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CONFLICT & MEMORY
CONTINUE THE STORY

HOW DID THE US COMPARE WITH OTHER GLOBAL POWERS AT THE BEGINNING OF WWII?

As most of the world came out of the Great Depression, America had the advantage of an abundance of resources in both human and natural forms. America was able to tap both and self-sustain their production for much of the war development.

America's advantage entering the war was due to their ramping up of military production in an effort to help their European Allies through the Lend Lease program. Food lines and unemployment (USA 25%) had not been unusual. Germany, on the other hand, had compromised their economy as they were rebuilding their society coming out of WWI and rebuilding a military which allowed for no economic reserves. Germany's solution in the ideas of Adolf Hitler, was supported by nationalistic policies and an expanded military. Japan took a similar route. One analysis has America military ranking 18th in the world, behind Romania, others rank the USA at #3. No matter the ranking, the pains of War were to be experienced by all.

AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION ESTIMATES:

	United States	Great Britain	Germany	Japan
1941	19,433	20,094	12,401	5,088
1942	47,836	23,672	15,409	8,861
1943	85,898	26,263	24,807	16,693
1944	96,318	26,461	40,593	28,180
1945	46,001	12,070	7,540	8,263

President Roosevelt was correct, *"powerful enemies must be out-fought and out-produced"*.

HOW WAS THE STORY CHANGED BY THE END OF WWII?

By the end of WWII half of the worlds wartime industrial production was produced in America.

The social fabric of America was to change as well, with jobs that once had been dominated by men, were now handled by women. Americas strength, unlike Germany was that they had not burdened their economy with a taking of resources for a military build. For Germany it decimated their ability to sustain any long-term war effort.

The key to America's success was in its ability to adapt, to unleash human potential in doing good, with an access to resources of both raw materials and production capacity. Today, America's ability to adapt is hampered by government regulation and the erosion of the family unit. Access to natural resources has been cut off while manufacturing production has been outsourced to foreign markets. This may be our "Achilles heel".

Finally, we need to recognize that there was a cost in human life. Like we found in the US Civil War, the price to be paid was significant. The Estimated deaths, by all countries ranges from 70-85 million people, or 3% of the global population at the time. This does not take into consideration the individuals that were injured for life. For America, The Civil War still ranks as the greatest of all for war deaths, with 655k compared to 405k during WWII.