

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

BUILD UP TO WWI

What are the causes that create global conflict?

I. Introduction to World War I:

A. Background of Europe:

B. Causes of World War I:

M

A

I

N

C. The Terrorist Attack:

Franz Ferdinand -

Gavrilo Princip -

Alliances are Triggered -

D. The Two Sides:

The Central Powers

The Allies

II. The United States Enters World War I:

A. Leanings:

Read Document A: Woodrow Wilson Speech #1

Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?

B. Neutrality:

C. British Tactics:

Propaganda -

D. Influential Factors:

Economic reasons -

E. Germany's Push:

U-Boats -

Lusitania -

Sussex Pledge -

Read Document B: Woodrow Wilson Speech #2

Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?

Zimmerman Telegram -

Germany's Hope -

Early 1917 -

Do you think the United States had good reasons for entering WWI?

Document C: Historian Howard Zinn (Excerpted)

Why does Zinn claim that Wilson made a flimsy argument?

What does Zinn say the United States lied about?

What does Zinn suggest are the real reasons the United States entered the war?

What evidence does Zinn provide to support his claims that the United States was motivated by other reasons (beside German attacks on U.S. ships)?

Do you find Zinn's argument convincing? Why or why not?

F. Senate Vote:

Questions About Introduction to World War I

1 - How did militarism contribute to the outbreak of World War I?

2 - Why did many Americans support the British in the war even though the United States was officially neutral?

3 - How did trade and economics contribute to America's entry into World War I?

4 - Do you think that the incident of the Lusitania alone was enough to justify America's entry into World War I? Why or why not?

5 - Do you think Germany was justified in its use of submarine warfare? Why or why not?

Lusitania Letter

BACKGROUND:

Alfred Vanderbilt and his valet were passengers on board the Lusitania. Once the Lusitania had been hit, Vanderbilt and his valet helped others into lifeboats, and then Vanderbilt gave his lifejacket to save a female passenger. According to the 2002 book *TORPEDOED: The Sinking of the Lusitania*, author Diana Preston writes that Vanderbilt had promised the young mother of a small baby that he would locate an extra life vest for her. Failing to do so, he offered her his own life vest, which he proceeded to even tie on her himself since she was holding her infant child in her arms at the time. Many consider his actions to be very brave and gallant since he could not swim, he knew that there were no other life vests or lifeboats available, and yet he still gave away his only chance to survive to the young mother and child.

ASSIGNMENT:

Suppose you are President Wilson. It is your job to write a condolence letter to the victims' families. Write a letter to Margaret Vanderbilt, wife of the late Alfred Vanderbilt. Offer your condolences and be sure to explain and justify your intent not to enter World War I.

Dear Mrs. Margaret Vanderbilt,

Sincerely, President Wilson