Chapter 33

Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Shadow of War, 1933–1941

I. The London Conference

- London Economic Conference 1933:
  - Roosevelt’s early foreign policy subordinated to his strategy for domestic economic recovery:
    - Delegates hoped to coordinate international attack on global depression
      - By stabilizing values of currencies and rate of exchange
      - Exchange-rate stabilization essential to revival of world trade

The London Conference

- 66 nations are called to London to deal with conference on Worldwide Depression
- US at first agrees, but then declines and scolds the international group. (WHY?)
- As a result they get nothing done (What does this say about US? What does this cause?)

Results of the Withdrawal

- FDR’s every-man-for-himself attitude plunged the planet even deeper into economic crisis
- Began a global trend toward extreme nationalism
- Played into the hands of the power-mad dictators

I. The London Conference (cont.)

- Roosevelt and conference:
  - First thought of sending a delegation, including Secretary of State Cordell Hull but then had concerns about conference’s agenda
    - Wanted to pursue inflationary policies at home to stimulate American recovery
    - International agreement to maintain value of dollar might tie his hands
  - FDR unwilling to sacrifice possibility of domestic recovery for sake of international cooperation
I. The London Conference (cont.)

- FDR scolded conference for attempting to stabilize currency
  - Essentially declared America’s withdrawal from negotiations
- Delegates adjourned empty-handed, amid cries of American bad faith
- Roosevelt’s attitude of every-man-for-himself plunged planet even deeper into economic crisis

I. The London Conference (cont.)

- Conference collapse strengthened global trend toward extreme nationalism
- Made international cooperation even more difficult
- Reflected powerful persistence of American isolationism
- Played into hands of dictators determined to shatter world peace
- America would pay high price for trying to go it alone in modern world

II. Freedom for (from?) the Filipinos and Recognition for the Russians

- Roosevelt matched isolation from Europe with withdrawal from Asia
  - Great Depression burst McKinley’s imperialistic dream in Far East
  - Americans taxpayers eager to reject expensive liability of Philippine Islands
  - Organized labor demanded exclusion of low-wage Filipino workers
  - American sugar producers clamored for elimination of Philippine competition

Freedom for the Filipinos and Recognition for the Russians

- With depression Americans wanted to get rid of Philippines: 12 year plan
- Kept Naval Bases (why?)
- Recognized the Soviet Union
  - How are these related? Hint

Freedom for the Filipinos

- 1934 - Tydings-McDuffie Act
  - Provided for the independence of the Philippines after a 12 year period of economic & political tutelage
  - US agreed to relinquish its army bases but not naval bases
  - Instead of freeing the Filipinos, Americans were freeing themselves

Recognition for the Russians

- FDR formally recognized the Soviet Union in 1933
  - Against protest of anticommunist conservatives
- FDR was hoping for trade with the Soviet Union
  - Also wanted to be friendly to Soviet Union to help against possible German threat
II. Freedom for (from?) the Filipinos and Recognition for the Russians

– Congress passed Tydings-McDuffie Act 1934:
  • Provided for independence of Philippines after 12-year period of economic and political tutelage (1946)
  • United States agreed to relinquish army bases
  • Naval bases reserved for future discussion—and retention
  • Americans not so much giving freedom to Philippines as freeing themselves from them
  • Americans proposed to leave Filipinos to their own fate
  • While imposing upon Filipinos economic terms so ungenerous as to threaten their future economy

II. Freedom for (from?) the Filipinos and Recognition for the Russians

– Once again American isolationists rejoiced
  • Roosevelt made one internationalist gesture when:
    – He formally recognized Soviet Union in 1933
    – He extended diplomatic recognition despite:
      » Noisy protests of anti-communist conservatives
      » Roman Catholics offended by Kremlin’s antireligious policies
    – FDR motivated by trade with Soviet Russia
    – And hoped to bolster Soviet Russia as counterweight to Germany in Europe and Japan in Asia

III. Becoming a Good Neighbor

• Roosevelt inaugurated refreshing new era in relations with Latin America:
  – Proclaimed in inaugural address “policy of the Good Neighbor”
  • Suggested U.S.A. giving up ambition to be world power
  • Would content itself with being regional power
  • Interests and activities confined to Western Hemisphere
  • FDR eager to line up Latin Americans to help defend Western Hemisphere

Becoming a Good Neighbor

• Wanted to prove that US was good to Latin America and regional not world power. (Why do we shy from world stage?)
• Pan-American Conference
  • USA pulls out of Latin America
  • Remains peaceful even as Mexicans try to take advantage (What happened?)

