

**The 1939 NYC Bund Rally: How One Pro-Nazi Event
Ignited America's Devotion to Democracy**

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As Hitler gained momentum in the 1930s, America remained indifferent to the prospect of entering another European war, passing three Neutrality Acts in Congress between 1935 and 1937. Meanwhile, a pro-Nazi movement was growing domestically, with organizations like the German-American Bund bringing together thousands of immigrant families for convivial gatherings that also incorporated the foundations of Nazism, particularly anti-Semitism. In early 1939, a controversial "Americanization" rally in New York City created an important turning point. The German-American Bund brought 22,000 members to Madison Square Garden, complete with storm troopers in uniform, Nazi flags, and the ruthless beating of a Jewish protestor. The following day, the country began its long journey of Nazi condemnation that culminated in America's entry into World War Two. This research paper looks at over 110 newspaper and magazine articles to contribute to our understanding of how one singular event can trigger a societal change of heart.