

HOW DID THE POLICIES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE ISOLATION?

Content Focus:

Tariff policy: Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922; immigration controls; quota system of 1921.

Following involvement in the First World War the USA wanted a change in their foreign policies in order to protect America's economy therefore the Government introduced Tariffs.

In 1922 the congress passed The Fordney-McCumber Tariff. Heavy taxes were placed on foreign goods coming into the USA making them more expensive which therefore encouraged Americans to buy cheaper American farm produce instead of foreign imports. This further boosted American economy and led to more employment but in response to the Fordney-McCumber Act European countries also introduced taxes on American goods going into their country. However the American market was initially very strong that this didn't really affect them and so moved into what was called the policy of isolation.

America was in fear that the new immigrants especially poor countries would provide cheap labour which would take jobs from the Americans. Also there was fear that the immigrants