

Seventy-Seventh Congress

Jan. 3, 1941-Dec. 16, 1942

Third Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt

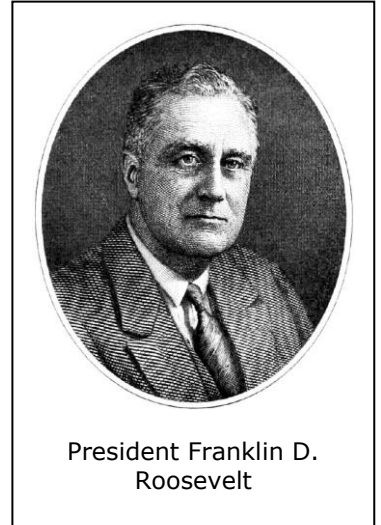
Historical Background.....	1
War or Peace?	2
Economic Trends and Conditions.....	4
Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions	5
1941 Events	6
1942 Events	7
Major Acts.....	9

Historical Background

When the 77th Congress convened early in January 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appealed to the members of Congress to support those nations who were fighting in defense of what he called the Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Days later he submitted a legislative initiative designed to circumvent the limitations on trading in armaments with belligerent nations imposed by Neutrality Act of 1939 and make American war materials available to those allied combatant states deemed most sympathetic to U.S. goals, ideals, and way of life. The resultant Lend-Lease Act (Act to Promote the Defense of the United States), enacted March 11, 1941, authorized the President to “sell, transfer, exchange, lease, or lend” defense articles “to the government of any country whose defense the President [deemed] vital to the defense of the United States.” The Lend-Lease Act also made U.S. shipyard facilities available to those eligible foreign powers.

In August that year, the President persuaded Congress to extend the period of service for U.S. draftees from 12 to 30 months. The razor-thin margin with which the bill passed the House—203 votes in favor, 202 against—however, reflected the persistence of isolationist and pacifist tendencies among broad swaths of the American public. Then, in November, Congress enacted the Neutrality Act of 1939 Amendment, which repealed many of the major provisions of the 1939 law. Henceforth, U.S. merchant ships could be armed and were permitted to carry armaments destined for belligerent nations.

However, this policy shift would be rendered moot in a matter of weeks. On the morning of Sunday December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Naval fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack, which aimed at crippling the U.S. Pacific Fleet, thereby neutralizing the threat it posed to Japan’s plans for Imperial expansion in Southeast Asia, came as a complete shock to the American public. By the time the attack was over—a mere 90 minutes after it began—over 2,400 U.S.



House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (267 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (66 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (162 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (28 seats)
Other Parties: Progressive (3 seats), Farmer-Labor (1 seat), American Labor (1 seat)	Other Parties: Progressive (1 seat); Independent (1 seat)
Speaker of the House: Samuel T. Rayburn	Majority Leader: Alben W. Barkley

seamen, soldiers, airmen, and civilians were killed, eighteen U.S. warships were sunk or run aground, and nearly 200 aircraft destroyed. Less than 24 hours after the attack commenced, Congress had declared war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States and, as Congress immediately passed reciprocal declarations of war against those states, the United States had officially entered World War II.

In the months immediately following the United States's entry in the war, the Congress wasted little time in enacting legislation aimed at quickly shoring up the nation's wartime footing. These included the First War Powers Act of 1941, which granted the President broad powers to redistribute the functions and authorities of executive agencies and departments, and to regulate or prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange and trade, as well as the Second War Powers Act of 1942, which, among other provisions, authorized the President to allocate materials and facilities as needed to enhance U.S. defense capabilities. Mindful of the need for rigorous regulation of commodity supplies and prices during a time of war, Congress enacted the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 in January of that year. The Act established the Office of Price Administration, giving the new agency the authority to establish price ceilings for all non-agricultural commodities and to control rents in defense areas. And in May 1942, it established the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) to facilitate the official, non-combat participation of women in the war effort.

