

Angry Days

1939-1941

Should the U.S. Enter World War II?

Dagny Dahl

Senior Division

Individual Exhibit

Student-Composed Words: 500

Process Paper Word Count: 497

Process Paper

I often hear my family members, teachers and other adults describe the current environment in which we live as the most “nasty” and “polarized” time the United States has ever seen. They constantly blame social media for this. Even President Biden, in his Inaugural Address, said Americans are in the middle of an “uncivil war.” Since I’m naturally drawn to war history, I wondered about other uncivil times in America. An internet search brought up the book *Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America's Fight Over World War II, 1939-1941*. The title drew me in, and I wondered if it’s possible that we’ve lived through other equally angry periods and have come out of it with a kinder, more civil way of communicating with each other. If so, I wanted to know how.

The National History Day topics of debate and diplomacy fit the subject, because the debate over involvement in WWII had two distinct sides with colorful characters. I knew an exhibit would visually capture the feeling of rage at the time. Even though I found dozens of sources, Olson’s work was the most thorough. The biggest challenge was editing and containing all the material into a single exhibit. While Olson might enjoy seeing many of her ideas in exhibit form, after reading the book, I’m not sure she would totally agree with my claim. Olson saw President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a man deeply conflicted about how to bring the American public over to the idea of involvement in WWII and who, at various times, didn’t show decisive leadership. I had a slightly different, though maybe not contradictory viewpoint: that FDR delicately used diplomacy with Great Britain and even with his isolationist adversaries to slowly accomplish his mission of bringing Americans on board with the war.

I think the “wow” factor of the exhibit is the data from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website, which includes public opinion polling from Gallup. It paints a

precise picture of when the interventionists started to win the debate. Once public opinion turned, it never receded. This evidence represents a counterclaim to many people who think that Americans were not on board with the war until after we were attacked at Pearl Harbor. The polling data shows the reverse: A majority of Americans came around to the idea of stopping Hitler well over a year before Pearl Harbor.

Other than the historical research, I very much enjoyed choosing a color theme, designing my own fire logo and incorporating inexpensive, solar-powered light from “torches” purchased on Amazon. I learned about myself: I really enjoy graphics, color and design.

The implications of this tense time period highlight the importance of debate and diplomacy. Debate is a necessary process for Americans. However, it was FDR’s use of diplomacy, particularly with his opponents in the debate such as General George C. Marshall, which ultimately changed minds, defeated the Nazis and impacted the world.

Works Cited

Primary Sources

Alamy Stock Photo. *America First Committee Member*. 1941.

The photo depicts a member of the isolationist group America First Committee yelling to protest involvement in WWII.

---. *No Foreign Entanglements*. 1941.

This photo depicts the isolationist point of view that the U.S. should not get involved. It is an image of a protest sign.

Andrew Fare, and Alamy. *Lindbergh Meets With FDR at the White House*. 1939.

This picture shows Charles Lindbergh departing the White House after a meeting with FDR. Even though the two were on opposite sides of the debate, FDR invited Lindbergh to the White House for a meeting.

Associated Press. *Lindbergh in Germany*. 1937.

This picture depicts Charles Lindbergh touring Nazi military operations. Lindbergh was accused of being a Nazi sympathizer.

---. *War's First Casualty*. 1940.

This image is a poster that was used to express anti-war sentiment. It was created by the isolationist group America First Committee.

Council on Foreign Relations, and Getty. *Atlantic Charter Meeting*. 1941.

FDR, General George C. Marshall and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill meet in Newfoundland, Canada to discuss WWII.

Everett Collection Historical, and Alamy Stock Photo. *Catholics Protest Nazi Terror*. 1941.

This photograph shows women marching in favor of intervention in WWII. It shows how people of different religions supported involvement in the war.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. *FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech*. 1941.

This is a photo of FDR as he gives a speech before Congress. In this pivotal address, he lays out the case for intervention in WWII.

Glasshouse Images, and Alamy. *War Protestor*. 1940.

I used this photo for the center panel. It was taken from Alamy's collection of anti-World War II protestors. This person wore a sign that said they wanted jobs instead of war.

Imago History Collection, and Alamy. *Woman Protestor on Farm*. 1940.

This photo was taken from the Alamy collection of World War II protestors and took place on an unspecified farm. It was part of a photo-op for anti-war sentiment among farmers.

