

7.2.1 - AMERICA ON THE SIDELINES

Visit the Interactive Timeline, “America on the Sidelines” and select *one* campaign: Europe or Asia. With *one* other person (please, no trios), complete the corresponding table below as you work your way through the timeline and uncover America’s level of involvement in foreign affairs prior to WWII. Add rows as necessary.

EUROPE

Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Germany Withdraws from Disarmament Talks: talks of disarmament in Geneva, Hitler dismissed them, Germany was removed from the League of Nations	Oct. 1933	“In late October Hitler therefore ordered his delegation to abandon the disarmament talks...”	Do nothing
Hitler Repudiates Versailles Treaty: Hitler decided to increase his army’s size to 36 divisions and that they would not abide by the Treaty of Versailles.	1935	“He claimed that this was a matter of national security...”	Do nothing
Italian Invasion of Ethiopia: On October 3, Italian armies moved into Ethiopia. League of Nations voted to impose economic sanctions against Italy. Did not include oil.	1935	“Isolated clashes along the border between Ethiopia and Italian Somaliland...”	Invoke Neutrality Laws
Germany Reoccupies the Rhineland: Treaty of Versailles prohibited Germany from moving any forces between the German-French border and the Rhine River. With the nation preoccupied by the war in Ethiopia, Hitler moved a small force into the Rhineland.	1936	“Taking advantage of the world’s preoccupation with the war in Ethiopia...”	No Formal Action
Civil War Breaks Out in Spain: New coalition of liberal, socialist, and communist parties formed and won a slight electoral majority. The Nationalists (monarchists, devout Roman Catholics, fascists, and the army) took control of the colonial government of Morocco in fear of communists. Foreign powers came into the war. Soviet Union began sending volunteers and money, Germany and Italy sent military aid to Nationalists, Great Britain and France stuck back.	July, 1936	“The Spanish Civil War quickly captured the attention of foreign powers.”	Revise Neutrality Laws: The Neutrality Act of 1935 was designed to cope with wars between countries, not civil wars.

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Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Germany Annexes Austria: Austrian Chancellor learned of a plot against his government, went to Germany to make a complaint, was chastised, ordered a national meeting on whether or not Austria should remain independent of Germany, Hitler sent army to take control of Austria	March 1938	Fearing the results of such a plebiscite, Hitler...ordered his troops to occupy Austria."	No formal Action
Czech Crisis and Munich Conference: Nazis in Czechoslovakia claimed they were being oppressed and Hitler stated the region should belong to Germany. The president of Czech. refused to back down. Meeting between Britain and France with Hitler, said they would not support Czech. if he did not give up. Later, Germany gained control of Czech.	Sept. 1938	"...that they would not support them if they continued to hold out against Hitler's demands."	No Formal Action
Hitler Threatens Poland: Hitler demanded that the city of Danzig, removed due to Treaty of Versailles, be returned and the right to build roads and railways to East Prussia, which was separated since 1919. Polish government refused.	Oct. 1938	"The Polish government refused to consider these demands, leading to new fears of war.	Expand Armed Forces
Germany Dismembers Czechoslovakia: In defiance of agreement in Munich, Hitler declared dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Czech. offered no resistance.	Mar. 1939	"The German Army entered Bohemia and Moravia the following day."	No Formal Action
Italy invades Albania: Mussolini, jealous of Hitler's successes, sent troops to quickly overrun Albania.	April, 1939	"...Mussolini sought to score a cheap conquest of his own."	No Formal Action
Germany Invades Poland - World War II Begins: German pressure on Poland continued, Poland remained firm. German troops crossed the border of Poland, did not back out, Britain and France declared war on Germany.	Sept. 1939	"The British and French issued an ultimatum..."	Revise Neutrality Laws

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Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Germany Invades Denmark and Norway: Germany and Soviet Union divided Poland between them. Hitler's armies attacked Denmark and Norway. Denmark gave up, Norway fought. British troops were sent to aid Norway's defenses. Norway was conquered. Prime minister of Great Britain resigned, succeeded by Winston Churchill.	April, 1940	"Churchill, who had opposed appeasement of Germany throughout the 1930s, would continue to head the British government for the rest of the war."	No Formal Action
Germany Invades Low Countries and France: German launched a full-scale assault in the West. French had good defenses and forces. Had the Maginot Line. Germans aimed for Ardennes Forest, where few troops were. Cut French from supply lines.	May, 1940	"This allowed them to avoid the French defenses altogether..."	Expand Armed Forces
France Surrenders: By the end of May both Netherlands and Belgium had surrendered, British Expeditionary Force was being evacuated from French port of Dunkirk. Italy declared war on Britain and France. Four days later, German Army entered Paris. June 22, French government signed and armistice. Roughly 3/5 of country controlled by Germany. Germany took control of Paris. Great Britain was alone fighting Germany.	June, 1940	"we shall never surrender," - Winston Churchill	Send Aid to the Allies
Start of the "Blitz": Hitler ordered full-scale bombing campaign against London and other major cities. Hoped morale of British people would drop. Between early September and mid-November the German Luftwaffe flew 58 major raids against capital, killing 15,000 Londoners. 1/4 million lost their homes	Sept. 1940	"...might cause the morale of the British people to collapse..."	No Formal Action

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Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Italy Invades Greece: Italy overran British Somaliland and launched an invasion of Egypt. Invaded Greece from Albania. Italian force ran into a stiff defense of Greek troops, mountainous terrain. In a few days, Italy was forced to withdraw.	Oct. 1940	"...the operation was a disaster..."	Send Aid to the Allies
British Gold Reserves Run Low: Great Britain grew more dependent on U.S. imports to sustain war effort. By start the start of 1941, gold reserves were virtually exhausted. British could not get loan for arms, ability to keep fighting was in jeopardy.	Jan. 1941	"...Britain's ability to keep fighting was very much in jeopardy."	Send Aid to the Allies
Germany Invades Yugoslavia and Greece: Italian invasion of Greece turned into a fiasco. Germany forced Yugoslavia to let them go through their land to get to Greece. President said okay, was overthrown, new government started to make overtures to the British, offering to join Greece in anti-German Coalition. German troops attacked both.	April, 1941	"A furious Hitler decided that Yugoslavia had to be crushed along with Greece..."	Send Aid to the Allies
British Suffer Staggering Losses At Sea: Royal Navy was stretched. U-boats sunk many ships. Aid was going down the drain.	May, 1941	"...might be forced to surrender."	Expand Escort Zone
Germany Invades Soviet Union: Destruction of soviet Union primary objective for Hitler. Aerial bombardment and naval blockade was not making Great Britain surrender. Hitler moved along with plans to attack Soviet Union. Full army of Germany attacked Soviet Union.	June, 1941	"...crossed the border in the largest military offensive in history."	Send Aid to the Allies
Greer Incident: Roosevelt moved warships out into Atlantic. German U-boat attacked the U.S.S. Greer.	Sept. 1941		"Shoot-on-Sight" order

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Kearny Incident: A destroyer named U.S.S. Kearny was attacked by German U-boats. Eleven sailors killed in the attack. Ship made it to a friendly port in Reykjavik.	Oct. 1941		Revise Neutrality Laws
Germany and Italy Declare War on the United States: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt asked for a declaration of war on Japan. Plans were messed up because Europe did not declare war against U.S. right away.	Dec. 1941		Declare War

ASIA

Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Japan invades Manchuria	1931	dynamited a railway track	No Formal Action
Japan invade Jehol province	1932	province was completely under Japanese control	No Formal Action
Japan renounces naval treaty restrictions	1934	after 2 years the japanese gov. announced it wouldn't be bound by the naval treaties	No Formal Action
promotes autonomy movement - in North China	1935	Tokyo announced East Hopei autonomous council to govern Japanese territory in China	No Formal Action
Japanese signes anti comintern pact	1936	they pledged mutual cooperation against the threat of international communism	No Formal Action
War outbreak between Japan and China	1937	no war was ever declared, but a full scale conflict began	Embargo strategic materials
Panay incident	1937	Japanese aircraft attacked U.S. vessels, several ships sunk, two sailors were killed, 30 wounded	Demand Indemnity

ASIA

Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Japanese offenses in China	1938	two chinese forces linked, forming a front running from the Mongolian border to the chinese coast south of Shanghai	Embargo strategic materials
Japanese offense in southern China	1938	Tokyo announced that it would only recognize the rights of powers accepting Japan's "new order" for East Asia	Send aid to China
Fighting between Japanese and Soviet forces	1939	Japanese troops fired on a group of Mongolian cavalry in a disputed region along the Manchurian-Mongolian border	No Formal Action
Closing of the Burma road	1940	Chinese workers finished building a road that would connect Kunming to Bruma, over 500 miles	No Formal Action
Japan occupies northern Indochina	1940	Dutch and French colonies in Southeast Asia became increasingly tempting targets.	Embargo strategic materials
Japan occupies southern Indochina	1941	Several indochinese provinces were transferred to neighboring Thailand, a neighboring ally	Freeze Japanese assets
Japan proposes East Asia settlement	1941	Japan offered the United States a plan for an overall settlement of the issues that divided them	Reject