

Replacing the League(720)

- It was clear when Harding took office in 1921 America being in the **League of Nations** was no longer a possibility
- Charles Evan Hughes got legislation from Congress to declare the war with Germany over in 1921 and negotiated separate treaties with the former Central Powers hoping to get the benefits of the **Versailles treaty** without the responsibility
- Hughes wanted to replace the league with something that would keep world peace without taking away American freedom of action
- At the **Washington Conference of 1921** Hughes responded to a naval arms race between Britain, Germany, and Japan by suggesting a
 - Reduction of the fleets of all 3 nations
 - Ten year moratorium on ship building
 - Scrapping of 2 million tons of shipping
- The conference agreed and the
- **Five-Power Pacts of February of 1922** which
 - Established limits for total naval tonnage
 - Established limits for ratio of armaments
- The **Nine-Power Pact** pledged to continue the Open Door policy in China
- The **Four-Power** Pact signed by Britain, France, Japan and US promised
 - Each nation would respect the territory of other nations
 - Cooperation to prevent aggression
- The **Washington Conference** was the beginning of the New Deal effort to keep peace and protect the US international economy
- When French Minister Aristide Briand asked the US to join an alliance against Germany in 1927, Frank Kellogg proposed a treaty outlawing war as an instrument of national policy
- Fourteen nations signed the agreement known as the **Kellogg-Briand Pact** in Paris on August 1928 and forty eight nations joined later
 - It had no way to be enforced

Debts and Diplomacy(720-721)

- Hughes Kellogg and the others agreed to
 - Ensure American overseas trade faced no obstacle in expanding and once it had expanded it would not face interference
 - Prevent an armament race
 - Reduce to possibility of war
- The US was worried about the European economy because it depended on it
- European industries were damaged by the war and the debt that came after it
- In 1924 Charles G Dawes negotiated an agreement in which they would loan a lot of money to Germany which they would use for reparations payments and in return Britain and France would reduce the amount of payments. This was known as the **Dawes Plan**
 - The plan was not very effective because it established a circular pattern where the US would give Germany money which they would give to Britain and France who would give it to the US

- This was able to continue because of the enormous debts the Germany and other European nations were getting to the US banks and corporations
- There corporation became very involved in the European economy expanding their business overseas
- High tariffs made it difficult for European nations to export their goods to the US which made it hard for them to repay loans
- America's economy expanded into Latin America claiming to be creating stability to access the natural resources of Latin America as well as giving loans Latin Americans struggled to pay back

Hoover and the World Crisis (721-723)

- The international financial crisis creating a nationalism that threatened to ruin agreements made in the past decade
- The Depression led to leaders being replaced with officials bent on expanding to solve their problems
- Hoover did not have the tools to deal with this and it would eventually lead to war
- Hoover tried to repair to damage done by older American policies by
 - Going on a goodwill tour
 - Abstaining from intervention in neighboring foreign affairs
 - Moving to withdraw US troops from Haiti
- After economic distress led to the collapse of Latin American regime Hoover announced new policy where America would recognize any sitting government regardless of how it had come to power
- Hoover called for moratorium on all debt in 1931 which did not receive enough support and when many asked to president to cancel all war debts to the US he refused which created even more tension in Europe
- **Benito Mussolini and his Fascist Party** had been in control of Italy since the early 1920s and by the 1930 was even more militaristic and nationalistic
- Fascist leaders threatened a very imperialist campaign of expansion
- The **National Socialist Party** or **Nazi Party** was growing in Europe after the **Weimar Republic** lost almost all support after WWI and it horrible inflation
- Adolf Hitler the leader of party was gaining power fast with strong beliefs in
 - The racial superiority of the German people
 - Lebensraum or living space for the German people
 - Anti-Semitism
 - Militarism
- The Japanese feeling a depression of their own were worried about the strength and the Soviet Union and nationalist China led by Chiang Kai-shek
 - The Japanese were especially worried about Kai-shek's insistence on expanding power into **Manchuria**
 - When the moderate Japanese government failed to take steps to counter Kai-shek's ambitions Japanese military leaders staged a coup in the fall of 1931 and seized control from the Japanese liberals and later launched a major invasion of Northern Manchuria

- At first the US government hoped the Japanese moderates would regain control and stop the invasion but this did not happen as the Japanese militants took over Manchuria by the beginning of 1932
 - Secretary of State Henry Stimson did not have much power to respond with but he did refuse to grant diplomatic recognition to the new Japanese territories
 - Japan did not really care and continued being militaristic towards China by attacking Shanghai
- When Hoover left office it was clear America had the choice to adopt a energetic internationalism and enter into more serious associations with other nations of resorts to nationalism to deal with the world problems.

Depression Diplomacy (724)

- Hoover felt resolving war debts reinforcing the gold standard was the only way the US economy could recover
- Hoover agreed to go to the **World Economic Conference** in 1933 but by the time the conference came Roosevelt had already decided to let the value of the gold dollar to fall to help American goods compete in world markets
- Roosevelt dropped a **bombshell** rejecting to orthodox view of the many of the delegates and the conference quickly dissolved
- FDR abandoned the Hoover administration's commitment to settle war debts through an international agreement, letting the issue die by
 - Declining to negotiate a solution at the **London Conference**
 - Signing a bill in April of 1935 forbidding American banks from making loans to nations in default on its debts
 - This stopped the circular system and soon war debt payment from most nations stopped
- Roosevelt approved the **Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934** which authorized the administration to negotiate treaties that would lower tariffs to be cut drastically for similar reductions from other nations
 - By 1939 Secretary of State Cordell Hull negotiated new treaties with 21 other countries
 - American exports increased but import to the US still lagged because the agreement only allowed progress that would not compete with American industry
 - As a result other nations were not getting US currency they needed to buy American products of pay off American debts

America and the Soviet Union (724)

- America and Russia had not trusted each other since the **Bolshevik Revolution of 1917** and had not officially recognized the **Soviet Regime** by 1933 but there was an urge for a change in policy to open up trade opportunities
- Russia also wanted a new relationship to gain help with contained Japan who they felt were a threat from the Southeast

- In November of 1933 Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov reached an agreement with FDR where the USSR would stop propaganda efforts towards the US and protect Americans citizens in Russia and in return the US would recognize the USSR
- The relationship failed as America failed to establish trade in the USSR and the Soviets felt the US was not interested in stopping the Japanese expansion in Asia

The Good Neighbor Policy (724-725)

- American efforts to expand diplomatic and economic relations with Latin America were successful because of the “**Good Neighbor Policy**”
- During the 1930’s the US was successful in increasing imports and exports with other nations from the Western Hemisphere
- At the **Inter-American Conference** in December of 1933, US Secretary of State Hull signed a convention that declared no state has the right to intervene with another
- Roosevelt replaced military influence in Latin America with economic influence which eased tensions

The Rise of Isolationism (725-727)

- The first years of Roosevelt presidency marked the end of hope for world peace through treaties
- The **Geneva Conference** met without result since 1932
 - FDR tried to get it going again by submitting an American proposal for arm reductions but they stalled and broke down
 - Hitler and Mussolini withdrew from talks completely a few months later
- Japan withdrew from the London Naval Conference which was attempting to draw up an agreement to build on naval negotiations at the Washington Conference of 1921
- Americas had strong isolationist feelings
- FDR tried to get the senate to make the US a member of the **World Court** which would have expanded America's commitment to internationalism without increasing its responsibility but it was defeated and FDR did not make more attempts to challenge isolationism
- It became clear in the summer of 1935 Mussolini intended to invade Ethiopia to expand its colonies in Africa
- America responded with the **Neutrality Acts** of 1935 and 36 and 37 which were designed to keep the US from getting sucked into war
 - It established a mandatory arms embargo against the victim and the aggressor and gave the the power to warn American citizens to travel on ships of warring ships at their own risks to avoid a Lusitania situation
 - It also established a cash and carry policy which allowed belligerents to purchase only nonmilitary goods from the US and they had pay in cash and pick them up themselves
- The isolationist stance gained support in October of 1935 with Mussolini attacked **Ethiopia**
 - The League of Nations protestee to Italy just resigned and continued its conquest
- Italy's formed an alliance with Germany which just increased isolationist sentiment

