



**Course Name & Lesson Title:** Civic Education: World War II & The Cold War

**Book:** A Young People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn / Adapted by Rebecca Steffoff  
Chapter 16: World War II and the Cold War

**Additional Materials Needed:**

**Reading:** Ebook copies available for check out to LPS students via LHS Library Services on Destiny Discover linked [here](#).  
or listen to the chapter here: Video of Chelsea/ Erin reading the chapter

**Deeper Dive:** Links to Asian American Detention resources

- [10 Short Documentaries about Japanese Internment](#)
- [A Lesson on Japanese American Internment](#)

<b>Overview</b> In this session, participants will:	<b>Learning Outcomes</b> As a result of this lesson, participants will be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Learn about the conflicts of World War II, the Korean war, and the US attempts to squash communism at home and abroad.</li><li>- Hear about the impacts of these conflicts experienced by Japanese Americans, civilians across the world, laborers, and those labeled "communists".</li><li>- Continue learning about the impacts of internment on Japanese American communities through online resources linked.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify what conflicts were at the heart of World War II</li><li>- Understand why the United States entered into World War II</li><li>- Recognize the impacts of the war on Japanese Americans</li><li>- Identify who benefited from the wartime economy and who didn't</li><li>- Understand the impacts of the United States response to communism and how it affected those at home and abroad.</li></ul>

**Step-by-Step Guide:**

**Introduction:**

Today we will continue our readings from the Young People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn / Adapted by Rebecca Steffoff.

We left off learning about the roaring 20's and hard times of the great depression leading to another time of conflict. Tensions around the world eventually led to America entering World War II. Today's lesson will provide further context to why America entered the war and the impacts that had for those at home and across the sea. We also learn more about the "red scare" as fear of communism took over the country!

Today we want readers to walk away with an understanding of:

- what conflicts were at the heart of World War II
- why the United States entered into World War II
- the impacts of the war on Japanese Americans
- who benefited from the wartime economy and who didn't
- the impacts of the United States response to communism and how it affected those at home and abroad.

**Reading Material Chapter 16: World War II and the Cold War**

Video of Chelsea & Erin reading: Pages 257 -274

## **Reflections & Check-OUT prompt:**

As we bring today's lesson to a close, we will end by asking everyone to reflect on the following question:

**What was something you learned from the text that you did not learn in school?**

*Chelsea's Response: I remember from my social studies classes learning about how Americans responded to the war by rationing their own supplies and growing their own food in Victory Gardens. What I didn't learn about was the strikes that continued to occur during this time in protest to the war and how workers continued to suffer from high cost living and low wages.*

*Erin's Response: This chapter helped highlight how governments and corporations benefit from "wartime economies" that keep its citizens in line. One part of the chapter that stuck out to me was the president of the General Electric Corporation suggesting that we should create a permanent wartime economy - because it is ultimately more profitable for businesses and government.*

Thank you so much for joining our lesson today!

## **Deeper Dive:**

Now we want you to take a deeper dive into the impacts of detention on Japanese Americans. We welcome you to check out the links shared on the Civic U site under today's lesson.

There you will find a link to 10 short documentaries about Japanese American Incarceration. These short films show the human impact of the detention of these Americans and the injustices they suffered.

[10 Short Documentaries about Japanese Internment](#)

You can also check out a short article from a teacher who talks about how she found a creative way to help students understand the misuse of the term "relocation" as was used by the US when referring to Japanese detention. It really gets you thinking!

[A Lesson on Japanese American Internment](#)

Hope you enjoyed today's lesson and we hope to see you next time!