Library of Congress. *Police Try to Contain Mob*. 1941.

This photo depicts a police tussle with a woman who was an anti-war protestor.

Lindbergh, Charles. "America First." 23 Apr. 1941, Des Moines, Iowa. Speech transcript.

This speech delivered by Charles Lindbergh helped me understand his thoughts and viewpoint at the time. Lindbergh has a defeatist attitude toward the Allies, which is an example of negativity being used to convince people of his antiwar arguments.

---. "Des Moines Speech: Delivered in Des Moines, Iowa, on September 11, 1941, this speech was met with outrage in many quarters." *Charles Lindbergh: An American Aviator*, 1941, www.charleslindbergh.com/americanfirst/speech.asp. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This infamous speech from Charles Lindbergh pointed to the anti-semitic themes discussed in many of the secondary sources about Lindbergh. In the speech, Lindbergh used simple facts to try to convince people that war was not a good idea; however, he also twisted facts when saying that it was the Jewish people in Europe who wished to engage in war. I used a short clip of this speech in my exhibit as a part of my audio features.

Mitgang, Herber. "Lindbergh Said to Regret Misperceptions Over Jews." *Charles Lindbergh: An American Aviator*, 20 Apr. 1980, www.charleslindbergh.com/ny/105.asp. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This series of diary entries helped me understand what Charles Lindbergh was thinking during this time. It also helps me research the exact arguments behind isolationism as a policy; isolationism doesn't mean never engaging with other countries. It can mean talking to them, trying to appease and trying to make peace without getting involved in actual war.

"Radio Address Delivered by President Roosevelt From Washington, December 29, 1940."

Narrated by Franklin D. Roosevelt. *U.S. Department of State*, 1983. Transcript.

This radio address by President Roosevelt helped me understand the exact appeal he was attempting to make to the American people in favor of involvement in WWII. Here, FDR was trying to get Americans to see that the other side was advocating for a dictatorship.

Roosevelt, Eleanor. "My Day." *My Day. The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Digital Edition*, www2.gwu.edu/~erpapers/myday/displaydoc.cfm?_y=1940&_f=md055575. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This newspaper column by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped me understand her opinions during this time. Eleanor Roosevelt seems to be making the case for diplomacy, however, she's really using the tactic of empathy to ease Americans into understanding the commitment they must make.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. "Arsenal of Democracy." 29 Dec. 1940, Washington. Speech transcript.

This speech by FDR highlights his tactics of persuasion. Here FDR appealed to people's sense of security. He was also used some scare tactics to try to change Americans' minds about entering the war.

---. "Declares War on Japan." Joint Session of Congress, 8 Dec. 1941. Speech.

This speech by FDR was delivered in front of Congress to declare war on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Even though the debate is over, FDR must still convince Americans of why this is the right thing to do.

Russell, Lee. *Fascism and Uncle Sam sign on box car, Crystal City, Texas*. 1939.

This cartoon makes the argument in debate that by not getting involved in WWII, the US is "going along" with fascism. This is a very subtle way of appealing to people in a debate because you have to look at the drawings and really think about what is being said.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "How did Public Opinion About Entering World

War II Change Between 1939 and 1941?" *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:*

Americans and the Holocaust,

[exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/us-public-opinion-world-war-II-193](https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/us-public-opinion-world-war-II-1939-1941)

[9-1941](https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/us-public-opinion-world-war-II-1939-1941). Accessed 2 Mar. 2022.

These polls describe how Americans ultimately got on board with entering WWII. The questions posed point to how minds were changed. I used this information to create pie charts and put them on my project.

Secondary Sources

American Experience. "Fallen Hero." *American Experience*,

www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/lindbergh-fallen-hero/. Accessed 8 Mar. 2022.

This article helps me understand themes of race and white supremacy. These arguments were used to persuade people that the Nazis were on the "correct side" in the war effort. "Fallen Hero" is about what happened to Charles Lindbergh after he became a hero from flying and how he came to represent the isolationist side of the debate.

APM Reports. "Letters to Franklin Delano Roosevelt." *APM Reports*, 10 Nov. 2014,

www.apmreports.org/episode/2014/11/10/letters-to-franklin-delano-roosevelt. Accessed 14 Apr. 2022.

