WORLD WAR II
1939 - 1945
What is the proper role of the US in the world?

- What determines “proper”?  
- What could be the ramifications of any decision the US makes?
Washington Naval Conference (11/21 – 2/22)

- US, Britain, Japan, France, Italy, China, Portugal, Belgium & the Netherlands
- Discuss limiting naval armaments
- Final limits were agreed on in Five Power Treaty
- Set a 10 yr moratorium on building battleships & aircraft carriers
1928: 62 nations agreed to “condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies, and renounce it as an instrument of national policy.”

- Lacked enforcement provisions
- Reflected popular opinion that war was barbaric
US became a creditor nation b/c of WWI
  1920’s: US produced almost ½ of world’s industrial goods & was 1st among exporters
  Economic prominence = export of American culture
    Hollywood movies
    Coca-Cola – Bottling plant in Essen, Germany
    Ford plant – Cologne, Germany
WAR DEBTS & REPARATIONS

- 28 nations: web of debts totaling $26.5 billion ($9.6 billion owed to the US)
- Another $3 billion owed to private American creditors
  - Asked these be “forgiven”
- Germany defaulted on $33 billion in reparations due to massive inflation
- Dawes Plan (1924) reduced Germany’s annual payments, extended the repayment period & provided more loans
  - Cut down Allied obligations by almost $\frac{1}{2}$ by 1920’s
1932
25 nations retaliated against rising American tariffs (Fordney-McCumber & Hawley Smoot) by passing tariffs
- ‘29–’32: trade declined by 40%
  - American exports: $5.2 billion to $1.7 billion

Sec of State Hull
- Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act (1934): Pres can reduce tariffs by up to 50%
- Export-Import Act (1934): gov’t agency providing loans to foreigners purchasing American goods
1933

- US would be less blatant in its domination in Latin America & less willing to defend exploitative business practices & launch military expeditions & less reluctant to consult with Latin Americans
- Recalled troops & gave sovereignty
CRASH COURSE WWII PART 1
Totalitarian rule: government exerts total control over a nation
- Dominates every aspect of life & uses terror to suppress individual rights & silence opposition

Fascism:
- Emphasizes the importance of the nation or an ethnic group & the supreme authority of the leader
STALIN’S REIGN OF TERROR

- Stalin instituted a series of purges
- “Purified” the Communist Party by getting rid of “enemies”
- 1934: Held “show trials”; only possible verdict was guilty
- By 1939: agents had arrested +7 million; roughly 1 million killed; millions sent to forced labor camps

Hey I just met you
And I’m kinda crazy
But I think you’re my enemy
So Siberia maybe
1919: formed the revolutionary Fascist Party
   - Called himself “Il Duce” (the leader)
   - Relied on gangs called “Black Shirts”

1922: a very powerful Mussolini threatens to march on Rome & given title of Prime Minister by King Victor Emmanuel III
   - Suspended strikes & vowed to restore economy
   - Suspended elections & outlawed other political parties

Mussolini wanted to create a new empire
   - October 1935: invaded Ethiopia & controlled it by 1936
Hitler sentenced to 5 years in prison for attempting to overthrow the German government; served 9 months & wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)

- Proposed defiance of the Treaty of Versailles by strengthening Germany’s military & expanding borders
- Purifying the “Aryan race” (blonde, blue eyed Germans)

Great Depression hit Germany & more people looked to political leaders

- Hitler & Nazis promised to rebuild empire & restore economy
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

- Uprising = Civil War
- Germany & Italy aided the Nationalists
- 1937: Hitler’s Condor Legion bombed N. Spanish town of Guernica to ruins
- Soviets sent supplies to Republicans
- Britain, France & US did not intervene
- March 1939: Nationalists took control & civil war ended
Germany secretly began rebuilding military
• Began building the autobahn
• Unemployment: almost 0%
• 1936: Depression over
• Hitler began expansion for Lebensraum
• Goal: conquest of E. Europe & USSR
March 7, 1936: remilitarized the Rhineland

1936: Italy & Germany sign an alliance: Rome-Berlin Axis; Japan joins later = Axis Powers

1938: Anschluss (political union between Austria & Germany)

Later 1938: Hitler demands the Sudetenland

British PM Neville Chamberlain adopts a policy of appeasement; along with French President Edouard Daladier they agreed to give up the Sudetenland

#getthatmanonaleash
Hitler continues expansion

- Hitler had promised he wanted only the Sudetenland
- March 1939: occupied west Czechoslovakia & divided the rest between his allies; ends Britain’s policy of appeasement & begin to prep for war
- April 1939: Mussolini invades Albania
March 21, 1939: Britain pledges to support Poland
Hitler’s major concern: 2 front war

What idea is the cartoon trying to communicate?
September 1, 1939: Hitler invades Poland
- Used Blitzkrieg method: Luftwaffe, Panzer & SS
- Overran Poland in less than a month

September 3, 1939: Britain & France declare war on Germany
- Britain & France could only watch
- Soviet Union joined the German attack in mid-September
  - Stalin seized eastern Poland
WAR IN THE WEST

- Phony War & Sitzkrieg
- Maginot Line
GERMANY ATTACKS

- April 9, 1940: Hitler attacks Denmark & Norway
- May 10: Blitzkrieg on Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg
  - British were too late to help Belgium
- German troops skirt the Maginot Line invade France
Germany divided British & French troops; one in North & 1 in South

Forces in the North retreated to Dunkirk

Over 9 days: greatest rescue operation in the history of warfare

About 900 vessels carried about 340,000 troops across the English Channel
FALL OF FRANCE

- June 10: French government abandoned Paris
- Italy declared war on France & Britain
- June 14: German troops enter Paris
- June 22: France & 1.5 million soldiers surrender
FRANCE IS BROKEN UP

- Under control of Gen. Henri Petain
- Petain adopted a policy of collaboration with Germany
Free France, government in exile in London
Led by Gen. Charles de Gaulle
Backed the French Resistance/underground
By Summer 1940 Germany seemed to be on the verge of destroying the Allies.

Britain stood alone.
To beat Britain, Hitler would have to control the air
Aug 1940: Luftwaffe begins to target Britain’s air defenses
Battle of Britain begins; lasts into September
At first targeted only military interests
Later oil storage & factories
Late Aug. couple Germans accidently bomb London & Britain retaliates & Hitler orders bombing raids of cities
RAF was outnumbered but fiercely defended Britain

Pilots flew 6-7 missions a day

Raids ended in late 1941: about 20,000 Londoners killed; roughly 70,000 injured

Feb. 1940: British scientists cracked the Enigma code & knew Hitler’s plans

“WE SHALL FIGHT ON THE BEACHES, WE SHALL FIGHT ON THE LANDING GROUNDS, WE SHALL FIGHT IN THE FIELDS & IN THE STREETS, WE SHALL FIGHT IN THE HILLS; WE SHALL NEVER SURRENDER.”
~WINSTON CHURCHILL
Invasion of the Soviet Union

Operation Barbarossa began June 22, 1941 with the blitzkrieg attack of the Soviet Union.

The Soviets Red Army with 5 million men were unprepared, unequipped & untrained & unable to counter the German force who, after 1 week, was 500 miles into the Soviet Union.
German forces surrounded Leningrad & began to starve the city hoping it would surrender.

Hitler then began his drive to Moscow on October 2, 1941. By the time the Soviets launched a counterattack, winter was coming. Hitler gave the order of “No Retreat” & forces dug in until March 1943 when 500,000 Germans surrendered.
Japan had been expanding their empire since coming out of isolation in the mid-1850s.

- WWI: joined Allies & conquered several German possessions in the Pacific.
- Helped found the League of Nations; signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Japan’s economy hit hard in 1920s & 1930s.

