

1: Official Reasons for America's Entry into World War I

The United States enters the Great War. Wilson's most passionate desire, aside from avoiding belligerency, was to bring an end to the war through his personal mediation.

With estimates of the dead ranging from 60 to 80 million, it is unthinkable to imagine that this event was allowed to fester and erupt as it did. Many in the United States simply figured the problems of Europe would be contained to that continent. However, a new enemy brought the war to our shores. When the war began, the United States had entered a period of isolationism. However, as the situation in Europe grew increasingly dire, the United States began to slowly edge toward war. The breaking point, of course, was the sudden attack by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. However, in retrospect, the attack may not have been such a sudden and unforeseen event. Tensions between the United States and Japan had been consistently escalating for several years before the attack. While the United States was suffering through the economic meltdown of the Great Depression, Japan was fervently digging its way out of a financial crisis of its own. The Japanese decided that their best hope for survival hinged in their ability to expand militarily. In following this philosophy, the Japanese attacked and occupied the southern region of Manchuria in the fall of 1931. The purpose of this attack was to give Japan a territory rich in raw materials on the mainland. The only problem was that Manchuria was already under the control of China and was an area of strategic importance to the USSR. Japan Invades Manchuria Although the United States distrusted the USSR because of the recent communist takeover, the two nations maintained relatively sociable relations at the time. Irritated that the Japanese had moved into their backyard, the USSR began to strongly criticize the Japanese and began to posture militarily in the northern Manchuria region. The United States cautioned Japan against further aggressive actions by threatening to cut off shipments of raw materials to the nation. This was an especially risky situation for Japan, its only source of oil and metal came from the United States, while their primary source of rubber came from the British territories in Malaya. Therefore, it would seem that the nation would have to tread lightly to avoid angering the West. In a surprising act of defiance, Japan promptly separated from the League of Nations, which was the precursor to the United Nations. Tensions continued to mount in the region for several years until when Japan entered full scale military combat with the economically depressed nation of China. In the fall of 1937, Japan met with Nazi Germany and fascist-controlled Italy to create an alliance known as the Tripartite Pact. The United States responded by beginning to funnel money and equipment to the embattled Chinese. This aid, covered under the Lend-Lease Act, was a tool used by the United States to provide aid to friends and allies without having to directly become involved in conflict. This move further agitated the Japanese and began to turn an already very uneasy relationship into an outright hostile one. Although the Japanese had angered the West and isolated itself from the world, the nation continued its aggressive tactics. In line with this militaristic movement, the nation then attempted a takeover of French Indo-China. Unable to continue its hopes of regional domination without an adequate supply of natural resources, the Japanese devised an alternative plan. They would take over the oil-rich Dutch East-Indies and British Malaya, thereby giving the nation an infinite supply of natural resources. However, the Japanese knew that the United States and the West would not let this happen without a fight. The Japanese surmised that to even the odds they would have to reduce the capabilities of the U. Navy in the Pacific region. Therefore, the plot to attack Pearl Harbor was developed. The morning after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan. However, Japan had scored a tactical victory and was able to mop up what was remaining of the United States military in the Pacific, promptly taking over Guam, the Philippines, British Malaya, and many other small islands and territories in short succession. Interestingly, the United States was slow to respond to Japan militarily. Instead, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill devised a strategy to vanquish the European threat before fully concentrating on defeating Japan; this became known as the Europe First or Germany First strategy. Although Japan was a serious threat, the Allied leaders determined that they could be contained to the Pacific region; after all the Japanese were bogged down with the war in China. Therefore in a surprising twist, the United States went from being attacked by the Japanese to attacking the Axis powers in Europe in only a

matter of days. This has led some to speculate that President Roosevelt somehow orchestrated or welcomed the attack on Pearl Harbor as a way to allow the United States to slip into the war in Europe. Nazi party leader Adolf Hitler saw the United States as a weak yet overbearing nation that consistently meddled in the affairs of other nations. Hitler saw the USA as an ideological enemy, racially mixed and therefore inferior. With the threat from the USSR vanquished he would then be free to finish off Britain with little interference from the Americans. According to reports, he was utterly devastated when Germany was defeated. So much in fact, that he never fully recovered from the embarrassment. In turn, he began to blame Jews, Communism, and Western meddling for the despair that had befallen Germany. Determined to see the nation restored to her previous glory, Hitler soon joined a growing movement called the National Socialist German Workers Party or Nazi Party. The party came to see the Treaty of Versailles, the agreement that ended World War I, as responsible for the destruction of German pride and success. The treaty was designed in such a manner that Germany would be punished severely for its role in World War I, yet it should be lenient enough to allow Germany to resist the communist movement that was underway in the USSR. Under the agreement, Germany was allowed to possess no submarines, no military aircraft, and only a few naval vessels. The nation was also forbidden to once again unite with Austria, or create any more secret treaties. And to top it off, Germany had to make reparation payments to the nations that it had attacked. President Woodrow Wilson had little interest in harshly punishing Germany. Instead, he championed the aim of creating a treaty that would allow Europe to handle any future conflicts without the help of the United States. In essence, the Neutrality Acts tied the hands of the United States to help its allies by refusing to sell resources or loaning cash to any war combatants. However, the Neutrality Acts did have some shortcomings which allowed many American businesses to continue supplying resources to whomever they pleased. Nevertheless, as far as the United States government was concerned the country was to keep the sole focus on itself and remain isolationist. While the Treaty of Versailles had been developed to remain somewhat lenient, Germans saw it as anything but. Instead, it was viewed as a punishment that was meant to embarrass Germany that was sucking the lifeblood from their nation. Coal from the Saar and Upper Silesia in particular was a vital economic loss. Combined with the financial penalties linked to reparations, it seemed clear to Germany that the Allies wanted nothing else but to bankrupt her historylearningsite. The United States tried to step in and help by introducing the Young Plan in 1929. However this arrangement soured when the United States entered the Great Depression later that same year. The economic instability in the United States created a massive wave of financial collapse around the world, including Germany. In 1933, Hitler and the Nazi Party were able to take control of the German government and immediately set about undoing the Treaty of Versailles. The nation also began to rebuild prohibited military equipment such as military aircraft, tanks, naval vessels, and artillery. In 1936, the German military invaded and occupied an area called the Rhineland that had been set aside as a demilitarized zone by the Treaty of Versailles. As Hitler had predicted, none of the Allied nations responded to this flagrant breach of the treaty. Knowing that violating the Treaty of Versailles would have virtually no repercussions, Germany began swallowing up Europe through trickery, lies, and force. When Germany invaded Poland, President Roosevelt was finally able to persuade Congress to allow the exchange of war materials to our allies on a cash and carry basis only. Germany believed that this would create such a size disparity that it would be impossible for the United States to wage any type of campaign in Europe. The United States then began sending massive amounts of military equipment and financial support to both Britain and Russia, instituted a military draft, and expanded its naval boundaries. The United States also agreed to supply Britain with 50 naval destroyers in exchange for several military bases in the Atlantic and Pacific. To protect the shipments of these goods provided under the Lend-Lease Act, the United States Navy then began to escort Allied shipping convoys across the Atlantic. Hitler began to sense that President Roosevelt had been increasing naval activity in the area simply to create an incident that the United States could claim as an act of war. However, the USSR proved to be a much tougher opponent than predicted and was able to slow the Nazi advancement. This bought some time and allowed the United States and England to further fine-tune their strategy. The agreement set forth the goals for the postwar years, such as freedom of the seas, access to raw materials, global cooperation, and self-government. Indeed, the United States was well on its way to war regardless of its isolationist

