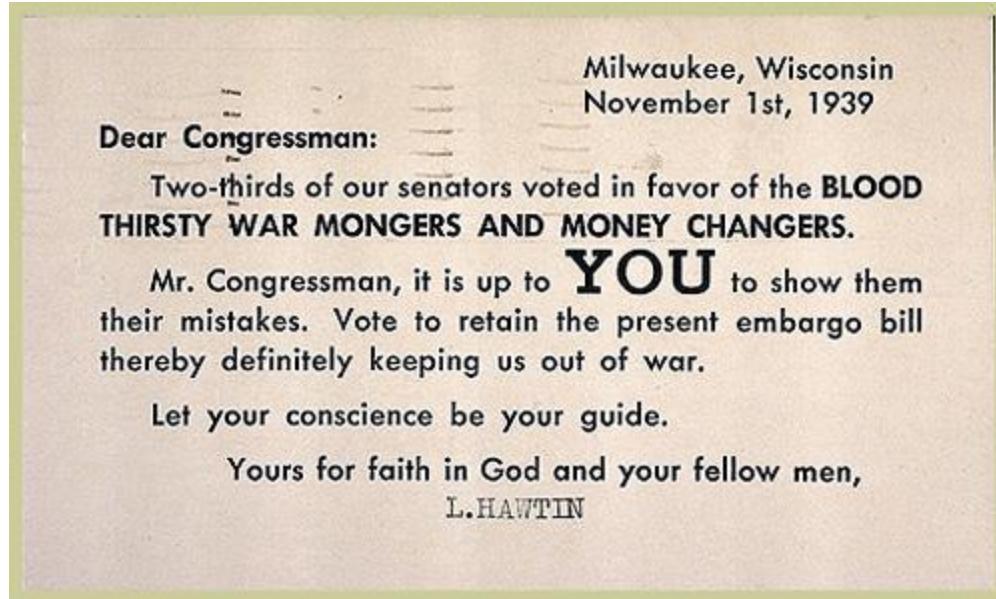


# The Coming of World War II: From Peace to Pearl Harbor



# Welcome Back!

- Bell Ringer: In groups, complete Continuity/Change over time worksheet (10 mins.)
- Agenda and Objective: Through note review and discussion, students will identify changes in U.S. views from Imperialism to Isolationism to Interventionism on the eve of WW II
- Reminder: Packets due Weds. 4/8

# U.S. Foreign Policy: 1920's and 1930's

- Retreat from internationalism to traditional isolationism
- Rejection of League of Nations membership
- Desire to be engaged economically with the world
- Disarmament was a goal

## Washington Naval Conference 1921

- Five Power Naval Limitation Treaty signed.
- Countries' respective fleets are to be maintained according to a predetermined ratio.
- No improvement or development of bases in the Pacific region.
- But limited to only navy and omitted land and air forces.
- Also binding only on battleships and did not cover smaller ships or submarines.

