**Why did the United States Enter World War I?**

*Since George Washington’s Farewell Address in 1796, the United States had followed a foreign policy of*

*non-intervention. This policy ended with the United States entrance into World War I in 1917. The*

*Presidency of Woodrow Wilson seemed to continue this non-interventionist policy when he declared a*

*policy of neutrality to the nation in 1914 and then ran on and won re-election in 1916 on the slogan “He*

*Kept Us Out of War.” By 1917 all of this changed due to world events that convinced President Wilson*

*that the United States must leave its policy of neutrality and enter the war. The effects of unrestricted*

*submarine (U-Boat) warfare, economic ties to the Allies, the public outrage to the sinking of the*

*Lusitania, the Sussex torpedoing, and the Zimmerman Telegram caused this change, and the United*

*States entered an Allied Alliance and a World War for the first time in its history*.

**Directions: click on the link below each question to access the primary source document to answer that question (s).**

1. Explain the position of the United States under President Wilson towards WWI at the beginning of the war.

<http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Declaration_of_Neutrality>

2. What is a U-Boat? Explain what was meant by unrestricted submarine warfare? What were the effects of it?

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/sub.htm>

3. Explain the balance of the amount (s) exported goods and loans that the United States was providing

the Allied and Central powers. Meaning, were the amounts equal or did they favor one side or the other? Provide examples.

<http://www.albany.edu/faculty/gz580/his101/lect8.html>

4. What message did the German Admiralty Declaration, 4 February 1915 send to the

world? (Explain the meaning contained in the German Admiralty Declaration) <http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/germanadmiraltydeclaration.htm>

5. What was President Wilson’s response to the German Admiralty Declaration? Explain what you think Wilson’s warning meant.

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/wilsonwarningfeb1915.htm>

6. What happened to the Lusitania? Explain the effect (s) its sinking had on the United States.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/rotogravures/rotolusit.html>

7. What happened to the Sussex? What was the U.S. response? List the terms of the Sussex Pledge.

<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1098.html>

8. What policy did Germany change on 31 January 1917 ? How did this policy affect the war (what did it put in motion) ? What was President Wilson’s response?

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/uboat_bernstorff.htm>

9. What was the Zimmerman Telegram( released to the press March 1st 1917)? What things were offered in the telegram? What U.S action (s) did the publication of the telegram offer?

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/zimmermann.htm>

10. Why does President Wilson ask for a special session of Congress on April 2nd 1917? Describe what effects Wilson predicted for the U.S. and the world .

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/wilsonwar.htm>

**Final Question:** Using the information that you have obtained from the previous websites, their

links, and any other outside information; please answer the following question:

• Summarize the events that led President Wilson to change American non-interventionist

policy and explain if you think that he could have avoid war . Give reasons for your answer.