FDR’s Good Neighbor Policy

• Goal: create good relations with Latin America
• FDR renounced armed intervention
  – Formally endorsed it at the 7th Pan-American Conference
• 1934 – Marines left Haiti
• Cuba was released from the Platt Amendment
  – US naval base at Guantánamo Bay was retained
• 1936 – Grip on Panama was relaxed
Good Neighbor Policy is Tested

- 1938 – Problems in Mexico
  - Mexican gov’t seized Yankee oil properties
  - US investors demanded intervention
  - Settlement was worked out (1941) even though the oil companies lost money
- Policy was applauded by Latin Americans

III. Becoming a Good Neighbor (cont.)

- Panama received similar uplift in 1936:
  - When U.S.A. relaxed grip on isthmus nation
- **Good Neighbor policy:**
  - Accent on consultation and nonintervention
  - Received acid test in Mexico:
    - Mexican government seized Yankee oil properties in 1934
    - American investors demanded armed intervention to repossess confiscated businesses
    - Roosevelt resisted badgering and settlement made in 1941

III. Becoming a Good Neighbor (cont.)

- Success of Roosevelt’s Good Neighbor policy:
  - Paid dividends in goodwill among Latin Americans
  - No other U.S. citizen has been held in such high regard as FDR in Latin America
  - Colossus of North now seemed less a vulture and more an eagle

IV. Secretary Hull’s Reciprocal Trade Agreements

- Chief architect Secretary of State Hull believed:
  - Trade a two-way street
  - A nation can only sell abroad as it buys abroad
  - Tariff barriers choke off foreign trade
  - Trade wars beget shooting wars
- **Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act 1934:**
  - Designed to lift U.S. export trade hurt by depression
  - Aimed at both relief and recovery
  - Activated low-tariff policies of New Dealers (see tariff chart in Appendix)
Reciprocal Trade Agreements

- Headed by Sec of State Hull
  - Believed trade was a 2 way street: a nation can sell abroad only as it buys abroad
  - Tariff barriers choked off foreign trade & trade wars beget shooting wars

- Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act - 1934
  - Aimed at both relief & recovery

- Amended the Hawley-Smoot Law
  - FDR could lower rates by as much as 50%
  - However, the other country involved had to do the same
  - Effective without congressional approval

- Reversed the high-protective-tariff policy

IV. Secretary Hull's Reciprocal Trade Agreements (cont.)

- Avoided dangers of wholesale tariff revision:
  - Whittled down most objectionable schedules of Hawley-Smoot law by amending them:
    - Empowered president to lower existing rate by as much as 50% in agreements with other countries willing to respond with similar reductions
    - Agreements effective without formal approval of Senate
    - Ensured speedier action and sidestepped twin evils of high-stakes logrolling and high-pressure lobbying in Congress
  - Hull successfully negotiated pacts with 21 countries by end of 1939
  - U.S. foreign trade increased appreciably

IV. Secretary Hull's Reciprocal Trade Agreements (cont.)

- Trade agreements improved economic and political relations with Latin America
- Proved to be influence for peace in war-bent world

- Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act:
  - Landmark piece of legislation
  - Reversed high-protective-tariff policy that had existed unbroken since Civil War
  - Had so damaged American and international economies following World War I
  - Paved way for American-led free-trade international economic system that took shape after WWII

V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism

- Spread of totalitarianism:
  - Individual is nothing; state is everything
  - Communist USSR led way:
    - Ruthless Joseph Stalin emerged as dictator
    - In 1936 he began to purge USSR of all suspected dissidents:
      - Executed hundreds of thousands
      - Banished millions to remote Siberian forced-labor camps
  - Benito Mussolini, a Fascist, seized power in Italy in 1922

Impulses Toward Storm-Center Isolationism

- Hitler – Germany (What happened?)
- Stalin – Russia (How?)
- Mussolini – Italy (What’s Fascism?)
- Japan walks out of treaty
- Ethiopia?
- Where the hell is America? Hint:
V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism
(cont.)

– Adolf Hitler, a fanatic who plotted and harangued his way to control of Germany in 1933
  • Most dangerous dictator because he combined tremendous power with impulsiveness
  • Secured control of Nazi party by making political capital of Treaty of Versailles and Germany’s depression-spawned unemployment
  • Withdrew Germany from League of Nations in 1933
  • Began clandestinely (and illegally) rearming
  • 1936: Hitler and Mussolini allied themselves in Rome-Berlin Axis

Dictators Emerge

● After WWI, spread of totalitarianism
  – USSR – Joseph Stalin (Communism)
  – Italy – Benito Mussolini (Fascist)
  – Germany – Adolf Hitler (NAZI)

● Hitler was the most dangerous
  – Appealed to the German resentment of the Treaty of Versailles & Germany’s high unemployment

● Japan also resented the Treaty of Versailles
  – Also wanted more land

Problems Begin

● Japan
  – 1934 – gave notice of termination of the Washington Naval Treaty
    ● Started building up military

● Mussolini
  – 1935 – attacked Ethiopia

● Actions in Europe reinforced American isolationism
  – 1934 – Johnson Debt Default Act – prevented debt-dodging nations from borrowing further from the US

V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism
(cont.)

