



"I Used to Know Your Daddy" (1936)

24-3 Fireside Chat on the Great Arsenal of Democracy (1940)

Franklin D. Roosevelt

During late 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt (1882–1945) persuaded Congress to repeal the arms embargo of earlier neutrality legislation. Belligerents could now purchase weapons from American manufacturers on a strict cash-and-carry basis — as the Neutrality Act of 1937 had allowed for other goods. This step, which favored Britain and France, touched off debate in the United States.

By December 29, 1940, when the president delivered this fireside chat, France had long since fallen, Great Britain had survived the aerial Battle of Britain, and Greece was (as FDR notes) resisting an Italian invasion. Twelve days earlier, during a press conference, Roosevelt had strongly advocated the policy that would be embodied in the Lend-Lease Act.

Source: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Fireside Chat 16, December 29, 1940.

Organizing for Victory

Mobilizing the nation's human and material resources to win World War II required organization that involved the interaction of governmental agencies—some old, others newly created—and private organizations (business, labor, and agricultural). Under changing circumstances, adversarial relations between government and business largely gave way to cooperation. The government's role expanded, as well as changed, as it recruited, trained, and fielded large military forces; spent lavishly to equip and maintain our armed forces and assist our allies; and taxed and borrowed to finance the war. Wartime economics achieved the prosperity that had eluded the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations during peacetime and established precedents for the postwar era.

The war created opportunities for women, African Americans, and Mexican Americans, though all confronted obstacles even as they and the war cleared some away. Women served in all four military services; others filled positions vacated by men entering the armed forces or jobs newly created by wartime demands. Yet the government and employers did not provide women with equal job opportunities, necessary support (child care, flexible work schedules), or organizations to articulate their needs and press for policies to address them. African Americans and Mexican Americans served in large numbers in the armed forces. The former were largely segregated; the latter were not. Both groups experienced gains but also prejudice and discrimination in the wartime labor market. During the war, African Americans and Mexican Americans protested segregation and discrimination. Blacks led in this regard: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) gained markedly in membership, and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded. Both organizations would figure prominently in the later civil rights movement.

Document 24-5 reports the wartime experiences, on the job and at home, of one female worker. Document 24-6 indicates that the employment of women in war work was conceived as a temporary measure. Propaganda was deemed essential to motivating the armed forces and the civilian population, as Document 24-7 illustrates.

24-5 Women Working at the Home Front (1944)

Norma Yerger Queen

Responding to a request from the U.S. Office of War Information for the observations of wartime female workers, Norma Yerger Queen—a Utahan married to a professional and employed in a military hospital—wrote about her work, community, and home life.

Source: Norma Yerger Queen to the Office of War Information, 1944.

The people of this community all respect women who work regardless of the type of work. Women from the best families & many officers' wives work at our hospital. It is not at all uncommon to meet at evening parties in town women who work in the kitchens or offices of our hospital (Army-Bushnell-large general). The city mayor's wife too works there.

The church disapproves of women working who have small children. The church has a strong influence in our county.

For the canning season in our county men's & women's clubs & the church all recruited vigorously for women for the canneries. . . .

I personally have encouraged officers' wives who have no children to get out and work. Those of us who have done

so have been highly respected by the others and we have not lost social standing. In fact many of the social affairs are arranged at our convenience.

Some husbands do not approve of wives working & this has kept home some who do not have small children. Some of the women just do not wish to put forth the effort.

The financial incentive has been the strongest influence among most economic groups but especially among those families who were on relief for many years. Patriotic motivation is sometimes present but sometimes it really is a front for the financial one. A few women work to keep their minds from worrying about sons or husbands in the service.

In this county, the hospital is the chief employer of women. A few go to Ogden (20 miles away) to work in an

arsenal, the depot, or the air field. When these Ogden plants first opened quite a few women started to work there, but the long commuting plus the labor at the plants plus their housework proved too much.

Many women thoroughly enjoy working & getting away from the home. They seem to get much more satisfaction out of it than out of housework or bringing up children. Those who quit have done so because of lack of good care for their children, or of inability to do the housework & the job. . . .