- People blamed the new multiparty government for economic problems.
- Several radical nationalist groups formed due to the government’s perceived weakness & demanded a return to traditional ways.
THE MANCHURIAN INCIDENT

- Japan lacked the resources/land to support their exploding population (1930: 65 million)
  - Manchuria = coal & iron & land
- Sept. 1931: Japanese soldiers stationed in Manchuria invaded
- Britain & US: Japan violated Kellogg-Briand Pact but did nothing
- League of Nations: orders Japan to withdraw & Japan withdrew membership in L of N
- Began to develop bases in Manchuria for invasions in Asia
WAR AGAINST CHINA

- July 1937: resumed invasion of China
- Occupied Beijing & Tianjin & threatened N. China
- China: Civil War
- Nationalists: Jiang Jieshi
- Communists: Mao Zedong
- Japan had the advantage
- Rape of Nanjing: soldiers brutalized/killed about 100,000 Chinese
US: citizens favored isolation; FDR favored increased international involvement
Congress prevented involvement by passing Neutrality Acts
‘35: banned US from providing weapons to nations at war
‘36: banned loans
‘37: cash & carry: may trade with warring nations IF they pay cash & transport the goods themselves
Economy recovering = can focus on other issues

German & Japanese aggression softened many isolationist views
  - Still did not want to enter the war

FDR looked for ways to help Allies
  - Asked Congress to revise the Neutrality Acts
  - Revised to the point they no longer existed

After fall of France: all aid short of war
  - 50 destroyers to Britain

America First Committee protested
After election of 1940, FDR pushes for more involvement

Britain almost bankrupt & could not afford to pay US for supplies

March ’41: Congress passes Lend - Lease Act

- Aid any nation whose defense the President believed was vital to American security
- End of war: US had loaned or given away +$49 billion to 40 nations
EVENTS LEADING UP TO PEARL HARBOR

- July 1940: FDR limits what Japan can buy from US
- Sept ‘40: ends sales of scrap iron & steel
- Late ‘40: FDR freezes Japanese assets in US & cut off oil shipments
- Oct ’41: militant Gen. Tojo Hideki PM of Japan
- Nov. 27’41: US decoded Japanese messages: Japanese aircraft carriers on the move in the Pacific
  - Where? What were they planning?
  - Japan was hoping to hit US & take possessions in Pacific before US had a chance to strike back
December 7, 1941:
- 180 Japanese warplanes hit American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii in the 1st wave
- Over at 9:45
  - 2400 killed
  - 12000 wounded
  - 200 ships damaged/destroyed
  - 18 sunk/heavily damaged
  - Japan lost 29 planes

“I fear all we have done is awakened a sleeping giant” ~ Yamamoto

“Oh s$h#, they just joined the wrong war!” ~ Winston Churchill

#bringit #ohnoyoudidn’t
Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.
JAPANESE VICTORIES

- Seized Guam & Wake Island
- Launched an attack on the Philippines & reached the capital of Manila in January 1942, overwhelming American & Filipino forces on the Bataan Peninsula. Japanese then sent those POW’s on the Bataan Death March
9/1940: Congress authorizes 1st peacetime draft
Selectiv Training & Service Act: all males 21-36 must register for military service
Defense spending increased from $2 billion at beginning of ’40 to $10 billion
After the attack on Pearl Harbor tens of thousands of men volunteered to serve
ARMED FORCES

- **GI: Government Issue**
  - 16 million soldiers, sailors & aviators
  - +300,000 Mexican Americans
  - 25,000 Native Americans
    - +400 Navajo recruited by Marines as “code talkers”
  - Almost 1 million African Americans
    - Fought mainly in separate units: Tuskegee Airmen

- **Women**
  - Almost 350,000 volunteered
  - Clerks, typists, airfield control tower operators, mechanics, photographers, drivers...
WAR TIME PRODUCTION

- **1/1942: War Production Board established**
  - Direct the conversion of peacetime industry to wartime
  - Set priorities & allocated raw materials

- **5/1943: James F. Brynes named head of Office of War Mobilization**
  - Superagency in centralization of resources