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

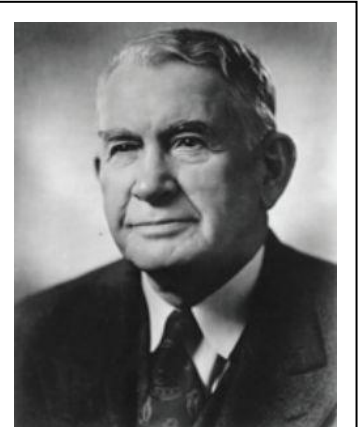
Roosevelt, Franklin D. [*Address of President of United States to Congress*](#). House, Jan. 6, 1941. 77th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.1. ProQuest Congressional, 10598 H.doc.1

Roosevelt, Franklin D. [*Address of President of United States to Congress*](#). House, Jan. 6, 1942. 77th Congress, 2nd Session, H.Doc. 501. ProQuest Congressional, 10694 H.doc.501

Roosevelt, Franklin D. [*Declarations of a State of War with Japan, Germany, and Italy*](#). Senate, Dec. 15, 1941. 77th Congress, 1st Session, S.doc. 148. ProQuest Congressional, 10575 S.doc.148



Speaker of the House
Samuel T. Rayburn



Senate Majority Leader
Alben W. Barkley

War or Peace?

World War II - Battle of the Philippines

Within hours of launching their surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th, 1941 and thereby plunging the U.S. into World War II, the Japanese launched attacks on U.S. and Allied forces and their territories across the Pacific. On December 8, the Japanese launched their attack on the Philippines—home of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFEF)—from the island of Formosa (now Taiwan), some 200 miles north of the Philippines. Though the defending U.S. and Filipino forces outnumbered those of the invading Japanese 3-to-2, the latter were comprised wholly of first line combat forces, whereas the defense was

comprised of a motley mix of regular armed forces, national guard, and constabulary units, virtually none of whom had previous combat experience.

The Japanese invasion began on December 8th with landings at Batan Island, a small island off the north coast of Luzon, the largest and most populous of the Philippine Islands. This was followed in the coming days with landings at other, smaller northern islands, including Camiguin Island and Gonzaga, leading inexorably to an invasion of the north coast of Luzon on December 10. The following week saw Japanese attacks on Legazpi in the far south of Luzon, and the southern island of Mindanao. In the midst of these attacks, the bulk of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet was pulled from the Philippines, leaving the fleet's submarines as the islands' sole, decidedly insufficient naval defense.

With U.S. and Filipino forces in a state of near chaos, Japan launched its main invasion along the coast Luzon's Lingayen Gulf on the morning of December 22. The invading force's nearly 50,000 soldiers with artillery support proved too much for the islands' unprepared and disorganized defenses. After a somewhat confused series of reversals, USAFFE Commander Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur ordered a planned tactical retreat of the remaining U.S. forces to the Bataan Peninsula, while he moved his headquarters to the island fortress of Corregidor, before being ordered to retreat to Australia by way of Mindanao in late February 1942. Though the forces relegated to Bataan suspected that they had effectively been abandoned, they continued to fight the invading Japanese, before finally surrendering on April 9.

During the same time-period the Japanese also launched attacks against British-controlled Burma and the Dutch East Indies.

Anti-Japanese sentiment soared in the U.S. after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Hearings were held by the House Special Committee on Un-American Activities and public pressure mounted on the Administration to contain the feared internal threat of disloyal Japanese-Americans. In February 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing military commanders to designate "military areas," "from which any or all persons may be excluded." This, along with several other orders issued by General John L. DeWitt, resulted in the internment of hundreds of thousands of Japanese-American citizens in "resettlement camps."

Three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan's main Axis allies, Germany and Italy, declared war on the United States. However, despite the preparations made in the prior Congress, the U.S. was unable to fully deploy its military forces to Europe until late 1942 due to production delays and events in the Pacific theater.

In Europe, 1941 and 1942 saw pivotal moments in WWII, including the end of the Battle of Britain, the German invasion of the Soviet Union, and see-saw fighting in North Africa between the British and Axis forces. By the end of 1942, the U.S. finally entered the war in Europe and North Africa, with ground forces landing in Algeria and Morocco in November, and air forces beginning operations against Germany and its occupied territories.

Sources:

Jayson, Lester S. [*Executive Orders in Times of War and National Emergency*](#). American Law Division (CRS), June 1, 1974. 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, 74-S962-2 (Y4.N21/9:Ex3). ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1974-AML-0031

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano. [*State of War Between the United States and the Japanese Empire*](#). House, Dec. 8, 1941. 77th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.45. ProQuest Congressional, 10599 H.doc.453

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano. [*Summary of Past Policy, and of More Immediate Events, in Relation to the Pacific Area*](#). House, Dec. 15, 1941. 77th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.458. ProQuest Congressional, 10596 H.doc.458

Economic Trends and Conditions

Even before the entry of the U.S. into the war at the end of 1941, the focus of government economic policy was on preparedness and an increase in production of armaments and military supplies. The Lend-Lease Act of 1941 showed the willingness of the U.S. to be the “Arsenal of Democracy,” supplying friendly nations fighting the Axis powers even while the U.S. was technically a neutral power.

