Main Idea

1. Fighting WWII
   1. Good Neighbors
      1. FDR's foreign policy FDR embarked on a number of departures in foreign policy.
         1. Soviet Union - exchanged Ambassadors in the hope of stimulating trade, even though his predecessors had refused to recognize them
         2. Latin America - took steps to say that we would not intervene in Latin America. Created what was known as the Good Neighbor policy. Several things occurred. We pulled troops out of Haiti and Nicaragua. We accepted Cuba's repeal of the Platt Amendment.
            1. Helping Dictators - He felt comfortable dealing with undemocratic governments overseas that were friendly to the American business. As a result he helped dictators come to power in Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Quote " He may be a son of a bitch, but he is our son of a bitch”
      2. Thwarting Germany - FDR took steps to thwart German influence in Latin America. He expanded trade with Latin America and promoted respect for the American culture. (sent American ballet and NBC orchestra on Latin American Tours)
2. The Road to War - Various things began to happen in Europe and Asia that overshadowed what was going on in Latin America.
   1. Japan - had expanded its reach in Manchuria and China by the mid-1930s. They continued to move troops into China and massacred thousands of Chinese.
   2. Germany - embarked on a campaign to control the entire continent.
      1. Adolf Hitler - he violated the Treaty of Versailles and began to rearm. In 1936 he sent troops into the Rhineland, which was a demilitarized zone. He wanted to reunite all German speaking people so he annexed Austria and the Sudetenland (a german part of Czechoslovakia) in 1938. Soon after he took the whole country.
   3. Italy and Benito Mussolini - founder of fascism - an extreme nationalist and militaristic belief where the state is more important than the individual. He invaded Ethiopia
   4. Spain and General Francisco Franco - 1936 led an undemocratic uprising against the government. He was supported by Hitler who provided him with arms (to test) Franco was victorious and another country had fallen to fascism.
   5. Roosevelt's response - Although Roosevelt was alarmed, He did not like Germany's campaign against the Jews stripping them of citizenship and property as well as the beginning of them going to concentration camps. These were called the Nuremberg Laws In 1937 He gave a speech saying they needed to "Quarantine" the aggressors -
      1. Munich conference - A meeting between England, France, and Germany where the policy of appeasement was created. They basically said he could take Austria, but needed to stop after that. Hitler took it as a sign that the democratic nations were not going to do anything to stop him. Roosevelt was basically tied to this policy even though he did not agree with it.
3. Isolationism - Most Americans saw this as something on the other side of the world and had very little to do with the U.S.
   1. Supporters of Germany - The fear of communism was still great and many Americans thought German expansion would stop Stalin and communism from spreading any more.
   2. Business leaders Influence - American businesspeople did not wish to give up profitable overseas markets in Germany and Japan. Ford had a booming business with Germany where their plants employed slave labor. Trade with Japan was still going on including trucks and aircraft and most importantly oil. Japan got the majority of its oil from the US until 1941.
   3. WWI - Many Americans were reluctant to get involved in international affairs because of the legacy of World War I
      1. Nye Committee - A senate hearing from 1934-1935 said that international bankers and arms exporters had pressed the Wilson administration to enter WWI and had profited from it.
   4. Congress - favored isolationism, as seen with various Neutrality Acts. They first banned travel on belligerent ships. Then the sale of arms to belligerent countries
4. War in Europe - At the Munich conference, England and France basically gave into Germany. Stalin suggested an international agreement to stop any further expansion, but England and France ignored it because they disliked Stalin and communism and thought the Germany would keep communism at bay.
   1. Beginning of the War - Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Britain and France had pledged to protect Poland were given no choice but to declare war.
      1. Blitzkrieg appeared unstoppable. This was lightening warfare. By 1940 Germany had overrun Poland, Scandinavia, Belgium and the Netherlands. June 1940 they invaded Paris. In Sept. 1940, Italy, Japan, and Germany form the Axis and controlled most of Asia, North Africa and Europe.
      2. Britain stands alone - For nearly two years, Britain stood virtually alone in fighting Germany.
         1. Battle of Britain - 1940-1941Britain was attacked by the German air force - Luftwaffe. The RAF was eventually able to stop the air assault, but Churchill called "the new world, with all its power and might" to step forward and help.
5. Toward Intervention - FDR wished to help Britain, but public opinion limited him. FDR saw him as mad gangster that posed a threat to the United States.
   1. Cash and Carry policy - in 1940 Congress relented a little to FDR. This allowed us to sell arms to England if they would pay cash and carry them on their own ships. It also set up plans for military rearmament (1st peace time draft). He wanted to do more, but was opposed by the America First Committee who all opposed involvement.
   2. Election of 1940 - In 1940, breaking with a tradition that dated back to George Washington, Roosevelt announced his candidacy for a third term as president. His belief was that the international situation too dangerous and domestic recovery too fragile for him to leave office.
