



### Arsenal of Democracy

President Roosevelt tried to find ways to help the Allies without joining the war ourselves. When money became tight in Britain, Roosevelt suggested we become the great “Arsenal of Democracy” and lend supplies to the British. In explaining why he was passing the Lend-Lease Act, Roosevelt again used a fireside chat to speak to America.

“Suppose the house of a neighbor catches fire. If you have a hose and connect it with his water spout, you may help him to save his house. After the fire is over, the neighbor might return it with thanks, or if it were smashed, he would replace it.”

Roosevelt also asked Congress to increase our military spending and draft soldiers into the American military for the first time in our history when we weren’t at war. By early 1941 it was easy to see what side of this conflict America was on.

1. According to the poster, what is our job?
2. What reason does Roosevelt give for “lending your neighbor a hose”?
3. What is another reason to “lend your neighbor a hose”?
4. How was America preparing for World War II before we joined?
5. How were the problems in Europe actually a good thing for the United States?
6. Video: What was “nonsense” about the Lend-Lease Act?
7. Video: What part of Roosevelt was considered “genius”?