U.S. NEUTRALITY AND THE “ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY” 1935-1941
NEUTRALITY ACTS 1935-1937

- banned weapons sales and loans to nations that were at war

- Many countries had not paid back their World War I loans and Congress wanted to prevent more debts.
AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

- made up of isolationists

- Believed in promoting the idea that the United States should stay out of Europe’s problems.
NEUTRALITY ACT OF 1939

- let warring nations buy U.S. goods as long as they paid cash and carried the goods in their own ships
This law allowed the United States to sell, lend, or lease weapons to any country “vital to the defense of the United States.”

opposed by isolationists

would bring America closer to war
Chart 5

Shipments to U.S.S.R.
(Figures show gross long tons shipped—June 22, 1941 to Sept. 20, 1945)

Note: Shipments to the Persian Gulf are made by several routes. The tonnage shown is the total for all routes.

Source: Department of State, Report on War Aid Furnished by the United States to the U.S.S.R. (November 28, 1945), 26.
QUOTES FROM FDR

Franklin Roosevelt referred to U.S. industry as “arsenal of democracy”. What did he mean by this?

Roosevelt said, "What do I do in such a crisis? I don't say... 'Neighbor, my garden hose cost me $15; you have to pay me $15 for it' ...I don't want $15 — I want my garden hose back after the fire is over.”
Churchill and Roosevelt

Set goals for the world after “the final destruction of Nazi tyranny.”

People would be free to choose their own form of government and live free of “fear and want.”

urged disarmament and the creation of a “permanent system of general security”