Analyze the outline of key events in America’s road to World War II between 1933 and 1941.

1. Indicate what you see as the key turning point in bringing the United States towards involvement. *SAQ*
2. Was FDR caught sleeping by Pearl Harbor? *LEQ INTRO (context, thesis statement with organizational categories)*

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| 1933 | Germany: Hitler becomes ChancellorUSA: Roosevelt announces the “Policy of the Good Neighbor” – isolationist.USA: withdrawal from Nicaragua & Haiti |
| 1934 | USA: Platt Amendment (1901) dissolved. End of formal U.S. claim to right to intervene in Latin AmericaGermany: Hitler assumes absolute power.Japan: renounces Five Powers Treaty (1922), begins aggressive military build-up to expand control in Asia |
| 1935 | Germany: Hitler revitalizes armed forcesUSA: Roosevelt signs 1st of several neutrality laws. Neutrality Act of 1935 – Americans prohibited from traveling on ships owned by nations at war. Sales of arms & munitions to any “belligerent” nation forbidden |
| 1936 | Germany: Hitler violates Treaty of Versailles by sending troops in to the Rhineland (border w/ Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, & France).USA: Neutrality Act revised – forbidden to give loans to nations at war (non-intervention) |
| 1937 | Italy: joins Germany & Japan “Rome, Berlin, Tokyo Axis”USA: Neutrality Act revised – forbidden to give loans to nations at war, including civil war (non-intervention)USA: Neutrality Act of 1937: President may require that goods other than arms or munitions exported to warring nations be sold on a cash-and-carry basis. (preserve trade w/out being involved)USA: Roosevelt delivers speech calling on international cooperation to “quarantine the aggressors” – congress & American public were not interested. Japan: Japanese & Chinese troops clash near Beijing War between China & JapanJapan: Japanese army captures capital of Nanjing “Rape of Nanjing”.Japan: Japanese planes sink U.S. gunboat *Panay.* |
| 1938 | Germany: Anschluss – Forced union of Germany & AustriaGermany: Munich Accords – appeasement conference with France & Great BritainUSA: Ludlow Amendment – constitutional amendment requiring public referendum for a declaration of war except in case of attack on U.S. territory. Fails to pass – barely |
| 1939 | Germany: Hitler conquers Czechoslovakia.Germany: Hitler & Stalin sign Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact to divide up northern & eastern Europe between the 2 countries.Germany: Hitler invades Poland.Great Britain & France: declare war. World War II begins.USA: Roosevelt proclaims U.S. neutrality.USA: Neutrality Act of 1939 allows Britain & France to send their own freighters to U.S. to buy military supplies. |
| 1940 | Germany: Blitzkrieg – Germany occupies Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and France. Attacks Great Britain “Battle of Britain” & “The Blitz”Italy: officially enters the war as ally to GermanyJapan: forces Vichy government in France to allow building of Japanese airfields in French-controlled IndochinaJapan: signs Tripartite Pact with Germany & Italy – pledge to declare war on any nation that attacked any of themJapan: signs non-aggression pact with Soviet Union to minimize threat from northUSA: Export Control Act of 1940 - 1st of a series of embargos on Japan-bound munitions & suppliesUSA: Roosevelt sets up the National Defense Research Committee to coordinate military research (atomic bomb)USA: Roosevelt signs 1st peacetime conscription, requiring registration of all 16 million men 21-35 yrs oldUSA: Debate between “internationalists” and isolationists |
| 1941 | Germany: forces enter North Africa, overwhelm Greece, Yugoslavia, invade Soviet UnionUSA: Roosevelt creates Lend Lease bill, authorizing the president to lend or lease military equipment to “any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the USA.”USA: signs Atlantic Charter with Great Britain. After “the final destruction of Nazi tyranny” victors would promote self-determination, economic cooperation, freedom of the seas, new system of international security. USA: American ships begin engaging with German submarines in the Atlantic (naval warfare).Japan: announces control of French IndochinaUSA: Roosevelt freezes Japanese assets in the U.S. and halts shipments of gasoline.USA: Roosevelt merges armed forces in the Philippines with the U.S. army.Japan: begins plans for attacking Dutch & British colonies in SE Asia to get oil suppliesUSA: Secretary of State demands Japan withdraws forces from China & Indochina if it wants to renew trade.Japan: Option #1 – give in and withdraw from Manchuria. Option #2 – attack U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor and seize supplies in the Pacific |