

Reasons for United States Involvement in World War I

Directions: Use the chart below to answer the following questions in complete sentences. Answers not in complete sentences will be marked wrong.

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| I. Closer Ties with Allies A) Many Americans traced their ancestry to Britain. B) A common language and history tied Americans to the British. C) The Americans, British and French shared the same democratic political system. |
| II. German Actions and Allied Propaganda A) Americans were shocked at the German invasion of neutral Belgium. B) The <u>Zimmerman Telegram</u> , a secret message from the German Foreign Minister, promised to return U.S. territories to Mexico if Mexico acted against the United States. |
| III. Violation of Freedom of the Seas A) This was the main reason for American entry into World War I – <u>unrestricted German submarine warfare</u> . 1. A British naval blockade prevented food and arms from being shipped to Germany. 2. The United States became the main source for Allied arms, supplies, food, and loans. 3. The Germany navy was too weak to break the British blockade. 4. By using submarines, Germany could retaliate by sinking ships delivering goods to Great Britain. |
| IV. Sinking the <i>Lusitania</i> A) By 1915, a German submarine sank the British passenger ship Lusitania, killing over 1,000 passengers, including 128 Americans. |
| V. Sussex Pledge A) After a German submarine attacked a French passenger ship in 1916, President Wilson threatened to break off relations with Germany. B) Germany pledged not to sink any ships without warning or helping passengers. |
| VI. Germany uses Submarine Warfare A) Suffering from near-starvation, the Germans announced they would sink ships in the blockaded areas. B) This was a violation of the ‘freedom of the seas’ – the right of neutral ships to ship no-war goods to nations at war. C) When German submarines attacked merchant vessels, Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany in 1917. |

1- Why were Americans more likely to support the British in a European conflict?

2- What invasion had shocked the Americans?

3- Why had this invasion shocked the Americans?

4- What was the Zimmerman Telegram?

5- Why did the Zimmerman Telegram shock the Americans?

6- What is a naval blockade?

7- Why had the British created a naval blockade?

8- What nation was the main source of supplies for the Allies?

9- How was Germany hurt by the naval blockade?

10- How could Germany retaliate against the British?

11- So, what is unrestricted submarine warfare?

12- What had happened to the Lusitania?

13- Why were Americans particularly upset about the sinking of the Lusitania?

14- What was the Sussex Pledge?

15- Why did Germany break its promise?

16- What is freedom of the seas?

17- How did Germany violate freedom of the seas?

18- So, what was the main reason why the United States entered World War I?

19- In what year did the United States enter World War I?

20- What had happened in Russia in that same year? (Previous Knowledge)

21- Do you remember the fighting on the Western Front and the Eastern Front? What kind of fighting occurred on the Western Front? (Previous Knowledge)

22- Describe trench warfare.

23- What happened on the Eastern Front?

24- How did the arrival of the Americans change the Western Front?

25- Which nations won the First World War? _____