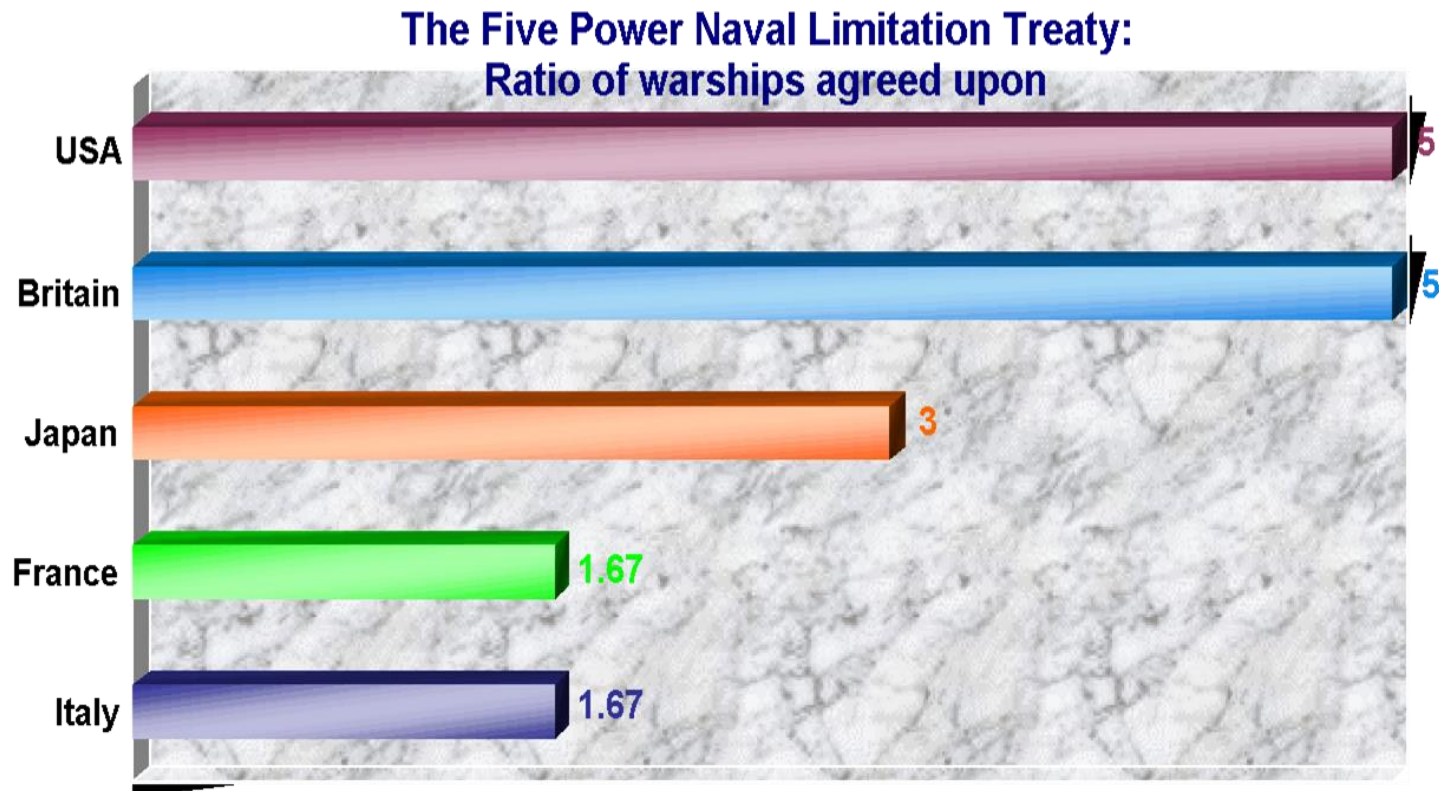
## Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928

- Signed by more than 75 nations.
- Agreed not to resort to war to achieve their political or economic ambitions.
- But no clear statement on how countries could take action against violators.
- Also allowed war in self-defence or undeclared wars.

# The Washington Naval Conference 1921–1922

- Aim was to get major naval powers to disarm and put an end to the expensive naval arms race.
- The USA invited Britain, France, Italy and Japan to attend the conference.
- They agreed to reduce the size of their navies.
- They signed the **Five Power Naval Limitation Treaty**.

- Aim was to get major naval powers to disarm and put an end to the expensive naval arms race.
- The USA invited Britain, France, Italy and Japan to attend the conference.
- The countries agreed to maintain a balance in their respective fleets according to the ratio shown below.
- They also agreed not to build any new warships for the next 10 years.



# Helping Germany

## ➤ The Dawes Plan 1924

American Charles Dawes led an international committee to help resolve the reparations problem for Germany.

The USA loaned Germany **800 million gold marks** which Germany used to end hyperinflation and pay reparations.

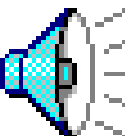
The total amount of reparations was reduced.

Germany was given a more flexible time schedule for repayment based on its ability to pay.

