

Study Questions: David Reynolds, *From Munich to Pearl Harbor*, ch. 6-7

Chapter 6

1. How did FDR react to the USSR's entrance into the war against Germany? What factors shaped his reaction? How did the Soviet presence in the war shape US strategy?
2. How did US policymakers differ regarding the proper response to Japanese expansion in the Pacific? How did advances in US air power begin affect policymakers' calculations?
3. Though FDR considered the British allies, on what issues – strategic, economic, and geopolitical – did he want the British to make concessions? How did FDR use the Atlantic Charter to exact these concessions?
4. What concessions did Churchill want FDR to make regarding both the war in Europe and the war in the Pacific?
5. Why were the *Greer* incident and the oil embargo on Japan significant in drawing the US closer to war in Europe and in the Pacific respectively?
6. Reynolds notes (pp. 156-158) that FDR was determined not to rush into formal war during 1941. What reasons did FDR have for adhering to this position?
7. Why did the differences between Japan and the US prove irreconcilable? What would the US not agree to? What would Japan not agree to?
8. How does Reynolds assess the popular conspiracy theory that FDR had "advance notice" of the attack on Pearl Harbor?
9. Why did Hitler declare war on the US after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

Chapter 7

1. Why does Reynolds believe that Roosevelt *himself* was *central* and *determinative* in US policy making the years from Munich to Pearl Harbor? What evidence does he introduce in making his case for FDR's significance?

2. What does Reynolds mean when he says that FDR's foreign policy was founded on geopolitics and ideology? How did FDR redefine US "national security"? How did he propose to ensure it without turning the nation into a garrison state?
3. According to Reynolds, what "key concepts" had been formed during the lead up to World War II that would continue to be influential once the Cold War began?
4. Why does Reynolds argue that the "Imperial Presidency" and the "national security state" originated with FDR?