- **Ford:** B-24 bombers

- **Kaiser:** Liberty Ships

- **By war’s end US had produced:**
  - 300,000 airplanes
  - 80,000 landing craft
  - 100,000 tanks & armored cars
  - 5600 merchant ships (2600 Liberty ships)
  - 6 million rifles, carbines & machine guns
  - 41 billion rounds of ammo
WORK FORCE
“THERE’S A WAR GOING ON, YOU KNOW”

- Unemployment virtually vanished
- Wages increased & so did inflation
- Union membership rose
  - about 4.5 million joined from ‘41-’45
  - Agreed to refrain from lockouts & strikes
    - Strikes increased ‘43 – ’45
    - 6/’43: Congress passed the Smith-Connally Act to limit future strikes
FINANCING THE WAR

- Federal spending
  - ‘39: $8.9 billion
  - ‘45: $95.2 billion
  - ‘41 – ’45: spent + $321 billion

- Taxes: 41%

- Rest borrowed
  - Banks, private investors & public
  - War Bonds
    - $186 billion

- Deficit spending
  - National debt
    - ‘40: $43 billion
    - ’45: $259 billion
SHORTAGES & CONTROLS

- People more optimistic = higher birth rate
- Shortages & controls
  - 4/‘41: Office of Price Administration established
    - Controlled rationing
    - Keep inflation under control
THE HOME FRONT

- Pop Culture
  - Read more books & magazines
  - Bought more music
  - Went to baseball games & movies

- Public Support
  - 6/’42: Office of War Information
    - Worked with magazine publishers, ad agencies & radio stations to stir patriotic feelings
    - Encouraged people to plant Victory Gardens, participate in “black outs” & recycle items
Germany’s 1st objective in the Mediterranean was North Africa because of alliance with Italy.

September 1940: Mussolini ordered his army to move east from Libya to seize British controlled Egypt.

Control of the Suez Canal was vital to gaining access to the Middle East oil fields.

In 1 week, Italian forces pushed 60 miles into Egypt; both sides then dug in & waited.
In December 1940, Britain decided to strike back & proved disastrous for Italy.

February 1941: Britain swept 500 miles across North Africa & had taken 130,000 Italian Prisoners & Hitler sent Gen. Irwin Rommel (aka: the Desert Fox) to Libya to command the Afrika Korps.

March 24: In an attempt to seize control of Egypt & the Suez Canal, Rommell attacked the British, who retreated 500 miles.

By January 1942, British forces drove Rommel back to where he had started. Rommel regrouped & pushed the British back across the desert. After shattering the Allies Rommel declared he would finish them off!
War in the Balkans

Hitler began to plan for an invasion of the Soviet Union, but needed to secure the Balkans so he could build bases to launch his attack from.

Bulgaria, Romania & Hungary joined the Axis in 1941. Yugoslavia & Greece resisted.

Sunday, April 6, 1941: Hitler invaded both countries. Yugoslavia fell in 11 days Greece in 17.
August 9, 1941: Churchill & Roosevelt meet to discuss the plan to retake Europe & principals to guide them through the war

- Atlantic Charter
- Becomes the foundation for the charter that formed the United Nations
BATTLE FOR THE ATLANTIC

- Needed to control shipping lanes & get supplies & food to Britain
- US used convoy system
  - Germany countered with submarine “wolf packs”
  - US began using long range sub hunting aircraft
RAF began to carry out long-range bombings of Germany & oil facilities in Romania

RAF adopts carpet bombing technique

Allies aimed to destroy Germany’s ability to fight the war with raids

Spring ‘43: Allied raids stepped up in preparation for invasion

7/28/’43: start of firebombing of Hamburg kills +40,000 civilians in 4 raids

‘44: British & American pilots running constant raids

- Americans: day
- British: night
- +3000 planes involved
Late 1943: British agreed to start planning on US Chief of Staff, George Marshall’s plan to retake Europe

Codename: Operation Overlord

- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower named Supreme Commander of Allied Forces
- British, Polish, Dutch, Belgian, French, American & Canadian forces participated
  - Built up military in southern Great Britain

Germany strengthens defenses on French coast

- An invasion was coming... where?
“You are about to embark upon a Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes 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. Your task will not be an easy one, Your enemy is well trained, well equipped, and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940 – 41. The united nations have inflicted upon 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 no the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and places at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men.