I am convinced that if women could work 4 days a week instead of 5½ or 6 that more could take jobs. I found it impossible to work 5½ days & do my housework but when I arranged for 4 days I could manage both. These days one has to do everything—one cannot buy services as formerly. For instance—laundry. I'm lucky. I can send out much of our laundry to the hospital but even so there is a goodly amount that must be done at home—all the ironing of summer dresses is very tiring. I even have to press my husband's trousers—a thing I never did in all my married life. The weekly housecleaning—shoe shining—all things we formerly had done by others. Now we also do home canning. I never in the 14 yrs. of my married life canned 1 jar. Last summer I put up dozens of quarts per instructions of Uncle Sam. I'm only one among many who is now doing a lot of manual labor foreign to our usual custom. I just could not take on all that & an outside job too. It is no fun to eat out—you wait so long for service & the restaurants cannot be immaculately kept—therefore it is more pleasant & quicker to cook & eat at home even after a long day's work. I've talked with the personnel manager at the hospital & he agrees that fewer days a week would be better. The canneries finally took women for as little as 3 hrs. a day.

This is a farming area & many farm wives could not under any arrangements take a war job. They have too much to do at their farm jobs & many now have to go into the fields, run tractors & do other jobs formerly done by men. I marvel at all these women are able to do & feel very inadequate next to them. . . .

Here is the difference between a man working & a woman as seen in our home—while I prepare the evening meal, my husband reads the evening paper. We then do the dishes together after which he reads his medical journal or cogitates over some lecture he is to give or some problem at his lab. I have to make up grocery lists, mend, straighten up a drawer, clean out the ice box, press clothes, put away anything strewn about the house, wash bric a brac, or do several of hundreds of small “woman's work is never done” stuff. This consumes from 1 to 2 hrs. each evening after which I'm too weary to read any professional social work literature & think I'm lucky if I can keep up with the daily paper, Time Life or Reader's Digest. All this while my husband is relaxing & resting. When I worked full time, we tried doing the housecleaning together but it just didn't click. He is responsible for introducing penicillin into Bushnell & thus into the army & there were so many visiting brass hats & night conferences he couldn't give even one night a week to the house. Then came a mess of lectures of all kinds of medical meetings—he had to prepare those at home. I got so worn out it was either quit work or do it part time.

This has been a lot of personal experience but I'm sure we are no exception. I thought I was thro[ugh] working in 1938. My husband urged me to help out for the war effort—he's all out for getting the war work done & he agreed to do his share of the housework. He is not lazy but he found we could not do it. I hope this personal experience will help to give you an idea of some of the problems.

24-6 Mother, When Will You Stay Home Again? (1944)

Wartime advertising encouraged married women with children to work in war industries, but increasingly such messages included references to the postwar lives of such women. This advertisement appeared a year before Germany's surrender, fifteen months before Japan's. (Far more American military casualties were suffered during this period than during the first twenty-nine months of America's involvement.)

Mother, when will you stay home again?

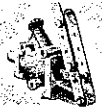
Some jubilant day mother will stay home again, doing the job she likes best—making a home for you and daddy, when he gets back. She knows that all the hydraulic valves, line support clips and blocks and electric anti-icing equipment that ADEL turns out for airplanes are helping bring that day closer.

Meanwhile she's learning the vital importance of precision in equipment made by ADEL. In her post-war home she'll want appliances with the same high degree of precision and she will get them when ADEL converts its famous Design

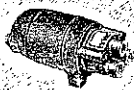
Simplicity to products of equal dependability for home and industry.

ADEL

ADEL PRECISION PRODUCTS CORP.
BURBANK, CALIFORNIA, HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA
SERVICE OFFICES: DETROIT, HAGERSTOWN, SEATTLE
FOR WAR (AND PEACE) BUY BONDS



ADEL HYDRAULIC REMOTE CONTROLS
Built for large capacity, ADEL's "ISO-Matic" Controls answers remote control problems commonly and work in many industrial applications. Perfectly gauged control this immediate response of "down" will increase air circulation, system pressure fluctuations, temperature—40° F. to 200° F. Send for booklet.



ADEL FLUID METERING EQUIPMENT
Fluid metering pumps with output ranges from 2 to 30 gals per minute. Suitable for alcohol-glycerine and many other fluids. Maximum efficiency, minimum maintenance, covered flow design. Single-plate construction during 7 years involving millions of miles of operation in all parts of the globe.



ADEL HYDRAULIC VALVES
Over 150 types and sizes produced on six basic design. Simplified models with standardized interchangeable parts. Flow range of "single-plate" design valve series. Weight 11 oz. Measures 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 2 1/2". Handle loads as low as 24 lb. pounds for 180 psi operation. Available in multiple units.

