

Tutorial 8 topic

decision maker, leadership, choices,
results of policies, isolationist?, internationalist
but hindered by public opinion?, leader/follower?

in command of FP?
permitted Sec. of State
too much authority in
Asian affairs?

Please read the assigned documents in - "Franklin D Roosevelt, Isolationism, and World War II" -

We will be examining the following primary sources in this set

1. Gerald P Nye on the Causes of war, 1935
2. FDR on war at Chautauqua, 1936
3. Roosevelt's "Quarantine" speech 1937
4. Roosevelt on the "Arsenal of Democracy," 1940
5. Charles A Beard criticises Lend-lease, 1941
6. Roosevelt's war message, 1941

① business pressures on Wilson administration for entry into war

- "sales & shipments of munitions and contraband, and the lure of the profits in them, that will get us into another war" p. 167
- war is for economic purposes; must be part of economic alliances → providing arms for example → shows not neutral
- eg. huge volume of trade with Allies, had no "economic interests" in Germany.
- government loans to any belligerent is "inconsistent with the spirit of neutrality" pg. 168
- State dept. opposed loans, but not bankers → profits
- "neutral rights are not a matter for national protection unless prepared to protect them by force"
- private individuals/companies that ship arms/loans to belligerents should not have protection of government

even if state did not want to get involved in war, private companies/organisations were not an exception to the rule (of neutrality)

② war may be an inevitable outcome even for a nation seeking peace. p. 171

- no inquiry to enter war
- President given authority by congress to maintain neutrality (neutrality acts)
- war profits a factor in pushing country to war, some could sway public opinion that it is beneficial for local economy
- choosing peace is more important than profits (172)
- war would → unemployment, but chose not to join the war → New Deals did not solve GD, entry into WW2 did
- FDR aware of ability of entering war to end GD.

③ foundations of civilization threatened; landmarks & traditions which had aimed to develop a condition of law, order, and justice being wiped away.

- nations invading without warning, interfering in affairs
- need to respect freedom & rights of neighbours to ensure peace, law, moral principles may prevail pg. 173.
- return to belief in pledged word and the value of a signed treaty.
- complex interdependence makes isolationism difficult (from economic and political upheavals elsewhere)
- security of intl. treaties & maintenance of intl. morality restored to ensure strong foundation for peace pg. 174
- peace allows funds to be channeled to infrastructure/development instead of arms
- peace being threatened by aggressive/expansionist nations with disregard for intl. treaties/traditions.
- formation of axis powers threatening to unite against U.S. if U.S. interferes/blocks expansion of the axis powers
- unchecked Axis powers will eventually come to threaten the U.S., or the fall of the British would result in the same outcome.
- results in permanent militaristic power for U.S. → war economy. (175) → getting acquainted with war; but not directly involved yet.
- U.S. should not have false sense of security that it will be unaffected
- purpose "beyond" one of dictatorship & authoritarianism; goes against ideals/values of democracy.
- supporting nations fighting against Axis powers such that no need for direct war pg. 176. (cc. (D)), to prevent war from reaching U.S. if Allies defeated.
- "arsenal for democracy" → taking up arms to fight for democracy.

thinly veiled attempt to provide aid

⑤ lend-lease providing aid and its potential consequences

- "bill for waging an undeclared war" pg. 177
- bill argued to help keep U.S. directly out of war (cf. ④)
 - "buying peace" while others fighting for U.S. war for democracy and defense
 - shameful for foreign soldiers to fight and die for U.S.
 - no guarantee bill will keep us out of war; bill will engage govt. in war activities, pg. 178
- belief that U.S. unable to ensure similar democratic system around the world
- questions how long/to what extent congress will provide aid to belligerents
- better to spend money on themselves for defense, than to spend on others.

⑥ - undeclared act of war by Japanese

- previous message only stated the futility of existing diplomatic negotiations
- "all measures be taken for our defence" pg. 188, and make sure such an attack against U.S. would not happen again
- "I believe I interpret the will of Congress ..."
 - bypassing Congress to declare war.