

4. When America Began to Change Into What It Is: World War I (1914-19)

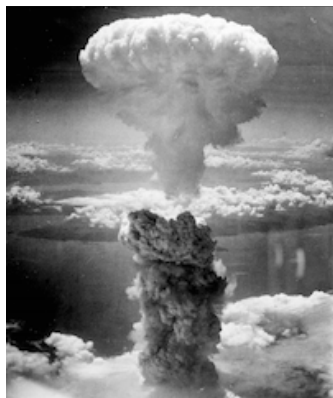
- a) In 1914, yet another great European war began.
- b) Reflecting the long tradition of political separation, American president Woodrow Wilson assessed the war as being one “*with which we have nothing to do, whose causes cannot touch us.*”
- c) Following the Monroe Doctrine, the United States stayed neutral from 1914 to 1917.
- d) President Wilson was celebrated for doing so. He won re-election as president in 1916 running on the slogan, “*He has kept us out of war.*”
- e) And yet America entered World War I in 1917.
- f) President Wilson articulated the reason for this transformation: “*The world must be made safe for democracy.*” The United States is the country that it is today, because it first accepted this responsibility in World War I, and has essentially accepted this responsibility as normal today.



President Woodrow Wilson articulated a new basis for America’s relationship to the world: the mission of making the world “safe for democracy.”

5. Saving The World A Second Time: World War II (1939-45)

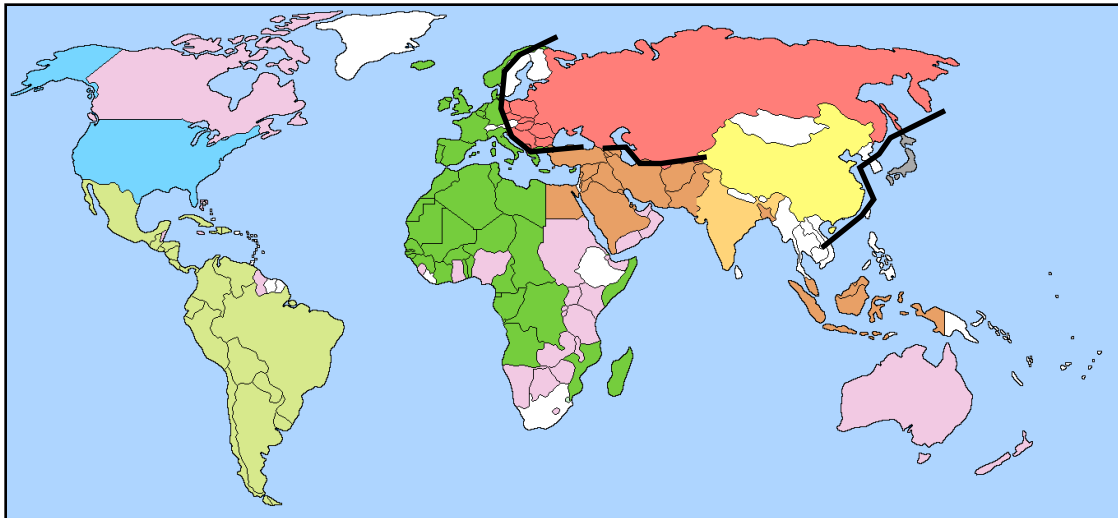
- a) 117,000 Americans died in World War I. It was profound shock.
- b) In the 1920 presidential election, Americans repudiated Wilson’s concept of giving up their lives to a global cause. They opted instead to elect Warring Harding, who offered them a “return to normalcy”—which, at that time, meant a return to the “normal” policy of political separation.
- c) Thus as World War II arrived, the United States remained apart. It did not join World War II from 1939 to 1941.
- d) Then entry into the war was forced upon it. Japan launched a sneak attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, with the goal of crippling America’s navy and preventing it from interfering with Japan’s imperial ambitions in Asia.
- e) The attack failed to achieve the desired outcome. United States entered the war and played the decisive role in defeating Japan and its ally Nazi Germany.



The explosion that destroyed Nagasaki is captured in this photograph. Atomic bombs are so powerful that a single bomb can destroy an entire city. The explosion produces a huge, characteristic “mushroom cloud” that extends far up into the atmosphere.

6. The World Police Power Emerges Once and For All: 1947

- a) The incomparable role that today's United States plays in human affairs as the "world police power" was a long time in the making.
- b) The first major break with the early American tradition of political separation came in World War I, and despite an attempt to return to earlier ways, World War II catapulted America into the role of saving the world from itself yet again.
- c) Then, having done so, the United States found itself in a new situation to which it felt compelled to respond by *policing* the world.
- d) As part of the war effort against imperial Japan and its ally Nazi Germany, the United States had forged a temporary alliance with Russia. Russia had a form of government called "*communism*," where individuals have no right to the "pursuit of happiness."
- e) The United States had liberated western Europe; but instead of liberating eastern Europe, Russia conquered it and forced its people to accept communist governments.
- f) At that point the United States was faced with a great dilemma. Having saved the world from Germany and Japan, could it just allow communist Russia to impose a different kind of empire on the world?
- g) President Harry Truman decided that America's military would begin a new mission: to police the world. It would be *permanently* stationed around the world, to prevent communism from being imposed by force anywhere else.



This map of the major cultural blocks of the world at the end of World War II, shows the new reality in Europe at the time of Truman Doctrine (1947). The countries of eastern Europe are shown in red, because they became a part of a Russian communist cultural block. (This includes the country that was temporarily known as "East Germany.") Neutral countries in Europe are shown in white. The three thick black lines represent the three segments of a cordon erected to contain communism. The United States intended to protect 1) Western Europe, 2) the Far East, and 3) the Middle East.

7. The Final Peace of the Puzzle

- a) TWWLi is one in which the United States no longer has to police the planet to stop communism. Russia has abandoned that form of government, and although China is a partly communist country, it does not seek to impose communism elsewhere. The main threat to world peace today is the threat of Islamic terrorism.
- b) The transition from policing the world to stop the spread of communism to policing the world against terrorism occurred because the United States became entangled in the politics of the Islamic Middle East (the region between Africa and Asia) after 1947.
- c) America wished to prevent the spread of communism there, and it also wished to protect the democracy of Israel and secured access to the oil of the region.
- d) As the world police power, America controls much of what happens in the Islamic Middle East. Some people do appreciate America's actions, while others disagree and protest. The key to modern history is the revival of "jihad" (holy war) by those who hate the idea of the world being run by America instead of Islamic culture.