Luce and Lindbergh

The World War II is the watershed when the United States began to formally become the world leader. Almost with the power of her only, triumphs were made by soldiers and patriots in West Europe, in North Africa and in the Pacific Ocean and reconstruct the post-war global order. However, just like what she did during the first World War, the United States did not take any military actions even when the warfare was in heat and Hitler's army was taking lots of land from Western Europe to the east, and the domestic ideology were in such a competition between supporters and opponents of involvement in the war was still too early to be called.

As part of United States' tradition of isolationism, the unwillingness of joining the European war was clearly showed by Lindbergh's *Des Moines Speech*. He started this speech with a series reflections, by which he blamed the groups with special interests for getting this nation to the status quo and furtherly questioned the necessity of joining the war. Lindbergh questioned his audience "Why are we on the verge of war? Was it necessary for us to become so deeply involved? Who is responsible for changing our national policy from one of neutrality and independence to one of entanglement in European affairs?", within the questions a sense of regret and disappointment can be felt in his mood.

Then he reiterated that "I have often said that if the true facts and issues were placed before the American people, there would be no danger of our involvement", meaning that American people who were supporting to enter the World War II were holding that opinion because of the administration's "subtlefuge" and "propaganda". He accused that the government for deceiving the fellow citizens and baiting them to sacrifice for a war that is unrelated to them. He then presented the poll that " when England and France declared war on Germany, in 1939, less than 10 percent of our population favored a similar course for America".

The more Lindbergh revealed information about who and why those people want to get Americans in the war, though sympathy was showed durig the process, the more we can see how unwilling he was and how upset he was to see the future of the United States in war.

Luce, on the other hand, was a little more complicated. Instead of calling for not joining the war, Luce directly stated that the United States, the Americans were in the war already. But it is not a war to defend US territory yet, he admitted, but it's a war to "defend and even to promote, encourage and incite so-called democratic principles". He furtherly compromised that no one can say for sure that US cannot just defend its own territory against Germany to keep itt safe, but questioned the chance of keeping the peace at home while the whole rest of world is governed by a tyrant.

Although Luce thought that the involvement in the war would be necessary, he also fairly distributed attention and sympathy for the objections. It is indeed reasonable to fear the war or feel upset about the amplification of the federal government and a president who has already got his the third term because of war emergency. However, Luce still argues that it is time to discard isolationism. It is not just for defending the political system of democracy but also to get the chance. Since the Great Britain had no chance of winning the war without America's aid, it would be a good chance for the United States to assume the global leadership. He thought that the United States should not miss the chance again like Wilson did. Instead, she should face the challenge and make 20th century an American Century.

Decades have passed, and we, as modern people with clarity of the history, definitely easily decide that Luce had a better grasp on the reality of the United States. American patriots and warriors made their sacrifice to win, and they earned their mother nation the authority that is hard to challenge by any other nations all around the world. All four visions Luce mentioned in his article were realized, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union. US Dollar became the center of the world, military bases are established on all the continents, freedom of seas is secured and human civilization has made great progress is under the leadership of the United States. Finally, Internationalism has become the mainstream idea of how the United States' foreign policy should work.