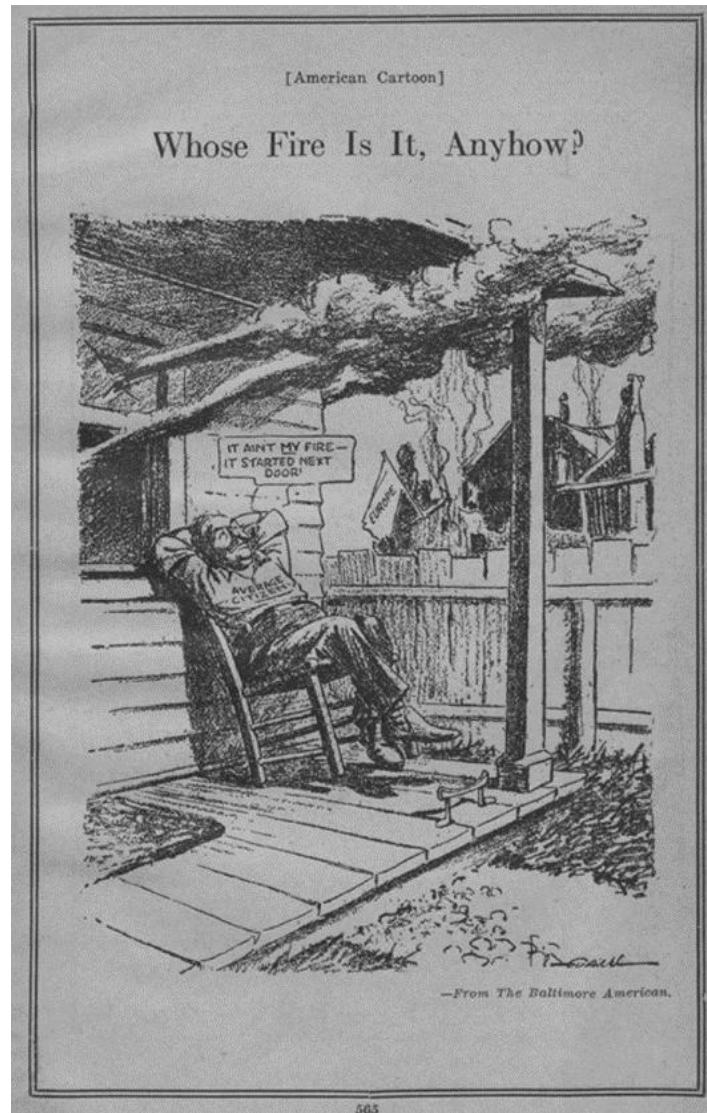




Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

A cartoon about  
American's attitude  
towards the war  
in Europe.



The New York Times Current History: *The European War* July- September Vol. XII, 565.



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

Baseball  
World Series  
cartoon parody  
of trench warfare.



*Dallas Morning News, August 1917 1.*



# The PORTAL to TEXAS HISTORY

*Embark on a Voyage of Discovery*

<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

## Primary Source Adventures: Failed Diplomacy: The Zimmermann Telegram

The coded form of the  
Zimmermann Telegram

**WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM**

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

GERMAN LEGATION  
MEXICO CITY

via Galveston

JAN 19 1917

863.30212/12A

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13805	3494	14938	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5181	39695	
23571	17504	11269	18276	18101	0317	0228	17694	4473	
22284	22200	19452	21589	67893	5569	13918	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4458	5905	17166	13851	4458	17149	14471	6706
13850	12224	6929	14991	7382	15857	67893	14218	36477	
5870	17553	67893	5870	5454	16102	15217	22801	17138	
21001	17388	7446	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3166	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22464	20855	4377	
23610	18140	22260	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20667	
6929	5275	18507	52282	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11267
21100	21272	9346	9559	22464	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2188	5376	7381	98092	18127	13486	9350	9220	76036	14219
5144	2831	17920	11347	17142	11264	7667	7762	15099	9110
10482	97556	3569	3670						

BEHNSTOFF.

Charge German Embassy.

