

■ Essential Questions:

- Why did the USA enter WW II?
- How do these factors compare to US reasons for entering the first World War?

The Road Towards American Intervention

From Neutrality to Undeclared War

■ But, FDR was able to get \$1 billion from Congress to expand the U.S. navy

in favor for an Allied victory. FDR took steps to ready the U.S. for war

–In 1937, FDR unsuccessfully tried to convince world leaders to “quarantine the aggressors”

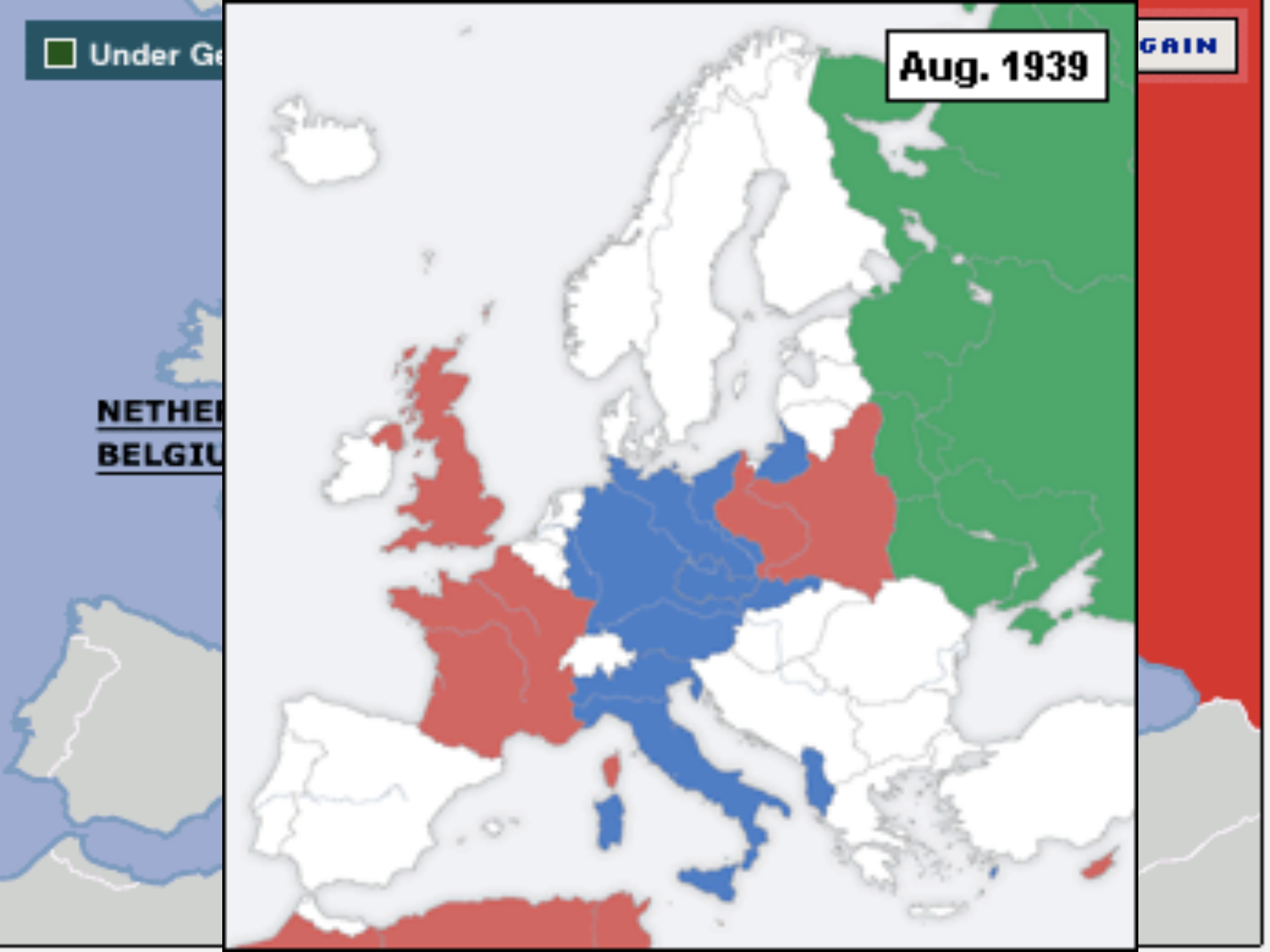
–Everything changed in 1939 with the Nazi-Soviet Pact & the German invasion of Poland

Under German

Aug. 1939

GAIN

NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM



From Neutrality to Undeclared War

“The destroyer-for-bases deal is the most important action in the reinforcement of our national defense that has been taken since the Louisiana Purchase”

