

## Lesson #92 U.S. History Home Front

### American Home Front

Shortage and scrapes – rationed items = metals, rubber, silk, nylon, cheese, meat, butter, coffee, cigarettes, and other items – caused people to hoard goods-

#### Food Stamps

Bread sold for     \$ .08  
Gas                   \$ .15  
Hair cut            \$ .25  
Beer                 \$ .10

Government order 15% reduction in fabric  
40% in wool

#### USA Women's dress restrictions:

Dress a max of 72 inches long

Shirts               25 inches

Hems                2 inches wide

Shoes only in four colors – Black – White – Brown – Army Russet NO Two-tone

Boots limit to 10 inches – heels limit 2 ½ inches

Cork heels came into use

Second hand items not covered

#### Men:

No Double-Breasted Suits

Lapel, cuffs and pockets limited in size and number

Limit material in suit – Zoot Suits made illegal in 1943 California –still on book

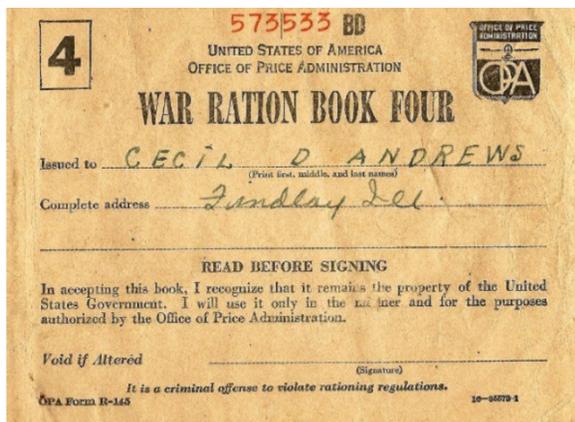
Government had eight fashion designers create a new look for rationed clothes

A purse made for Gas Mask

Glow buttons for “Black-Outs”

Repurposing – old blanket into a coat

Victory Gardens produced 1/3 more food





**Developed in 1937**



**World War II made it a staple**

### **During World War II**

**Migration 20,000,000 – most non-voting, non-taxpaying, non-home owners**

**35 states had net loss between 1940 and 1943**

**13 states increased**

**California 1,020,000 increase with 6.2% of nations population**

**9.2% of national work and ½ ship building in three west coast states**

**Western migration of Black workers in defense industries on west coast**

**There were 240,000 Mexicans in L.A. isolated in neighborhoods**

**Race differences had signs “No Mexicans” or “No Japs”**

### **Sleepy Lagoon**

**August 1942 Zoot Suit Riots**

**38<sup>th</sup> Street group and Hank Levas held a party and later a 22-year-old was beaten and stabbed (Jose Diza) to death.**

**Gang warfare in L.A. 1930’s when Church ended support for clubs.**

**Axis influence - ?**

**Pachuco = Hispanic Punk**

**Sailors wore necktie with 13 pennies sewed in back as a weapon and sailors walked through Mexican neighborhood back to armory that is now the Dodger baseball stadium.**

**Chief Peoples picked up 600 individuals and arrested 21 men for the murder and went to trial. During Trial the judge wrote articles for press and did not allow men to get haircuts or clean-up for trial. Eight female were called to testify. The one who knew who killed Jose refused because it involved her brother.**

**The trial ended with 17 defendants were found guilty and Hank given life sentence. females made wards of State. The Left (communist) took up the case “Sleepy Lagoon”. The Defense made it national and fights grew in L.A. between Sailors and Mexican kids. June 1943 Zoot Suiter’s beat up sailor. Zoot Suiters were seen as unpatriotic for the large amount of cloth used in the suites. The sailors returned with gun belts and clubs and attack young boys and men. The Mexicans used bats and chains in the battles.**

**Next night fight spread out of down town into Mexican neighborhoods. Youth were striped and their clothes burned. L.A. P.D. stood by while military personnel came from as**

