

## America Debates Involvement

- **Understand the course of the early years of World War II in Europe.**
- **Describe Franklin Roosevelt's foreign policy in the mid-1930s and the great debate between interventionists and isolationists.**
- **Explain how the United States became more involved in the conflict.**

# Acts of War

**War began to explode in Europe & Japan continued its aggressive expansion into Asia**

**Rape of Nanjing-** Brutal, terroristic take over of Nanjing China by Japanese forces

**Roosevelt speaks out against on the violence declaring that there was no part of the world truly isolated**

**Roosevelt believed there should be an alliance of peacekeeping nations**

# War in Europe

Hitler violates **Munich Pact** & takes control of Czechoslovakia

He orders generals to be brutal & believed there was “no morality in war.”

France & Britain sign alliance with Poland, fearing a future attack by Hitler

1939- Hitler signs **Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact** with Soviet Union, promising not to attack each other

# Blitzkrieg

**Soviet Union & Germany secretly agree to invade & divide Poland between them**

**Sept. 1, 1939. Germany begins a **Blitzkrieg**-  
Sudden attack or lightning warfare to  
quickly invade Poland**

**This was a new style of warfare that used  
advanced technology & speed to advance  
quickly into enemy territory**

**Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> The Soviet Union invades from the  
east & takes the Baltic nations**

**France & Britain declare war, but Poland  
falls**

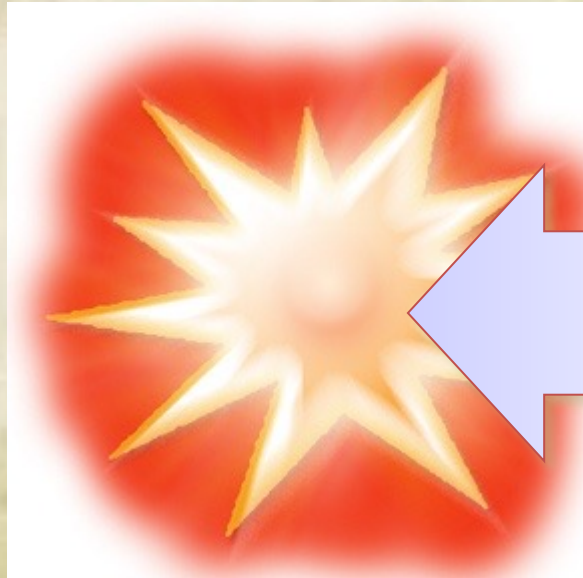


**Europe was again at war. In time, major powers around the world joined in alliances.**

### **Axis Powers**

- **Germany**
- **Italy**
- **Japan**

**The Tripartite Pact**  
bound these nations  
together.



### **Allies**

- **Britain**
- **France**
- **Soviet Union**
- **United States**
- **China**

# **Powers of the War**

**Axis Powers-** Made up of Germany, Italy, Japan, & other nations

**Allied Powers-** France, Britain & eventually China, Soviet Union, & U.S.

**After Poland, Europe enters the “Phony War” with no conflict for 8 months**

**Then Germany begins to advance west into Europe quickly & nations begin to fall**

# France Falls

**France creates the Maginot line on the border with Germany**

**But Germany sneaks through the Ardennes forest cutting off British support**

**Germany almost takes out British forces if not for **Miracle of Dunkirk****

**70% of Britain's military had to be evacuated by small fishing boats back to England**

**Paris is taken & France surrenders splitting the country in two**



# **Battle of Britain**

**Winston Churchill addressed the nation  
saying that appeasement was not an  
option for Germany**

**Hitler plans operation Sea Lion to use its air  
force to take command of the English  
Channel**

**Germany begins air raids on Great Britain  
known as “The Blitz”**

**However, Britain held the mainland &  
Germany postponed his invasion**

# **American Reaction Divided**

**Churchill tried to implore the world that  
the fight against Hitler threatened the  
entire world**

**Roosevelt concerned with Europe but  
majority of Americans favor isolation.**

**Some Americans believed that big business  
wanted to enter the war to make fortunes  
selling weapons**

**Congress passes Neutrality Acts to protect  
American interests and safety**

# Isolation

**Neutrality Act of 1939** allowed Britain to buy goods & arms with cash & own transportation


Americans worried if this would drag them into the war

Isolationists believed if they aided Britain then Germany would force conflict

**Charles Lindbergh** led the America First Committee & argued for complete neutrality



**In the early days of the war, Congress declared neutrality. But as the war raged on in Europe, the United States began to take steps to support Europe's democracies.**



- The **Neutrality Act of 1939** contained a **cash-and-carry provision** favoring the Allies.
- The **Selective Service Act** provided for a military draft.
- FDR agreed to **give Britain battleships** in exchange for defense bases.



# **America Moves Closer to War**

**Germany, Italy, & Japan sign the  
Tripartite Pact, becoming allies**

**Congress passes a Selective Service Act to  
begin military training for reserve troops**

**Roosevelt gives Britain 50 WWI era  
destroyers for exchange for bases**

**Roosevelt runs for reelection winning  
an unprecedented third term**

# U.S. Policies

The **Lend-Lease Act** allowed the U.S. to give aid to Allied forces in Europe

Roosevelt & Churchill secretly meet in Newfoundland & discuss mutual war aims

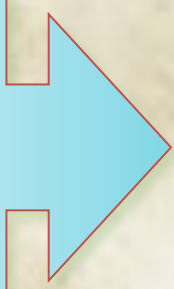
The **Atlantic Charter** is signed to endorse national self-determination

Germany begins using U-boats to sink American ships & FDR calls in the Navy

June 1941-Germany declares war on Soviet Union

**As conditions worsened overseas, Roosevelt described what was at stake, in an address to Congress.**

**He highlighted four freedoms precious to Americans.**



- **freedom of speech**
- **freedom of worship**
- **freedom from want**
- **freedom from fear**

**All of these freedoms, he argued, were threatened by German and Japanese militarism.**