With the entry of the U.S. into the war, the government assumed unprecedented powers over the national economy. The War Powers Acts granted the president authority to create and reorganize Federal agencies for coordination of the war effort and to regulate private industry for purposes of national defense. The creation of the Emergency Office of Price Administration enabled direct government intervention in consumer sectors of the economy.

An emergency price regulation act was also passed in January 1942 to stave off speculation and inflation. A new rationing system was put in place in to control the rise in inflation and manage the decrease in available consumer goods. Tires were the first item to be rationed due to the disruption of rubber supplies with Japanese invasions in the Pacific, followed by new cars, typewriters, bicycles, household appliances, foodstuffs, oil, gasoline, clothing, and fabrics. The rationing caused low spending, so citizens were encouraged by the government to invest in savings bonds to head-off economic disaster.

Although the nation’s citizens seemed united in the war effort, the 77th Congress was not, especially over tax policy. The Revenue Act of 1942 proved difficult as fiscal conservatives and soaring war-time spending collided. A vicious fight to create a major overhaul of taxation ensued, with the House and Senate drawing up opposing bills, both asking for tax hikes but at widely varying levels. In the end, Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1942 with provisions including the Victory Tax, which imposed a 5% flat tax on all net incomes on top of the normal tax already imposed; the Excess Profits Tax, imposing a flat 90% rate on excess profits; and war-time excise taxes that imposed fresh taxes on commodities such as alcohol, tobacco products, telephone operators, transportation, air-conditioners and refrigerators, and cabarets.

Sources:

Committee to Conduct a Study and Investigation of the National Defense Program in Its Relation to Small Business in the U.S., Select. House. [Study and Investigation of the National Defense Program in Its Relation to Small Business. Volume 1, 1942.](#) Jan. 13-Sep. 24, 1942. 77th Congress, 2nd Session, 77 H965-3 (Y4.N21/7:D36/v.1/rev). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1942-CSI-0001

[Revenue Act of 1942. Questions and Answers Containing an Analysis Relative to Public Law No. 753, an Act to Provide Revenue, and for Other Purposes, Approved October 21, 1942.](#) House, Jan. 1, 1942. 77th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.908. ProQuest Congressional, 10695 H.doc.908

Sumners, Hatton William. [Expediting the prosecution of the war effort.](#) Committee of the Whole House. House; Committee on the Judiciary. House, Dec. 15, 1941. 77th Congress, 1st Session, H.rp.1507. ProQuest Congressional, 10558 H.rp.1507

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

United States v. Darby Lumber Co., upholding the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, confirming power of U.S. Congress to regulate local labor conditions under the Commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution, 312 U.S. 100 (1941)

Cox v. New Hampshire, holding that while the Federal government may not regulate the content of speech, it can impose certain restrictions aimed at maintaining public safety, including requiring organizers to obtain a permit and pay a licensing fee, 312 U.S. 569 (1941)

United States v. Classic, holding that the Congress is empowered to regulate state primary elections when these serve as the primary means for selecting Congressional and Presidential candidates, 313 U.S. 299 (1941)

Edwards v. California, holding that a California law prohibiting non-resident indigent persons from being brought into the state violated Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, 314 U.S. 160 (1941)

United States v. Pink, reaffirming the Court's decision in *United States v. Belmont* (1937), holding that the state of New York, in denying U.S. ownership of Russian state assets held by the First Russian Insurance Co. was an unconstitutional abrogation of the Federal government's exclusive jurisdiction in setting foreign policy, 315 U.S. 203 (1942)

Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, establishing the "fighting words" interpretation of the First Amendment, that violent or insulting speech creating an immediate breach of public order is not necessarily protected, 315 U.S. 568 (1942)

Betts v. Brady, holding that indigent defendants accused of felonies do not have a right to a state-appointed attorney and that while the 14th Amendment guarantees the right to a fair trial, this does not mean that no trial can be considered fair if a defendant is not provided counsel, 316 U.S. 455 (1942), overturned by *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963)

Skinner v. Oklahoma, holding that an Oklahoma law subjecting “habitual criminals” to forced sterilization but excluded white collar crimes from those eligible to be thus enforced violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, 316 U.S. 535 (1942)

