



# The Shadow of war

The Roots of American Involvement in WWII

## FDR's Domestic Focus

- America's withdrawal from the London Economic Conference
- Freedom for the Philippines
  - Tydings-McDuffie Act
- FDR's recognizes the USSR



FDR is more concerned with America's recovery than with international cooperation. He decides not to go to a conference that while helping to prevent further global economic decline might hinder America's chance at recovery. This only encouraged European dictators.

FDR and most Americans agree that they can no longer afford to administer the Philippines. The Tydings-McDuffie Act promised the Filipinos their freedom by 1946. More because the US was interested in their own well being than in what was best for the Filipinos. Evidenced by the unfair economic terms that were imposed upon American withdrawal.

Interested in trade with the Soviets, FDR make the unpopular decision to recognize the USSR as a legitimate nation.

# Being a Good Neighbor



- Good Neighbor Policy
- Reversal in relations with Latin America. FDR repealed:
  - Roosevelt Corollary
  - Marines out of Haiti
  - Platt Amendment
    - Kept Guantanamo
- Drastically improved US relations with Latin America

The **Good Neighbor policy** was the [foreign policy](#) of the administration of [United States](#) President [Franklin Roosevelt](#) toward the countries of [Latin America](#). The United States wished to have good relations with its neighbors, especially at a time when conflicts were beginning to rise once again, and this policy was more or less intended to garner Latin American support. Giving up unpopular military intervention, the United States shifted to other methods to maintain its influence in Latin America: [Pan-Americanism](#), support for strong local leaders, the training of national guards, economic and cultural penetration, [Export-Import Bank](#) loans, financial supervision, and political subversion. The Good Neighbor Policy meant that the United States would keep its eye on Latin America in a more peaceful tone. On March 4, 1933, Roosevelt stated during his inaugural address that: "In the field of world policy I would dedicate this nation to the policy of the good neighbor--the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and, because he does so, respects the rights of others." This position was affirmed by [Cordell Hull](#), Roosevelt's Secretary of State at a conference of American states in [Montevideo](#) in December 1933. Hull said: "No country has the right to intervene in the internal or external affairs of another". This is apparent when in December of the same year Roosevelt again gave verbal evidence of a shift in U.S. policy in the region when he stated: "The definite policy of the United States from now on is one opposed to armed intervention."

## Spread of Totalitarianism

- Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini
  - Germany, USSR, Italy
- Long term impact of the Treaty of Versailles
- Germany leaves the League/Italy attacks Ethiopia/Japan leaves the League
  - Tripartite Pact
- American Isolationism



The three nations agreed that for the next ten years they would "stand by and co-operate with one another in... their prime purpose to establish and maintain a new order of things... to promote the mutual prosperity and welfare of the peoples concerned." They recognized each other's [spheres of interest](#) and undertook "to assist one another with all political, economic and military means when one of the three contracting powers is attacked" by a country not already involved in the war, excluding the [Soviet Union](#).

The pact supplemented the [Anti-Comintern Pact](#) of 1936 and helped overcome the rift that had developed between Japan and Germany following the [Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact](#) signed by Germany and the Soviet Union in 1939.

The Tripartite Pact was subsequently joined by [Hungary](#) (November 20, 1940), by [Romania](#) (November 23, 1940), by [Slovakia](#) (November 24, 1940), by [Bulgaria](#) (March 1, 1941, prior to the arrival of German troops), by [Yugoslavia](#) (March 25, 1941) and by [Croatia](#) (June 15, 1941).

## Staying out of war...



We Always Were Suckers for Ridiculous Hats . . .

- “Head in the Sand” diplomacy
- US involvement in WWI blamed on “economic greed”
- Neutrality Acts
  - No concern about freedom of the seas
  - Limited American involvement in European Wars
- Shortsighted?

Dr. Seuss cartoons.

# Appeasement

- FDR's "quarantine" speech
- Munich Conference
- Hitler's territorial aspirations
  - The Sudetenland
  - Czechoslovakia
  - Poland
- German-Soviet non-aggression Pact



The **Quarantine Speech** was given by U.S. President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) on October 5, 1937 in [Chicago](#), calling for an international "quarantine of the aggressor nations" as an alternative to the political climate of American neutrality and isolationism that was prevalent at the time. The speech intensified America's isolationist mood, causing protest by isolationists and foes to intervention. No countries were directly mentioned in the speech, but it was interpreted as referring to [Japan](#), [Italy](#), and [Germany](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Roosevelt suggested the use of economic pressure, a forceful response, but less direct than outright aggression.

