situation developed that was called the **Cold War**. It was called “cold” because there was no actual fighting. But the United States and the Soviet Union were in a tense situation. They treated each other as enemies and threatened each other with nuclear weapons.

The Korean Conflict

Korea, a country in Northeast Asia, was annexed (taken over) by Japan in 1910. Japan’s loss in World War II freed Korea. The Allies then divided Korea in half. Each part was to be protected by one of the two largest winning countries. The United States protected the southern half of Korea. The Soviet Union was an ally of the country’s northern half.

North Korea had a communist government. Its leaders wanted to make the two parts into one country again—a communist country. The Soviet Union secretly helped North Korea in their plans to do this. A war began on June 25, 1950, when North

Below: *Although troops from 17 countries fought the communists in Korea, the largest number were Americans. The fighting was tough and the weather was cruel. There were no easy victories.*





Above: For many years, the Korean Conflict was called the “forgotten war.” Veterans of the war were finally honored with a monument in Washington, D.C., in 1995.

Korea made a surprise attack on South Korea. China soon joined North Korea’s side in the fighting.

Military forces from 17 countries of the United Nations were sent to help South Korea. Even with international support, American soldiers, sailors, and aviators did most of the fighting. The Alabama National Guard was called into service as part of the Dixie Division. Training for chemical warfare was held at Fort McClellan. Maxwell Air Force Base and Brookley Field trained pilots for the war. New ways of doing things came out of the Korean Conflict. These ideas included Mobile (moveable) Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) units and the use of jet airplanes in combat.

In 1952, Dwight Eisenhower was elected president of the United States. New Soviet leaders also came into power. Both countries agreed to stop fighting in Korea. The war ended with a **truce** (agreement to end the fighting) signed on July 27, 1953.

Over 35,000 Americans lost their lives in combat in the Korean Conflict. Among the casualties were 771 Alabamians. American troops have remained in South Korea to protect it from North Korea. North Korea is still a communist government, but it no longer receives the support of the former Soviet Union.

Think It Through!

1. What is a Cold War?
2. Why did the United States fight North Korea?
3. How was Korea divided?
4. What countries were allies of North Korea?
5. What type of training did Fort McClellan provide?

Spotlight

A Military Base's Effect on the Community

The Anniston Ordnance Depot opened in 1941 with storage igloos, magazines (storage places for explosives), and 20 warehouses. In September 1941, there were only 4 employees. Just 14 months later, there were 4,339 employees.

In 1963, the mission expanded from mainly storage to include maintenance. (**Maintenance** is working on equipment to make it run like new.) The name was then changed to Anniston Army Depot.

Now the depot stretches over 15,000 acres and its mission includes

- support of the world's largest combat vehicle, the M1 Abrams tank;
- overhaul and repair of all combat vehicles, bridge systems, artillery, and small caliber weapons;

- partnerships with public and private projects at local, regional, and global levels;
- maintenance of combat vehicles worldwide.

Over 7,000 employees work around the clock to provide the best service to our military. These skilled employees live in the area around the depot. The depot workers and their families are an important part of the area's economy and quality of life.

High school students can train for jobs at the depot. It is a huge part of the community. Would Calhoun, Etowah, St. Clair, Talladega, and Cleburne Counties be the same without the Anniston Army Depot? No, because it would mean those 7,000 workers and their families would be living, going to school, and shopping somewhere else.



Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

The end of World War I brought many changes to Alabama and the nation. Women gained the right to vote in 1920. Most houses in towns had electricity. With electricity came household items such as refrigerators, electric stoves, and radios. People went to movies.

In the 1920s, jobs were easy to find and pay was high. But factories produced more goods than could be sold. Then industries closed or cut back on their work forces. Banks failed and stocks were worth little money. Many people could not find jobs.

Franklin Roosevelt was elected president of the United States in 1932. He offered Americans a New Deal to help them out of the Great Depression. Some of the New Deal programs that helped Alabamians were the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

What the New Deal did not bring about, the need for war goods did. The United States entered World War II in December 1941. Alabama again sent many men and women to war. Most Alabamians worked hard and did without luxuries to help the war effort. They also welcomed home the troops when war ended in 1945.

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were no longer allies. The two countries entered a period called the Cold War. Our country was again at war in 1950, this time in Korea. The Korean Conflict ended in 1953.



Remember

On a separate piece of paper, match the words or terms from the list below with the definitions that follow. Be careful! There are extra words in the list.

Allies	Communist
Amphibious	Depression
Axis powers	Social Security Act
Civilian	Suffrage

1. The right to vote
2. A person who is not in the military
3. Countries that fought on America's side in World War II
4. Federal program to help retired and disabled people
5. Works or lives on land and in water
6. A low condition like a downturn in the economy, factory closings, loss of jobs



Reviewing the Facts

1. What Alabama woman began the Birmingham Equal Suffrage Association?
2. What event was the beginning of the Great Depression?
3. What were women allowed to do in the U.S. Army for the first time in World War II?
4. Where did the United States drop atomic bombs during World War II?
5. What was the major difference between the United States and the Soviet Union?
6. Write a fact about one of Alabama's war heroes from this chapter (medal, battle).



Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. If you saw a building with “CCC 1937” on it, what would that tell you? Do you think something like the CCC is needed today? Why or why not?
2. Put these events in the order in which they occurred: (A) World War II, (B) Civil War, (C) Roaring Twenties, (D) Korean Conflict, (E) Great Depression, (F) Spanish-American War, and (G) World War I.



Making Decisions

In the Roaring Twenties, electricity was brought to many neighborhoods for the first time. What electrical appliance would you have chosen first? Why?



Projects

1. Design a coin for Alabama’s 200th birthday. Remember a coin has 2 sides. Explain your coin to the class.
2. Pretend that you are an out-of-work artist during the Great Depression. Draw or paint a mural that illustrates the depression. (This may be a class project.)



Writing

You are Pattie Ruffner Jacobs. Write a speech or a letter to the editor of a newspaper. In it, try to convince people that women should have the right to vote.



Preparing for Tests

Multiple Choice—These questions are like those you may see on tests. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. During World War II, America fought closely with its Allies. We depended on each other. Read the proverb and choose

the answer that most correctly tells what it means.

A sorrow shared is but half a trouble, but a joy that’s shared is a joy made double.

—Old Proverb

- A. Joyfulness makes you smile.
- B. Greed is a sin.
- C. Do not look for trouble.
- D. Sharing life with friends is good.

2. During the Korean Conflict, which of the following statements might be said by North Korea?

- A. The United Nations is wrong about this war.
- B. America is a great country.
- C. South Korea and America are right.
- D. North Korea is wrong in this war.



Using Technology

Using the Internet, you are going to learn more about World War II and Alabama’s part in it. Go to encyclopediaofalabama.org and under History, choose 1929-1945. Go to World War II and find World War II and Alabama. Read the sections Fighting Alabamians and The Home Front, then answer the questions below.

1. The Alabama National Guard and other states formed the _____ Division.

- A. Dixie
- B. Rainbow
- C. German
- D. English

2. Rubber, sugar, shoes, meats, and coffee were in short supply. They were _____ to the people of Alabama.

- A. Drafted
- B. Rationed
- C. Reported
- D. Stored