United States History
Extended Task: Document Based Question
World War II and the San Francisco Bay Area

Context: World War II had a profound impact on the United States. Although no battles occurred on the American mainland, the war affected all phases of American life. It required unprecedented efforts to coordinate strategy and tactics with other members of the Grand Alliance and then to plunge into battle against the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan. At the same time, it demanded a monumental production effort to provide the materials necessary to fight. As the United States produced the weapons of war and became, in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's phrase, the “arsenal of democracy,” the country experienced a fundamental reorientation of economic and social patterns at home. War, by its very nature, has always been a catalyst for change, and World War II was no exception. In the United States, World War II made Americans more willing to involve themselves with the outside world. It also expanded their hopes and expectations and forever altered the patterns of their lives at home.

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Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of the documents and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. Only essays that cite two key pieces of evidence from each document set and draw on outside knowledge of the period will earn High Scores.

Question: To what extent did the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and the resulting entry and mobilization of the United States for war remake the social, political, and economic landscape of the California Bay Area? In your response be sure to consider federal restrictions on people of Japanese descent, opportunities for African Americans, and the changing roles of women as they relate to the Narrative of the San Francisco Bay Area.
Source: Following evacuation orders, this store, at 13th and Franklin Streets, was closed. The owner, a University of California graduate of Japanese descent, placed the I AM AN AMERICAN sign on the store front on December 8, the day after Pearl Harbor. -- Photographer: Lange, Dorothea -- Oakland, California. 3/13/42
Contributing Institution: UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library.
Source: Dorothea Lange. "Civilian exclusion order #5, posted at First and Front streets, directing removal by April 7 of persons of Japanese ancestry, from the first San Francisco section to be affected by evacuation." 1942 April. 1 photographic print.
EXECUTIVE ORDER

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AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO PRESCRIBE MILITARY AREAS

WHEREAS the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense materials, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities as defined in Section 2, Act of April 50, 1918, 10 Stat. 553, as amended by the Act of November 30, 1940, 54 Stat. 1220, and the Act of August 21, 1941, 55 Stat. 565 (U. S. C., Title 50, Sec. 104);

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military

Source: Executive Order 9066 signed into law by President Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. It authorized the military to designate areas of land as military areas "from which any or all persons may be excluded." Executive Order 9066, February 19, 1942; General Records of the United States Government; Record Group 11; National Archives.
Source: The Japanese quarter of San Francisco on the first day of evacuation from this area. About 660 people left their homes on this morning for the Civil Control Station-- Photographer: Lange, Dorothea -- San Francisco, California. 4/29/42 Contributing Institution: UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library
Excerpt
We uphold the exclusion order as of the time it was made and when the petitioner violated it….In doing so, we are not unmindful of the hardships imposed by it upon a large group of American citizens….But hardships are part of war, and war is an aggregation of hardships. All citizens alike, both in and out of uniform, feel the impact of war in greater or lesser measure. Citizenship has its responsibilities, as well as its privileges, and, in time of war, the burden is always heavier. Compulsory exclusion of large groups of citizens from their homes, except under circumstances of direst emergency and peril, is inconsistent with our basic governmental institutions. But when, under conditions of modern warfare, our shores are threatened by hostile forces, the power to protect must be commensurate with the threatened danger…

Source: In 1944, Fred Korematsu, a Japanese American convicted of evading internment, brought his case to the Supreme Court. In a controversial ruling, the Court decided that national security outweighed Korematsu’s individual rights and upheld the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066. The excerpt above is from the Court’s majority opinion written by Chief Justice Hugo Black.
Transcript of Executive Order 8802: Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry (1941)

Reaffirming Policy Of Full Participation In The Defense Program By All Persons, Regardless Of Race, Creed, Color, Or National Origin, And Directing Certain Action In Furtherance Of Said Policy

June 25, 1941

WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States to encourage full participation in the national defense program by all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin, in the firm belief that the democratic way of life within the Nation can be defended successfully only with the help and support of all groups within its borders; and

WHEREAS there is evidence that available and needed workers have been barred from employment in industries engaged in defense production solely because of considerations of race, creed, color, or national origin, to the detriment of workers’ morale and of national unity:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, and as a prerequisite to the successful conduct of our national defense production effort, I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin.