Ex parte Quirin, holding that the President has the authority to commission military tribunals to try foreign nationals from enemy belligerent nations who enter the United States to commit acts of sabotage, 317 U.S. 1 (1942)

Wickard v. Filburn, confirming the broad authority of Congress under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution to regulate interstate commerce, 317 U.S. 111 (1942)

Source:

Costello. George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6. ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1941 Events

- **Jan. 23:** [Charles Lindbergh testifies before U.S. Congress and recommends the United States negotiate a neutrality pact with Adolf Hitler](#)
- **Feb. 9:** Winston Churchill, in a worldwide broadcast, tells the U.S. to show its support by sending arms to the British: "Give us the tools, and we will finish the job."
- **Feb. 19-22:** *World War II* - Three Nights' Blitz over Swansea, South Wales
- **Feb. 25:** *Holocaust* - Occupied Netherlands starts the first popular uprising in Europe against the Axis powers in the "February strike" against German deportation of Jews
- **Mar. 1:** *World War II* - [Bulgaria signs the Tripartite Pact joining the Axis powers](#)
- **Mar. 1:** [Lend-Lease program begins with agreement between the U.S. and the United Kingdom, providing war material to Allied nations](#)
- **Mar. 25:** *World War II* - [Kingdom of Yugoslavia joins the Axis powers](#)
- **Apr. 6:** *World War II* - [German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece](#)
- **Apr. 13:** *World War II* - [Soviet Union and Japan sign a neutrality pact](#)
- **May 27:** *World War II* - [President Roosevelt declares state of emergency in response to sinking of U.S.- flagged ships by German submarines](#)
- **June 22:** *World War II* - [German forces invade Soviet Union; Italy and Romania declare war on the Soviet Union; Winston Churchill promises all possible British assistance to the Soviet Union](#)
- **June 23:** *World War II* - [Hungary and Slovakia declare war on the Soviet Union](#)
- **June 24:** *World War II* - [U.S. pledges military aid to the Soviet Union](#)
- **June 25:** *World War II* - [Finland as a co-belligerent with Germany attacks the Soviet Union to start the Continuation War](#)

- **June 28:** *World War II* - [Albania declares war on the Soviet Union](#)
- **July 1:** *World War II* - Empire of Japan calls up 1 million men for military service
- **July 4:** *Holocaust* - Massacre of Polish scientists and writers by Nazi German troops in the occupied Polish city of Lwów
- **Aug. 9-14:** *World War II* - [President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill convened a conference in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland to draft a joint declaration outlining the goals of Allied nations in prosecuting the war, resulting in the Atlantic Charter articulating principles of protecting self-determination of peoples, restoration of self-government to occupied nations, the abandonment of the use of force and disarmament of aggressor states](#)
- **September:** *Holocaust* - [First extermination of prisoners at Auschwitz concentration camp](#)
- **Sept. 8:** *World War II* - Siege of Leningrad begins
- **Sept. 16:** *World War II* - U.S. warships begin assisting with escort duties in convoys bound for Great Britain
- **Sept. 29-30:** *Holocaust* - [Babi Yar Massacre: German troops kill 33,771 Jews in Kiev, Ukraine](#)
- **Sept. 29-Oct. 1:** *World War II* - [Three-Power conference, otherwise known as the First Moscow Conference, between representatives of the United Kingdom, United States, and the Soviet Union, is held in Moscow](#)
- **Oct. 1:** *Holocaust* - [Majdanek extermination camp becomes operational](#)
- **Oct. 31:** *World War II* - [Sinking of U.S. Navy destroyer *Reuben James* by a German submarine](#)
- **Dec. 7:** *World War II* - [Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; Japan declares war on the U.S.; Canada declares war on Japan](#)
- **Dec. 8:** *World War II* - [U.S. declares war on Japan; Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, the Free French, Yugoslavia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador Guatemala and Honduras also officially declare war on Japan, and the Republic of China declares war on the Axis powers](#)
- **Dec. 11:** *World War II* - [Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S.](#)
- **Dec. 12:** *World War II* - Hungary and Romania declare war on the U.S.; British India declares war on the Empire of Japan
- **Dec. 12:** [Amendment to the Neutrality Act](#)

