



1941

Voices for Freedom, 1941

Wendell L. Willkie

Fight for Freedom Committee

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_secondworldwar_documents



Part of the [Diplomatic History Commons](#), [Political History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Willkie, Wendell L. and Committee, Fight for Freedom, "Voices for Freedom, 1941" (1941). *World War II Era Documents, 1939-1945*. 101.

https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_secondworldwar_documents/101

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the World War II Era (1939-1945) at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in World War II Era Documents, 1939-1945 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.



VOICES FOR FREEDOM

by

WENDELL L. WILLKIE

(The following is the text of an introduction to a Fight for Freedom broadcast over the NBC Blue Network, on the eve of Independence Day, 1941. In the form of a play it told the story of those Americans who lived and died for this nation's liberties. A prominent cast including Burgess Meredith, the noted actor, participated. Mr. Willkie introduced the program.)

PEOPLE OF AMERICA: You are to hear tonight a play. It is about the most important subject in this world—the subject of human freedom. I hope you listen carefully as the actors quote the words of our most loved Americans of the past, as they speak their views on the subject of freedom. For we Americans have become a bit indifferent to this, our greatest possession, and I hope as we listen to these immortal words, we re-dedicate ourselves to the principles of human liberty; for we must do so if America is to survive against the ever-spreading menace of totalitarianism, with its cruelties and its regimentations and the loss of all those values which we hold so dear.

Some of our leaders are saying to us today that we should cry for peace. Others tell us we are in no danger. While still others would lead us to believe that our present help to England is sufficiently effective to insure the triumph of England and of our own protection.

Patriotic and sincere as the authors of these statements may be, their words are meaningless in the face of the realities of the world today. While there is no peace, there will be no peace until Nazism is crushed and destroyed; and unless we use our Navy, and at once, to insure that England receives the products of our toil and sweat, England will not and England cannot survive. And England's survival is indispensable to the preservation of our own liberty. There is no time to waste; the menace is upon us.

Both for our own selves and our posterity and for the precious heritage which we have received from these men that you have listened to tonight, we must act and we must act soon.

The day of wishful thinking is past. The moment of decision is at hand. We have it in our hands to say whether slavery or freedom shall be the common lot of mankind. I know the Americans of 1941 will not deny the precious heritage of the Americans of 1776 and of 1863 and of 1917 to '19.

Americans—I call you to action!

Additional copies may be obtained from:

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, INC.

1270 Sixth Avenue

New York City