

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION 14

NAME _____ DATE _____

Assess the relative importance of the following reasons for the Allied victory in World War II:

- American production
- Turning point victories
- Cooperation amongst allies
- Technology

DOCUMENT 1

The following is the text of a joint message from President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill delivered personally on Friday afternoon, August 15, by the British and American Ambassadors to Josef Stalin, President of the Soviet of Peoples Commissars of the U.S.S.R.:

We have taken the opportunity afforded by the consideration of the report of Mr. Harry Hopkins on his return from Moscow to consult together as to how best our two countries can help your country in the splendid defense that you are making against the Nazi attack. We are at the moment cooperating to provide you with the very maximum of supplies that you most urgently need. Already many shiploads have left our shores and more will leave in the immediate future.

... We realize fully how vitally important to the defeat of Hitlerism is the brave and steadfast resistance of the Soviet Union and we feel therefore that we must not in any circumstances fail to act quickly and immediately in this matter on planning the program for the future allocation of our joint resources.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, Joint Message of Assistance to the Soviet Union (1941)

DOCUMENT 2

Both Admiral Spruance and Admiral Fletcher have pointed out that “in a duel between CV’s [Carrier Vehicles] the side which is able to strike the first blow against enemy CV’s whose planes are on board wins.” At Midway we won in precisely this manner. We were able to do this because we knew of the enemy’s presence, the approximate composition of his force, and because we had calculated correctly his method of approach. The Battle of Midway was essentially a victory of intelligence.

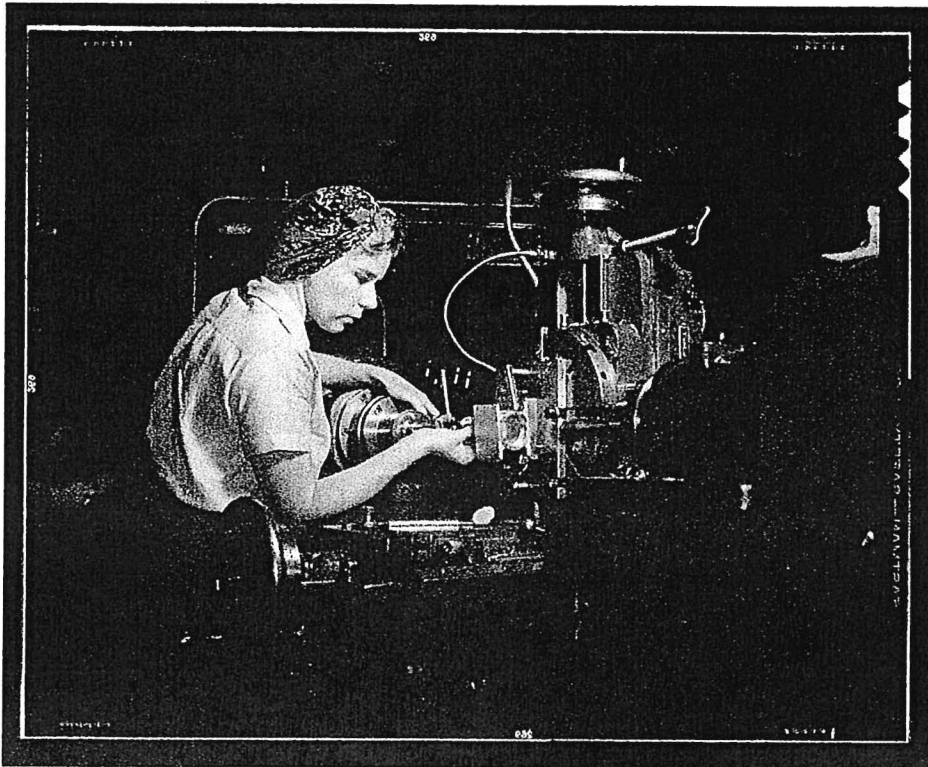
The Japanese, on the other hand, probably did not know of the presence of our forces until shortly before our carrier planes attacked them. In attempting a surprise attack they were themselves surprised. The placing of our fleet to fall upon the enemy’s flank was a piece of brilliant tactics, skillfully executed. Our single misfortune was the failure to locate and attack the fourth enemy carrier with sufficient promptness, when its presence was suspected. That failure cost us the *Yorktown*.

Midway was a contest of air power. There was no contacts of surface vessels in the entire action. Both Admiral Fletcher and Admiral Spruance were fully aware of the value of surface attacks had circumstances permitted. The reader of this narrative will understand why such attacks were not considered practicable.

—Office of Naval Intelligence, Battle of Midway June 3–6 1942 Combat Narratives (1943)

DOCUMENT 3

Alfred T. Palmer, *Woman machinist, Douglas Aircraft Company* (1942)



Library of Congress Prints and Photographic Division [LC-DIG-fsac-1a35355]

DOCUMENT 4

We have lately concluded a long, hard battle in the Southwest Pacific and we have made notable gains. That battle started in the Solomons and New Guinea last summer. It has demonstrated our superior power in planes and, most importantly, in the fighting qualities of our individual soldiers and sailors.

American armed forces in the Southwest Pacific are receiving powerful aid from Australia and New Zealand and also directly from the British themselves.

We do not expect to spend the time it would take to bring Japan to final defeat merely by inching our way forward from island to island across the vast expanse of the Pacific.

Great and decisive actions against the Japanese will be taken to drive the invader from the soil of China. Important actions will be taken in the skies over China—and over Japan itself.

The discussions at Casablanca have been continued in Chungking with the Generalissimo by General Arnold and have resulted in definite plans for offensive operations.

There are many roads which lead right to Tokyo. We shall neglect none of them.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, and Winston Churchill,
Statement from the Casablanca Conference (1943)

DOCUMENT 5

Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

... Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory.

—Transcript of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's Order of the Day (1944)

DOCUMENT 6

I realize the tragic significance of the atomic bomb.

Its production and its use were not lightly undertaken by this Government. But we knew that our enemies were on the search for it. We know now how close they were to finding it. And we know the disaster which would come to this nation, and to all peaceful nations, to all civilizations, if they had found it first.

That is why we felt compelled to undertake the long and uncertain and costly labor of discovery and production.

We won the race of discovery against the Germans.

Having found the bomb, we have used it. We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbor, against those who have starved and beaten and executed American prisoners of war, against those who have abandoned the pretense of obeying international laws of warfare. We have used it in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans.

We shall continue to use it until we completely destroy Japan's power to make war. Only a Japanese surrender will stop us.

—Harry S Truman, radio address (August 1945)

DOCUMENT 7

Aircraft Production (all types)							
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
United States	5,856	12,804	26,277	47,836	85,898	96,318	49,761
Britain	7,940	15,049	20,094	23,672	26,263	26,461	12,070
Soviet Union	10,382	10,565	15,737	25,436	34,900	40,300	20,900
Germany	8,295	10,862	12,401	15,409	24,807	40,593	7,540
Japan	4,467	4,768	5,088	8,861	16,693	28,180	8,263

Armaments Production of the Powers 1940-1943 (Billions of 1944 Dollars)			
	1940	1941	1943
ALLIED			
Britain	3.5	6.5	11.1
USSR	5.0	8.5	13.9
USA	1.5	4.5	37.5
Total Allies	3.5	19.5	62.5
AXIS			
Germany	6.0	6.0	13.8
Japan	1.0	2.0	4.5
Italy	.75	1.0	-
Total Axis	6.75	9.0	18.3

—Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Published 1987