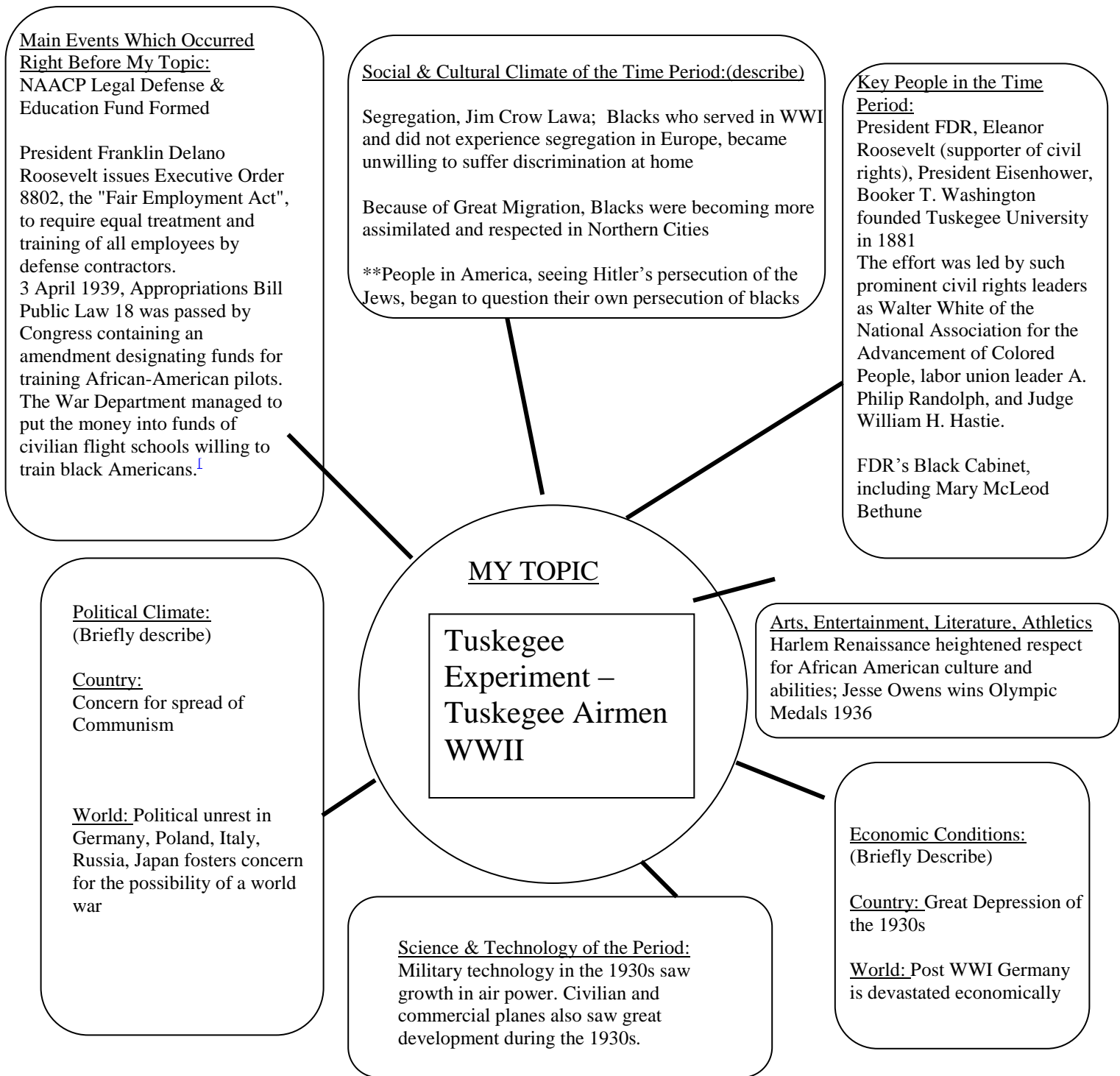


# PLACING MY TOPIC IN THE BIG PICTURE - HISTORICAL CONTEXT



**CHALLENGES:** From all accounts, the training of the Tuskegee Airmen was an experiment established to prove that "coloreds" were incapable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft. Stationed in the segregated south, the black cadets were denied rifles. Tests given the blacks were designed to show their incapability, but the airmen showed they were ready and capable of serving in the military.

Pres. GW Bush said of the airmen, when awarding medal recently, "They were fighting two wars. One was in Europe, and the other took place in the hearts and minds of our citizens."

**ALTERNATE PERSPECTIVES:** Some civil rights activists feared that a separate unit of blacks would further segregate the military.