# Who was a part of Isolationism?



- Jeannette Rankin was the only person to vote “NO” in congress of both world wars.
- Isolationists, however, never favored cutting off the United States from the rest of the world, nor did they rule out the possibilities of American expansion in the Western Hemisphere, the Pacific, and East Asia.



# Why Isolationist?

1. Public knew little about the wars in Europe and Asia and cared even less.
2. Public irrationally opposed paying for a strong national defense to deter any attack
3. Public was isolationist until Pearl Harbor, then was shocked into support for war
4. Public opinion was racist and anti-Semitic, which caused the US Government to firebomb Japanese civilians and ignore the Holocaust.



# Isolationism

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In August of 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed what would be the first in a series of Neutrality Acts. These Congressional Acts were attempts to stop the United States from becoming involved in foreign affairs in order that we might focus our attentions on domestic affairs.



# Neutrality Acts 1935, 1936, 1937



- Outlawed arms sales or loans to nations at war & extended the ban to nations engaged in civil wars.
- No American could legally sail on a belligerent ship.



# The Road to War in Europe and Asia

Date	Event	American Response
Sept. 1939	Germany Invades Poland	Neutrality Act of 1939: Cash & Carry

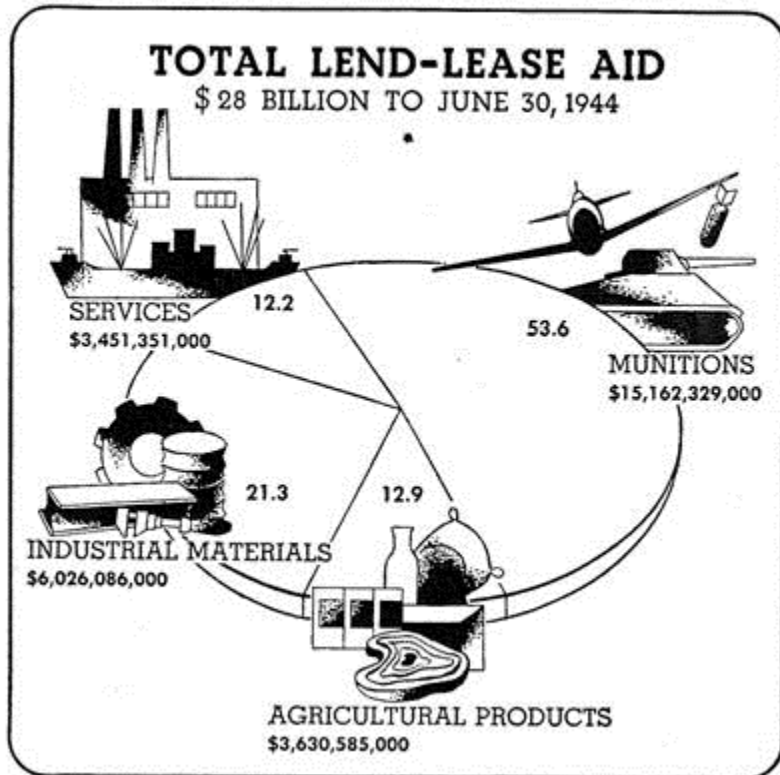


# Cash & Carry



- Neutrality Act of 1939 allowed the US to sell weapons to nations at war only if they paid cash and transported the weapons on their own ships.
- This was the first change in policy away from isolationism toward active involvement.

Date	Event	American Response
Summer 1940	Germany Defeats France Germany Attacks Britain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$37 billion to rebuild armed forces</li> <li>• 2 million troops drafted</li> <li>• Lend-Lease</li> <li>• Destroyers for Bases Deal</li> </ul>



# Lend - Lease



- December 1940
- Great Britain had run out of funds to wage war against Germany.
- Authorized the US to sell, transfer, exchange, lease and lend defense materials and shipyard facilities to any country whose defense was vital to the US.
- US contributed approximately \$40 billion in supplies.