● International gangsterism also spread in Far East:
  – Imperial Japan, like Germany and Italy
    » A so-called have-not power
    » Resented ungenerous Treaty of Versailles
    » Demanded additional space for its teeming millions, cooped up in crowded island nation
  – Japanese navalists not to be denied:
    » Gave notice in 1934 of termination of 12-year-old Washington Naval Treaty
V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism (cont.)

– In 1935 in London, Japan torpedoed all hope of effective naval disarmament
  • When denied complete parity, they walked out of multipower conference
  • And accelerated construction of giant battleships
  • 1935: Japan quit League of Nations
  • Five years later joined arms with Germany and Italy in Tripartite Pact

V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism (cont.)

– Mussolini brutally attacked Ethiopia in 1935
  • Brave defenders speedily crushed
  • League could have crushed Mussolini with oil embargo but refused to do so
– Isolationism in America boosted by alarms from abroad:
  • America believed encircling sea gave her immunity
  • Continued to suffer disillusionment from participation in WWI
  • Nursed bitter memories about debtors

V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism (cont.)

• Congress passed Johnson Debt Default Act (1934):
  – Prevented debt-dodging nations from borrowing further in United States
    • If attacked, delinquents could "stew in their own juices"
  • Mired down by Great Depression, Americans had no real appreciation of revolutionary forces being harnessed by dictators

V. Storm-Cellar Isolationism (cont.)

• Have-not powers out to become "have" powers
• Americans feared being drawn into totalitarian aggression
• Called for constitution amendment to forbid declaration of war by Congress—except in case of invasion—unless there was favorable popular referendum
• Princeton University students agitated in 1936 for bonus to be paid to Veterans of Future Wars (VFW) while prospective frontliners still alive

VI. Congress Legislates Neutrality

– Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota appointed in 1934 to investigate "blood business"
  • Senatorial probers tended to shift blame away from German submarines onto American bankers and arms manufactures
    – Because they made money, illogical conclusion was that they had caused war to make money
  – Congress made haste to legislate nation out of war:

Consortium Legislates Neutrality

• The Nye Committee (What was their goal?)
• Neutrality Acts in 1935-37
  • Could not interact with Belligerent nations
  • Could not ride of ships
• What is the flaw of Neutrality?
VI. Congress Legislates Neutrality (cont.)

- **Neutrality Acts of 1935, 1936, and 1937:**
  - Stipulated that *when the president proclaimed* existence of foreign war
    - Certain restrictions automatically go into effect
    - No American could legally sail on a belligerent ship
    - Sell or transport munitions to a belligerent
    - Or make loans to a belligerent
  - Legislation abandoned traditional policy of freedom of seas

VI. Congress Legislates Neutrality (cont.)

- Specifically tailored to keep United States out of conflict like World War I
- Storm-cellar neutrality proved to be tragically shortsighted:
  - Falsely assumed decision for peace or war lay in U.S. hands
  - Prisoners of its own fears, U.S.A. failed to recognize it might have used its enormous power to shape international events
  - Instead, it remained at mercy of events controlled by dictators
- Statutory neutrality of dubious morality
  - America would make no distinctions between brutal aggressors or innocent victims

VI. Congress Legislates Neutrality (cont.)

- America actually helped encourage aggressors along their blood-splattered path of conquest
  - By declining to use industrial strength to
    - Aid democratic friends
    - And defeat totalitarian foes
VII. America Dooms Loyalist Spain

- Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939
  - Painful lesson in folly of neutrality-by-legislation
  - General Francisco Franco:
    - Fascist aided by fellow conspirators Hitler and Mussolini
    - Franco sought to topple republican Loyalist regime
    - Loyalists got some assistance from Soviet Union
    - American Roman Catholics opposed Loyalist regime

America Dooms Loyalist Spain

- During the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), Spanish rebels led by the Fascist General Francisco Franco rose up against the leftist-leaning republican government
  - Loyalists supported Russia
  - Rebels had Hitler and Mussolini
  - America stayed out. Democracy dies
  - Point against us.

Problems for Spain

- 1936-1939 – Spanish Civil War
  - Headed by General Francisco Franco
    - Aided by Hitler & Mussolini & some from Soviet Union
  - US sat & watched as Franco strangled the republic government of Spain
  - US declined to build up its military
    - Even allowed the navy to decline

The Spanish Civil War: 1936 - 1939
VII. America Dooms Loyalist Spain (cont.)

- Abraham Lincoln Brigade:
  - 3,000 headed to Spain to fight as volunteers
  - Washington continued official relations with Loyalist government
  - Existing neutrality legislation changed to apply arms embargo to both Loyalists and rebels
  - Roosevelt did nothing while Franco abundantly supplied by fellow dictators

The Spanish Civil War: 1936 - 1939

- The American “Lincoln Brigade”

The Spanish Civil War: A Dress Rehearsal for WW II?

- Italian troops in Madrid

“Guernica” by Pablo Picasso

- Franco

VII. America Dooms Loyalist Spain (cont.)

- Democracies so determined to stay out of war they helped condemn fellow democracy to death
  - In so doing, they encouraged dictators toward further aggression
  - Such peace-at-any-price-ism cursed with illogic
  - America declined to build armed forces to where it could deter aggressors
  - Allowed navy to decline in relative strength
  - When Roosevelt repeatedly called for preparedness, he was branded a warmonger
VII. America Dooms Loyalist Spain (cont.)

• Not till 1938 would Congress pass billion-dollar naval construction act
  – Calamitous story repeated: too little, too late

VIII. Appeasing Japan and Germany

• 1937 Japanese militarists touched off explosion that led to all-out invasion of China
  – Roosevelt declined to invoke neutrality laws by refusing to call China incident an officially declared war
    – Did not want to cut off trickle of munitions on which Chinese depended
    – While Japanese could continue to buy war supplies in United States

The Japanese Invasion of China, 1937

VIII. Appeasing Japan and Germany (cont.)

• Quarantine Speech by Roosevelt in Chicago, autumn of 1937:
  – Called for “positive endeavors” to “quarantine” aggressors—presumably by economic embargoes
  – Isolationists feared a moral quarantine would lead to a shooting quarantine
  – Roosevelt retreated and sought less direct means to curb dictators

The Austrian Anschluss, 1938

VIII. Appeasing Japan and Germany (cont.)

• America’s isolationist mood intensified:
  – December 1937 Japanese bombed and sank American gunboat Panay:
    • Two killed and thirty wounded
    • Tokyo made necessary apologies and paid proper indemnity—Americans breathed sigh of relief
  – Hitler grew louder and bolder in Europe:
    • Openly flouted Treaty of Versailles by introducing compulsory military service in Germany
    • 1935 he sent troops into demilitarized German Rhineland
VIII. Appeasing Japan and Germany (cont.)

- March 1938, Hitler bloodlessly occupied German-speaking Austria
- Then demanded German-inhabited Sudetenland of neighboring Czechoslovakia
- Roosevelt’s messages to both Hitler and Mussolini urged peaceful settlement
- Conference held in Munich, Germany (Sept. 1938)
  - Western European democracies, badly unprepared for war, betrayed Czechoslovakia to Germany by shearing off Sudetenland

Appeasement:

The Munich Agreement, 1938

Now we have “peace in our time!” Herr Hitler is a man we can do business with.

The “Problem” of the Sudetenland

Czechoslovakia Becomes Part of the Third Reich: 1939

The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, 1939
IX. Hitler's Belligerency and U.S. Neutrality

• Stalin, sphinx of Kremlin, key to peace puzzle:
  – On August 23, 1939, astounded world by signing nonaggression treaty with German dictator
  – Notorious Hitler-Stalin pact:
    • Gave Hitler green light to make war with Poland and Western democracies
    • Stalin plotted to turn German accomplice against Western democracies

IX. Hitler's Belligerency and U.S. Neutrality (cont.)

• With signing of pact, World War II only hours away
• Hitler demanded Poland return land she gained from Germany after WWII
  – Hitler attacked Poland on Sept. 1, 1939
• Britain and France, honoring commitments to Poland, declared war
  – At long last they perceived folly of continued appeasement but they were powerless to aid Poland
• World War II now fully launched, and long truce of 1919-1939 at end

IX. Hitler's Belligerency and U.S. Neutrality (cont.)

• Roosevelt issued routine proclamation of neutrality
• Americans overwhelmingly anti-Nazi and anti-Hitler
  – Fervently hoped democracies would win
  – Fondly believed forces of righteousness would triumph, as in 1918
  – Determined to stay out; not going to be "suckers" again
• Neutrality promptly became heated issue in U.S.
  – Britain and France urgently needed American planes and weapons
• Neutrality Act of 1937 raised forbidding hand

Appeasing Japan and Germany

• Japan invades China
  – FDR refuses to call it a war
  – Quarantine Speech
  – What are the aftereffects of China?
• Hitler and Germany occupy willing Austria
  – Why would Austria want to be in Germany?
  – What did US inaction allow Germany to become?
  – Czechoslovakia?

Appeasing Japan

• 1937 – Japan invades China
• FDR declined to invoke the Neutrality Acts
  – Not officially a war
  – Japanese could continue to buy weapons from the US
• FDR delivers his "Quarantine Speech" 1937
  – Called for ways to "quarantine" aggressors – economic embargos
• Dec 1937 – Japanese sank American Panay in China
  – Japan quickly apologized & paid reparations
IX. Hitler’s Belligerency and U.S. Neutrality (cont.)

