

Chapter 25 Notes

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1 Paragraph

Question: What events contributed to changes in American foreign policy from isolation to intervention?

There were several reasons that the United States foreign policy changed, however in order to analyze them, we first must look at why we remained neutral. In the early 1930s, many Americans felt that involvement in World War 1 was a big mistake because it only served greedy bankers and arms dealers. Because of this, many Americans were very reluctant to join another World War. Next, there was the Neutrality Acts. These acts limited the government's ability to aid foreign entities, including Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War. Although many Americans wanted to assist Loyalists in the war, however, the Neutrality Acts forbade this. Finally, there was the America First Committee, which rallied people around the country to avoid getting involved in Europe's troubles. As the war progressed, many Americans were frightened by German forces conquering one country after another, however they were still reluctant to supporting or joining the war. When France was taken by Germany, the public agreed that it was permissible to increase the defense budget, but giving direct aid to Britain was controversial. As time progressed, Roosevelt slowly became more prepared for involvement in the war, to the point that he initiated a peace-time draft. Over the Pacific, the relationship with Japan was strained. When Japan joined the Axis powers, the United States immediately responded with embargo that limited the trade of essential materials going to Japan, including oil. Japan realized that they must attack soon so that they can limit U.S. positioning in the Pacific before they run out of oil. The U.S., however, hoped to delay confrontation so they could prepare. This eventually led to the Attack of Pearl Harbor that 2,400 Americans and sunk 20 warships. This was the final straw for Americans and within a day, led to war with Japan and the Axis powers.

2 American Foreign Policy in 1930s

2.1 Herbert Hoover's Foreign Policy

2.1.1 Japanese Aggression

- In September 1931, Japan marched into Manchuria and established a puppet government
- Although the League of Nations threatened to take action, all they did was sign a resolution to condemning Japan.
- Japan finally left the League of Nations and never joined again.
- The U.S. responded by refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the new puppet government
- This did little to prevent future aggression.

2.1.2 Latin America

- Throughout Hoover's presidency, he maintained a healthy relationship with Latin America.
- He pulled troops to leave Nicaragua and negotiated a treaty with Haiti.

2.2 Franklin Roosevelt's Policies, 1933-1938

2.2.1 Good-Neighbor Policy

- During Roosevelt's presidency, U.S. Delegates met at the Seventh Pan-American Conference in Uruguay where they agreed to never again intervene in the internal affairs of Latin America.
- In 1936, another Pan-American Conference was held and Roosevelt personally attended this one.
- In this meeting, Roosevelt united the group of several nations in order to protect each other in the face of war.
- In 1934, FDR persuaded Congress to nullify the Platt Amendment, that forced Cuba's Foreign Policy to be approved by the U.S. in exchange for Guantanamo Bay.

3 Isolationism and Neutrality- beliefs and policies

3.1 Learning from World War 1

- In the 1930s, many Americans believed that the U.S. involvement in World War 1 was a huge mistake.
- Because of this, the public felt uneasy about joining World War 2.

3.2 Neutrality Acts

- Isolationist senators and representatives were the majority in 1938
- They had Roosevelt sign documents in order to stay neutral

3.3 Spanish Civil War