

The Arsenal of Democracy**name:**

World War II

Unit 8

Key Idea:

SS.912.A.6.2: Describe the United States' response in the early years of World War II (Neutrality Acts, Cash and Carry, Lend Lease Act).

A) Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.

B) Read and Annotate. No Annotation, no grade. Answer the questions associated with each section.

War had finally come. Two days after Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation of neutrality and ordered the suspension of munitions sales to all belligerents. But Roosevelt stopped short of asking that Americans remain emotionally neutral in the European conflict. FDR knew that the only chance Britain and France would have to defeat the German Reich was to have ample supplies of weaponry. He immediately began to press Congress to repeal the arms embargo.

The request was simple. Allow trade of munitions with belligerent nations on a "Cash and Carry" basis. There would be no danger to American shipping if the Allies had to carry the supplies on their own ships. Isolationists were concerned, but support for the President's initiative was strong enough. The Neutrality Act of 1939 ended the arms embargo and permitted the sales of munitions on a "cash and carry" basis.

1) How did the US change their position on helping the Allies?**2) What is the main idea of this section?**

Slowly but surely American public opinion shifted toward helping the British. The Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies launched a propaganda campaign to mobilize the American public. Groups insisted a hemispheric defense was the wisest choice for the United States to follow. A great debate was on.

In September 1940, the United States agreed to the transfer of 50 old destroyers to the British fleet in exchange for naval bases in the Western Hemisphere. By directly aiding the Allies, America could no longer hide behind the shield of neutrality. At Roosevelt's urging, Congress authorized the construction of new planes to defend America's coast. Congress also enacted the first peacetime draft in the nation's history in September 1940. The interventionist argument seemed to be prevailing, but debate continued into 1941.

3) How did the US help the Allies?**4) What is the main idea of this section?**

In March 1941 after a great deal of controversy, Congress approved the Lend-Lease Act, which eventually appropriated \$50 billion of aid to the Allies. Meanwhile Roosevelt began an unprecedented third term.

Neutrality was no longer a façade behind which America could hide. Hitler saw Lend-Lease as tantamount to a war declaration and ordered attacks on American ships.

Roosevelt urged Congress and Americans to take action. In his famous Four Freedoms Speech he enumerates what the rights of any citizen of the world are and why it is important for America to lead the way.

Congress still vacillated. Roosevelt met with Churchill in the summer of 1941 and agreed to the Atlantic Charter, a statement that outlined Anglo-American war aims. At this point, the United States was willing to commit almost everything to the Allied war machine — money, resources, and diplomacy.

The only thing missing was American troops.

5) What things did Roosevelt do to increase the help given to the Allies?

6) What is the main idea of this section?

C. Answer the following multiple choice questions based on what you have read.

1) What did President Roosevelt propose in response to the outbreak of war in Europe?

- A) Strengthening the arms embargo
- B) Implementing a "Cash and Carry" policy for munitions sales
- C) Maintaining emotional neutrality
- D) Withdrawing support for Britain and France

2) What was the main reason behind President Roosevelt's push to repeal the arms embargo?

- A) To support Nazi Germany
- B) To maintain emotional neutrality
- C) To ensure ample supplies of weaponry for Britain and France
- D) To align with isolationist sentiments

3) What was the main concern of isolationists regarding President Roosevelt's proposal to repeal the arms embargo?

- A) They were worried about the economic impact on the United States.
- B) They were concerned about the safety of American shipping.
- C) They feared that the Allies would misuse the munitions.
- D) They were against any form of involvement in the European conflict.

4) What significant decision did the United States make in September 1940 that marked a shift from neutrality?

- A) Authorization of the peacetime draft
- B) Construction of new planes for coastal defense
- C) Transfer of destroyers to the British fleet
- D) Formation of the Committee for Hemispheric Defense

5) Which of the following actions did Congress take in response to Roosevelt's urging in September 1940?

- A) Authorization of the peacetime draft
- B) Formation of the Committee for Hemispheric Defense
- C) Enactment of isolationist policies
- D) Opposition to aiding the Allies

6) How did Hitler perceive the Lend-Lease Act, and what action did he take in response?