- Neutrality Act of 1939:
  - European democracies might buy U.S. war materials but only on “cash-and-carry basis”
    - Would have to transport munitions in their own ships, after paying for them in cash
    - America would avoid loans, war debts, and torpedoing of American arms-carriers
    - Roosevelt authorized to proclaim danger zones into which U.S. merchant ships forbidden to enter

- IX. Hitler’s Belligerency and U.S. Neutrality (cont.)
  - Unneutral neutrality law hurt China, which was effectively blockaded by Imperial Japanese Navy
  - Clearly favored European democracies against dictators
    - United States not only improved its moral position but also helped its economic position
    - Overseas demand for war goods brought sharp upswing from recession of 1937-1938
    - Ultimately solved decade-long unemployment crisis (see Figure 32.4)

Hitler’s Belligerency and U.S. Neutrality

- USSR and Germany sign non-aggression treaty (1939) (Why is this so important?)
- In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, and France and Britain finally declared war against Germany, but America refused to enter the war, its citizens not wanting to be “suckers” again.
- Cash and Carry System allowed for what?

Appeasing Germany

- 1935 – Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles
  - Started building up the military
  - Marched into the Rhineland
  - Started persecuting Jewish & other “undesirables”
- 1938 – Hitler took Austria & he wanted the Sudetenland
- Great Britain & France were eager to appease Hitler

The War Begins!

Poland Attacked: Sept. 1, 1939

Blitzkrieg [“Lightening War”]
The Course to World War II

- German Mediterranean strategy
  - Take Suez Canal – cut off supply of oil
  - Depends on Italy's ability to hold off British in Africa – no luck!
- New Plan: Germany invades the Soviet Union, June 22, 1941
  - Initial German success
  - Soviets able to bring eastern front troops to west as Japan was busy with the U.S. in 12/41
  - Extra troops and early winter turn tide in favor of Soviets
  - Hitler's declaration of war on U.S. helps to seal Germany's fate…

European Theater of Operations

The “Phoney War” Ends: Spring, 1940
Dunkirk Evacuated
June 4, 1940

France Surrenders
June, 1940

A Divided France

The French Resistance

Resistance Movements
- Charles de Gaulle
  - Free French movement
  - Against Communist liberation groups
- Communist Josip Broz (“Tito”) in Yugoslavia
  - Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia (AVNOJ)
  - Communist leader who later broke with Stalin and the Soviet bloc
- In Germany
  - The White Rose movement and Sophie Scholl
  - Gestapo executes all involved students
  - Colonel Count Claus von Stauffenberg
  - Stauffenberg assassination attempt
    - Operation Valkyrie
    - Five thousand executions

Now Britain Is All Alone!
Battle of Britain: The “Blitz”

The London “Tube”: Air Raid Shelters during the Blitz

The Royal Air Force

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill
The Atlantic Charter
- Roosevelt and Churchill sign treaty of friendship in August 1941.
- Solidifies alliance.
- Fashioned after Wilson's 14 Points.
- Calls for League of Nations type organization.

X. The Fall of France
- “Phony war”—period following collapse of Poland
  - Silence fell on Europe
  - Hitler shifted divisions from Poland for knockout blow at France
  - Soviets prepared to attack Finland
  - Finland granted $30 million by isolationist Congress for nonmilitary supplies
  - Finland flattened by Soviet steamroller
  - Abrupt end to “phony war” in April 1940 when Hitler overran Denmark and Norway

X. The Fall of France (cont.)
- Hitler than took Netherlands and Belgium, followed by paralyzing blow at France
- By late June, France forced to surrender
- Crisis brought forth inspired leader in Prime Minister Winston Churchill
  - Nerved his people to fight off fearful air bombings of their cities
- France's sudden collapse shocked Americans out of daydreams
- Possible death of Britain, a constitutional government, steeled American people to tremendous effort

X. The Fall of France (cont.)
- Roosevelt's moves:
  - Called upon already debt-burdened nation to build huge airfleets and two-ocean navy, which could check Japan
  - Congress appropriated $37 billion:
    - Figure more than total cost of World War I
    - About five times larger than any New Deal annual budget
X. The Fall of France (cont.)

- Congress passed conscription law on Sept. 6, 1940
  - America’s first peacetime draft:
    - Provided for training each year 1.2 million troops and 800,000 reserves
    - Act later adapted to requirements of global war
- Havana Conference of 1940:
  - United States agreed to share with twenty New World neighbors responsibility of upholding Monroe Doctrine
  - Now multilateral, it would be wielded by twenty-one pairs of hands—at least in theory

XI. Refugees from the Holocaust

- Jewish communities in Eastern Europe:
  - Frequent victims of pogroms, mob attacks approved or condoned by local authorities
  - November 9, 1938, instigated by speech from Nazi Joseph Goebbels:
    - Mobs ransacked more than seven thousand Jewish shops and almost all synagogues in Germany
    - Ninety-one Jews killed
    - About 30,000 sent to concentration camps in wake of Kristallnacht, “night of broken glass”
    - St. Louis left Germany in 1939 with 937 passengers, almost all Jewish refugees, went to Cuba, Miami, Canada
      - Had to return to Europe, where many killed by Nazis

