



Dr. Seuss WWII Political Cartoon Questions

1. Who is the figure standing?
2. Who is sitting at the organ?
3. Paraphrase what the standing figure is saying.
4. What does #3 mean just in terms of the instrument shown?
5. What situation is this cartoon referring to?
6. Why are cobwebs shown on the black keys?
7. What is the message of the cartoon?
8. Using an outside resource, briefly explain Executive Order 8802.

Answers

1. Uncle Sam
2. War Industry
3. For the best sound and harmony use all of the keys on the organ.
4. Answers will vary but ought to address that a song can be played using only white keys but the best sound integrates all keys.
5. That war industries were segregated at the beginning of WWII and Dr. Seuss believed that our nation was suffering from not using all resources and manpower available.
6. Cobwebs form when something is not being used, in this case it was Black labor.
7. Answers will vary but ought to address that integrating war industries would make our nation stronger, more efficient, and make relations more harmonious.
8. From NARA: After asserting that national unity was being impaired by discrimination, the executive order declared it to be the "duty of employers and of labor organizations to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin." All federal agencies concerned with defense production were ordered to administer such programs without discrimination, and all defense contracts were to include a provision "obligating the contractor not to discriminate against any worker because of race, creed, color, or national origin." Executive Order 8802 also established the Committee on Fair Employment Practice (FEPC).