

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

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Campaigning for a strong, credible and effective UN



The UN at war: FDR's global UN Day 1942 *Lessons for a stronger UN today*

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Respondents

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Paul Lay, Editor, *History Today*

House of Lords, Room 4a

Wednesday 30 June at 6.30pm

(Lord Judd of Portsea)

The assumption that the United Nations was established at the end of the World War II is wrong. Its formal birth was the adoption in Washington D.C. on January 1, 1942 of the *Declaration by United Nations*. From that day, twenty-six nations committed themselves to victory in war and cooperation in the ensuing peace. Recent research has uncovered thousands of wartime references to the UN, from official surrender documents to Dimitri Shostakovich's United Nations March used in the 1943 Gene Kelly movie *When Thousands Cheer*. As the war was being fought, plans for a new world were being hammered out, transforming the United Nations from a war-fighting machine to a platform for peace.

Dr. Dan Plesch is Academic Director of the Centre for International Studies & Diplomacy at the School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London. He is the leading authority on the UN's earliest years. His article 'The Free World's Great Parade' is published in the June issue of HISTORY TODAY and his book *America, Hitler and the UN* will be published in November 2010 by IB Tauris. He is organising a research programme on the wartime UN with Professor Thomas G Weiss and Sir Brian Urquhart. **Professor Chris Bellamy** is Head of the Security Studies Institute at Cranfield University and the author of the award winning book *Absolute War: Soviet Russia in the Second World War*. **Paul Lay** is Editor of HISTORY TODAY (see www.historytoday.com).

We anticipate great demand to attend this free public meeting, to end at 8.30pm. To guarantee your seat, please e-mail or mail your request to the addresses shown below. Remember to allow time to negotiate the rigorous security procedures upon entry to the Houses of Parliament.

For more information, contact us below.

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