XI. Refugees from the Holocaust (cont.)

- War Refugee Board:
  - Created by Roosevelt in 1942
  - Saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to death camp at Auschwitz
  - Only 150,000 Jews, mostly Germans and Austrians, found refuge in United States
  - By end of war, 6 million Jews had been murdered in Holocaust

XII. Bolstering Britain

- Britain in war:
  - August 1940, Hitler launched air attacks on Britain, to prepare for September invasion
  - Battle of Britain raged for months in air
  - Royal Air Force’s tenacious defense eventually led Hitler to postpone planned invasion indefinitely
- Debate intensified in United States over what foreign policy to embrace
XII. Bolstering Britain (cont.)

- Radio built sympathy for British, but not enough to push United States into war
- Roosevelt faced historic decision:
  - Hunker down in Western Hemisphere, assume “Fortress America” defensive posture
  - Or bolster beleaguered Britain by all means short of war itself
  - Both positions had advocates
- Supporters of aid to Britain formed propaganda groups:
  - Most potent one—Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies

XII. Bolstering Britain (cont.)

- Argument double-barreled:
  - To interventionists—appealed for direct succor to British by such slogans as “Britain Is Fighting Our Fight”
  - To isolationists—appealed for assistance to democracies by “All Methods Short of War,” so conflict would be kept to faraway Europe
- Isolationists, both numerous and sincere, very vocal
  - Organized America First Committee
  - Contended Americans should concentrate strength to defend their own shores
  - Basic philosophy: “The Yanks Are Not Coming”
  - Most effective speechmaker was Charles A. Lindbergh

XIII. Shattering the Two-Term Tradition

- Distracting presidential election
- Republicans:
  - Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio
  - Lawyer Thomas E. Dewey of New York
  - Late comer: Wendell L. Willkie of Indiana
  - At Philadelphia convention, Willkie chosen
- Democrats:
  - In critical need of destroyers because of German subs
  - On September 2, 1940, Roosevelt agreed to transfer to Great Britain fifty WWII destroyers
  - In return, British handed over to U.S.A. eight valuable base sites, stretching from Netherland to South America
  - To remain under Stars and Stripes for 99 years
  - Agreement legally questionable since it was a presidential agreement, not passed by Congress
  - An un-neutral act, but public-opinion polls demonstrated majority supported “all aid short of war” to England

XIII. Shattering the Two-Term Tradition (cont.)
FDR Shatters the Two-Term Tradition

- Willkie became surprise Republican candidate.
- FDR waited to last minute to announce his candidacy?
  - Why?
- FDR won handily
  - Why?

XIII. Shattering the Two-term Tradition (cont.)

- Roosevelt, busy in White House, made few speeches
  - Promised no men would be “sent into foreign wars;” this later came back to plague him
- He and supporters defended New Deal and all-out preparations for defense of America and aid to Allies
- The count:
  - Roosevelt triumphed, although Willkie ran strong race

Election of 1940

- Republican – Wendell L. Willkie
  - Platform: condemned FDR’s alleged dictatorship & the costly New Deal Programs
  - Actively campaigned – 500+ speeches
- Democrat – FDR
  - Shattered the 2 term tradition
  - Believed experience was needed in troubled times
- FDR wins again

XIII. Shattering the Two-term Tradition (cont.)

- Popular total 27,307,819 to 22,321,018 and electoral count 449 to 82 (see Map 33.1)
- Contest less a walkaway than in 1932 and 1936
- Democratic majorities in Congress remained about same
- Democrats hailed triumph as mandate to abolish two-term tradition
  - Voters felt that should war come, experienced leader needed at helm
XIV. A Landmark Lend-Lease Law

- Lending and leasing policy:
  - Scheme of Roosevelt to provide arms to democracies running out of money
  - **Lend-Lease Bill**, patriotically numbered 1776, entitled "An Act Further to Promote the Defense of the United States":
    - Praised by administration as device that would keep nation out of war rather than drag it in
    - Underlying concept was "Send guns, not sons" or "Billions, not bodies"

XIV. A Landmark Lend-Lease Law (cont.)

- America, Roosevelt promised, would be "arsenal of democracy"
- Send limitless supply of arms to victims of aggression:
  - Who in turn would finish job
  - And keep war on their side of Atlantic
  - Accounts settled by returning used weapons or equivalents to United States when war ended
- Debated in Congress, with opposition coming from isolationists and anti-Roosevelt Republicans:
  - Scheme assailed as "blank-check bill"
  - Nevertheless bill approved in March 1941 by sweeping majorities in both houses of Congress

