

Early U.S. Involvement - WWII

US History II

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, white, and light blue) extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

The President received
word by telegraph from
Ambassador Biddle through
Ambassador Bullitt that
Germany has invaded
Poland and that several
cities are being bombed.

The Pres. directed that
all Navy ships and Army
~~Army~~ commands be
notified by radio at
once
a

In bed
305 a.m.
Sept 1 39
708 108

“The President received word at 250am
by telegraph from ambassador Biddle
that Germany has invaded Poland and
that ... cities are being bombed. The
President wished that all Navy ships and
Army commands be notified by radio at
once.”

In bed 305am
Sept 1

U.S. Reaction

Fireside Chat

- [September 3, 1939](#)



“This nation will remain a neutral nation, but I cannot ask that every American remain neutral in thought as well... I have said not once but many times that I have seen war and that I hate war. I say that again and again. I hope the United States will keep out of this war. I believe that it will... every effort of your Government will be directed toward that end.”

Supplying the War (1/2)

- FDR wants to help European countries (esp. Britain)
- Legally
 - Neutrality Act of 1939 means Britain can purchase “war materials” from the US
 - cash and carry only
- U.S. Military
 - Thinks GB will surrender and the Germans will get the weapons America supplied
- Public opinion
 - No more war!

'Remember . . . One More Lollypop, and Then You All Go Home!'



Supplying the War (2/2)



- Sept. 2, 1939
 - Destroyers for Bases agreement
 - We give Britain ships, they let us build bases naval bases on British colonial territory
- December 1940
 - GB can't pay for what they need anymore
- **Lend-Lease Program introduced Dec 17th**
 - Send weapons to countries that FDR thinks are vital to U.S. defense w/o needing payment

Mobilizing for War

- FDR starts slowly preparing for war w/o an official declaration
 - Building up the Army and National Guard
 - Enacting a draft in 1940
 - Funneling money into the Army and Navy
 - Gathering munitions
 - Encouraging private companies to prepare for war industry



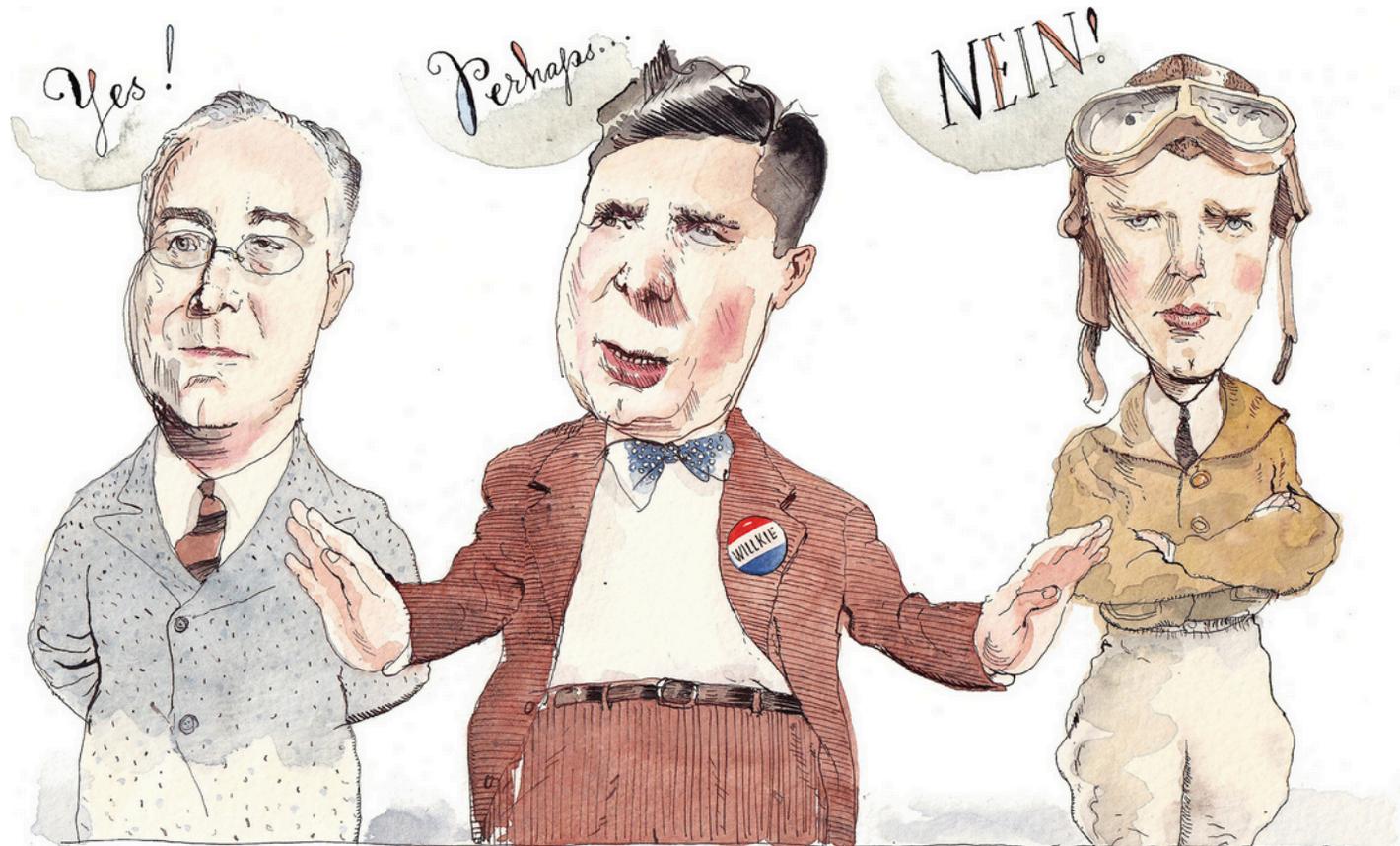


Election of 1940 (1 / 3)

“The most savage
political debate of my
lifetime.”

Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

Election of 1940 (2/3)



Election of 1940 (3/3)

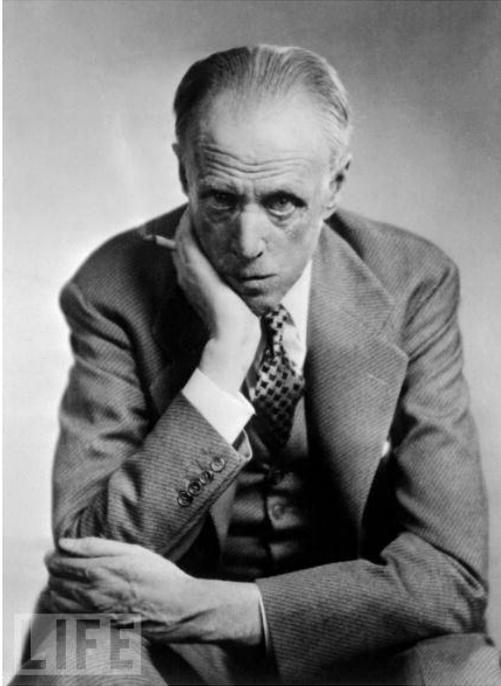
- Lindbergh and the Isolationists
 - Loved German dynamism, technology, and military might
 - “The British and the Jewish races, for reasons which are not American, wish to involve us in the war. Their greatest danger to this country lies in their large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press, our radio, and our government.”



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



Other famous isolationists...



Sinclair Lewis



Alice Roosevelt

Joe Kennedy



Walt
Disney





John F. Kennedy



Gerald Ford

