APUSH
1930’s-1941
ROAD TO
WORLD WAR II
REVIEWED!
American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 34
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 25-26
America’s History (Henretta) Chapter 24
FDR’s FOREIGN POLICY

• U.S. opens up formal recognition of the Soviet Union
  – Worried about growing power of Germany
  – Possible trade with Soviets

• Roosevelt attempts to improve relations with Latin America
  – Good Neighbor policy: U.S. denounces armed intervention

• Reciprocal Trade Agreement (1934): reduction of U.S. tariffs if other countries do the same
During the 1930s various totalitarian regimes emerge
- Italy: Mussolini Fascist’s party comes to power in 1922
- Soviet Union: Stalin
- Germany: Adolf Hitler & Nazi party comes to power in 1933
- Japan: Militaristic govt. comes to power under Hideki Tojo in 1941

These countries began to militarize and expand their borders
- Japan conquers Manchuria in 1931 (threatens Open Door policy)
- Japan withdraws from League of Nations and begins to build up their navy
- Italy attacks Ethiopia in 1935
Many Americans were disillusioned with their participation in WWI

American bankers and arms manufactures caused U.S. entry into WWI
Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts (1935, 36, 37) designed to keep the U.S. neutral in the event of a conflict:

- No American citizen could sail on the ships of belligerent nations.
- Outlawed arms (weapons) sales.
- No loans to nations at war.
- The U.S. could not help out even if a country was the innocent victim of aggression.
Policy of Appeasement

- **Spanish Civil War**: Fascist government of Francisco Franco overthrew the Loyalist govt.
- Hitler openly violated the Treaty of Versailles
  - Occupied Rhineland (1936)
  - Built up German military
  - Annexed Austria (1938)
  - Demands the Sudetenland
- **Munich Conference**: Leaders agree to hand over the Sudetenland to Germany
  - Hitler agrees not to demand any more land
- Munich Conference comes to symbolize the failed policy of appeasement
- **Japan** invades China in 1937
  - Threatens the Open Door policy
  - Japan sinks U.S. gunboat “Panay”
WORLD WAR II BEGINS

• Germany and the Soviet Union sign a Non-Aggression Pact on August 23, 1939
  – This allows Hitler to attack Poland without having to worry about a two front war
  – Hitler and Stalin secretly agree to divide Poland between them

• September 1st 1939
  Germany invades Poland

• WW 2 begins (1939-45)

• By June 1940 Hitler had quickly conquered most of Europe

• The U.S. remains neutral
  – Did not want the Axis powers to win
U.S. Slowly gets Involved

- Faced with the prospect of Hitler taking over all of Europe, Congress amends the Neutrality legislation.
- **Neutrality Act (1939):** Countries could buy weapons as long as they paid for them in cash and carried them in their own ships ("cash and carry")
  - Are we really neutral?
- By June 1940 most of France is defeated.
- Sept. 1940 the 1st peace time conscription law is adopted.
- Germany begins bombing England (Battle of Britain, Aug. 1940)
• Huge debate in the U.S. regarding what policy to pursue
• Committee to Defend America advocated helping England & the allies
• America First Committee: opposed U.S. involvement
• Destroyers for Bases: Sept. 1940 the U.S. would give England U.S. destroyers in exchange for military bases in the Western Hemisphere.
• 1940 Election: FDR breaks 2 term tradition of Washington and wins an unprecedented 3rd term
LEND LEASE ACT

- FDR worried about threat of Axis power victory
- **Lend Lease Bill** (March 1941) eliminated the cash-carry requirements
  - The U.S. would send supplies to countries that were the victim of aggression.
  - By being “the great arsenal of democracy” the United States would avoid having to fight
- No question the U.S. was not truly neutral
  - Economic declaration of war
  - U.S. factories shift to all out war production (bye Great Depression)
- **Operation Barbarossa**: June 22, 1941 Hitler invades the Soviet Union
**Close to War**

- **Allied Convoy System**: U.S. begins escorting lend-lease supplies across the Atlantic ocean

- **Atlantic Conference**: FDR & Churchill secretly met off the coast of Newfoundland
  - Atlantic Charter outlined postwar goals
    - self determination
    - free trade
    - no territorial gains
    - new collective security organization
    - etc.

- However, U.S. entry into World War II will NOT come as a result of events in Europe
• The U.S. was alone in trying to check Japanese expansion in Asia
• Roosevelt orders an embargo against Japan (steel, iron, etc.)
• Japan occupies French Indochina (July 1941)
• Roosevelt orders all Japanese assets frozen and a ban on oil sales

• Negotiations occur between the U.S. and Japan
• December 7th 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor attacked
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