- After civil war in Spain between fascist Falangists and the republican government in 1936 Americans stayed isolationist even though they sympathized with the republicans
- Japan became more and more aggressive towards China launching an assault on China's Northern Provinces in the Summer of 1937
- The US and FDR felt Japan's actions should not go unpunished and in speech in Chicago in October of 1937 warned about the to world peace Japan had and said they should be quarantined by the world to prevent war from spreading
 - The public responded hostilely to the speech and FDR drew back
- On December 12 1937 Japanese aviators bombed and sank the US gunboat **Panay** as it sailed the Yangtze River in China and was clearly deliberate but isolationists pressured the government to overlook the attack and accept the apology

The Failure of Munich (727-728)

- It was clear Hitler want to expand German power in 1936 when brought the German army into the **Rhineland** which violated the Versailles Treaty and rearmend an area France has controlled since WWI
- In March of 1938 German forces marched into Austria and Hitler proclaimed and union between Germany
 - There was no European opposition
- Hitler now surrounded 3 sides of west Czechoslovakia which believe Germany needed.
- Hitler demanded the region called the **Sudetenland** where many Germans lived
- Czechoslovakia needed help but it got none as most western nation were in fear of another war
- On September 29th Hitler met with leaders of France and Great Britain at Munich to solve the crisis
 - The French and British agreed to accept the German demands for the Sudetenland if Hitler promised not to expand further which is known as **appeasement**
 - Hitler agreed
- In March of 1939 Hitler took over the rest of Czechoslovakia violating the agreement and in April began threatening Poland
 - Britain and France told Poland they would assist if it came to an invasion and attempted to unite with Russia who refused angry they had not been invited to attend the **Munich Conference**
- Stalin signed a **nonaggression pact** with Hitler in August of 1939
- Hitler tried to scare the Polish into submitting to his demands but when that did not work he staged an incident on border claiming to be attacked and invaded on September 1st 1939
 - France and Britain stayed true to their word and announced war on Germany two days later

Neutrality Tested (729-731)

- America favored Great Britain and France but did not know how far to go to support them

- FDR believed the US should make armaments available to the Allied Armies to help them counter the Germans industry
- In September of 1939 FDR asked for a revision of the Neutrality Acts which would lift the arms embargo and he got a weaker version due to isolationist resistance
 - The revised act allowed belligerents to purchase arms using cash and carry
- After Germany took over Poland that war became a lull between the Allies and Germany
- The USSR was busy annexing
 - Latvia
 - Estonia
 - Lithuania
- They even invaded Finland
 - Americans were angry but nothing but a more than a moral embargo against shipment of arms to the USSR
 - By March 1940 Soviet advance was done
- In the Spring of 1940 Germany attacked
 - Denmark
 - Norway
 - Netherlands
 - Belgium
 - France
- The Allies were ineffective against the German blitzkrieg as the allies lost territory after territory
- On June 10th Mussolini invaded France from the South joining the war
 - On June 22nd France fell to the Germans
 - Only pieces of the British army remained
- FDR increased aid to the allies and began preparations to resist a Nazi invasion
 - On May 16 FDR asked Congress for defense to build warplanes and received it immediately
 - FDR declared he would give material to the Allies
 - On May 15th Winston Churchill sent a list of supplies to the US
 - FDR worked hard to meet the requests circumventing the cash and carry provision
- FDR was able to do this because public opinion shifted as Americans began to feel more threatened by Nazis
- Congress approved the **Burke-Wadsworth Act** starting the first peacetime draft in US history
- There was still some isolationist feeling as a debate raged in the spring of 1940 between those who wanted more involvement in the the war and those who wanted neutrality
- The **Committee to Defend America** was started by William Allen White which favored assistance for the Allies but no intervention
- The **Fight for Freedom Committee** was started in 1940 and favored declaration of war
- The **America First Committee** wanted to remain neutral

