

# Events Leading the U.S. to enter World War II





# The U.S. After World War I

- After World War I, the U.S. returned to a foreign policy of **isolationism**. Many Americans believed a return to such a policy would help the country be more secure without worrying about the actions of the rest of the world.
- Beginning in 1935, Congress passed a series of **Neutrality Acts** which intended to prevent Americans from making loans to nations at war. Any sale of goods to such nations was to be strictly on a “cash and carry” basis.
- The U.S. did not join the League of Nations nor did it join the world court. The League had no control over major conflicts, made no progress on disarmament in Europe, and had no effective military force.







The Great Depression spread worldwide... difficult times allowed for the growth of **totalitarian** governments based on the philosophy of **fascism** in Europe.







# Rise of Totalitarian Governments

## Characteristics of Totalitarian Governments:

- One political party with complete control over the government.
- Use terror to suppress individual rights
- Silence the opposition
- **Fascism:** places the importance of the nation above all else, and individual rights and freedoms are lost as everyone works for the benefit of the nation.
- **Nazi Germany** led by **Adolf Hitler**
- **Fascist Italy** led by **Benito Mussolini**
- both fascist governments were characterized by extreme nationalism, racism, and militarism.
- Both Hitler and Mussolini provided military assistance to the Fascist leader of Spain, Francisco Franco who established a fascist government there in 1939.





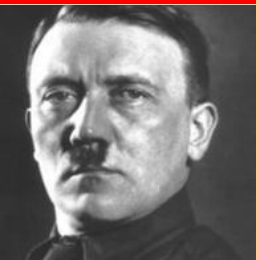




# Rise of Nazism & Anti-Semitism

- Gestapo Created -- April 1933
- Jewish Boycott – April 1933
- Jewish Books Banned & Burned – May 1933
- 27,000 people in concentration camps – July 1933 up to 60,000 in 1938.
- Illegal to Leave Germany – October 1941





# 1938 Munich Agreement

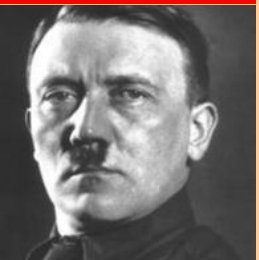
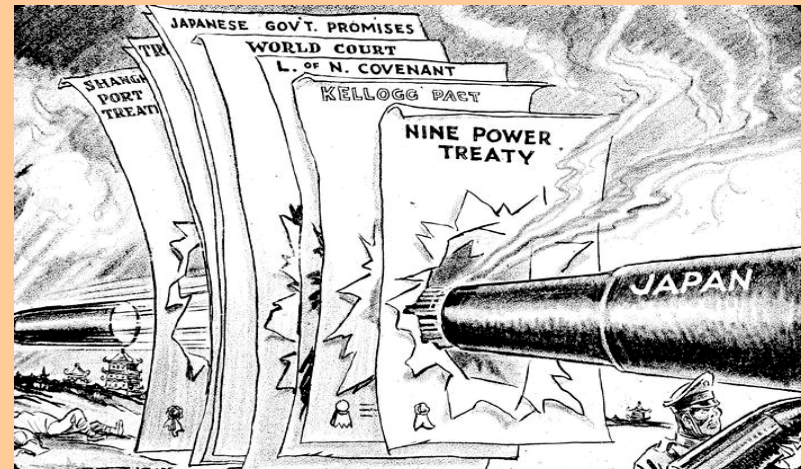
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- Great Britain and France allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland, a region of Czechoslovakia with a large German-speaking population.
  - Hitler convinced British PM Neville Chamberlain and the French that he would make no further territorial demands.
  - Six months later, Hitler broke the agreement and seized the rest of Czechoslovakia.
  - This agreeing to the demands of a potential enemy in order to keep the peace is known as **appeasement**.
  - **Germany invades the Rhineland– March 7, 1936**
  - **Austria – March 1938**
  - **Czechoslovakia – March 1939**
  - **Poland – September 1, 1939 (official start of WWII in Europe)**
  - **By summer of 1940, Germany controlled most of Europe.**





# In the Pacific...Rise of Japan

- **Rulers**: Emperor Hirohito; Tojo Hideki, Prime Minister.
- Japan suffered from severe economic depression. Because it lacked resources, it looked elsewhere to satisfy its needs.
- **Desire for Empire**: invades Manchuria (1930), seizes Shanghai (1932), withdraws from League of Nations, invades China in (1937).
- Expansion concerned the Allies. The U.S. tried to limit Japanese expansion by refusing to sell them war supplies.





