

**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

# RISE OF TOTALITARIANISM

- 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



# Nye Commission- 1934

- Many Americans were disillusioned with their participation in WWI
- American bankers and arms manufactures caused U.S. entry into WWI





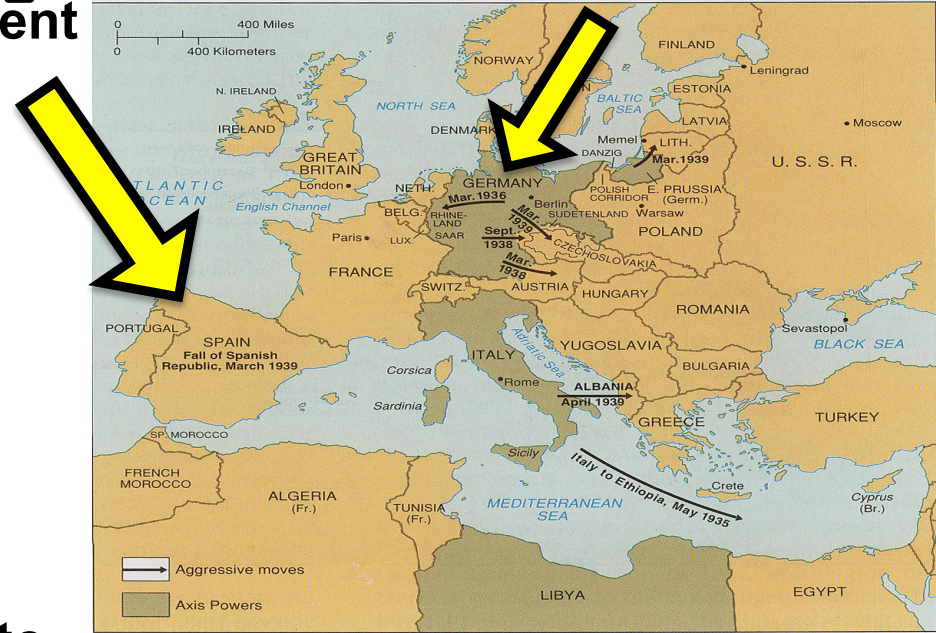
# Congress Legislates Neutrality



- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> peace time conscription law** is adopted
- Germany begins bombing England (**Battle of Britain**, Aug. 1940)





