

Critics of foreign policy in the 1920s say isolationism is the cause of disenchantment. Having rejected Wilson's views, they claim the nation has turned its back on international responsibilities. However, the States were more active in world affairs in the 1920s than previously, even if not in Wilson's way. When Harding takes office in 1921, the States in the League of Nations are no longer realistic. Sec State Charles Hughes, in 1921, declares war with Germany at an end and negotiates separate treaties with the Central powers, thinking that they can receive the advantages of the Versailles treaty with no responsibilities. Hughes wants to replace the League, though, and tries to build safeguards against future wars without hampering American freedom of action. The most important was the Washington Conference of 1921, which tried to prevent the naval race between the States, Britain, and Japan. Hughes called for dramatic reductions and a ten year moratorium on large warships, and scrapping a lot of existing shipping. They agree on most terms. The Five power Pact of Feb 1922 established limits for total naval tonnage and a ratio of armaments amongst signatories. This also sanctions Japanese dominance in East Asia, as both the States and Britain are throughout the globe and Japan is only in the Pacific. They also create the Nine-Power Pact, a continuation of open door policy and China, and the Four Power Pact, in which the States, Britain, France, and Japan will respect Pacific territories. The Conference began the New Era effort for peace without international duties. The Kellogg Briand Pact of 1928 concluded it. French asked the States in 1927 to ally against Germany, Sec State Kellogg proposed to outlaw war as an instrument of national policy. 14 nations signed this in 1928, though it only relies on moral force of world opinion. The first responsibility of diplomacy, according to Hughes and Kellogg, was to ensure American overseas trade faces no obstacles, and preventing the armaments race while reducing war are steps to that end. Financial arrangements also help this. The States are concerned with Europe, since their prosperity depends on it. The major powers were suffering from devastation and debt of World War One, and the Allies are struggling to repay loans. Germany is attempting to pay reparations, and Europe is on the brink of economic collapse. In 1924 Charles Dawes, American banker and diplomat, negotiated an agreement so that the States provide loans to Germany to pay reparations payments, and Britain and France reduce amount of these payments, but this Dawes plan didn't really solve problems, for it created a circular pattern, as France and England needed to repay the States. This flow continued only because of the enormous debt. Banks and corporations are very present in daily European economic life. Many American industries, notably the automobile, are establishing subsidiaries throughout the Continent. Some do warn about this reckless expansion with the States becoming too dependent on the unstable European economy. High tariff barriers due to the Fordney McCumber Act of 1922 create additional problems. Europe cannot export goods to the States, so they can't get money to pay loans. The States gov feels few reservations about assisting in economic expansion in Latin America. Throughout the 1920s, their military was present throughout the region, and their investments in this area doubled between 1924 and 1929. They agreed to weaken revolutionary forces, but they can also increase access to the rich natural resources. State banks offered large loans to Latin American govts that had difficulty repaying them. By the end of the 1920s, resentment of Yankee imperialism grew rapidly, and economic problems after 1929 increased these problems. After a peaceful international in the 1920s, diplomatic challenges under Hoover happened. The world financial crisis greatly increased after 1929 and has produced economic distress and dangerous nationalism. The Depression had also toppled political leaders, replacing them with belligerent govts that saw expansion as the solution. Hoover is confronted with a process that leads to war. In Latin America, he works to repair American damages. There was a goodwill tour, and then he abstains from intervening in internal affairs and withdraws troops from Haiti. When economic distress caused regime collapses, he announced a new policy that the States grant recognition to any sitting gov without questioning how they got power, and repudiated the Roosevelt corollary by refusing to permit intervention when several countries defaulted on debt in 1931. In Europe, the admin had few successes in economic stability. Hoover's moratorium on debts didn't attract support or stability, so economists appeal the pres to cancel war debts to the states, and he refuses, causing several European

