TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT
Lesson Title - Road to World War II
From Nina Skarvelas

Grade: 9-12

Length of class period: 45 minutes

Inquiry:
Students will be examining the various perspectives dealing with the United States' intervention in World War II. What role should the United States take in foreign affairs?

Objectives:
Students will compare and contrast isolationist and interventionist views on foreign entanglement by analyzing primary sources.

Materials:
Primary sources
- 4 Political cartoons
- Charles Lindbergh's speech

- World War II Powerpoint
- Guided analysis sheet (political cartoon analysis and questions)

Activities:

Initiation: Students will be given a writing prompt and have to write in their journals. The answers will be collected and some verbally shared with the class.

- Primary Source Analysis: Students will complete a political cartoon analysis sheet in connection to 4 Dr. Seuss cartoons and the role the United States should have in WWII.

- After the students finish the political cartoon, they will be given a speech by Charles Lindbergh, which highlights the importance of the United States maintaining its isolationist role in WWII. We will read the speech together as a class and answer the questions that follow.

- Students will follow the PPT given during class as it will act as a guide for the lesson and all the activities that the students will be completing.

Closure: Have the students identify characteristics of isolationists and interventionists verbally.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?
**Formal:** Completion of guided analysis sheet

**Informal:** Verbal discussion of characteristics

**Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:**

**Standard 2.2: History/Social Studies Literacy**
Interpret social/political messages of cartoons

**Standard 3.1: Application**
Use evidence to develop an interpretation of a historical event
Dr. Seuss Political Cartoons

Source: Dr. Seuss Goes to War: The World War II Editorial Cartoons of Theodor Seuss Geisel
"Ho hum! When he's finished pecking down that last tree he'll quite likely be tired."
He Never Knew What Hit Him
As soon as this blows over, we gotta patch up that fence!
### DR. SEUSS’ POLITICAL CARTOONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject: (What do you see?—minimum 3 things)</th>
<th>What do you think Dr. Seuss’ message is?</th>
<th>Why do you think that?</th>
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<td>Cartoon 1:</td>
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I speak tonight to those people in the United States of America who feel that the destiny of this country does not call for our involvement in European wars.

We must band together to prevent the loss of more American lives in these internal struggles of Europe. We must keep foreign propaganda from pushing our country blindly into another war. Modern war with all its consequences is too tragic and too devastating to be approached from anything but a purely American standpoint. We should never enter a war unless it is absolutely essential to the future welfare of our nation.

No one foresaw the danger ahead of us more clearly than George Washington. He solemnly warned the people of America against becoming entangled in European alliances. For over one hundred years, his advice was followed. We established the Monroe Doctrine for America. We let other nations fight among themselves. Then, in 1917, we entered a European war. This time we were on England’s side, and so were France and Russia. Friends and enemies reverse as decades pass – as political doctrines rise and fall.

The Treaty of Versailles either had to be revised as time passed, or England and France, to be successful, had to keep Germany weak by force. Neither policy was followed; Europe wavered back and forth between the two. As a result, another war has begun, a war which is likely to be far more prostrating than the last, a war which will again kill off the best youth of Europe, a war which may even lead to the end of our Western civilization.

America has little to gain in another European war. Our safety does not lie in fighting European wars. It lies in our own internal strength, in the character of the American people and of American institutions. As long as we maintain an Army, a Navy, and an Air Force worthy of the name, as long as America does not decay within, we need fear no invasion of our country.

The gift of civilized life must still be carried on. It is more important than the sympathies, the friendships, the desires, of any single generation. This is the test before America now. This is the challenge – to carry on Western civilization.
Directions: Please read Charles Lindbergh’s speech and answer the following questions in complete sentences and in your own words.

1. What position did Charles Lindbergh take in the United States’ involvement in the war?

2. What reasons did Charles Lindbergh use in defending his position?

3. Do you think he is persuasive in his argument? Why or why not?