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Sommario/riassunto	The American theater was not ignorant of the developments brought on by World War II, & actively addressed & debated timely, controversial topics for the duration of the war, including neutrality & isolationism, racism & genocide, & heroism & battle fatigue. Productions such as Watch on the Rhine (1941), The Moon is Down (1942), Tomorrow the World (1943), & A Bell for Adano (1944) encouraged public discussion of the war's impact on daily life & raised critical questions about the conflict well before other forms of popular media. American drama of the 1940s is frequently overlooked, but the plays performed during this decade provide a picture of the rich & complex experience of living in

the US during the war years. This work fills a gap in the history of theater & popular culture, showing that American society was more divided & less idealistic than previously recognized.
