**Standard 8-6:** The student will understand the impact of Reconstruction, industrialization, and Progressivism on society and politics in South Carolina in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Enduring Understanding:**

South Carolina’s response to national crises during the first half of the twentieth century brought it back into full participation in the national experience. To understand the state’s changed status, the student will . . .

**8-6.5 Compare the ramifications of World War II on South Carolina and the United States as a whole, including the training of the Doolittle Raiders and the Tuskegee Airmen, the building of additional military bases, the rationing and bond drives, and the return of economic prosperity.**

**It is essential for students to know:**

World War II had a significant impact on South Carolina just as it did on the rest of the country. Immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States was anxious to retaliate against the Japanese, whose sneak attack had brought the United States out of isolationism and into the war in Europe as well as the Pacific. A group of bomber pilots under the leadership of James Doolittle trained in Columbia to engage in an air attack to be launched from aircraft carriers on Tokyo. The attack helped to lift the morale of Americans.

Even before Pearl Harbor the United States government was drafting young men into the armed services and preparing for war. Military camps that had been established during World War I in South Carolina reopened to serve as training bases for the thousands of young men drafted into the armed services Camp Jackson in Columbia became Fort Jackson. The Charleston Navy yards increased production of destroyers. South Carolinian James F. Byrnes helped to guide the Lend Lease plan that offered support to the allies in their fight against the Germans through Congress and later served as the director of war mobilization. The economy of South Carolina and the United States began to climb out of the Great Depression as the result of government spending on war preparations.

African American pilots were trained at the air base at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Commanded by white officers, the Tuskegee airmen supported the allied invasion of Italy. Then they were assigned to escort heavy bombers on raids against strategic enemy targets. This air campaign was directed at weakening Germany prior to the D-Day invasion. Several of the Tuskegee airmen earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the airmen proved that African American pilots could shoot down enemy aircraft as well as or better than white air crews. African American soldiers served in segregated units commanded by white officers in the fight for freedom. When they returned to the states many were determined to fight to end segregation.

The Tuskegee Airmen and the bravery and sacrifice of other African American members of the military opened the doorway for other African Americans to serve in the military and for the desegregation of the military in the postwar period.

Many South Carolinians served in the armed forces but many others were not fit for service. One third of young white men and one half of black men were either illiterate or in such poor health that they could not serve. This was a startling indication of the poverty of South Carolina. But war brought some prosperity. War mobilization meant more jobs at home and the wartime population of South Carolina cities grew with a resulting impact on area businesses. Farmers were shorthanded but women and children worked in the fields to bring in bumper crops.

Just as people did throughout the United States, South Carolinians collected scrap metal and rubber for the war effort. They used ration books to get their share of the short supply of food and fuel and they bought war bonds to fund the war effort. When the war was over they had savings to use to buy the automobiles and goods that were not available during the war. When V-E Day and V-J Day finally arrived, South Carolina and the United States were poised to enter a period of prosperity.