This article describes a collection of angry letters to FDR protesting U.S. involvement in WWII. I used quotes from some of the letters in my angry words box in the exhibit.

Calamur, Krishnadev. "A Short History of 'America First.'" *The Atlantic*, 21 Jan. 2017,

www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/01/trump-america-first/514037/. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article helps me understand the history behind the debate and diplomacy surrounding the isolationist group America First Committee. It explains how Lindbergh twisted facts in his speeches.

Charles Lindbergh and the Rise of 1940s Nazi Sympathizers. Produced by Smithsonian Channel, 2017.

This documentary helped me understand Lindbergh's ties to Germany and develop queries to deepen my research. While some of the other sources are less harsh regarding Lindbergh's legacy, this film presents him as a Nazi sympathizer and gives supporting evidence.

Dotinga, Randy. "FDR vs. Lindbergh: Lynne Olson discusses America's debate over WWII." *The Christian Science Monitor*, 10 May 2013, www.csmonitor.com/Books/chapter-and-verse/2013/0510/FDR-vs.-Lindbergh-Lynne-Olson-discusses-America-s-debate-over-WWII. Accessed 10 Mar. 2022.

This article is a question-and-answer style interview with Lynne Olson, author of "Those Angry Days." In the interview, Olson gives her true viewpoints on both Lindbergh and FDR, which gave helpful insight.

Dunn, Susan. "The Debate Behind U.S. Intervention in World War II." *The Atlantic*, 8 July 2013, www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/07/the-debate-behind-us-intervention-in-world-war-ii/277572/. Accessed 7 Mar. 2022.

This article describes arguing and even name-calling during this time period, which is something we see today in the current political atmosphere. I also learned about the word "isolationism," which means not wanting to get involved in world conflicts.

Dynia, Philip A. "World War II." *The First Amendment Encyclopedia*, 2009,

www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1103/world-war-ii. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article helped me understand the First Amendment and how it was important to debate and diplomacy. The issue here is free speech during, not "wartime" because the time I'm looking at is 1939-1941, but in the critical time period before the war.

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "America First Committee." *Britannica*,

www.britannica.com/topic/America-First-Committee. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article by the editors of Encyclopedia Britannica helped me understand the background information on the debate. I think one important aspect of debate is the debaters themselves.

Emerson, Thomas I. "Freedom of Expression in Wartime." *Yale Law*,

digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3764&context=fss_papers.

Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article helps me understand what the First Amendment had to do with debate and diplomacy. The fact that free speech was largely not limited during this time period makes it a perfect area of study for the topic of "debate."

FDR Presidential Library and Museum. "FDR and the Four Freedoms Speech." *FDR Presidential Library and Museum*, 2016, www.fdrlibrary.org/four-freedoms. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article helps me understand FDR's "Four Freedoms" speech and how it related to debate and diplomacy. This article about FDR may go a long way in answering the question "How did FDR advocate for free speech, even that of his rivals, in the debate about World War II?"

Franklin D. Roosevelt: Day by Day. "Timeline." *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Day by Day*, 2011, www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/daybyday/timeline/. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This timeline has helped me understand when and why everything happened in chronological order. The issue of neutrality was a central theme of the debate between FDR and Lindbergh, interventionism vs. isolationism, in fact, there was a law, the Neutrality Act, that had to be "undone" in order for the US to jump into war.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. "World War II Facts." *Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum*, www.fdrlibrary.org/wwii-facts. Accessed 8 Mar. 2022.

This source from the FDR Presidential Library helped me understand the background information on President Roosevelt. It included basic facts about FDR and the United States entry into WWII. This website lists some key diplomatic activities FDR was involved with in 1941, just prior to the start of WWII.

Fresh Air. "'Angry Days' Shows An America Torn Over Entering World War II." *NPR*, 26 Mar. 2013, www.npr.org/2013/03/26/175288241/angry-days-shows-an-america-torn-over-entering-world-war-ii. Accessed 7 Mar. 2022.

The title of the article is "Angry Days" based on a book that was written about the time before the U.S. entered WWII. This is a theme about how heated things can get during debate.

Getty. *A Man Called Intrepid*. 1976.

This image depicts the cover of a book about William Stephenson, who worked with Great Britain on a propaganda campaign in the United States. The purpose of the campaign was to turn public opinion in favor of joining WWII.

Granger. *Keep U.S. Out of War*.