—FDR

FDR responded with all-out aid to the Allies but did not call for war

& would not deliver American products to Europe

- In addition, FDR traded 50 old destroyers with England for 8 naval bases in Western Europe

From Neutrality to Undeclared War

Isolationists

■ Appalled by this departure from neutrality & FDR's involvement of the US in foreign war

“The future of western civilization is being decided upon the battlefield of Europe”
—CDAAA chair, William Allen White

St. Louis Dispatch
headline:
“Dictator Roosevelt Commits Act of War”

Germany was not a threat to the US

called for unlimited aid to England

■ They argued that the events in Europe did impact the security of US

From Neutrality to Undeclared War

THE ELECTION OF 1940

Candidate	Party	Popular Vote	Electoral Vote
Roosevelt	Democratic	27,263,448	449
Willkie	Republican	22,336,260	82

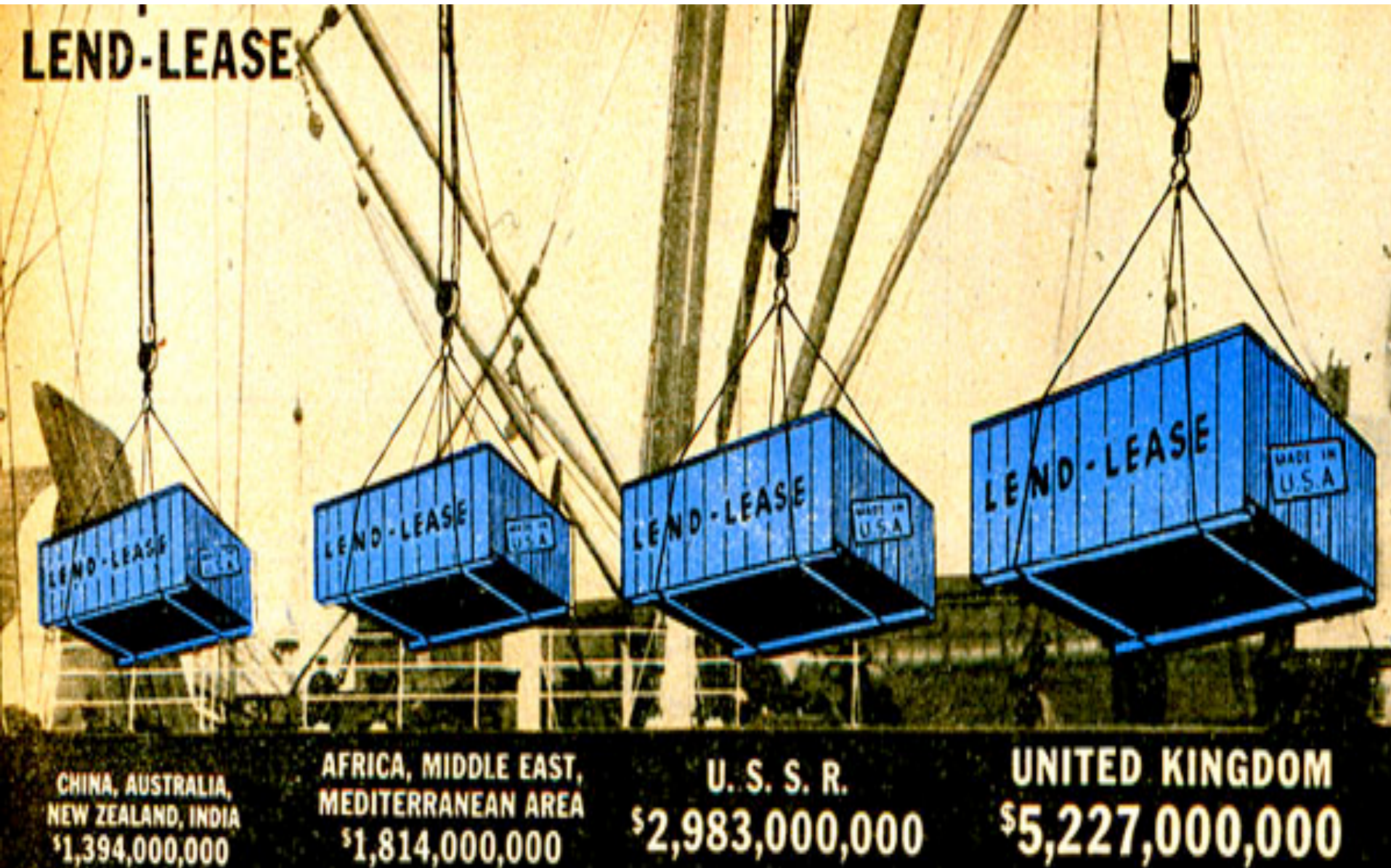
–In the election of 1940, FDR was overwhelmingly elected for an unprecedented 3rd term

