**Sample DBQ- How did Americans Change their lives to support the War Effort?**

As Adolf Hitler Continued his aggressive actions in Europe with the invasion of Poland and the Japanese empire’s continued expansion, it became clear that Americans would have to plan for the reality of World War Two. The American’s desperately tried to remain neutral during the conflict with the Lend Lease Act and Destroyers for bases deal. However with the Attack on Pearl on Harbor on December 7th 1941, it was clear that United States would be deeply embroiled in World War Two. The Attack unleashed the sleeping giant of the United States. Fighting a two front war in both Europe and the Pacific would take immense planning and an extreme amount of man power. Arguably even more important than the military tactics applied, was the fact that a war on this scale would take a massive amount of supplies. In order to meet the huge demands of this war, the American’s would have to change their lives to support the war by saving and conserving resources, preparing to defend the United States and by having women contribute to war time industries like never before. (Thesis)

(Body Paragraph 1: Saving and Rationing)

One of the major ways that United States civilians supported the war effort was through their savings and rationing on the home front. America has always been a capitalist society and is often referred to by the rest of the world as always having so much, yet during World War Two many Americans lived very conservatively. The Office of Price Administration as well as many other government outlets really impressed the idea of rationing and conserving materials for the war. Based off a poster from the U.S. Office of Price Administration in 1943, many Americans supported the war through car pulls or “Car-Sharing Clubs.” (Document 1) The Office of Price Administration insisted that if you drove alone you were driving with Hitler, because it was taking away from gas, oil, metal and rubber that could go towards the war. Frankly, gas was viewed as more valuable if it was used by the soldiers rather than Civilians. Dorothy Currier supports this claim in Roy Hooper’s book, *America Remembers the Home Front*, by stating “You had to go down and declare why you needed a car at all... we couldn’t drive where we wanted to.” (Document 4) America also adapted a coupon and rationing system to support the war effort. The American government issued food stamps and gas stamps based off the number of people in a house hold. In order to purchase gas or food you had to present a coupon along with the actual money for buying the item. This was just another way to control the consumption of civilians in order to insure that soldiers would have the materials necessary for victory (Document 5). Throughout the war it became abundantly clear that soldiers fight wars, but civilians help win wars. One last conservative measure Americans took was to actually save the fat from their kitchens. A pound of kitchen fat could be used to help fire missiles, provide dynamite to blow up a bridge, or even fire 10 rounds from a 50 caliber airplane cannon according to a poster from the time period (Document 6). Despite the tremendous amount of saving Americans engaged in, there were still other aspects of their lives that had to change in order to fully support the war effort.

(Body Paragraph 2: Women in the Work force)

A second major change in America during World War Two was the entrance of millions of women into the work force. A film produced by the United States Government claimed that we needed an additional ten million men to fill job vacancies in war industries. With sixteen million men fighting in Europe and Asia those jobs went to groups that traditionally weren’t given the opportunity to fill them prior to the war. By 1943 one out of every three women were working in War time industries. Man of these women did things such as welding, aircraft manufacturing or machinists’ jobs. Their patience and attention to detail helped to create some of the world most durable military supplies. Based off a poster from the US Office of War Information in 1943, the government was encouraging women to get involved in war jobs that “fit them best.” (Document 3) Women took jobs in industry, agriculture and business because there were so many available jobs. Soon they were being paid as much as men and the patriotic symbol of “Rosie the Riveter” came to dominate American propaganda. Even with so many women stepping into these jobs, it wasn’t quite enough to meet the growing need of the American war economy. Millions of African Americans left the south during the second Great Migration to fill factory jobs in the North and West. At first African Americans weren’t paid equally to whites, however A Phillip Randolph was willing to fight for that and eventually got President Roosevelt to put an end to that with the Fair Practices Employment Commission. The actions of African Americans both at home and abroad during World War Two would ultimately pave the way for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s.

(Body Paragraph 3: Preparing to defend the United States)

One final aspect of changing American lives to support the war effort dealt with a bit of War hysteria. Anne Relph explained her memory of World War Two in the United States in Roy Hooper’s, *American Remembers the Home Front,* by stating , “The psychological effect of that attack on Pearl Harbor created a kind of war hysteria that took a while for people to get over.” (Document 2) Due to this fear that the Japanese may attack again several aspects of American live changed. First off Americans looked toward civil defense and prepared just in case of an attack. Children were trained in make shift Civil Patrols and search lights were even put in Hollywood to watch for enemy Aircraft. Quickly it became evident that an attack was not coming, however that did not stop President Roosevelt from carrying out Executive order 9066 which forced anyone with Japanese ancestry to internment camps because of the fear of spying. Although the war was never really close to American soil, the civilians still had to change a great deal in order to meet the demands of the largest war economy in world history.

(conclusion)

One of the major factors in the American victory in World War two was their ability to out produce the rest of the world. American’s changed their lives to support the war effort in many ways including saving and rationing, women stepping up in the work force and Americans preparing to defend the United States just in case of an attack. Without the immense preparation and dedication to the war effort the results of World War two could have been very different. Even in the final stages of the war in Europe it was clear that supplies made all the difference. During the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans last ditch attempt to win the war, they ran out of gas causing them to have to halt their offensive. The Allies didn’t have these critical shortages in large part because of the efforts by the civiliians on the home front.