This image is a political button that was worn as a pin. It depicts a desire to stay out of the war.

History Extra. "America and WW2: when, how and why did the US get involved, and why they didn't enter sooner?" *History Extra*, 15 Apr. 2020, www.historyextra.com/period/second-world-war/why-when-how-america-entered-ww2-pearl-harbor-roosevelt/. Accessed 8 Mar. 2022.

This article helped me understand the people of America's point of view during this pre-WWII time period. This article really focuses on how WWI impacted how people felt about getting involved in WWII. So many people who survived WWI didn't want anything like it again, and that was a key part of the debate.

Ignatius, David. "How Churchill's Agents Secretly Manipulated the U.S. Before Pearl Harbor."

The Washington Post, 17 Sept. 1989,

www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1989/09/17/how-churchills-agents-secretly-manipulated-the-us-before-pearl-harbor/0881f7a8-7c9d-49d0-8338-eac3be333134/.

Accessed 10 Mar. 2022.

This source brings to light the relationship between the Roosevelt Administration and the British Security Coordination. This pivotal piece of evidence pointed out the diplomacy between the U.S. and Great Britain. I use a direct quote from this article in my project.

IStock, and Getty. *Press Play*.

This is a stock image of art which instructs viewers to listen to audio clips from FDR and Lindbergh speeches.

John Frost Newspapers, and Alamy Stock Photo. *Sunday Dispatch Our Talk: By Roosevelt*. 1941.

This image is taken from the Sunday Dispatch Newspaper and has as its top headline a story about a meeting with FDR and Winston Churchill.

Library of Congress. *Stop Waiting, Get Ready to Beat Hitler, Go Enlist Now*. 1940.

This image is a replication of a poster used to support the interventionist cause in the United States. It is part of the pre-WWII collection in the Library of Congress.

Little, Becky. "The Secret British Campaign to Persuade the US to Enter WWII." *History.com*,

16 June 2020, www.history.com/news/wwii-us-entry-secret-british-campaign-mi6.

Accessed 8 Mar. 2022.

This article is about the use of propaganda during a debate. The British desperately needed its ally the US to join the war, so in some cases, they used "fake news" to try to convince the US to join WWII. Americans did not especially like the British during this time and viewed them as rivals, Americans really had to be convinced entering WWII was the right thing to do.

Moser, Ashland University, John E. "Foreign Policy in the 1930s: From Neutrality to

Involvement." *Bill of Rights Institute*, 2021,

billofrightsinstitute.org/essays/foreign-policy-in-the-1930s-from-neutrality-to-involvement.

Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article helps me understand the Lend-Lease Act and why it was important and relevant to FDR, debate and diplomacy. As the United States would lend Great Britain vital wartime materials, the debate raged on from 1940-1941.

Olson, Lynne. *Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh and America's Fight Over World War II 1939-1941*.

This book by Lynne Olson, a major inspiration for my project, helped me understand what happened behind the scenes during the debate over entry into WWII. Olson's thorough and exhaustive research, quoting many primary sources, also touches on diplomacy during this crucial time period of pre-war 1939-1941.

Politico. *FDR*. 1940.

This is a photo of President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivering a radio address.

Reinhart, RJ. "Gallup Vault: U.S. Opinion and the Start of World War II." *Gallup*, 29 Aug. 2019, news.gallup.com/vault/265865/gallup-vault-opinion-start-world-war.aspx. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This article helps me understand public opinion in the debate over entry in WWII. This polling data allows you to track when a majority of Americans changed their minds. By February 20, 1940, Americans started to favor involvement in a shift towards interventionism and away from isolationism.

Ted Hake. *Stop Hitler Now!*

This is an image of a political button worn as a pin. It reflects interventionist sentiment.

Urbin, Jeffrey. E-mail interview with the author. 21 Dec. 2021.

This interview with a historian at the FDR Library helped me understand my topic on a deeper level. I could ask my own questions and get information that I would not be able to get from any other source. This interview mostly focused on FDR's relationships during the time. I used a quote from Mr. Urban in my exhibit.

U.S. Supreme Court. "Schenck v. United States, 249 U.S. 47 (1919)." *Justia: U.S. Supreme Court*, 2021, supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/249/47/. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.

