American neutrality was an important policy in the early years of World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that the United States should remain neutral and not get involved in the conflict. He believed that American intervention could make the situation worse and that the country should focus on building its own defenses.

Roosevelt's policy of neutrality was intended to keep the United States out of the war, but it was also designed to allow him to provide assistance to the Allied powers while maintaining public support for the policy. Ultimately, the policy of neutrality would be tested as the United States found itself drawn into the conflict.