

# **America Moves Toward War**

# Moving Away from Neutrality and the Axis Threat

- The US sold weapons to the Allies for cash and asked that the Allies transport the weapons back to Europe on their own ships. This policy was called **Cash-and-Carry** and was implemented in 1939.
- **Axis Powers** – Germany, Japan, and Italy
- The US responded by sending 500,000 rifles, 80,000 machine guns, and 50 destroyers to the Allies.
- But Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1939 – six weeks after it passed the Cash-and-Carry policy.

# Building US Defenses and Lend Lease

- The US began to increase military spending.
- Congress passed a draft the **Selective Training and Service Act** – men ages 21 and 35 were registered to fight: 16 million were registered, and 1 million were drafted to serve one year but only on the western hemisphere.
- **Lend-Lease Plan (1941)** – the US agreed to lend and lease military supplies to the Allies to stop Hitler from gaining power.

# Supporting Stalin and German Wolf Packs

- In 1941, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union which violated the **Nonaggression Pact** which stated that both countries would not go to war with each other.
- The US helped the Soviet Union by sending military supplies.
- German submarines (**wolf packs**) attacked cargo ships in the Atlantic.
- Wolf packs were successful in sinking as much as 350,000 tons of shipments in a single month.
- In September 1941, President Roosevelt granted the navy permission for U.S. warships to attack German U-boats in self defense.
- US eventually starts using radar and airplanes to stop submarine attacks.



# The Atlantic Charter and Shot on Sight

- The Atlantic Charter is signed by FDR and Churchill in 1941 aboard the *USS Augusta* off the coast of Newfoundland.
- The **Atlantic Charter** encouraged
  - Collective security
  - Military reductions
  - Freedom of the seas
  - Self-Determination
  - United Nations organization
- The **Shot on Sight policy** stated that if American ships were attacked they could shoot back.
- US destroyer *Greer* is attacked 1941
- Merchant ship *Pink Star* is sunk in Atlantic in 1941 off the coast of Greenland.
- *US Reuben James* is attacked – 100 Americans die.

# Japan Attacks the United States

- In July 1937, Hideki Tojo, Chief of Staff of Japan's Army, launched the invasion into China – both Manchuria and Nanking.
- The British were too busy fighting Hitler to block Japanese expansion. Only the U.S. and its Pacific islands remained in Japan's way.
- The Japanese began their southward push in July 1941 by taking over French military bases in Indochina (now Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos).
- The United States protested this new act of aggression by cutting off trade – including the sale of oil to Japan. Japan was really upset!
- The US knew that Japan was preparing for an attack because they had broken the Japanese code but the US did not know where it would happen.
- The attack on **Pearl Harbor** takes place on December 7, 1941
- Causes – Japan wanted to expand and knew that the US would be opposed. They picked Pearl Harbor to attack because it's the largest naval base in the Pacific.
- Effects – 2,403 Americans die and 1,718 are wounded. 21 (8 battle ships) ships and 300 airplanes were destroyed.
- FDR declared war on Japan and 3 days later Germany and Italy declared war on the US.







*...we here highly resolve that these dead  
shall not have died in vain ...*



**REMEMBER DEC. 7th!**