

Topic/Objective: Foreign Policy Between the World Wars (1920-1941)	Name: <u>Zakes</u>
	Class/Period:
	Date:

Essential Question: How did World War I impact American foreign policy during the next two decades? How did America react to the outbreak of World War II? What factors led to American involvement in World War II?

Process your notes (create questions or visuals)

Notes:

Why did we adopt a policy of isolationism / neutrality after World War I?

- ★ World War I was a MISTAKE !
 - World War I was the first time that America had broken George Washington's advice!
 - Death and destruction of the war traumatized Americans (over 300,000 casualties in one year of fighting)
 - Public believes that the war was fought to enrich big business
 - Belief that geography (oceans) would protect us from another conflict!
- Treaty of Versailles did NOT make world safe for democracy.

Describe some examples of isolationism in the 1920's

- ★ Disarmament campaign: reduce size of the world's militaries
 - Washington Conference (1921-22): restrictions on the number of battleships/carriers that could be built by Britain, Japan, and U.S., France, and Italy
 - Kellogg-Briand Pact : Outlawed offensive wars – only defensive wars were justified. Signed by 62 nations
- ★ The Nye Committee Hearings investigated the charge that the US entered World War I so munitions owners could make big profits (merchants of death)
 - Claimed that Wilson had provoked Germany by trading with Great Britain while it was at war with Germany
- ★ Ludlow Amendment : A **proposed** amendment to the Constitution that called for a national referendum on any declaration of war by Congress.
 - Never actually passed.
- ★ Neutrality Acts (1935, 1936, 1937)
 - Prohibited sale of weapons to belligerent nations.
 - Prohibited banks from issuing loans to belligerent nations.
 - Forbade Americans from travelling on vessels of nations at war [in contrast to WW I].
 - Non-military goods must be purchased on a "cash-and-carry" basis (pay when goods are picked up)
- ★ "America First" Committee: created by Charles Lindberg – an American celebrity - to promote American isolationism

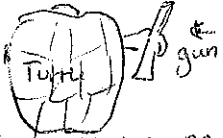
Fascist Aggression

- ❖ 1935: Hitler denounced the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations by re-building German military; Mussolini invades Ethiopia
- ❖ 1936: German troops sent into territory lost due to Treaty of Versailles (Rhineland)
Hitler sends forces to help a fascist revolution in Spain
- ❖ 1938: Hitler sends forces into Austria and annexes Austria; Axis alliance is created between Germany, Japan, and Italy; Munich Agreement is signed, allowing Hitler to annex portions of Czechoslovakia (Appeasement)
- ❖ 1939: German troops march into the rest of Czechoslovakia; Hitler signs non-aggression pact with Stalin (Soviet Union)
- ❖ September 1, 1939: German troops march into Poland; Britain and France declare war on Germany and World War II Begins!!

What is happening in Europe while America is isolated?

Moving Towards War:

- ❖ Neutrality Act (1939):
 - ❖ Why: In response to Germany's invasion of Poland.
 - ❖ What: FDR persuades Congress to help European democracies in a limited way:
 - The US could sell weapons to the European democracies on a "cash and carry" basis.
 - ❖ Effects: America becomes the "Arsenal of Democracy"
 - America will supply our friends with the weapons they need to fight fascism
- ❖ Destroyers for Bases Deal (1940)
 - Why: In response to the fall of France and Hitler's air assault on Great Britain
 - Britain badly needs airplanes but its ships carrying airplanes from U.S. factories are sunk by German U-Boats
 - What: FDR trades old naval destroyers for 8 British islands throughout western hemisphere that can be used as defensive posts against Nazi invasion of United States
- ❖ Lend-Lease Act (1941)
 - Why: Battle of Britain continues to threaten Britain
 - What: America would "loan" Allies an unlimited amount of weapons
 - USA would transport them across the Atlantic! No more "cash and carry"
 - "When your neighbor's house is on fire, you don't haggle over the price of the garden hose" - FDR (Fire = fascism)
 - Effect: Undeclared naval war between U.S. and Germany
- ❖ Atlantic Charter (1941)
 - Why: In response to German invasion of Soviet Union (June 1941)
 - What: FDR and Churchill sign document agreeing to destruction of Nazi Germany on paper
 - Effect: Sets the stage for American participation in war against Germany



Still in shell but giving weapons to Allies

Describe how

the U.S. is

slowly drawn

into WW II

Japanese Aggression

What causes America to abandon its policy of isolationism and enter World War II?

- ◇ During the 1920s, extreme nationalism led to a growing belief in the need for Japan to imperialize and dominate its neighbors in Asia
 - In early 1930s, the Japanese military assassinated a number of political leaders and put military leaders in key political positions, with the support of Emperor Hirohito
 - Throughout the 1930s, the Japanese military expanded throughout the Pacific, seeking to create the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in order to expel western countries from Asia and install Japan as the superior power among all Asian nations
 - Japan invaded Manchuria, Korea, China, Vietnam throughout 1930s, refusing calls from the League of Nations to stop their aggression
- ❖ 1940: Fearing Japanese expansion into U.S. held territories like the Philippines, FDR imposes an economic embargo on Japan
- ❖ Early-1941: FDR moves US Pacific Fleet from San Diego to Pearl Harbor to defend US possessions in Pacific
 - Japan: America has become an obstacle to future expansion and developed plans to attack Pearl Harbor.
 - December 7, 1941: Japanese achieve complete surprise and cripple U.S. Navy/battleships at Pearl Harbor.
 - Japan failed to destroy America's four aircraft carriers which were not stationed at Pearl Harbor at the time of attack
 - FDR asked Congress for a declaration of war the following day.
 - Germany and Italy fulfill their alliance with Japan by declaring war on the United States

According to Franklin D. Roosevelt, what is America fighting for in World War II?

^{asks for} FDR's Declaration of War:

- Japan deliberately deceived the US into thinking peace negotiations were possible - then attacked. = planned & unprovoked
- Japan's attacks occurred throughout the Pacific - Not just Hawaii - US must retaliate and defend ourselves
- Japan, Germany, Italy ⇒ "gangsters" who fight dirty - there is no safety until they are defeated.
(Good vs. Evil)

◦ Make the world safe for our children - defeat the evil power of Japan, Germany & Italy

"The Good War" = noble cause worth fighting for

- safety of free nations
- to end the threat of international "gangsters"
- for survival (no longer protected by oceans & distance)

- To save the world from the forces of evil

