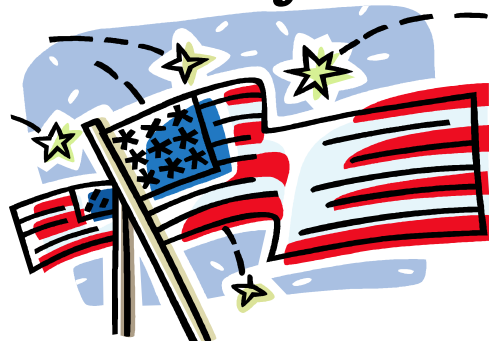


## Group Activity:

**If Americans wanted to remain neutral, why did the United States enter WWI?**

■ **In teams, determine why the United States entered World War I in 1917:**

- **Examine the documents provided and complete the chart in your notes**
- **When finished, create a one sentence thesis that explains why the USA entered WWI**
- **Be prepared to discuss your ideas with the class**



# Document A

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

## The New York Times.

EXTRA  
8:30 A. M.

VOL. LXXV NO. 20918

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1916—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

ONE CENT

### LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

#### SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Shocked by the Loss of American Lives.

#### BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

Wilson Reads Them Closely, but is Silent on the Nation's Course.

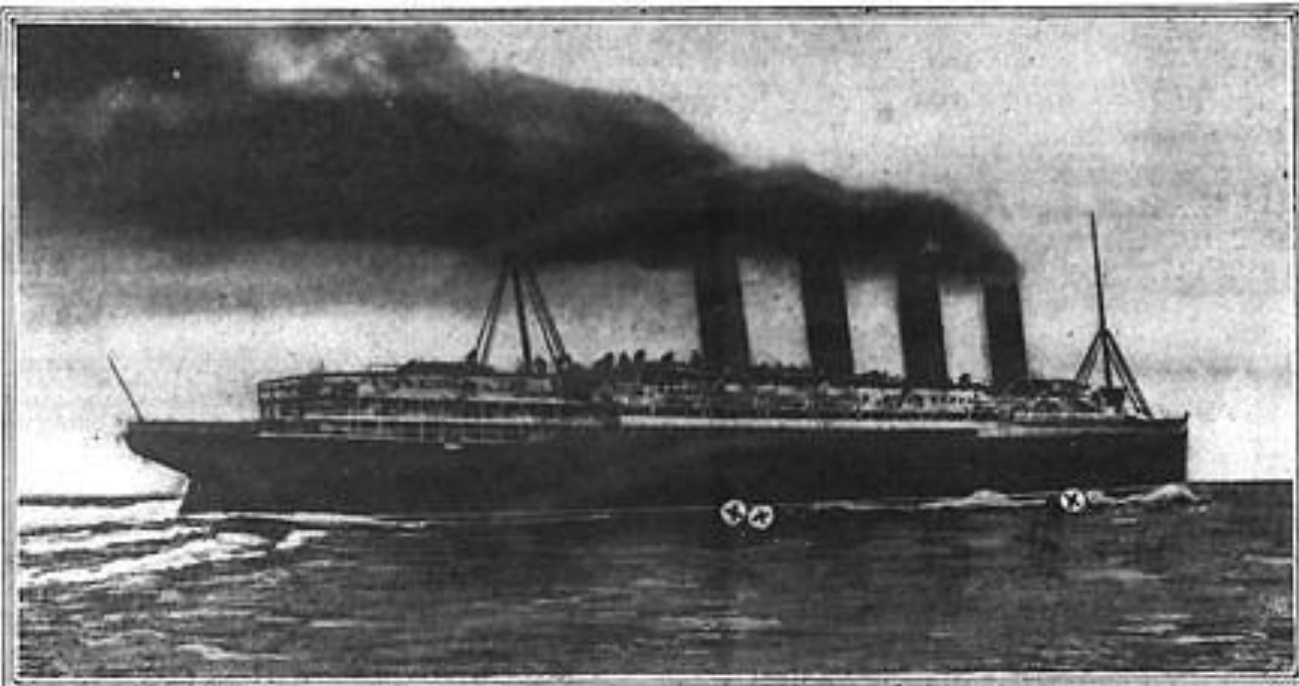
#### HINTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Recalls Firm Tone of Our First Warning to Germany.

#### CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Rumors That U.S. Will Go to War with Germany Before Peace News Come.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES  
WASHINGTON, May 4, 1916.—The news that the Lusitania had been sunk by a submarine had been received in Washington with a shock which has not been equalled since the sinking of the Titanic. The news of the loss of the Lusitania has been received here with a shock which has not been equalled since the sinking of the Titanic. The news of the loss of the Lusitania has been received here with a shock which has not been equalled since the sinking of the Titanic.



The Last Great Steamship Lusitania

#### SOME DEAD TAKEN ASHORE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

#### STEWART TELLS OF DISASTER

One Torpedo Crashes into the Doomed Liner's Bow, Another into the Engine Room.

#### SHIP LISTS OVER TO PORT

Makes it Impossible to Lower Many Boats, So Hundreds Must Have Gone Down.

#### ATTACKED IN BROAD DAY

Passenger at Queenstown—Warning Had Been Given by German before the Ship Left New York.

Only 650 Were Saved, Few Cabin Passengers  
QUEENSTOWN, Saturday, May 4, 4:28 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have arrived here tell

# Document B

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

MAILED

Oct 1-8-18

State Dept.

By *Mark A. Eckhoff*

Date *Oct. 27, 1917*

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, ~~invite~~ *invite* Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMAN.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

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

GERMAN LEGATION  
MEXICO CITY

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13605	3494	14936	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5161	39695	
23571	17504	11249	18276	18101	0317	0228	17694	4473	
22284	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	36477	
5870	17553	67893	5870	5454	16102	15217	22801	17138	
21001	17348	7416	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23645	
3106	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22444	20855	4377	
23410	18140	22240	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20667	
6929	5275	18507	52242	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11267
21100	21272	9346	9559	22444	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	97556	3569	3670						