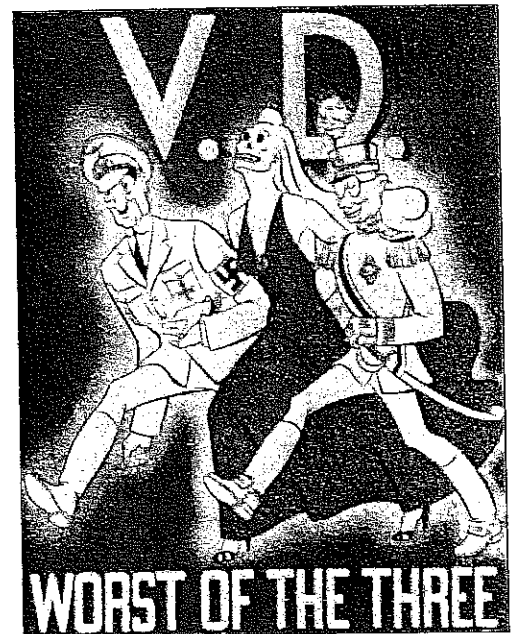
ADEL EQUIPMENT SERVES UNITED NATIONS' AIR FORCES ON EVERY BATTLE FRONT

Source: Advertisement, Adel Manufacturing Company, *Saturday Evening Post*, May 6, 1944. Courtesy Gaslight Advertising Archives, Inc.

24-7 Wartime Posters: The Japanese and Venereal Disease as Enemies (c. 1944)

World War II propaganda took many forms—radio broadcasts, films, and print media. As during World War I, posters played a role, whether directed against the United States' wartime enemies, especially the Japanese, or against the threat of venereal disease.

Sources: "This Is the Enemy," shown at the Museum of Modern Art (New York City), reprinted in *Life*, from John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon, 1986), 189; "V.D.: Worst of the Three," National Archives, Washington, DC, from Allan M. Brandt, *No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States*, exp. ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), following 164.



Posters of the Enemy (c. 1944)

Questions

1. Compare and contrast the depiction of a Japanese soldier of World War II (Document 24-7) with depictions of German soldiers during World War I (Document 21-12) and World War II.

Life on the Home Front

Life on the home front for Americans involved neither heavy civilian casualties nor widespread property destruction, as it did for citizens in other warring nations. For Americans with loved ones in the armed forces, there was fear; for those losing loved ones in the war, grief. But rationing and wartime shortages of consumer products were inconveniences, rarely hardships in a nation experiencing war-based prosperity. Publicized drives to secure blood, collect scrap metal, sell government bonds, and plant “victory gardens” contributed to the war effort and reminded those on the home front that American soldiers were fighting in a war. Document 24-8 offers the reminiscences of a woman on the home front during World War II.

In describing life in the United States during World War II, the text makes clear that Japanese Americans, most of them American-born citizens, suffered as no other group did during the war—or during World War I, for that matter, for all its intolerance and repression. Document 24-9 is President Roosevelt’s executive order authorizing the prescribing of military areas. (In 1992, the U.S. government issued a formal apology for the relocation of Japanese and Japanese Americans; surviving internees received reparations.)

24-8 Remembering the War Years on the Home Front (1984)

Decades after World War II, a retired music teacher in Los Angeles reminisced about her life during the war years for Studs Terkel’s oral history of the war. After the war, she divorced her husband, with whom she had had two children.

Source: Excerpt from Studs Terkel, *“The Good War”: An Oral History of World War Two* (1984). Reprinted by permission of Donadio & Olson, Inc. Copyright © 1984 Studs Terkel.

While my conscience told me the war was a terrible thing, bloodshed and misery, there was excitement in the air. I had just left college and was working as a substitute teacher. Life was fairly dull. Suddenly, single women were of tremendous importance. It was hammered at us through the newspapers and magazines and on the radio. We were needed at USO, to dance with the soldiers.

A young woman had a chance to meet hundreds of men in the course of one or two weeks, more than she would in her entire lifetime, because of the war. Life became a series of weekend dates.

I became a nurse’s aide, working in the hospital. Six or eight weeks of Red Cross training. The uniform made us special people.

I had a brother three years younger than I. He was a cadet at the Santa Ana Air Base. Your cadet got to wear these great hats, with the grommets taken out. Marvelous uniform.

I met my future husband. I really didn’t care that much for him, but the pressure was so great. My brother said, “What do you mean you don’t like Glenn? You’re going to marry him, aren’t you?” The first time it would occur to me

that I would marry anybody. The pressure to marry a soldier was so great that after a while I didn't question it. I have to marry sometime and I might as well marry him.

That women married soldiers and sent them overseas happy was hammered at us. We had plays on the radio, short stories in magazines, and the movies, which were a tremendous influence in our lives. The central theme was the girl meets the soldier, and after a weekend of acquaintanceship they get married and overcome all difficulties. Then off to war he went. Remember Judy Garland and Robert Walker in *The Clock*?