# Hemispheric Defense Zones

- Problem: How to get American weapons and supplies to Britain?
- Solution: FDR declared the entire western half of the Atlantic to be part of the Western Hemisphere and therefore neutral. He ordered US Navy to patrol it and assist the British with locating submarines.



# Destroyers For Bases Deal

- Spring 1940
- British Prime Minister Winston Churchill asked FDR to transfer old American destroyers to Britain who needed them to protect its cargo ships from German submarines.
- FDR sent 50 destroyers in exchange for the right to build American bases in Newfoundland, Bermuda and islands in the Caribbean.
- Led to the founding of the America First Committee

# Election of 1940

- FDR broke the long standing tradition of retiring after 2 terms.
- Opponent Wendell Willkie lost by a huge margin
- FDR then expanded nation's role in the war

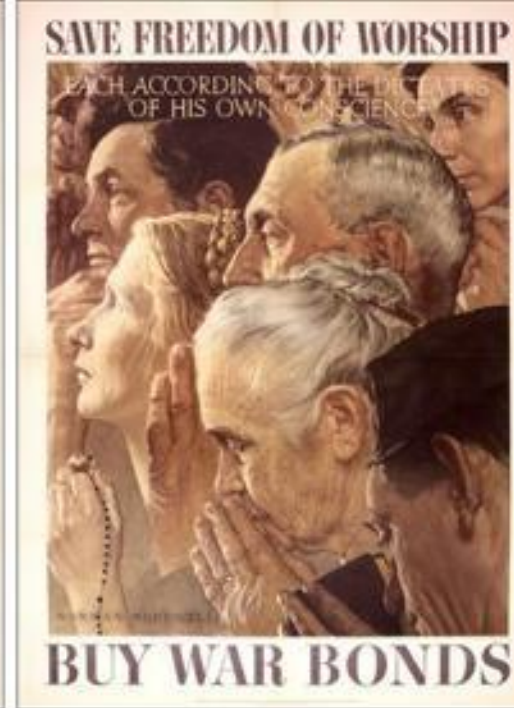
# Arsenal of Democracy

- Slogan used by FDR in December, 1940 promising to help the British fight the Germans by giving them military supplies while staying out of the actual fighting.
- The US would produce the weapons, tanks, ammunition – whatever Britain needed to defeat the Nazis.



# Four Freedom

Speech delivered by FDR in January, 1941. He outlined his vision for a world that avoided war and where freedom (of speech, of religion, from fear and from want) was a reality for all nations and people.



- In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.
- The first is freedom of speech and expression -- everywhere in the world.
- The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere in the world.
- The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants -- everywhere in the world.
- The fourth is freedom from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor -- anywhere in the world.
- That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called "new order" of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>American Response</b>
Summer 1941	Germany Invades the Soviet Union	Atlantic Conference & Charter



# Atlantic Charter



- August, 1941
- Joint declaration of war aims between US and Britain that called for:
  - Collective security
  - Disarmament
  - Self determination
  - Freedom of the seas
  - Economic cooperation

# Greer & Ruben James

- German U-Boat fired on American destroyer Greer
- FDR promptly orders American ships to follow and shoot on sight
- A month later, Germany torpedoed another destroyer (Ruben James) and it sank killing 115