Public response to the speech was mixed. It was heavily criticized by [Hearst-owned](#) newspapers and [Robert R. McCormick](#) of the [Chicago Tribune](#), but several subsequent compendia of editorials showed overall approval in US media

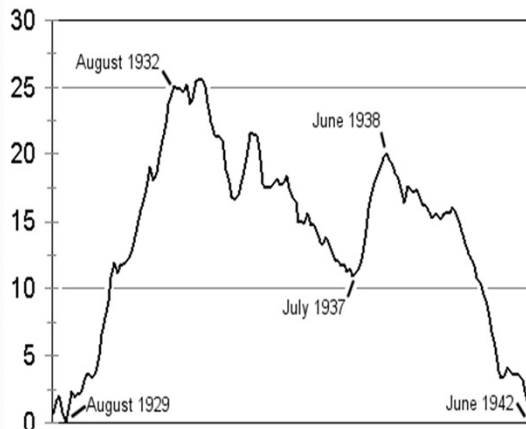
The **Munich Pact** ([Czech](#): *Mnichovská dohoda*; [Slovak](#): *Mníchovská dohoda*; [German](#): *Münchener Abkommen*; [French](#): *Accords de Munich*; [Italian](#): *Accordi di Monaco*) was an agreement permitting [Nazi German](#) annexation of Czechoslovakia's [Sudetenland](#). The [Sudetenland](#) were areas along borders of [Czechoslovakia](#), mainly inhabited by ethnic Germans. The agreement was negotiated at a conference held in [Munich](#), [Germany](#), among the major powers of Europe without the presence of [Czechoslovakia](#). Today, it is widely regarded as a failed act of [appeasement](#) against Nazi Germany.

titled the **Treaty of Non-Aggression between [Germany](#) and the [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics](#)**<sup>[1]</sup> and signed in [Moscow](#) in the early hours of 24 August 1939 (but dated 23 August).<sup>[2]</sup> It was a [non-aggression pact](#) between the two countries and pledged [neutrality](#) by either party if the other were attacked by a third party. It remained in effect until 22 June 1941 when Germany implemented [Operation Barbarossa](#), invading the Soviet Union.

In addition to stipulations of non-aggression, the treaty included a secret protocol dividing [Northern](#) and [Eastern Europe](#) into German and Soviet spheres of influence, anticipating potential "territorial and political rearrangements" of these countries. Thereafter, [Germany and the Soviet Union invaded](#) their respective sides of [Poland](#), dividing the country between them. Part of eastern [Finland](#) was annexed by the Soviet Union after the [Winter War](#). This was followed by Soviet [annexations](#) of [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#) and eastern and northern [Romania](#).

# A precarious neutrality

U.S. Unemployment Rate



- Neutrality Act of 1939
  - Why “Cash and Carry?”
- How did the start of WWII affect the American economy?
  - Why?

Hoping to avoid being dragged into another conflict like the Great War, the US made a more defensible attempt to remain neutral—cash and carry. Though this was again a veiled and precarious neutrality, it allowed the US to trade with the European democracies it supported while not as clearly taking sides. Cash and Carry required that trade partners pay in full for all purchases and that they ship it themselves. No more American ships in the war zone like WWI.

The WWII demand for supplies was a boon to the American economy. Unemployment rates decreased steadily for the first few years of the war.

# WWII Begins

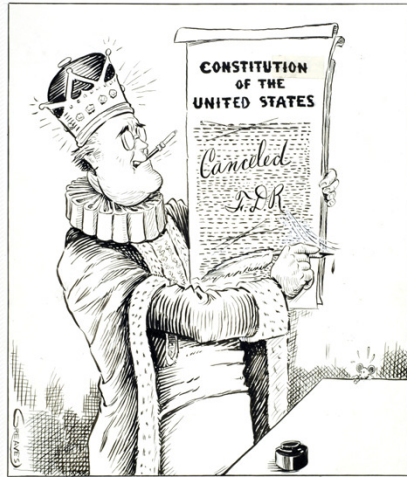
- What was the 'phony war'?
- Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium...FRANCE!
- Why was the fall of France significant?



Up until the fall of France, America had not been too worried about the Nazis. When France fell, Americans realized that Great Britain was all that stood between Hitler and world domination.



