

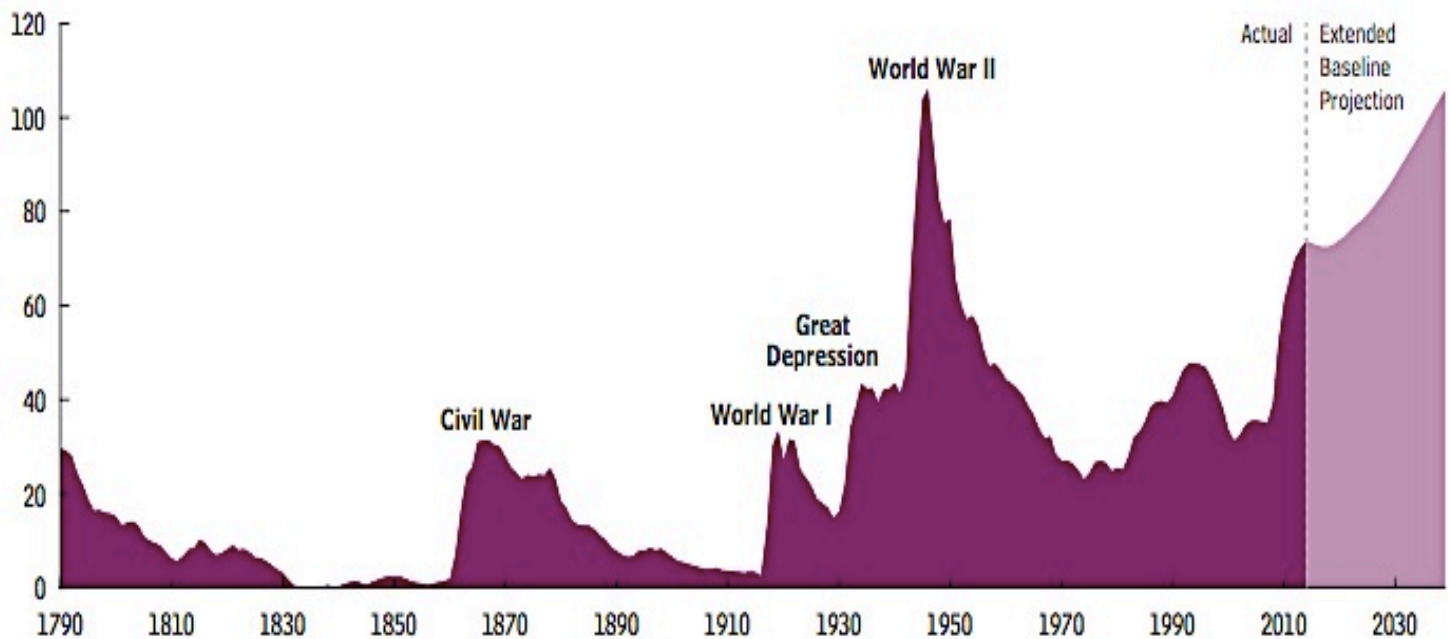
## Polling News & Notes

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**Federal Debt Climbing To World War II Levels:** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its 2014 Long Budget [Outlook](#) this week. The report provides dire warnings for the country's fiscal future, especially the federal debt. The CBO projected the debt would grow to be 74% of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of this year, almost double the decades-old average debt to GDP share (39%), last seen in 2008. The only other time in the country's history when the debt as a percentage of GDP exceeded 70% was from 1944-1950 when it rose to 106% during World War II. The CBO predicts America will see this number again when the debt increases to 106% of GDP in 2039, warning it will continue on an upward, "unsustainable" trajectory in the years that follow.

## Federal Debt Held by the Public

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



The debt increase is not due to shrinking revenues, which are projected to increase to 19.5% of GDP by 2039 from its historical average of 17.5%. Rather, the debt will be driven in large part by increases in health benefits. According to the CBO, "Federal spending for Social Security and the government's major health care programs—Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and subsidies for health insurance purchased through the exchanges created under the Affordable Care Act— would rise sharply, to a total of 14% of GDP by 2039, twice the 7% average seen over the past 40 years." This latest report is a reminder for the need for entitlement reform, repeal and replacement of ObamaCare, and policies that foster stronger economic growth.