The Third-Campaign (731-732)

- Roosevelt was nominated and ran for a record breaking 3rd term in the 1940 presidential election with liberal Henry A Wallace as his vice president
- The republicans had trouble coming up with a candidate favoring neither extreme isolationists or extreme interventionists
- They ended up nominating inexperienced businessman Wendell Willkie
- The republicans ended up having a similar platform to FDR and Willkie ended up losing the election

Neutrality Abandoned(732-733)

- In December 1940 Britain was pretty much bankrupt and could no longer meet the cash and carry requirements of the Neutrality Act
- Winston Churchill proposed the “**lend-lease**” system which would allow the government to lend, sell, or lease armament to countries “vital to the defense of the United States”
- It was met with isolationist opposition but Congress passed it
- It was difficult to get the supplies to Britain with German submarines attacking and the British Navy losing ships fast
- Roosevelt decided to use “**hemispheric defense**” which meant the US defend transport ships in the Western Atlantic which was a neutral zone
 - By July 1941 US ships were patrolling the ocean all the way to Iceland escorting convoys and informing the British about the position of Nazi Submarines
- In June 1941 Germany invaded the USSR quickly and went deep into Soviet territory expecting surrender
- FDR got Congress to extend the lend-lease system to the USSR which meant the US was helping fight the Nazis on both fronts
- In September 1941 Germany began a campaign against US ships with a U boat firing on the American **Greer**
- Roosevelt told American ships to fire on German submarines on sight
- Nazi Submarines hit 2 American destroyers sinking the **Reuben James** and killing US sailors
 - Congress responded with an approval of a measure which would allow the US to arm its merchant vessel and sail into belligerent ports, essentially naval war
- In August Roosevelt met with Churchill and released a document called the **Atlantic Charter** with principles that would make “a better future for the world.”
 - It was basically saying the Nazis must be beat

The Road to Pearl Harbor

- In 1940 Japan signed the **Tripartite Pact** which made them lose allies with Germany and Italy
- In July 1941 Japanese troops moved deeper and seizing the capital of Vietnam a French colony
- The US found out Japan's next target was the Dutch East Indies and FDR warned them against it but Tokyo did not respond the president froze all Japanese assets in the US and established a trade embargo which was supported by the American public
- Japan had the decision between repairing relations with the US or finding a new place for supplies by taking British and Dutch possessions in the Pacific

- In October Konoye was forced out of office and General Hideki Tojo took over and war seemed like the only option with a lack of fuel
- For weeks it looked like Japan wanted to continue negotiations
 - On November 20 1941 Tokyo proposed sent a modus vivendi in its favor to Washington but had already decided not to budge on China even though it was clearly important to the US
 - Hull rejected the offer
- It was clear an attack was coming but they did not know where
- US intelligence picked up a ship sailing to Hawaii on November 25 and sent a warning to Pearl Harbor but were paying much more attention to a Japanese convoy moving through the China Sea
 - Confusion led to government to overlook the signs of attack
- At 7:55 Sunday December 7 1941 Japanese bomber took off from a naval carrier miles away and attacked the US naval base at **Pearl Harbor** with a second round coming an hour later
- US military leaders had taken no caution and were blindsided by the attack losing
 - Battleships
 - Cruisers
 - Vessels
 - Airplanes
 - 2000 soldiers with 1000 more injured
- This was the final straw which united the US people and on December 7th 1941 the US declared war on Japan
 - On December 11th Germany, Italy and Japan declared war on the US
 - The US responded with war the same day and America was part of WWII

