

Every realist knows that the democratic way of life is at this moment being directly assailed in every part of the world. ...

The assailants are still on the march, threatening other nations, great and small.

As president, Roosevelt says that it is his duty to report that the future and safety of the United States and its democracy involve events well beyond its borders. Roosevelt argues that if the nations led by dictators win the current war, they may attack the United States.

I have recently pointed out how quickly the tempo of modern warfare could bring into our very midst the physical attack which we must eventually expect if the dictator nations win this war.

Roosevelt states that there are those who oppose American involvement in the war because they argue that being so geographically far away from the fighting protects the United States. But, Roosevelt contends that distance may not be enough to protect the country.

As long as the aggressor nations maintain the offensive, they—not we—will choose the time and the place and the method of their attack.

For this reason, Roosevelt says, the United States is in danger. The country's focus, he says, should be meeting the foreign peril, or danger. Roosevelt lists three parts of the national policy: working on national defense, supporting people who are fighting against tyranny and for democracy, and not making peace with the aggressive dictator nations. Roosevelt says that the American people agree on the national policy.

Today, it is abundantly evident that American citizens everywhere are demanding and supporting speedy and complete action in recognition of obvious danger.

Therefore, the immediate need is a swift and driving increase in our armament production. ...

Roosevelt next sends a message to those democracies fighting the war: Americans will support them with weapons and supplies. The president says that "This is our purpose and our pledge." Roosevelt also says that while helping democracies, the United States won't be intimidated by dictators.

Roosevelt stresses the importance of helping those nations defending democracy, saying the happiness of future generations of Americans may depend on it. He also says that no one can tell what emergencies the United States may have to face, so the country must be prepared.

We must all prepare to make the sacrifices that the emergency—almost as serious as war itself—demands. Whatever stands in the way of speed and efficiency in defense preparations must give way to the national need.

Roosevelt discusses what makes a healthy and strong democracy, including jobs, security, a lack of special privilege, civil liberties for all, scientific progress, and a rising standard of living. These things should not be forgotten, even in the troubled modern era, he says.



