

# Information Organizer: Reasons for U.S. Entry

## Part 1 – Categorizing Causes

Directions: Summarized below are 10 items related to World War I. Write the heading of each section in the appropriate category of the chart the chart on the back.

### **Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary**

1. Archduke was shot by a Serbian nationalist
2. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
3. Russia, Serbia's ally, declared war on Austria-Hungary
4. Germany declared war on Russia
5. France declared war on Germany
6. Great Britain was drawn in on the side of Russia and France 7. World War I began

**Militarism** - As nationalism grew and competition over colonies started, the build-up of each country's military was inevitable. Many European nations began a peace-time draft to achieve military superiority over their rivals.

**American Economic Interests** - Due to Britain's *blockade* of Germany, American businesses sold war materials and food almost entirely to the Allies. With this trade the U.S. economy flourished. But as the war dragged on the Allies ran out of money. They began to use huge loans to continue their purchases. Americans, especially big business owners, feared that if Germany won the war American loans to the Allies might never be repaid. Therefore, it was in our economic interest to see that the Allies won the war.

**Allied Propaganda** - Americans tended to favor the Allies over the Central Powers. We felt a bond with England based on our common language and culture. We also felt sympathy for France as a result of their aid to us in the Revolution. Allied nations gave American newspapers stories about German cruelty and atrocities. The newspapers printed these "reports" and Americans believed them. American sympathy began to shift even more to the Allies.

**Nationalism** - strong love for one's country. At this time many Europeans had strong feelings of nationalism. People supported the actions of their government even if they were wrong. Ethnic groups in Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary wanted independence. Small nations resented attempts by major European powers to control them.

**System of Rival Alliances** - European nations formed several groups (alliances) to keep anyone nation from becoming too strong. This was known as "maintaining the balance of power." The two major alliances were the *Triple Alliance (Central Powers)* and the *Triple Entente (Allies)*. The nations belonging to these alliances promised to help each other in time of war.

**Zimmerman Note** - The British intercepted a telegram addressed to the German ambassador in Mexico. The letter asked him to persuade the Mexicans to declare war on the U.S. of the U.S. went to war with Germany. In return for doing so Germany promised to help Mexico regain all the lands taken from it by the U.S.. The British gave the note to American newspapers who published it. Americans were outraged.

**Imperialism** - In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, much of Africa and Asia was colonized by European powers. Disputes among the European powers over boundaries and trade led to bad feelings. Germany and Italy were unhappy because they had few colonies.

**Unrestricted Submarine Warfare** - England used her navy to put a blockade around Germany. The blockade was very successful. Germany was virtually cut-off from American trade. To combat this problem Germany began to use submarines (U-boats). Germany resorted to sinking any ship bound for an Allied port without warning and regardless of whether or not the ship actually carried war materials or belonged to a neutral nation. The U.S. felt this violated international law and our "freedom of the seas."

**American Security** - The U.S. felt more secure with democratic England as the dominant power in Europe. If Germany won the war they would become the dominant power. The U.S. felt that a strong, aggressive Germany would threaten the security of the U.S. and its possessions.

# World War I: Categorizing Causes

Fundamental  
Causes

Immediate  
Cause

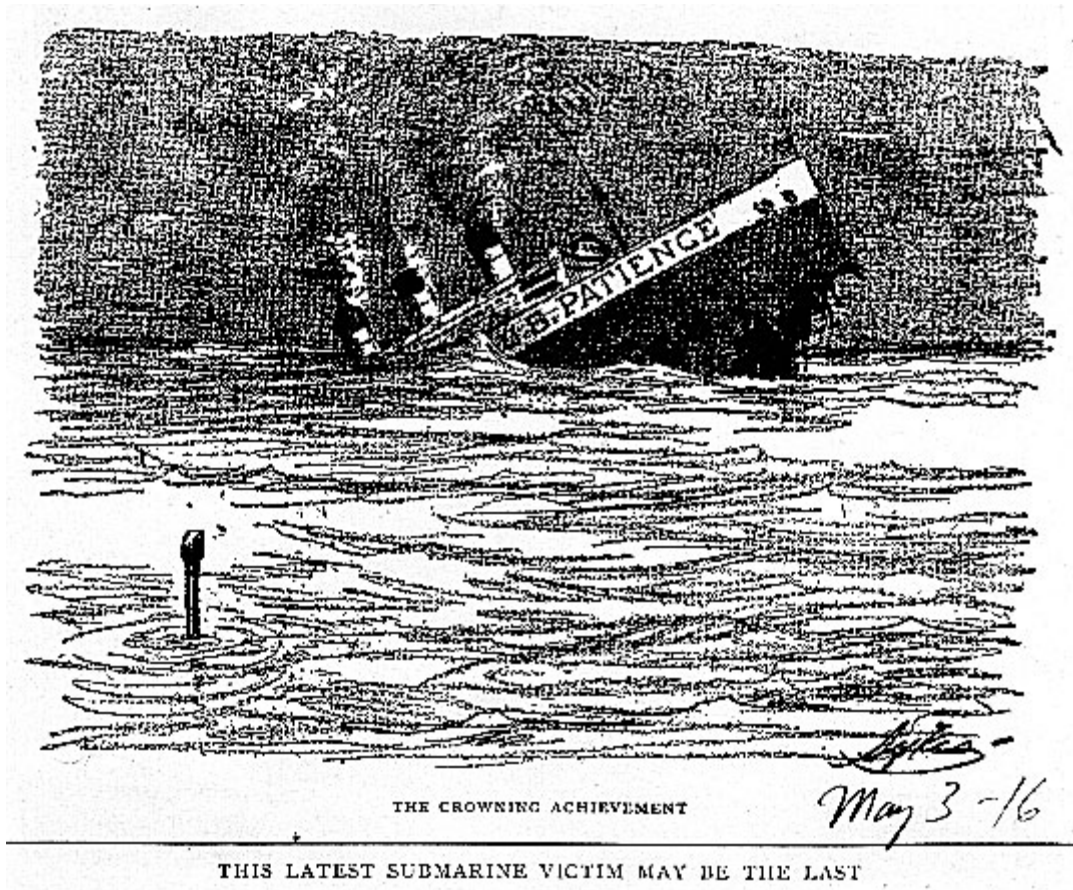
Causes of U.S.  
Involvement

Part 2 – Interpreting Cartoons

Cartoon 1



1. Look at the two figures in the cartoon. Who is the figure on the left? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who is the figure on the right? \_\_\_\_\_ Where are they standing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Look at the small figures in the cartoon. What does the figure in the center of the group represent?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Who do the other two figures represent? \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What separates the two groups of figures? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What U.S. government policy does this cartoon portray? \_\_\_\_\_



Circle the correct answer.

1. The sinking ship represents
  - a. the Titanic.
  - b. the patience of the U.S. people with German actions in World War I.
  - c. the Progressive Era.
2. The submarine is represented as
  - a. a dark cloud.
  - b. a hidden menace.
  - c. a sinking ship.
3. The caption of the cartoon, "This Latest Submarine Victim May Be The Last," indicates that
  - a. Germany had defeated the United States.
  - b. German submarines had sunk all of America's ships.
  - c. the U.S. was tired of Germany's actions and finally ready to declare war.



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Circle the correct answer.

1. The figure on the left in this cartoon represents
  - a. Germany
  - b. England
  - c. the United States
2. The figure on the right represents
  - a. Canada
  - b. Mexico
  - c. the United States
3. The paper represents
  - a. the Constitution of the United States.
  - b. the Zimmerman note.
  - c. the Roosevelt Corollary