Crash Course 36

- WWII strengthened the federal US government
- Federal agencies had a lot of power
 - **War Production Board**
 - **War Manpower Commission**
 - **Office of Price Administration**
- Food was rationed
- Industries were taken over by the government
- People were happy to be working as the war shrunk unemployment
- America was very busy producing weapons
- Government spending and development skyrocketed with a lot of income coming from taxation
- Big businesses gained power from contracts with the government

- None of this development helped the South because most manufacturing was done in cities which they South did not have a lot of
- Organized labor continued to grow
- Women started working in factories and became a large part of the labor force but this did not last after the war
- **FDR Four Freedoms** became important
 - **Freedom of speech**
 - **Freedom of worship**
 - **Freedom from want**
 - **Freedom from fear**
- In 1944 FRD called for a new economic Bill of Rights
- Congress passed the **GI Bill of Rights** or **Servicemen's Readjustment Act** to prevent unemployment in returning soldiers which was very effective
- Big business and free enterprise
- Americanism was the opposite of Nazism which meant diversity tolerance and equality
- Scientists started to prove racism's incorrectness
 - This did not mean equality as race riots and anti-semitism were very present
- Through the **Bracero Program** Mexican immigration into the US increased
- **Executive Order 9006** in 1942 expelled Japanese people from the West Coast
- Many Japanese were sent to internment camps
- Many African Americans joined the war and moved North or West
- The Civil Rights movement began
- **Executive Order 8802** banning discrimination in defense hiring and created the **Fair Employment Practices Commission**
- America switched from isolationist to becoming very involved
- The **1944 conference Bretton Woods** replaced the pound with the dollar
- The US helped establish the UN at the **Dumbarton Oaks Conference** in 1944
- The UN aimed to keep peace
- WWII was about freedom and equality

Crash Course 37

- After WWII the US and USSR were the only countries with power
 - The US was stronger with atomic weapons and not nearly as many casualties as Russia
- The US still wanted a free market Europe and Asia so that mass consumption could keep up with mass production
- The USSR encouraged pro Communist governments in
 - Bulgaria
 - Romania
 - Poland
- The USSR wanted a communist buffer between them and Germany
- The US feared Communism would continue to expand which would damage the US economy

- America responded to the USSR with **containment** meaning Communism could stay where it was but could not expand which was introduced by George F Kennan's **Long Telegram**
- This led to wars in Korea and Vietnam
- The goal of containment were to
 - Block Soviet power from expanding
 - Expose falsities of Soviet pretensions
 - Retract the Kremlin influence
 - Help destroy the Soviet system
- Truman became president after FDR and announced the Truman Doctrine to support freedom loving people over from Communist threats
- America sent 400 million dollars to Greece and Turkey fighting for control
- The doctrine led to the creation of the
 - **National Security Council**
 - **Central Intelligence Agency**
 - **Atomic Energy Commission**
- Led to the arms race
- The **Marshall plan** was response to the economic condition in Europe during a harsh winter and aimed to use US aid to fight economic instability in Europe
- It was effective in help the European economy recover
- General McArthur forced Japan to accept a new constitution that included
 - Women's voting rights
 - The US acting as Japan's defence force
 - This allowed Japan to focus on developing its industries
- Germany was going through the **Berlin Crisis** and the US assisted through airdrops of supplies
- In 1949 Germany split into 2 nations
- Russia detonated their first atomic bomb
- **NATO** was established
- Communists won the Chinese revolution
- The US viewed the Cold War as Freedom vs Tyranny
- Americans were scared of Communism due to the use of propaganda
- American fear of Communism led them opposing legislation like the Fair Deal
- The government spent more money on education as well as research and science
- Russia used espionage to gain secrets to Atomic weaponry
- The **Red Scare** took place when Joseph McCarthy who said he had a large list of communists working in the US government even though he did not
- **Dennis vs the US** in 1951 upheld that being a Communist leader was a crime