Quiz #4

• The Zimmerman telegram proposed that: a.) Mexico form an alliance with Germany, b.) China enter into an alliance with the United States, c.) The United States provide loans to Great Britain to aid in its war efforts, d.) France support Israeli attempts to re-arm after the 1967 war.

• Which was not one of Wilson's Fourteen Points?: a.) Freedom of navigation on the high seas, b.) The removal of barriers to trade, c.) Support for religious tolerance d.) Independence for Poland

• The 1941 Atlantic Charter: a.) Allowed Roosevelt to lease or sell military equipment to France and Great Britain, b.) Formalized American and British war objectives, such as collective security and self-determination, c.) Formalized the alliance between France, England, the Soviet Union and the United States, d.) Set the date for the invasion of Europe (D-day).
Ambivalent Expansion

- Prelude to WWI
- The Great War
- The Great Depression
- A Second World War
Prelude to WWI

• By 1900, the United States had surpassed any other country in terms of its industrial production
  • Bargain between North and West had worked
  • U.S. had toyed with territorial empire
    • Found that it preferred conquering markets
    • The closing of the American frontier really occurs in Manila or Havana
  • U.S. still active abroad (Monroe doctrine, etc.)
What explains US “isolationism”?:

- ALWAYS U.S. policy to stay away from Europe
- Europe is where the action & U.S. interests are
- Other principles of U.S. foreign policy are resolved or are abandoned (i.e. territory).
- In this sense, isolationism is not a new policy, but a narrowing in of previous objectives.
The U.S., Class, and WWI

• The U.S. is divided by demography
  • Elites/city dwellers:
    • Want U.S. to be more engaged in the world.
    • Flexible money (medium of exchange)
  • Masses (farmers):
    • Want high U.S. tariffs
    • Rigid money (store of value)
    • Fight over the gold standard, Federal reserve (William Jennings Bryan)
• Same tensions that existed between North and South economic interests are replaced by urban and rural.
Propaganda

• The United States enters the war late in 1917:
  • Popular view: U.S. “won the war”
  • Reality: U.S. played a marginal role, may have expedited the end of the war.

• Propaganda:
  • War faction in U.S. looks for reasons to join
  • British play an astute game of propaganda
  • Germans do not (Zimmerman telegram)
Versailles

- Coalition that won the war meets to divide Europe
  - Divides itself:
    - U.S. spearheads move not to punish Germany
    - Wilson’s 14 points (free trade/navigation, national self-determination, no secret treaties)
    - Allies want pay-back (reparations, territory)
    - Wilson gets League (not much else)
      - Yugoslavia
“Lessons” from WWI

• U.S. public generally turns against the Great War
  • Popular view: War caused by “arms merchants”
• U.S. Senate rejects the League of Nations
• Isolation:
  • Majority view is that “European war” a mistake
  • Focus on commerce, U.S. economic interests
  • “Low politics” is really high and vice versa.
Great Depression

- U.S. is the only country that can take leadership
  - England weakened, cannot support sterling
  - U.S. not inclined to, free riding on Great Britain
- Lack of global leadership dooms system
  - More connected than directed
    - Weaknesses spread by “selfish” state actions
      - Beggar-thy-neighbor
      - Liquidity trap
Prelude to WWII

• In so many ways, WWII is a repeat of WWI
  • Germany resentful, wants equal status with UK
  • France/UK downplay risk of war, unprepared
  • Germany/USSR (Molotov-von Ribbentrop pact)
• U.S. double dilemma
  • Population is even more determined to stay out
  • Elites see danger but are wary of repeat of WWI
• Japan saves FDR --> excuse for entry into war.
A Second World War

• Japan attacks US for strategic military reasons
  • Commitment problem:
    • Falling behind, needs access to oil/iron ore
    • Must strike sooner rather than later
  • Europe has opposite problem
    • Germany ascendant
      • UK/France realize they are unprepared
      • Stall for time
  • Both Hitler and FDR recognize commitment problem
    • Autocrat: act without public approval
    • Democrat: get Japanese to force the issue