Essential Questions:

- What factors led the United States to shift from isolation in the 1920s & 1930s to an active war participant by 1941?
- Why did the USA enter WW II?
- How do these factors compare to US reasons for entering the first World War?
RESULTS OF WW I

- Wilson had wanted to “make the world safe for democracy”
- From post-war chaos in Europe to communism in Soviet Union, this had not been realized
- America does not want to be brought into another European conflict
ISOLATIONISM

- Defined as a withdrawal from world affairs

- America practiced *partial* isolationism
  - America will still deal with other nations, but try to avoid entangling alliances
  - Main effort is to stay out of a European war
UNILATERALISM

- Independent action in foreign affairs
- United States did not join the League of Nations or the World Court
- U.S. will use diplomacy to promote peace
- Disarmament - limiting of weapons
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

- Nov. 1921
- Organized by Sec. of State Charles Evans Hughes
- Called for 10-year naval “holiday” → No battleships or battle cruisers would be built
FIVE-POWER AGREEMENT

- Involved United States, Great Britain, Japan, France, and Italy

- Warships would be scrapped until a ratio of 5:5:3 existed among U.S., Great Britain, and Japan
OTHER AGREEMENTS

- **Four-Power Treaty** - Japan, Great Britain, United States, and France agree to respect one another’s territory in the Pacific.

- **Nine-Power Treaty** - United States, Great Britain, Japan, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, and China agree to China’s territorial integrity and to uphold the Open Door Policy → blocks Japanese dominance of China.
KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT

- French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand proposed that the U.S. and France agree to outlaw war as a way of resolving differences
- Sec. of State Frank Kellogg proposes that all nations be included
- 62 eventually sign
WAR DEBTS

- During 1800s, the U.S. had become a debtor nation with respect to Europe

- After 1914, U.S. becomes a creditor nation
  - European countries could not pay debts
  - 1931 - Pres. Hoover declares a one-year moratorium on payments
In Europe, post-war recovery was difficult in the 1920s & 1930s:

- The **Hawley-Smoot Tariff** in 1930 limited European attempts to sell their goods in the US

- The **Great Depression** limited American loans to Europe which left Germany unable to repay reparations & Europe unable to repay its debts to the US
RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

- FDR – “Good Neighbor” Policy
  - renounces past imperialism / continues political, economic domination of Latin America
  - 1934 - cancels the Platt Amendment (Cuba)
    - Right to intervene in Cuba’s internal affairs
  - 1936 - gives up claim to intervene unilaterally in Panama
  - Withdraws marines from Haiti
ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT

- After WW I, U.S. companies increase their investment in banana, coffee, and sugar plantations
- Largest was United Fruit Company
  - In Guatemala, it was largest landowner, exporter, and employer
- Known as “banana republics” → unstable, dependent, corrupt
- Stock market crash of 1929 effects Latin America
CAUDILLOS

- Military leaders who came to power in the 1930s
- El Salvador, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Honduras all come under dictatorships
- U.S. would sometimes support the caudillos if they were favorable to American interests
NICARAGUA

- 1925 - General Emiliano Chamorro overthrows the government
- 1926 - Coolidge sends in marines to protect American interests
- Henry Stimson sent to negotiate end to civil war
- 1927 - Peace treaty negotiated and U.S. calls for training of a Nicaraguan National Guard
Augusto Cesar Sandino refuses to accept agreement
Organizes revolt against Chamorro and his successor, Adolfo Diaz
U.S. troops cannot defeat Sandino and Hoover withdraws them in 1933
Head of National Guard, Anastasio Somoza, orders the assassination of Sandino
Somoza takes over in 1937
MEXICO

- March 1938 - Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas nationalizes the country’s oil industry
- U.S. and British firms owned and operated oil companies in Mexico
- Calls for action by companies
- Because of situation in Europe and Asia, compromise is reached in 1939
CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II
7 CAUSES

- PEACE OF PARIS
- WEAKNESS OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS
- FAILURE OF DISARMAMENT
- ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
- NATIONALISM
- RISE OF DICTATORSHIPS
- AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION
1. PEACE OF PARIS

- Problems left by World War I
- Treaty of Versailles
  - Caused Germany to be occupied, to disarm, to give up land, to pay reparations, and to admit guilt
  - Germany faced with unemployment, runaway inflation, and shortages
WEIMAR REPUBLIC

- 1919 - blamed for accepting Treaty of Versailles
- People want change
- Communists and Socialists call for overthrow
2. Weakness of League of Nations

- No international police force
- U.S. did not join, thus making it weaker
- Most countries more concerned with their own problems, not willing to stand against other nations
3. Failure of Disarmament

- 1921- Washington Naval Conference
- 1927 and 1930 - less successful conferences
- 1932- League of Nations conference in Geneva
- German Chancellor Heinrich Bruning offers to stay at level set by Versailles Treaty if others will do same
- France refuses without international police force to enforce
- Talks collapse, and Bruning government collapses also
- Within 8 months, Hitler is in charge and Germany withdraws from conference and League of Nations
4. Economic Problems

- Germany, Italy, and Japan consider their trade situation unfair
- U.S., Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Netherlands control world trade
- In prosperous times, markets were available
- Combination of war reparations and the Great Depression effect overall economies
5. Nationalism

- Hindered cooperation the same as during World War I
- Led to alliances
- Germans in Sudetes Mountains of Czechoslovakia (Sudetenland) want to join with Germany
6. RISE OF DICTATORSHIPS
RUSSIA

