

Excerpts from FDR's address known as the "Arsenal of Democracy" Speech.

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Excerpt-

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/7-2-188/188-22.html>

There can be no appeasement with ruthlessness.... We must be the great arsenal of democracy."

Fireside chat on national security and the common cause,
Washington, D. C., December 29, 1940

My friends:

This is not a fireside chat on war. It is a talk on national security; We face this threat to the security of our nation-with the same courage and realism. Never before since Jamestown and Plymouth Rock has our American civilization been in such danger as now. For, on September 27, 1940, by an agreement signed in Berlin, three powerful nations, two in Europe and one in Asia, joined themselves together in the threat that if the United States of America interfered with or blocked the expansion program of these three nations-a program aimed at world control-they would unite in ultimate action against the United States.

The Nazi masters of Germany have made it clear that they intend not only to dominate all life and thought in their own country, but also to enslave the whole of Europe, and then to use the resources of Europe to dominate the rest of the world.

Some of our people like to believe that wars in Europe and in Asia are of no concern to us. But it is a matter of most vital concern to us that European and Asiatic war-makers should not gain control of the oceans which lead to this hemisphere.

If Great Britain goes down, the Axis powers will control the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia, and the high seas... Frankly and definitely there is danger ahead-danger against which we must prepare.

Our national policy is not directed toward war. Its sole purpose is to keep war away from our country and our people.

We have no excuse for defeatism. We have every good reason for hope-hope for peace, hope for the defense of our civilization and for the building of civilization in the future.

As President of the United States I call upon our people with absolute confidence that our common cause will greatly succeed.

