

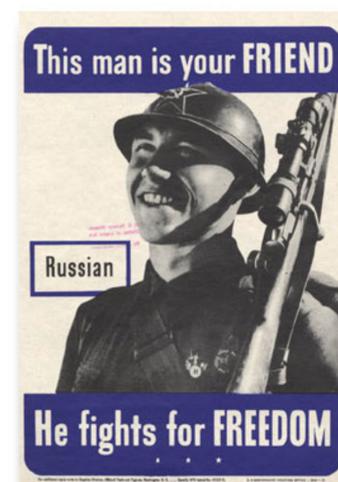


ALLIES THE WORLD WAR II ERA

The totalitarian nature of Joseph Stalin's Soviet regime, combined with the withdrawal of Russia from the World War I alliance, soured relations between the two nations. However, the 1941 invasion of Russia by Nazi Germany made them almost instant allies. The Eastern Front saw the most ferocious fighting and was the deadliest battleground of the Great Patriotic War (World War II), as Russia repelled Nazi advances.

Through its Lend-Lease program, America sent the USSR approximately \$11 billion in aid – including ammunitions, trains, trucks, aircraft, steel, tools, medical supplies, fuel, and food – by plane and Liberty ships. Millions more came from private organizations funded by the direct donations of U.S. citizens.

Although Stalin was unwilling to reveal to his own people the extent of U.S. contributions, at the 1945 Yalta Conference on post-war geopolitical issues, he acknowledged the importance of Lend-Lease as “one of Franklin Roosevelt’s most remarkable and vital achievements.”



Top left: Russian and American pilots dance at an officer's club party in Nome, Alaska, c1943. Top right: Poster, "This man is your friend -- Russian -- He fights for freedom," c1944. Middle left: Canned meat with labels in Russian is packed in Ohio, 1943 (two photos). Middle center: Lend Lease jeeps await delivery in the USSR, 1944. Middle right: Soviet aircrew with their U.S.-built Boston Havoc bomber, 1943. Bottom left: An American flyer and Soviet soldier shake hands, 1944. Bottom right: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin at Yalta, 1945.