

World War I

Part Two



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





Early events of the war





Until 1917, the U.S. remained **neutral**. It favored this position for a few reasons:

- it was a war between European powers that had little to do with the U.S.
- American industries experienced increased demand from Europe during the war
- some hoped that in the 20th century, society could move beyond warfare.



Although many Americans were happy to stay neutral and reelected Wilson in 1916 as the man who kept them out of the war, Germany began making it difficult to remain inactive.

How did Germany provoke America?





The blame game



The **Zimmerman Telegram** was a coded message sent from Germany to Mexico in January 1917. British intelligence intercepted the message and sent it to the U.S.

Here is a section of the telegram. What do you think it means?

Date Jan. 1917

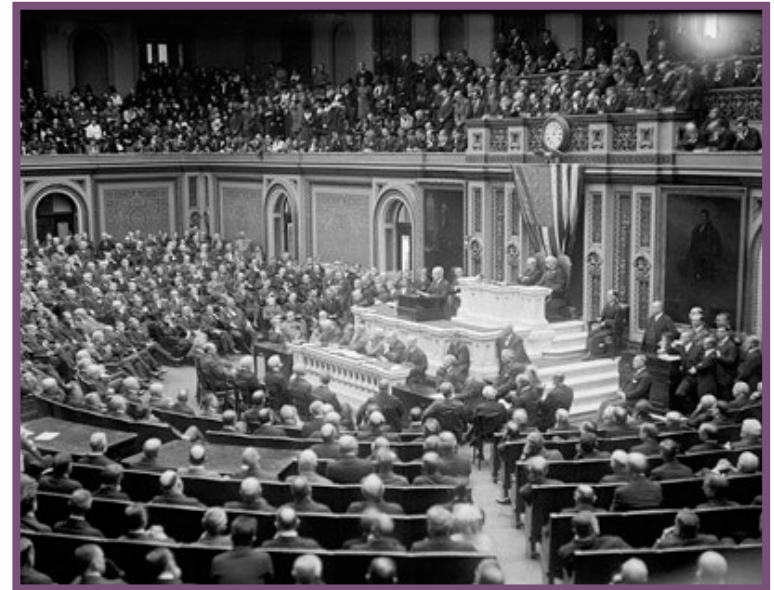
"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous 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



While Germany wanted to keep the U.S. out of the war, Britain most certainly wanted their help. The British government waited until February 24th to share the message with the U.S., they waited for two reasons:

- to keep Germany from knowing its codes had been broken
- to let U.S. feelings toward Germany grow as hostile as possible.

The message was in the press by March 1st and a month later, the U.S. declared war on Germany.



Although the U.S. remained neutral for many years, that did not mean that loans and supplies were not flowing to Europe.



When the U.S. did finally enter the war, both the **standing army** and the supply of munitions were sorely lacking. However, the industrial boom and the use of assembly lines made it easy to adapt factories to start producing more weapons.

By the armistice, military technology was taking off, yet few American-made weapons had made it to battle by that point.





Late events of the war