- Nov. 1917 - Bolshevik Revolution
- Communists under V. I. Lenin call for “dictatorship of the proletariat”
- Instead, once in power, led to one-party dictatorship
- After Lenin’s Death, Joseph Stalin will emerge as the new leader
Began to seize private property

Outlawed all parties, except for Communists
ITALY

- After World War I, communist party urges peasants to take over land and workers to take over factories
- To confront the communists, Benito Mussolini founds the Fascist Party in 1919
- Black Shirts - Mussolini’s army of followers
- 1922 - Mussolini named Prime Minister
- Takes all power of government
Italy not satisfied with land gained in World War I
Mussolini calls for restoration of Italian greatness, the glory of Rome
States that the Mediterranean Sea should be an Italian lake
Known as Il Duce (the Leader)
GERMANY

- National Socialists (Nazis) come to power under Hitler in 1933
- In 1925, Hitler had written a book called *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) in which he outlined his plan for a Third Reich
- He called for rearmament and a Greater Germany
- Once named Chancellor by Paul von Hindenburg, he began to crush any opposition and to rebuild power
- His army was called the Brown Shirts
- He established the Hitler Youth to instill military discipline
- He said that Germany needed *Lebensraum* (living space)
He began to cleanse Germany of those who were not true Germans

Kristallnacht - Night of Broken Glass
- Jewish businesses are trashed
Militarists begin to control

Tradition of the Samurai
  The highest achievement in war and conquest

During the 1920s, a liberal government was in charge; by the 1930s, the military dominates
7. AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION
MANCHURIA

- Japan invades in 1931
  - Japan needs natural resources
  - Other countries more concerned with the Great Depression than China
- 1937- Japan attacks China near Peking (Beijing)
- By 1938, Japan controls most major ports and rail centers
- League of Nations condemns, does not act
ETHIOPIA

- 1935 - Mussolini invades
- Ethiopians are crudely equipped, cannot match the power of Italy
- Other nations refuse to get involved

→ Aggressor nations feel they can act without fear of retaliation
SPANISH CIVIL WAR

- 1936 - Fascist rebels under Francisco Franco wage war against the Loyalists
- Hitler and Mussolini help the Fascists, and the Soviet Union aids the Loyalists
- Franco wins in 1939
- Served as testing ground for WW II
- Hemingway - *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
RHINELAND

- Hitler begins to build up German military
- 1936- Troops move into demilitarized zone west of Rhine River
- Europe is afraid of war, they do not stop Hitler
- Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis is formed
AUSTRIA

- Hitler supports Nazi movement in Austria
- Chancellor Engelbert Dolfuss is assassinated
- 1938- Hitler marches in unopposed → Anschluss
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Germans surround on three sides
- Hitler wants Germans in Sudetenland to join with Germany
- France, Soviet Union, and Great Britain pledge to help the Czechs
- Hitler states this is his “last territorial claim”
MUNICH CONFERENCE

- 1938- British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and French Premier Edouard Daladier meet with Hitler and Mussolini to decide fate of Sudetenland
- Decision is made to give Sudetenland to Hitler → APPEASEMENT
- Chamberlain states “there will be peace in our time”
American Isolationism

- In the 1930s, FDR & Congress were preoccupied with the Great Depression to adequately plan for these growing world conflicts.
- The rising threat of war in Europe & Asia strengthened Americans’ desire to avoid involvement in another world war.
U.S. NEUTRALITY

- 1935-1939 – A series of neutrality laws (Nye Resolutions) were passed → Most Americans resolved against another “meaningless” war
  - Prohibited shipment of munitions to warring countries
  - Requires warring nations to transport American goods on their own ships
  - U.S. loans to nations at war prohibited
  - Forbids Americans to travel on ships of warring nations
The Lure of Pacifism & Neutrality

Munitions makers & bankers were labeled “merchants of death” & were blamed for American involvement in WW I

Pacifism swept across college campuses; Students staged “walk-outs” to attend anti-war rallies
POLAND

- 1939 - Hitler wanted strip of land across Polish Corridor to unite Germany with East Prussia, also wanted Danzig
- Poles refuse
- Italians take Albania
- Hitler takes rest of Czechoslovakia
Germans work to fortify Siegfried Line across from French Maginot Line
British and French realize that appeasement has been failure
Chamberlain announces that Great Britain will support Poland
Hitler states that the Poles are unreasonable
NON-AGGRESSION PACT

- Hitler makes agreement with Stalin to divide Poland
- Aug 23, 1939 - Non-Aggression Pact between Germany and Soviet Union is made public
- Hitler felt Britain will not fight
- Sept. 1, 1939- Germany invades Poland
United States Reacts to War - Debate in 1940: Isolationist or Internationalist?

**Isolationists**
- America First Committee
- Charles A Lindbergh
- “Intervention is detrimental to American interests”

**Internationalists**
- Committee to Defend America
- Best way to keep US out of war is to help allies fight the Germans
- Roosevelt is sympathetic
"And on this platform, folks, those most perplexing people... the Lads with the Siamese Beard! Unrelated by blood, they are joined in a manner that mystifies the mightiest minds in the land!"

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**THE FIGHT AGAINST FOREIGN WAR HAS JUST BEGUN!**

The vote on neutrality revision was the closest on any war legislation yet. There is still time to keep out -- if you do your part, by joining **AMERICA FIRST**

**AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**

32 Devonshire Street • Boston • Capitol 4144
“Relax, Sam, I assure you the express turns off right here!”

By Dr. Seuss