

# “The Great Transformation” and “Five Continents and Seven Seas”: History is Not Just Names and Dates

Rich in American History, Peer Learning Community Session V  
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Supplementary materials available online: <http://www.ryanmacpherson.com/presentations/15/84>

## Not Just Dates, but Sequences

- Storytelling (What happened?)
  - Beginning
  - Middle (Sequence)
  - End
- Causal Explanation (Why it happened?)
  - Cause-Effect (Before-After)
  - Context (Simultaneity)
- Interpretative Explanation (Why it matters?)
  - The “lens” of the present “focuses” the past.
  - Our lenses can distort.
  - Our lenses also can clarify.
  - Examples:
    - Munich, 1938
    - Yalta, 1945
    - Manchuria, 1931

## Not Just Dates, but Turning Points

- Periodization
  - Great Depression (1929-ca. 1940)
  - New Deal (1933-1938)
  - World War II (1939/1941-1945)
  - Cold War (1946-1989/1991)
- Irreversible Changes
- Your Examples?

## Not Just Names, but Personalities

- Woodrow Wilson
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Winston Churchill
- Joseph Stalin

## Not Just Names, but Policies

- Good Neighbor
- New Deal
- Lend-Lease
- Imperialism
- Democracy
- “Four Freedoms”(Franklin D. Roosevelt, 6 January 1941)
- When, how, and why did the United States first become involved in the Second World War?
  - 1935-1937: Neutrality Acts
  - 1938: Sudetenland / Munich
  - Sept. 1939: Poland / WWII in Europe
  - Nov. 1939: Cash-and-Carry Arms
  - Jan. 1941: Four Freedoms
  - March 1941: Lend-Lease
  - Aug. 1941: Atlantic Charter
  - Dec. 1941: Pearl Harbor
- Applications to Classroom Teaching?