

America's Road to War

Use America: History of Our Nation pg. 805-806 to answer the following questions:

1. Following WWI, what kind of policy did the U.S. return to? Why?
The U.S. returned to a policy of isolationism. Its aggression threatened to bring the world to war again, Americans were determined to avoid getting involved.
2. What did the Neutrality Act of 1935 NOT allow the President to do?
The Neutrality Act forbade the President from selling arms, making loans, or giving any other kind of assistance to any nation involved in war.
3. How did the Good Neighbor Policy strengthen America's policy of isolationism?
Under the Good Neighbor Policy, FDR withdrew American troops from Nicaragua & Haiti & canceled the Platt Amendment. Doing this meant the U.S. was no longer involved in Latin American affairs.

Now use page 808 through 811 to answer the remainder of the questions:

4. What did President Roosevelt promise the nation when he was reelected to a third term in 1940?
FDR promised to maintain American neutrality.
5. What kind of compromise did Roosevelt originally make with Congress that allowed the U.S. to sell supplies to Britain, even though it violated the Neutrality Act? The U.S. could sell supplies to Britain, but Britain would have to pay cash for its goods received.
6. What did the Lend-Lease Act allow the United States to do? When was it passed?
The Lend-Lease Act allowed the U.S. to lend or lease supplies to Britain & other nations fighting the Nazis. It was passed at the end of 1940.
7. Describe two things that Roosevelt and Congress did in 1940 that helped build up the military to prepare for a possible entry into the war:
 1. Greater spending in the Army & Navy. / Sept 1940 set up the first peacetime draft
 2. FDR ordered the Army Air Corps to organize an African American unit under the command of black officers. A flight training program was set up at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Maryland → Tuskegee Army
8. What were the goals that Roosevelt and Churchill outlined in the Atlantic Charter of 1941?
The goals outlined were- their nations would seek no territorial gain & emphasized the right of all people to choose their own government.
9. What did Roosevelt do in response to the Japanese invasion of Indochina in 1941?
FDR banned American exports of iron & steel scrap to Japan & restricted the sale of oil
10. What was one reason that the Japanese decided to wage war on the U.S.?
Japan decided to wage war because they were facing a shortage of fuel for their navy
11. Fill in the blanks: Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941
Congress declared war on Japan on December 7, 1941

Organizing for War

Men Who Served

- Congress changed the draft law to require people to serve for the entire war
- more than 15 million volunteers & draftees served during the war
- hundreds of thousands of women served as nurses or non-combat roles in special branches such as the Women's Army Corps

Wartime Economy

- industry quickly converted its output from consumer to military goods
- Govt established a War Production Board
- military output nearly doubled
- quickly ended the Great Depression
- unemployment fell
- minority workers found jobs

Supporting the War Effort

All Americans were expected to play a role in supporting Allied forces with food, clothing & war equipment.

- Victory bond drives
- Rationing - setting limits on the amount of scarce goods that could be bought
- War Bonds

Rosie the Riveter - a popular symbol of all women who worked for the war effort

- Millions of women took over jobs in factories & shipyards
- Some welded, tended blast furnaces or ran huge cranes.
- Others became bus drivers, police officers or gas station attendants.