This documentation from the U.S. Supreme Court helped me understand what happened in the Schenck v. United States case; this court case was from 1919 and involved anti-war protesters of World War I and their rights to free speech. In this Schenck case, the Supreme Court unanimously found that free speech could be limited in wartime, but Holmes argued that the same anti-war speech would be perfectly fine outside of wartime.

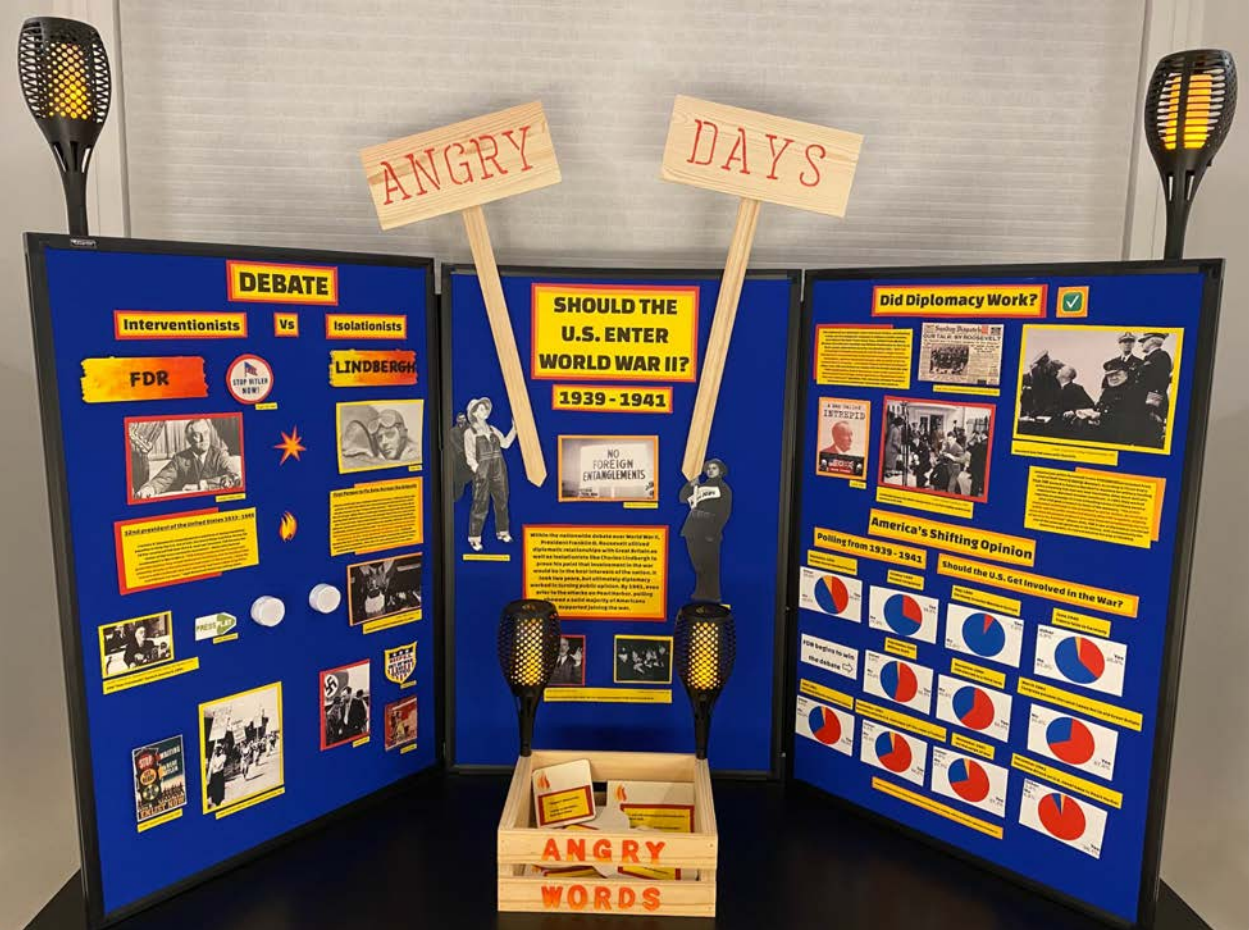
WWII: The National WWII Museum. "The Great Debate." *WWII: The National WWII Museum*, www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/great-debate. Accessed 7 Mar. 2022.

This article from the WWII history museum describes the "Great Debate" about getting involved in WWII. It provides background information about points made on both sides of the debate.

