

With our victory in the last war, the security of the United States is assured. Americans can return again to making their lives better without foreign threats lurking over their shoulders. Our fortunate geographic position, with great oceans isolating us from the strife of Europe and Asia, enables us to defend our shores without bankrupting our economy. The United States' two-ocean navy and air force equipped with atomic bombs are more than sufficient to ensure our freedom and protect those areas on the periphery of Europe and Asia that may be important to us. Further involvement in world affairs should be avoided. Especially dangerous are misguided plans to shape the world to fit American ideals. The people of each country should be allowed to work out their own problems in their own ways. The role of crusader is not only doomed to failure, as was demonstrated by the aftermath of World War I, but it also tends to corrupt the values that motivate the crusade. At a time when the risk of confrontation with the Soviet Union is high, such a policy would be both expensive and reckless.

President George Washington established the traditional U.S. policy of non-intervention in European affairs. This policy, faithfully followed until this century, has worked hand-in-hand with our system of economic freedom to bring the American people an unrivaled level of peace and prosperity. By shunning political and military commitments in Europe, the United States has avoided the economic burdens of maintaining oversized armed forces. Moreover, unlike the experience of many Europeans, Americans have not seen their democratic values and individual rights threatened by an overbearing military establishment. Americans understand that we prosper most when the power of the central government is kept at a minimum. The individual liberties that Americans hold so dear would be threatened by the unchecked growth of executive power fed by overseas involvement. Like military and political commitments abroad, dependence on overseas markets and resources leads to a build-up of a military establishment to protect and promote these interests. Foreign loans and credits, even when motivated by humanitarian concerns, more often than not produce friction. America can continue to prosper without excessive overseas economic commitments.



Some day they'll come crawling back to her

FROM THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Excerpts from President George Washington's Farewell Address, September 19, 1796

"Nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings toward all should be cultivated.... Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, ...the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake.... The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in

extending our commercial relations to have with them as little political connection as possible.... Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns.... Even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand, neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences."

Excerpts from President James Monroe's message to Congress, December 2, 1823

"Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; to consider the government de facto [in power] as the legitimate government for us; to cultivate friendly relations with it, and to preserve those relations by a frank, firm, and manly policy, meeting in all instances the just claims of every power, submitting to injuries from none."

Excerpts from speeches by Senator Robert Taft, May 1943, August 1943, and January 1946

"[Suggestions that the United States police the world] are completely contrary to the ideals of the American people and the theory that we are fighting for liberty as well as security.... It is based on the theory that we know better what is good for the world than the world itself. It assumes that we are always right and that anyone who disagrees with us is wrong.... Other people simply do not like to be dominated....

"It may appeal to the do-gooders who regard it as the manifest destiny of America to confer the benefits of the New Deal on every Hottentot.... It can only lead to vast national armaments in all parts of the world.... Our fingers will be in every pie. Our military forces will work with our commercial forces to obtain as much of the world trade as we can lay our hands on. We will occupy all the strategic points in the world and try to maintain a force so preponderant that none shall dare attack us.... Potential power over other nations, however benevolent its purpose, leads inevitably to imperialism....

"Money loaned to governments is not likely to be repaid if loaned in such tremendous amounts. That was our experience after the last war.... I seriously question the wisdom of having one government lend money to another.... In the long run, a country which cannot stand on its own feet is not likely to succeed through assistance from some other country. Every country must work out its own salvation.... Loans from one government to another make for bad feelings. A man or a country is more likely to make enemies by lending money and asking for repayment than he or it is likely to make friends. Loans have been used and probably will be used in the future for political purposes, to tie one country more closely to another, to obtain concessions in the development of resources, and to form political blocs, which are a good deal more dangerous than economic blocs."

Excerpts from the testimony of Prof. Charles Beard before Congress debating the Lend-Lease Act, 1941

"Europe is old, Asia is old, the peoples and nations of Europe and Asia have their respective traditions, institutions, forms of government, and systems of economy.... Europe and Asia have been torn by wars, waged under various symbols and slogans, since the dawn of recorded history. The history of Europe and Asia is long and violent. Tenacious emotions and habits are associated with it. Can the American people, great and ingenious though they be, transform those traditions, institutions, systems, emotions, and habits by employing treasure, arms, propaganda, and diplomatic lectures? Can they, by any means at their disposal, make over Europe and Asia, provide democracy, a bill of rights, and economic security for everybody, everywhere in the world?"

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Avoid interfering in the disputes concerning Soviet influence in eastern Europe.
2. Keep our navy and air force strong enough to defend the Western Hemisphere and those areas along the periphery of Europe and Asia vital to our interests.
3. Avoid alliances, political or military, with any European power, particularly those directed against the Soviet Union.
4. Limit foreign aid to outright grants of financial assistance, rather than loans.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

- The United States has prospered for 170 years because we have avoided foreign commitments and the high level of military expenditures that such commitments require.
- The aftermath of World War I showed that we cannot remake the world according to American ideals. American ideals cannot be exported or imposed upon others.
- The economic dependence of the European powers on colonies in Asia and Africa has led to tangled political commitments and military involvement abroad. This was a major reason for the war among the European powers in 1914.
- The aftermath of World War I taught us that lending money to Great Britain, France, and other countries leads to hard feelings, friction, and, frequently, non-repayment of debts.
- From the Roman Empire to Nazi Germany, history shows us that militaristic governments tend to repress the liberties of their citizens.

ARGUMENTS FOR OPTION 4

- We will minimize the chances of being drawn into the next European war by avoiding commitments to or alliances against any European power.
- Our economy will not be burdened with the heavy defense and foreign aid expenditures required by foreign commitments.
- Because of our geographic isolation and largely self-sufficient economy, the Soviet Union poses no vital threat to the United States in the long run.
- Americans will enjoy a full range of political and economic liberties only if the United States rejects policies that result in the build-up of a large military establishment.
- The U.S. navy and the air force, equipped with atomic weapons, can guarantee the security of the United States from attack.