XIV. A Landmark Lend-Lease Law (cont.)

- Lend-lease one of most momentous laws ever to pass Congress:
  - Challenge hurled directly at Axis dictators
  - America pledged to bolster nations indirectly defending U.S.A. by fighting aggression
  - By 1945, Americans had sent about $50 billion worth of arms and equipment to nations fighting aggressors (see Map 33.2)
  - Passing of lend-lease, an economic declaration of war
  - A shooting declaration could not be very far around corner

**U.S. Lend-Lease Act, 1941**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>$31 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soviet Union</td>
<td>$11 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>$3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>$1.5 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other European</td>
<td>$500 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>$400 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The amount totaled:** $48,601,365,000
XIV. A Landmark Lend-Lease Law (cont.)

- Abandoned any pretense of neutrality
- No destroyer deal arranged privately by Roosevelt
- Bill universally debated
- Most Americans prepared to take chance rather than see Britain collapse and then face dictators alone

- Results of lend-lease:
  - Geared U.S. factories for all-out war production
  - Enormously increased capacity that saved America when shooting war started

XIV. A Landmark Lend-Lease Law (cont.)

- Hitler recognized lend-lease as unofficial declaration of war
  - Until then, Germany avoided attacking U.S. ships
  - After lend-lease, little point in trying to curry favor with United States
  - On May 21, 1941, Robin Moor, unarmed American merchantman, torpedoed and destroyed by German submarine

XV. Charting a New World

- Two global events marked course of World War II:
  - Fall of France in June 1940
  - Hitler's invasion of Soviet Union, June 1941
    - Stalin balked at German control of Balkans
    - Hitler decided to crush coconspirator, seize oil and other resources of Soviet Union
    - On June 22, Hitler launched devastating attack on Soviet neighbor
Operation Barbarossa: 
June 22, 1941
- 3,000,000 German soldiers.
- 3,400 tanks.

XV. Charting a New World
(cont.)
- Sound American strategy dictated speedy aid to Moscow
- Roosevelt made some military supplies available
- Extended $1 billion in lend-lease to Soviet Union—first installment on ultimate total of $11 billion
  - Russian valor and Russian winter halted Hitler’s invasion
- Atlantic Conference (August 1941):
  - Meeting of Churchill and Roosevelt on warship off coast of Newfoundland

The “Big Three”
Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin

Axis Powers in 1942

The Nazi Empire, 1942
Turning Point of War, 1942-1943

- The Grand Alliance: US, GB, USSR
  - Defeat of Germany the first priority
  - Military aid to Russia and Britain
  - Allies ignore political differences
  - Agree on unconditional surrender
- German success in 1942 in Africa and Soviet Union starts failing apart:
  - Allies invade North Africa, November 1942, victory in May 1943 Rommel stopped at El Alamein
  - Battle of Stalingrad, November 1942-February 1943 – surrender at Tunisia & Allied victory
- War in Asia: Tide turns to favor Allies
  - Battle of the Coral Sea, May 7-8, 1942
  - Battle of Midway, June 4, 1942

XV. Charting a New World (cont.)

- Opposed imperialistic annexations:
  - No territorial changes contrary to wishes of the people (self-determination)
- Affirmed right of people to choose their own form of government:
  - In particular, to regain governments abolished by dictators
- Charter declared for disarmament
- And a peace of security:
  - Pending "permanent system of general security," new League of Nations

XV. Charting a New World (cont.)

- World views:
  - Liberals took heart from Atlantic Charter:
    - As they had taken heart from Wilson’s Fourteen Points
    - Especially gratifying to subject populations:
      - Like Poles under iron heel of a conqueror
    - Condemned in United States by isolationists and others hostile to Roosevelt
      - What right had "neutral" America to confer with belligerent British on common policies?
      - Such critics missed point: U.S.A. no longer neutral

XVI. U.S. Destroyers and Hitler's U-Boats Clash

- Lend-lease shipments of arms to Britain:
  - Freighter needed to be escorted by U.S. warships
  - Britain did not have enough destroyers
  - Roosevelt made fateful decision in July 1941
    - As commander in chief, issued orders to navy to escort lend-lease shipments as far as Iceland
    - British would then shepherd them rest of the way
    - September 1941, U.S. destroyer Greer attacked by German sub it had been trailing, without damage to either
    - Roosevelt proclaimed shoot-on-sight policy

XVI. U.S. Destroyers and Hitler's U-Boats Clash (cont.)

- October 17 escorting destroyer Kearny
  - Engaged in battle with U-boats
  - Lost 11 when it was crippled, but not sunk
- Two weeks later destroyer Reuben James:
  - Torpedoed and sunk off southwestern Iceland
  - Loss of more than a hundred officers and enlisted men
  - Neutrality still on books, but not in American hearts:
    - Congress voted in mid-November 1941 to pull teeth from now-useless Neutrality Act of 1939 by allowing arming of merchant ships
    - Americans braced themselves for wholesale attacks by Hitler’s submarines
The Pacific Theater

Pearl Harbor

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

Pearl Harbor from the Cockpit of a Japanese Pilot

Pearl Harbor - Dec. 7, 1941

A date which will live in infamy!

