

Patriot Project



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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

Double-V Campaign

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The Double-V Campaign was a call for civil rights during World War II. Upon America entering WWII on December 7, 1941, we could still find a more personal war of racism continuing to rage in our nation between black and white Americans. In response to the beginning of WWII, a young activist named James Thompson wrote a letter to the Pittsburg Courier calling for a double victory at home concerning the war on racism and abroad concerning the war on fascism-thus the Double-V Campaign was born.

President Roosevelt refused to end the ever-present American war on racism until A. Philip Randolph threatened a march on Washington by millions of African Americans. Thus, the pressures of both the Double-V Campaign and the threat of the march on Washington prompted FDR to set up the Fair Employment Practice Committee and execute Executive Order 8802 which banned discrimination in the defense industry. Military integration was finally becoming a reality in America.

Key figures in the Double-V Campaign

Phillip Randolph	Planned a March on Washington D.C.
James Thompson	Wrote a letter to the Pittsburg Courier to begin campaign to help alleviate racial issues
W.E.B. DuBois	Encouraged African Americans to fight war to attain civil rights
FDR	Signed Executive Order 8802 banning employment in the defense industry

Quote from the editor of the Pittsburg Courier

“We call upon the President and Congress to declare war on Japan and against racial prejudice in our country.”

Sources

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