**Chapter 24, Section 4: America Enters the War**

**I. FDR Supports England** *(pages 725–726)*

**A.** Two days after Britain and France declared war against Germany, President Roosevelt declared the United States neutral.

**B.** The Neutrality Act of 1939 allowed warring countries to buy weapons from the United States as long as they paid cash and carried the arms away on their own ships.

**C.** President Roosevelt used a loophole in the Neutrality Act of 1939 and sent 50 old American destroyers to Britain in exchange for the right to build American bases on British-controlled Newfoundland, Bermuda, and Caribbean islands.

**Discussion Question**

How did President Roosevelt support Britain in the war effort? *(President Roosevelt used a loophole in the Neutrality Act of 1939 and sent 50 old American destroyers to Britain in exchange for the right to build American bases on British-controlled Newfoundland, Bermuda, and Caribbean islands.)*

**II. The Isolationist Debate** *(pages 726–727)*

**A.** After the German invasion of France and the rescue of Allied forces at Dunkirk, American public opinion changed to favor limited aid to the Allies.

**B.** The **America First Committee** opposed any American intervention or aid to the Allies.

**C.** President Roosevelt ran for an unprecedented third term as president in the election of 1940. Both Roosevelt and the Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie, said they would keep the United States neutral but assist the Allied forces. Roosevelt won by a large margin.

**Discussion Question**

What caused many Americans to change their opinion about United States neutrality? *(After the German invasion of France and the rescue of Allied forces at Dunkirk, American public* *opinion changed to favor limited aid to the Allies.)*

**III. Edging Toward War** *(pages 727–728)*

**A.** President Roosevelt proposed the **Lend**-**Lease Act,** which stated that the United States could lend or lease arms to any country considered “vital to the defense of the United States.” Congress passed the act by a wide margin.

**B.** In June 1941, in violation of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, Hitler began a massive invasion of the Soviet Union.

**C.** President Roosevelt developed the **hemispheric defense zone,** which declared the entire western half of the Atlantic as part of the Western Hemisphere and therefore neutral. This allowed Roosevelt to order the U.S. Navy to patrol the western Atlantic Ocean and reveal the location of German submarines to the British.

**D.** In August 1941, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed to the **Atlantic Charter.** This agreement committed the two leaders to a postwar world of democracy, nonaggression, free trade, economic advancement, and freedom of the seas.

**E.** After a German U-boat fired on the American destroyer *Greer*, Roosevelt ordered American ships to follow a “shoot-on-sight” policy toward German submarines. Germans torpedoed and sank the American destroyer ***Reuben James*** in the North Atlantic.

**Discussion Question**

How did President Roosevelt get around American neutrality in order to aid the British? *(President Roosevelt proposed the Lend-Lease Act, which stated that the United States could lend* *or lease arms to any country considered “vital to the defense of the United States.” President* *Roosevelt developed the hemispheric defense zone, which declared the entire western half of the* *Atlantic as part of the Western Hemisphere and therefore neutral. This allowed Roosevelt to order* *the U.S. Navy to patrol the western Atlantic Ocean and reveal the location of German submarines* *to the British.)*

**IV. Japan Attacks the United States** *(pages 728–730)*

**A.** Roosevelt’s primary goal between August 1939 and December 1941 was to help Britain and its allies defeat Germany. When Britain began moving its warships from Southeast Asia to the Atlantic, Roosevelt introduced policies to discourage the Japanese from attacking the British Empire.

**B.** In July 1940, Congress passed the Export Control Act, giving Roosevelt the power to restrict the sale of **strategic materials**—materials important for fighting a war—to other countries. Roosevelt immediately blocked the sale of airplane fuel and scrap iron to Japan. The Japanese signed an alliance with Germany and Italy.

**C.** By July 1941, Japanese aircraft posed a direct threat to the British Empire. Roosevelt responded to the threat by freezing all Japanese assets in the United States and reducing the amount of oil shipped to Japan. He also sent General MacArthur to the Philippines to build up American defenses there.

**D.** The Japanese decided to attack resource-rich British and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia, seize the Philippines, and attack Pearl Harbor.

**E.** Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, sinking or damaging 21 ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, killing 2,403 Americans, and injuring hundreds more. The next day, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

**F.** On December 11, 1941, Japan’s allies—Germany and Italy—declared war on the United States.

**Discussion Question**

What series of events led to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor? *(The United States Congress passed the Export Control Act that restricted the sale of strategic materials to other nations. Roosevelt immediately blocked the sale of airplane fuel and scrap iron to Japan. This angered Japan, which then signed an alliance with Germany and Italy. The Japanese invasion of southern Indochina caused Roosevelt to freeze all Japanese assets in the United States and reduce the amount of oil shipped to Japan. He also sent General MacArthur to the Philippines to build up American defenses there. The Japanese military, lacking oil and other resources, decided to attack the resource-rich British and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia, seize the Philippines, and attack Pearl Harbor.)*