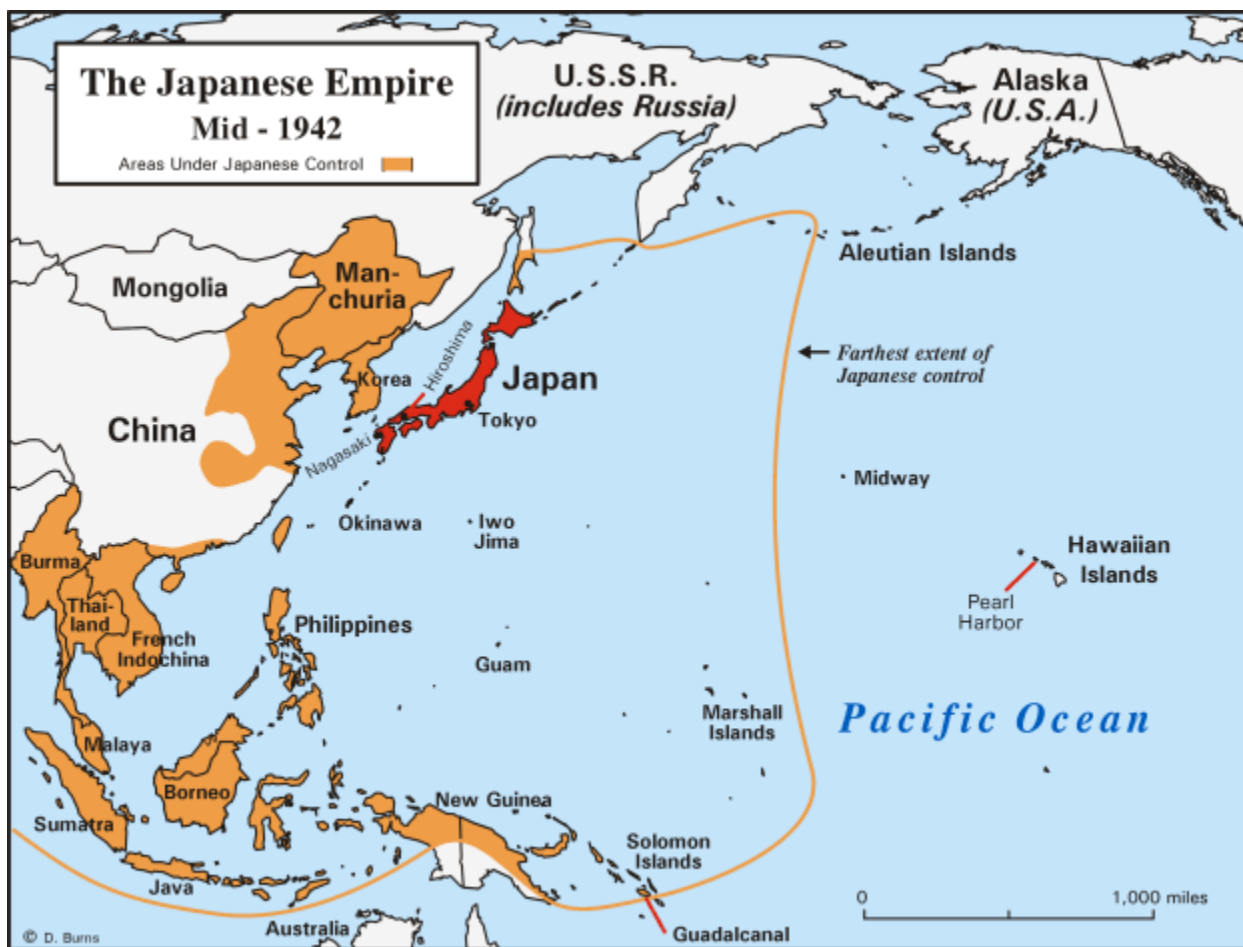


# US Decision – “All aid short of war”

- When Britain was being bombed by Germany and most of Europe was controlled by Germany, the US increased its assistance to Britain.



Date	Event	American Response
1938 - 1940	Japanese offensive continues against China * Declaration of East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere	US moves its Pacific Fleet to Pearl Harbor from San Diego (May 1940), Naval Expansion Act (July 1940)



Date	Event	American Response
Late 1940	Japan Allies With Germany	Embargo on Exports (Scrap Iron) to Japan, Froze Japanese Assets/ Bank Accounts (Mid 1941), Cut off Oil Exports



**Pledge To Aid Each Other Against Any Foe Entering European Or China War**

**Would Force U. S. To Fight On Two Fronts; Ten-Year Treaty Signed In Berlin**

Berlin, Sept. 27 (AP)—Germany, Italy and Japan welded a new totalitarian bloc today with a one-for-all and all-for-one pledge of aid against any new enemy entering either the European or China war—an implicit warning to the United States.

