Okezie Emmanuel

Professor Garrison

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Introduction

The Second World War took place in the years between 1939 and 1945 and involved many countries around the world, including the United States of America. During this war, the countries involved had grouped themselves into two alliances namely the Allied forces and the Axis forces. The former consisted of the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Republic of China, and France among other countries. The latter, on the other hand consisted of Germany, Italy, and Japan among others.

The war came to an end in 1945 after the United State’s decisive bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, sealing the Allied forces’ victory over the Axis forces. As a result of this war, there was massive loss of lives among the military personnel and also civilians, in addition to the destruction of property and the ruining of world economies. Most important to this paper, the Second World War also affected United State’s global perspective as will be discussed in the next part.

How World War II affected America’s Global Perspective

The Second World War led to the emergence of the United States as an important global player. Together with the Soviet Union, the two countries emerged as world superpowers and their competing ideologies of capitalism versus communism in the years to come ushered in the Cold War which lasted for forty years, until the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

Secondly, the war changed the way the United States viewed global stability and security. Recognizing the failure of the League of Nations which had been formed after the First World War with the primary mandate to prevent the outbreak of another war, the United States with its allies oversaw the dissolution of the body and its replacement with the current United Nations. At the same time, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written by a committee presided by Former First Lady Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt and the instrument, which forms an important cornerstone as far as human rights are concerned, was adopted by members of the newly established United States. It is also important to mention that to correct the atrocities committed during the war by the Nazi regime and the Japanese forces, the Nuremburg Trials were conducted to prosecute and punish the architects of the horrors of the war.

Thirdly, as was noted earlier, the war saw the near-destruction of world economies, especially in Europe and Japan. The United States therefore came up with a stimulus package that was aimed at rebuilding the ruined economies. Through the Marshall Plan, the economies of France, Great Britain, Belgium, West Germany, Italy, as well as Netherlands were revived in a record of less than five years.

Lastly, one can appreciate the fact that the war saw the emergence of the United States as the most powerful naval and military force in the world. As such, the American global perspective shifted in that the country assumed the role of custodian of world peace and this has in many ways helped combat global insecurities such as terrorism and piracy.

Conclusion

This paper has established that indeed the Second World War had a great impact on America’s global perspective. As rightly noted, the emergence of the country as a superpower after the end of the war has enabled America to assume an important role in global affairs as far as maintaining peace and stability is concerned, in addition to helping rebuild Europe from the ruins of the war.

Works Cited

U.S.History.Org. *American History*. Available from <http://www.ushistory.org/us/> [accessed June 18, 2017]