The sinking of the USS Maine helped cause the U.S. to fight for the independence of Cuba.

Publication Date: April 17, 1898
NAID: 306119

Description:
An armed Uncle Sam charges from the Capitol carrying a note reading “Maine Affair” in a cartoon published on the day after a Senate resolution recognized the independence of Cuba from Spanish rule. The note refers to the explosion of the American battleship USS Maine in Havana, an event that triggered demands for U.S. involvement in the long-running struggle for independence. Spanish tactics in putting down the revolt disturbed many Americans. Although President Grover Cleveland proclaimed U.S. neutrality, sensation-driven newspapers called for war. In 1897, newly elected President William McKinley cautioned patience, but the explosion of the Maine shattered U.S. relations with Spain and led to a declaration of war on April 25, 1898.

Cut this sheet along the dotted lines
War with Spain caused the U.S. to rethink its long-held principle of anti-colonialism.

Publication Date: July 13, 1898

Description:
Uncle Sam stands at the intersection of the narrow lane labeled “Monroe Doctrine” and the wider “Imperial Highway” and ponders which direction to take on the new road. Uncle Sam’s hesitation suggests the importance of his decision. Recent events had prompted the United States to re-think long-held ideas about foreign policy. Congress had declared war to free Cuba from inhumane Spanish rule, but the U.S. expanded the fighting by attacking other Spanish colonies including the Philippines and Puerto Rico. Would victory transfer these colonial possessions to American rule? As U.S. troops captured Cuba and the Philippines, President McKinley signed legislation annexing Hawaii. Uncle Sam was indeed venturing onto the imperial highway, but how far the nation would travel down this new path was not yet decided.
Adding territories expanded borders but alarmed the opponents of a U.S. empire.

Publication Date: September 14, 1899
NAID: 6010331

Description:
Uncle Sam’s expanded waistline is symbolic of the rapid pace of U.S. territorial expansion. A treaty adding Hawaii to the United States and victory over Spain brought the U.S. several new territories, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines, all listed on the menu shown in the cartoon. America paid Spain $20 million to annex the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico, but the purchase only intensified the Philippine independence movement. The figures shown in the doorway represent the Anti-Expansionists in the Republican Party led by Senator George Hoar, and the Anti-Imperialist Democrats led by William Jennings Bryan.
The protection of constitutional rights follows the U.S. flag.

Publication Date: March 2, 1900  NAID: 6010344

Description:
Berryman asserts the indivisible link of the Constitution and the flag through his reference to the tale of faithful companionship told in the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi, where Naomi pledged to follow her mother-in-law Ruth wherever she went. This cartoon identifies Berryman with the position of expansionists who favored extending U.S. citizenship to territorial residents. Commercial expansionists, by contrast, favored U.S. ownership of land without extending citizenship. A third powerful faction in the debate, the Anti-Expansionists, opposed holding colonies altogether, claiming that adding territorial possessions and people transformed the United States into an empire and went against the anti-colonial founding spirit of the American republic.
“Dollar Diplomacy” refers to using U.S. investments to gain global influence.

Publication Date: August 18 1909
NAID: 6010812

Description:
The cartoon refers to the 1909 railroad construction loans made by Western powers to China. The Hankou loan was originally negotiated as an arrangement exclusively between France, Germany, Great Britain, and China. The United States, feeling that its exclusion was an injustice threatening its future role in China, worked its way into the deal. Great Britain reportedly was pleased by this development as they preferred America as a partner over Germany. The cartoon reflects the closeness of the United States and Great Britain as they appear in the forefront smiling at one another. Berryman presents the loan as beneficial to its Western participants, and acknowledges the resentment of the powers who were excluded from it.

Cut this sheet along the dotted lines
The Era of the Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy: 1903 – 1913

The U.S. created a path between the seas that revolutionized global trade.

