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

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.

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 peacetime 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 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

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 7th 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor attacked