



Source Wake up America! Civilization calls every man, woman and child! / James Montgomery Flagg. [1917] LCCN Permalink https://lccn.loc.gov/91726511

President Wilson's Declaration of Neutrality

Woodrow Wilson, Message to Congress, 63rd Cong., 2d Sess., Senate Doc. No. 566 (Washington, 1914), pp. 3-4.

and men proclaim as their opinions upon the street gathered in public meetings do and say, upon what newspapers and magazines contain, upon what ministers utter in their pulpits, concerned. The spirit of the nation in this critical matter will be determined largely by what individuals and society and those loves America will act and speak in the true spirit of neutrality, which is the spirit of impartiality and fairness and friendliness to all The effect of the war upon the United States will depend upon what American citizens say and do. Every man who really

other, involved in the war itself in impulse and opinion if not in action. all, bound in honor and affection to think first of her and her interests, may be divided in camps of hostile opinion, hot against each the people of the United States, whose love of their country and whose loyalty to its government should unite them as Americans and difficult to allay it. Those responsible for exciting it will assume a heavy responsibility, responsibility for no less a thing than that of the conflict. Some will wish one nation, others another, to succeed in the momentous struggle. It will be easy to excite passion inevitable that there should be the utmost variety of sympathy and desire among them with regard to the issues and circumstances The people of the United States are drawn from many nations, and chiefly from the nations now at war. It is natural and

and speak the counsels of peace and accommodation, not as a partisan, but as a friend. performance of our duty as the one great nation at peace, the one people holding itself ready to play a part of impartial mediation Such divisions amongst us would be fatal to our peace of mind and might seriously stand in the way of the proper

struggle before another. must put a curb upon our sentiments, as well as upon every transaction that might be construed as a preference of one party to the neutral in fact, as well as in name, during these days that are to try men's souls. We must be impartial in thought, as well as action, most essential breach of neutrality which may spring out of partisanship, out of passionately taking sides. The United States must be I venture, therefore, my fellow countrymen, to speak a solemn word of warning to you against that deepest, most subtle,

Wilson's War Message to Congress

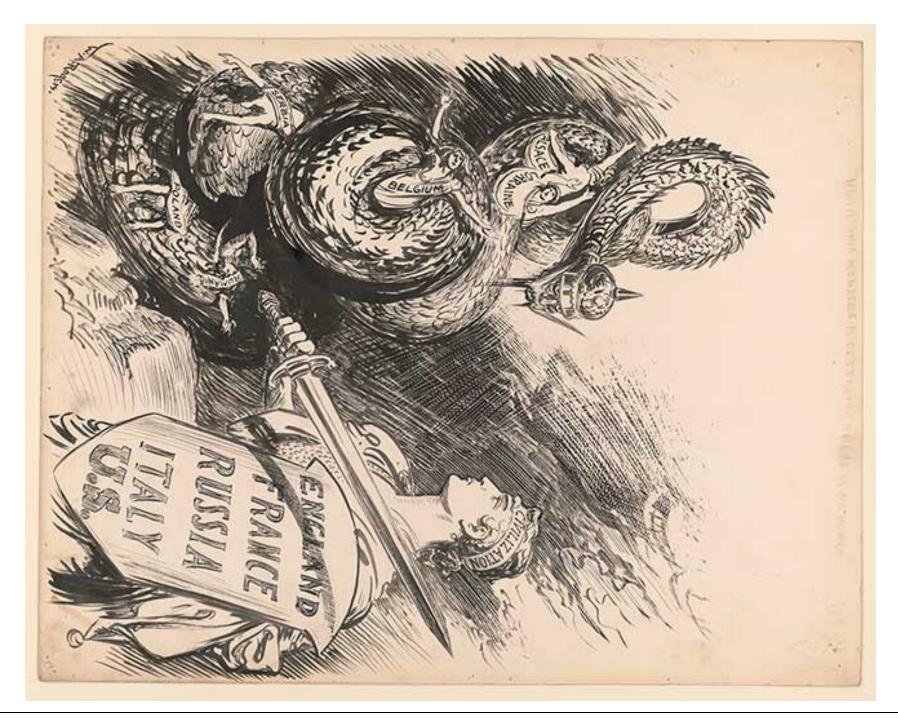
3-8, passim. On 3 February 1917, Woodrow Wilson, War Messages, 65th Cong., 1st Sess. Senate Doc. No. 5, Serial No. 7264, Washington, D.C., 1917; pp

Gentlemen of the Congress:

I have called the Congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made, and made immediately, which it was neither right nor constitutionally permissible that I should assume the responsibility of making

cut to the very roots of human life. our nation and our people to be ignored or violated. The wrongs against which we now array ourselves are no common wrongs; they choice we can not make, we are incapable of making: we will not choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of prevent; it is practically certain to draw us into the war without either the rights or the effectiveness of belligerents. There is one circumstances and in the face of such pretensions it is worse than ineffectual; it is likely only to produce what it was meant to as beyond the pale of law and subject to be dealt with as pirates would be. Armed neutrality is ineffectual enough at best; in such their right to defend. The intimation is conveyed that the armed guards which we have placed on our merchant ships will be treated the areas of the sea which it has proscribed, even in the defense of rights which no modern publicist has ever before questioned They must be dealt with upon sight, if dealt with at all. The German Government denies the right of neutrals to use arms at all within prudence in such circumstances, grim necessity indeed, to endeavour to destroy them before they have shown their own intention. merchantmen would defend themselves against privateers or cruisers, visible craft giving chase upon the open sea. It is common been used against merchant shipping, it is impossible to defend ships against their attacks as the law of nations has assumed that neutrality, it now appears, is impracticable. Because submarines are in effect outlaws when used as the German submarines have our right to use the seas against unlawful interference, our right to keep our people safe against unlawful violence. But armed When I addressed the Congress on the 26th of February last, I thought that it would suffice to assert our neutral rights with arms,

and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other. the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts -- for democracy, for the right of those who submit to terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may





Source Sinking of the Linda Blanche out of Liverpool. Willy Stöwer [1915]

Link https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Willy_St%C3%B6wer - Sinking of the Linda Blanche out of Liverpool.jpg

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

We

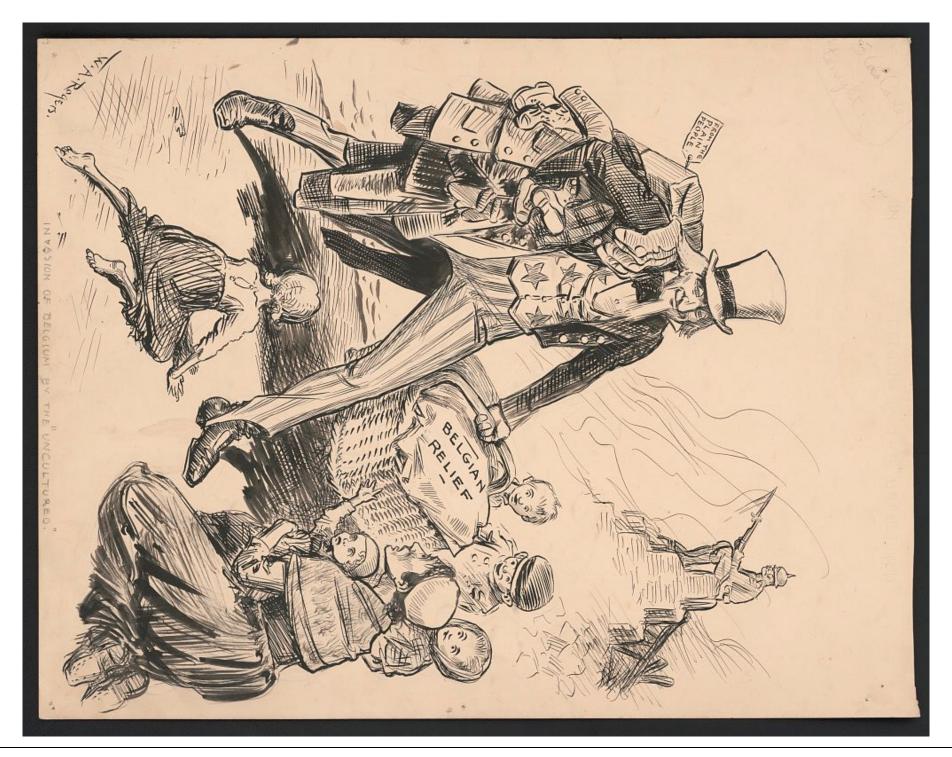
intend

to

begin on the

first of February

You the ing, 'n unrestricted the United standing together, following few CBIL suggestion secretly America arizona. offers ime spite Will lost months ruthless mediate ₩e the Japan States the neutral. make S, 88 President' territory on our inform The basis: generous that ç prospect to ROOR this Mex1co submarine employment between of settlement make immediate he the part 88 to keep America make In in should financial 00 peace. the B 0, President the that Japan attention Texas, proposal TRW warfare. compelling ů, outbreak in the United States adherence 18 event Mexico and our g together, detail certain Signed New support of h18 S, င္မ é ourselves submarines ₩6 of. 18 the Mexico, nwo alliance the this England and 18 shall and 6 TRW 717 make and above left fact initiative, not reconquer NA REE with add the an underendeavog Mou H the same peace most ç g eucceedthat Please the you.





Source "Lusitania Extra—No. 3—Lusitania is Sunk: Giant Liner Blown Up—Report All Saved," Boston American, May 7, 1915. Serial and Government Publications Division, Library of Congress (002.00.00) [1917?]

Link https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/world-war-i-american-experiences/online-exhibition/arguing-over-war/for-or-against-war/sinking-of-the-lusitania/