The Only Way We Can Save Her

"STAY OUT! STAY OUT FOR MY SAKE, AS WELL AS YOUR OWN!"

AMERICA
THE LAST REFUGE
OF DEMOCRACY


A. The Atlantic Charter, August 14, 1941

First, their [Roosevelt’s and Churchill’s] countries seek no aggrandizement [enlargement], territorial or other;

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord [agree] with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sover-
eign [independent] rights and self-government restored to those
who have been forcibly deprived of them:

Fourth, they will endeavor, with due respect for their existing
obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, vic-
tor 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;

Fifth, they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration [coop-
eration] between all nations in the economic field with the object of
securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement
and social security;

Sixth, after the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope
to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means
of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will
afford assurance that all the men [people] in all the lands may live
out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men [people] to traverse
the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth, they believe that all of the nations of the world, for real-
istic as well as spiritual reasons must come to the abandonment of
the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land,
sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which
threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they
believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system
of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential.
They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures
which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of
armaments.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Winston S. Churchill

Review Questions

1. After World War I, what was one of the first examples of U.S.
isolationism?

2. How were the Neutrality Acts of 1935-1937 supposed to prevent
the United States from becoming involved in European wars?

3. What point did the cartoonist in A make by labeling Europe as
“war mad”?

4. Does this cartoon direct its message to the viewers’ emotions or to their rea-
on? Explain your answer.

5. Why was the Atlantic Charter (B) created?

6. What were the attitudes of Great Britain and the United States
toward imperialism as expressed in the Atlantic Charter?

7. How did the Atlantic Charter attempt to eliminate the use of
force?

8. To what extent was the goal of preserving democracy to be
achieved through the Atlantic Charter?

9. What opinion do you think the cartoonist in A would have of the Atlantic
Charter? Why do you think he would feel this way?