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No nation in modern times has had the opportunity the United States has now to shape an entire world order. Our industrial production exceeds that of the Soviet Union and all other European countries combined. Our armed forces, equipped with atomic weapons, have no equal on the face of the earth. At this unique juncture in history, the United States has the power to lay the foundation for a new era of peaceful international relations and to ensure that the peoples of the world have the opportunity to prosper economically and to develop politically. The peaceful, prosperous world order of the future must be built upon the principles of national self-determination, democracy, economic freedom, and free trade. Self-determination requires that every nation have the right to determine its own destiny, free of external coercion and control. Free economic institutions, and free and equal access to the markets of the world are necessary to produce the prosperity that provides the necessary foundations for democratic institutions.

The last war was fought in the name of freedom. Ultimately, the justice of our cause gave us the strength to overcome Nazi Germany and Japan. Our mission, however, will not be complete until freedom is within the grasp of all peoples. The Soviet Union is now the greatest threat to a just world order. To allow the Soviet Union to continue to dominate many of the nations of eastern Europe, as well as areas of Germany, makes a mockery of those principles for which the United States fought and for which so many Americans sacrificed. Just as the aggression of the Nazis should have been stopped in the 1930s, the ambitious schemes of the Soviets must be smashed now. The leaders of the Soviet Union must be made to live up to the promises they have made. The Soviets must be forced – by U.S. military power if necessary – to free those peoples whom they have deprived of self-determination. They must accept the new international order based on political and economic freedom. Any delay on our part will enable the Soviet Union to consolidate its gains and make a reversal of its conquests much more costly. Future generations will not forgive us if we allow this opportunity to create a Pax Americana slip by.



Joe likes a firm handshake.

FROM THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Excerpts from General George Patton's conversation with Secretary of the Army Robert P. Patterson, May 7, 1945
 "Mr. Secretary, for God's sake, when you go home, stop this point system; stop breaking up these armies; give us an opportunity to keep 30 percent of our battlewise troops home on leave if you wish, etc. Send us replacements and let us start training here, keeping our forces intact. Let's keep our boots polished, bayonets sharpened, and present a picture of force and strength to these people [the Soviets]. This is the only language they understand and respect. If you fail to do this, then I would like to say to you that we have had a victory over the Germans and have disarmed them, but have lost the war.... I would have your State Department, or the people in charge, tell the people concerned [the Soviets] where their border is, and give them a limited time to get back across. Warn them that if they fail to do so, we will push them back across it.... Let's not give them time to build up their supplies. If we do, then I repeat, we have had

a victory over the Germans and disarmed them; we have failed in the liberation of Europe; we have lost the war!... We the Armed Forces of the U.S.A. have put our government in the position to dictate the peace. We did not come over here to acquire jurisdiction over either the people or their countries. We came to give them back the right to govern themselves. We must either finish the job now – while we are here and ready – or later under less favorable circumstances.”

Excerpts from President Roosevelt’s Atlantic Charter statement made jointly with British Prime Minister Churchill, August 12, 1941

“[We] desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned; ...respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them; ...will endeavor, with due respect for existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.... Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.”

Excerpts from President Truman’s Navy Day speech, October 27, 1945

“The foreign policy of the United States is based firmly on fundamental principles of righteousness and justice. In carrying out those principles we shall firmly adhere to what we believe to be right; and we shall not give approval to any compromise with evil.... Building a peace requires as much moral stamina as waging a war.... It requires undying patience and continuous application. But it can give us, if we stay with it, the greatest reward that there is in the whole field of human effort.... The possession in our hands of this new power of destruction [atomic weapons] we regard as a sacred trust. Because of our love of peace, the thoughtful people of the world know that that trust will not be violated....”

Excerpts from President Wilson’s speech on the Fourteen Points, January 8, 1918

“The day of conquest and aggrandizement is gone by.... The program of the world’s peace, therefore, is our program, and that program, the only possible program, as we see, is this: open covenants of peace, openly arrived at.... Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war.... The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations.... International guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan States should be entered into.... An independent Polish state should be erected...whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.... For such arrangements and covenants we are willing to fight and to continue to fight until they are achieved; but only because we wish the right to prevail and desire a just and stable peace, such as can be secured only by removing the chief provocations to war.... An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak.”

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Use all means necessary – including military force – to push the Soviets out of eastern Europe and to compel them to live up to the promises made at Yalta and in the United Nations charter.
2. Keep our military forces, both conventional and nuclear, so strong that the Soviet Union will back away from its aggressive behavior rather than risk a confrontation it cannot win.
3. Help the war-ravaged nations of Europe rebuild their economies according to American free-market principles.
4. Use our political and military might to ensure that all nations have access to the world's markets and resources and that all areas of the world be open to free trade.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

- Hitler taught us that appeasing aggressors does not achieve lasting peace. It only postpones the confrontation and makes it more costly. Therefore, aggression must be stopped when it happens.
- The failure of the democratic German Weimar Republic and the rise of Hitler were caused by Germany's economic collapse. Promoting prosperity in Europe is necessary to preserve democratic institutions and prevent the establishment of totalitarian regimes that endanger peace.
- Restrictions on international trade after World War I led to the Depression and set the stage for World War II. Therefore, a system of free international trade must be established.
- Instability in Europe has drawn the United States into war twice in this century. To prevent another global conflict, we must take the lead in establishing a sound world order based on our values of freedom.

ARGUMENTS FOR OPTION 1

- By standing up to aggression now, we reduce the chances of another world war.
- The U.S. atomic monopoly and overwhelming industrial superiority make it unlikely that any aggressor would defy our wishes and challenge us militarily.
- The era of peace that this option will produce will bring new levels of economic prosperity to the United States as well as to other nations of the world.
- Today's circumstances give the United States an unprecedented opportunity to impose a just peace that will ensure that all nations' interests are fairly considered.