

**US Ethnic Studies**  
**WWII Source Packet Questions**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Per.** \_\_\_\_\_

This will be our main text for our study of WWII. We will be using this text for in class readings, homework, daily class discussions, and a graded seminar. Please close read (highlight, underline, write in the margins) and use the following graphic organizer to answer the questions and prepare for an extended formal writing piece on the following prompt.

**To what extent did Roosevelt's notion of “the great arsenal of democracy” reflect key political, social, and economic issues for ethnic minorities in the United States during World War II?**

**Excerpt 1:** *Japanese Americans: A Tremendous Hole in the Constitution*

As we have seen earlier in the year, many people hold the idea that on blacks can get sickle cell anemia, or that blacks are innately good basketball players and runners. These stereotypes are untrue. Explain why and how these misperceptions relate to the treatment of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor.

Response:

**Excerpt 2:** *Japanese Americans: A Tremendous Hole in the Constitution*

Taking into consideration the whole excerpt, explain what Takaki argues is hypocritical about Roosevelt’s message to Secretary of War Henry Stimson.

Response:

**Excerpt 3 and 4:** Daniel Inouye and interview outtakes from “The War” by Ken Burns

Summarize these excerpts and explain how the experiences of these Japanese Americans contradict social stereotypes of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Response:

Excerpt 5: “African Americans: Bomb the Color Line”	Please collect evidence for a T-Chart
Political, social, and economic struggles	Personal Response and/or connection to class

**Excerpt 5:** *“African Americans: Bomb the Color Line” Continued*

To what extent did Roosevelt successfully address increasing racial tensions in the United States? Please provide specific examples from the text.

Response:

**Excerpt 6:** *Chinese Americans: To “Silence the Distorted Japanese Propaganda”*

Describe the Chinese American war experience and how it relates to assimilation and citizenship.

Response:

**Excerpt 7:** *Mexican Americans: Up from the Barrio*

How is Guy Louis Gabaldon’s war experience a reflection of his own personal ethnic identity and values?

Response:

**Excerpt 8:** *Native Americans: Why Fight the White Man's War?"*

- 1) Explain the varying viewpoints of Native American enlistment in World War II.
- 2) Describe successes and challenges of Navajo soldiers during and after the war.

Response:

**Excerpt 9:** Jewish Americans: A "Deafening Silence"

- 1) How did Roosevelt and the United States government act in response to the concerns of some Americans about the treatment of Jews in Europe? Be specific.
- 2) How does the information in this section support or refute this idea that World War II is "the Good War?"

Response:

