

1. Whereas it appears that a state of war exists between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain, and the United Netherlands, of the one part, and France on the other; and the duty and interest of the United States require, that they should with sincerity and good faith adopt and pursue a conduct friendly and impartial toward the belligerent Powers; I have therefore thought fit by these presents to declare the disposition of the United States to observe the conduct aforesaid towards those Powers respectfully; and to exhort and warn the citizens of the United States carefully to avoid all acts and proceedings whatsoever, which may in any manner tend to contravene such disposition.

–George Washington, Proclamation of Neutrality, 1793

A) What role did Washington see for the United States in the European conflict?

2. ... Geography contributed powerfully to a policy of non-involvement. A billowing ocean moat three thousand miles wide separated but did not completely **isolate** the American people from Europe. The brilliant young Alexander Hamilton pointed out in 1787, in Number 8 of the *Federalist Papers*, that England did not have to **maintain** a large standing army because the English Channel separated her from Europe. How much better situated, he noted, was the United States. His point was well taken, for geographical separation, not isolation, made possible the partial success of a policy of **non-entanglement** during most of the 19th Century

Source: Thomas A. Bailey, *A Diplomatic History of the American People*, Prentice Hall, 1980

A) According to Thomas A. Bailey, how did geography contribute to the United States policy of non-involvement?

B) How is the U.S. compared to England in this document?

European War Narrows the Atlantic



Source: Bailey and Kennedy, *The American Pageant*, D.C. Heath and Co.

3. ... There are many among us who closed their eyes, from lack of interest or lack of knowledge; honestly and sincerely thinking that the many hundreds of miles of salt water made the American **Hemisphere** so remote that the people of North and Central and South America could go on living in the midst of their vast **resources** without reference to, or danger from, other Continents of the world.

There are some among us who were persuaded by **minority** groups that we could maintain our physical safety by retiring within our continental boundaries—the Atlantic on the east, the Pacific on the west, Canada on the north and Mexico on the south. I **illustrated** the **futility**—the impossibility—of that idea in my Message to the Congress last week. Obviously, a defense policy based on that is **merely** to invite future attack...

Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Fireside Chat, "On National Defense," May 26, 1940, FOR Library

A) Based on these documents, what is *one* way that the geographic location of the United States affected its foreign policy before World War II?

B) Which major foreign policy event is being referred to by these document?

C) How does this document connect to the previous document?

4. ... The President [Thomas Jefferson] was playing for large stakes. Louisiana [Territory] stretched from the Mississippi westward to the Rocky Mountains, and from Canada's Lake of the Woods southward to the Gulf of Mexico. If annexed, these 825,000 square miles would give the new nation access to one of the world's potentially richest trading areas. The Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Red rivers and their tributaries could act as giant funnels carrying goods into the Mississippi and then down to New Orleans. Even in the 1790s, with access to the Mississippi only from the east, the hundreds of thousands of Americans settled along the river depended on it and on the port of New Orleans for access to both world markets and imported staples for everyday living. "The Mississippi is to them everything," Secretary of State James Madison observed privately in November 1802. "It is the Hudson, the Delaware, the Potomac, and all the navigable rivers of the Atlantic formed into one stream." ...

Source: Walter LaFeber, "An Expansionist's Dilemma," *Constitution*, Fall 1993

A) According to Walter LaFeber, what were *two* benefits to the United States from acquiring the Louisiana Territory?

5. It is with pleasure that I announce to you the safe arrival of myself and party...In obedience to your orders we have penetrated the continent of North America to the Pacific Ocean...We view this passage across the continent as affording immense advantages to the fur trade...If the government will only aid, even in a very limited manner the enterprise of her citizens, I am fully convinced that we shall shortly derive the benefits of a most lucrative trade...we are anxious to proceed.

—Meriwether Lewis, excerpt from *Initial Report to the President*, 1806

A) Discuss the benefits that Lewis cites in harnessing the Louisiana Territory.

6. Napoleon offered to sell all of Louisiana, including the vast territory to the West and North of New Orleans. We were ready to agree, but I worried that I was exceeding my constitutional mandate...This treaty must, of course, be laid before both Houses. They, I presume, will see their duty to their country in ratifying and paying for it...his ward in purchasing an important adjacent territory...I did this for your good.

—Thomas Jefferson

A) What was Jefferson's concern in agreeing to the Louisiana Purchase?

7. . . Mahan had seen since 1896 both the need and the opportunity for American commercial expansion in the Pacific and into the markets of China.....The acquisition of naval coaling stations at Manila, in Guam, and at the mouth of the Yangtze he deemed entirely adequate to sustain future American commercial ambitions in China.

To be sure, he had long advocated the annexation of Hawaii, his arguments invariably [always] centering on defense of the Pacific coast, control of Oriental immigration, and the strategic implications of Japanese expansion into the Central Pacific. He had again demanded Hawaiian annexation as recently as February 1898 when Senator James H. Kyle, of South Dakota, asked him for a statement on the strategic virtues and values of the islands. He cheered in July 1898 when the United States, almost as a national-defense reflex, blinked twice, gulped, and finally swallowed whole the Hawaiian group. As he wrote in mid-August, "In the opinion of the Board, possession of these islands, which happily we now own, is militarily essential, both to our transit to Asia, and to the defense of our Pacific coast." . . .

Source: Robert Seager II, *Alfred Thayer Mahan: The Man and His Letters*, Naval Institute Press, 1977

- A) According to the author, what were the economic and military reasons for why Alfred Thayer Mahan thought control of Pacific islands was important to the development of the United States?