

America Goes to War

"Review It" — Excerpt from a transcript of President Harry Truman's radio address.

Directions: As you read, identify the main idea of the text. See if you can also identify three details. You can underline or circle text, or use a highlighter marker.

"This is a solemn but a glorious hour. I only wish that Franklin D. Roosevelt had lived to witness this day. General Eisenhower informs me that the forces of Germany have surrendered to the United Nations. The flags of freedom fly over all Europe...

Our rejoicing is sobered and subdued by a supreme consciousness of the terrible price we have paid to rid the world of Hitler and his evil band. Let us not forget, my fellow Americans, the sorrow and the heartache which today abide in the homes of so many of our neighbors—neighbors whose most priceless possession has been rendered as a sacrifice to redeem our liberty.

We can repay the debt which we owe to our God, to our dead and to our children only by work—by ceaseless devotion to the responsibilities which lie ahead of us. If I could give you a single watchword for the coming months, that word is—work, work, and more work.

We must work to finish the war. Our victory is but half-won. The West is free, but the East is still in bondage to the treacherous tyranny of the Japanese. When the last Japanese division has surrendered unconditionally, then only will our fighting job be done...

I call upon every American to stick to his post until the last battle is won. Until that day, let no man abandon his post or slacken his efforts..."

— President Harry Truman, May 8, 1945

Vocabulary used in excerpt:

Subdued: Brought under control.

Source: FDR Presidential Library and Museum, <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/fourfreedoms>