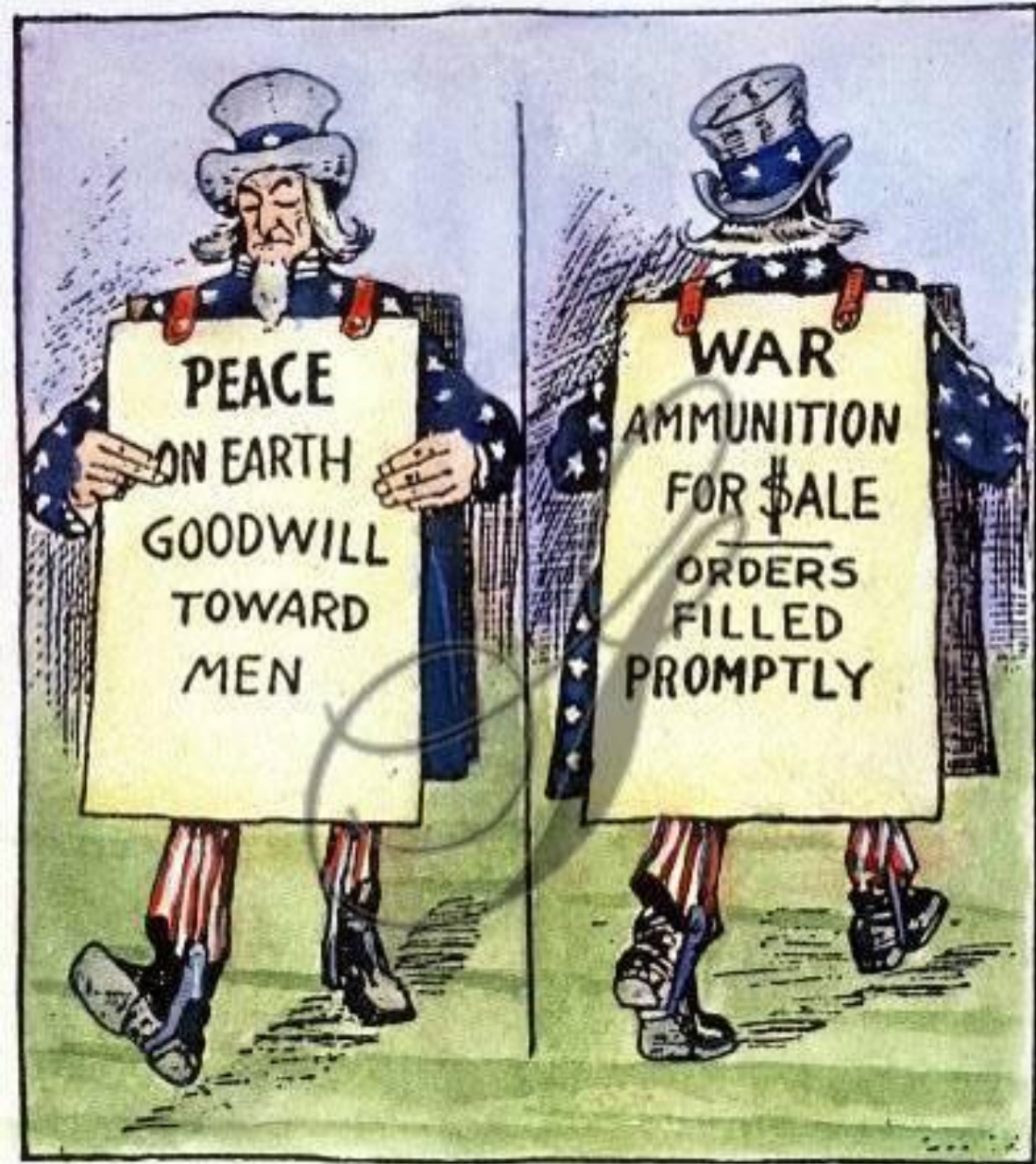
via Galveston

JAN 28 1917

Charge German Embassy.

