



- 0. THE PRICE WE PAY - Story Preface
- 1. FDR: YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!
- 2. ENGLAND: WE'VE HAD IT!
- 3. SURE YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT?
- 4. WE DON'T APPROVE!
- 5. THE PRICE WE PAY**
- 6. WHAT A COUNTRY!

This World-War-II-era poster reminded Americans about the suffering of soldiers fighting in the European and Pacific theaters of war. Fighting for one's country is part of the price one pays for freedom ... that is part of the message conveyed here ... as is the need to sacrifice, at home as well as on the battlefield. Image online via U.S. National Archives.

Freedom to disagree about politics, to criticize the government, and to live in a free country where the people rule has a price tag. Throughout America's history, many have been called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. It isn't only dead soldiers who pay - so do loved ones left behind.

The United States Congress first had the right to conscript men into the military more than 200 years ago. Soon-to-be-soldiers learned about their potential fate in the newspaper. (One of those early articles - published June 2, 1792 in Boston's *Columbian Centinel* - spells out the law).

Before American men were subject to selective service (known, more commonly, as "the draft"), the Continental Army needed men to fight the Revolutionary War. Recruiting posters then served the same purpose as they do now (when the draft is no longer in effect).

Although men were first drafted in 1792, it took another 125 years before the national subscription law used "Uncle Sam" to recruit Army personnel. (The link depicts the original World War I poster, "I Want YOU," first published in 1918).

During World War II, even political cartoons sent a clear message to young Americans: Forget college. You're in the Army now! (Frank Spangler, The Big Coach.) Some of those young men who didn't get to college didn't come home from the war.

For many years, America had an "isolationist" policy which could be paraphrased as follows: "You take care of your affairs, foreign country, and we'll take care of ours. We won't ask for your help. Don't ask for ours."

In the 21st century, it's hard to remember that other time - a time when even America's entry into World War II (immediately before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor) was highly controversial. A mere two days preceding the Arizona's explosion, Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) published a prophetic political cartoon depicting Japan talking with Hitler. It had this caption:

Master! What do I do when they won't come across?

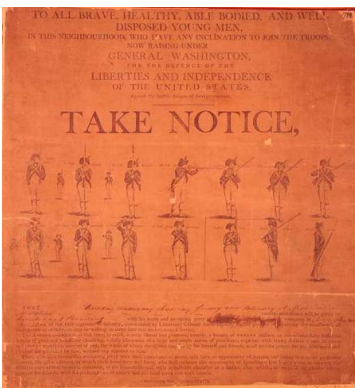
Once a decision is made to fight a war, however, "we the people" nearly always support the troops. Vietnam, where drafted soldiers fought and died or returned to a country where people turned their backs, was the notable exception.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-PRICE-WE-PAY-People-Rule>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-PRICE-WE-PAY-People-Rule>



Recruiting Poster

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Recruiting-Poster->



I Want You For U.S. Army - WW I Recruiting Poster

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/I-Want-You-For-U.S.-Army-WW-I-Recruiting-Poster->



The Big Coach - Cartoon

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Big-Coach-Cartoon>



You Talk of Sacrifice - War Poster

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/You-Talk-of-Sacrifice-War-Poster>

... and the Wolf chewed up the children and spit out their bones ...
But those were Foreign Children and it really didn't matter."



Don't Ask for Ours - Dr. Seuss Cartoon

Image online, courtesy the paperlessarchives.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Don-t-Ask-for-Ours-Dr.-Seuss-Cartoon>

He Never Knew
What Hit Him



He Never Knew What Hit Him - Isolationist Poster

Image online, courtesy the politicalcartoonsturningpoint.weebly.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/He-Never-Knew-What-Hit-Him-Isolationist-Poster>

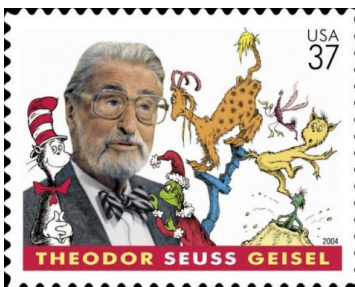


Prophetic Cartoon - by Dr. Seuss

Image online, courtesy the Mandeville Special Collections Library, University of California, San Diego.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Prophetic-Cartoon-by-Dr.-Seuss>



Theodor Geisel

Image online, courtesy the [Washington Post](http://WashingtonPost.com) blog.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Theodor-Geisel>



THE PRICE WE PAY

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>