

# 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

- Although many Americans wanted to aid the Loyalists, they couldn't because the Neutrality Acts forbade it.

## 3.4 America First Committee

- In 1940, a group of Americans were concerned with FDR's large support for Britain.
- They formed the America First Committee and rallied people from across the nation to promote isolationism.

# 4 Events that shifted from neutrality to war

## 4.1 Appeasement

- While Germany invaded small countries and violate the Treaty of Versailles, Britain and France adopted the policy of 'Appeasement' which did little to stop Germany.

## 4.2 Cash and Carry

- The U.S. ended its arms embargo in order to support Britain with weaponry.
- If a citizen wanted to transport American weapons to another country, they had to pay in cash and carry it themselves.
- Although, in theory, this policy was neutral, it only helped Britain since they still controlled the ocean.

## 4.3 Selective Service Act(1940)

- Roosevelt pushed neutrality back one step by enacting mandatory military service.
- Isolationists opposed a peacetime draft however they were outnumbered by the majority who

# 5 Actions in Japan

- Through 1940 and 1941, U.S. relations with Japan were becoming increasingly strained as a result of Japan's invasion of China and its ambitions to conquest Southeast Asia.
- By allying with Germany and the Axis Powers, Japan was able to continue its expansion.

## 5.1 U.S. Economic Action

- Roosevelt prohibited the export of steel and scrap iron to all countries except Britain and countries in the Western Hemisphere when Japan join the Axis powers.
- Japan called this an “unfriendly act”
- When Japan occupied French Indochina in July 1941, the U.S. froze all Japanese credits and cut off Japanese access to vital materials such as U.S. oil.

## 5.2 Negotiations

- Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull insisted that Japan pull troops out of China.
- The Japanese ambassador and the U.S. tried to negotiate a change in U.S. policy regarding oil.
- In October, General Hideki Tojo made a final attempt at negotiating an agreement, but no one changed their opinion
- The U.S. wanted to delay confrontation in the Pacific so that they could build up an army, however, Japan wanted to engage faster.

## 5.3 Pearl Harbor

- On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes flew over Pearl Harbor bombing every ship in sight.
- After 2 hours, 2,400 Americans were killed, almost 1,200 were wounded, 20 warships were sunk or severely damaged, and approximately 150 airplanes were destroyed.
- Americans were surprised about the attack, but high ranking officials knew that it was inevitable because they broke the Japanese codes.
- Roosevelt described December 7 as “a date which will live in infamy” and Congress declared war on December 8.
- On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.

# 6 Home front- impact of the war on civilians

## 6.1 Mobilization

- The U.S. and Allied armed forces depended on mobilizing America’s people, industries, and creative and scientific communities.
- The U.S. government organized a number of special agencies to mobilize U.S. economic and military resources for the wartime crisis.
- The Office of War Mobilization (OWM) set production priorities and controlled raw materials
- The Office of Price Administration regulated every aspect of civilians’ lives by freezing prices, wages, and rents and rationing such commodities as meat, sugar, gasoline, and auto tires to

fight wartime inflation.

- U.S. industries were booming and exceeded their productions and profits of the 1920s.
- In 1944, unemployment had disappeared.
- American factories produced over 300,000 planes, 100,000 tanks, and ships with a total capacity of 53 million tons.
- The 100 largest corporations accounted for up to 70% of wartime manufacturing.
- Labor unions and large corporations agreed that while the war lasted, there would be no strikes.
- Workers were disgruntled when their wages were frozen while corporations made large profits.
- The government was empowered to take over companies threatened by strike by the Smith Conally Anti-Strike Act of 1943.
- The government paid for the war by increasing income tax and selling war bonds.
- The Office of War Information controlled news about troop movements and battles and made sure that the war was seen positively.

## **6.2 The War's Impact on Society**

### **6.2.1 African Americans**

- 1.5 million African Americans left the South.
- A million young men served in the Armed forces.
- Both soldiers and civilians faced discrimination.
- The Roosevelt Administration issued an executive order to prohibit discrimination in government and in businesses that received federal contracts.

### **6.2.2 Mexican Americans**

- Mexican Americans worked in defense industries and over 300,000 served in the military.
- A sudden influx of Mexican immigrants into Los Angeles stirred white resentment and led to the so-called zoot suit riots in the summer of 1943.

### **6.2.3 American Indians**

- 25,000 American Indians served in the military and thousands more worked in defense industries.
- More than half never returned to their reservations.

### **6.2.4 Japanese Americans**

- Japanese Americans suffered from their association with a wartime enemy.

- 20,000 native-born Japanese Americans served loyally in the military, however Japanese were suspected to be potential spies and saboteurs.
- The U.S. government ordered 100,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast to reside in internment camps.

### 6.2.5 Women

- Over 200,000 women served in uniform in the army, navy and marines, but in noncombat roles.
- An acute labor shortage caused 5 million women to take jobs vacated by men in uniform.
- The song about “Rosie the Riveter” was used to encourage women to take defense jobs.

### 6.2.6 Wartime Solidarity

- The New Deal helped immigrant groups feel more included and serving together as “bands of brothers” in combat or working together for a common cause helped to reduce prejudices based on nationality, ethnicity, and religion.

## 7 Battlefield-conditions, turning points

### 7.1 Fighting Germany

- British and Americans concentrated on overcoming German submarines and bombing on German cities.
- The Allies used radar, sonar, and the bombing of German naval bases in order to counter the might of submarines.
- The Allies also had to force Germans out of North Africa.
- In November 1942, General Dwight Eisenhower and General Bernard Montgomery took North Africa from the Germans.
- On D-Day, British, Canadian, and American forces under General Eisenhower secured several beachheads on Normandy coast.
- By August of 1944, Paris was liberated and by September, the Allies began the final push to Berlin.
- As U.S. troops advanced through Germany, they came upon German concentration camps.
- The world was shocked by the discovery of 6 million killed Jews.

### 7.2 Fighting Japan

- By decoding Japanese messages, the U.S. was able to destroy 4 Japanese carriers and 300 planes in the battle of Midway.



- This ended Japanese expansion.
- The U.S. began a campaign hopping from island to island and slowly approached Japan.
- On August 6 and 9 of 1944, the U.S. dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to prevent a land invasion.
- Japan Surrendered a week after the second bomb fell.

## 8 Ending the war

- In Casablanca, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed to invade Sicily and Italy and demand unconditional surrender from the Axis.
- In Teheran, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin met in the Iranian city and agreed for Britain and America to liberate France in the spring and the Soviets would invade Germany and eventually join the war against Japan.
- In February 1945, Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill met in Yalta and agreed that
  - Germany would be divided into occupation zones
  - There would be free elections in the liberated countries of Eastern Europe
  - The Soviets would enter war with Japan
  - The Soviets would control the southern half of Sakhalin Island and the Kurile Islands in the Pacific and would have special concessions in Manchuria
  - A new world peace organization (the U.N.) would be formed at a conference in San Francisco.

### 8.1 Costs

- 50 million military personnel died worldwide.
- 15 million Americans served in uniform and 300,000 Americans died.
- 800,000 Americans were injured.