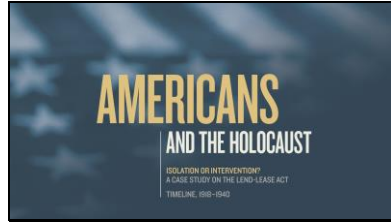


Slide 1



Historical Context (Issue Guide for Lend-Lease):

- Events—World War I, the interwar period, economic, and social context—that shaped American attitudes toward isolation and intervention
- Events in America that shaped Americans’ debates about whether or not to aid our allies and eventually whether or not to go to war
- Events in Europe related to the start of World War II
- [Holocaust Encyclopedia Article](#)

Slide 2



Eight American soldiers wearing gas masks at the front line trenches. 1917-1918, Imperial War Museum.

World War I took place from July 1914 to November 1918, but the United States was neutral until April 1917. After the war, many Americans came to believe that US involvement had been a mistake. The United States spent more than \$20 billion on the war and more than 53,000 Americans were killed in battle. By 1939, the United States had demilitarized and the US Army was the 17th largest in the world. American politics and culture between 1918 and 1933 reflected isolationism from world affairs, prejudice, and the Great Depression.

Slide 3

1929: Stock Market Crash




The stock market crashed and a serious economic depression began worldwide. At the height of the Great Depression, one quarter of the American workforce was unemployed.

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This ‘soup kitchen’ in Chicago, USA, opened for the hungry and homeless by gangster Al Capone during the Depression. November 16, 1930, National Archives Records Administration, College Park, MD.

Slide 4

1933: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Adolf Hitler Came to Power



President Roosevelt delivers his first inaugural address in Washington, DC, on March 4, 1933.

Adolf Hitler greets members of the SA, or Nazi Storm Troopers, in Nuremberg, Germany, after being appointed as Chancellor in January 1933.

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In this context, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president in 1932. Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933. After Roosevelt was sworn in as US president on March 4, 1933, the world had two leaders offering different solutions to the similar problems plaguing their countries. Also in March, Germany established a Ministry of Propaganda. During his inaugural address, Roosevelt told Americans, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

Slide 5

1933: At Least 24 African Americans Were Lynched



At least 24 African Americans were lynched in the United States in 1933. Throughout the 1930s, African Americans were subjected to government-sanctioned segregation, social ostracism, and racially motivated violence.

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New York, New York. 1938, Library of Congress.

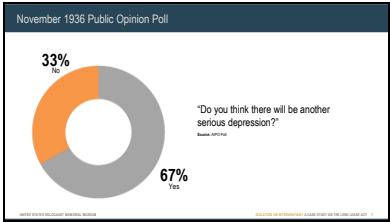
Slide 6

August 1935: Neutrality Act

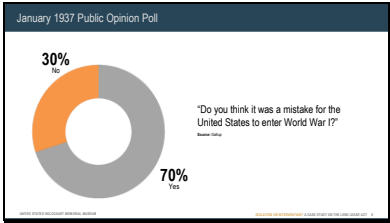


On August 31, 1935, Congress passed the first in a series of laws designed to prevent the United States from being embroiled in a foreign war. The 1935 Neutrality Act prohibited the export of "arms, ammunition, and implements of war" from the United States to foreign nations at war and required US arms manufacturers to apply for an export license.

Slide 7




Slide 8



Slide 9

1937-1938 Recession



A new recession, which lasted from May 1937 until June 1938, was America's third major economic downturn in 20 years.

Real GDP dropped 10 percent and unemployment hit 20 percent.

AP Photo/John J. Marder. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress. A 1937-1938 Recession. Photo by John J. Marder.

Migrant family walking on road, pulling belongings in carts and wagons. Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. June 1938, Library of Congress.

Slide 10

March 11-13, 1938: Anschluss



German troops occupied Austria and incorporated it into the German Reich, an event known as the Anschluss.


Nazi sympathizers attacked Jewish people and destroyed their property throughout the spring, summer, and autumn of 1938.

AP Photo/John J. Marder. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress. March 11-13, 1938. Photo by John J. Marder.

Austrian Nazis and local residents look on as Jews are forced to get on their hands and knees and scrub the pavement. March 1938-April 1938, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park.

Slide 11

November 9-10, 1938: Kristallnacht




Nazi Party members and sympathizers burned synagogues, looted Jewish homes and businesses, killed at least 91 Jews, and arrested approximately 30,000 Jewish men, imprisoning them in concentration camps. Many German and Austrian Jews applied to emigrate out of German-occupied territory.

AP Photo/John J. Marder. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress. November 9-10, 1938. Photo by John J. Marder.

Germans pass by the broken shop window of a Jewish-owned business that was destroyed during Kristallnacht. November 10, 1938, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park

Slide 12

September 1, 1939: The Beginning of World War II



Germany invaded Poland, starting World War II. Honoring an alliance with Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany. Soviet forces invaded Poland from the east a few weeks later. After Poland's defeat, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union partitioned the country.

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Slide 13

November 1939: Final Neutrality Act Passed

**ROOSEVELT ASKS CONGRESS TO CHANGE NEUTRALITY ACT; OPPOSITORS AWAIT REACTION**

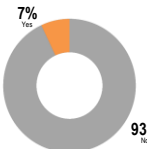
**AS TO THEIR VIEW**

Opposition to the bill is expected to be strong in the Senate and House. Many opponents are expected to cite the fact that the bill would lift the arms embargo and put all trade with nations in a state of war (such as Great Britain and France) under the terms of "cash-and-carry." The ban on loans remained in effect and American ships were barred from transporting goods to ports in those nations.

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Slide 14

May 1940 Public Opinion Poll



7% Yes

93% No

"Do you think the United States should declare war on Germany and send our army and navy abroad to fight?"

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Slide 15

Summer 1940: Committee for America First Created




In the summer of 1940, students at Yale University founded the Committee for America First, opposing US intervention in the war. America First, which grew to have 800,000 members, included isolationist, peace, and anti-war activists.

Photo: © 2015 Wikimedia Commons. Attribution: 4.0 International. License: CC BY-SA 4.0. URL: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:America\_First\_meeting.jpg

Slide 16

September 16, 1940: Selective Service and Training Act Signed




This bill required all male citizens between the ages of 26 and 36 to register for the country's first peacetime military draft. While the United States was not yet involved in World War II, Congress voted to train American men for military service so the country could defend itself against the growing threat of the Axis powers.

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Slide 17

December 29, 1940: A "Fireside Chat"



In a radio address, President Roosevelt said: "We must be the great arsenal of democracy. For us this is an emergency as serious as war itself. We must apply ourselves to our task with the same resolution, the same sense of urgency, the same spirit of patriotism and sacrifice as we would show were we at war. We have furnished the British great material support and we will furnish far more in the future."

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