Exhibit Entry Information

Title:	Angry Days 1939-1941: Should the U.S. Enter World War II?
Name(s):	Dagny Dahl
Division: (Junior/Senior)	Senior
Individual/Group:	Individual
Number of Student Composed Words on Exhibit:	500
(Optional) Link to Any Audio or Video on Exhibit (no more than 3 minutes total):	<u>FDR - Four Freedoms Speech (15 Seconds)</u> <u>Charles Lindbergh - September 11, 1941 Des Moines Speech (15 Seconds)</u> **Please Note that on my exhibit, I only used :15 second edited audio clips taken from the link here. I *did not* exceed the audio time limit.

Full Exhibit



Full Left Panel


DEBATE

Interventionists

Vs

Isolationists


FDR



Franklin D. Roosevelt campaigned on a platform of doing everything possible to keep the U.S. out of war. But Adolf Hitler's actions during the 1930s convinced FDR that the U.S. must get involved. FDR became the 32nd president of the United States in 1933. He signed the Lend-Lease Act in 1941, which allowed the U.S. to supply the British with war materials. He also signed the War Relocation Authority Act in 1942, which allowed the U.S. to provide aid to Japanese-Americans. He signed the War Relocation Authority Act in 1942, which allowed the U.S. to provide aid to Japanese-Americans. He signed the War Relocation Authority Act in 1942, which allowed the U.S. to provide aid to Japanese-Americans.



32nd president of the United States 1933 - 1945


LINDBERGH



Charles Lindbergh was a pioneer American aviator, military officer and author. In 1927 he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in the "Spirit of St. Louis". This journey brought him international fame and made him a national hero. Lindbergh formed a bond with the isolationist movement and was a vocal proponent of the "America First" movement. He was a member of the American Legion and supported the League of Nations. He was a member of the American Legion and supported the League of Nations. He was a member of the American Legion and supported the League of Nations.



First Person to Fly Solo Across the Atlantic








FDR speaking at a podium, 1941

PRESS PLAY








Lindbergh in flight, 1927




1941 "STOP WAITING FOR HITLER ENLIST NOW" poster




1941 parade in Germany, 1941



1935 "KEEP U.S. OUT OF WAR BE NEUTRAL" poster



1941 parade in Washington, D.C., 1941



1941 "WAR'S FIRST CASUALTY" poster

Top Left Panel

DEBATE

Interventionists

Vs

Isolationists

FDR

STOP HITLER
NOW!

LINDBERGH



Credit: Politics Year

32nd president of the United States 1933 - 1945

Franklin D. Roosevelt campaigned on a platform of doing everything possible to keep the U.S. out of war, but Adolf Hitler's actions during the 1930s convinced FDR that the U.S. must get involved. FDR became the leader of the interventionist movement - those who favored involvement in World War II. "FDR always believed that if people got good information they would make good decisions, and he believed that a healthy debate of the information was a part of the process. I think his concern with Lindbergh was that old Lindy had been taken in by Hitler and FDR had not been," says Roosevelt historian Jeffrey Urdin.

Credit: Ted Hase



Credit: Getty

First Person to Fly Solo Across the Atlantic

Charles Lindbergh was a famous American aviator, military officer and architect. In 1932 his infant son was kidnapped and murdered, which became known as the "Crime of the Century." This drove Lindbergh to flee to Europe. While there, Lindbergh formed a bond with the Germans, touring their military operations. He thought that if the U.S. entered the war, it would lose. Americans began to suspect he favored the Nazis when he returned to the U.S. and made anti-semitic remarks. Describing the Germans as being technical experts. "He had no empathy for human beings at all. He was really blinkered" (canaline.com). Lindbergh became the face of the isolationist movement, joining the activist group America First Committee. After the U.S. was attacked by Japan in 1941, Lindbergh abandoned his efforts and joined America's war effort.

Top Left Panel Left Side


DEBA

Interventionists **Vs**

FDR

STOP HITLER NOW!


