

DBQ

Why did the United States Enter World War I?



DIRECTIONS: Read all the following **documents** and answer the **questions** in full sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Label each set of questions with the title and number of the document first. Be sure that your answers include specific outside information, details, and analysis. You may consult your class notes, homework, or textbook for help with any question. Whatever you do not finish in class you will have for homework.

U.S. Merchant Ships Attacked, Sunk, or Damaged During WW I

Look at the statistics below and answer the following questions:

1. In a war, what are casualties? What information do casualty numbers include?
2. How many U.S. ships were attacked, sunk, or damaged from May 1, 1915 to February 1, 1917?
3. How many Americans were killed on these ships?
4. What assurances did Germany make in issuing the **Arabic Pledge**? Based on the statistics, was this pledge successful in reducing the loss of life?
5. What assurances did Germany make in issuing the **Sussex Pledge**? Based on the statistics, was this pledge successful in reducing the loss of life?
6. How many U.S. ships were sunk or damaged from February 1, 1917 through April 1, 1917?
7. How many Americans were killed on these ships?
8. What explains the dramatic change in these numbers as of February 1, 1917?
9. In your own words, explain the policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.
10. How might Germany's new warfare policy affect America's neutrality in the spring of 1917?

May 1, 1915: Steamship *Gulflight*, tanker, gross 5,189 tons, torpedoed by German submarine U-30, 20 miles west of Scilly Islands, towed in, 3 killed.

May 25, 1915: Steamship *Nebraskan*, gross 4,409 tons, torpedoed by German submarine 40 miles south by west of Southcliffe, off southwest, salvaged, no casualties.

July 25, 1915: Steamship *Leelenaw*, gross 1,923 tons fired on, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine off the north coast of Scotland, no casualties.

August 4, 1915: *Pass of Balhamas*, motor vessel, gross 1,571 tons, voluntarily surrendered to a German submarine in the North Sea, no casualties.

September 1, 1915: Arabic Pledge

Germany promised to warn non-military ships thirty minutes before it sank them.

October 28, 1916: Steamship *Lenao*, gross 692 tons, bombed and sunk by a German submarine 30 miles off Cape Vincent, Portugal, no casualties.

November 7, 1916: Steamship *Columbian*, gross 8,673 tons, bombed and sunk by German submarine U-49, 50 miles northwest of Cape Ortegal, Spain, no casualties.

November 26, 1916: Steamship *Chemung*, gross 3,061 tons, torpedoed and sunk with gunfire by Austrian submarine in Mediterranean, 14 miles east of Cape de Gata, no casualties.



May 4, 1916: *Sussex* Pledge

Germany promised to ensure the safety of all passengers before sinking any merchant ships.

January 4, 1917: Steamship *Norlina*, gross 4,596 tons, damaged by torpedo fired by German submarine U-88 in Atlantic Ocean about 180 miles off the north coast of Ireland, did not sink, no casualties.

January 13, 1917: Steamship *Nyanza*, damaged by gunfire from German submarine, 1 wounded.

February 1, 1917: Germany Declares Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

February 3, 1917: Steamship *Housatonic*, gross 3,143 tons, bombed and sunk by German submarine U-53, 20 miles south of Bishops Light off Scilly Islands, Great Britain, no casualties.

February 12, 1917: *Lyman M. Law*, schooner, gross 1,300 tons, captured and sunk by German submarine U-35 in the Mediterranean about 25 miles from land near Cagliari, Sardinia, no casualties.

March 12, 1917: Steamship *Algonquin*, gross 2,832 tons, sunk with gunfire and bombs by German submarine U-62, 65 miles west of Bishops, off Scilly Islands, Great Britain, no casualties.

March 16, 1917: Steamship *Vigilancia*, gross 4,115 tons, torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-70, 145 miles west of Bishops, off Scilly Islands, Great Britain, 15 killed.

March 17, 1917: Steamship *City of Memphis*, gross 5,252 tons, sunk with gunfire by German submarine, 33 miles south of Fastnet, Ireland, no casualties.

March 18, 1917: Steamship *Illinois*, tanker, gross 5,225 tons, sunk with bombs by German submarine in the English Channel, 20 miles north of Alderney, Channel Islands, no casualties.

March 21, 1917: Steamship *Healdton*, tanker, gross 4,489 tons, torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine 25 miles north of Terschelling, Holland, 20 killed.

April 1, 1917: Steamship *Aztec*, gross 3,727 tons, torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine, off Ushant Light, Quessant Island, northwest coast of France, 28 killed.