I knew Glenn six weekends, not weeks. They began on Saturday afternoon. We'd go out in herds and stay up all night. There was very little sleeping around. We were still at the tail-end of a moral generation. Openly living together was not condoned. An illegitimate child was a horrendous handicap. It was almost the ruination of your life. I'm amazed and delighted the way it's accepted now, that a girl isn't a social outcast any more.

The OWI, Office of War Information, did a thorough job of convincing us our cause was unquestionably right. We were stopping Hitler, and you look back at it and you had to stop him. We were saving the world. We were allied with Russia, which was great at that time. Germany had started World War One and now it had started World War Two, and Germany would be wiped off the face of the map. A few years later, when we started to arm Germany, I was so shocked. I'd been sold a bill of goods—I couldn't believe it. I remember sitting on the back porch here, I picked up the paper, and I read that our sworn enemy was now our ally. The disillusionment was so great, that was the beginning of distrusting my own government.

Russia was the enemy from the time I was born right up to '40. Then Russia became our ally. It's funny nobody stopped to think that this was a complete turnabout. As soon as the war was over, we dropped Russia. During the war, I never heard any anti-Russian talk. . . .

I had one of those movie weddings, because he couldn't get off the base. My parents approved. My mother had a talk with the head of the army base. She wanted to know why the guy I was to marry was restricted to quarters. He said they were having nothing but trouble with this guy. The major advised her to think twice before permitting her daughter to marry a man like this: he was totally irresponsible. My mother told me this, and we both laughed about it. He was a soldier. He could not be anything but a marvelous, magnificent human being. I couldn't believe for one minute what this major had said. He was given a weekend pass and we were married.

Shortly after that he was thrown out of the air force. This was my first doubt that he was magnificent. So he became a sergeant, dusting off airplanes. He was sent to various parts of the country: Panama City, Florida; Ypsilanti, Michigan; Amarillo, Texas. I followed him.

That's how I got to see the misery of the war, not the excitement. Pregnant women who could barely balance in a

rocking train, going to see their husbands for the last time before the guys were sent overseas. Women coming back from seeing their husbands, traveling with small children. Trying to feed their kids, diaper their kids. I felt sorriest for them. It suddenly occurred to me that this wasn't half as much fun as I'd been told it was going to be. I just thanked God I had no kids. . . .

I ran across a lot of women with husbands overseas. They were living on allotment. Fifty bucks a month wouldn't support you. Things were relatively cheap, but then we had very little money, too. It wasn't so much the cost of food as points. I suspected the ration system was a patriotic ploy to keep our enthusiasm at a fever pitch. If you wanted something you didn't have points for, it was the easiest thing in the world. . . . Almost everybody had a cynical feeling about what we were told was a food shortage.

When it started out, this was the greatest thing since the Crusades. The patriotic fervor was such at the beginning that if "The Star-Spangled Banner" came on the radio, everybody in the room would stand up at attention. As the war dragged on and on and on, we read of the selfish actions of guys in power. We read stories of the generals, like MacArthur taking food right out of the guys' mouths when he was in the Philippines, to feed his own family. Our enthusiasm waned and we became cynical and very tired and sick of the bloodshed and killing. It was a completely different thing than the way it started. At least, this is the way I felt. . . .

There were some movies we knew were sheer bullshit. There was a George Murphy movie where he gets his draft induction notice. He opens the telegram, and he's in his pajamas and bare feet, and he runs around the house and jumps over the couch and jumps over the chair, screaming and yelling. His landlady says, "What's going on?" "I've been drafted! I've been drafted." Well, the whole audience howled. 'Cause they know you can feed 'em only so much bullshit.

If a guy in a movie was a civilian, he always had to say—what was it? Gene Kelly in *Cover Girl*? I remember this line: "Well, Danny, why aren't you in the army?" "Hell, I was wounded in North Africa, and now all I can do is keep people happy by putting on these shows." They had to explain why the guy wasn't in uniform. Always. There was always a line in the movie: "Well, I was turned down." "Oh, tough luck." There were always soldiers in the audience, and they would scream. So we recognized a lot of the crap. . . .

The good war? That infuriates me. Yeah, the idea of World War Two being called a good war is a horrible thing. I think of all the atrocities. I think of a madman who had all this power. I think of the destruction of the Jews, the misery, the horrendous suffering in the concentration camps. In 1971, I visited Dachau. I could not believe what I saw. There's one barracks left, a model barracks. You can reconstruct the rest and see what the hell was going on. It doesn't take a visit to make you realize the extent of human misery.

I know it had to be stopped and we stopped it. But I don't feel proud, because the way we did it was so devious. How many years has it been? Forty years later? I feel I'm