Narrator: After World War One, American political and business leaders embrace isolationism, choosing to avoid getting involved in international politics and conflicts.

So, when World War Two breaks out in 1939, America attempts to remain on the sidelines.

As the Nazis make their way through Europe, President Roosevelt becomes increasingly concerned about the potential impact on American interests and begins to see a need to intervene, but the American public doesn't have much appetite for war.

In 1940, the Japanese form an alliance with the fascist regimes of Germany and Italy. At this time, America is trying to stop Japan's global expansion.

On the 7th of December 1941, the Japanese Air Force attacks the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in an attempt to gain control of the Pacific Ocean. Over 2,000 Americans are killed. Public opinion changes, and Roosevelt declares war on Japan.

Roosevelt: The Japanese have treacherously violated the long standing peace between us.

Narrator: Just days later, Nazi Germany declares war on America, and America immediately joins World War Two.

Although there are no grounds for suspicion, the American Government questions the allegiance of Japanese American citizens and removes over one hundred thousand from their homes, including children, detaining them in internment camps.

Massive spending on preparing America for war jumpstarts the economy, lifting the country further out of the economic depression.

The war effort reduces unemployment dramatically from 17% in 1939 to less than 2% in 1944.

People find employment in factories. While others serve in the armed forces, including more than one million African-Americans.

In the armed forces, as in civilian life, African Americans face racial segregation and are often made to do the least desirable work. Despite this, black soldiers throughout the forces, such as the Tuskegee Airmen, serve with courage and distinction.

African Americans fight for a 'Double Victory' – against Nazism overseas and against racism at home.

Black, immigrant and poorer white women have worked in factories for decades - but the war sees white middle-class women working in factories for the first time. By 1945, women make up over 35% of all American employees - up from around 25% in 1940.

When the war ends, many white Americans want to return to the same levels of power and privilege they had before the war – effectively requiring some women and people of colour to give up the ground they had gained.

Facing continued prejudice, many women along with other marginalised groups, still dream of a different America and they begin organising for change.