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I Do Solemnly Swear

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Introduction

"I have seen war. I have seen war on land and sea. I have seen blood running from the wounded...I have seen the dead in the mud. I have seen cities destroyed...I have seen children starving. I have seen the agony of mothers and wives. I hate war." Franklin D. Roosevelt uttered those very words on the 14th of August 1936: About five years before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; Less than 10 years before 6 million Jews were brutalized and murdered; and 10 years later, Europe succumbs to the darkness of the Iron Curtain. During WWII, the Soviet Union, led by Joseph Stalin, was allied with Britain, France, and the United States against Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan. This alliance was built around destroying the Fascist regimes in Europe and Japanese expansionism in the Pacific. In 1945, the major fighting in the European Theater and Pacific Theater began to come to an end. The War in Europe died with Adolf Hitler and in August of 1945, Japan was defeated soon with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Soviet Union was determined to have a buffer zone between its border and Western regimes in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Albania, and eventually East Germany. The Yalta and the Potsdam Conference was the very important ending of WWII and the beginning of the Cold War. The Yalta Conference occurred from February 4th to the 11th in 1945 and was a wartime meeting of the Allied leaders, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston

Churchill, and Joseph Stalin. Yalta is now Crimea, Ukraine. The purpose of this conference was for the three Allied powers to discuss how to reorganize Europe once Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany were defeated as the Allies recognized the fall before it began. The Yalta Conference highlighted the divide between Stalin the other leaders as neither side trusted the other and Joseph Stalin resented the other two believing that they delivered the Normandy Invasion and the Allied invasion of Italy to cause the Soviet army to struggle alone against Nazi Germany. The Potsdam conference occurred from July 17th to August 2nd in 1945 and was a wartime meeting of the Allied leaders including Harry S. Truman, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin. Truman had just replaced FDR following his death. The meeting took place in the Allied part of Germany. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to handle the defeat Nazi Germany. Other goals were that the world would carry on without WWII. In the Pacific, the world wasn't over and the Allied could see the end of the war was near and that Japan would be defeated. These conferences only highlight the divide between Stalin and the other leaders. At the Potsdam conference, Truman made Stalin aware of the American atomic weapon program.

Once upon a time, there was peace and a truce to the Allied powers, but when a mass-murdering, the monster is dethroned and another wipes the blood of the crown and places themselves on the throne, war is bound to bloom. The United States isn't one to start wars but is the one to end them. This war requires the civic duty and the loyalties of America's best; they need to destroy communism, and to be American - to stand for liberty and freedom even if the cards aren't the greatest.

A Citizen's Duty

As every American citizen knows, you have loyalty, a bond to the country that has the freedoms and opportunities it does. During this challenging time as we have just barely cleansed the earth of soiled Nazis, we must continue our pact as Americans and stand against the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe. Obeying the law. Every U.S. citizen must obey federal, state, and local laws, and pay the penalties that can be incurred when a law is broken. The Espionage Act of 1917 prohibited obtaining information, recording pictures, or copying descriptions of any information relating to the national defense with intent or reason to believe that the information may be used for the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation. When it is said, "Just because you can do it, doesn't mean you *have* to." The United States has provided a chance for every citizen to be created equal, but if you want to cheat the system by being a traitor to your country, go ahead. Treason is considered a war crime in the United States and sleeping in the same bed as the enemy never ends up well for anyone involved. In time with war, there are other measures for people to perform their civic duty: The Selective Service is a federal agency within the executive branch of government that exists to readily resume a draft, if necessary, to provide the number of men needed by the armed forces in the event of war or other national emergencies. Federal law requires virtually all male U.S. citizens and male noncitizens who are ages 18 through 25 to register with the Selective Service. Men who do not register are subject to prosecution and, if convicted, may be fined up to \$250,000 and/or serve up to five years in prison. Registration for Selective Service also is required to be eligible for various federal programs and benefits, including student loans, job training, federal employment, and naturalization.