attitude. In a speech given by the president at the commencement address of the University of Virginia in , he indicated that the United States would have to intervene at some point. Further driving the United States away from its isolationist policies and mindset was the recent advent of motion pictures and radio. These new technologies allowed the American people to see and hear unfolding events in distant places as they never had been able to before. Movie theaters showed the atrocities occurring in Europe and Asia to the masses and radio described the harrowing events in detail. Even before the United States entered the war, the American people began to dislike Hitler and there was a growing sentiment that he had to be stopped. Although the American people and Roosevelt were beginning to sense an inevitable intervention, the president knew that he would not be able to convince Congress to declare war until the events directly affected the United States. After all, Congress had only recently allowed for the enactment of the Lend-Lease Act. It was also the same Congress that had sat idly by and let the world descend into chaos. Therefore, convincing them to take action was going to be an uphill battle to say the least. An interesting side-note, there was still one Congress member that voted against America entering the war. Nevertheless, the remaining members of Congress relented and finally allowed for an American intervention in the war.

2: United States - The United States enters the Great War | www.enganchecubano.com

A war that involves the complete mobilization of resources and people, affecting the lives of all citizens in the warring countries, even those remote from the battlefields.

The considerable investment of Southern Founders in slave-based staple agriculture, combined with their deep-seated racial prejudice, posed additional obstacles to emancipation. In his initial draft of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson condemned the injustice of the slave trade and, by implication, slavery, but he also blamed the presence of enslaved Africans in North America on avaricious British colonial policies. Jefferson thus acknowledged that slavery violated the natural rights of the enslaved, while at the same time he absolved Americans of any responsibility for owning slaves themselves. Nevertheless, the Founders, with the exception of those from South Carolina and Georgia, exhibited considerable aversion to slavery during the era of the Articles of Confederation 1781-1789 by prohibiting the importation of foreign slaves to individual states and lending their support to a proposal by Jefferson to ban slavery in the Northwest Territory. Such antislavery policies, however, only went so far. The prohibition of foreign slave imports, by limiting the foreign supply, conveniently served the interests of Virginia and Maryland slaveholders, who could then sell their own surplus slaves southward and westward at higher prices. Furthermore, the ban on slavery in the Northwest tacitly legitimated the expansion of slavery in the Southwest. Despite initial disagreements over slavery at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, the Founders once again demonstrated their commitment to maintaining the unity of the new United States by resolving to diffuse sectional tensions over slavery. To this end the Founders drafted a series of constitutional clauses acknowledging deep-seated regional differences over slavery while requiring all sections of the new country to make compromises as well. But they also used this same ratio to determine the federal tax contribution required of each state, thus increasing the direct federal tax burden of slaveholding states. Georgians and South Carolinians won a moratorium until 1808 on any congressional ban against the importation of slaves, but in the meantime individual states remained free to prohibit slave imports if they so wished. Southerners also obtained the inclusion of a fugitive slave clause see Fugitive Slave Acts designed to encourage the return of runaway slaves who sought refuge in free states, but the Constitution left enforcement of this clause to the cooperation of the states rather than to the coercion of Congress. Although the Founders, consistent with their beliefs in limited government, opposed granting the new federal government significant authority over slavery, several individual Northern Founders promoted antislavery causes at the state level. Benjamin Franklin in Pennsylvania, as well as John Jay and Alexander Hamilton in New York, served as officers in their respective state antislavery societies. The prestige they lent to these organizations ultimately contributed to the gradual abolition of slavery in each of the Northern states. Although slavery was legal in every Northern state at the beginning of the American Revolution, its economic impact was marginal. As a result, Northern Founders were freer to explore the libertarian dimensions of Revolutionary ideology. The experience of Franklin was in many ways typical of the evolving attitudes of Northern Founders toward slavery. Although enmeshed in the slave system for much of his life, Franklin eventually came to believe that slavery ought to be abolished gradually and legally. Franklin himself had owned slaves, run ads in his *Pennsylvania Gazette* to secure the return of fugitive slaves, and defended the honour of slaveholding revolutionaries. By 1780, however, Franklin had divested himself of slaves, and shortly thereafter he became the president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. He also went further than most of his contemporaries by signing a petition to the First Federal Congress in 1789 for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade. Jay was the son of one of the largest slaveholders in New York and, like Franklin, a slaveholder himself, though he claimed his ownership was a means to a beneficial end: Furthermore, while a few Northern and Southern Founders manumitted a small number of slaves, no Southern plantation-owning Founder, except George Washington, freed a sizeable body of enslaved labourers. Because his own slaves shared familial attachments with the dower slaves of his wife, Martha Custis Washington, he sought to convince her heirs to forego their inheritance rights in favour of a collective manumission so as to ensure that entire families, not just individual family members, might be freed. Washington failed to win the consent of the Custis heirs, but

he nevertheless made sure, through his last will and testament, that his own slaves would enjoy the benefit of freedom. Jefferson, however, explicitly rejected this vision. He acknowledged that slavery violated the natural rights of slaves and that conflicts over slavery might one day lead to the dissolution of the union, but he also believed that, given alleged innate racial differences and deeply held prejudices, emancipation would inevitably degrade the character of the republic and unleash violent civil strife between blacks and whites. His proposals won considerable support in the North, where racial prejudice was on the rise, but such schemes found little support among the majority of Southern slaveholders. When the last remaining Founders died in the 1790s, they left behind an ambiguous legacy with regard to slavery. They had succeeded in gradually abolishing slavery in the Northern states and Northwestern territories but permitted its rapid expansion in the South and Southwest. Although they eventually enacted a federal ban on the importation of foreign slaves in 1808, the enslaved population continued to expand through natural reproduction, while the growing internal domestic slave trade led to an increase in the tragic breakup of enslaved families.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Section The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; [and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies]. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.

Section Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Section The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

Section All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days Sundays excepted after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Section The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person. And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

2 Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct,

a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President. Section He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make. Section Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof. Section The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive when the Legislature cannot be convened against domestic Violence. Article VI 1 All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

3: Reasons for American Entry Into WWII | Owlcation

When World War I erupted in , President Woodrow Wilson pledged neutrality for the United States, a position that the vast majority of Americans favored. Britain, however, was one of America.

