United States Isolationism to Involvement in WWII
U.S. Isolationism

• In 1928, the United States, along with 61 other nations signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact.
  • This agreement stemmed from WWI and stated that no nation would go to war unless it was out of defense.

• Beginning in 1935, the Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts which outlawed arms sales, or loans to nations at war.
Roosevelt’s Refusal to Enforce Isolationism

- FDR refused to enforce the Neutrality Acts particularly when Japan invaded China.
  - The U.S. continued to send China arms and support.
- When Germany invaded Poland, Congress revised the Neutrality Acts to support a Cash and Carry system of arms sales.
Dr. Seuss Political Cartoon
Cash and Carry

• The Cash and Carry system of arms – A nation could only purchase weapons from the U.S. if they were paid for with cash and transported with their own vessels.

HELP THE ALLIES NOW TO WIN
So our MEN will never be necessary
CASH AND CARRY
The Axis Powers Develop

• When France fell to Germany, Japan, Germany, and Italy signed the Tripartite Pact, and became known as the Axis Powers

• This pact was meant to keep the U.S. out of the war.
  • If one country was attacked, the others would respond, creating a two front war for the U.S.
    • Atlantic and Pacific
The Great Arsenal of Democracy

- The U.S. responded to the Tripartite Pact by:
  - Increasing defense spending
  - Imposing the first ever peacetime military draft
  - A public relations campaign
    - Fireside chats
    - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7BKvlObfBY
  - The Lend-Lease Plan

"WE MUST BE THE GREAT ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY."

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (1882-1945)
The Lend – Lease Act

- Since Great Britain ran out of cash, the U.S. instituted a system of arms aid called Lend-Lease.
- The Lend Lease Act of 1941 stated that the U.S. would lend or lease arms to, “any country whose defense was vital to the United States”.
- The U.S. provided over $50 Billion under the act.
- Most to Great Britain, but also to the Soviet Union.
The U.S. is Drawn into the Conflict

- German U-Boats began sinking Lend-Lease shipments in the Atlantic Ocean with their “wolf packs”.
- They sunk 1.2 million tons of British shipping.
- The U.S. Navy began escorting these shipments as far east as Iceland.
The Atlantic Charter

• FDR and Winston Churchill met secretly on a warship in the Atlantic and signed a document outlining how the war would be fought.

• German boats continued to sink U.S. Naval Vessels and Merchant Ships.
Pearl Harbor!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Japanese warplanes invaded a U.S. Naval port in Hawaii called Pearl Harbor.
- The next day, the FDR asked Congress to declare war, which they quickly did.
Why Pearl Harbor?

- Japanese expansion into Southeast Asia.
- U.S. territories of Philippines and Guam were at risk of Japanese occupation.
- U.S. placed an oil embargo on Japan, cutting off all shipments.
- Japanese General Hideki Tojo, prepared for an attack on the U.S.
Direct Results of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

- The United States declared war on Japan.
- There was an immediate distrust of Japanese Americans on the west coast.
  - [http://video.pbs.org/video/1184937107](http://video.pbs.org/video/1184937107)
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGDg6dYvRKy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGDg6dYvRKy)
- The United States lost about half of the Pacific Fleet.