The Zimmermann Note

In January of 1917, British intelligence intercepted a message from German foreign minister Arthur Zimmermann. After breaking the German code and deciphering the message, the British Government shared **The Zimmermann Note** with the United States, which published the text on March 1, 1917.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

GERMAN LEGATION
MEXICO CITY

via Galveston

JAN 19 1917

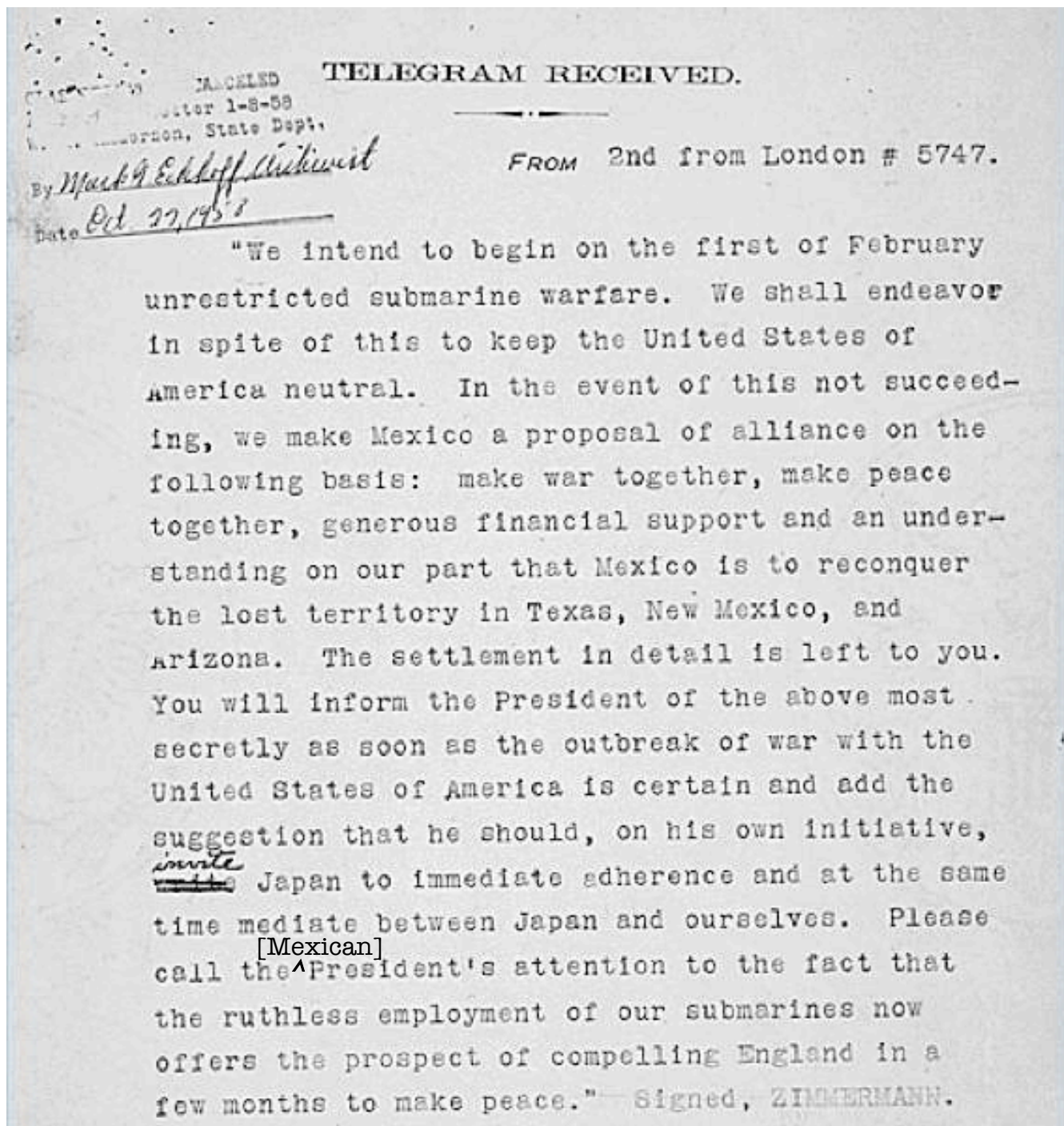
861.2012/121

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 130 | 13042 | 13401 | 8501 | 115 | 3528 | 416 | 17214 | 6491 | 11310 |
| 18147 | 18222 | 21560 | 10247 | 11518 | 23677 | 13805 | 3494 | 14936 | |
| 98692 | 5905 | 11311 | 10392 | 10371 | 0302 | 21290 | 5101 | 39695 | |
| 23571 | 17504 | 11269 | 18276 | 18101 | 0317 | 0228 | 17694 | 4473 | |
| 23284 | 22200 | 19452 | 21589 | 67893 | 5569 | 13918 | 8958 | 12137 | |
| 1333 | 4725 | 4458 | 5905 | 17166 | 13851 | 4458 | 17149 | 14471 | 6706 |
| 13850 | 12224 | 6929 | 14991 | 7382 | 15857 | 67893 | 14218 | 38477 | |
| 5870 | 17553 | 87893 | 5870 | 5454 | 16102 | 15217 | 22801 | 17138 | |
| 21001 | 17388 | 7446 | 23638 | 18222 | 6719 | 14331 | 15021 | 23845 | |
| 3156 | 23552 | 22096 | 21604 | 4797 | 9497 | 22464 | 20855 | 4377 | |
| 23610 | 18140 | 22260 | 5905 | 13347 | 20420 | 39689 | 13732 | 20667 | |
| 6929 | 5275 | 18507 | 52282 | 1340 | 22049 | 13339 | 11265 | 22295 | |
| 10439 | 14814 | 4178 | 6992 | 8784 | 7632 | 7357 | 6926 | 52282 | 11267 |
| 21160 | 21272 | 9340 | 9559 | 22464 | 15874 | 18502 | 18500 | 15857 | |
| 2188 | 5376 | 7381 | 98092 | 16127 | 13486 | 9350 | 9220 | 76036 | 14219 |
| 5144 | 2831 | 17920 | 11347 | 17142 | 11264 | 7667 | 7762 | 15099 | 9110 |
| 10482 | 97558 | 3569 | 3670 | | | | | | |

BEPNSTOPFF.

Charge German Embassy.

The Zimmermann Note



11. What nation sent the Zimmermann Note?
12. To whom was the Zimmermann Note was sent?
13. What offer does Germany make to Mexico in the event that America enters the war?
14. What is the meaning of the final sentence? Why is Germany confident it will win the war quickly?
15. How might the Zimmermann Note affect American neutrality in the spring of 1917?

Revolution in Russia, March 1917

New York Times (1857-Current file); Mar 17, 1917; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2004)

New Russian Government Asks People's Support; States Its Policy as Freedom and Suffrage for All

LONDON, March 16.—The Provisional Government in Russia has issued an appeal to the people, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd. The document begins:

"Citizens.—The Executive Committee of the Duma, with the aid and support of the garrison of the capital and its inhabitants, has succeeded in triumphing over the obnoxious forces of the old régime in such a manner that we are able to proceed to a more stable organization of the executive power, with men whose past political activity assures them the country's confidence."

The names of the members of the new Government are then given and the appeal continues:

"The new Cabinet will base its policy on the following principles:

First.—An immediate general amnesty for all political and religious offenses, including terrorist acts and military and agrarian offenses.

Second.—Liberty of speech and of the press; freedom for alliances, unions, and strikes, with the extension of these liberties to military officials within the limits admitted by military requirements.

Third.—Abolition of all social, religious, and national restrictions.

Fourth.—To proceed forthwith to the preparation and convocation of a constitutional Assembly, based on universal suffrage, which will establish a governmental régime.