From Neutrality to Undeclared War

- By 1940, England remained the only active opposition to Hitler but was running out of money
- FDR called for a Lend-Lease Act:
 - US can sell or lend war supplies to Allied nations
 - Congress put \$7 billion to allow England full access to US arms

US ~~Cash~~ and Carry Program

Lend-Lease Supply Routes



From Neutrality to Undeclared War

- England desperately needed help escorting these supplies through the u-boat infested Atlantic
 - FDR allowed for US patrols in the western half of the Atlantic
 - German attacks on US ships led to an undeclared naval war in 1941 & allowed US ships to fully deliver war supplies to Allies

US ~~C~~ash and ~~C~~arry Program

Roosevelt's Four Freedom's Speech

January 1941

- To Congress, State of the Union, focus on war preparedness
- *"...the future of all the American Republics is today in serious danger.*
- *That is why this Annual Message to the Congress is unique in our history.*
- *The need of the moment is that our actions and our policy should be devoted primarily-almost exclusively--to meeting this foreign peril. For all our domestic problems are now a part of the great emergency.*
- *Just as our national policy in internal affairs has been based upon a decent respect for the rights and the dignity of all our fellow men within our gates, so our national policy in foreign affairs has been based on a decent respect for the rights and dignity of all nations, large and small. And the justice of morality must and will win in the end.*

Four Freedoms

- “The **first is freedom of speech** and expression--everywhere in the world.
- The **second is freedom of every person to worship God** in his own way--everywhere in the world.
- The **third is freedom from want**--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants--everywhere in the world.
- The **fourth is freedom from fear**--which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world.”

From Neutrality to Undeclared War

- In 1941, FDR & Churchill met to secretly draft the Atlantic Charter:
 - The U.S. & Britain discussed military strategy *if* America were to enter the war
 - They discussed post-war goals of liberty, free trade, & disarmament
- In 1941, Hitler broke the Nazi-Soviet Pact & attacked Russia

From Neutrality to Undeclared War

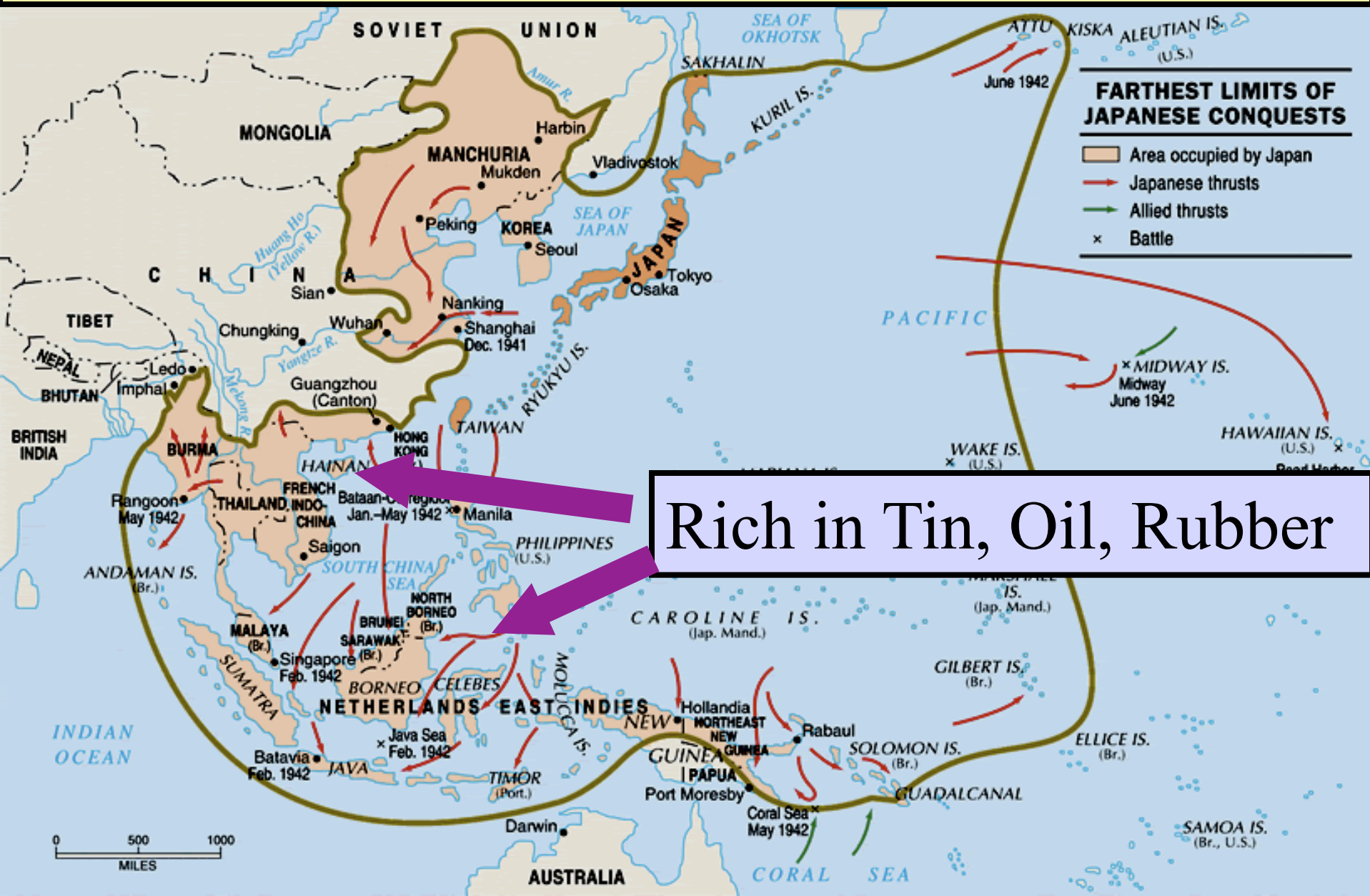
- FDR brought US to the brink of war & opened himself to criticism:
 - In Sept 1941, US polls showed 80% of Americans supported US neutrality in WW II
 - FDR had to wait for the Axis to make a decisive move...which Japan delivered on Dec 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor

Showdown in the Pacific

- Japan took European war to expand Asia.
 - Attacked
 - Seized French Dutch colonies in East Indies & North China
 - Signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany & Italy in 1940
 - FDR retaliated against Japan with fuel, iron, & oil sanctions
- The US now faced a possible 2-ocean war...
- ...but Germany was still seen as the primary danger

The Greater East Asia-Prosperity Company



Showdown in the Pacific

- In 1941, the US & Japan were unable to diplomatically resolve their differences, so the U.S.:

US wanted the Japanese removed from China

Japan wanted an end to sanctions & a free hand to China

A

- Hideki Tojo sent an envoy to negotiate for a resolution

- Dec 1941 US naval fleet in

This was really a stall tactic intended to hide Japanese military preparations for an attack on Pearl Harbor

Americans were killed

JAPANESE BOMBING HONOLULU; 350 DEAD, U.S. WARSHIP AFIRE

Attack On Manila Not Confirmed

ROOSEVELT ORDERS COUNTER MEASURES AGAINST BOMBERS

War Department Quickly
Calls All Military Personnel
In U. S. Into Uniform

ARMY TRANSPORT IS STRUCK BY TORPEDO

Washington, Dec. 7.—
(AP) — Japanese airplanes
today attacked American de-
fense bases at Hawaii and
Manila, and President Roose-

CONGRESS LEADERS OF MAJOR PARTIES ARE SUMMONED

Roosevelt Assembling Facts
As Rapidly As Possible, Mes-
sage to Congress Expected

Washington, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The
President decided today after Japan's
attack on Pearl Harbor and Manila to
call an extraordinary meeting of the
Cabinet for 8:30 p. m. tonight and to
have Congressional leaders of both par-
ties join the conference at 9 p. m.

Mr. Roosevelt, The White House
said, "is assembling all the facts as rap-

TOKYO DECLARES WAR ON U. S. AND BRITAIN AFTER ATTACK

Washington, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The White House
announced today that heavy damage had been in-
flicted in the Japanese attack on Hawaii and that
there probably had been heavy loss of life.

New York, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Three hundred and
fifty men were killed by a direct bomb hit on Hick-
man Field, an NBC observer reported tonight from
Honolulu.

Showdown in the Pacific

- After Pearl Harbor:
 - Congress declared war against Japan on Dec 8, 1941
 - Italy & Germany declared war on US on Dec 11, 1941
- The US was now fully involved in WW II & public opinion was behind the war effort to end the European Axis threat & to seek revenge for Pearl Harbor against Japan

Compare & contrast the factors that drove the US to war in 1917 & 1941

World War 1

World War 2

