

The Gradual End of U.S. Isolationism, 1933-1941

Events in US

- 1933: FDR new in office; priority: Great Depression
- 1935 Nye Committee hearings reflected disillusionment over WW1, belief that the U.S. had be tricked into the war by arms manufacturers
- 1935 Neutrality Act: no arms sales to war zones
- 1936 Neutrality Act: no loans to belligerents
- 1937 Neutrality Act: cash-and-carry arms sales OK
- 1937 Japanese sank US gunboat off Shanghai: 70% of Americans opposed retaliation
- 1938 beginning of US rearmament
- 1939 cash-and-carry arms sales begin with Great Britain (Polish ally)
- Sept 1940 destroyers for bases deal with G.B.
- Oct 1940 first peacetime draft in U.S. history; FDR appointed 2 Republicans to cabinet positions
- Jan 1941 Lend-Lease Act to GB; 54% of Americans favor the program
- July 1941 U.S. Marines occupied Iceland (Germany had expanded the war zone)
- Aug 1941 Atlantic Charter: FDR and Churchill met to discuss post-war world: self-determination of nations
- Sept 1941 Lend-Lease Act extended to USSR; USS Greer incident: FDR issued "shoot on sight" order

Events Abroad

- 1933 Japanese invasion of Manchuria (northern China)
- 1935 Italy attacked Ethiopia; active German hostility to Jews: refugee issue appears
- 1936 German bases in Rhineland in violation of Versailles Treaty
- 1937 Spanish Civil War
- 1937 Second Sino-Japanese War
- 1938 Germany annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia
- Sept 1939 German invasion of Poland, beginning of WW2
- Sept 1940 bombing of Great Britain: 52% of Americans support aide to G.B.
- Summer 1941 U-boat campaign in N Atlantic (2 British ships sunk daily)
- Sept 1941 "undeclared naval war" in the Atlantic
- Dec 1941 Pearl Harbor