The United States: The Calm Before the Storm

Lend-Lease Policy

Many Americans wanted the United States to stay out of World War II since the United States had just come out of the Great Depression. However, Great Britain knew how powerful the U.S. military was, and reached out for help anyways. This led to the creation of the Lend-Lease Act. The Lend-Lease Act stated that the U.S. government could lend or lease (rather than sell) war supplies to any nation deemed "vital to the defense of the United States." Under this policy, the United States was able to supply military aid to its foreign allies during World War II while still remaining officially neutral in the conflict. Most importantly, passage of the Lend-Lease Act enabled a struggling Great Britain to continue fighting against Germany by itself.

Neutrality Acts

During the early stages of WWII, Congress was dominated by isolationists who believed that American entry into World War I had been mistaken and who were determined to prevent the United States from being drawn into another European war. Beginning with the Neutrality Act of 1935, Congress passed a series of laws designed to minimize American involvement with belligerent nations. Roosevelt accepted the neutrality laws but at the same time warned Americans of the danger of remaining isolated from a world increasingly menaced by the dictatorial regimes in Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Development of the Peacetime Draft

On Sept. 16, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which was another name for the draft. It required all able-bodied men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. This was the nation's first peacetime draft. During the war, more than 10 million men were called into the Army, Navy and Marines by the draft. However, most men who served, as well as a lot of women,

volunteered for the military. Many men who were too old or disabled often served on the home front, doing important work on farms and in factories. Women also filled in at factories for men who were sent overseas to fight in the war.

Directions: Use central ideas and supporting details to summarize the text in your own words. Use the space below to help you organize.

Reminders: Central idea is what the text is mostly about. Supporting details are details that support the central idea. You do not have to quote accurately.

Central Idea for Subtopic #1: ●	**Supporting detail for central idea #1:** ●
Central Idea for Subtopic #2: ●	**Supporting detail for central idea #2:** ●
Central Idea for Subtopic #3: ●	**Supporting detail for central idea #3:** ●

Use your subtopics and supporting details to write a summary of the text. Be sure to include all three subtopics and supporting details!

Summary: