



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE ARCHIVES

Summer Institute for Teachers: 2009

La Retaguardia de Tampa:

The Spanish Civil War and its Impact on Florida and U.S. History

### **Isolation and Neutrality in the 1930's**

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Course: American Government

**Using your textbook, construct a time line of events that includes the significant United States foreign policy decisions from the Kellogg-Briand Pact of July 24, 1929, to the German invasion of Poland, September 1, 1939. Only use those items that show how the United States tried to keep out of war.**

**Format your time line like this:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Significance</b>
July 24, 1929	Kellogg-Briand Pact	Outlaws the use of war

**At the conclusion of this activity you need to answer the following questions:**

- How did Japanese aggression in Manchuria set the stage for the aggression of Italy and Germany?**
- Was the League of Nations able to halt aggression (why/why not)?**
- How did the United States treat Central and South America during the late 1920's and throughout the 1930's?**
- What was the main influence on Roosevelt's early foreign policy?**
- What was the purpose of our neutrality laws?**
- What effect did the Nye Investigation have on our neutrality laws?**
- How did American neutrality affect other countries? (provide examples)**
- What SHOULD the U.S. response have been to the German invasion of**

## **Poland?**

**\*Explain the U.S. movement from neutrality to war from March 1939 to December 1941.**

**-Are these events similar or dissimilar to the events which led the U.S. into WWI?**

**-Was the U.S. at war before it declared war on Dec. 8, 1941? (explain)**

**-Was Japan justified in its attack on Pearl Harbor?**

**See Key below**

## ISOLATION AND NEUTRALITY IN THE 1930'S

Using your textbook construct a time line of events that includes the significant United States foreign policy decisions from the Kellogg-Briand Pact of July 24, 1929, to the German invasion of Poland, September 1, 1939. Only use those items that show how the United States tried to keep out of war. Format your time line like this:

Date	Event	Significance
July 24, 1929	Kellogg-Briand Pact	Outlaws the use of war
April 1930	London Naval Conference	Britain, France, Japan, U.S., and Italy agree to a five-year halt on <a href="#">ship</a> construction, tighter controls on <a href="#">submarine</a> warfare, and the continuation of limits on <a href="#">aircraft carriers</a>
June 1930	Hawley-Smoot Tariff	Erected trade barriers
January 1932	Stimson Doctrine	U.S. refuses to recognize any puppet regimes established by force – the League of Nations followed suit causing Japan to withdraw from the League
March 1933	Roosevelt announces “Good Neighbor” Policy	Reversed U.S. policy of intervention, saved money, and aimed at creating hemispheric solidarity
1933	U.S. recognizes the Soviet Union	Promoted trade
1934	Tydings-McDuffie Act	Provided for the eventual independence of the Philippines
April 1934	Nye Committee Investigation	Blames the banks and big business for U.S. intervention in WWI – 70% of American believed the report
August 1934	U.S. Marines leave Haiti	
August 1935	Neutrality Act	Prohibited all arms shipments and to forbid U.S. citizens to travel on the ships of warring nations
February 1936	Neutrality Act	Forbade the extension of loans and credit to warring nations

May 1937	Neutrality Act	Prohibited the shipment of arms to the opposing sides in the civil war in Spain
October 1937	FDR's Quarantine Speech	Called on all world democracies to "quarantine" aggressor nations
December 1938	Roosevelt encourages Britain and France to negotiate with Hitler	Resulted in the Munich Pact
1938	U.S. Congress increases the military budget	U.S. starts making preparations for war

**At the conclusion of this activity you need to answer the following questions:**

- How did Japanese aggression in Manchuria set the stage for the aggression of Italy and Germany?** Seeing that the international community did nothing to stop Japan they felt empowered to take aggressive actions
- Was the League of Nations able to halt aggression (why/why not)?** No, because none of the member nations were willing to fulfill their obligations under the League charter. There are many reasons for this but the two most important are 1. preoccupied with economic concerns 2. memories of WWI
- How did the United States treat Central and South America during the late 1920's and throughout the 1930's?** The administrations of Hoover and Roosevelt tried to improve relations within the hemisphere. They abandoned the interventionist policies of earlier administration as a way of saving money and creating hemispheric solidarity
- What was the main influence on Roosevelt's early foreign policy?** The faltering economy
- What was the purpose of our neutrality laws?** To prevent a reoccurrence of the events that led to U.S. involvement in WWI
- What effect did the Nye Investigation have on our neutrality laws?** Convinced many that U.S. business interest were the reason the U.S. went to war in WWI. Led to the passage of neutrality acts to prevent a reoccurrence of those events
- How did American neutrality affect other countries? (provide examples)** It allowed Italy to take Ethiopia and allowed Franco to take control of Spain.
- What SHOULD the U.S. response have been to the German invasion of Poland?**

**\*Explain the U.S. movement from neutrality to war from March 1939 to December 1941.**

- Neutrality Act of 1939 (“Cash and carry”)** – allowed countries at war to buy U.S. arms if they paid cash and used their own ships for transport – policy was technically neutral but because of British control of the Atlantic they benefited from the policy (help Britain and help the U.S. economy)
- Selective Service Act (1940)** – provided for the registration of males between the ages of 21 and 35 (started before the U.S. entered the conflict)
- Destroyers-for-bases** – Roosevelt arranged for Britain to receive 50 older destroyers in exchange for the right to build military bases on British island in the Caribbean and Newfoundland (99 year rent-free leases)
- Roosevelt embargos steel and scarp iron** – as a result of Japan join the Axis
- Four Freedoms Speech (1941)** – Roosevelt advocates U.S. support countries with a comment to preserving the four freedoms (speech, religion, fear and want) – Arsenal of Democracy
- Lend-Lease Act (1941)** – under this legislation Britain was able to obtain war supplies on credit (later expanded to China and Russia)
- Atlantic Charter (1941)** – Roosevelt and Churchill meet secretly off the coast of Newfoundland to discuss the peace objectives (common principles) – these included self-determination for all peoples, no territorial expansion, and free trade (freedom of the seas)
- Shoot-on-sight (Oct. 1941)** – Roosevelt orders the Navy to attack all German ships on sight
- Roosevelt freezes Japanese assets and credit and cuts off access to vital war materials (oil)** – a result of Japan’s invasion of French Indochina

**-Are these events similar or dissimilar to the events which led the U.S. into**

**WWI?** The U.S. gradually got sucked into the war because of its affinity toward Britain

- Was the U.S. at war before it declared war on Dec. 8, 1941? (explain)** Yes, but Roosevelt was ahead of public opinion. He needed something to inflame the American people and get them to snap out of their isolationist tendencies.

- Was Japan justified in its attack on Pearl Harbor?**