

★ Reteaching Activity 20

A World in Flames, 1931–1941

The Treaty of Versailles created an unstable peace in Europe. The worldwide economic depression led to the rise of new political groups. Various forms of totalitarian governments gained power in Germany, Italy, Japan, and the USSR. Many people in the United States supported isolationism as conflicts erupted in Europe and Asia.

DIRECTIONS: The chart below shows how the United States responded to events in Europe and Asia. Supply the missing information. The first one has been completed for you.



The United States Responds

Situation/Event	U.S. Response
1. Hitler violates the Treaty of Versailles by rebuilding Germany’s military; Mussolini invades Ethiopia.	Congress passes the Neutrality Act, forbidding Americans to sell arms to any country at war.
2. Spanish Civil War erupts; the Rome-Berlin Axis forms, and is later joined by Japan.	
3.	Roosevelt authorizes the sale of weapons to China, claiming that the Neutrality Act did not apply since neither country had declared war.
4. Hitler signs a pact with the USSR and invades Poland; France and Britain declare war on Germany.	
5. France falls; Allied troops are evacuated at Dunkirk; an air invasion known as the Battle of Britain begins.	
6.	Congress passes the Lend-Lease Act to allow the shipment of American supplies to nations considered vital to the security of the United States.
7. British cargo ships and American ships are attacked by German U-boats.	
8.	Congress declares war on Japan; Germany and Italy declare war on the United States, forcing the United States into a global war.

9. Critical Thinking President Roosevelt compared war to an epidemic that needed to be actively contained to keep it from spreading. Briefly describe how American isolationism and neutrality actually contributed to the spread of war around the world.