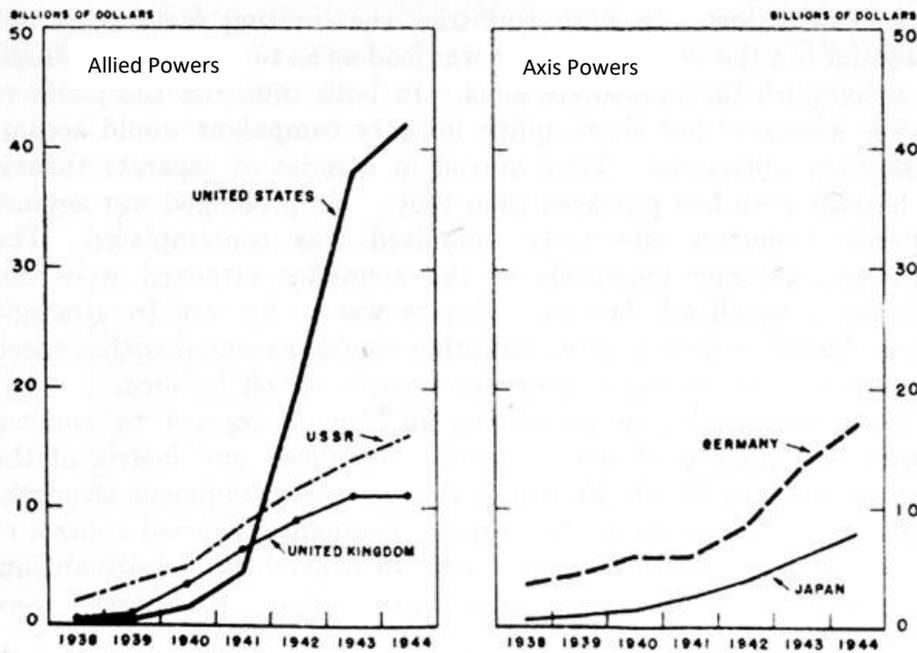
- A) Hitler welcomed the aid and formed an alliance with the United States.
- B) Hitler considered it a war declaration and ordered attacks on American ships.
- C) Hitler proposed a peace treaty with the Allies.
- D) Hitler ignored the Lend-Lease Act as inconsequential.

7) What important document was agreed upon during the summer of 1941 between Roosevelt and Churchill, outlining war aims for the Allies?

- A) Treaty of Versailles
- B) Geneva Convention
- C) Four Freedoms Speech
- D) Atlantic Charter

D. Analyze the visuals and answer the associated questions.

CHART 60. *Combat Munitions Production of Major Belligerents.*



Source: Dr. Raymond W. Goldsmith, "The Power of Victory, Munitions Output in World War II," *Military Affairs*, Spring, 1946.

1) In 1938, about how many combat munitions were produced by the Allied Powers? By the Axis Powers?

2) In 1943, about how many combat munitions were produced by the Allied Powers? By the Axis Powers?

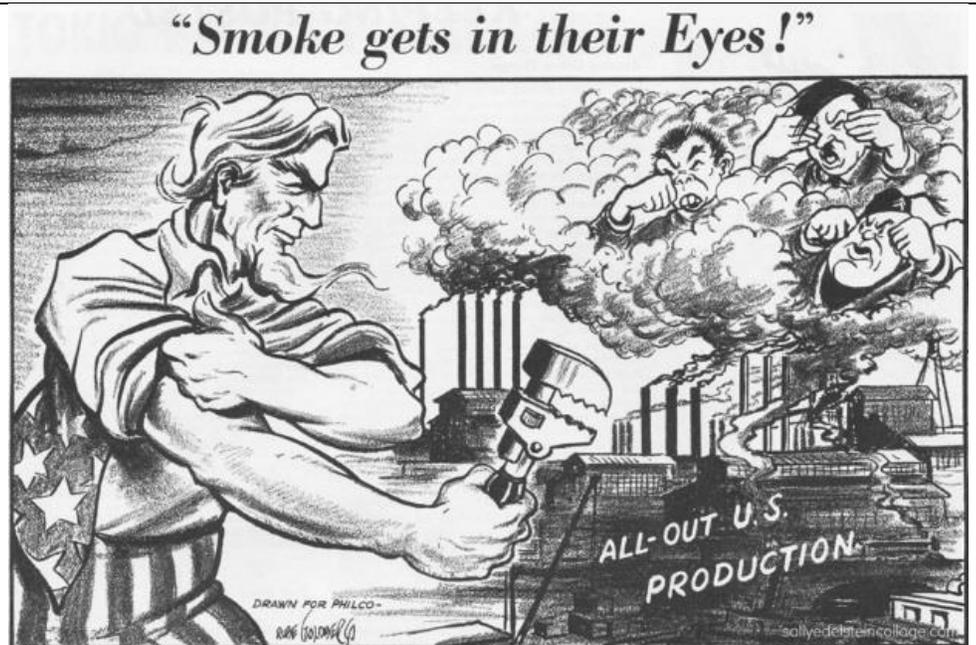
3) In 1944, how much of an advantage did the Allied Powers have over the Axis Powers in production of Combat Munitions?

Use your skills at analyzing cartoons. (WAVES)

4) Who do the 4 people in this cartoon each represent?

5) Why is Uncle Sam rolling up his sleeve?

6) What is this cartoon trying to say about "All-Out U.S. Production"?



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