

Ch 24 Section 4 America Moves Toward War

The United States Musters Its Forces

Moving Cautiously Away from Neutrality

- 1939, FDR persuades Congress to pass “cash-and-carry” provision
- Argues will help France, Britain defeat Hitler, keep U.S. out of war

The Axis Threat

- 1940, FDR tries to provide Britain “all aid short of war”
- Germany, Japan, Italy sign Tripartite Pact, mutual defense treaty
 - become known as **Axis Powers**
- Pact aimed at keeping U.S. out of war by forcing fight on two oceans

Building U.S. Defenses

- Nazi victories in 1940 lead to increased U.S. defense spending
- First peacetime draft enacted—Selective Training and Service Act:
 - draftees to serve for 1 year in Western Hemisphere only

Roosevelt Runs for a Third Term

- FDR breaks two-term tradition, runs for reelection
- Republican Wendell Willkie has similar views on war
- FDR reelected with 55% of votes

“The Great Arsenal of Democracy”

The Lend-Lease Plan

- FDR tells nation if Britain falls, Axis powers free to conquer world
 - U.S. must become “arsenal of democracy”
- By late 1940, Britain has no more cash to buy U.S. arms
- 1941 **Lend-Lease Act**—U.S. to lend or lease supplies for defense

Supporting Stalin

- 1941, Hitler breaks pact with Stalin, invades Soviet Union
- Roosevelt sends lend-lease supplies to Soviet Union

German Wolf Packs

- Hitler deploys U-boats to attack supply convoys
- FDR allows navy to attack German U-boats in self-defense

FDR Plans for War

The Atlantic Charter

- FDR’s proposal to extend the term of draftees passes House by 1 vote
- FDR, Churchill issue **Atlantic Charter**—joint declaration of war aims
- Charter is basis of “A Declaration of the United Nations” or Allies
- **Allies**—nations that fight Axis powers; 26 nations sign Declaration

Shoot on Sight

- Germans fire on U.S. ship, FDR orders navy to shoot U-boats on sight
- U-boat attacks lead Senate to repeal ban on arming merchant ships

Japan Attacks the United States

Japan’s Ambitions in the Pacific

- **Hideki Tojo**—chief of staff of army that invades China, prime minister
- Japan seizes French bases in Indochina; U.S. cuts off trade
- Japan needs oil from U.S. or must take Dutch East Indies oil fields

Peace Talks are Questioned

- 1941 U.S. breaks Japanese codes; learns Japan planning to attack U.S.

- Peace talks with Japan last about 1 month
- December 6, Japanese envoy instructed to reject all U.S. proposals

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

- December 7, 1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
- 2,403 Americans killed; 1,178 wounded
- Over 300 aircraft, 21 ships destroyed or damaged

Reaction to Pearl Harbor

- Congress approves FDR's request for declaration of war against Japan
- Germany, Italy declare war on U.S.
- U.S. unprepared to fight in both Atlantic, Pacific Oceans