Fifth.—The substitution of the police by a national militia, with chiefs to be elected and responsible to the Government.

Sixth.—Communal elections to be based on universal suffrage.

Seventh.—The troops which participated in the revolutionary movement will not be disarmed, but will remain in Petrograd.

Eighth.—While maintaining strict military discipline for troops on active service, it is desirable to abrogate for soldiers all restrictions in the enjoyment of social rights accorded other citizens.

"The Provisional Government desires to add that it has no intention to profit by the circumstances of the war to delay the realization of the measures of reform above mentioned."

16. Who lost power in the Russian Revolution in March 1917? What type of leader lost power?
17. How did President Wilson feel about Russia's form of government before the revolution?
18. Describe the principles and policies of the new government in Russia?
19. How was the new government in Russia similar to the government of the United States?
20. How would this change in Russia's government affect Woodrow Wilson's feelings towards joining the war on the side of Russia and the Allied Powers?

“The world must be made safe for democracy.”

Woodrow Wilson’s War Message, April 2, 1917

I have called the Congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made, and made immediately....

On the 3d of February last I officially laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the Imperial German Government that on and after the 1st day of February it was its purpose to put aside all restraints of law or of humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach ... the western coasts of Europe or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany.... Vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board, the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents....

Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people can not be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind....

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves ... I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States ... and that it take immediate steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense but also to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the Government of the German Empire to terms and end the war.

One of the things that has served to convince us that [the German Kaiser] could never be our friend is that from the very outset of the present war [Germany] has filled our unsuspecting communities and even our offices of government with spies That it means to stir up enemies against us at our very doors the intercepted [Zimmerman] note to the German Minister at Mexico City is eloquent evidence.

We are accepting this challenge of hostile purpose because we know that in such a government, following such methods, we can never have a friend. We are to fight for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included: for the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life. The world must be made safe for democracy.

21. Why did Woodrow Wilson feel that the United States should enter the war?
22. According to Wilson, what wrongdoing has Germany committed against the United States?
23. What were Wilson’s ultimate objectives in entering the war?
24. Do you believe that it is the responsibility of the United States to “make the world safe for democracy.”? **Why or why not?** What should be the role of the United States in protecting the rights and liberties of people around the world?