The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory! I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.”
~ Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower
June 5, 1944
June 6, 1944... shortly after midnight
4000 invasion craft & warships headed for France
1000 RAF bombers start hitting German defenses
23,000 British & American airborne dropped behind German lines

D-DAY IN NUMBERS

- 11,590 Aircraft
- 14,674 Sorties (Flight Missions)
- 6,039 Sea Vessels
- 127 Aircraft Lost
- 4,413 Allied Deaths
- 2,499 Americans
- 1,914 Other Allies
- 4,000-9,000 German Deaths
- 156,000 Troops Deployed
- 10,250 Casualties
  - 6,603 U.S.
  - 2,700 UK
  - 946 Canada

Source: D-Day Museum and The National D-Day Memorial | Picture: AFP/Getty | Graphic: Nural Choudhury
Dawn: full invasion launched
- 11,000 planes (1000 continued bombardment)
- 150,000 American troops
  - (175,000 total)
- 5000 ships

60 Nazi divisions stationed at Normandy (10,000 – 15,000 men per division)

60 miles of beach

Operation Fortitude convinced Hitler the attack would take place at Pas de Calais
Late July: about 2 million allied troops in France

Early August: Patton uses the blitzkrieg method to punch through German lines & get out of Normandy
- Swept across northern France

Paris: French Resistance started an uprising

8/25/44: Paris liberated & Gen. Charles de Gaulle returns

Belgium liberated by British & Canadian forces

Netherlands liberated in September
BATTLE OF THE BULGE

- Nazis desperate
  - Draft boys as young as 15
- 12/’44: Germany launches a counterattack in Belgium & Luxembourg & smash into US 1st Army
- Patton moves army to stop advance
- Under Gen. Omar Bradley, able to push Germans back in a few weeks
- Involved 600,000 soldiers
  - 80,000 KIA, wounded or captured
  - Germany lost 100,000 & realized the war was lost
WAR IN EUROPE ENDS

- 3/’45: Allies moves toward Berlin from west; Soviets advance from the East
- Soviets – “it’s payback time!”
  - 18 million Soviets killed by Nazis
- 4/’45: Soviets begin house-to-house combat to retake Berlin
- 4/25/’45: Soviets & American troops unite at Elbe River
GERMANY SURRENDERS

- Soviet army surrounds Berlin
  - Hitler: “I will not flee”
  - 4/30/’45: Committed suicide instead
- 5/8/’45: Germany’s remaining troops surrendered
- V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day)
- Still had to beat the Japanese
2/’45: Roosevelt, Churchill & Stalin met at Yalta

Made a plan for the defeat of Germany & how the post war world would look

- Split Germany & its capital, Berlin, into 4 occupation zones
  - Stalin: would allow for free elections – Ha! Yeah right!
Let the desolation which Jewish hybridization daily visits on your nation be clearly seen, this blood-poisoning that can be removed from our body national only after centuries or nevermore; let it be pondered, further, how racial decay drags down, indeed often annuls, the final Aryan values of our German nation...”

