

Studying U.S. Foreign Policy through Political Cartoons, 1898 - 1940

Graphic Organizer 1: War with Spain and the Age of Imperialism: 1898 – 1899

Name: _____

The 1898 Spanish-American War signaled an expanded geographic focus in America’s foreign affairs from controlling the Western hemisphere to administering global possessions. The war began in Spain’s resistance to an independence movement in Cuba. President William McKinley hoped to avoid U.S. involvement, but when negotiations failed, the President asked Congress to declare war. War with Spain left the U.S. holding Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. Adding these territories along with the annexation of Hawaii, sparked a fierce debate about overseas expansion.

Directions: 1) Match the political cartoon with the appropriate description and write a summary below. 2) Match each caption card with the cartoon it best matches and write it below. 3) Explain below how the cartoon matches the caption.



Summary of the description:			
Caption that best matches:			
How does the cartoon match the caption?			

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Graphic Organizer 2: The Era of the Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy: 1900 – 1913

Name: _____

The phrases “the big stick” and “dollar diplomacy” describe American foreign policy in the decades between the War with Spain and World War I. The first phrase derives from President Theodore Roosevelt’s assertion of American power to influence world events. Roosevelt was an active president who charted an ambitious foreign policy for the nation. “Dollar diplomacy” describes William Howard Taft’s pursuit of American economic interests around the globe.

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Graphic Organizer 3: World War I Begins in Europe: 1914 – 1916

Name: _____

President Woodrow Wilson urged that America should be neutral when World War I began in August 1914. For almost three years the nation endured the difficulties that arose from that policy. Berryman's cartoons from the early years of the war reflect the national commitment to neutrality, as well as the war's unprecedented scale and destructive impact. From the start of the war, Berryman's cartoons also depicted the effect of new military technologies such as airplanes and submarines, that threatened to end America's insulation from the turmoil of Europe.

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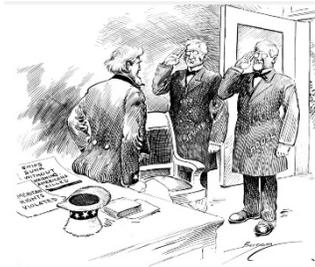
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Graphic Organizer 4: America Enters World War I: 1917

Name: _____

Congress's April 1917 declaration of war thrust America into a stalemated, three-year-old war. Shifting from neutrality to all-out war raised tough challenges to enlist and equip a vast military in a short span of months. Berryman's cartoons reflected the economic, logistical, and military challenges of 1917, but also served to rally public opinion to support the war.

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Graphic Organizer 5: America at War in Europe: 1918

Name: _____

Fighting on land, at sea, and in the air; in 1918 the American military acted in harmony with a nation organized to achieve new levels of economic, industrial, and social unity. German submarine attacks, which had triggered the American declaration of war, failed to stop a flood of U.S. soldiers and supplies from reaching France and bolstering the Allies when they stopped the final German offensive and turned the tide of battle.

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Graphic Organizer 6: The Post-War Quest for Peace: 1919 – 1938

Name: _____

President Woodrow Wilson’s optimism for a stable world after World War I helped shape the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations. Despite the Senate’s rejection of the treaty and America’s refusal to join the League, the United States cooperated in two decades of negotiations and treaties that held off war. The 1930s, however, saw the rise of warlike powers that started an even more destructive world war. Berryman’s cartoons reflect both hope and his realistic assessment of the limits of idealism and treaties to keep the peace.

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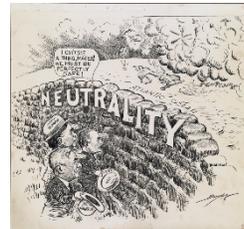
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Graphic Organizer 7: Storm Clouds Gathering – World War II on the Horizon: 1939 – 1940

Name: _____

Neutrality and isolation were ideals Americans fervently clung to, although it was clear by 1940 that international agreements would not sustain world peace. The Neutrality Acts passed in 1935, 1937, and 1939 were designed to avoid the pitfalls, such as aiding belligerent nations, that many felt had entrapped the U.S. into entering World War I. As the menace posed by Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Soviet Union grew ever more alarming, Americans wrestled with how to preserve neutrality, isolation, and American interests. Berryman's cartoons from this era captured the drama of the days and his recognition that war loomed on the horizon.

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