

Where there is no vision,  
the people perish

Proverbs XXIX, 18

"What more do you ask?" cry the captains and the kings, the presidents and the prime ministers. "Have we not promised you Victory?"

"It is not enough," say the people. "We had Victory before. It turned to ashes. It brought us to this hour, when once more our sons are about to die."

"Then what do you want?" ask the leaders...



## A plea for straight hard thinking on the eve of great events

We are told that thousands of young Americans will die in the invasion of Europe before the harvests are gathered this summer.

What will they have died for?

To stop Hitler?... to beat back a berserk Germany from dominating our world? If so, they will not have died in vain.

But is it vain to hope for more?... to hope that Hitler's defeat will be War's defeat—to hope that the coming victory will usher in a constructive, durable peace in Europe?

Whether this tragic war is followed by long years of peace, or only by an uneasy truce ending too soon in another war, will be decided in part by how much hard thinking we do right here at home—beginning right now.

What will give us  
a durable peace in Europe?

Shall we rely on the vague and dated promises of the Atlantic Charter? They have already been tossed aside in action by Russia—and by Britain and America, too, for that matter.

Shall we depend on our present policy of "expediency"? It supports discredited kings and a status quo which many Europeans often hate almost as much as they do the Nazis themselves.

It will take a lot more than these to bring a permanent peace for Europe. It will require continuous common decisions among the nations concerned—decisions in which the people as well as the presidents and premiers must take part.

We Americans have already indicated, through Congressional resolutions, that we believe we are one of the nations concerned in Europe's and the world's future. And on several occasions Secretary of State Cordell Hull has publicly reaffirmed the general principles that govern America's relations with Europe and the rest of the world.

But the swift march of day-to-day events shows that general principles are not enough. We (meaning *you*) have got to make some *specific* decisions pretty soon.

Right decisions will help to win the war. Wrong decisions will certainly lose the peace. The important questions have no easy answers. For example:

When Old Glory flies over  
the Rhine—what then?

One decision we must face is what to do with a beaten Germany.

- ▶ Do you want Germany divided into dozens of little states, as she was before Bismarck's time?
- ▶ Do you want to see pieces of Germany given to her neighbors as was done to ancient Poland?
- ▶ If so, do you want the Germans "evacuated" from East Prussia to make room for Russian and Polish colonists?
- ▶ If Germans are allowed to stay where they are, do you want them treated like a conquered people or like equal citizens?
- ▶ Do you want Germans to rebuild the cities German armies have destroyed?

If none of these make sense to you, then what should be done with Germany?

Perhaps we must first find a solution for the problems of Europe as a whole. Problems like these:

- ▶ Are Europe's 18 nations to stay economically isolated from each other as they were between the last war and this one?
- ▶ Are their jigsaw borders and clashing interests to keep them in a state of more or less continuous war—declared or undeclared?

- ▶ And what about the social revolution and the class war by which all Europe was torn, all through the thirties? In which direction should America throw the weight of her influence—or can we afford not to exert our influence at all?

And finally—how great a part are you willing that American leaders, American boys, and American dollars should play in building a new democratic Europe that can live in peace?

What are you doing to get these questions answered? What are you doing to prepare yourself to be part of an informed public opinion?

Are you thinking hard and straight? Are you reading, talking, guiding the conversation around you into channels that lead into the reservoir of national thinking on these difficult, terribly important subjects? *Are you using your mindpower to prepare for an American crisis as great as those of 1919, 1865, 1787?*



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