Publication Date: August 15, 1914
NAID: 6011066

Description:
The Panama Canal opened for business on the day this cartoon was published. It shows Uncle Sam welcoming ships and identifies the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as the waterway’s endpoints. Uncle Sam proudly waves a flag, celebrating America’s triumph in completing the project. The opening ceremony for the canal was a grand affair that coincided with the first weeks of World War I. The U.S. declared that the canal would remain neutral, allowing access to all European nations. Berryman’s cartoon highlights the international significance of the canal and America’s increasing importance in the world.

Cut this sheet along the dotted lines
World War I Begins in Europe: 1914 - 1916

President Woodrow Wilson led a policy of U.S. neutrality at the outbreak of World War I.

Publication Date: August 19, 1914  NAID: 6011069

Description:
Published weeks after war broke out in Europe, this image shows President Woodrow Wilson standing at the coast reasoning with Uncle Sam for American calmness in the face of the battle shown in the distance. In his August 19 statement on neutrality Wilson called upon all “thoughtful men” to be guarded in public statements about the war. He cautioned that, “The effect of the war upon the United States will depend upon what American citizens say and do...”
Atlantic trade was crucial to the U.S., but blockades made neutrality difficult to maintain.

Publication Date: February 13, 1915
NAID: 6011098

Description:
The rights of neutral countries to navigate the Atlantic were at the forefront of public attention in early 1915 when Germany imposed the world’s first submarine blockade. The cliff Uncle Sam inches along in this cartoon displays phrases showing the danger of conducting neutral trade in seas patrolled by submarines. On February 1, the headlines were dominated by news of a German submarine blockade of Great Britain. On February 10, the United States separately warned Great Britain and Germany not to interfere with U.S. shipping. A day later, Great Britain declared a blockade of German ports. The blockades raised alarms about the safety of ships flying the flags of neutral nations. They also raised the issue of ships from nations at war flying the flags of neutral nations to avoid capture. Weeks earlier, for example, the British liner *Lusitania* had sparked international controversy by flying the U.S. flag to avoid attack while off the coast of Ireland.
A new program of unrestricted submarine attacks on shipping doomed U.S. neutrality.

Publication Date: February 1, 1917

Description:
Berryman depicts Uncle Sam’s response to the German declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare against any ships in the blockade zone around the British Isles. The new declaration was a departure from assurances Germany gave after the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915, and the Sussex Pledge in 1916, agreeing not to sink passenger vessels or merchant ships not carrying war materials. President Wilson had been re-elected to a second term in November, 1916, on the strength of his having kept the U.S. out of the war, but now faced a challenge. The U. S. was economically dependent on shipping, and believed in a right to free seas. Maintaining a policy of neutrality would mean surrendering the right to ship goods across the Atlantic and would leave American ocean travelers at the mercy of German U-boat attacks.
President Wilson led Congress to declare war to “make the world safe for democracy.”

Publication Date: April 2, 1917

Description:
The House and Senate salute Uncle Sam as they report for duty in a cartoon published on the day the 65th Congress met to hear President Woodrow Wilson’s war message. Papers on the desk refer to the German policy of unrestricted submarine warfare that prompted Wilson to call Congress into session. Events had unfolded quickly in recent weeks. Germany had declared open war at sea on February 1, and Wilson had responded in March by arming U.S. merchant ships. In his war message to Congress, Wilson argued for America to fight against Germany for free seas and a “world made safe for democracy.”
Buying Liberty Bonds helped the U.S. pay for the war and demonstrated public support.

**Publication Date:** October 13, 1917  
**NAID:** 6011293

**Description:**
An American purchases a liberty bond to send a message to the German Kaiser. This was one of 18 cartoons Berryman drew in October, 1917, supporting the second Liberty Bond drive. Liberty Bonds were notes issued by the U.S. Treasury and sold to the public through Federal Reserve Banks to help finance World War I. The Federal Government generated income to pay for the war with a combination of new taxes and money raised from bond sales. The Second Liberty Loan campaign was one of four bond drives nationally advertised through vivid posters and other media. The Liberty Bond drives proved a highly-effective means of enlisting public support for the war effort.
With German support, the communist Bolsheviks led Russia to leave World War I.

Publication Date: October 13, 1917

NAID: 6011293

Description:
The confused look on the face of the bear representing Russia in this cartoon matched the conflicting, uncertain news American readers were receiving about fighting in Russia between Bolshevik armies and supporters of Alexander Kerensky, Head of the Provisional Government that ruled Russia from July to November, 1917. Here, Kerensky is depicted as a rescuer because he pledged to continue Russia’s fight against Germany on the Eastern Front. Berryman’s image links the Bolsheviks to Germany, reflecting German support for Bolshevik leader, V.I. Lenin, who favored peace with Germany. The Bolsheviks gained control of the Russian government in November, 1917, and negotiated the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany, ending Russian participation in the war.
America at War in Europe: 1918

The U.S. government managed the railroad and telephone systems for wartime efficiency.

Description:
“Cutting in on the Wire” shows Uncle Sam calling “Mr. Telephone Co.” and offering to take over phone service during the war. This cartoon was drawn at the beginning of the United States Postal Service’s push to acquire the District of Columbia’s telephone service from the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company (C&P). Memos on Uncle Sam’s desk list other related industries that were nationalized in the interest of the war efforts Congress passed a joint resolution on July 16, 1918, granting the President power to nationalize the telephone systems for the duration of the war. President Wilson announced that the Post Office would take control of the phone system on July 31. Following the war, legislation was passed returning the phone system to private ownership.
America at War in Europe: 1918

U.S. troops were key to the Allies’ halting the final German assault on Paris.

Publication Date: July 26, 1918
NAID: 6011467

Description:
This cartoon, featuring a bulldog labeled “Allies” yanking at the coat of a bandaged and fleeing German soldier, represents the German retreat after the Second Battle of the Marne. A sign pointing towards Paris faces in the opposite direction, and the phrase “premature Paris program” is written on a note lying in the dust. A turning point in World War I, the battle began on July 15, 1918, as the Germans marched toward Paris hoping to capture the French capital and end the war. An Allied counter offensive had begun on July 18 and pushed the German lines back 30 miles. This effort involved more American soldiers than any battle fought since the Civil War. The cartoon dramatizes the German retreat and celebrates an Allied victory in which Americans played a leading role.
Contributions to Allied victory in World War I made the U.S. a leading world power.

**Publication Date:** October 8, 1918  
**NAID:** 6011512

**Description:**
“In the World Spotlight” appeared on the front page of *The Evening Star* as President Woodrow Wilson was considering a request for peace received from the new German Chancellor, Prince Maximilian of Baden. The cartoon was published alongside an article reporting Wilson’s insistence that Germany remove its troops from invaded countries as a precondition to peace. Berryman’s cartoon illustrates Wilson’s and America’s central role in preparing for the peace negotiations that would end World War I. Wilson seized the international spotlight when he outlined his “Fourteen Points” for peace in an address to Congress on January 8, 1918.
The Russian Bolsheviks’ belief in communist revolution threatened world stability.

Publication Date: January 10, 1919
NAID: 6011546

Description:
A classical Greco-Roman woman armed with a sword and shield representing civilization stands cautiously between a wild-haired, frightening man representing bolshevism and a handcuffed and chained German soldier representing militarism. The cartoon suggests that although civilization has beaten Germany, it now faces a new threat. An article published in The Evening Star on the same day suggested that the Allies saw it as America’s responsibility to “police” Europe. Berryman’s cartoon reflects the European fear that bolshevism would solidify its control over Russia and fill the power vacuum left by the war in Germany and Eastern Europe. Published at a time when hunger and political instability fueled widespread revolutionary movements, this cartoon reflects an uneasy realization that the war fought by America to make the world safe for democracy has not ended, but rather has expanded into a wider responsibility of preserving civilized order.

Cut this sheet along the dotted lines
The Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles because its Article X created a League of Nations.

Publication Date: October 19, 1920  NAID: 6011640

Description:
The Treaty of Versailles and U.S. membership in the League of Nations were central issues in the 1920 Presidential campaign. Article X of the Covenant of the League of Nations required members to assist any other member in the event of an invasion or attack. President Woodrow Wilson had submitted the Treaty for Senate ratification, but it was rejected due to opposition led by Senators opposed to foreign entanglements. Public opinion split during the 1920 Presidential campaign between advocates for U.S. participation in international peacekeeping treaties and those favoring isolationism. Berryman’s cartoon captures the bitterness of the campaign. Rejected by the Senate and unpopular with many voters, Article X was an outcast on the run. “No ginger” was a sports term for a team that showed no energy, suggesting that the campaign had been a lot more spirited than expected.
The Kellogg-Briand Pact was an international treaty to achieve world peace by outlawing war.

Publication Date: August 27, 1928  NAID: 6011968

Description:
A figure representing Mars, the Roman god of war, plods sadly across a barren and empty landscape toward the sunset, following news that 15 nations had signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact outlawing war as an instrument of foreign policy. Eventually, 34 additional countries would sign the pact, reflecting an optimistic hope for the prevention of future wars. Public opinion ran strongly in favor of the treaty, and the Senate received many petitions supporting its ratification. Published a decade after history’s most destructive war, Berryman’s cartoon suggests hope for the future by showing the departure of the god of war, but the somber scene alludes to the vast destruction of the recent World War and tempers any sense of immediate joy.

Cut this sheet along the dotted lines
The aggressive actions of German leader, Adolf Hitler, shattered post-war hopes for peace.

Publication Date: August 20, 1939
NAID: 6012197

Description:
By late summer, 1939 Hitler was on the march. This cartoon was published the day after Germany seized control of Slovakia, and as 100,000 German and Slovak troops massed along the Polish border ready to invade. Given the recent history of war, these events raised alarm in France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, represented by the figures in this image. Two days after this cartoon was published the Soviet Union and Germany announced a non-aggression pact, clearing the way for the Nazi invasion of Poland. Berryman shares Uncle Sam’s worry that American policies of isolation and neutrality would not insulate the country from the Nazi threat.
Seeking to avoid a second world war, many U.S. leaders supported a policy of neutrality.

**Publication Date:** September 7, 1939  
**NAID:** 6011202

**Description:**
This cartoon shows three prominent isolationist senators staring blindly at a wall labeled, “neutrality,” while embattled Europe is shown engulfed in a cloud of smoke. The figures in the cartoon are William Borah of Idaho, Gerald Nye of North Dakota, and Hiram Johnson of California, Progressive Republican Senators who shared a long history of leading efforts to keep the United States out of international alliances and wars. Borah had opposed the Treaty of Versailles and was against America’s joining the League of Nations. Nye had chaired an investigative committee harshly critical of U.S. entry into the World War I. Johnson sponsored the Neutrality Acts in Congress and opposed President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s proposal to sell planes and arms to France. World War I was fresh in the public memory, and isolationists still resented America’s involvement. In this cartoon, Berryman mocks the short-sightedness of isolationism.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed supplying arms to republics resisting invasion.

**Publication Date:** September 2, 1940  
**NAID:** 6012217

**Description:**
This cartoon was published on Labor Day, four days after the Senate passed, and as the House debated, the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. The Act established the first peacetime draft in American history and allowed the government to take over industry for wartime production. This cartoon shows Uncle Sam hammering plows into swords, an inversion of a Bible verse in which nations “hammer swords into plowshares.” By proposing that America produce the “1940 model” sword, Berryman shows his support for war preparedness efforts. The “Arsenal of Democracy” referred to in this cartoon’s title, became a slogan used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to describe the nation’s international policy.