

FROM ISOLATION TO INVOLVEMENT

**AUGUST 2,
1934**

Adolf Hitler has been the chancellor of Germany for over a year. Germany's president, Paul von Hindenburg, dies. Later that month, Hitler declares himself leader of Germany.

**MARCH 16,
1935**

Hitler announces Germany will not abide by the Treaty of Versailles and increases weapon production.

**JULY 15,
1937**

Germany opens the Buchenwald concentration camp.

**NOVEMBER 9,
1938**

In an event called Kristallnacht, Nazi officials destroy Jewish synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses. Almost 100 Jewish people are killed. Three days later, Hitler closes all Jewish-owned businesses.

**SEPTEMBER 1-3,
1939**

Germany invades Poland. In response, Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.

**APRIL-JUNE,
1940**

Germany takes control of France and invades Norway and Denmark.

**JULY 10 –
OCTOBER 31,
1940**

In an event called the Battle of Britain, Germany air bombs Great Britain for months in an attempt to weaken and take over, but Germany fails.

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

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1941

1942

U.S. Congress passes the first Neutrality Act, which makes it illegal for businesses to export weapons and war materials to any nation currently at war.

**AUGUST 31,
1935**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt gives 50 destroyers to Great Britain in exchange for access to British naval and air bases for 99 years.

President Roosevelt delivers the Four Freedoms speech to Congress, in which he argues the U.S. should do more to support Great Britain in the war by providing aid and war goods production.

**SEPTEMBER 2,
1940**

**JANUARY 6,
1941**

**MARCH 11,
1941**

**DECEMBER 7,
1941**

U.S. Congress passes the Lend-Lease Act. This allows the U.S. to provide weapons, clothing, and food to Great Britain and other countries that are fighting the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).

Japan bombs the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii, killing over 2,000 Americans. The day after, the U.S. declares war on Japan.