Credit: Ted Hake



Credit: Photos.com

32nd president of the United States 1933 - 1945

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Top Left Panel Right Side

Vs

Isolationists

LINDBERGH



Credit: Getty

First Person to Fly Solo Across the Atlantic

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Top Left Panel Text 1 of 2

Credit: Político 1940

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Top Left Panel Text 2 of 2

Credit: Getty

First Person to Fly Solo Across the Atlantic

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Bottom Left Panel

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Credit: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum 1941
FDR "Four Freedoms" Speech January 6, 1941



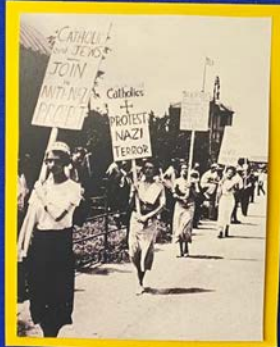
Credit: iStock/Getty



Credit: George/Alamy 1941
Lindbergh Iowa Speech September 11, 1941



Credit: Library of Congress 1940



Credit: Everett Collection Historical/Alamy Stock Photo 1941



Credit: AP 1937



Credit: Granger



Credit: AP 1942

Full Middle Panel



Top Middle Panel



Bottom Middle Panel



Credit: Imago History Collection/Alamy 1940

Within the nationwide debate over World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt utilized diplomatic relationships with Great Britain as well as isolationists like Charles Lindbergh to prove his point that involvement in the war would be in the best interests of the nation. It took two years, but ultimately diplomacy worked in turning public opinion. By 1941, even prior to the attacks on Pearl Harbor, polling showed a solid majority of Americans supported joining the war.



Credit: Gashouse Images/Alamy 1940



Credit: Alamy Stock Photo 1941



Credit: Library of Congress 1941

Protestors argue that after WWI, the U.S. cannot bear another tragic loss of young lives.

Thesis/Historical Argument


Within the nationwide debate over World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt utilized diplomatic relationships with Great Britain as well as isolationists like Charles Lindbergh to prove his point that involvement in the war would be in the best interests of the nation. It took two years, but ultimately diplomacy worked in turning public opinion. By 1941, even prior to the attacks on Pearl Harbor, polling showed a solid majority of Americans supported joining the war.

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Did Diplomacy Work? ✔


FDR embarked on a diplomacy effort with Great Britain, coordinating a large, secret propaganda campaign to influence public opinion, according to the book. These early days, British Prime Winston Churchill, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and others worked to bring the U.S. to war with Germany and the Axis. With the knowledge of President Roosevelt and his staff, Logan's involvement in a communicationally oriented program, along with an effort to influence the Congress, and the fact that Roosevelt and his staff were not open to the idea of a military alliance with the British, was not the "highly sophisticated, subtle" Roosevelt, was not a strategy of winning support through early access to the White House but the same "subliminal" approach. The strategy allowed President Roosevelt to gain Roosevelt's knowledge and opinion.




1941 Sunday Dispatch, New York, New York



1941 Roosevelt and Churchill



1941 A Man Called INTREPID



1941 Roosevelt in the White House

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America's Shifting Opinion

Polling from 1939 - 1941

<p>September 1939 Soviet forces invaded Poland</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 42.0% No: 42.0%</p>	<p>October 1939 Poland surrendered</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 39.0% No: 42.0%</p>	<p>May 1940 Germany invades Western Europe</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 39.0% No: 42.0%</p>	<p>June 1940 France falls to Germany</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 39.0% No: 42.0%</p>
<p>September 1940 Military draft</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 62.0% No: 42.0%</p>	<p>September 1940 FDR elected to a second term</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 62.0% No: 42.0%</p>	<p>March 1941 Congress passes the Lend-Lease Act and other war measures</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 62.0% No: 42.0%</p>	<p>June 1941 Germany attacks the Soviet Union</p> <p>Other: 19.0% Yes: 62.0% No: 42.0%</p>
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Should the U.S. Get Involved in the War?

FDR begins to win the debate →

Source: The American People and the War, 1941-1945, by Robert A. Dahl and Truman D. White, eds. (New York: Basic Books, 1965), pp. 10-11.

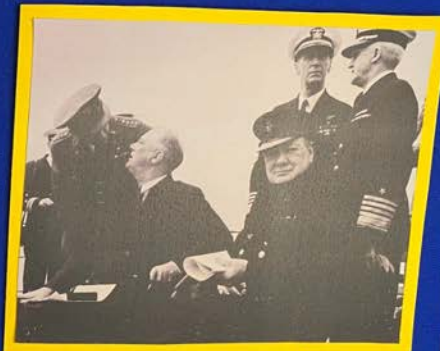
Did Diplomacy Work?