Intercepted telegram from Germany to Mexico, 1917

# Document C



## U.S. War Loans 1914—1917:

---

To the Allied  
Powers:  
\$2,250 million

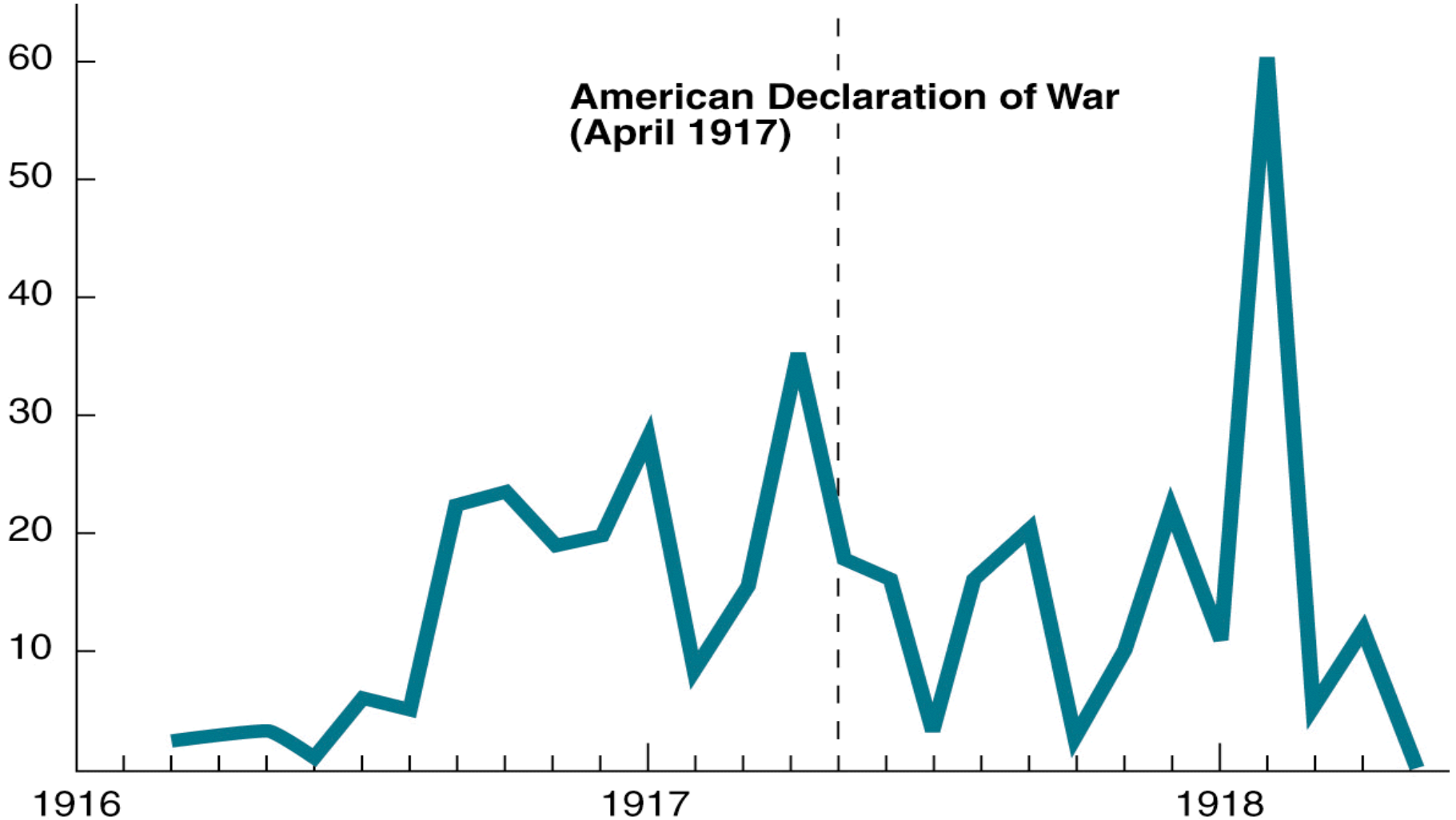
---

To the Central  
Powers:  
\$27 million

# Document D

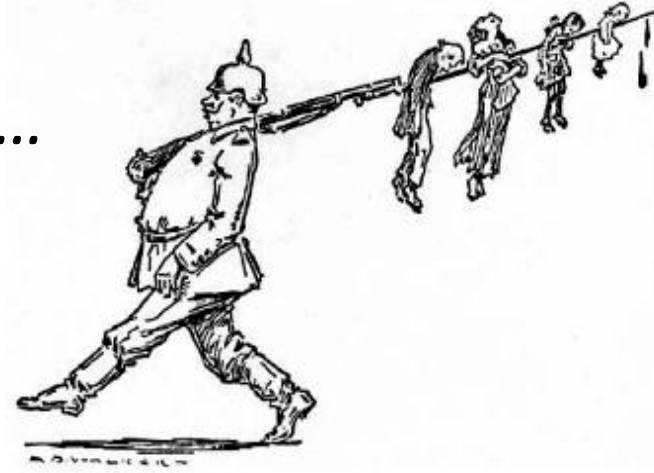
## U.S. Losses to German Submarine Warfare, 1916-1918

Tonnage of vessels sunk  
(thousands)



# Document E

*The German officer knocked at the door...  
The officer ordered the soldiers to break  
down the door, which two of them did.  
The peasant came and asked what they  
were doing. His hands were tied behind  
his back, and he was shot at once without a moment's delay.  
The wife came out with a little sucking child. One of the  
Germans took a rifle and struck her a tremendous blow with  
the butt on the head. Another took his bayonet and fixed it  
and thrust it through the child. He then put his rifle on his  
shoulder with the child up on it, its little arms stretched out  
once or twice. The officers ordered the house to be set on  
fire...The man, his wife and child were thrown on top.*



James Bryce, head of the Committee on Alleged German  
Atrocities as reported to British Parliament, 1915

# Document F

“We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts,—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free...The world must be made safe for democracy.”

*(President Wilson's war message, April, 1917)*

# Document G





# Document H

*“To whom does war bring prosperity? Not to the soldier who for the compensation of \$16 per month shoulders his musket and goes into the trench, there to shed his blood and to die if necessary; not to the mother who weeps at the death of her brave boy; not to the little children who shiver with cold; nor the millions of mothers and daughters who carry broken hearts to their graves. War brings prosperity to the stock gambler on Wall Street – to those who are already in possession of more wealth than can be enjoyed...Their object in having war and in preparing for war is to make money. The enormous profits of munitions [weapons] manufacturers, stockbrokers, and bond dealers must be still further increased by our entrance into the war.”*

Senator George Norris, in response to the  
U.S. declaration of war, April 1917