

HOW AMERICA CAME TO BE INVOLVED IN THE 1914 WORLD WAR

The American entry into World War I came in April, after more than two and a half years of over time, especially after reports of atrocities in Belgium in and following the sinking of the .. A surprising factor in the development of American public opinion was how little the political parties became involved. Wilson.

However, many American commanders used the same flawed tactics which the British, French, Germans and others had abandoned early in the war, and so many American offensives were not particularly effective. The National Guard on the other hand was securely rooted in state and local politics, with representation from a very broad cross section of American society. Pope Benedict XV made several attempts to negotiate a peace. This, he argued, would lead to the defeat of Germany. By , however, the British decided to bolster the price to 10 cents to avoid losing Southern support. While it is doubtful that the war will ever compete with the American Civil War or World War II in terms of popularity, the abovementioned works provide the seedbed for continued inquiry into the impact of the war upon American institutions and society. Wilson released the Zimmerman note to the public and Americans saw it as a *casus belli* – a cause for war. Millions of Catholics lived in both warring camps, and Catholic Americans tended to split on ethnic lines in their opinions toward American involvement in the war. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan strictly opposed financial support of warring nations and wanted to ban loans to the belligerents in August. The wider sea approaches to Britain and France, their distance from German harbours and the smaller size of the German surface fleet all made it harder for Germany to reciprocate. Chicago's Germans worked to secure a complete embargo on all arms shipments to Europe. By this point, they had been excluded almost entirely from national discourse on the subject. As one editor put it, "The best thing about a large army and a strong navy is that they make it so much easier to say just what we want to say in our diplomatic correspondence. Wilson, less fearful of the Navy, embraced a long-term building program designed to make the fleet the equal of the British Royal Navy by the mids, although this would not come to pass until after World War II. The most important moralist of all was President Woodrow Wilson – the man who dominated decision making so totally that the war has been labeled, from an American perspective, "Wilson's War". At the beginning of the war, neither working men nor farmers took a large interest in the debates on war preparation. Indeed, there emerged an "Atlanticist" foreign policy establishment, a group of influential Americans drawn primarily from upper-class lawyers, bankers, academics, and politicians of the Northeast, committed to a strand of Anglophile internationalism. These works show that women were exposed to many of the same dangers and hardships as men, but once the armistice was signed, the government and military expected them to return to their pre-war roles. More subtly, the Democrats were rooted in localism that appreciated the National Guard, and the voters were hostile to the rich and powerful in the first place. Drawing on over 30, questionnaires, Gutierrez found that many veterans were proud to have fought and viewed service overseas as their duty as men. Garry Clifford. Antiwar critics blasted them. These volunteers, many of whom came from upper-crust families, were often motivated by outrage over German conduct and a strong sense of duty. Several regiments of Marines were also dispatched to France. The leader of this expedition, John J. Many women worked on the assembly lines of factories, producing trucks and munitions, while department stores employed African American women as elevator operators and cafeteria waitresses for the first time. This groups's views were advocated by interest groups such as the League to Enforce Peace. Working with the Democrats who controlled Congress, Wilson was able to sidetrack the Preparedness forces. Additionally, the U. The Preparedness movement was distant not only from the working classes but also from the middle-class leadership of most of small-town America. In , women were brought into the military again, largely following the British model. Thomas Boghart offers a revisionist take in his monograph, which sees the telegram as more of a spur of the moment decision than an insidious plot by the Germans. Ortiz shows how important First World War veterans were as political actors during the interwar period. Military leaders had little to say during this debate, and military considerations were seldom raised.