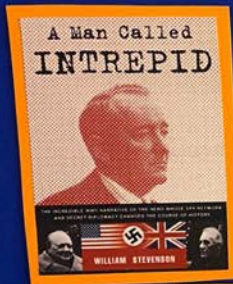
FDR embarked on a diplomatic effort with Great Britain, coordinating a large, secret propaganda campaign to influence public opinion. According to the book *These Angry Days*, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill sent Canadian spy William Stephenson to the U.S. to form a group called British Security Coordination (BSC). "With the knowledge of President Roosevelt and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, Stephenson's unconventional outfit planted propaganda in American newspapers, spied on isolationist groups, dug up political dirt on isolationists in Congress... and helped foment anti-Nazi sentiment" (Olson 116). FDR coordinated so closely with the British-sent BSC that "FDR's speechwriter, Robert Sherwood, even made a practice of showing important foreign-policy speeches to Stephenson before they were delivered" (Ignatius). This campaign allowed President Roosevelt to pierce Americans' knowledge and opinions.



Credit: John Ford Newspapers/Getty Stock Photo 1941



Credit: Council on Foreign Relations/Getty 1941
Marshall and FDR meet with Churchill.



Credit: Getty



Credit: Andrew Fava/Getty 1933
Lindbergh leaves the White House after a cordial, highly-publicized meeting with FDR.

Isolationists within Roosevelt's own administration included Army Chief of Staff General George Marshall, according to *These Angry Days*. FDR worked to balance Marshall's requests for military funding while preparing him that war was inevitable. After much delicate negotiation, Marshall became convinced. In 1943 they worked together on passage of a law extending terms of military service. After FDR gave a speech in favor of the measure, "the public responded positively to the president's call for action. According to public opinion polls conducted shortly after FDR's speech, slightly more than 50 percent of Americans now favored lengthening the term of service for draftees" (Olson 254). FDR's use of diplomacy convinced one of the greatest generals in US history, and consequently the American public, to come around to his way of thinking.

Top Right Panel Text 1 of 2

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Top Right Panel Text 2 of 2

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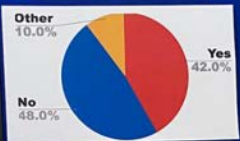
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America's Shifting Opinion

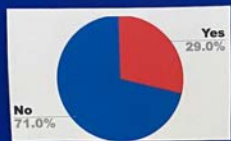
Polling from 1939 - 1941

Should the U.S. Get Involved in the War?

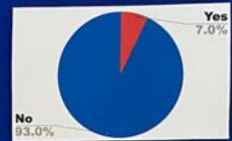
September 1939
German forces invaded Poland



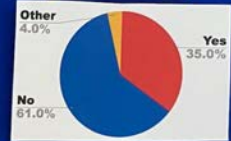
October 1939
Poland conquered



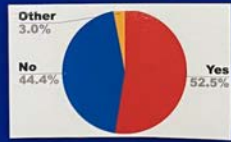
May 1940
Germany invades Western Europe



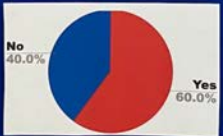
June 1940
France falls to Germany



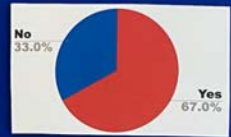
September 1940
Military Draft



November 1940
FDR elected to a third term

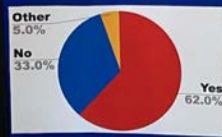


March 1941
Congress passes the Lend-Lease Act to aid Great Britain

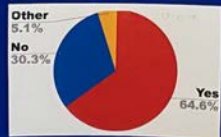


FDR begins to win
the debate →

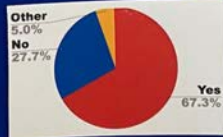
June 1941
Germany attacks the Soviet Union



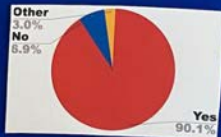
September 1941
Germany attacks U.S. destroyer off the coast of Iceland



November 1941
On the verge of war



December 1941
Japanese Attack on U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor



Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Gallup, Office of Public Opinion Research

“Angry Words” Display Box 1 of 3



“Angry Words” Display Box 2 of 3



“Angry Words” Display Box 3 of 3

