The threat of communism and fascism to the United States was a real and present danger in the 1930s and 1940s. Both ideologies sought to overturn the democratic and capitalist system that the United States had built, replacing it with a centralized, totalitarian government. Communism in particular posed a significant threat, as it had already taken root in a large part of the world, including the Soviet Union and much of Europe. The United States had to act quickly to stem the tide of these dangerous ideologies, and FDR was determined to ensure that democracy and capitalism would prevail.