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Versailles Treaty With their armies reeling under the weight of a combined Allied and American assault, the Germans appealed to Wilson in October for an armistice based on the Fourteen Points and other presidential pronouncements. The Allies agreed to conclude peace on this basis, except that the British entered a reservation about freedom of the seas, and Wilson agreed to an Anglo-French demand that the Germans be required to make reparation for damages to civilian property. Wilson led the U. He fought heroically for his Fourteen Points against the Allied leaders—David Lloyd George of Britain, Georges Clemenceau of France, and Vittorio Orlando of Italy—who, under heavy pressure from their own constituencies, were determined to divide the territories of the vanquished and make Germany pay the full cost of the war. Wilson made a number of compromises that violated the spirit if not the letter of the Fourteen Points, including the imposition of an indefinitely large reparations bill upon Germany. Moreover, the Allies had intervened in the Russian Civil War against the dominant revolutionary socialist faction, the Bolsheviks, and Wilson had halfheartedly cooperated with the Allies by dispatching small numbers of troops to northern Russia, to protect military supplies against the advancing Germans, and to Siberia, mainly to keep an eye on the Japanese, who had sent a large force there. But Wilson won many more of his Fourteen Points than he lost; his greatest victories were to prevent the dismemberment of Germany in the west and further intervention in Russia and, most important, to obtain the incorporation of the Covenant of the League of Nations into the Versailles Treaty. He was confident that the League, under American leadership, would soon rectify the injustices of the treaty. National Archives, Washington, D. The fight over the treaty and the election of Public opinion in the United States seemed strongly in favour of quick ratification of the Versailles Treaty when the president presented that document to the Senate in July. Traditional isolationist sentiment was beginning to revive, however, and a small minority of 16 senators, irreconcilably opposed to U. In addition, a crucial controversy developed between the president and a majority of the Republican senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts. Lodge insisted upon adding 14 reservations to the treaty. The second reservation declared that the United States assumed no obligations under Article X of the Covenant, which guaranteed the integrity and independence of members of the League; moreover it said that the president could not use the armed forces to support the Covenant without the explicit consent of Congress. He suffered a breakdown at the end of his tour and a serious stroke on October 2. The result was failure to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority for ratification, with or without reservations, when the Senate voted on November 19, , and again on March 19, . The Democratic candidate, James M. Cox of Ohio, fought hard to make it the leading issue, but the Republican candidate, Warren G. Harding swamped Cox see U. In his inaugural Harding announced that the United States would not be entangled in European affairs; he emphasized this determination by concluding a separate peace with Germany in . President Woodrow Wilson leaving his home in , his health broken. Race riots and labour unrest added to the tension. Thus, when a series of strikes and indiscriminate bombings began in , the unrelated incidents were all assumed—incorrectly in most cases—to be communist-inspired. During the ensuing Red Scare, civil liberties were sometimes grossly violated and many innocent aliens were deported. The Red Scare was over within a year, but a general distrust of foreigners, liberal reform movements, and organized labour remained throughout the s. In fact, many viewed Warren G. Peace and prosperity were what people desired, and these would be achieved under Harding. LC-USZ As part of his policy of returning America to prewar conditions, Harding pardoned many individuals who had been convicted of antiwar activities or for being radicals. His main concern, however, was business. Reversing progressive and wartime trends, the Harding administration strove to establish probusiness policies. Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty obtained injunctions against striking workers. The Supreme Court sided with management in disputes over unions, minimum wage laws, child labour, and other issues. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover expanded the size of his department fourfold during the next eight years in attempts to foster business growth and efficiency and to encourage trade associations and business—labour cooperation. Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. LC-USZ In foreign affairs the Harding administration tried to ensure peace by urging disarmament, and at the Washington Naval Conference in Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes negotiated the first effective arms-reduction agreement in history. On the whole, however, the policies of the United States were narrow and nationalistic. It did not cooperate with the League

of Nations. It insisted that Europeans pay their American debts but in passed the Fordneyâ€”McCumber Tariff , which raised duties so high that foreigners had great difficulty earning the necessary dollars. When immigration reached prewar levels some , people entered the country between June and June , Congress gave in to the protests of organized labour, which believed immigrants were taking jobs away from American citizens, and to the objections of business leaders and patriotic organizations, who feared that some of the immigrants might be radicals. Reversing traditional American policy, Congress passed first an emergency restriction bill and then in the National Origins Act. The act set a quota limiting the number of immigrants to , annually , after July 1, ; it discriminated against immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and barred Asians completely. The quota did not pertain to North Americans, however. His sudden death, of a cerebral embolism, in the summer of resulted in a national outpouring of grief. Yet it soon became evident that his administration had been the most corrupt since Ulysses S. Harding had appointed venal mediocrities, many of them old cronies, to office, and they had betrayed his trust. The most publicized scandal was the illegal leasing of naval oil reserves at Teapot Dome , Wyoming , which led to the conviction of Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall for accepting a bribe. His administration suffered none of the stigma of the Harding scandals, and Coolidge, thanks to a buoyant economy and a divided Democratic Party, easily defeated the conservative Democrat John W. Davis in the election of Even though an independent campaign by Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin drew off insurgent Republicans, Coolidge received more popular, and electoral, votes than his opponents combined. Coolidge, CalvinCalvin Coolidge taking the oath of office as U. From to , stock dividends rose by percent, corporate profits by 76 percent, and wages by 33 percent. In , 4,, passenger cars were sold by American factories, one for every 27 members of the population, a record that was not broken until Because of improvements in technology, overall labour costs declined by nearly 10 percent, even though the wages of individual workers rose. The prosperity was not solidly based, however. The wealthy benefited most, and agriculture and several industries, such as textiles and bituminous coal mining, were seriously depressed; after construction declined. New social trends For millions of Americans, the sober-minded Coolidge was a more appropriate symbol for the era than the journalistic terms Jazz Age or Roaring Twenties. These terms were exaggerations, but they did have some basis in fact. Many young men and women who had been disillusioned by their experiences in World War I rebelled against what they viewed as unsuccessful, outmoded prewar conventions and attitudes. Women who had been forced to work outside the home because of labour shortages during the war were unwilling to give up their social and economic independence after the war had ended. She adopted a masculine look, bobbing her hair and abandoning corsets; she drank and smoked in public; and she was more open about sex. Social changes were not limited to the young. Productivity gains brought most Americans up to at least a modest level of comfort. People were working fewer hours a week and earning more money than ever before. New consumer goodsâ€”radios, telephones, refrigerators, and above all the motor carâ€”made life better, and they were easier to buy thanks to a vastly expanded consumer credit system. Leisure activities became more important, professional sports boomed, and the rapid growth of tabloid newspapers, magazines, movies, and radios enabled millions to share in the exciting world of speakeasies, flappers, and jazz music, even if only vicariously. During the early s the Klan achieved a membership of some 5,, and gained control of, or influence over, many city and state governments. Rural areas also provided the base for a Christian fundamentalist movement, as farmers and small-town dwellers who felt threatened and alienated by the rapidly expanding, socially changing cities fought to preserve American moral standards by stressing religious orthodoxy. The movement grew steadily until , when John T. Scopes , a biology teacher in Dayton , Tennessee , was tried for violating a law common to many Southern states prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution.

4: United States in World War I - Wikipedia

Historical Map of North America & the Caribbean (6 April) - United States Enters the Great War: While the US was embroiled in Latin America, the Great War had erupted across Europe, pitting the German-led Central Powers against France, Britain and Russia and their allies.