~Adolf Hitler

Mein Kampf 1925
NUREMBERG TRIALS

- Series of trials for Nazi leadership, concentration camp workers, Nazi doctors, those involved in mass killings, etc.
- You can no longer use the defense “I was just following orders.”
IN THE PACIFIC

- May ‘42: 76,000 American & Filipino soldiers taken POW
- Bataan Death March
  - 10,000 die on march
  - 15,000 die in camp
April ‘42: B-25 bombers, led by Lt. Col. James Doolittle, dropped bombs on Tokyo & other Japanese cities

Raid did little damage; moral victory for US
May ’42: 5 days

- Fought mainly by planes & battleships – new type of warfare
- Battle was a draw but it stopped Japanese expansion South, preventing an invasion of Australia
June 4, 1942
Japanese bomb American island defenses
Admiral Nimitz had planned an ambush
Japanese lost: 4 carriers & 250 planes
Japan now unable to launch any offensive operations in the Pacific
Allies goal: capture Guadalcanal
- Japanese building an airfield
- August ‘42: 11,000 Marines land; 2200 Japanese defended
- 5 months later: American Navy took control
- February ‘43: Japanese bug out
US strategy to retake Pacific islands

- 43-44: US seized
  - Solomon Islands
  - Marshall Islands
  - Mariana Islands

Now able to launch raids on Japan
Oct ’44 – Dec’44: 160,000 American troops invade Leyte
  - 80,000 Japanese killed; - 1000 surrendered

280 warships: 4 day battle
  - 1st time kamikaze planes used
  - American forces virtually destroyed the Japanese at sea

June ‘45: Americans finally control Philippines
  - 100,000 Filipino civilians killed
- 700 miles from Japan
- 600 Japanese guns protected
- **11/’44:** American bombers pound Japanese defenses
  - 74 days: 7000 tons of bombs & 20,000 shells dropped
- **Feb ’45:** Marines stormed beaches
  - 700 yards gained in 3 days
  - 110,000 Americans took 1 month to gain control
  - 25,000 Japanese defended; 216 taken POW
OKINAWA

- 350 miles from Japan
- April – June ’45
- 100,000 Japanese defenders (7200 surrendered)
- 1300 Allied warships
- 180,000 combat troops (50,000 casualties)
- Japanese flew almost 2000 kamikaze attacks
  - Soldiers made banzai attacks
Aug ‘39: Albert Einstein told FDR of Germany’s plan to create an atomic bomb

FDR developed the Manhattan Project to develop the bomb

July 16, 1945: successfully tested

J. Robert Oppenheimer

“Now I am become Death, the destroyer world”

~Bhagavad Gita: Hindu Holy Book
Our options:
1. Invasion of Japan (could cost min. 500,000 American lives)
2. Naval blockade (starve them into surrendering) & continued bombing raids
3. Demonstration of the atomic bomb
4. Softening surrender demands

Pres. Truman had to decide.

“You should do your weeping at Pearl Harbor”
~ Truman to critics: 1963
Aug 6, 1945: Enola Gay dropped “Little Boy” on Hiroshima
Aug 9, 1945: “Fat Man” dropped on Nagasaki
Aug 14, 1945: Japan accepts American terms of surrender
Formal surrender signed Sept. 2, 1945
Aug 15, 1945: VJ (Victory in Japan) Day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>War’s Impact</th>
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| Women               | • Women entered industrial workforce;  
                       • Issue: who takes care of the children  
                       • After the war: expected to leave the workforce & return home                                                                                     |
| African Americans   | • Economic discrimination; businesses “whites only” policy; FDR: Executive Order 8802 – ends discrimination in hiring practices  
                       • 2 million migrate to North: Many lived in poor housing; race riots  
                       • Military strictly segregated  
                       • CORE (Congress Of Racial Equality) founded: nonviolent techniques to end segregation; staged sit-ins |
| Mexican Americans   | • ’42: agreement between US & Mexico brings +200,000 laborers  
                       • Many lived in barrios  
                       • Zoot suit riots: 1943 – Mexican Americans v. American Sailors                                                                                   |
| Japanese Americans  | • After Pearl Harbor, those living on the West Coast ordered to “internment camps”  
                       • Korematsu v. US (1944): US violating civil rights; Supreme court ruled against  
                       • Not allowed to join military until ’43; 17,000 fought                                                                                          |
| Native Americans    | • 23,000 worked in industry  
                       • Many who went to war never returned to reservations                                                                                              |