

# Survey: When Should a Country Go to War?

**1.** When an ally is attacked by another country.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

**2.** When a threatening message is intercepted between two potential enemies.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

**3.** When a country insults your leadership and your way of life.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

**4.** When a country has natural resources needed or wanted by another country.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

**5.** When an unfriendly country allegedly possesses weapons of mass destruction.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

**6.** When a terrorist organization from another country attacks your country.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

**7.** When citizens from a country are killed in an act of war between two other countries.

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

# Steps to a War

**May 1914–The sinking of the Lusitania:** Germany, engaging in unrestricted submarine warfare, sank the British passenger ship Lusitania. A surge of anger against the Germans erupted in the U.S. when it was learned that 128 Americans were killed in the attack.

**NIGHT EXTRA Evening Ledger NIGHT EXTRA**  
VOL. I—NO. 203 PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915. PRICE ONE CENT

## LUSITANIA DEATH TOLL 1346; 132 AMERICAN PASSENGERS LOST; GERMANY JUBILANT



ONE OF THE DEATH-DEALING INSTRUMENTS THAT CARRIED PROUD LINER TO DESTRUCTION

**STOP-THE-PRESS NEWS**  
WASHINGTON MOB TEARS DOWN GERMAN CONSULATE FLAG  
NEW YORK, May 8.—A crowd of 100 persons tore down the German flag from the German consulate in Washington this morning. The flag was then burned.

**STEAMSHIP NEW YORK SAFE**  
SPRINGFIELD, May 8.—The American liner New York has arrived safely at New York today. She was reported off Liverpool today and will dock tomorrow. She probably passed through the harbor where the Lusitania was sunk.

**CHARLES FROMMAN'S BODY FOUND**  
LIVERPOOL, May 8.—Charles Fromman's body has been found.

**BRITISH WARSHIPS AT SCENE OF TRAGEDY**  
SPRINGFIELD, May 8.—There were a number of British warships at the scene of the destruction of the Lusitania. British warships were at the scene of the destruction of the Lusitania. They were at the scene of the destruction of the Lusitania.

**PASSENGERS SHIELD FOR WAR CARGO—DENHURST**  
CLEVELAND, May 8.—English carried American passengers on the Lusitania as shields for an immense cargo of British munitions of war. This charge was made in Cleveland today by Dr. Richard Denhurst, medical agent for the Kaiser in the United States.

**LIVER'S BOILERS BLEW UP, COAST GUARD DECLARE**  
SPRINGFIELD, Ireland, May 8.—Three guards who remained on the Lusitania were killed.

**ONLY TWO OF 30 FROM THIS CITY ON BIG LINER REPORTED RESCUED**  
Berlin Newspapers, in Colossal Type, Proclaim Tragedy Master Stroke of Policy—Bryan Calls for Statement

**217 SURVIVORS ON LATE LISTS**  
A. G. VANDERBILT LOST ON LINER, FROMMAN ALSO AMONG MISSING

**March 1917–The Zimmermann Telegram:** A note was intercepted by British intelligence and relayed to officials in the United States. Germany's offer to support Mexico joined the Central Powers in the war, suggesting an invasion of the United States.

**WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM**  
NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

**CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED**  
Fast Day Message ☒  
Day Letter ☐  
Night Message ☐  
Night Letter ☐  
Persons should mark on 2 and 3 the class of service desired. OTHERWISE THE TELEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FAST DAY MESSAGE.

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

**GERMAN LEGATION  
MEXICO CITY**

**via Galveston**

**JAN 29 1917**

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	11269	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	17388	7446	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3156	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22461	20855	4377	
23610	18140	22260	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20667	
6929	5275	18507	52282	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11267

*862.20119/724*

Courtesy of the National Archives and Record Administration

# Perspectives on WWI Side A: Proponents of the U.S. Entering WWI

**Directions:** Read both perspectives about World War I and complete the accompanying questions.

## **President Wilson's Call for War**

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson called for a **declaration** of war against Germany.