# The Nazi-Soviet: Non-Aggression Pact

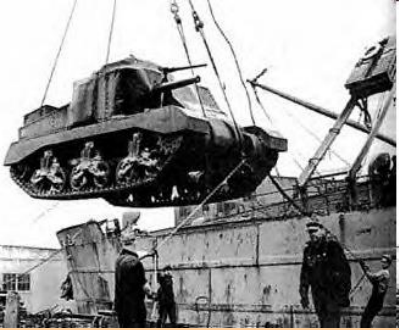


Hitler was planning against the possibility of a two front war. Since fighting a two front war in World War I split Germany's forces, it had weakened and undermined their offensive and played a large role in Germany losing the First World War. Hitler was determined not to repeat the same mistakes. So, he planned ahead and made a pact with the Soviets - **the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact**. This agreement stated that the two countries- Germany & the Soviet Union - would not attack each other. If there were ever a problem between the two countries, it was to be handled amicably.









# The Lend-Lease Act



- Although the U.S. was officially committed to a policy of neutrality, President Franklin D. Roosevelt found a way around the Neutrality Acts to provide aid and warships to Great Britain.
- FDR convinced Congress to pass the **Lend-Lease Act**, which allowed the U.S. to sell or lend war materials to “any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States”.
- FDR intended to keep the U.S. out of the war, but said the nation would become the “arsenal of democracy”, supplying arms to those fighting for freedom.

# Wartime Diplomacy: The Atlantic Charter

## THE Atlantic Charter

THE President of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

1. *Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other.*
2. *They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.*
3. *They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.*
4. *They will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.*
5. *They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement and social security.*
6. *After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling*

*in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.*

7. *Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.*

8. *They believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

August 14, 1941

- Before the U.S. got involved in World War II, **President Roosevelt** and **British Prime Minister Winston Churchill** met on battleships in the north Atlantic to agree on certain principles for building a lasting peace and establishing free governments in the world.
- The document containing these agreements was called the **Atlantic Charter**.

# The Japanese Attack!

- December 7, 1941: Roosevelt called the attack “a date which will live in infamy”.
- Japanese war planes attacked the U.S. Navy Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The base was attacked by 353 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers.
- As a result of the attack, American nationalism and patriotism surged. The day after the attack, Congress agreed to President Roosevelt’s request to declare war on Japan.



# Pearl Harbor: The Numbers...

- Four U.S. Navy battleships were sunk (two of which were raised and returned to service later in the war) and four others were damaged.
- The Japanese sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers and an anti-aircraft training ship. 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed; 2,402 men were killed and 1,282 wounded.
- The power station, shipyard, maintenance, and fuel and torpedo storage facilities, as well as the submarine piers and headquarters building (also home of the intelligence section) were not attacked.
- Japanese losses were light: 29 aircraft and five midget submarines lost, and 65 servicemen killed or wounded. One Japanese sailor was captured.



Photo # 80-G-182252 Japanese "Zero" fighter leaves Akagi to attack Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec. 1941