Germany had used submarines, or U-boats to attack ships carrying food or war supplies to the Allied Powers, to demoralize the soldiers, and unearthed a crack in the structure of the Great Powers, and give them a opportunity to counter-attack them, giving them the edge in battle. In the midst, in one of their attacks, they sank a British ship called Lusitania, which had American passengers and of them lost their lives during the naval strike. This prove to be a blow to USA, and a threat to national security, and many Americans, urged their government to join the war against Germany in retaliation against the horrible carnage. When Wilson ran for re-election in , his campaign slogan was "He kept us out of the war" referring to the European conflict that was then referred to as the "Great War. Americans felt a connection to Great Britain, in particular, because of cultural similarities. Germany angered Americans with their U-boats sinking American ships suspected of aiding the Allies. With the sinking of the Lusitania in , a British cruise ship, Americans were among those who lost their lives. The Germans temporarily halted such actions but in resumed unrestricted Naval warfare. At the same time, the British intercepted a message, called the Zimmerman Note, asking the government of Mexico to declare war on the U. This note was the final push that Wilson needed to turn public sentiment towards war. Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, The issue of sinking ships from U. Port Newspapers this concern, and the intentions of the German Navy to sink such ships. The threat to the safety-sovereignty of 3 to 5 U. In January , Germany announced that it would lift all restrictions on submarine warfare starting on February 1. This declaration meant that German U-boat commanders were suddenly authorized to sink all ships that they believed to be providing aid of any sort to the Allies. Because the primary goal was to starve Britain into surrendering, the German effort would focus largely on ships crossing the Atlantic from the United States and Canada. The first victim of this new policy was the American cargo ship Housatonic, which a German U-boat sank on February 3, Although Wilson tried hard to keep the United States neutral, by the spring of , the situation had changed significantly, and neutrality no longer seemed feasible. Finally, on April 2, Wilson appeared before Congress and requested a declaration of war. Congress responded within days, officially declaring war on Germany on April 6, But the answers above are all of better quality. No they entered because of a telogram that had been messed with from Germany, them finding out the some if the countries in Europe had tried to turn Mexico and Canda agenst them, and the sinking of a ship from U-Boats that Germany had made that killed several American people on it. The US of A only wanted to preserve its freedom. Most of its friends in Europe the Allies are in war with the Central Powers. For the lives that German people killed. In a letter to Colonel Edward Mandell House, FDR wrote, "The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the larger centers has owned the government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson, and I am not wholly excepting the administration of W. The German U-boat ring sought to sink all supply ships headed for Britain in order to starve the island. It sank the Lusitania as part of its efforts. German submarine warfare the Lusitania is included in this sunk many ships over several years. Had it not been for the Lusitania, the US would have stayed out of the War. S had evidence of a threat to its national security. Woodrow Wilson felt it his duty to try and protect America Every war America has ever been involved in to this day has been a conspiracy. He then proceeded to ask for athority to arm merchant ships carrying munitions and other contraband to "allies" Many Americans protested Back then, just like now, a corrupt U. Presdient and many members of the Senate wanted war, after all, there was a depression increasing and war would "bring prosperity". We are now still holding on to such false bravado. Long b4 the actual conscription, the machinery for this operation had been built in secret. War does not "serve our country", and those women and men being used as pawns for MIC profit are not "serving our nation". We can only save our country by the polulace waking up and protesting against our foreign policy. This is a subject that my fifth graders research each year. The sinking of the Lusitania by a German U-ship has been

considered the main reason, the last straw. The Lusitania was a British ship carrying over passengers. When it was torpedoed by the German sub a total of people were killed of which were Americans. Propaganda was also another reason. Newspapers and news reels depicted Germans as barbaric and vicious people. This helped fuel the fire for the United States to have a negative attitude about Germans and their supporters. Like all wars, this war cost money. It was important to the US that they win the war in order to be able to reimburse the US. The United States and these countries had established a positive relationship with each other even before the war. Germany sunk passenger liner Lusitania in and killed many American civilians. This angered the USA. This threatened the security of shipping which involved neutral states, such as USA. The plan was divulged. The US government was furious and decided to join the war. The boat was the Lusitania, which was sunk by German U-boats. This angered the Americans, but that was not what led them into the war. The true reason why they got into the war was because of the British intercepting a telegram that was going to the government of Mexico from the Germans. The man who sent this telegram was a man by the name of Arthur Zimmerman. The note specifically said that Mexico could declare war on America to get the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. But that would only happen if US goes into war with Germany. That was all that it took for America to get in there and fight. The US government declared to go into battle on April 6, America believed in freedom and they wanted Britain to have that as well. Also another reason was the Zimmerman telegram saying that Mexico was in ties with Germany and that they were going to attack America. They destroyed American Submarines. There were Americans on board the ship. Britain intercepted a telegraph called the Zimmerman Telegraph which urged the government of Mexico to attack the United States. This was a war resulting from nationalism, imperialism, and militarism. The Lusitania was sunk through Submarine Warfare. Along the east coast of the United States, there were several unauthorized German vessels and this caused another submarine warfare. Some say that the Propaganda really caused President Wilson to go through with the United States entrance within the war. Zimmerman Telegraph pushed the Americans because of the surprised alliance between Germany and Mexico. The sinking of the Lusitania and a few other American cargo ship by unauthorized German submarines called U-boats or u-boats The Zimmerman Telegram was a telegram sent by German officials to the Mexican government basically telling the Mexican government help aid them on their major sneak attack on the United States. This two reasons caused a big feeling of nationalism among the American people and lifted the Isolationist feeling the people once felt. Along the East coast there was unauthorized German submarines and warfare, Also, when Lusitania sank that created a huge issue and was probably the main reason for war. The ship included almost people dying and there was about Americans who did in that ship. But, the German challenged to American Neutrality. Germany launched a campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare. In , the German foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmerman, sent a secret telegram to the German minister in Mexico. The telegram asked Mexico to join a military alliance against U. The Germans promised to help Mexico regain their territories that they lost. He accused the Germans of violating freedom of seas and interfering with Mexico. In addition to the answer above: Effectively it was if A hits B, then C who is an ally of B must step in and help. Then D who is in an ally of A has to assist in fighting both B and C, etc. Thus, the offended Americans declared war on first Germany and then the other Axis powers. I hope it helps you!! The official stance of the United States at the time was the policy of neutrality, in which the United States aimed to avoid taking a side in the conflict. The policy of neutrality, however, became more difficult to maintain as the war progressed. Through this policy, German submarines had the freedom to attack ships that were believed to be providing supplies to any of the allied powers. Unrestricted Submarine Warfare would eventually lead to German submarines sinking ships coming from the United States to Britain. The sinking of the Lusitania led to the deaths of 1, passengers, including American citizens. The sinking of the Lusitania did not, however, lead to the direct involvement of the U. The sinking of the Lusitania did lead to a shift in public opinion in the United States to a stronger anti-German view. The German government also halted the policy of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare until it was renewed in The renewal of Unrestricted Submarine War was one of the major factors leading to U. The message proposed that Germany would help Mexico gain territory in the United States in return for assisting Germany in the war.

5: America enters World War I - HISTORY

Many Americans were not in favor of the U.S. entering the war and wanted to remain neutral. However, the U.S. eventually did enter the war. Do you know how the war began and why the U.S. became a part of it?

