

Unit 9 # 2

“President Roosevelt recognized the dangers of fascism early and did all that he could, under the circumstances, to lead the nation away from a policy of isolationism.”

Assess the validity of this statement by analyzing THREE of the following: cash and carry
quarantine speech destroyers-for-bases deal Lend-Lease

Liam, Ryan, and Bobby

Thesis Statement

- Yes, Roosevelt did recognize the danger of fascism and did try to lead the nation away from isolationism by enacting several policies and deals. The "Cash and Carry" basis, the Lend Lease Law, and the Destroyer for Bases Deal brought the country closer to getting involved in war, by supporting countries that were fighting fascist Germany.

"Cash and Carry"

- With the Neutrality Acts of 1935-37 preventing America from trading with warring nations, a new Neutrality Act of 1939 was passed which legalized the "cash and carry" basis. It basically made France and Britain able to buy arms and supplies for war from the US ONLY if they payed for them in cash and transported them themselves.
- Germany was excluded from the deal because the Allies had control of the seas, as was intended.

Destroyers for Bases Deal

- The Destroyer for Bases Deal was an agreement between the United States and Great Britain, with the U.S. giving G.B. fifty old destroyers from WW1 in return for military bases in eight British possessions.
- When Britain was fighting alone against Nazi Germany after the fall of France, in the Battle of Britain, Roosevelt realized that the British would need some support
- The reason Roosevelt gave for doing the deal was that the destroyers were going to get scrapped anyway, so why not get some gain out from them?
- There were critics of the Deal, who supported American Isolationism, and they were of the America First Committee led by Charles Lindbergh. They said that we shouldn't get involved with another "European Conflict".



Lend-Lease Law

- When Britain was running out of money with which to buy arms from the US, Roosevelt made enacted the Lend Lease Law. It made it possible for arms, ships, munitions, etc. to be loaned out to nations fighting wars.
- Roosevelt's idea behind the Law was put to the public and press that when your neighbor's house is on fire, you give him a garden hose to help put it out if he doesn't have one. He then, after he is done, returns the hose.
- Opponents to the Law, such as Senator Taft son of Howard Taft, said why was going to be done with destroyed tanks and the like; it's like giving chewing gum to someone and then getting it back.
- By the end of the war, the US had given out over \$50 Billion of arms and equipment to the Allied powers.

Conclusion

- Roosevelt realized the threat of fascism very early and did all that he could to bring the U.S. out of isolationism and fight on the side of the Allies. Proof of this can be seen in the "Cash and Carry" policy, the Destroyers for Bases Deal, and the Lend-Lease Law.