MANAGING THE WAR BOOM
These graphs, tracing changes in federal spending, gross national product, and unemployment, underscore how important the war boom was to ending the Great Depression.
With the boom, came the omnipresent concern and goal that prosperity would continue at the war’s end; the economy not be allowed to sink back into depression. This meant—on both the international and domestic fronts—that American wartime planning always had one eye on the immediate demands of mobilization and one eye on the economic foundations of peace.
Indeed, the concerns of the Great Depression were quickly replaced by the fear that the economy was growing too much and too quickly. As we shall see in later discussions of consumption and labor relations, the boom creating lasting anxieties about inflation.

Sidebar 2.2 Managing the War Boom