

DOCUMENT 1 - Front page of the NY Times, May 8, 1915, reports that a German submarine torpedoed and sank an unarmed passenger ship carrying American citizens.

Document 2



Document Based Question: Using your knowledge of the circumstances leading to America's entry into World War I, interpret the significance of the following documents.

DOCUMENT A

"My fellow countrymen: I suppose that every thoughtful man in America has asked himself, during these last troubled weeks, what influence the European War may exert upon the United States, and I take the liberty of addressing a few words to you in order to point out that it is entirely within our own choice what its' effects upon us will be and to urge very earnestly upon you the sort of speech and conduct which will best safeguard the Nation against distress and disaster.

The effect of the war upon the United Sates 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 and fairness and friendliness to all concerned. The spirit of the nation in this critical matter will be determined largely by what individuals and society and those gathered in public meetings do and say, upon what newspapers and magazines contain, upon what ministers utter at their pulpits, and men proclaim as their opinions on the street..."

Source: President Woodrow Wilson, August 19, 1914--Message to U.S. Senate.

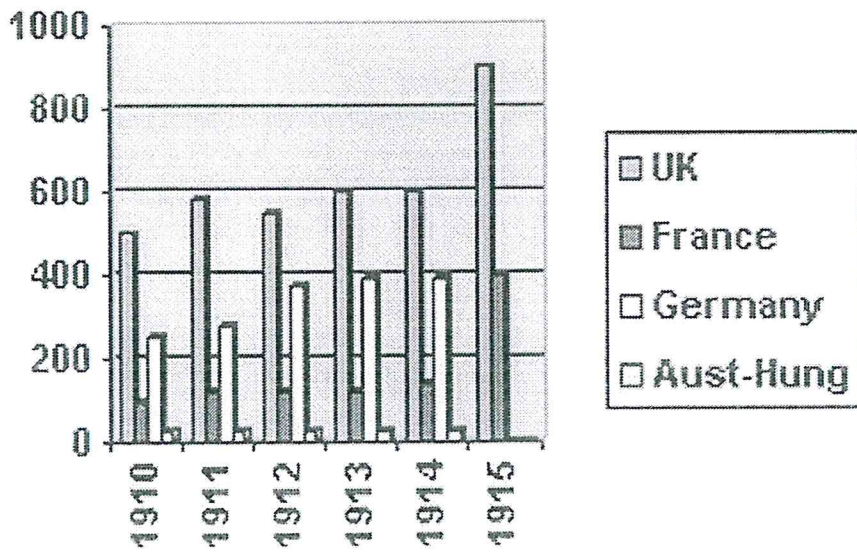
DOCUMENT F

"Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its peoples, and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in existence of autocratic governments backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the will of the people. We have seen the last of neutrality in these circumstances...the world must be made safe for democracy: its peace must be planted upon the tested foundation of liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them."