“In the early years of World War II, San Francisco’s Fillmore district, or the Western Addition, experienced a visible revolution... The Yakamoto Sea Food Market quietly became Sammy’s Shoe Shine Parlor and Smoke Shop. Yashigira’s Hardware metamorphosed into La Salon de Beaute owned by Miss Clorinda Jackson. The Japanese shops that sold products to Nisei customers were taken over by enterprising Negro businessmen, and in less than a year became permanent homes way from for the newly arrived Southern Blacks...The Japanese area became San Francisco’s Harlem in a matter of months.”

Source: Maya Angelou *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. The 1969 autobiography about the early years of African-American writer and poet Maya Angelou.
Timeline: **Excerpt Fillmore Timeline 1860 - 2001**

**1935**: San Francisco's black population in **1935 numbers only 5,000**. Racial covenants prohibit black ownership, and in some cases rental, of property in many parts of the city.

**1941**: Japanese military forces bomb Pearl Harbor on December 7th. The United States officially declares its involvement in World War II.

**1942**: On February 19th, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 that sets in motion the eviction and incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast.

**1943**: African Americans begin to migrate from the South to work in Bay Area shipyards and other war industries, moving into the Fillmore housing left vacant by the interned Japanese Americans. **By 1945, some 30,000 African Americans are living and working in San Francisco**

**Mid 1940s** In response to the growing African American population, dozens of nightclubs begin to open in the Fillmore. The burgeoning music scene is likened to the Harlem Renaissance.

**1945** The United States drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders on September 2nd. The Allied Forces declare World War II a victory. Japanese Americans are released from the Internment Camps

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Source: Timeline (*The Documentary film: The Fillmore*) features a remarkable group of on-air participants and storytellers, from mayors and musicians to journalists and community activists, who experienced the Fillmore as both the best and worst of 20th century city life. The documentary draws on a rich archive of photographs, film, and music of the neighborhood, helped in part by home movies and photographs from KQED viewers.
Source: Selections from the Henry J. Kaiser Pictorial Collection 1983.018, Richmond Shipyard--Workers- Title: Women employees performing various jobs
Contributing Institution:
UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library
“Rosie the Riveter” Song Lyrics

While other girls attend their fav’rite cocktail bar Sipping Martinis, munching caviar There’s a girl who’s really putting them to shame Rosie is her name

All the day long whether rain or shine She’s a part of the assembly line She’s making history, working for victory Rosie the Riveter Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage Sitting up there on the fuselage That little frail can do more than a male will do Rosie the Riveter

Rosie’s got a boyfriend, Charlie Charlie, he’s a Marine Rosie is protecting Charlie Working overtime on the riveting machine When they gave her a production “E” She was as proud as a girl could be There’s something true about Red, white, and blue about Rosie the Riveter

Everyone stops to admire the scene Rosie at work on the B-Nineteen She’s never twittery, nervous or jittery Rosie the Riveter What if she’s smeared full of oil and grease Doing her bit for the old Lendlease She keeps the gang around They love to hang around Rosie the Riveter

Rosie buys a lot of war bonds That girl really has sense Wishes she could purchase more bonds Putting all her cash into national defense Senator Jones who is “in the know” Shouted these words on the radio Berlin will hear about Moscow will cheer about Rosie the Riveter! _____________________

Source: Paramount Music Corporation, NY, 1942.
Source: In 1943, Henry J. Kaiser invited key figures in child development studies to his shipyards to set up ideal facilities and programs so workers could build ships without worrying about the safety and health of their children. These model child care centers at the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond, California.