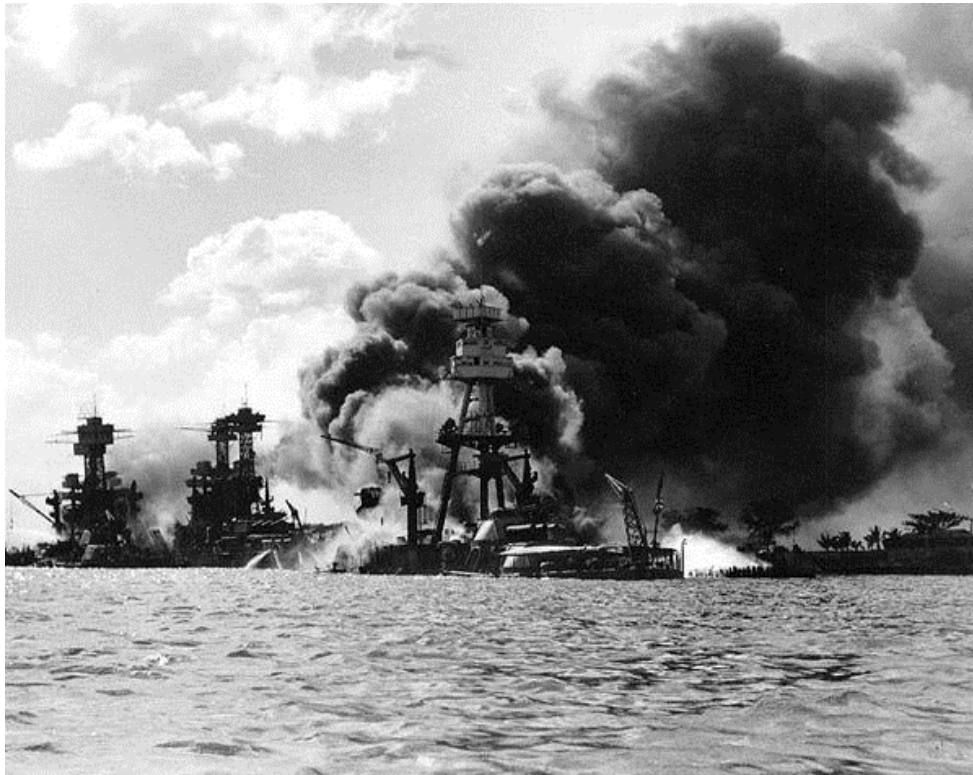
With Adolf Hitler as an onlooker, the Rome-Berlin foreign ministers and the Japanese ambassador to Berlin signed a solemn ten-year military and economic treaty declaring

# US Cuts Exports to Japan

Year	Total Oil	US Oil	Total Steel	US Steel	Total Scrap Iron	US Scrap Iron
1937	482	380	995	409	242	178
1938	392	316	857	310	136	101
1939	343	291	706	32	256	218
1940	436	291	690	0	139	112
1941	141	88	646	6	20	11

Oil in units of 10,000 tons, Steel and Scrap Iron in units of 1,000 tons.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>American Response</b>
Dec. 7 1941	Pearl Harbor	Declaration of war on Japan (December 8 <sup>th</sup> )



# Different Viewpoints on US Involvement



# Charles Lindbergh

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This man was a very outspoken isolationist. He started a group called the “America First Committee” whose mission was to convince the United States government to stay OUT of World War II in the interest of protectionism.



# Charles Lindbergh

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Lindbergh used his fame as a pilot and national hero to gain audience for his isolationist ideas.



The editorial board of the *New York Times* published this commentary on May 20, 1940.

