

The United States and the European War:

Americans are often called isolationist, a characterization that stems in part from a misreading of attitudes about our entry into World War II. Before our entry, Americans said it was important to provide supplies to Britain and France and to prepare American troops for entry. We had strong negative judgments about Germany's actions.

Question: **If Germany and Italy go to war against England and France, do you think...?**

1939

Agree, we should do everything possible to help England and France win, except go to war ourselves

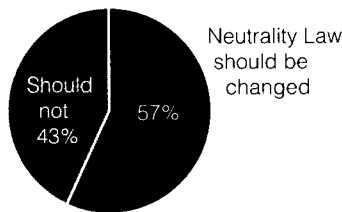


71% of Democrats and 69% of Republicans agreed

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, February 4-9, 1939.

Question: **Our present Neutrality Law prevents this country from selling war materials to any countries fighting in a declared war. Do you think the law should be changed so that we could sell war materials to England and France in case of war?**

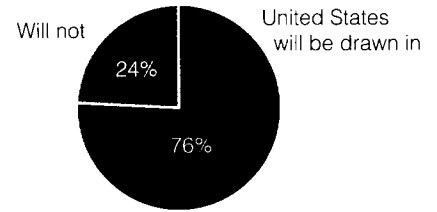
1939



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 2-7, 1939.

Question: **If England and France have a war with Germany and Italy, do you think the United States will be drawn in?**

1939



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 28-August 2, 1939.

Question: **Do you think Hitler's claims to (Danzig/the Polish Corridor) are justified?**

Question: **Would you like to see England, France, and Poland agree to Germany's demands regarding Danzig?**

1939

Hitler's claims to...are not justified



Would not like to see England, France, and Poland agree to Germany's demands regarding Danzig



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 19-24, 1939.

Question: **Would you be willing to pay more money in taxes to support a larger army?**

1939

Would be willing to pay more in taxes to support larger army



Note: Asked of 86% who said the United States should increase the size of its army.

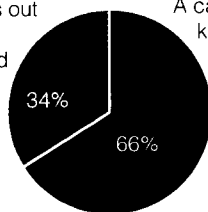
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 24-29, 1939.

Question: **If you were voting for president, which type of candidate do you think you would be more likely to vote for...?**

Question: **Congress has set aside two billion dollars for the army, navy, and air forces for the next 12 months. President Roosevelt has now asked Congress to increase this by another one billion dollars. Do you approve or disapprove of this increase?**

1940

Who promises to keep us out and refuses to give any more help to England and France than we are now giving them, even if they are being defeated by Germany

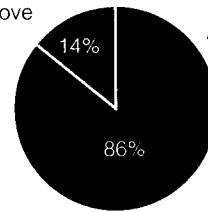


A candidate who promises to keep us out of war, but who is willing to give England and France all the help they want, except sending our army and navy

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 19-24, 1940.

1940

Disapprove



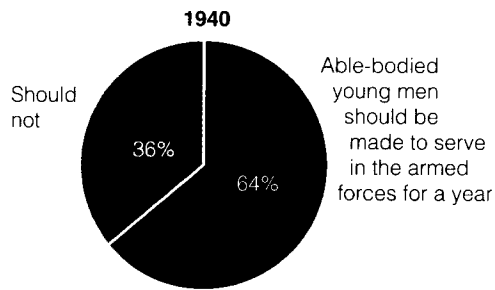
Approve of additional spending on armed forces

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, May 18-23, 1940.

Not Running To Or From the Fight

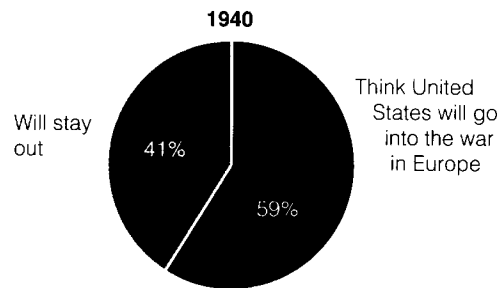
While we were understandably concerned about involving American troops, we believed from the earliest days of the conflict that it was important to aid Britain and France and to resist German aggression, even at risk to ourselves.

Question: **Do you think every able-bodied young man 20 years old should be made to serve in the armed forces for one year?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, June 13-18, 1940.

Question: **Do you think the United States will go into the war in Europe sometime before it is over, or do you think we will stay out of the war?**

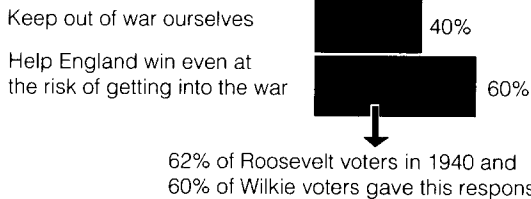


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 26-31, 1940.

Question: **Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do...?**

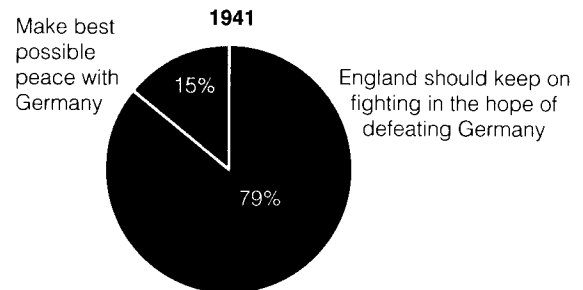
1940

More important for the United States to...



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, December 18-23, 1940.

Question: **Which of these two things do you think England should do now—try to make the best possible peace now with Germany, or keep on fighting in the hope of defeating Germany?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 11-16, 1941.

Question: **If you were asked to vote today on the question of the United States entering the war against Germany and Italy, how would you vote—to go into the war, or to stay out of war?**

1941

Would vote to go to war



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 10-15, 1941.

Question: **If it appeared certain that there was no way to defeat Germany and Italy except for the United States go to war against them, would you be in favor of the United States going to war?**

1941

Would be in favor of the United States going to war if there was no other way to defeat Germany and Italy



Question: **Should the United States take steps now to keep Japan from becoming more powerful, even if it means risking a war with Japan?**

1941

United States should take steps even if it means risking war with Japan



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 21-26, 1941.