

Origins of World War II

The Treaty of Versailles Ends WWI - The 14 Points for World Peace

Promise

- a) League of Nations
- b) No one is to blame
- c) Fair boundaries
Polish corridor
- d) Open seas and trade
- e) Fair colonial boundaries
- f) Open treaties
- g) Disarmament
- U.S./England keep more ships / 5:5:3:1:1

Reality

- a) U.S. refuses to join
- b) Germany pays for the war
- c) France takes Alsace, Italy takes Trieste,
- d) High tariffs
- e) England and France seize mandates
- f) Allies invade Russia
- g) Washington Naval Conference,

The Neutrality Act of 1937:

"Whenever the President shall find that there exists a state of war between, or among two or more foreign states ... It shall thereafter be unlawful to export ... Arms, ammunition, or implements of war ... To any belligerent state named in such proclamation."

"It shall thereafter be unlawful for any American vessel to carry any arms, ammunition, or implements of war to any belligerent state."

"It shall thereafter be unlawful for any citizen of the United States to travel on any vessel of the state or states named."

FDR's Quarantine the Aggressor Speech

"The present reign of terror and international lawlessness began a few years ago ... The very foundations of civilization are seriously threatened ... Without a declaration of war and without warning or justification of any kind, civilians, including women and children, are being ruthlessly murdered with bombs from the air ... Innocent peoples, innocent nations are being cruelly sacrificed to a greed for power and supremacy.

If those things come to pass in other parts of the world, let no one imagine that America will escape, that America may expect mercy ... The peace-loving nations must make a concerted effort in opposition to those violations of treaties and ignoring of humane instincts.

The epidemic of world lawlessness is spreading. When an epidemic of physical disease starts to spread, the community joins in a quarantine of the patients in order to protect the health of the community ... War is a contagion ... We are adopting such measures as will minimize our risk of involvement, but we cannot have complete protection in a world of disorder in which confidence and security have broken down."

FDR Recommends Lend-Lease, 1940

"I also ask this Congress for authority and for funds sufficient to manufacture additional munitions and war supplies to be turned over to those nations which are now in actual war with aggressor nations ... I do not recommend that we make them a loan of dollars ... We shall be repaid following the close of hostilities in other goods which we need."

Events in Europe: A Chronology

- 1933: Hitler seizes control of Germany
- 1934: Italy invades Ethiopia
- 1935: German Jews lose political rights
- 1936: Germany reoccupies the Rhineland/violates WWI treaty
Civil War in Spain
Germany and Italy sign Berlin-Rome Axis
- 1938: Germany occupies Austria and part of Czechoslovakia
Great Britain and France back down at Munich
German Jews attacked by Nazis
- 1939: Italy invades Albania
Germany and Russia agree not to fight
Germany invades Czechoslovakia and Poland
Great Britain and France declare war on Germany
Japan joins German-Italians alliance
- 1940: Germany defeats France
- 1941: Germany attacks the Soviet Union

Events in Asia: A Chronology

- 1931: Japan occupies Manchuria
- 1937: Japan invades China
Japan "accidentally" attacks U.S. ships
- 1940: Japan allies with Germany and Italy
- 1941: Japan seizes South East Asia
Japan attacks the Phillipines and Hawaii

FDR's War Message to Congress

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the request of Japan, as still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

FDR Asks for Declaration of War Against Germany and Italy

"On the morning of December 11, the Government of Germany declared war against the United States. The long-known and the long-expected has taken place. The forces endeavoring to enslave the world now are moving toward this hemisphere. . . .Never before has there been a greater challenge to life, liberty and civilization. Delay invites danger. Rapid and united effort by all of the peoples of the world who are determined to remain free will insure a world victory of the forces of justice and of righteousness over the forces of savagery and of barbarism."