1942 Events

- **Jan. 1:** [Twenty-six nations sign the United Nations Declaration, affirming the Atlantic Charter](#)
- **Jan. 2:** *World War II* - [Manila, capital of the Philippines, is captured by Japanese forces](#)
- **Jan. 20:** *Holocaust* - [The Wannsee Conference in Berlin approves plans for the mass deportation and extermination of Jews in the "Final Solution;" implementation begins immediately](#)
- **Feb. 15:** *World War II* - [Japanese capture Singapore](#)

- **Feb. 27:** *World War II* - [Battle of the Java Sea - Japanese defeat Allied forces and attain naval hegemony in East-Asia](#)
- **April:** *Holocaust* - [Nazi German extermination camps Sobibor and Treblinka open](#)
- **April 9:** *World War II* - [Bataan Death March begins; Japanese army forcibly transfer between 60,000-80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war; between 2,500-10,000 Filipino and 100-650 American prisoners of war died before they reached their destination](#)
- **May 6:** *World War II* - [U.S. and Filipino forces on Corregidor Island surrender to Japanese; end of organized resistance in the Philippines](#)
- **May 7:** *World War II* - [Battle of the Coral Sea - first clash between U.S. and Japanese aircraft carriers](#)
- **May 26:** *World War II* - [Soviet Union and the British Empire sign the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of 1942, forming a military alliance between the two powers](#)
- **May 27 - June 29:** *World War II* - German offensive in Egypt, Afrika Korps within 70 miles of the Nile River
- **June 4-7:** *World War II* - [Battle of Midway - U.S. Navy secures decisive victory by sinking 4 Japanese aircraft carriers](#)
- **July 16:** *Holocaust* - French police officers imprison 13,000-20,000 Jews in the Winter Velodrome; later transferring them to a concentration camp in the Parisian suburbs and then to Auschwitz
- **Aug. 7:** *World War II* - [U.S. forces begin operations to push Japanese from Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands](#)
- **Aug. 13:** [Manhattan Project to create an atomic bomb organized](#)
- **Sept. 5:** *World War II* - German forces enter the city of Stalingrad in the Soviet Union
- **Nov. 4:** *World War II* - [British victory at El Alamein; German forces begin withdrawal from Egypt](#)
- **Nov. 8:** *World War II* - [U.S. and Allied forces land in Algeria and Morocco](#)
- **Dec. 2:** [First self-sustaining nuclear reaction created at Argonne Labs of the University of Chicago](#)
- **Dec. 17:** *Holocaust* - [Allies issue the Joint Declaration by Members of the United Nations in the first public acknowledgement of the Holocaust](#)

Sources:

["485 Days in Majdanek." by Jerzy Kwiatkowski: Hon. Roman C. Pucinski of Illinois in the House of Representatives.](#) Congressional Record, 91st Congress, 1st Session (Dec. 23, 1969) Vol. 115, pp. 41237-41238. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1969-1223

["Amendment of Neutrality Act."](#) Congressional Record, 76th Congress, 1st Session (Mar. 20, 1939) Vol. 84, pp. 2923-2927. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1939-0320

[Attack upon Pearl Harbor by Japanese armed forces. \[...\] to investigate and report the facts relating to the attack made by Japanese armed forces upon Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii on December 7, 1941.](#) Senate, Jan. 23, 1942. 77th Congress, 2nd Session, S.doc.159. ProQuest Congressional, 10676 S.doc.159

["Auschwitz is Synonymous with Evil."](#) Congressional Record, 104th Congress, 1st Session (Jan. 27, 1995) Vol. 141, pp. 2776-2777. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1995-0127

["Babi Yar Revisited: Hon. Tom Lantos of California in the House of Representatives."](#) Congressional Record, 102nd Congress, 1st Session (Nov. 26, 1991) Vol. 137, pp. 36042-36043. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1991-1126

[The Department of State bulletin: December 19, 1942.](#) Department of State. Dec. 19, 1942. Vol. VII: No. 182, Publication 1852 (S1.3:7/182). ProQuest Congressional, S1.3..7_182

[First Report Under the Act of Mar. 11, 1941 \(Lend-Lease Act\).](#) Defense Aid Reports Division, Office for Emergency Management. Jan. 1, 1941, (Pr32.402:L54/941). ProQuest Congressional, Pr32.402..L54_941

["Lindbergh's Adaptation of Hitler's Hated Harangues."](#) Appendix to the Congressional Record, 77th Congress, 1st Session (Jan. 30, 1941) Vol. 87, p. A342. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1941-0130

["Modification of Neutrality Act."](#) Congressional Record, 77th Congress, 1st Session (Oct. 31, 1941) Vol. 87, pp. 8374-8399. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1941-1031