For more information, please see the full notice. On April 4, 1917, the U. Senate voted in support of the measure to declare war on Germany. The House concurred two days later. Following the sinking of an unarmed French boat, the Sussex, in the English Channel in March 1917, Wilson threatened to sever diplomatic relations with Germany unless the German Government refrained from attacking all passenger ships and allowed the crews of enemy merchant vessels to abandon their ships prior to any attack. During a wartime conference that month, representatives from the German Navy convinced the military leadership and Kaiser Wilhelm II that a resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare could help defeat Great Britain within five months. Germany also believed that the United States had jeopardized its neutrality by acquiescing to the Allied blockade of Germany. German Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg protested this decision, believing that resuming submarine warfare would draw the United States into the war on behalf of the Allies. This, he argued, would lead to the defeat of Germany. Despite these warnings, the German Government decided to resume unrestricted submarine attacks on all Allied and neutral shipping within prescribed war zones, reckoning that German submarines would end the war long before the first U. German Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg Stunned by the news, President Wilson went before Congress on February 3 to announce that he had severed diplomatic relations with Germany. However, he refrained from asking for a declaration of war because he doubted that the U. Wilson left open the possibility of negotiating with Germany if its submarines refrained from attacking U. Nevertheless, throughout February and March 1917, German submarines targeted and sank several U. On February 26, Wilson asked Congress for the authority to arm U. While the measure would probably have passed in a vote, several anti-war Senators led a successful filibuster that consumed the remainder of the congressional session. As a result of this setback, President Wilson decided to arm U. In return for this assistance, Germany asked for Mexican support in the war. The British finally forwarded the intercepted telegram to President Wilson on February 25. Despite the shocking news of the Zimmermann Telegram, Wilson still hesitated asking for a declaration of war. He waited until March 20 before convening a Cabinet meeting to broach the matter—almost a month after he had first seen the telegram. However, by March 26, 1917, the continued submarine attacks on U. Furthermore, international law stipulated that the placing of U. Finally, the Germans, by their actions, had demonstrated that they had no interest in seeking a peaceful end to the conflict.

6: America Enters World War I - www.enganchecubano.com

The United States entered World War 1 two days after the U.S. Senate voted to declare war against Germany. The declaration was approved by a vote of 50 by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congress re-assembles next week, and war with Germany, long averted in the face of repeated provocation, is likely to be declared. President Wilson had already severed diplomatic ties with Germany months earlier. Though the declaration was not unexpected, it brought with it a sense of urgency. Phillips Exeter Academy had already come face to face with the grim reality of modern warfare. During the ensuing months, people would be encouraged to conserve foodstuffs, but rationing was never introduced. The real problem was unanticipated " coal shortages in the winter of would force many people in town to turn to firewood. In the two years following the war, chimney fires spiked in town as the lingering creosote unexpectedly caught flame. Loyalty became a simmering unspoken concern, particularly since the Chief of Police reminded all resident aliens to register and surrender firearms and weapons. Signed, Edward Rohr, Friedrich W. But memories of the Vanceboro, Maine bridge bombing haunted many people. Croix, Quebec, could not be used to ship arms. It became a target when Maine transported carloads of potatoes to feed the Canadian and British armies. There being no quarters conveniently near the bridge across Exeter River, the four soldiers assigned to that post did not go on duty until yesterday, a building for their occupancy having meanwhile been erected. The Red Cross, only newly organized in town, began a sewing committee to make hospital garments and bandages. Knitters were recruited " never underestimate the power and need for knitters. Will anyone willing to knit for our own sailors please communicate with Miss Grouard, 12 Lincoln Street. The early months of the war were thus occupied with organization and a shifting of the isolationist mindset that most Americans had harbored. The shift happened quickly. Within a day of the declaration, the Exeter News-Letter published this: Loyalty to the country is plainly shown by the display of stars and stripes in the stitching room of Gale Brothers. Between 75 and flags of all sizes are suspended from every conceivable place. The effect is indeed inspiring. Norman McDougal, the forewoman, and nearly if not all of her employees, regardless of nationality, stand ready to uphold the principles which our flag represents. Mothers, wives, sweethearts and sisters with tear dimmed eyes and aching hearts will, if they must, bid the men and boys God speed at the sound of the bugle call. Barbara Rimkunas is curator of the Exeter Historical Society. Her column appears every other Friday and she may be reached at info@exeterhistory.com.

7: SparkNotes: World War I (â€™): The United States Enters the War

Years Ago, the United States Enters World War I. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself.

There are class notes, numerous Supreme Court case summaries and information on how to write a research paper inside. The industrial era had many effects, not the least of which was plunging the world into world war. One must consider the relationship between eras and events as a student of history. The industrial era created a perceived need in America for raw materials and markets for goods. The United States was not alone in this desire for expansion. All the industrial nations were in open competition to develop vast empires that would provide them with the fuel to run the factories of industrialism. This imperialist competition led to tension and the creation of vast armies. The willingness to use these armies was known as militarism. In order to feel safe there was a pretty fair degree of paranoia as you can imagine nations began to sign secret treaties forming alliances and Europe was divided into an armed camp. Tension was high, the subjugation taking over of other nations led to feelings of nationalism that would eventually light the spark that would explode Europe into the flames of conflict. The causes of World War One as discussed above can be summarized by the following acronym as a mnemonic device: European nations signed secret treaties that created a system of alliances pitting nation versus nation. There were intense feelings of nationalism on the part of subjugated nationalities. These feelings would eventually lead to rash acts. Competition to develop vast empires caused tension and conflict. Nations built huge armies to defend themselves and help to gain these empires. It was a natural feeling for them to want to use these militaries. There was no international organization to help them deal with their problems. Just look at the system they set up These were the conditions facing Europe as a crisis emerged in the Balkans. The Archduke of Austria Hungary, a traditional power, was touring the nation of Serbia. Meanwhile Bosnian nationalists desiring freedom from Serbia plotted to assassinate the Archduke. Gabriel Principe, a member of the Black Hand, the aforementioned Bosnian nationalist group, shot and killed Franz Ferdinand on June 28th Austria Hungary blamed the Serbian government for the assassination of the Archduke and issued an ultimatum demands. The Serbians agreed to all but two of the demands, one of which was the placement of Austro Hungarian troops within Serbia. The Serbians appealed to Russia for support and Russia as the "protector of the Slavs" agreed to support Serbia. Meanwhile the Austro Hungarians still wanting revenge and fearing Russia secured the support of their traditional ally, Germany. In a famous decision Germany issued what has become know as "Carte Blanche," of blank check, to Austria Hungary. This unqualified military support from Germany made Austria Hungary rather confident that Russia would not attack. At this point the Austro Hungarians declared war on Serbia. In response to the declaration of war Russia mobilized her military forces. Perhaps it was a bit of saber rattling, perhaps not. Regardless Germany demanded Russia demobilize its army. When Russia refused Germany attacked Russia. The effect of the war on the Russian front were devastating. The Russians were ill prepared for war and lost millions of men. In the end the Czars refusal to exit the war cost him his throne as the Bolsheviks Communists revolted in overthrowing Czar Nicholas II. When the Russians were attacked by Germany, France was obligated to declare war on Germany as a result of a treaty she had signed with Russia. The Germans attacked France by marching through Belgium. The Belgians who did not give Germany permission to do this now were in a state of war with Germany as well. The most important byproduct of this was the fact that England had a treaty with Belgium! Now England was obligated to declare war on Germany as well. Italy, which had a treaty with Germany switched sides so that she might gain territory from Austria Hungary A gamble that more or less worked and the Ottoman Empire entered the war on behalf to the Austro Hungarians they wanted to gain territory from the Russians and gain control in the Balkan region. Now most of Europe was engulfed in war. The conflict which was long and bloody was marked by trench warfare and the use of chemical weapons. It was fought mostly in French territory. At the conclusion of hostilities Germany was still in French territory but it was relatively clear that the combined industrial might of the Triple Entente would prevail. In actuality the influence of the United States is questionable. Germany hoped to negotiate a favorable treaty but as we shall