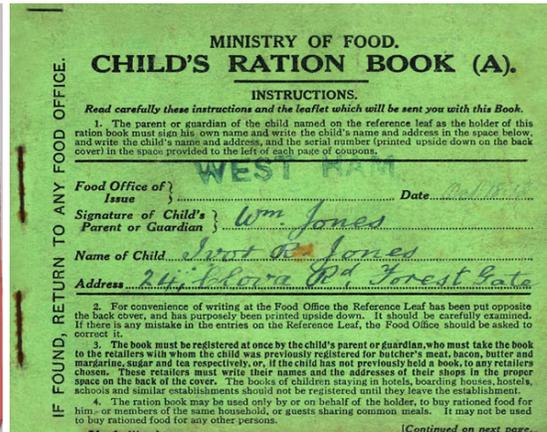
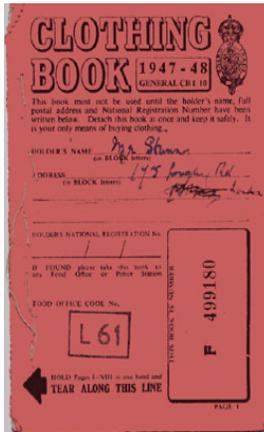
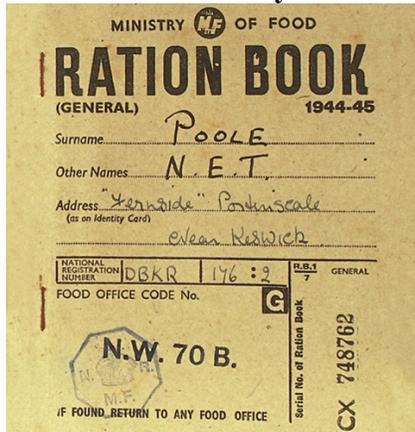
far away as Los Vegas to join the battles. More than 5,000 civilians also joined the battle to fight the military. Officials worried about discipline June 8, 1943 city put "OFF LIMITS". Governor investigated and issued a report. (juvenile delinquents)  
 1944 the Sleepy Lagoon men set free and the females were held until they came of age.  
 Hank died in East L.A. Bar 1971 fight.

**Housing shortage**

Youth were roving and truant – "juvenile delinquency" 20% increase in arrest 1943  
 prejudice against working mothers  
 "khaki-whacky" or "V-girls" (Victory) = promiscuity of teen girls cut into professional trade - Birth rate jumped 22% "Good-bye Babies"  
 May Act 1943 prohibited houses of prostitution near military bases. When the houses closed the girls became "street walkers" with an increased in VD.  
 Allotment check \$50.00 to a wife became a war time racket. Some females engaged in bigamous marriage. One woman had six husbands before she was caught.  
 Size of government expanded into "Washington Wonderland" of "red tape".

**Great Britain Rationing**

Prevent waste of food  
 Increase war effort  
 Supplies equally divided  
 Prevents uncertainty



**Great Britain Dress**

- 66 Coupons per year
- 24 per year in 1945-46
- Some exception for need
- 11 coupons for a dress
- 8 for man's shirt
- 5 for woman's shoes
- 7 for male shoes
- Exception for Oversized children

**Make-up tips**

- Beetroot juice for lipstick
- Boot polish for mascara

### German Home Front

Hitler did care about and react to public pressure. He did not go to full war production until 1943. Factories still produce lip stick for women when Germany needed bullets. He feared the women would rebel if they did not get their necessities.

### Japan Home Front

“Comfort Stations” or “Houses of Relaxation” run by military

During Air raid public told to hide in cupboards at the beginning then later to dig shelters.

Civilians had diet intake of 1,600 calories a day

### Soviet Union Home Front

Communist propaganda toned down referred to as “Mother Russia” not the “Party”. Food shortage always present Black Market in food. One could be shot for a loaf of bread.

Leningrad suffered the most for 900 days.

### Black Market

Any shortage or the belief that there will be a shortage will cause individuals to collect a surplus of the item. Rationing was a way to prevent this collection of goods. World War II was a open field for the Black Market trade in every nations and organized crime stepped in to make profits.