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### COL. LINDBERGH'S BROADCAST

In his radio broadcast last night Colonel Lindbergh advised the American people to "stop this hysterical chatter of calamity and invasion that has been running rife these last few days." Let us put to one side the question of "invasion"—since Colonel Lindbergh himself believes that the country needs "a greater air force, a greater army and a greater navy," which is all that the advocates of more adequate national defense have themselves been saying. Let us consider instead "this hysterical chatter of calamity" that also annoys him. The "hysterical chatter" is the talk now heard on every side that the democracies of France and Great Britain stand in imminent danger of defeat by Germany.

Colonel Lindbergh is a peculiar young man if he can contemplate this possibility in any other light than as a calamity for the American people. He is an ignorant young man if he trusts his own premise that it makes no difference to us whether we are deprived of the historic defense of British sea power in the Atlantic Ocean. He is a blind young man if he really believes that we can live on terms of equal peace and happiness "regardless of which side wins this war" in Europe.

Colonel Lindbergh remains a great flier.

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“America First” distributed literature that explained the groups point of view. The following is a brochure that was distributed by the group.

**WHAT DOES IT STAND FOR**  
These are the Principles  
America First Committee

1. Our first duty is to keep America out of foreign wars. Our entry would only destroy democracy, not save it. "The path to war is a false path to freedom."
2. Not by acts of war abroad but by preserving and extending democracy at home can we aid democracy and freedom in other lands.
3. In 1917 we sent our American ships into the war zone and this led us to war. In 1941 we must keep our naval convoys and merchant vessels on this side of the Atlantic.
4. We must build a defense, for our own shores, so strong that no foreign power or combination of powers can invade our country, by sea, air or land.
5. Humanitarian aid is the duty of a strong, free country at peace. With proper safeguard for the distribution of supplies, we should feed and clothe the suffering and needy people of the occupied countries.

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Membership in the America First Committee is open to all American citizens. We exclude from our rolls Fascists, Nazis, Communists, and their sympathizers.

**AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**  
General Robert E. Wood, Acting Chairman  
National Headquarters  
141 West Jackson Boulevard  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**Members:**  
GENERAL ROBERT E. WOOD, Acting Chairman  
CHESTER B. ...  
DR. ...  
WILLIAM B. ...  
MRS. BENNETT ...  
IRVIN S. COBB ...  
JOHN T. FLYNN ...  
GEN. T. E. HAMMOND ...  
JAY C. HORNEL ...  
GEN. HUGH E. JOHNSON ...  
CLAY JUDSON ...  
KATHRYN LEWIS ...  
E. L. HYERSON, JR. ...  
LOUIS J. TABER ...  
MRS. E. E. WHEELER ...  
DR. GEORGE H. WHIFFLE ...  
MAJOR A. J. WILLIAMS ...  
RAY HILKADO ...  
STERLING MORTON ...  
KATHLEEN MORRIS ...

# Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

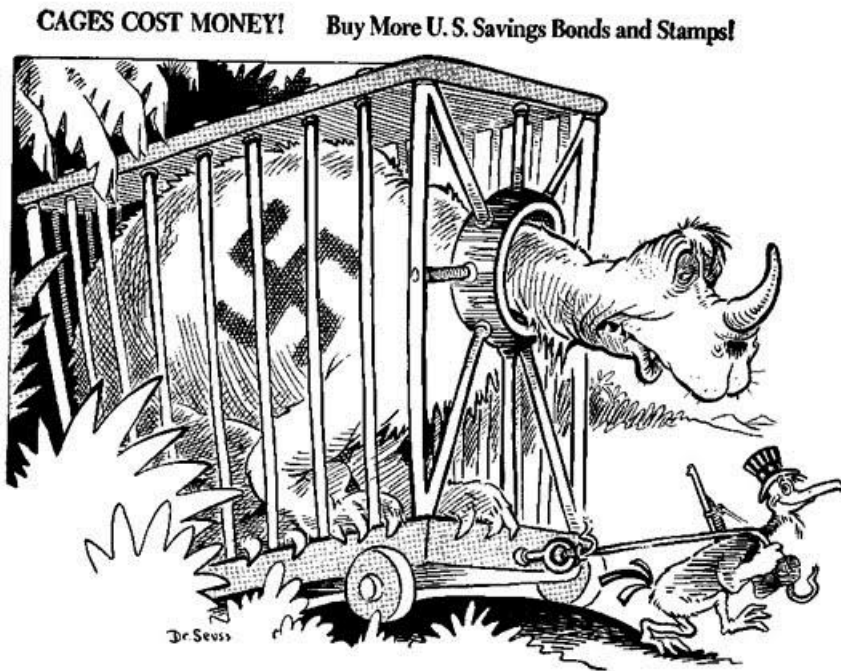


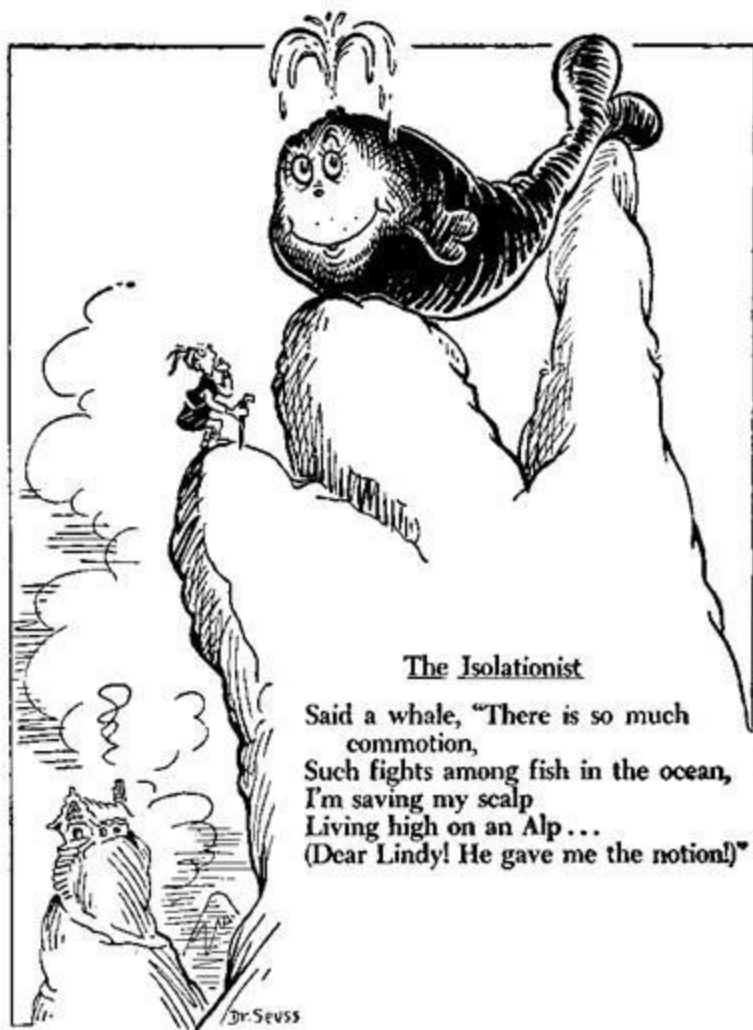
This man vehemently opposed *isolationist* attitudes in America with respect to World War II.

He published a great deal of artwork in *PM*, a New York newspaper, designed to convince the people of the United States to abandon *isolationist* policies.

Dr. Seuss published more than 400 editorial cartoons for *PM* between 1940 and 1948. The following examples specifically address isolationist policy and philosophy.

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The Isolationist

Said a whale, "There is so much  
commotion,  
Such fights among fish in the ocean,  
I'm saving my scalp  
Living high on an Alp...  
(Dear Lindy! He gave me the notion!)"

By Dr. Seuss



"Since when did we swap our ego for an ostrich?"

... and the Wolf chewed up the children and spit out their bones ...  
But those were Foreign Children and it really didn't matter."