President Roosevelt Signs the US Declaration of War

A date which will live in infamy!

Dec. 7, 1941

President Roosevelt Signs the

US Declaration of War
XVII. Surprise Assault on Pearl Harbor

– Japan, since September 1940, had been formal military ally of Nazi Germany:
  – America’s shooting foe in North Atlantic
  – Japan mired down in costly and exhausting “China incident”
– Japan and American relations:
  – Japan fatally dependent on immense shipments of steel, scrap iron, oil, and aviation gasoline from U.S.A.
  – Such assistance to Japanese aggressor highly unpopular in America
  – Washington, late in 1940, imposed first embargo on Japan-bound supplies

– Mid-1941, United States froze Japan’s assets in United States
– Imposed cessation of all shipments of gasoline and other sinews of war
– As oil gauge dropped, squeeze on Japan grew steadily more nerve-racking

• Japan’s leaders faced two alternatives:
  – Either knuckle under to America
  – Or break out of embargo ring by desperate attack on oil supplies and other riches of Southeast Asia
• Tense negotiations with Japan took place in Washington during November and early December 1941

– State Department insisted Japan leave China
  – Offered Japan new trade relations on limited basis
  – Japan’s imperialists unwilling to lose face by withdrawal
  – Faced with capitulation or continued conquest, they chose sword
  – Washington had cracked code and learned Tokyo’s decision for war
  – No one in high authority in Washington believed Japanese either strong enough or foolhardy enough to strike Hawaii

• Struck Pearl Harbor while Tokyo deliberately prolonged negotiations in Washington
XVII. Surprise Assault on Pearl Harbor (cont.)

- December 7, 1941, “Black Sunday,” Japanese bombers attacked Pearl Harbor without warning
- A date “which will live in infamy,” Roosevelt told Congress
- About 3,000 casualties inflicted on American personnel
- Many aircraft destroyed
- Battleship fleet virtually wiped out when eight were sunk
- Numerous small vessels damaged or destroyed
- Fortunately for America, three aircraft carriers not in harbor

XVI. Surprise Assault on Pearl Harbor (cont.)

- Angered Congress next day officially recognized war had been “thrust” on U.S.A.
  - Senate and House roll call one vote short of unanimity
  - Germany and Italy, allies of Japan, spared Congress further debate by declaring war on Dec. 11, 1941
  - Challenge formally accepted by unanimous vote of both Senate and House on same day
  - Unofficial war, already of many months’ duration, now official

XVIII. America’s Transformation from Bystander to Belligerent

- Japan’s hara-kiri gamble in Hawaii paid off only in short run:
  - To very day of attack, strong majority of Americans wanted to keep out of war
  - Bombs on Pearl Harbor blasted isolationists into silence
  - Pearl Harbor not full answer to question why United States went to war:
    - Attack last explosion in long chain reaction

XVIII. America’s Transformation from Bystander to Belligerent

- Following fall of France
  - Americans confronted with dilemma:
    - Desired above all to stay out of conflict,
    - Yet, they did not want Britain to be knocked out
  - They wished to halt Japan’s conquests in Far East:
    - Conquests menaced not only American trade and security but international peace as well
  - To keep Britain from collapsing:
    - Roosevelt felt compelled to extend unneutral aid that invited attacks from German submarines

- To keep Japan from expanding:
  - Washington undertook to cut off vital Japanese supplies with embargoes that invited possible retaliation
  - Rather than let democracy die and dictatorship rule supreme, most citizens evidently determined to support a policy that might lead to war
  - It did
CHRONOLOGY

1936
FDR-Franco-Allen London Economic Conference
United States recognizes Soviet Union
FDR declares Good Neighbor policy toward Latin America
Hitler becomes German chancellor
Germany quits League of Nations

1937
Ttling-McAdoo Act provides for joint military forces
U.S. recognizes Chinese Republic

1938
Munich Annexation of Ethiopia
U.S. Neutrality Act of 1935
Japan seizes Laos

1939
U.S. Neutrality Act of 1938
Munich and Hitler form Rome-Berlin Axis
Stalin invades Finland
German troops invade Belgium

1940-1945
Spanish Civil War
U.S. Neutrality Act of 1937
France invaded
Japan invades China

1938
Hitler invades Austria
Munich Conference
Einsatzgruppe in Germany

1939
Hitler invades Poland
Fall of Eastern Europe
United States invades Pearl Harbor
Hitler invades Russia

1941
Coal-Lease Act
Hitler attacks Soviet Union
Atlantic Charter
Japan attack Scott Harbor