

Reasons for the United States Entry into World War I Answer Key

REASONS FOR U.S. ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I		
Inability to remain neutral in face of increasing threats to U.S. national interests	German unrestricted submarine warfare	Interception of the Zimmerman Telegram
<p>The United States had close economic and political ties to Great Britain. These ties compelled U.S. support for Great Britain.</p>	<p>Feb, 1915: Germans used this strategy to prevent supplies from reaching Britain. They would shoot at <i>any</i> ships without warning — a violation of international law.</p> <p>May, 1915: Lusitania left New York City for England. German embassy warned that travelers were taking a risk. Once the ship was close to Britain, a German U-boat (an <i>Unterseeboot</i> or submarine) launched a torpedo attack, sinking the Lusitania. 128 Americans on board were killed. President Wilson was angry but still kept the United States out of war. Re-elected in 1916 with the slogan: “He kept us out of war.”</p>	<p>Jan. 1917: German foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmerman, sent a telegram* to Mexico asking Mexico to become an ally of Germany. In return, Germany would help Mexico win back lands lost to the United States during the Mexican War.</p> <p>April 1917: Once American were aware of this, they were outraged. President Wilson declared war on Germany.</p>