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# A-level HISTORY

## The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

Paper 1K

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Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **1K**.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
    - 60 minutes on Question 01
    - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

President Franklin D Roosevelt wanted to break the isolationist mould. Although he had lost faith in the League of Nations, Roosevelt still believed that the United States should use its influence in the cause of world peace. That was not only a moral duty, he believed, but also a matter of self-interest. In 1937 he compared war to an infectious disease whose spread could only be prevented by putting the aggressors in 'quarantine' through diplomatic isolation or economic sanctions.

Practical politics, however, made it difficult to implement any such remedies. The Congress was isolationist by conviction, not wanting to involve America in another war or even to take any action entailing the risk of war. The Neutrality Act of 1935 was designed to prevent the economic entanglements of trade and loans that had helped drag America into the Great War. Roosevelt himself shared these anxieties. 'I have seen war. I hate war', he insisted in 1936. FDR was also acutely sensitive to political realities, having watched the disintegration of Wilson's policies in the confrontation with Congress in 1919. For Roosevelt, diplomacy had to be tailored to the public mood.

Adapted from David Dimbleby and David Reynolds, *An Ocean Apart*, 1988

**Extract B**

Franklin Roosevelt seemed the only pilot who could weather the rising international storm. Disillusioned voters, it is true, suspected Roosevelt of looking for opportunities abroad to disguise his domestic failures. One critic, John Haynes Holmes asked: "Is it not inevitable that the President, in good old dictatorial fashion, will take us into war to cover up the mess at home?" Unquestionably, Roosevelt saw the political advantages of persuading Americans that 'dangers within are less to be feared than dangers without'. He also appreciated the advantages of rearmament: the demand for munitions boosted business confidence. As totalitarian aggression threatened to engulf both Europe and Asia, Roosevelt's emphasis on the external menace to the United States seemed reasonable. Isolationists disagreed. At all costs, they believed, the New World should steer clear of the Old, with its monsters and demons, war-makers and war debtors, totalitarians and imperialists. As early as 1934, the President had warned that America must either prepare to meet the challenge of the rearming dictators or face 'another period of long night such as the Dark Ages'. Thus the isolationists had some justification for seeing him as an instinctive internationalist.

Adapted from Piers Brendon, *The Dark Valley: A Panorama of the 1930s*, 2000

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**Extract C**

In the 1930s American leaders returned to some of the more fundamental principles of American foreign policy, which had been compromised by intervention in Europe in 1917 and by the economic squabbles of the 1920s. They were the values expressed by Cordell Hull: 'a primary interest in peace with justice, in economic well-being with stability and conditions of order under the law'. There were principles here on which most Americans could agree; to promote them the United States should avoid 'foreign entanglements', any kind of alliance or association outside the Western hemisphere. Instead the United States should act as a moral force in the world, stimulating an open and co-operative diplomacy, encouraging peaceful change where necessary, discouraging aggression. This is what Roosevelt called 'the good neighbour policy'. It sprang from a very moral, democratic view of the world; America encouraged the weak against the strong, condemned tyranny and reproached warmongers.

Adapted from Richard Overy, *The Road to War*, 1989

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to US isolationism between the wars.

**[30 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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To what extent was the rapid westward expansion of the United States in the years 1865 to 1890 due to the influence of ideas of 'Manifest Destiny'?

**[25 marks]**

0	3
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'US involvement in the First and Second World Wars caused fundamental changes in American society between 1917 and 1945.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

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'Between 1945 and 1968 it became clear that the United States was a deeply divided nation.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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