   3. Arsenal for Democracy - During 1941, the U.S. became closer with those fighting Germany and Japan. America would become the great arsenal of Democracy
   4. Lend Lease Act - Congress passed the Lend Lease Act in 1941 and froze Japanese assets. Part of this was due to the fact that Britain was broke and could no longer pay for what it was buying. The lend lease act allowed us to provide military aid as long as the countries promised to return it all after the war. We sent billions of dollars of arms to Britain and China and even the Soviet Union once Germany renounced the Non Aggression Pact. He also stopped all trade with Japan including oil.
   5. Interventionists - tried to awaken a reluctant county to prepare for war. They popularized slogans that would become central to wartime mobilization.
      1. Free World Association - was formed by refugees from Germany and the occupied countries of Europe joined with U.S.. The purpose was to get the U.S. into the war.
         1. Freedom House - Members were quite prestigous with university presidents, business leaders, and ministers described the war as and ideological struggle between dictatorship and the free world.
6. Pearl Harbor - Until Nov, 1941, the U.S. paid attention to Europe. In early Nov, we intercepted messages saying there would be an attack on the U.S. No one knew where it would come from.
   1. Day that will live in infamy - On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes, launched from aircraft carriers, bombed the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Roughly 200 service men, 187 aircraft and 18 naval vessels including 8 battleships were destroyed. The only good thing was that no aircraft carriers were at port when the attack happened.
   2. Declaration of war - FDR asked for a declaration of war against Japan. The combined vote in congress was 477 for 1 against. The sole dissenter was Jeanette Rankin of Montana - who had also opposed involvement in WWI. The next day Germany declared war on the U.S.
7. The War in the Pacific
   1. American's losing - The first few months of American involvement witnessed an unbroken string of military disasters. Japan had control of most of Indochina and had attacked Burma, Thailand, and Indonesia by early 1942. Indonesia was a big deal because there were a lot of oil fields there and that was desperately needed by the Japanese. From there they went to take control of Guam , the Philippines and other Pacific islands. This is where the Americans learned of the true destruction of the Japanese. At Bataan, they forced 78,000 American and Filipino soldiers to surrender. They were then put on "death march" to a prisoner of war camp. thousands died on the march and thousands more died of disease once they got there. German submarines were sinking Allied ships in the Atlantic as quickly as we could make them.
   2. The Tide turned - The tide turned with the battles at Coral Sea and Midway in May and June 1942.
      1. Coral Sea - The American navy was able to turn around the Japanese fleet as they were heading for Austrilia. It was the first defeat for the Japanese.
      2. Midway - The following month we did the same at the battle of Midway.
      3. Island Hopping - As a result of these two victories were were able to begin a campaign of island hopping, ignoring more fortified islands for lesser ones that would interfere with their supply line.
8. The War in Europe
   1. Europe First - The war in Europe was first fought in North Africa and Italy. North Africa was invaded in Nov of 1942 with a combination of British and American soldiers. Germany's General Rommel - the desert fox surrendered by May of 1943. The battle in the Atlantic had also begun to change. The U.S. and British Navy and air force began to destroy the submarine fleet. Even though the U.S. was committed to dealing with Hitler first, more troops were deployed in the Pacific than Europe. July 1943 the invasion of Italy occurred. Although Mussolini was overthrown soon afterwards, fighting continued till 1944.
   2. D-Day - established the much needed second front in western Europe. June 6, 1944 nearly 200,000 American, British and Canadian soldiers under Eisenhower landed in Normandy. More than 1 million troops followed them ashore over the new few weeks. By August, Paris had been liberated.
   3. Soviet Union and Germany - The crucial fighting in Europe took place on the eastern front between Germany and the Soviet Union. 3 million Germans took part in the invasion of the Soviet Union. They were unstoppable and controlled much of western Russia by August of 1942
      1. Battle of Stalingrad - Stalingrad marked the turning point. The soviets were supported by weapons from the U.S. and were able to surround the Germans in the winter of 1942/1943 Almost two million died in the fighting.
      2. Soviets on the move - Once the Germans had surrendered at Stalingrad, the Russians began to move east victoriously and the Germans were retreating.
   4. Lives lost - The war claimed millions of lives. 13.6 mil Germans were lost - 10 mil in the Russian campaign. Polls lost millions and at least 20 million Russians died. This only accounts for soldiers. More civilians were killed or perished as a result of disease and starvation and massacre.
      1. Holocaust - IN 1941, Hitler began what was known as the Final Solution. He wanted to exterminate the "undesirables" that included Jews, Slavs, gypsies, homosexuals. By 1945, 6 million Jewish men, women, and children had died in the death camps.

The rest is part of the Homefront which is a separate set of notes.