

THE USA AND THE WORLD SINCE 1945

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GUIDELINE

THE USA : DEFENDER OF THE FREE WORLD (1945-1950s)

Source 1. *President Truman's address to opening session of United Nations Conference at San Francisco (April 25, 1945)*

The world has experienced a revival of an old faith in the everlasting moral force of justice. At no time in history has there been a more important conference, nor a more necessary meeting, than this one in San Francisco, which you are opening today.

On behalf of the American people, I extend to you a most hearty welcome. [...]

In the name of a great humanitarian – one who surely is with us today in spirit- I earnestly appeal to each and every one of you to rise above personal interests and adhere to those lofty principles which benefit all mankind.

Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his life while trying to persuade these high ideals. This Conference owes its existence, in a large part, to the vision and foresight and determination of Franklin Roosevelt. [...]

You members of this Conference are to be the architects of the better world. In your hands rest our future. By your labors at this Conference, we shall know if suffering humanity is to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Let us labor to achieve a peace which is really worthy of their great sacrifice. We must make certain, by your work here, that another war will be impossible. [...]

Source 2. Published in September 1954