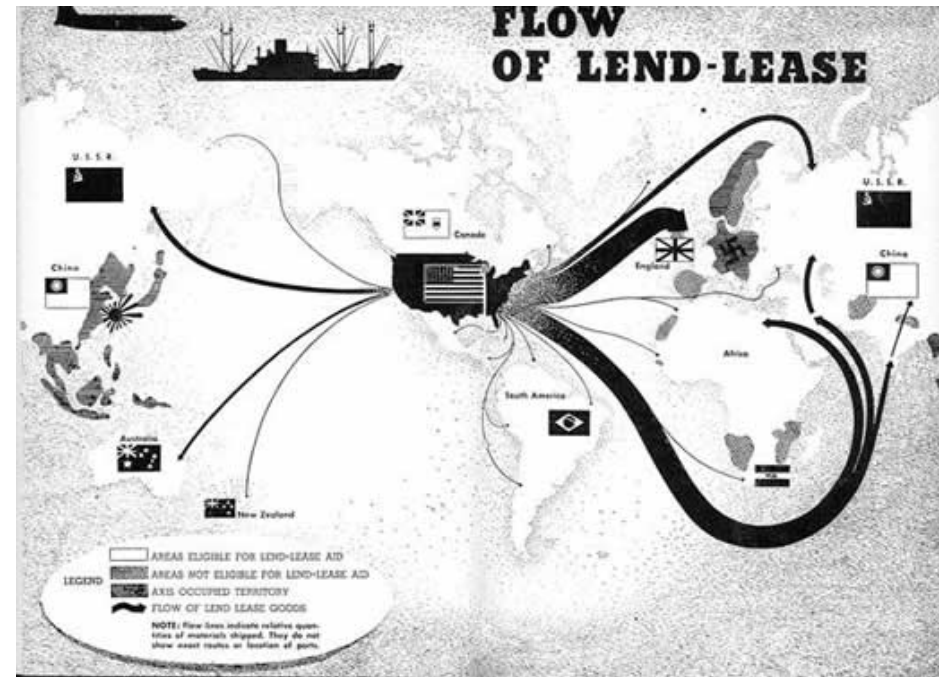
# U.S. Involvement Increases

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> term



# LEND LEASE ACT

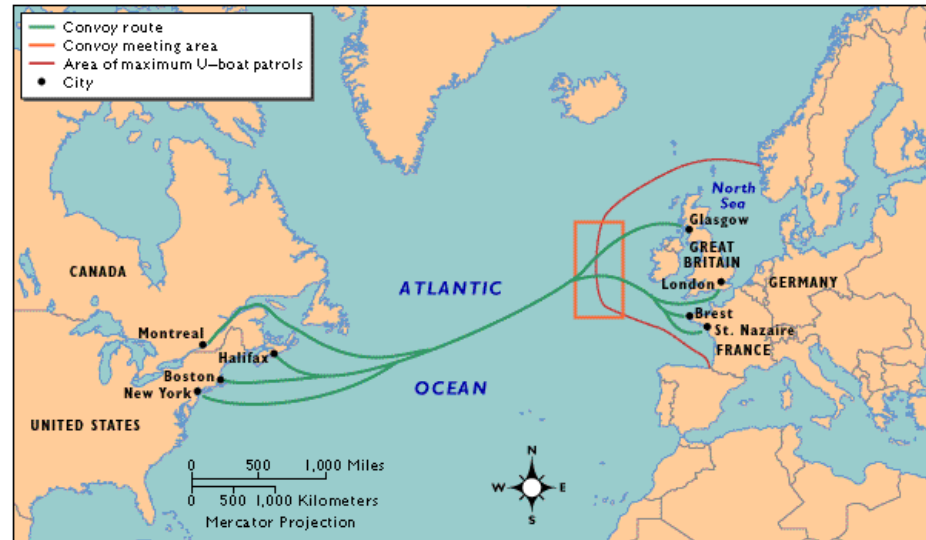
- FDR worried about threat of Axis power victory
- **Lend Lease Bill** (March 1941) eliminated the cash-carry requirements
  - The U.S. would send supplies to countries that were the victim of aggression.
  - By being “**the great arsenal of democracy**” the United States would avoid having to fight
- 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

Convoy System



# BEEF WITH JAPAN

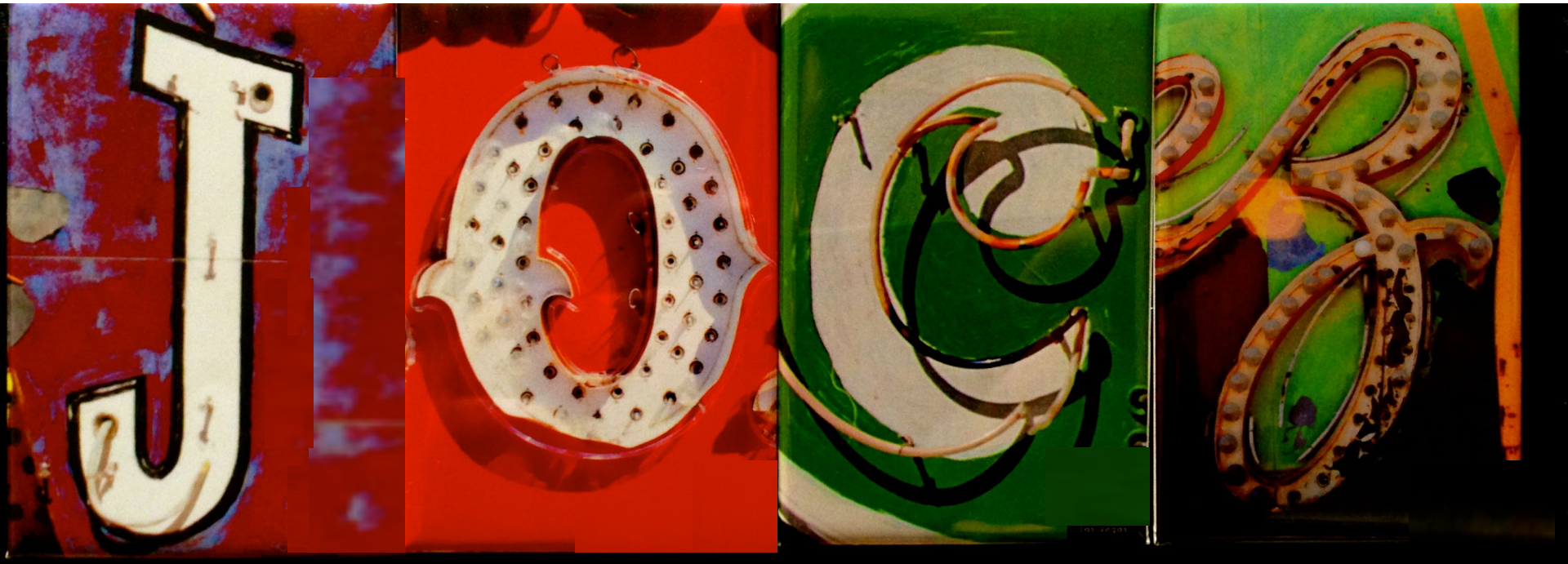
- The U.S. was alone in trying to check Japanese expansion in Asia
- Roosevelt orders an **embargo** against Japan (steel, iron, etc.)
- Japan **occupies French Indochina** (July 1941)
- Roosevelt orders all **Japanese assets frozen** and a **ban on oil sales**



- **Negotiations occur between the U.S. and Japan**
- **December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor attacked**



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