WAR AND THE WELFARE STATE
One of FDR’s “Four Freedoms” for which the war was being fought was “freedom from want.” For some new Dealers, this seemed a commitment to more expansive policies during and after the war.
But the war pulled policy in the other direction, effectively “scrapping” social programs for the good of the war effort.
Critics on the left lamented the failure to build on the New Deal, a choice often justified by reference to the “big state” policies of Germany and Japan.
At war’s end, new social programs were confined to discrete programs for discrete populations (such as the GI Bill).