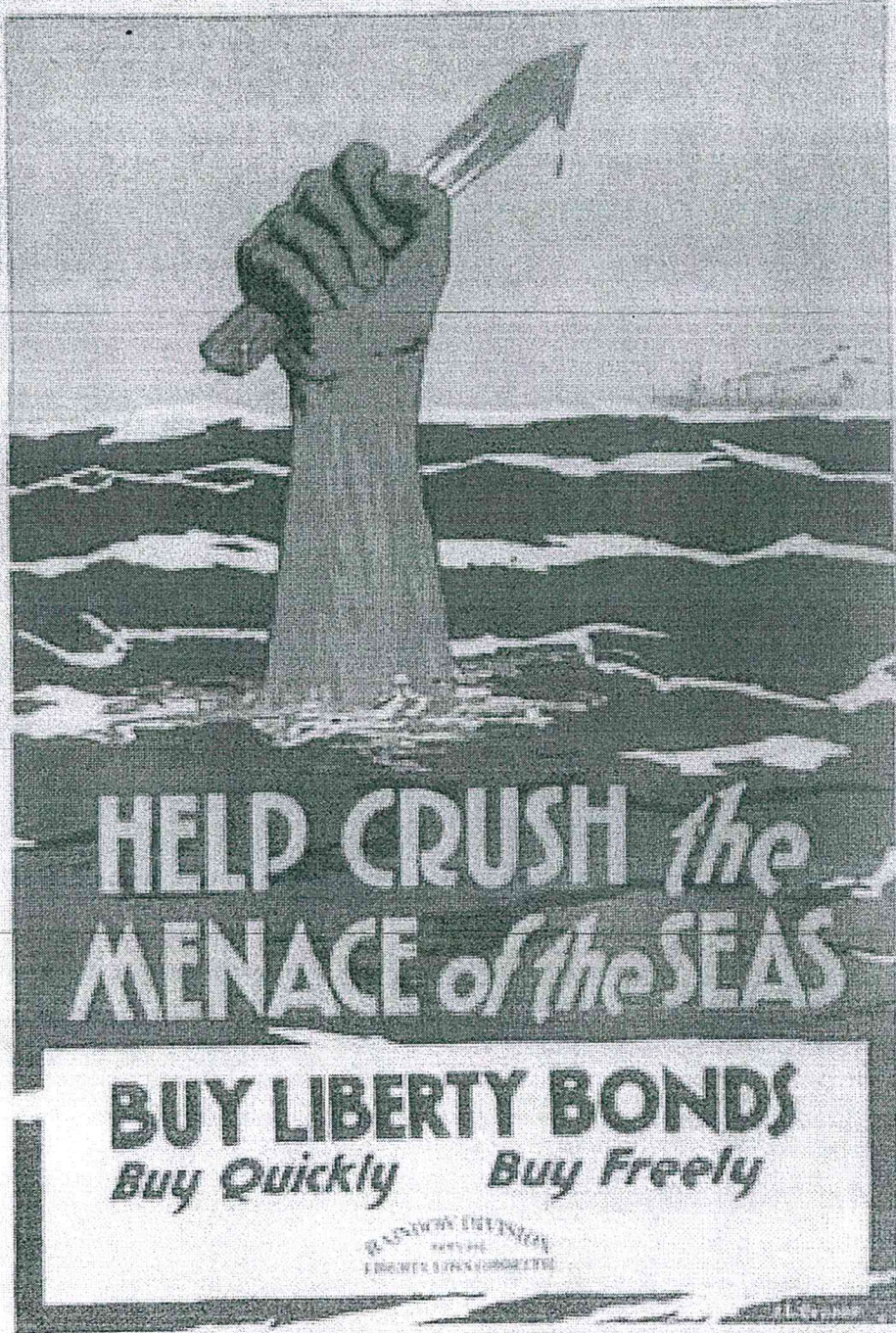
Source: Woodrow Wilson- speech to U.S. Senate on January 22, 1917.

DOCUMENT B

United States Exports to Europe 1910-1915
Numbers represent dollars (in millions)



Document C



3

Docuwest D

WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

MEMBER CALSON MEMBER

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

GERMAN LEGATION
MEXICO CITY

Via Galveston

JAN 19 1917

180	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	410	17214	0491	11310
18147	18222	21500	10247	11518	23877	13805	3494	14922	
98092	8928	11311	10292	10771	0302	21290	5101	39695	
23871	17304	11270	18278	18101	0317	0228	17494	4473	
23824	22220	19452	23589	07853	5589	13918	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4452	5805	17188	13851	4458	17149	14471	0708
12825	10224	0529	14051	7382	13857	07895	14218	36477	
1870	17823	07892	5970	5454	16102	15817	22801	17135	
18101	17322	0440	03698	18222	0719	14351	15624	23845	
3117	23562	23070	21004	4797	0467	22441	20955	4377	
23416	18140	22220	5908	13347	20440	39850	18732	30027	
0829	8273	18307	52212	1370	22049	13339	11285	22225	
14139	14874	4178	0902	8784	7032	7337	8924	52202	11207
0110	21272	5340	0259	22444	15874	18532	18500	15857	
2132	5273	7381	26052	11127	13482	9350	5220	70038	14219
0144	5831	17220	13347	17142	11204	7807	2702	15099	9110
10462	07352	3582	3070						

Charge per a Receipt

REPHOTOFF

Zimmermann Telegram as Received by the German Ambassador to Mexico, 01/19/1917

RECEIVED
JAN 19 1917
TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

By *Mexico City, Mexico*
Date *Jan 21/17*

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 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 suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, ~~make~~ 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.

Zimmermann Telegram - Decoded Message

4

DOCUMENT E

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.

Source: "Over There," written by George M. Cohan

(Allied Expeditionary Force Marching Song.)