

WWI Homefront Analysis

Assignment: You will prepare a one page typed response in reference to the following questions (I'd recommend a paragraph for each question using the evidence in the documents to support your answer):

1. How did the United States become involved in World War I?
2. How did the United States respond to and mobilize for war?
3. How were the real winners of U.S. entry into World War I American women?
4. How were rights limited for Americans in World War I?

Below will be a series of documents which will assist you in formulating your written response.

Document Set A: World War I Liberty Bond Posters



Document B: The Zimmerman Telegram

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"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 or 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 suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMANN.



Document D: President Woodrow Wilson, in a speech before Congress, April 2, 1917

Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people cannot be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

The German policy has swept every restriction aside. Ships of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom of the ocean without warning. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken.

I advise that the Congress declare the recent actions of the Imperial German Government to be, in fact, nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States.

Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved.

The world must be made safe for democracy. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek not material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind.

It is a fearful, but right thing to lead this great peaceful people to war. We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of [people] to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations.

Document E: Women at work at the Portland Company, ca. 1917

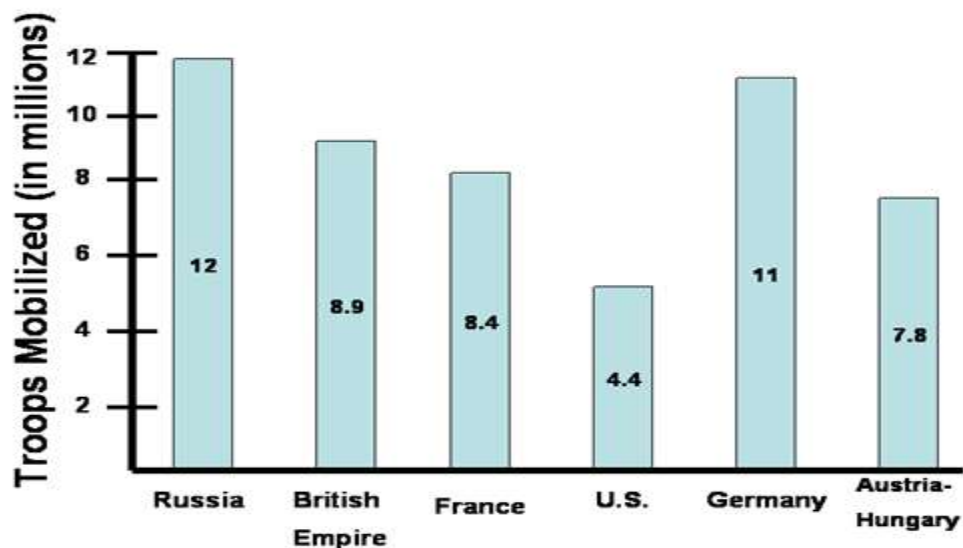
Women at the Portland Company inspect 8-inch howitzer shells (208 mm) for use in World War I. The Portland Company made the shells, which were then packed in pairs in wooden boxes for shipment to a central depot to be filled with an explosive compound.



Document F: 19th Amendment (1920)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Document G: Troop Mobilization Graph



Document H: Pain's U.S. Government Signal Factory

Women wrapping rockets in 1919 during World War I.



Document I: "Over There," written by George M. Cohan (Allied Expeditionary Force marching song)

Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your
gun,
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run;
Hear them calling you and me;
Every son of liberty.
Hurry right away, no delay, go today,
Make your daddy glad, to have such a lad,
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,
To be proud her boy's in line.

Chorus: Over there, over there
Send the word, send the word over there,
The Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tum tumming everywhere
So prepare, say a prayer,
Send the word, send the word to beware,
We'll be over, we're coming over,
And we won't come back till it's over, over
there.

Document 10: US Propaganda Poster

Document J: Victory Garden Poster



Document K: The Sedition Act of 1918 was passed by the United States Congress on May 16, 1918.

Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States or the Constitution of the United States, or the military or naval forces of the United States, or the flag of the United States, or the uniform of the Army or Navy of the United States . . . or shall willfully utter, print, write, or publish any language intended to incite, provoke, or encourage resistance to the United States . . . shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or the imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both.

Document L: Supreme Court opinion by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., March 3, 1919

The excerpt below comes from the Supreme Court's unanimous opinion in *Schenck v. United States*, 1919.

OPINION BY JUSTICE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, JR.

The character of every act depends upon the circumstances in which it is done. The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting "Fire!" in a theatre and causing a panic. . . .

The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. . . .

When a nation is at war many things that might be said in time of peace are such a hindrance to its effort that their utterance will not be endured so long as men fight and that no Court could regard them as protected by any constitutional right.