## The end of the two-term precedent...



- FDR seeks and wins a third term in 1940
- Why were some opposed to FDR seeking a third term?
- Why did he end up winning by a landslide?

Many believed that FDR was becoming too powerful; a monarch of sorts. This sentiment is clearly represented in the cartoon.

## The end of neutrality?

- What was the Lend-Lease Act of 1940?
- Was the passage of the Lend-Lease Act the equivalent of an American declaration of war?
- What impact did the Lend-Lease Act have on WWII?

The Lend-Lease Act was an act of Congress that allowed the United States to provide the allied nations with war materials. This act put to rest any pretense that the United States was neutral.

# Unlikely Allies



- Hitler invades the USSR
  - consequences?
- What was the Atlantic Charter?
  - Significance?
  - Who liked it?
  - Who disliked it?
- By fall of 1941, US destroyers are clashing with Nazi U-boats.

United States begins supporting USSR under Lend-Lease.

Agreement made between FDR and Churchill – status of conquered territories after Germany was defeated → self determination.

Liberals liked it – called for a new League of Nations and self-determination

Isolationists hated it – why was the US getting involved? The US was no longer neutral.

12/7/41 – “A day that will live in infamy.”



U.S. stopped exporting oil to Japan in the summer of 1941. As a result Japan was preparing to move on the Dutch East Indies which was an oil rich area. To prevent this, FDR ordered a military buildup in the Philippines and moved the U.S. Naval fleet from San Diego to Hawaii. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor was an attempt to neutralize American naval forces in the South Pacific so that they might proceed with their planned invasion of the Dutch East Indies.

The attack on Pearl Harbor shifted American public opinion about the war dramatically. War was declared on Japan the next day and on Germany by December 11<sup>th</sup>. The United States had officially entered WWII.

# WWII Battles

Dates, Outcome/Details,  
Overall Significance

## Battle at Midway

June 1942

- Allied Victory.
- First major Japanese defeat as American planes sank 4 Japanese aircraft carriers and 300+ planes.
- Major naval victory, fought by Aircraft.
- Stopped Japanese Naval offensive – IJN could not ever fully recover.

## Stalingrad

Aug. 1942-Jan. 1943

- Russian victory.
- Germans caught in Russian Winter.
- Stalin ordered that the city be defended at all costs.
- Most of the city destroyed, 330, 000 Germans killed.
- Turning point in the Eastern theater.
- Stalled Hitler's Operation Barbarossa.
- Russia went on the offensive.

## Military Strategy – Convoy system

- Used during the Battle of the Atlantic
- American ships were being sunk by Germans
- Convoy system set up – Cargo ships traveled in groups and were escorted by navy warships
- Made it more difficult for a submarine to target a cargo ship and escape without being attacked



## Military Strategy – Germany 1<sup>st</sup> Campaign

- Agreed on by Churchill and FDR at the Casablanca Conference
- Goal: Bomb Germany to destroy military, industrial and economic systems, destroy morale
- Destroyed aircraft factories, wrecked railroads, and caused oil shortages

## Fighting in Italy

### July 1943-End of the War

- Allied victory
- Led by General Patton
- Italy withdraws from the war and joined the Allies side.
- Huge losses on both sides. Germany defended Italy and fought ferociously.
- Italy withdraws and Mussolini was killed.
- Germany fought hard in Italy and had huge losses with 500,000 Germans killed.
- Allies had 300,000 killed.
- Bloody fighting.

## D-Day

### June 6, 1944-July 1944

- Allied victory in the re-invasion of France.
- Invasion took place at Normandy, France.
- Known also as Operation Overlord.
- Commanded by Dwight Eisenhower
- Had to have good weather conditions so paratroopers would land behind enemy lines
- Turning point in the West.
- Opened up a new front in the War.
- France was soon liberated; beginning of the end for Axis powers.

## Battle of the Bulge

- December 1944 - January 1945
- Allied victory in the end
- Last major counteroffensive by the Germans
- Lasted 6weeks
- Hitler focused all forces on one area of the allied lines
  - created a huge bulge in the line
- Germans last stand!

# On to Japan!

- Hitler Commits suicide on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1945
- With the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 8 1945, the allies focused their attention on the Pacific Theater.
- The Japanese, unwilling to surrender unconditionally, continued to fight.
- The US decides to drop 2 A-bombs on two major Japanese cities. One on Aug. 6 and one on Aug 9. Japan surrenders by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Was it necessary to drop the atomic bomb? Research this question and be prepared to discuss tomorrow in class.