see this was not to be the case. The Treaty of Versailles was signed ending the war and blaming Germany for the entire conflict. This blame and the consequent punishment set the stage for years of resentment and another world war, something American President Woodrow Wilson had hoped to avoid. So, what did all this have to do with America and why did we enter World War One? Most Americans favored staying out of the conflict and President Wilson publicly and formally stated that the United States would follow a policy of neutrality. In three short years, however, the United States would find itself in the middle of what later became known as the first World War. As the war in Europe raged on America sympathies were clearly on the side of the allies. American propaganda posters urged citizens to buy war bonds and support the allies. The Kaiser and Germans were painted as the aggressors in the war. True or not Americans came to see Germany as vicious and blood thirsty. The poster below was used by the US Army in to recruit soldiers. Notice how the Germans are pictured? This is a clear example of anti German propaganda. When the war began England enforced a naval blockade of Germany in the hopes of cutting off supplies. Germany responded by unleashing the U Boats. U Boats were submarines capable of staying submerged for long periods of time. They would sneak up upon their victims, often at night, and torpedo them. The Germans did not limit their attacks to military vessels. Any ship sailing in the war zone was considered an enemy. This became known as unrestricted submarine warfare. On May 7th the British cruise ship Lusitania was sunk off the coast of England. Over 1,000 passengers including Americans were killed. America was furious at the brutality and demanded a stop to this type of attack. In 1915, after the sinking of the passenger liner Sussex, Germany agreed to end unrestricted submarine warfare in the "Sussex pledge. America shared a cultural bond with England and France. Woodrow Wilson began to actively campaign for Americans to support the allies. Besides being culturally similar England and France were our trade partners. Trade with the Allies grew from million dollars to 3 billion. If the Allies were to lose the war our trade would be threatened. Americans increasingly saw Germany as the enemy. Germany was a dictatorship fighting against the great democracies of the world and America as a democratic nation felt an obligation to support them. As America became increasingly less neutral, the British government intercepted a message from the German ambassador Zimmerman to the Mexican government. National Archives and Records Administration The note was turned over to American government a short time later and eventually published in the newspapers. Then the Kaiser announced that Germany was going to re initiate the practice of unrestricted submarine warfare violating the Sussex Pledge. Wilson had campaigned for office promising to protect freedom of the seas and now it seemed he had little choice. He had to ask Congress to declare war. Wilson closed his speech to Congress by saying "it is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war But the right is more precious than peace and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried in our hearts. Wilson strongly believed that the American system would save the world, meaning: He was determined to provide that direction in a framework where morality, democracy and economics were closely related. Wilson believed that other nations of the world had to look to the U.S. The world market must act as the new frontier for the American system. Wilson was determined to direct the affairs of other nations so that they could eventually achieve self-government, as long as this government was based on the American model, and he was even more willing to intervene in other countries than Roosevelt. For instance, he sent U.S. troops to Mexico. When America finally entered the war in 1917 it was because, as Wilson stated, "The world must be made safe for democracy."

8: U.S. enters World War I - HISTORY

On April 6, , two days after the U.S. Senate votes 82 to 6 to declare war against Germany, the U.S. House of Representatives endorses the decision by a vote of to 50, and the United States.

Naval blockade[edit] Britain used its large navy to prevent cargo vessels entering German ports, mainly by intercepting them in the North Sea between the coasts of Scotland and Norway. The wider sea approaches to Britain and France, their distance from German harbours and the smaller size of the German surface fleet all made it harder for Germany to reciprocate. Instead, Germany used submarines to lie in wait for, and then sink, merchant ships heading for enemy ports. The United States insisted on maintaining the traditional rights of ships registered in neutral countries and protested strongly against American ships being intercepted or sunk: After several violations, Germany stopped this practice but in early she decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare, in the hope that this would starve out the British before the Americans could make any effective military retaliation. The strategy behind the blockade[edit] The British Royal Navy successfully stopped the shipment of most war supplies and food to Germany. The strangulation came about very slowly, because Germany and its allies controlled extensive farmlands and raw materials. It was eventually successful because Germany and Austria-Hungary had decimated their agricultural production by taking so many farmers into their armies. By , German cities were on the verge of starvation; the front-line soldiers were on short rations and were running out of essential supplies. We can bottle her up and destroy every ship that endeavors to break the blockade". He reasoned that since the island of Britain depended on imports of food, raw materials, and manufactured goods, scaring off a substantial number of the ships would effectively undercut its long-term ability to maintain an army on the Western Front. While Germany had only nine long-range U-boats at the start of the war, it had ample shipyard capacity to build the hundreds needed. However, the United States demanded that Germany respect the international agreements upon " freedom of the seas ", which protected neutral American ships on the high seas from seizure or sinking by either belligerent. Furthermore, Americans insisted that the drowning of innocent civilians was barbaric and grounds for a declaration of war. House commented that, "The British have gone as far as they possibly could in violating neutral rights, though they have done it in the most courteous way". German submarines torpedoed ships without warning, causing sailors and passengers to drown. Berlin explained that submarines were so vulnerable that they dared not surface near merchant ships that might be carrying guns and which were too small to rescue submarine crews. Britain armed most of its merchant ships with medium calibre guns that could sink a submarine, making above-water attacks too risky. In February , the United States warned Germany about misuse of submarines. This act of aggression caused the loss of 1, civilian lives, including Americans. The sinking of a large, unarmed passenger ship, combined with the previous stories of atrocities in Belgium, shocked Americans and turned public opinion hostile to Germany, although not yet to the point of war. Wilson issued a warning to Germany that it would face "strict accountability" if it sank more neutral U. By January , however, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg and General Erich Ludendorff decided that an unrestricted submarine blockade was the only way to achieve a decisive victory. They demanded that Kaiser Wilhelm order unrestricted submarine warfare be resumed. Finally, they did not foresee that convoys could and would be used to defeat their efforts. They believed that the United States was so weak militarily that it could not be a factor on the Western Front for more than a year. The civilian government in Berlin objected, but the Kaiser sided with his military. The capital build-up that had allowed American companies to supply belligerents and the American army resulted in a greater long-run rate of production even after the war had ended in After the war, in , J. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan strictly opposed financial support of warring nations and wanted to ban loans to the belligerents in August Bethlehem Steel took particular advantage of the increased demand for armaments abroad. Prior to American entrance into the War, these companies benefitted from unrestricted commerce with sovereign customers abroad. After President Wilson issued his declaration of war, the companies were subjected to price controls created by the U. Trade Commission in order to insure that the U. Bethlehem Steel became the primary arms supplier for the United States and other allied powers again in The

