The Way We Were: The 1940’s

OSHER 438-001

Times: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Commander's House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: F. Alan Coombs

Course Overview

Weds., April 3: Background: The Road to Pearl Harbor Feis, The Road to Pearl Harbor (1950)
A. About the Course & Getting Acquainted
B. Beginnings of War in Europe--and Asia
C. Growing U.S. Involvement
D. American Diplomacy

A. A Military History of World War II
B. The Meaning of "Total War"
C. Japanese-American "Relocation"
D. The 1944 Election
E. Hiroshima, Nagasaki, & Surrender Daniels, Concentration Camps, U.S.A. (1971)

Weds., April 17: Post-War Readjustments Hamby, Man of the People (1995)
A. Harry Truman, President
B. Postwar Problems
C. Labor Unrest and "Full Employment"
D. The Impact of the War on Domestic Institutions McCullough, Truman (1992)

A. The Potsdam Conference
B. Trouble in the United Nations
C. Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Address
D. U.S. Preparedness
E. Historians Divided Kolko, The Politics of War (1968)

Weds., May 1: The Truman Administration Hartmann, Truman & the 80th Congress (1971)
A. 1946 and the 80th Congress
B. Challenges from the Left . . .
C. And the South
D. The Upset of the Century Busch, Truman’s Triumphs (2012)
Weds., May 8: 1949: The "Year of Shocks"

A. Hope for a "Fair Deal"?
B. Communists in Government?
C. Mao & Revolution in China
D. The Soviet Union's Atomic Bomb
E. A Look Backward

Goldman, The Crucial Decade--and After (1966)

INSTRUCTOR'S INFORMATION (Spring 2013):
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RECOMMENDED READING:
Hartmann, Susan, The Homefront and Beyond: American Women in the 1940s (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1982).