

Frank Kellogg

1929

Human nature does not change in a day.



Frank Kellogg's goal was simple. He wanted to outlaw war. His work for peace was the most important work of his life.

He was born in New York but grew up in Minnesota. His father was a farmer, and Frank worked on his father's farm. He went to school for only six years.

He borrowed textbooks and taught himself law, history, German and Latin while working as a **handyman**. In 1877 he passed the Minnesota state bar and became the city and country attorney.

Frank Kellogg was a successful attorney earning a great deal of money over the next twenty years. Some of his famous wealthy clients were Dale Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller. His other important friends included President Theodore Roosevelt, who also won the **Nobel Prize for Peace**.

Even though he worked for wealthy people, Kellogg was also known as a **trust-buster**. This means he wanted fairness for small businesses. He did not want large companies to have all the money. In 1904 his friend President Roosevelt asked him to continue this important work. Kellogg succeeded in creating a fair competition for all companies so that the larger ones did not have all the business.

Kellogg became a United States Senator in 1916. Because of his family farming in Minnesota he supported farming legislation. The next year, President Warren G. Harding asked Kellogg to travel as an **envoy** to the 5th Pan-American Conference. At the conference, held in Chile, representatives from the governments of all of the Americas met and discussed important issues.

In 1925 he became **Secretary of State** under President Calvin Coolidge. During his time in office there was anti-American violence in China, and Europe. Kellogg believed in settling international disputes through legal rather than military means. To try to make

1856 – 1937

- **He did not attend school but educated himself as a boy.**
- **Kellogg won the Nobel Prize for the Kellogg-Briand treaty that stated that there would be permanent friendship between France and the United States.**
- **Kellogg believed that peace among nations was possible.**

this happen he signed eighty treaties with nineteen different nations. Of these, the most important to Kellogg and the Nobel Organization was the **Kellogg-Briand Pact**.

Aristide Briand was a French foreign minister, a position similar to that of Kellogg. Briand wanted a treaty declaring permanent friendship, and **denouncing** war between France and the United States. Kellogg wanted a pact denouncing all war.

Kellogg saw the pact as a way to make war warfare **obsolete**, by creating other ways for nations to resolve their problems. He devoted a great deal of energy to persuading other countries to sign the pact, and 64 of them did. The Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in 1928 and took effect the following year.

Within months of its proclamation, the pact was broken by war in **Manchuria**. Kellogg received honors (including the Peace Prize) and honorary degrees from all over the world for his efforts to eliminate war.

In 1930, Kellogg became a judge in the Permanent Court of International Justice, but ill health his retirement in 1935. Frank Kellogg died in 1937, on the eve of his 81st birthday. In the previous month, Adolf Hitler had held a secret meeting that would lead to World War II. Kellogg's dream for peace may not have been achievable but he saw it as possible.

He said "It is not to be expected that human nature will change in a day."

Activities

Frank Kellogg

Vocabulary Terms:

1. Nobel Prize for Peace
2. Secretary of State
3. Manchuria
4. trust-buster
5. envoy
6. Kellogg-Briand Pact
7. obsolete
8. denouncing

Study Questions

1. How did Frank Kellogg's education influence his life?
2. How did Frank make up for his lack of formal education?
3. What major world conflict took place during Frank Kellogg's adult life?
4. What were Kellogg's hopes for solving problems between countries?
5. What events were taking place at the end of Frank Kellogg's life?
6. What does the final quote mean to you? What do you think Kellogg would say about conflicts in the world today such as the Iraq war?

Introductory and Extended Exercises

A. Before reading this biography, print the lyrics to the following two songs (available below), and give each student a copy of one of them:

“Don't Tread on Me” by Metallica

“Bomb the World” by Michael Franti and Spearhead

You could use others as well, but these two are clear, short, and provide alternate points of view. Ask each student to read their lyrics and respond to them in the same way (i.e. by writing lyrics of their own). Ask students to present their work. They can perform it,

simply read it, or ask you to read it for them if they are shy. After hearing various responses, ask students to discuss the two points of view behind the songs.

B. On the board, write “Frank Kellogg: Peace is Possible or Dreamer”. After reading the biography and answering the study questions, ask students to decide (aloud or to themselves) which category best describes Kellogg. For those who said “Peace is Possible” ask them to explain why they think the world hasn’t followed his lead. For those who said “Dreamer” ask them to explain how else warfare could be avoided by nations in dispute.

C. Following either of these exercises, ask students to do further research and create an essay outline on an important subject raised in the reading or subsequent discussion.

Bibliography

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Don't Tread On Me

Metallica

Liberty or death, what we so proudly hail
once you provoke her, rattling of her tail
never begins it, never, but once engaged
never surrenders, showing the fangs of rage

so don't tread on me

so be it
threaten no more
to secure peace is to prepare for war
so be it
settle the score
touch me again for the words that you'll hear evermore.

don't tread on me

love it or leave it, she with the deadly bite
quick is the blue tongue, forked as lightning strike
shining with brightness, always on surveillance
the eyes, they never close, emblem of vigilance

so don't tread on me

so be it
threaten no more
to secure peace is to prepare for war
so be it
settle the score
touch me again for the words that you'll hear evermore.

liberty or death, what we so proudly hail
once you provoke her, rattling on her tail

so be it
threaten no more
to secure peace is to prepare for war
so be it
settle the score
touch me again for the words that you'll hear evermore.

don't tread on me!

Bomb the World

Machael Franti and Spearhead

Please tell me the reason
behind the colors that you fly
love just one nation
and the whole world we divide
you say you're "sorry"
say, "there is no other choice"
but god bless the people them
who cannot raise their voice

(chorus)

we can chase down all our enemies
bring them to their knees
we can bomb the world to pieces
but we can't bomb it into peace
whoa we may even find a solution
to hunger and disease
we can bomb the world to pieces
but we can't bomb it into peace

violence brings one thing
more of the same
military madness
the smell of flesh and burning pain
so I sing out to the masses
stand up if you're still sane!
To all of us gone crazy
I sing this one refrain

(chorus)

and I sing power to the peaceful
love to the people y'all
power to the peaceful
love to the people y'all