### How did WW2 affect Singapore?

#### Post-War Problems

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| Shortage of food | - Traditionally, Singapore relied on imports to meet food needs  
- After war, rice-producing countries did not have extra rice to sell  
- War had destroyed large number of ships that were used to transport food  
- Ships that were sunk (and mines that were laid) during the war blocked the harbour  
- Lack of warehouses for use due to bombing  
- Resulted in a serious shortage of food  
- Caused food prices to rise many times above pre-war prices.  
- Shortage of goods also created a lively black market | - The harbour was cleared (of wrecks and mines) to facilitate imports  
- Trade links were re-established  
- Docks were repaired  
- New warehouses were constructed to store commodities brought in  
- Rationing was introduced  
- Price control for essential foodstuff were imposed  
- People’s Restaurants were set up to provide meals at affordable prices (25 – 35 cents)  
- Family Restaurants was set up to help the very poor (8 cents meal)  
- Feeding centres were set up in some clinics and schools for children under 6 | - Some could not afford even 35 cents meals  
- Problem continued into the 1950s |

| Lack of Housing | - Many houses were destroyed during the war  
- Shortage of houses resulted in rapid rise of rents  
- People who could not afford the high rents had to squeeze into overcrowded buildings, leading to sanitation problems  
- Conditions in the city were so bad that some people moved out of the city and became squatters | - Rent Control Act was introduced to stop landlords from raising rents and forcing tenants out which helped to prevent more people from becoming homeless  
- The government also built some flats to help ease the shortage | - Surge in Demand due to rapid increase of population (to 1 million in 1950s from 400,000 before the war)  
- The flats built were insufficient to cope with demand  
- Overcrowded and unhygienic conditions thus continued |
| Lack of Public Utilities | - Disruption of water, electricity and gas supplies  
| - Streets were filthy, unlit and unsafe, particularly at night | - Japanese POWs were used to help repair the water mains and machinery in power stations  
| - Chlorine was imported to treat water so that it was safe for drinking |
| Unemployment | - Thousands of jobs created by the Japanese disappeared with the return of the British  
| - Many had to take up odd jobs such as cleaning airport runways or accept any job offer, regardless of the low salaries  
| - Problem was made worse by the change in currency which left many penniless | - Labour exchange set up at Havelock Road to match skills of unemployed to needs of employers  
| - Factories were restarted |
| Poor Health Conditions | - Death rate in 1945 was twice that of pre-war  
| - Hospitals were short of equipment and medicine  
| - Many people suffered from malnutrition and smallpox | - Island-wide health campaign launched in Oct 1945  
| - Vaccinations against infectious diseases like tuberculosis were made available  
| - SATA was formed by businessmen and doctors |
| Disruption of Education | - (Secondary) Education was disrupted during Japanese Occupation  
| - Schools lacked proper facilities and teaching materials | - Orders for teaching materials and other essentials were placed  
| - Education was provided free to the needy (those receiving emergency relief)  
| - Institutions like King Edward Medical College and Raffles College were started |
| How did WW2 affect Singapore? | Post-War Problems  
| - The rapid growth in population led to tough competition for jobs  
| - Problem continued well into the 1950s.  
| - Efforts were inadequate in face of growing population  
| - Poor health conditions were made worse by the overcrowded living conditions  
| - As a result, diseases like tuberculosis were widespread  
| - Increased demand due to rapidly growing population  
| - Increased intake in early years due to those who had missed school during Japanese Occupation |