Chapter 39 Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Shadow of War

The London Economic Conference in 1933 consisted of sixty-six nations. Its main purpose was to stop global depression and to stabilize national currencies on a worldwide front, two of F.D.R's foreign policy points. But Roosevelt also believed that his currency policy was returning prosperity to the U.S. and that an international agreement on currency might stymie economic recovery in the U.S. He later condemned. This final act by the U.S. caused the convention to end with no gain for international currency. In 1933 the U.S. officially recognized Russia as a country. Roosevelt was willing to believe that recognition of Russia would bolster it against Japan, while enriching trade between Russia and U.S. Negotiations were concluded in Washington D.C. during November 1933. In these negotiations, Russia was to refrain from revolutionary propaganda in U.S. Russia did not keep this promise. In 1934 Congress passed a bill in which the Philippines were to become free but only after 10 years of economic and social tutelage. At the Seventh Pan-American Conference (1933) in Montevideo, the U.S. formally accepted nonintervention. In 1934, the last marines left Haiti, Cuba was released from the chains of the Platt Amendment although the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay remained U.S. territory. The good neighbor policy was used in 1938 when Mexico seized U.S. oil properties. Roosevelt resisted the mood for war against Mexico, and in 1941, a settlement was reached where the oil company lost much of their land. In 1934 Congress passed the Reciprocal Trade Agreement, which was designed to increase American export trade. Roosevelt and Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, were major promoters of the Agreement. Hull eventually negotiated pacts with 21 countries by the end of 1939. Many dictators gained control of their countries in the post 1918 era, Stalin in Russia, Mussolini in Italy during 1922, and Adolph Hitler in Germany during 1933. In 1936 Germany and Italy allied themselves as the Rome-Berlin Axis. In 1934 Tokyo renounced the Washington Naval Treaty. In 1935, Italy attacked Ethiopia. In 1934 Congress passed the Johnson Debt Default Act, which prevented debt dodging nations from borrowing more from the U.S. The Neutrality Acts of 1935, 1936, and 1937 stated when the president proclaimed war, certain restrictions would go into effect. The Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939 was a classic example of neutrality. The U.S. would normally have sold arms to either side of the war, however, the neutrality acts prevented the government form doing this. In 1937 Japan attacked China. In the Autumn of 1937, Roosevelt delivered his Quarantine Speech in Chicago. In December 1937 Japanese aviators sunk the American gunboat Panay. The Japanese were quick to apologize and pay an indemnity. In 1935 Hitler flouted to Treaty of Versailles by introducing compulsory military service in Germany. In the following year, he marched troops into the demilitarized German Rhineland. In March 1938, Hitler seized Austria, and demanded the German inhabited Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. A conference was finally held in Munich, Germany, in September 1938. The democratic powers yielded the Sudetenland to Germany in the hopes that Hitler would keep his promise not to take any more land. In March 1939 Germany took the rest of Czechoslovakia. In the summer of 1939 England and France were trying to sign a defense treaty against Germany, but failed. On August 23, 1939 Russia and Germany signed a non aggression treaty. In September 1, 1939 Germany sent in troops to take over Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany, beginning World War II. The Neutrality Act of 1939 allowed the European democracies to buy American arms. Russia attacked Finland. 1940 Germany attacked Denmark and Norway. May 1940 Germany attacked Holland and Belgium and then France in June 1940. Roosevelt called for troops, planes, and ships. At the Havana Conference of 1940, 20 American republics agreed to share the responsibility of the Monroe Doctrine. September 1940 US gave Britain 50 old WWI destroyers in return for eight naval bases in the Atlantic. The elections of 1940 saw Roosevelt run and win a third term of presidency against Wendell L. Willkie. On March 1941 Congress passed the Lend Lease policy. On May 21, 1941 German submarines sunk the U.S. Robin Moor. June 22, 1941 Germany attacked Russia. US sent arms to Russia to help Germany and Russia devastate themselves. August 1941 the Atlantic Conference was held, where the eight point Atlantic Charter was made. July 1941 the lend lease ships were escorted to Britain. In September 1941 the US destroyer Geer was attacked but sustained no damage, prompting Roosevelt to issue a shoot on sight policy. November and December 1941. December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pear Harbor. December 11, 1941 Congress declared war.