Of course, there are other ways that people aren't technically legally bound to obey, one of those ways is being informed. Citizens have the responsibility to stay informed of the issues affecting their communities, as well as national and international issues, and to be active in the civic processes. This includes being well informed about the issues and candidates before voting in an election, getting involved in a political campaign, or running for the public. In addition, the United States is a democracy, though it may seem intolerant or obnoxious at times, this is America. Everyone has the responsibility to support and protect the rights of others and to respect the differences in opinions, religions, cultures, and ethnic groups. Lastly, one must share and teach the ways of democracy: Teach and embracing democracy to the fullest extent to future generations is key in the survival of the American dream and bettering the nation's hopes. This war is never going to end with a simple peace treaty, but with a symbol of truth and honesty of what the world can be. The American dream is to have a strengthened democracy in times of despair and by having our citizens represent that dream through their military service or fulfilling their legal and voluntary duties.

Communism: The Bloody Water

There are many steps to prove one's loyalty to the country: One could serve in the military, stand up for the unspoken, and one could murder millions of innocents due to a simple, "can do" attitude. Communism allows for people to prove their loyalty by that - rule with an iron fist and on the other hand, a sharp blade. Communism is a classless, government-controlled society in which everything is shared equally. However, when someone is the leader of said government, they have control over everything - from a grain of rice to a mother of four. No one can be safe from a communist leader because they all are treated equally and equal, it means

anyone can have their children, spouse, mothers, and fathers killed in front of them and the man who ordered them to have the proper jurisdiction and receive not even a swat on the wrist. Because of this, people like Joseph Stalin were able to eliminate thousands of people, take control of dozens of countries, and be able to bring a powerful nation to its knees. Now, why would he be able to do that? Because a murderer said so.

For centuries leading up to World War I, Russia was ruled by an absolute monarchy under which the lower classes had long suffered in poverty. This tension was exacerbated by the nationwide famine and loss of human lives as a result of World War I. The first revolution began when the Russian army was sent in to control a protest led by factory workers who had recently lost their jobs. However, the army did not follow the Czar's orders and many soldiers defected and protested in solidarity with the workers. The military quickly lost control of the situation, and the Czar was forced to abdicate. Following the monarchy, an idol and respected man in the eyes of Joseph Stalin, came Vladimir Lenin. With Lenin as the leader, the Bolsheviks, ascribing to Marxism, seize power during Russia's October Revolution and become the first communist government. In January of 1924, Lenin died and his general secretary took over as the communist leader for the Soviet Union for over 30 years. Joseph Stalin led with a bloodied sword and a vicious way of ruling and in 1934, he betrayed the citizens that could barely fight against him. The Great Purge targeted political opponents, Red Army leadership, ethnic minorities, religious activists, and leaders. This communist had the right to do it because he forced his citizens to either flee and hope not to be caught, or obey his every whim and need. The Great Purge eliminated at least one million citizens in the course of two years. Communism allows for a grown man to think like a child - to believe that if he doesn't get to play with his

toys, they'll be taken away from him. Joseph Stalin was responsible for children, mothers, and fathers to be shot in the head because he simply said so.

For more than thirty years, Joseph Stalin yields his bloody scythe and enforces the communist beliefs by force and fear in countries like Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Yugoslavia, Poland, North Korea, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, China, Tibet, North Vietnam, Guinea, Cuba, Yemen, Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Burma, Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Laos, Kampuchea, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Vietnam, Somalia, Seychelles, Afghanistan, Grenada, Nicaragua, and others. Stalin was hungry for power, but he more than just infected a buffer region around Russia, but he managed to sink deathly blows to America. The murdering man of Russia was able to take some great Americans as victims to citizens trying to do right by their country. As part of one's duty to their country, they want best not just for themselves, but for their families and if that means going on strike, people are willing to do that.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 saw the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, topple the Romanov dynasty, beginning the communist party and international fear of Bolsheviks. In the U.S, labor strikes were on the rise and the press sensationalized them as being caused by immigrants bent on destroying the American way. With fear comes violence: 1919 brought anarchist bombings targeted to the law enforcement and government officials. These poisoned citizens of the United States betrayed their country without even considering that they were wrong. In addition to this, when the Communist party formed, American citizens pulled at the seams of revolution and change as they were convinced that dividing the country in yet another direction, especially regarding racial segregation, was best. During this time, the Communist party decided to dip into their pockets and fund for the Scottsboro boys defense. The Communist

ideals have been known to break countries apart by not going after the biggest and powerful but attacking the smaller, underdogs without mercy. The communist ideals have been known to seek destruction worldwide and have rarely produced nonviolent results.

