

THE VALIDITY OF THE VIEWS OF PACIFISTS IN World WAR I
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Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of documents A-J and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question.

Prompt: Since the United States had never been engaged in a land war in Europe before, it proved to be a difficult task for us to become engaged in the fighting of World War I. Even in the 1920's and in the 1930's, there were those who truly believed that we had no business getting involved in the war to end all wars. Assess the conditions and the atmosphere of the time period leading up to our declaration of war and assess the validity of the views held by the pacifists.

DOCUMENT A:

“The effects of the war upon the United States will depend upon what American citizens say and do. Every man who really loves America will act and speak in the true spirit of neutrality, which is the spirit of impartiality...”

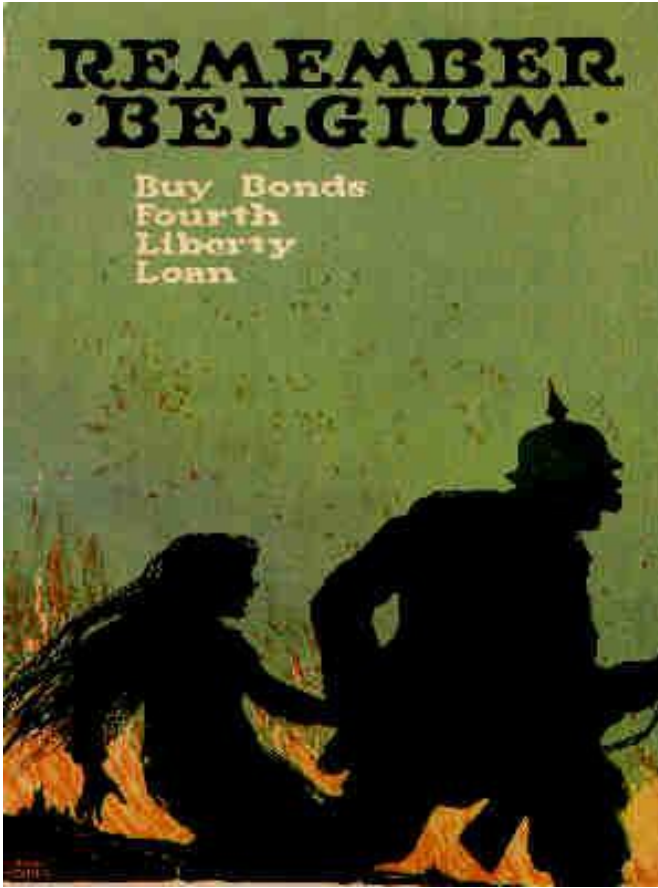
Source: Woodrow Wilson, Message to Congress, August 19, 1914

DOCUMENT B:

“First, all cables sent by and received by wire pass uncensored, while all wireless news is censored. This reacts against Germany, because England sends all her news by cable, whereas Germany alone uses the wireless. The matter is of grave importance. Second, the policy of the administration with regard to the holding up, detaining and searching of Germans and Austrians from neutral and American vessels is a reversal of the American policy established in 1812...The United States has not protested against the transference of copper from the conditional to the absolute list, although on former occasions the U.S. has taken a spirited stand against one-sided interpretations of international agreements. The U.S., moreover, insisted that conditional contraband can be sent in neutral or American bottoms even to belligerent nations, provided it was not consigned to the government, the military or naval authorities or to any contractors known to represent the belligerent government...The nation by reversing its own policy thus seriously handicaps Germany and Austria in their fight for existence.

Source: Professor Munsterberg's letter to President Wilson, November 19, 1914.

DOCUMENT C:



DOCUMENT D:

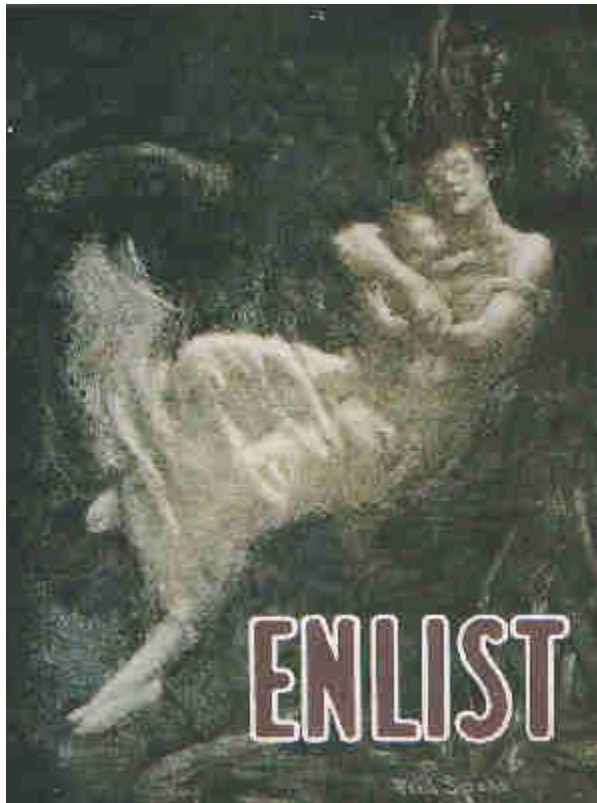
“There have been fluctuations in American opinion about the war. The actions of the German Zeppelins have revived the feeling in favor of the Allies. But I believe that for a couple of months preceding this action there had been a distinct lessening of the feeling for the Allies and a growth of pro-German feeling. I do not think that this was the case among the people who are best informed; but I do think that it was the case among the mass of not very well informed people...” **Source:** Theodore Roosevelt’s letter to Sir Edward Grey, January 22, 1915

DOCUMENT E:

“In view of recent acts of the German authorities in violation of American rights on the high seas which culminated in the torpedoing and sinking of the British steamship *Lusitania* on May 7, 1915, by which over 100 Americans citizens lost their lives, it is clearly wise and desirable that the government of the United States and the Imperial German government should come to a clear and full understanding as to the grave situation which has resulted.”

Source: Secretary of State Bryan’s Protest to the German Government, April 28, 1915

DOCUMENT F:



(Document F shows a mother and child who were victims of the *Lusitania*'s sinking.)

DOCUMENT G:

“But the opportune moment for pressing peace negotiations can be determined only by the logic of events and when this comes the people of the United States should be ready to help in every way in their power to terminate this unholy massacre and bring peace to the world.” **Source:** *American Socialist*, February 19, 1916

DOCUMENT H:



The Zimmermann Telegram

...we intend to begin submarine warfare Texas, and Arizona. unrestricted... it is our intention to keep neutral the U.S.A. If attempt is unsuccessful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico. That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico... **Date:** January 19, 1917

DOCUMENT I:

“The shadows that now lie dark upon our path will soon be dispelled, and we shall walk with the light all about us if we be but true to ourselves—to ourselves as we have wished to be known in the counsels of the world and in the thought of all those who love liberty and justice and the right exalted. **Source:** President Wilson’s 2nd Inaugural Address, March 5, 1917

DOCUMENT J:

