

## Arsenal of Democracy

The War effort on the home front.

Essential Questions:

- What was purpose President Roosevelt's speech?
- What effect did it have on the nation?



**Overview:** On December 29, 1940 President Roosevelt addresses the nation with one of his famous fireside chats, "Great Arsenal of Democracy". Almost a year later Pearl Harbor is attacked, and the United States enters World War 2. President Roosevelt even at that time is addressing the concerns of the Nazis and Imperial Japan. It called upon America to be prepared for an emergency in case the Axis powers threatened the US. Calling upon our industry to prepare for defense of the nation. When the US declared war on Japan and Germany by February 1942 America's industry had switched to war production virtually overnight.



In the upper and lower galleries of this exhibit there are multiple story boards and videos which focus on industry in the US and its valuable contributions to the war effort in keeping our armed forces supplied in Europe and the Pacific.

### Materials and Questions:

Upper Gallery Video (4 minutes), no sound. Introduce video to students to watch the video and make note of any companies that are familiar to them with what they are known for and what they produced for the war

effort. Example, Steinway Pianos made aircraft gliders.

Ask the students what new inventions were produced during the war? What famous toy was "invented"?

Lower Gallery Video (3 minutes), Students will watch the video and can open a discussion on how folks on the Homefront could also support the war effort.

Ask the students about their impression of the video, how did the narrator sound? How did the factory workers looked/dressed? Rationing came with personal sacrifice How was propaganda used to support the war effort?