**We enter this war only where we are clearly forced into it because there are no other means of defending our rights... It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars...we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our heart—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 peace and safety to all nations and to make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes...**

1. Why does President Wilson stress the need for the United States to enter the war?

## **DuBois on World War I**

W.E.B. DuBois, an African American leader, believed that it was important for African Americans to fight in World War I.

**You are not fighting simply for Europe; you are fighting for the world, and you and your people are a part of the world. This war is an End, and also a Beginning. Never again will darker people of the world occupy just the place they had before. Out of this war will rise, soon or late, an independent China; a self-governing for India; an Egypt with representative institutions; an Africa for Africans. Out of this war will rise too, an American Negro, with the right to vote and right to live without insult. These things may not and will not come at once; but they are written in the stars....**

2. According to DuBois the United States entering the war would trigger certain events throughout the world and at home. What are some of these events?
3. President Wilson and W.E.B. DuBois each had their own reasons for wanting the United States to enter the war. Use these documents to explain if the United States was right in entering the war.

# Perspectives on WWI Side B: Opponents of U.S. Entering WWI

**Directions:** Read the following perspectives about World War I and complete the accompanying questions.

---

This war is being forced upon our people without their knowing why and without their approval...I say again that when two nations are at war any neutral nation, in order to preserve its character as a neutral nation, must exact the same conduct from both warring nations; both must equally obey the principles of international law.

—Senator LaFollette

---

To whom does the war bring prosperity? Not to the soldier who for the munificent 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 broken-hearted widow who waits for the return of the mangled body of her husband; not to the mother who weeps at the death of her brave boy; not to the little children who shiver with cold; not to the babe who suffers from hunger; nor to the millions of mothers and daughters who carry broken hearts to their graves. War brings no prosperity to the great mass of common and patriotic citizens. It increases the cost of living of those who toil and those who already must strain every effort to keep soul and body together. War brings prosperity to the stock gambler on Wall street—to those who are already in possession of more wealth than can be realized or enjoyed. [A Wall Street broker] says if we cannot get war, “it is nevertheless good opinion that the preparedness program will compensate in good measure for the loss of the stimulus of actual war.” That is, if we can not get war, let us go as far in that direction as possible. If we can not get war, let us cry for additional ships, additional guns, additional munitions, and everything else that will have a tendency to bring us as near as possible to the verge of war. And if war comes do such men as these shoulder the musket and go into the trenches?

—Senator Norris of Nebraska

---

---

They have always taught and trained you to believe it to be your patriotic duty to go to war and to have yourselves slaughtered at their command. But in all the history of the world you, the people, have never had a voice in declaring war, and strange as it certainly appears, no war by any nation in any age has ever been declared by the people.

And here let me emphasize the fact—and it cannot be repeated too often—that the working class who fight all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war and they alone make peace.

*—Eugene V. Debs, Union leader and socialist candidate  
for President of the United States, Canton Ohio, June 1918*

---

# I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier

*A song by Alfred Bryan and Al Piantadosi*

For Audio: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?c4558411/didnt-raise-boy-solider>

---

**Ten million soldiers to the war have gone  
Who may never return again.  
Ten million mothers' hearts must break  
For the ones who died in vain.  
Head bowed down in sorrows  
In her lonely years,  
I heard a mother's murmur thro' her tears:**

## **Chorus:**

**I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier,  
I brought him up to be my pride and joy.  
Who dares to put a musket on his shoulder,  
To shoot some others mother's darling boy?  
Let nations arbitrate their future troubles,  
It's time to lay the sword and gun away.  
There'd be no war today,  
If mothers all would say,  
I didn't raise my son to be a soldier.**

---

## **Questions:**

- 1.** Based on the above passages, what are some of the arguments against going to war?
- 2.** All of these people had their own reasons for wanting the United States to stay out of the war. Based on your understanding of the documents, would staying out the war have been the right thing for the United States to do? Explain your reasoning.