[Report of Subcommittee of House Naval Affairs Committee Appointed To Investigate the Alleged Misconduct of Merchant Seamen at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.](#) Committee on Naval Affairs. House. Jan. 1, 1943. 78th Congress, 1st Session, Committee on Naval Affairs Serial No. 30 (Y4.N22/1a:943-44/30). ProQuest Congressional, CMP-1943-NAH-0029

Special Committee on Atomic Energy, Senate. [Atomic Energy. Part 3.](#) Senate, Dec. 13-14, 19-20, 1945. 79th Congress, 1st Session, 79 S809-1-C (Y4.At7:At7/pt.3). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1945-AES-0003

["The Splendid Work of the United States Flyers: Need for Aviation Education."](#) Congressional Record, 77th Congress, 2nd Session (May 11, 1942) Vol. 88, p. 4075. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1942-0511

Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. House. [U.S. Holocaust Museum: 50th Anniversary of the Wannsee Conference.](#) Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. House, Feb. 5, 1992. 102nd Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Serial No. 102-21 (Y4.In8/14:102-21) ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1992-IIA-0001

["Treblinka: The Ultimate Death Camp."](#) Congressional Record, 98th Congress, 2nd Session (June 29, 1984) Vol. 130, p. 20021. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1984-0629

Trimble, South. [Events leading up to World War II.](#) House, Feb. 23, 1944. 78th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.541. ProQuest Congressional, 10870 H.doc.541

Major Acts

Lend-Lease Act (Act to Promote the Defense of the United States).

Enabled any country whose defense the President deemed vital to that of the U.S. to receive arms and other equipment and supplies by sale, transfer, exchange, or lease. The value of defense articles disposed of in this way and procured from funds heretofore appropriated could not exceed \$1.3 billion. Approved Mar. 11, 1941. ([55 Stat. 31; PL77-11](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Service Extension of 1941. Amended the Selective Service Act of 1940 to increase the term of service for inductees from 12 to 30 months. Approved Aug. 18, 1941. ([55 Stat. 626, PL77-213](#))

Neutrality Act of 1939 Amendment. Repealed certain sections of the 1939 Neutrality Act. Henceforth, U.S. merchant ships could be armed and carry cargoes to warring nations. Approved Nov. 17, 1941. ([55 Stat. 764, Chap. 473; PL77-294](#))

Declaration of War on Japan. Declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Japan, and authorized and directed the deployment of the naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination. Approved Dec. 8, 1941. ([55 Stat. 795; PL77-328](#))

Declaration of War on Germany. Declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany, and authorized and directed the deployment of the naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination. Approved Dec. 11, 1941. ([55 Stat. 796, Chap. 564; PL77-331](#))

Declaration of War on Italy. Declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Italy, and authorized and directed the deployment of the naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination. Approved Dec. 11, 1941. ([55 Stat. 797, Chap. 565; PL77-332](#))

First War Powers Act, 1941. Authorized the President to redistribute functions, duties, and powers of executive departments, commissions, bureaus, agencies, governmental corporations, offices, or officers, and to enter into contracts without regard to designated provisions of law, and to investigate, regulate, or prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange, coins, exports, etc. Approved Dec. 18, 1941. ([55 Stat. 838, Chap. 593; PL77-354](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

New Selective Service Act. Provided that all men between the ages of 18 and 65 must register, and all men from 20 to 45 would be subject to training and service. Approved Dec. 20, 1941. ([55 Stat. 844; PL77-360](#))

Emergency Price Control Act of 1942. Established the Office of Price Administration with power to fix price ceilings on all commodities (except farm products) and to control rents in defense areas. Approved Jan. 30, 1942. ([56 Stat. 23, Chap. 26; PL77-421](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Second War Powers Act, 1942. Authorized the President to allocate materials and facilities as necessary for the defense of the United States. Granted additional powers to several Federal agencies and covered a number of other items, including such diverse topics as increasing penalties for priority violations and granting free postage for soldiers.

Approved Mar. 27, 1942. ([56 Stat. 176, Chap. 199; PL77-507](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Act. Created the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) of no more than 150,000 for noncombatant service with the Army of the United States. Approved May 14, 1942. ([56 Stat. 278; PL77-554](#))

Teenage Draft Act. Amended the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, making 18- and 19-year old males subject to the draft. Approved Nov. 13, 1942. ([56 Stat. 1018, PL77-772](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Copyright©2018, ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.