

Ch. 34 – Origins of WWII

Could World War II have been prevented?

34.5 The United States Enters WW II

- ▶ The US maintained its isolationism in the 30s
 - ▶ Neutrality Acts (1935-37)
 - ▶ Couldn't sell arms, lend money or ship goods to warring countries
 - ▶ The US didn't want to get drawn into WWII like it did with WWI (e.g. Lusitania)
 - Nye Committee
 - ▶ After the invasion of Poland, FDR asked for a "cash & carry" provision to help Britain & France (Neutrality Act of 39)



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- ▶ In 1940, congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act
 - ▶ First peacetime draft in US history
- ▶ In response to the Battle of Britain, FDR urged on the **Lend-Lease Act** (March 1941)
 - ▶ US lent arms to Britain
 - ▶ "all aid short of war"



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- ▶ **The Atlantic Charter**
 - ▶ FDR & Winston Churchill met to discuss our involvement in WWII (August 1941)
 - ▶ UK agreed to not use war to expand territory & that all people have self-determination
 - ▶ The US permitted its ships to sail to Europe (October)
 - Risky?
 - Nazi submarines & US vessels were fighting an undeclared naval war



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- ▶ Meanwhile, Japan was expanding its territory in Asia
 - ▶ China (1937)
 - ▶ Treaty with Germany & Italy (1940)
 - ▶ French Indochina (1941)
- ▶ In response, the US sent aid to China and quarantined Japan (oil)
- ▶ On December 7th, 1941, Japan attacked our naval base Pearl Harbor in Hawaii
 - ▶ "a Date that will live in infamy" – FDR

