

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SELF PRESERVATION

LESSON 11 SESSION 02

11.6 America not militaristic.

Our Government, from its inception, has opposed the idea of militarism. So determined were the colonials to prevent any possible military dominance they placed a positive check upon such control by making the constitutional provision that money for maintaining the Military Establishment could not be appropriated for a period longer than two years, thereby placing in the hands of each succeeding Congress the power to control through holding the purse strings of the Nation.

Military training is not militaristic. On the contrary, it is greatly beneficial to the youth of America. It builds men physically, morally, and intellectually, and inculcates obedience, self-control, leadership, and loyalty.

11.7 America not imperialistic.

The United States has acquired a clear title to every square inch of land which has been added to that of the original thirteen Colonies. All territory annexed to the United States since 1803 has been acquired either by treaty or purchase, except Texas and Hawaii, which were admitted to the Union by their own request. In the latter instance, however, \$200,000 was paid as compensation to Liliuokalani.

11.8 Destructive idealism.

The attempt to undermine the Nation from within is more serious than the threat of armed force from without.

An impractical and destructive idealism called internationalism is being propagated by certain foreign agitators and is being echoed and reechoed by many of the Nation's "intellectuals." Its efforts are to combat the spirit of patriotism, to destroy that spirit of nationalism without which no people can long endure. History teaches that in proportion as nations lose their sense of nationalism they become decadent. Having lost their sense of pride in the traditions of the past, their respect for national standards, their love for country, their spirit of patriotism — the end is near.

Pacifism creates a spirit of compromise with the very factors which operate to weaken the American Government. It attempts to force the Government into poses of internationalism and false altruism, destructive of the real interests of the American people.

Pacifism is baneful in its influence. It promotes distrust of country; debases the spirit of nationalism; is destructive of patriotism; undermines the policy of national defense; cooperates with destructive forces for the overthrow of national ideals and institutions.

Experience has taught us that neither the pacific dispositions of the American people nor the pacific character of their political institutions can altogether exempt them from that strife which appears beyond the ordinary lot of nations to be incident to the actual pride of the world, and the same faithful monitor demonstrates that a certain degree of preparation for war is not only indispensable to avert disasters in (he onset, but affords also the best security for the continuance of peace. — *Madison*.

11.9 Prepared leadership.

Leadership is as difficult to develop in the Army as in business. The methods that insure success in one are applicable to the other. One of the aims of military training is to produce leaders. The more competent they become the higher the position they are sure to attain. So efficient is the training received by the officers in the Regular Army that many are invited to resign and accept positions of grave responsibility in the business world. In comparative measure efficiency in leadership is also developed in enlisted men, in students of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and in trainees of the citizens' military training camps.

Business invariably gives preference to the young man who has had training in military leadership. Many industries provide their employees with 30 days' vacation on pay for the purpose of attendance at a summer training camp, knowing that they will return to their employment better equipped, better disciplined, and in every way much more valuable to themselves and their employers.

All the wars of the future will include science and machinery. Trained men will be needed to efficiently use these materials, for efficient leadership, education, skill, technique, training, and thorough discipline are as necessary as loyalty and willingness to serve.

11.10 Military policy of the United States.

The military policy of the United States is defensive, not offensive. America will go to war only in defense of the Nation, and no other nation need maintain a ship or a soldier as protection against a war of aggression instituted by the United States.

America desires no territory belonging to other peoples. She seeks only self-preservation and the privilege of self-determination in peace with all the nations of the earth.

Safety from external danger *is* the most powerful dictation of national conduct. — *Hamilton*.

The genius and character of our institutions are peaceful * * * and the power to declare war was not conferred upon Congress for the purposes of aggression or aggrandizement, but to enable the General Government to vindicate by arms, if it should become necessary, its own rights and the rights of its citizens. — *United States Supreme Court*.

11.11 The State Department.

By the means of arbitration and treaties the State Department endeavors to settle international disputes. It is only after such methods have failed that the United States enters into war to enforce or protect its principles.

America has always endeavored to maintain peaceful relations with other nations. Yet practically every generation has been compelled to take up arms either in defense of the Nation or the principles set forth in her Constitution.

The attitude of the American Government toward other nations is —

To cherish peace and free intercourse with all nations having corresponding dispositions; to maintain sincere neutrality toward belligerent nations; to prefer in all cases amicable discussion and reasonable accommodation of differences to a decision of them by an appeal to arms; to exclude foreign intrigues and foreign partialities, so degrading to all countries and so baneful to free ones. — *Madison*.