This Is America

Liberty as defined by the dictionary can be defined as “the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.” The United States is the land of liberty and has been known to defend that stance during its entire existence. “The United States stands at this time at the pinnacle of world power. It is a solemn moment for American Democracy. For with primacy in power is also joined an awe-inspiring accountability to the future. If you look around you, you must feel not only the sense of duty done but also you must feel anxiety lest you fall below the level of achievement.” Winston Churchill, the prime minister of the United Kingdom, attested to our abilities in the fight against the Soviet Union. Like the United States, there have been mistakes, but we were the first to say no to the British, and then when you have the face of Britain beaming at the efforts of the United States to keep the power and peace during a time of despair, it only stonifies the amount of respect America has, even from its “motherland”.

World War I was supposed to be the Great War to end all wars. Without the United States' assistance, it would've been a hodgepodge of chaos they would've brought the world to a standstill. At the beginning of the war, the U.S was neutral, however individual citizens could see the unjust, and were sympathetic to the Allies. Americans believed that their country had a duty to end the slaughter. In early 1917, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare and a persuasive telegram to Mexico led the United States to be brought into the war. Four million

soldiers from all different backgrounds joined the war and humbled Germany. America honors its fallen soldiers with the success of winning a World War. Thirty years later, America stepped in when Germany tried to get back on its feet. After Pearl Harbor, 16 million Americans stepped into their duties and enlisted into the United States Armed Forces. With their efforts, America led the world in arms productions serving both Great Britain and the Soviet Union. For six years, America led the war to victory and brought peace and righteousness to the darkest part of the globe.

As Americans, we have proved to be prepared and willing to fight for any cause. The National Security Council is a group of Americans that has come together to prepare for the worst. NSC 68 outlines an assortment of actions from isolationism, war, or diplomatic efforts to negotiate with the Soviets. This approach has provided all options to combat this obstruction of human rights. The creators of the NSC-68 almost embraced the same political options that the Founding Fathers had creating the Declaration of Independence. The authors of NSC-68 created a plethora of opportunities and possibilities so that they would be prepared for any course of action and at the ready to stand up for the people who want the American dream. One of the options was isolationism and the authors were able to see how the Soviet Union could easily take over Eurasia and leave the United States marooned on the Western Hemisphere without any allies. Of course, peace was a major component of the creation of this file. The prospect of negotiating was always on the table and that this approach could succeed if they could capture the political and economic conditions of the free world. These authors, Americans, were not just saving the United States, but willing to save other non-Americans. These authors saw what the Founding Fathers - the first Americans - saw two hundred years prior - hope for a better, peaceful, and prospering world.

Conclusion

Too much blood has been spilled for the American legacy to fall short in another time of great need. The king of the east has to be dethroned for the sake of the world. The scythe whips too wildly and it has grown to an point that the beast cannot be tamed. America has broken the bonds of a monarchy before, there is no reason as to why America and Great Britain form a new alliance to destroy this toxic monarchy together. To survive, live, and succeed, as United States citizens, we have choices to do so; we have voices that can be heard; and we have freedom. By making a choice of denying your civic duty by enlisting in the military during times of need, you deny a child a chance of surviving a slaughterhouse. By silencing another's voice, one disrespects the American legacy. By stealing another's freedom because you don't *want* to put enough effort into serving your country, it's spitting on the legacy of the nation that gets back up again and again. This war requires the civic duty and the loyalties of America's best, to stand for democracy, and to honor America even if it's hard work. President John F. Kennedy says it best, "There is work to be done and obligations to be met—obligations to truth, to justice, and to liberty."