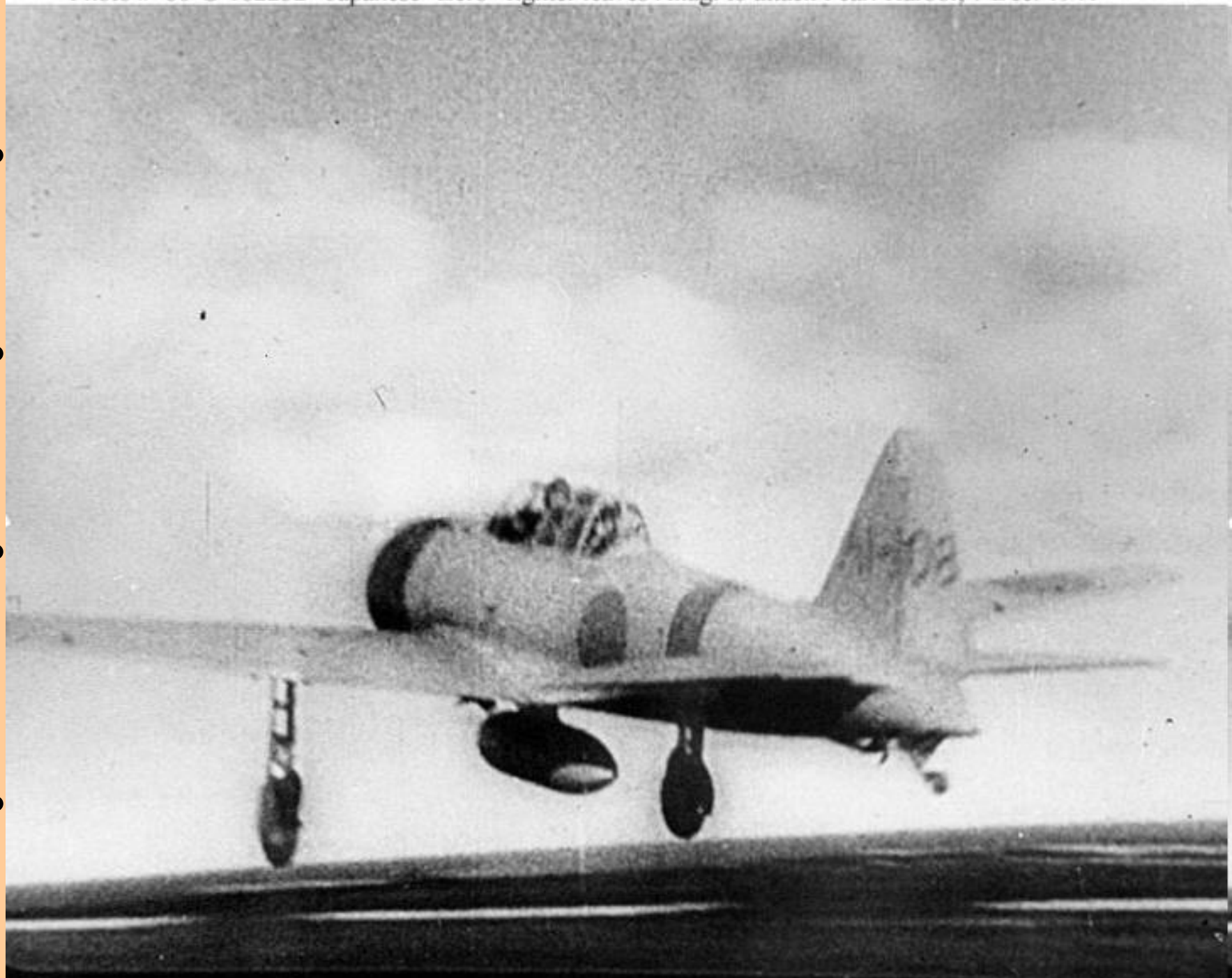




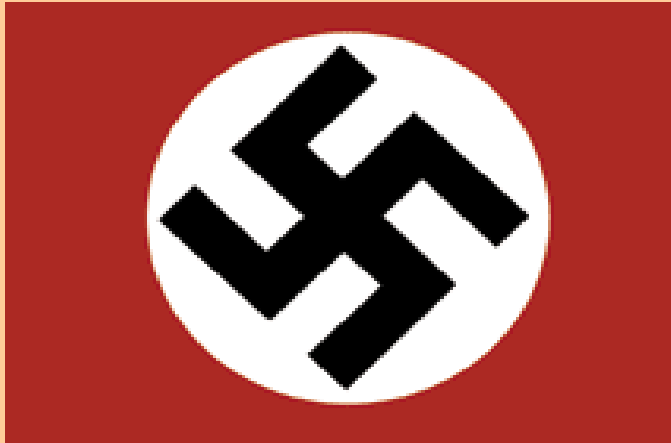
Photo # 80-G-32456 USS California sinking at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941



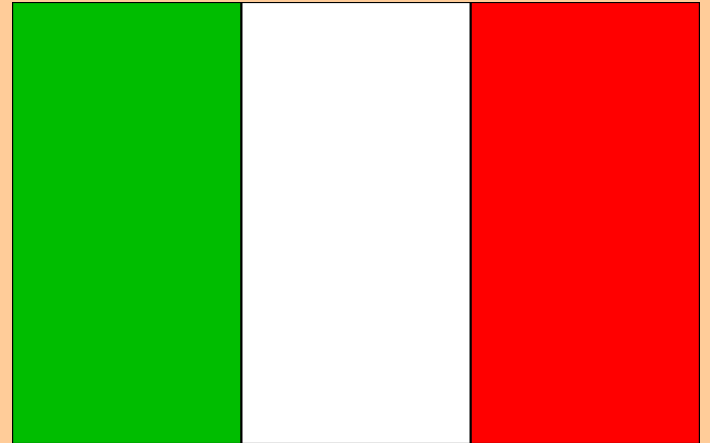


# Major Axis Powers

**Germany**



**Italy**



**Japan**





# Major Allied Powers

**United States**



**USSR (Russia)**



**Great Britain**