first of these were the Non-Interventionists , a loosely affiliated and politically diverse anti-war movement which sought to keep the United States out of the war altogether. Members of this group tended to view the war as a clash between British imperialism and German militarism , both of which they regarded as equally corrupt. Others were pacifists , who objected on moral grounds. At the far-left end of the political spectrum the Socialists , led by their perennial candidate for President Eugene V. Debs and movement veterans like Victor L. Berger and Morris Hillquit , were staunch anti-militarists and opposed to any US intervention, branding the conflict as a "capitalist war" that American workers should avoid. However, after the US did join the war in April, a schism developed between the anti-war Party majority and a pro-war faction of Socialist writers, journalists and intellectuals led by John Spargo , William English Walling and E. This group founded the rival Social Democratic League of America to promote the war effort among their fellow Socialists. This bipartisan group reluctantly supported a declaration of war against Germany with the postwar goal of establishing collective international security institutions designed to peacefully resolve future conflicts between nations and to promote liberal democratic values more broadly. Ardent pro- Entente , they had strongly championed American intervention in the war since Their primary political motivation was to both prepare the US for war with Germany and to forge an enduring military alliance with Great Britain. Many public figures hated warâ€”Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan was the most prominent, and he resigned when he thought Wilson had become too bellicose. Wilson and the Democrats in campaigned on the slogan "He kept us out of war! His position probably was critical in winning the Western states. Socialist rhetoric declared the European conflict to be "an imperialist war". Debs , blamed the war on capitalism and pledged total opposition. The rest, led by Debs, remained ideological and die-hard opponents. At the beginning of the war, neither working men nor farmers took a large interest in the debates on war preparation. In the labor unions supported Wilson on domestic issues and ignored the war question. By , however, the British decided to bolster the price to 10 cents to avoid losing Southern support. The cotton growers seem to have moved from neutrality to intervention at about the same pace as the rest of the nation. The Midwest became the stronghold of isolationism; other remote rural areas also saw no need for war. A month after congress declared war, W. Du Bois called on African-Americans to "fight shoulder to shoulder with the world to gain a world where war shall be no more". When such civil liberties were still not granted, many African-Americans grew tired of waiting for recognition of their rights as American citizens. In rural Missouri for example, distrust of powerful Eastern influences focused on the risk that Wall Street would lead America into war. He repeatedly blocked prewar efforts to modernize and enlarge the army. Preparedness was not needed because Americans were already safe, he insisted in January Isolated as we are, safe in our vastness, protected by a great navy, and possessed of an army sufficient for any emergency that may arise, we may disregard the lamentations and predictions of the militarists. By this point, they had been excluded almost entirely from national discourse on the subject. The Methodists and Quakers among others were vocal opponents of the war. The themeâ€”an aspect of American exceptionalism â€”was that God had chosen America as his tool to bring redemption to the world. Millions of Catholics lived in both warring camps, and Catholic Americans tended to split on ethnic lines in their opinions toward American involvement in the war. At the time, heavily Catholic towns and cities in the East and Midwest often contained multiple parishes, each serving a single ethnic group, such as Irish, German, Italian, Polish, or English. American Catholics of Irish and German descent opposed intervention most strongly. Pope Benedict XV made several attempts to negotiate a peace. All of his efforts were rebuffed by both the Allies and the Germans, and throughout the war the Vatican maintained a policy of strict neutrality. Jewish Americans[edit] Jewish American sympathies likewise broke along ethnic lines, with recently arrived Yiddish speaking Jews inclined to Zionism , and the established German-American Jewish community largely opposed to it. In â€”, there were few Jewish forces in favor of American entry into the war. Many regarded Britain as hostile to Jewish interests. New York City, with its well-organized element numbering 1. They had little interest in the continent, but were neutral about helping the United Kingdom because it had recently enacted the Government of Ireland Act , allowing Irish Home Rule. However, the Act was suspended until the war ended. Yet rather than proposing intervention on behalf of the Germans, Irish American leaders and organizations focused on demanding American neutrality. But the increased contact between militant Irish

nationalists and German agents in the United States only fueled concerns of where the primary loyalties of Irish Americans lay. The mainstream American press treated the uprising as foolish and misguided, and theorized it was largely inspired by the Germans. Overall public opinion remained faithfully pro-British. They did not prevent him from being hostile to Germany, but they did force him to keep his distance from Britain. Pro-Allied immigrants[edit] Some British immigrants worked actively for intervention. Spokesmen for Slavic immigrants hoped that an Allied victory would bring independence for their homelands. This community was largely pro-British and anti-German in sentiment. Its expression of popular pacifist sentiment "helped make the pacifist movement a hard, quantifiable political reality to be reckoned with. Ford chartered the ship in and invited prominent peace activists to join him to meet with leaders on both sides in Europe. He hoped to create enough publicity to prompt the belligerent nations to convene a peace conference and mediate an end to the war. The mission was widely mocked by the press, which wrote about the "Ship of Fools. Four days after the ship arrived in neutral Norway, a beleaguered and physically ill Ford abandoned the mission and returned to the United States; he had demonstrated that independent small efforts accomplished nothing. The British were engaged in propaganda too, though not illegal espionage, but they did not get caught. Indeed, one of the main fears Americans of all stations had in 1914 was that spies and saboteurs were everywhere. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Main article: Preparedness Movement By , Americans were paying much more attention to the war. The sinking of the Lusitania had a strong effect on public opinion because of the deaths of American civilians. That year, a strong "Preparedness" movement emerged.

9: American entry into World War I - Wikipedia

investigate why the United States remained neutral in the war for three years, then finally got involved in Introduce the central investigation question for the.

Apart from an Anglophile element urging early support for the British, American public opinion reflected that of the president: On the other hand, even before World War I had broken out, American opinion had been more negative toward Germany than towards any other country in Europe. President, it was Wilson who made the key policy decisions over foreign affairs: Until, Wilson made minimal preparations for a land war and kept the United States Army on a small peacetime footing, despite increasing demands for enhanced preparedness. He did however expand the United States Navy. In, with Russia experiencing political upheaval following widespread disillusionment there over the war, and with Britain and France low on credit, Germany appeared to have the upper hand in Europe, [5] while the Ottoman Empire clung to its possessions in the Middle East. In the same year, Germany decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare against any vessel approaching British waters; this attempt to starve Britain into surrender was balanced against the knowledge that it would almost certainly bring the United States into the war. Germany also made a secret offer to help Mexico regain territories lost in the Mexican-American War in an encoded telegram known as the Zimmermann Telegram, which was intercepted by British Intelligence. Publication of that communique outraged Americans just as German U-boats started sinking American merchant ships in the North Atlantic. Wilson then asked Congress for "a war to end all wars" that would "make the world safe for democracy", and Congress voted to declare war on Germany on April 6. Early in the war, the United States started to favor the British and their allies. When the German U-boat U sank the British liner Lusitania on 7 May with US citizens aboard, Wilson demanded an end to German attacks on passenger ships, and warned that the US would not tolerate unrestricted submarine warfare in violation of international law and of human rights. On the other hand, Wilson came under pressure from war hawks led by former president Theodore Roosevelt, who denounced German acts as "piracy", [10] and from British delegations under Cecil Spring Rice and Sir Edward Grey. Wilson realized he needed to enter the war in order to shape the peace and implement his vision for a League of Nations at the Paris Peace Conference. Opposition to World War I American public opinion was divided, with most Americans until early largely of the opinion that the United States should stay out of the war. The great majority of German Americans, as well as Scandinavian Americans, wanted the United States to remain neutral; however, at the outbreak of war, thousands of US citizens had tried to enlist in the German army. Insull funded many propaganda efforts, and financed young Americans who wished to fight by joining the Canadian military, [21] Canada at that time being a Dominion of the British Empire. Preparedness Movement By, Americans were paying much more attention to the war. The sinking of the Lusitania aroused furious denunciations of German brutality. It argued that the United States needed to build up immediately strong naval and land forces for defensive purposes; an unspoken assumption was that America would fight sooner or later. Indeed, there emerged an "Atlanticist" foreign policy establishment, a group of influential Americans drawn primarily from upper-class lawyers, bankers, academics, and politicians of the Northeast, committed to a strand of Anglophile internationalism. The small regular army would primarily be a training agency. Public opinion, however, was not willing to go that far. The National Guard on the other hand was securely rooted in state and local politics, with representation from a very broad cross section of the US political economy. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Learn how and when to remove this template message The Democratic party saw the Preparedness movement as a threat. Roosevelt, Root and Wood were prospective Republican presidential candidates. More subtly, the Democrats were rooted in localism that appreciated the National Guard, and the voters were hostile to the rich and powerful in the first place. Working with the Democrats who controlled Congress, Wilson was able to sidetrack the Preparedness forces. In reality, neither the US Army nor US Navy was in shape for war in terms of manpower, size, military hardware or experience. The crews of the Texas and the New York, the two

