

Viewpoint: Winston Churchill

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I am determined to win this struggle against Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, but I fear it cannot be done while we stand alone. Even with Russia now pulled into the war by Hitler's invasion, victory for our side remains in doubt. Nazi Germany is an awesome power that can only be beaten back by a mighty coalition, and England and the Soviet Union are not enough. The salvation of England and of the Free World and its democracies lies with the United States. I pray that Franklin Roosevelt will bring the Americans into this war, for only with the economic power and might of the American people, their nation converted into a mighty arsenal to supply weapons and material for the Allied armies, can this war be won and brought to a successful conclusion that will destroy the Nazi tyranny. Americans are a decent people, but they shirk their responsibility to become involved in international events that may alter the course of history and civilization.

Roosevelt wrought a miracle, bringing his people through the great economic depression that swept through the world. He is a consummate politician, a great leader, and he has earned the respect and gratitude of his people with his dynamic "New Deal" programs. But Franklin Roosevelt is also an internationalist, and I can see the subtle shift in his policies that now focus less on the domestic agenda and more on events across the great oceans. There are political enemies at every turn that Roosevelt must cope with. Isolationists, who constantly complain about sending American boys overseas to fight in Europe's wars, wear blinders and cannot see that Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito pose as much a threat to the freedom and security of the United States as they do to the rest of the world. Roosevelt's executive powers enabled him to send England 50 destroyers in a time of most dire peril to England, and that gesture electrified our people and fortified the will of England to fight on in spite of the great odds. The Neutrality Acts and the "cash-and-carry" provisions have exhausted our gold supply, and our treasury is bare. England has become a creditor to the United States, but we are prepared to do anything to carry on the fight.

Yet, more and more Americans are coming to support the president, and the Lend-Lease legislation will help not only our people but the Russians and Chinese as well. The attacks by German U-boats on American warships in the Atlantic have angered the American public, and 90% favor England in the struggle against Hitler and his gang. But Roosevelt knows it will take more than the sinking of the USS *Rueben James* to get America to declare war. The Japanese are stirring in the Pacific, and their militarists are debating whether to move north against the Soviets or south against Europe's colonial powers and the United States. Even if Charles Lindbergh and the American First Committee together with the newspaper publishers, the German-American Bund, the radio-priest Father Coughlin, Congress and industrialists like Henry Ford exert pressure to keep the United States isolated, that will all come to a quick end if the United States is attacked.

Roosevelt knows the Japanese are on the move; and if they move south the Philippines are just as vulnerable as Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya, Burma, Thailand, and the Dutch East Indies. We've been cooperating with the United States to monitor diplomatic and naval messages sent out by Japan to their consulates and embassies, and the Americans have been successful in breaking the Japanese codes. If the Americans get involved in a war with Japan, it might present problems for us. I want to make certain that England continues to get a fair share of American's supplies to fight the war against Hitler. Right now it would be best if the U.S. and England could hold off the Japanese as long as possible. If America gets dragged into the war, it will have to be by an overt act, a direct attack against the United States. I find it hard to believe that the Japanese would be foolish enough to get involved in a war with the Americans, but they just might take a dangerous gamble to get what they need before they move against the rest of Southeast Asia.