nations to default. This ineffectiveness is troubling because Mussolini's Fascist Party had grown its control of Italy since early 1920s, by 1930s they are nationalistic and militaristic with an active campaign of expansion. Germany's National Socialist or Nazi Party has also grown. By the late 1920s Weimar Republic lost pop support, mainly due to inflation, and Hitler grew in favor. His ideology is a threat to European and world peace. More alarming is the crisis in Asia. Japan has an economic depression, and are concerned about the strength of the Soviet Union and Premier Chiang Kai shek's nationalistic China, particularly with his insistence on expanding power of Manchuria, which was a part of China but Japan had long help economic control. Japan fails to counter Chiang's ambitions, and in 1931, Japan stages what was essentially a coup in 1931, seizing control of foreign policy, and later invading north Manchuria. Sec State Henry Stimson hoped moderates would recontrol Tokyo and halt invasion, but military keeps command and finishes conquest of Manchuria in 1932. Stimson issues warnings and tries to use moral suasion, but his only real tool is to refuse diplomatic recognition, which Japan isn't concerned about as they expand to China. Hoover leaves office in 1933, and shows that the voluntary unity has collapses. The States could adopt more internationalism, or use nationalism to deal with their and all problems, and they experiment with these approaches for six years.

Roosevelt's challenges in 1933 are the economic crisis and decaying international structure, which are related. However, the States make few gestures towards world stability, and try to turn inward. Roosevelt's sharpest break from predecessors is economic relations with Europe. Hoover wanted to reinforce the gold standard, and agreed to participate in the World Economic Conference. But then Roosevelt was president, and let the gold value fall, and released a bombshell that rejected currency stabilization. The conference dissolves, and new negotiations begin in 1936. He also abandoned commitments to settle war debts. In April 1934, he signed a bill forbidding banks from making loans to nations defaulting on debts, this stops the circular system. There is interest in world trade, leading to the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934, which negotiates treaties lowering tariffs with reciprocals by other nations. Exports increase, but imports still lag, so they don't have money needed. Russians and the States want better relations, particularly Russia wanting to contain Japan. In 1933, foreign minister Maxim Litvinov and Roosevelt agreed for Soviets to cease propaganda and protect Americans in Russia, with the States recognizing the Soviets. Still, relations sour, since American trade doesn't establish in Russia and the States don't help with Japan, so mistrust rises by 1934. The Good Neighbor Policy with Latin America was successful, for they were important in trade reciprocity. The Western Hemisphere is closely tied in imports and exports. Roosevelt continues Hoover with the Inter-American Conference in 1933, where Sec State Hull declares they cannot intervene in each other's internal or external affairs. Roosevelt respects that pledge, however, economic force is used instead of military force, so while tensions ease, the States dominate Latin American economies. The arms control conference was meeting without result since 1932, and Roosevelt submits a proposal for arms reductions. Negotiations stall and break down, and Hitler and Mussolini withdraw, and Japan withdraws from the London Naval Conference. Isolationism has grown from disillusionment of Wilsonian views, thoughts of business interests in World War One, tax evasion throughout the war, and Wilson being pressured to intervene in the war because of loans. Roosevelt shared these suspicions. Still, he wants world peace, and asks the Senate to ratify joining the World Court, symbolic commitment, but this is defeated. In 1935, Mussolini has been preparing to invade Africa, so America wants to avoid involvement in war, leading to the Neutrality Act of 1935, later 1936 and 1937, which try to prevent World War One like events. There is a mandatory arms embargo against victim and aggressor, and Americans traveling at their own risk. 1937 added cash and carry, meaning nonmilitary goods purchased by warring nations must be in cash. Neutrality gained support when in 1935 Mussolini attacked Ethiopia. the League protests, so Italy resigns, conquers Ethiopia, and allies with Nazi Germany. Americans want full isolation from European instability. There was also a civil war in Spain 1936 and 1937 were the Falangists, like the Italian

