

QUIZ 😊



# Collaborative Learning: Wilson's Proclamation of Neutrality

**How did Wilson appeal to the American people in his proclamation of neutrality?**

Read the primary source.

On a sheet of paper,

1. List the origin and purpose of the source
2. List the value and limitations of the source
3. Copy the “bricks” on the white board.
4. Inside each brick, write down reasons, examples, appeals to emotion or logic, counterclaims, etc. that Wilson uses to “build” his argument.

**With reference to its origin, purpose and content, analyze the value and limitations of this source for an historian studying the U.S. response to the outbreak of World War I.**



# U.S. Entry into the First World War Pt. 1

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IB HoA

2020



## Learning Objective

SWBAT describe the increasingly active role of the Americas in **world affairs** between 1880 and 1929 IOT evaluate the impact of **modernization** on **foreign policy** in the region.



## Inquiry

Was it possible for the US to maintain neutrality in World War I?

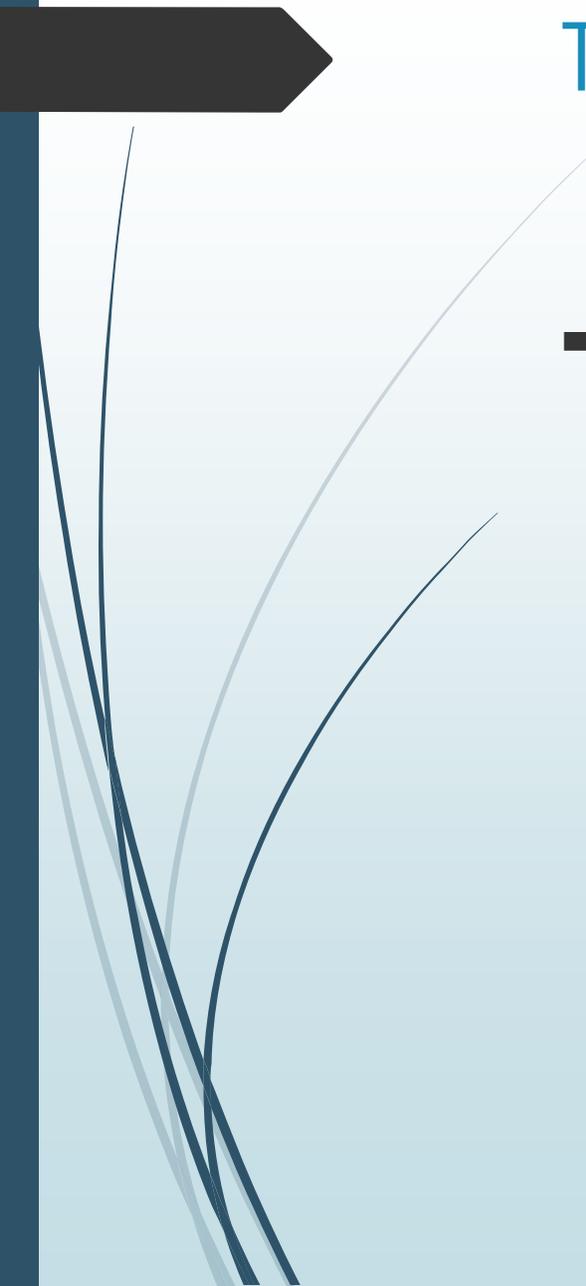
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## Reasons for Neutrality

## Threats to Neutrality

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# The U.S.A. Before Joining WWI

► <https://youtu.be/57JKPEryvXQ>

# Reasons for Neutrality, 1914-1917



- Public opinion – prevailing mood was opposition to involvement in the war
- Progressivism – widespread feeling that wars were morally wrong, achieved little. Suspicion of big business.
- Cultural and ethnic ties would split support for Central Powers vs. Allied
- Little concern with MAIN causes of war
- Trade – US could trade with both sides and profit from the production of industrial goods, supplies, food, etc.
- Traditional nonintervention / isolationism from European affairs
- **Wilsonianism** – name given to Pres. Wilson's policies based on Christian ideas and moral diplomacy
  - Wilson despised the idea of war as a solution to international disputes, but at the same time saw it as an opportunity for the US to emerge as a world leader

# Threats to Neutrality



- ▶ Wilson's bias
  - ▶ **Pro-British feeling** – Wilson and many of his advisers favored the Allies
  - ▶ **Anti-German feeling** – Wilson and his advisers believed Germany posed a threat to US interests
    - ▶ E.g. confrontation in Samoa in 1889; Germany's growing influence in Mexico
    - ▶ Attacked German-Americans for disloyalty to the US in 1915 State of the Union address
    - ▶ Wilson also blocked legislation to ban sale of munitions to either side
    - ▶ Because of Wilson's partiality, his policies were **never really neutral and always favored the Allies**
- ▶ Anti-German propaganda in the popular press –
  - ▶ Depicted **the Hun** as cruel and bestial – derogatory term for Germans, derived from a warlike tribe in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.
- ▶ US economy now tied more closely to a world economy

# Support for the Allies



- ▶ Diplomatic help to the British
- ▶ **Allies benefitted more than the Central Powers from trade with the US**
  - ▶ By 1916 – trade with Allies (much of it in munitions) was 10 times trade with Central Powers
  - ▶ Trade in 1916 with Germany 1% of what it had been in 1914
- ▶ Allies borrowed nearly \$7 billion from US by end of war
- ▶ US enjoyed economic boom between 1914-1916



# U.S. Aid to Allied Powers, 1914-1916

- ▶ **Trade with Allies:**

- \$824 million in 1914
- \$3.2 billion in 1916

- ▶ **U.S. Loans:**

- To Allies: over \$2.5 billion
- To Central Powers: \$27 million

- ▶ **Value of U.S. Annual Exports:**

- \$2 billion in 1913
- \$6 billion in 1916

# “Freedom of the Seas”

- ▶ **British blockade of Germany** – British ships preventing goods entering and leaving German ports
  - ▶ British ships seized cargo classified as “**contraband**” – in early stages of war they were also seizing US ships and blocking US trade with Central Powers
- ▶ **Unrestricted submarine warfare**, February – August 1915
  - ▶ February 1915 – In response to blockade, Germany declared British waters a **war zone** and reserved the right to sink any ships travelling to Britain, including those flying the flag of neutral countries
    - ▶ **Unrestricted submarine warfare – policy of attacking any ship en route to an enemy port**
    - ▶ Why? To break the deadlock of trench warfare in the Western front by starving Britain into surrender
  - ▶ Wilson responded that US would hold Germany responsible for the loss of American lives
  - ▶ Germany embassy took out advertising campaigns in US papers to warn Americans not to travel to Britain. Regardless of warning, Wilson still regarded this as a **violation of neutral rights**.



<https://youtu.be/a0RUebcUZik>

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## History Mystery

Was it possible for the U.S. to maintain neutrality in World War I?

What events pulled the U.S. closer to war between 1914 and 1917?