

## AMERICA'S DESTINY

December 7, 1941 has etched its bloody place among other important dates in the history of the world. The Japanese bombs that screamed down upon Pearl Harbor that fateful morning did many things; they destroyed battleships; they wrecked planes; they snuffed out lives. They shattered a myth.

That rudely jolted myth was the idea that America could isolate herself. Previously some Americans had treasured the thought that our nation was safe from outside attack. But they learned on December 7 that America was not, as they had supposed, the far distant outpost of ~~isolationism~~ <sup>the world,</sup> but rather the very center of world activity. And in the first three months of war we saw Japanese planes worm their way successfully over thousands of miles of Pacific Ocean; we felt the sting of submarine shells on our soil; we heard the impact of torpedoes upon ships in the Atlantic Ocean. And we suddenly realized that, at any time in the future, without warning, an airplane could take off from a base in Europe, wing its way over three thousand miles of water, and return to its base, leaving behind Americans counting the dead and wounded and totalling up the losses from high explosive bombs.

Thus the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor revealed to the entire world the physical failure of America's isolation policy.

We believe that we will win this war, for we have tremendous productive power to aid us. Let us therefore look to the future and see what it will hold for us if we do win.

After the war is over, victorious America will want to win the peace; she will want to gain forever security for her way of life and protection for her standard of living. She knows that she cannot gain these things through isolation, which has failed her. She must spread her wings, enter into the life of the world and take her place among the nations of the earth.

But before she make any real progress toward the achievement of her goal of security, America must have a complete understanding of the problems that underlie the world's ailments. Only in this manner can she determine the extent of her cooperation with other nations.

When she does take stock of world conditions, America will realize that there is one major problem with which she must cope. Stemming from this problem are most of the earth's present troubles. The war we are now fighting is one of its symptoms; it provides the threats to our way of life and to our standard of living. We will have no real security until we solve this problem.

This dangerous trouble-maker came into existence almost two centuries ago. At that time, countries were the basic

units of existence. All nations were self-sufficient, for there was little trade; and oil and rubber and steel and tin had still to establish themselves in the life of man. But then James Watt invented the steam engine, and this precipitated the Industrial Revolution. Railroads, steamboats, automobiles and finally airplanes made their appearances. Men began to build giant steel skyscrapers, to use rubber tires, to make Diesel engines. This progress was rapid and world-wide. It was a technological whirlpool that caught every nation, but not every nation had the raw materials it needed to keep pace with this sudden changing. And so world trade began. Countries, rich in some things, poor in others, traded with one another, thereby building up in each nation a standard of living which depended upon the goods obtained through international trade. Today, no civilized nation is self-sufficient. America, lacking tin and rubber and sugar, has learned this from bitter experience.

But all this is merely the background of the world's problem. It merely shows us that science has so linked together the world's distant points that it has made the earth an economic unit. Fusing all peoples into one, science has transcended all national boundaries. Technological progress has made a reality of the religious aspiration that the world is a brotherhood of man.

Knowing these facts, we can now understand the world's problem. Every nation is in a state of scientific and economic interdependence with every other nation. Yet politically there is no such union. All countries, so far as is possible,

maintain strict political independence. America's history warns us of the dangers that arise from such a situation. One hundred sixty years ago, America consisted of thirteen politically independent states, which were, however, economically dependent upon one another. Constant friction resulted as one state established trade barriers or embargoes against another state, or as varying currency standards disrupted trade. War between certain of the states was imminent until farsighted leaders realized that they had to complete the half-begun unification. They effected a political unification, creating the United States, which, with but few interruptions, has existed smoothly and efficiently since that time.

And in the world today, just as in America one hundred sixty years ago, there is economic union and political disunion. We see the trade barriers, the embargoes, the varying currency standards that caused so much trouble in our country. We have seen a disastrous war materialize because the semi-united world could not overcome the friction between the "have" nations and the "have not" nations.

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To eliminate this dangerous mixture of economic union and political disunion is America's problem. Our leaders, knowing that we cannot isolate ourselves, realize that we must collaborate with other nation toward this end. Already we are allied with twenty-five other countries that are fighting the totalitarian states.

These totalitarian countries know that the world is an economic unit. They have promised us a New Order --- a New Order which would effect a political unification of the world, which would create a single government for the earth, unfortunately to be dominated by the Axis powers.

We are fighting these dictator countries because we do not believe in force, because we do not believe in the supremacy of a single race. But we do believe in the basic idea of the New Order. We know that there must be political unity in the world. The earth cannot exist half union and half disunion. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

President Roosevelt established our course when he met with Prime Minister Churchill in August, 1941. These two great leaders drew up the Atlantic Charter, a document which sets forth the democratic version of the New Order; and President Roosevelt signed it, giving America's pledge to work toward the establishment of a better world. In general terms, the Atlantic Charter provides for the maintenance of the essential freedoms of mankind. More specifically it says that all trade and all sources of raw material will be open to all countries on equal terms; that America and Britain will help all nations to secure higher standards of living, economic advancement and social security; that there will be the establishment of a wider and permanent system of international organization.

We cannot be too specific about the international organization thus provided for. We cannot say now how far it will go or how strong it will be. We must be prepared to all eventualities.

But there are certain general principles we must follow. When we organize the union, we must invite all nations to join, compel none of them. We must exclude no country because of race or religious beliefs or for economic or political reasons. And when they enter the organization, all countries will retain their control over local affairs, but surrender their power over affairs which concern all nations. And all countries must pledge themselves to support the principles of the Bill of Rights.

The task of thus unifying the world will be long and difficult. Success may not attend us for many years. We may find nations reluctant to join, for people must be shown, they must see a good example. But America, with as many of the Allied and other nations as will enter the union, must take the initiative, must make the first step, leaving the door wide open for everyone.

If we succeed in our efforts to make the world a political as well as an economic unit, then we shall ~~have~~ destroyed the disease that now endangers our security and the security of everyone. We shall raise the standard of living of the earth's

two billion residents; we shall make the fruits of progress  
accessable to all nations.

To do these things, to so better the world, is America's  
job for the future. It is her task in the world to be.  
It is her destiny.