Fascists, revolt. Hitler and Mussolini supported General Francisco Franco, leader of the Falangists in 1937. While the States, Britain and France are sympathetic to Republicans, they offer no help. Asia is also deteriorating, since Japan launched more assault on China's north. Roosevelt warns of Japan's dangers and wants to quarantine the war, but the public is hostile to this. Then Japan bombed an American gunboat blatantly, yet isolationists seize on how Japan claimed it was an accident. Hitler moved the army to Rhineland, a French area, and then marched to Austria, claiming union between Austria and Germany. There wasn't much opposition anywhere, however, Hitler now occupied part of Czechoslovakia, and demands that be ceded to him. They were prepared to fight, but would need help from other nations, who don't want war. The Munich conference involved France and Britain resolving this crisis, where Hitler just wants Czechoslovakia without more territory gains, so they agree. This appeasement could be blamed unjustly on British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, and it fails. Hitler began to occupy the rest of Czechoslovakia, then issued threats to Poland. Britain and France assure Poland that they will help. Russia is almost involved, however, he signed a nonaggression pact with Hitler. Hitler launched an invasion of Poland, and Britain and France soon declared war on Germany, beginning World War Two.

Roosevelt wants the nation but not the people to be neutral, though almost all favor Britain and France. Roosevelt thinks the States should make armaments available to the Allied, and asks to lift the arms embargo. While Americans cannot enter war zones, they can cash and carry with arms. After Poland was subdued, there was a lull, for the only fighting was between Russia and neighbors, the Baltics. America has a moral embargo on them, and by 1940, the Soviet advance was complete. In the spring of 1940 Germany attacked Denmark and Norway, eventually ending in France. Western European nations fall to Germany. Mussolini brings Italy into the war and helps invade France, which Nazis take. Only bits of British can oppose the Axis. Roosevelt quickly increases Allied aid and prepares to resist invasion of the States. More money for defense, mainly warplanes. When Britain and Churchill ask for materials, he supplies them and circumvents the Neutrality Act. There was a shift in public opinion, for they think Germany poses a threat to the States. The Burke Wadsworth Act was the first peacetime military draft. Isolation is not dead, though, and there are debates between them and interventionists. Journalist William White was chairman of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies who lobbies for assisting the allies but not intervening. The Fight for Freedom Committee wanted to declare war in 1941, and the America First Committee, led by several well known people, won widespread support. Roosevelt runs against Wendell Willkie, a republican with little difference in war opinion, but Roosevelt has a decisive victory in 1940. Britain is bankrupt, so the lend lease system comes into play. It lets the gov sell and lend or lease armaments to nations deemed vital to the defense of the States. However, shipping across the Atlantic has become increasingly dangerous because of German submarines. Roosevelt says the American navy will defend ships in the western Atlantic, and end up patrolling the nation, escorting convoys, and radioing information about Nazi submarines. Germany didn't immediately challenge these actions, however, in fall of 1941, Germany had invaded Russia, so the States extend the lend lease to Russia which leads to a formal Soviet American alliance. In September, Nazis campaign against American vessels, and Roosevelt orders to fire submarines on sight. Nazis sink two destroyers, enraging congress so that the States have effectively launched a naval war on Germany. In April 1941, the States and Britain meet to agree on strategy if the States enter the war. They make no military commitments, but the Atlantic Charter vaguely states for them to work for a better world, essentially destroying Nazi tyranny. Roosevelt thought they still needed public support, though. Japan signs the Tripartite Pact, a loose alliance with Germany and Italy, which doesn't develop much. Japan continued its assault, moving into Indochina and seizing the capital of Vietnam, a French colony. The States know the next target is the Dutch East Indies, and they freeze all assets to the states, have a complete trade embargo, and limit Japan's ability to purchase supplies. The Japanese Prime Minister Prince Konoye seems willing to compromise, however, militants replace him with General Hideki Tojo, who maintained a pretense for negotiations. However,

they will not yield on China, which the States cannot accept. The States know, due to decoding Japanese messages, that an attack is imminent, though they do not know where. A warning was sent by America to Pearl Harbor, but there was also an envoy going through the China Sea, so there was confusion over what to do. On 7 December 1941, Japanese bombers attacked the States naval base at Pearl Harbor. Because no precautions were taken, the consequences were disastrous for America. This unified American commitment to war, so war against Japan was declared on 8 December 1941. Germany and Italy quickly declared war on the States, and the States declared back. So for the second time in 25 years, the states are in a world war.