**FDR AND CHARLES LINDBERGH: ISOLATIONISM AND WAR 1939-1941**

*“Americans had been duped by a falsification of history…and miseducated by a swarm of innocent but ignorant historians, by reckless demagogues, and by foreign interests, into believing that America entered the other war because of British propaganda, the loans of the bankers, the machinations of President Wilson’s advisors (*of whom of course Lippmann was one of the most prominent), and *a drummed up patriotic ecstasy.”* Walter Lippmann on the causes of the Isolationism Charles Lindbergh and others exhibited.

**1938 THE CLOUDS OF WAR - FDR**

* 1938 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) attention shifts, first six years on the domestic crisis of the Great Depression, now to the crisis around the globe
* Global crisis in Europe in 1938 are Hitler annexation of Austria, and the Nuremberg Laws taking civil rights from Jews, November Kristallnacht (night of broken glass) attacks on Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues result in many killed and 25000 to concentration camps
* Hitler annex of part of Czechoslovakia results in Neville Chamberlain PM of GB saying “Peace in our time” and “Peace with honor” Winston Churchill disagrees

**1939 THE CLOUDS OF WAR –LINDBERG**

* Charles Lindberg (1902-1974) American aviator and military officer, He became a [U.S. Army Air Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Air_Service) cadet in 1924, earning the rank of [second lieutenant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Lieutenant_%28United_States%29) in 1925. Later that year, he was hired as a [U.S. Air Mail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Air_Mail) pilot.
* On May 20–21, 1927, he made the first nonstop flight from [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) to [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris), a distance of 3,600 miles, flying alone for 33.5 hours in his plane the [*Spirit of St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirit_of_St._Louis).
* For his flight, President [Calvin Coolidge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvin_Coolidge) presented Lindbergh both the [Distinguished Flying Cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_%28United_States%29) and [Medal of Honor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medal_of_Honor), In July 1927, he was promoted to the rank of [colonel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonel_%28United_States%29) in the [U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Army_Air_Corps_Reserve).
* [Anne Morrow Lindbergh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Morrow_Lindbergh) (1906–2001) American writer and aviator. She married Lindbergh in a private ceremony on May 27, 1929, at the home of her parents.
* On March 1, 1932, the Lindbergh’s' first child, 20-month-old [Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindbergh_kidnapping), was kidnapped from their home and later found dead.
* The press paid frenzied attention to the Lindberghs after the kidnapping of their son and the trial, conviction, and execution of [Richard Hauptmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hauptmann) for the crime. This and threats and press harassment of their second son Jon prompted the family to retreat to Britain. While in Europe during the 1930s, Lindbergh came to advocate [isolationist views](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isolationism) and an opposition to American involvement in the impending European conflict,
* Visiting Nazi Germany Göring presented Lindbergh with the Commander Cross of the [Order of the German Eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_German_Eagle). These visits that Lindbergh made at the request of the U.S. military establishment between 1936 and 1938, with the goal of evaluating German aviation. There is disagreement on how accurate Lindbergh's reports were, but the consensus among British and American officials was that they were slightly exaggerated but badly needed.
* In April 1939, the Lindberghs returned to the United States because of European crisis

**1939 WORLD WAR II STARTS IN EUROPE – FDR**

* The Neutrality Acts of 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939 – congress wanted to avoid intervention in European conflicts, isolationism, they included an arms embargo.
* September 1, 1939, Hitler invades Poland; France and Britain declare war, WWII starts
* September 21 FDR asked congress to amend Neutrality Acts to provide France and Britain with war munitions.
* FDR prevails on William Allen White, journalist and politician, to organize a non-partisan “Committee for Peace through Revision of the Neutrality Acts”
* Blitzkrieg becomes Sitzkrieg, Phony War, Hitler attempts to get peace w/Britain and France, France confident Maginot line will protect it
* Policy of “Cash and Carry” rather than loans to avoid provoking Isolationists.

**1939 WORLD WAR II STARTS IN EUROPE – LINDBERG**

* Charles Lindbergh: “*As long as European powers maintain their influence in our hemisphere, we are likely to find ourselves involved in their troubles”*
* Lindbergh suggests instead of cash and carry the US should seize all foreign assets to pay for their unpaid debts from last war and future purchases.
* Lindbergh: “*It is not difficult to understand why Jewish people desire the overthrow of* [*Nazi Germany*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Germany)*. … But no person of honesty and vision can look on their pro-war policy here today without seeing the dangers involved in such a policy both for us and for them. Instead of agitating for war, the Jewish groups in this country should be opposing it in every possible way for they will be among the first to feel its consequences”.*

**1940 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION– FDR**

* Phony War ends May 10 Hitler invades Holland, Belgium, and goes around Maginot Line, June 22 France surrenders
* US must become the ‘Arsenal of Democracy.” – FDR ignores George Washington precedent of retiring after two terms and runs for third. He will be elected in 1944 to a fourth term
* FDR:” We *must do all we can now to support the nations defending themselves against attack by the Axis”* After Dunkirk escape, Britain is alone.

**1940 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 1940 – LINDBERGH**

* The America First Committee(**AFC**) was an American [isolationist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isolationist) [pressure group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pressure_group) against US entry into WWII. Launched in September 1940, it surpassed 800,000 members in 450 chapters at its peak. The AFC principally supported [isolationism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isolationism) for its own sake, and its varied coalition included [Republicans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_%28United_States%29), [Democrats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_%28United_States%29), farmers, industrialists, [communists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communists), anti-communists, students, and journalists. The AFC was headed by [Robert E. Wood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_E._Wood), a retired U.S. Army general who was chairman of Sears, its highest-profile member was [Henry Ford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Ford) . [Charles Lindbergh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Lindbergh) joined it and became the most prominent speaker at its rallies. Lindbergh's presence resulted in increased criticism that America First had anti-Semitism & fascism.
* Lindbergh had resigned his position in Army Air Force reserves after FDR had called him a “Copperhead” referring to Civil War Traitors – FDR privately believed Lindbergh is a Nazi.

**1941 LEND LEASE ACT – FDR**

* Churchill tells FDR Britain can’t pay for war material, March FDR proposes Lend lease – HR 1776 “An Act to further Promote the Defense of the United States & Other purposes” example of lending a hose if neighbor’s house on fire, not selling it. Lend lease ends Neutrality Acts

**1941 LEND LEASE ACT – LINDBERGH**

* Lindbergh star witness against the Act**: “***This bill is obviously the most recent step in a policy which attempts to obtain security for America by controlling internal conditions in Europe…England could not win this war without full American participation”*

**1941 PEARL HARBOR DECEMBER 7 – FDR**

* FDR in calling for a Declaration of War on Japan said it was an act that will live in Infamy – Hitler and Italy declared war on the US four days later December 11, 1941.

**1941 PEARL HARBOR DECEMBER 7 – LINDBERGH**

* The America First Committee was dissolved also on December 11, 1941.
* Lindbergh in1944 persuaded United Aircraft to send him as a technical representative to study P38 performance under combat conditions. In six months, Lindbergh took part in 50 combat missions (as a civilian). On July 28, 1944, in a P-38 Lindbergh shot down a [Mitsubishi Ki-51](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitsubishi_Ki-51) "Sonia" observation plane.

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