newest and largest battleships, had never fired a gun, and the morale of the sailors was low. The Army and Navy air forces were tiny in size. Despite the flood of new weapons systems unveiled in the war in Europe, the Army was paying scant attention. For example, it was making no studies of trench warfare, poison gas or tanks, and was unfamiliar with the rapid evolution of aerial warfare. The Democrats in Congress tried to cut the military budget in 1914. The Preparedness movement effectively exploited the surge of outrage over the "Lusitania" in May 1915, forcing the Democrats to promise some improvements to the military and naval forces. Wilson, less fearful of the Navy, embraced a long-term building program designed to make the fleet the equal of the British Royal Navy by the mids, although this would not come to pass until after World War II. The facts of submarine warfare which necessitated destroyers, not battleships and the possibilities of imminent war with Germany or with Britain, for that matter, were simply ignored. Specifically, they warned the chief warmongers were New York bankers such as J. Morgan with millions at risk, profiteering munition makers such as Bethlehem Steel, which made armor, and DuPont, which made powder and unspecified industrialists searching for global markets to control. Antiwar critics blasted them. These selfish special interests were too powerful, especially, Senator La Follette noted, in the conservative wing of the Republican Party. The only road to peace was disarmament in the eyes of many. In peacetime, War Department arsenals and Navy yards manufactured nearly all munitions that lacked civilian uses, including warships, artillery, naval guns, and shells. Items available on the civilian market, such as food, horses, saddles, wagons, and uniforms were always purchased from civilian contractors. Peace leaders like Jane Addams of Hull House and David Starr Jordan of Stanford University redoubled their efforts, and now turned their voices against the President because he was "sowing the seeds of militarism, raising up a military and naval caste. Wilson, in deep trouble, took his cause to the people in a major speaking tour in early 1916, a warm-up for his reelection campaign that fall. Wilson seemed to have won over the middle classes, but had little impact on the largely ethnic working classes and the deeply isolationist farmers. Congress still refused to budge, so Wilson replaced Garrison as Secretary of War with Newton Baker, the Democratic mayor of Cleveland and an outspoken opponent of preparedness. The Army was to double in size to 11, officers and 1,000,000 men, with no reserves, and a National Guard that would be enlarged in five years to 4,000,000 men. Preparedness supporters were downcast, the antiwar people were jubilant. The United States would now be too weak to go to war. Bullard privately complained that "Both sides [Britain and Germany] treat us with scorn and contempt; our fool, smug conceit of superiority has been exploded in our faces and deservedly. Arguing this battle proved the validity of Mahanian doctrine, the navalists took control in the Senate, broke the House coalition, and authorized a rapid three-year buildup of all classes of warships. The very weakness of American military power encouraged Berlin to start its unrestricted submarine attacks in 1917. It knew this meant war with America, but it could discount the immediate risk because the US Army was negligible and the new warships would not be at sea until by which time the war would be over, Germany thought, with Germany victorious. The notion that armaments led to war was turned on its head: Wilson released the Zimmerman note to the public and Americans saw it as a casus belli—a cause for war. President Wilson before Congress, announcing the break in official relations with the German Empire on February 3, 1917. At first, Wilson tried to maintain neutrality while fighting off the submarines by arming American merchant ships with guns powerful enough to sink German submarines on the surface but useless when the U-boats were under water. After submarines sank seven US merchant ships, Wilson finally went to Congress calling for a declaration of war on Germany, which Congress voted on April 6, 1917. United States home front during World War I The home front saw a systematic mobilization of the entire population and the entire economy to produce the soldiers, food supplies, munitions, and money needed to win the war. Although the United States entered the war in 1917, there had been very little planning, or even recognition of the problems that the British and other Allies had to solve on their home fronts. As a result, the level of confusion was high in the first 12 months, then efficiency took control. The war came in the midst of the Progressive Era, when efficiency and expertise were highly valued. Therefore, the federal government set up a multitude of temporary agencies with 100,000 to 1,000,000 new employees to bring together the expertise necessary to redirect the economy into the production of munitions and food necessary for the war, as well as for propaganda purposes. Fancher and Henry Reuter Dahl, magazine and newspaper articles, and billboards. Bonds" calls on Boy Scouts

to serve just like soldiers do; poster by J. Leyendecker , The nation placed a great importance on the role of children, teaching them patriotism and national service and asking them to encourage war support and educate the public about the importance of the war. The Boy Scouts of America helped distribute war pamphlets, helped sell war bonds, and helped to drive nationalism and support for the war. American Expeditionary Forces As late as , the United States maintained only a small army, one which was in fact smaller than thirteen of the nations and empires already active in the war. After the passage of the Selective Service Act in , it drafted 4 million men into military service. Several regiments of Marines were also dispatched to France. The British and French wanted US units used to reinforce their troops already on the battle lines and not to waste scarce shipping on bringing over supplies. The US rejected the first proposition and accepted the second. As an exception, he did allow African-American combat regiments to fight in French divisions. On the battlefields of France in spring , the war-weary Allied armies enthusiastically greeted the fresh American troops. They arrived at the rate of 10, a day, [47] at a time when the Germans were unable to replace their losses. However, many American commanders used the same flawed tactics which the British, French, Germans and others had abandoned early in the war, and so many American offensives were not particularly effective. Pershing continued to commit troops to these full- frontal attacks, resulting in high casualties against experienced veteran German and Austrian-Hungarian units. The Allies achieved victory over Germany on November 11, after German morale had collapsed both at home and on the battlefield. The public demanded a return to "normalcy", and repudiated Wilson with the election of conservative Republican Warren G.

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