War erupts!

the world at war

War erupts!
Mussolini established the Fascist party in Italy.

Hitler created the fascist state of Nazi Germany.

Hitler

Stalin became the Communist dictator of the Soviet Union.

Stalin

Hideki Tojo became the imperialist Prime Minister of Japan.

Tojo
Common Themes of these dictators:

- **Hold power by force and fear**
- **Pass laws to forbid political competition**
- **Appeal to people’s pride and prejudices**
- **All suffering from hard economic times after WW1**
How did the United States respond to increasing totalitarian aggression in Europe and Asia?

What caused America’s gradual abandonment of its policy of neutrality?
Attempts at Neutrality as militarism sweeps Europe:

- Congress passed Neutrality Acts in 1935
- "America First" was the catch-phrase of isolationism!

In May of 1941, Dr. Seuss published this political cartoon. How did he feel about the isolationists?
The War Begins!

WW II began with Hitler’s invasion of Poland in 1939.

Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east.

Hitler’s and Stalin’s Non-Aggression Pact kept them from fighting each other.

France and Britain entered to defend Poland.

“The Appeaser” by Seuss makes reference to the Munich Pact—when Britain and France gave in to Hitler in hopes of keeping peace.
The war in Europe

During the first two years of the war, the United States stayed officially neutral as Germany overran France, most of Europe, and pounded Britain from the air (the Battle of Britain).

In mid-1941, Hitler turned on his former partner and invaded the Soviet Union.

Hitler in Paris, June 23, 1940. France fell to the Nazi blitzkrieg in a matter of weeks!
The United States gradually abandoned neutrality as events in Europe and Asia pulled the nation toward war.
Despite strong isolationist sentiment at home, the United States increasingly helped Britain. It gave Britain war supplies and old naval warships in return for military bases in Bermuda and the Caribbean.

Soon after, the Lend-Lease Act gave the President the authority to sell or lend equipment to countries to defend themselves against the Axis powers.

Franklin Roosevelt compared it to "lending a garden hose to a next-door neighbor whose house is on fire".
The war in Europe

These political cartoons from 1941, poke fun at the America First supporters. Dr. Seuss illustrates the idea that Britain was standing alone.
The war in Asia

The battle flag of the Empire of Japan-
During the 1930s a militaristic Japan invaded and brutalized Manchuria and China as it sought military and economic domination over Asia. The United States refused to recognize Japanese conquests in Asia and imposed an embargo on exports of oil and steel to Japan. Tensions rose but both countries negotiated to avoid war.
The war in Asia

While negotiating with the U.S. and without any warning, Japan carried out an air attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

The attack destroyed much of the American Pacific fleet and killed several thousand Americans.

Isolation No More!

Roosevelt called the attack on Pearl Harbor "a date that will live in infamy" as he asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

Franklin Roosevelt asks Congress to declare war on Japan, December 8, 1941.
December 9, 1941 Seuss published this one…
Now we were in it!!!

After Pearl Harbor, Hitler honored a pact with Japan and declared war on the United States. The debates over isolationism in the United States were over. World War II was now a true world war and the United States was fully involved.
Did you like the Dr. Seuss cartoons?
Did you realize that he was so political?
Check out the book, **Dr. Seuss Went to War** for lots more information!
You can also check out: [http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dspolitic/](http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dspolitic/)
For more on-line information.