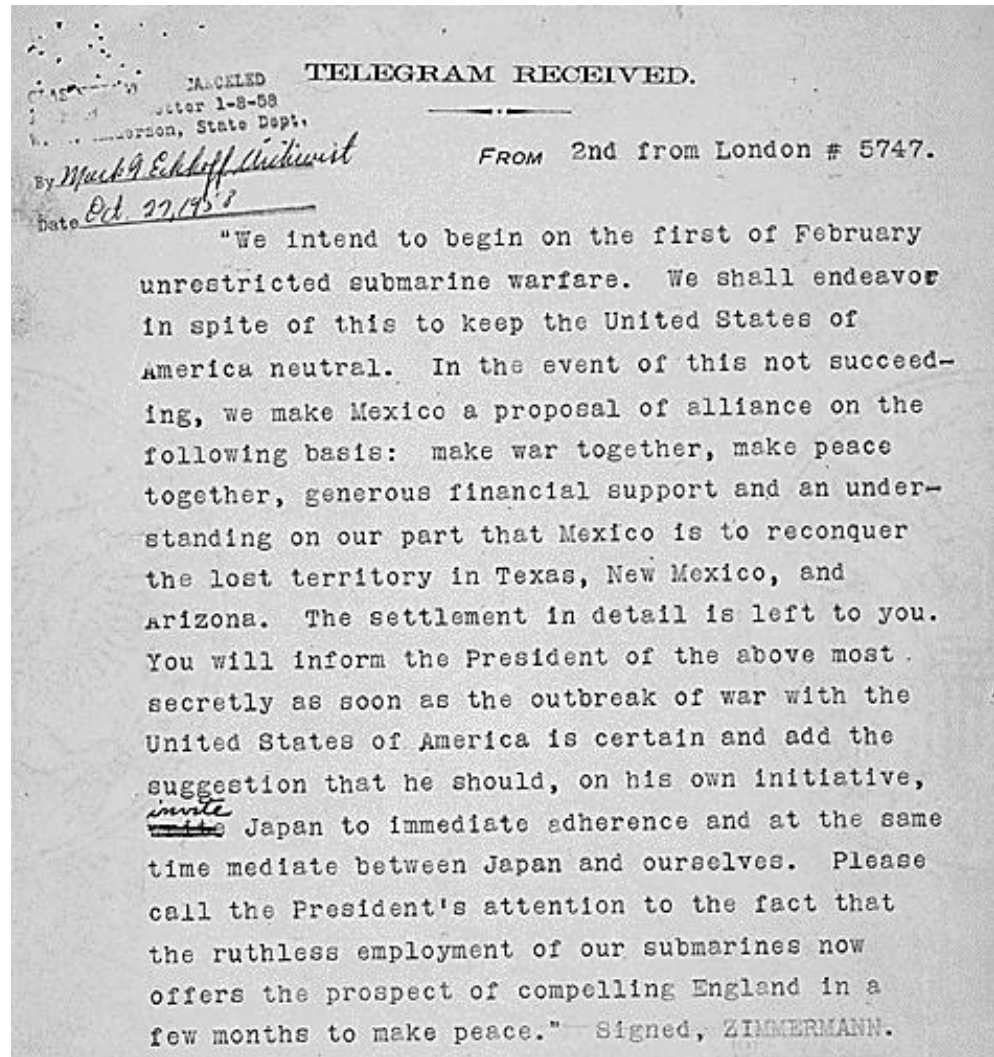
Zimmermann Telegram as Received by the German Ambassador to Mexico, 01/19/1917  
Record Group 59: General Records of the Department of State, 1756 – 1979 National Archives and Records Administration  
ARC Identifier 302025

University of North Texas Libraries



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram decoded  
message



Zimmermann Telegram – Decoded Message,  
Record Group 59: General Records of the Department of State, 1756-1979 National Archives and Records Administration.  
ARC Identifier 302022.



A copy of the telegram circulated through the United States Senate

STEP TAKEN ON JANUARY 19.

A copy of Zimmermann's instructions to Von Eckhardt, sent through Von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States Government. It is as follows:

BERLIN, January 19, 1917.

On the 1st of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

MEXICO TO BRING IN JAPAN.

You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

ZIMMERMANN.

U.S. Congressional Record, Senate Second Session of the 64<sup>th</sup> Congress vol. LIV, 1917. 4596



## The Senate's request for more information about the telegram

Mr. LODGE. I ask that it be read.

The message was read, as follows:

*To the Senate:*

In response to the resolution adopted by the Senate on March 1, 1917, requesting the President to furnish the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, whatever information he has concerning the note published in the press of this date purporting to have been sent January 19, 1917, by the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the German minister to Mexico, I transmit herewith a report by the Secretary of State, which has my approval.

WOODROW WILSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, March 1, 1917.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, March 1, 1917.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

The resolution adopted by the United States Senate on March 1, 1917, requesting that that body be furnished, if not incompatible with the public interest, whatever information you have concerning the note published in the press of this date purporting to have been sent January 19, 1917, by the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the German minister to Mexico, I have the honor to state that the Government is in possession of evidence which establishes the fact that the note referred to is authentic, and that it is in the possession of the Government of the United States, and that the evidence was procured by this Government during the present week, but that it is, in my opinion, incompatible with the public interest to send to the Senate at the present time any further information in the possession of the Government of the United States relative to the note mentioned in the resolution of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT LANSING.



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

Texan reaction to  
Zimmermann  
Telegram



Dallas Morning News 21 March 1917 Political Cartoon illustrating Texas reaction to the Zimmermann Telegram



**The Dallas Morning News**  
VOL. XXXII. DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES NO. 152

# GERMANY PLOTTING TO INVOLVE MEXICO AND JAPAN IN WAR WITH UNITED STATES; TEXAS, NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA CARRANZA'S SHARE OF SPOILS FOR CAUSING JAPAN TO TURN TRAITOR TO ENTENTE

## OFFICIAL LETTER FROM ZIMMERMANN TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO CITY NOW IN HANDS OF ADMINISTRATION BERNSTORFF'S PART IN PLOT EXPOSED—CARRANZA'S RECENT PEACE NOTE EXPLAINED

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany, in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and counting its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States if this country should not remain neutral. Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her allies and join in the attack on the United States. Mexico, for her reward, was to receive general financial support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona—lost provinces—and share in the victorious peace terms Germany contemplated.

Details were left to German Minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City, who, by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann at Berlin, January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to General Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot. These instructions were transmitted to Von Eckhardt through Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador here, now on his way home to Germany under a safe conduct obtained from his enemies by the country against which he was plotting war.

Germany pictured to Mexico, by broad intimation, England and the entente allies defeated, Germany and her allies triumphant and in world domination by the instrument of unrestricted submarine warfare.

A copy of Zimmermann's instructions to Von Eckhardt, sent through Von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States Government. It is as follows:

"Berlin, January 19, 1917.—On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

"You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan, at the same time offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months. (Signed) ZIMMERMANN."

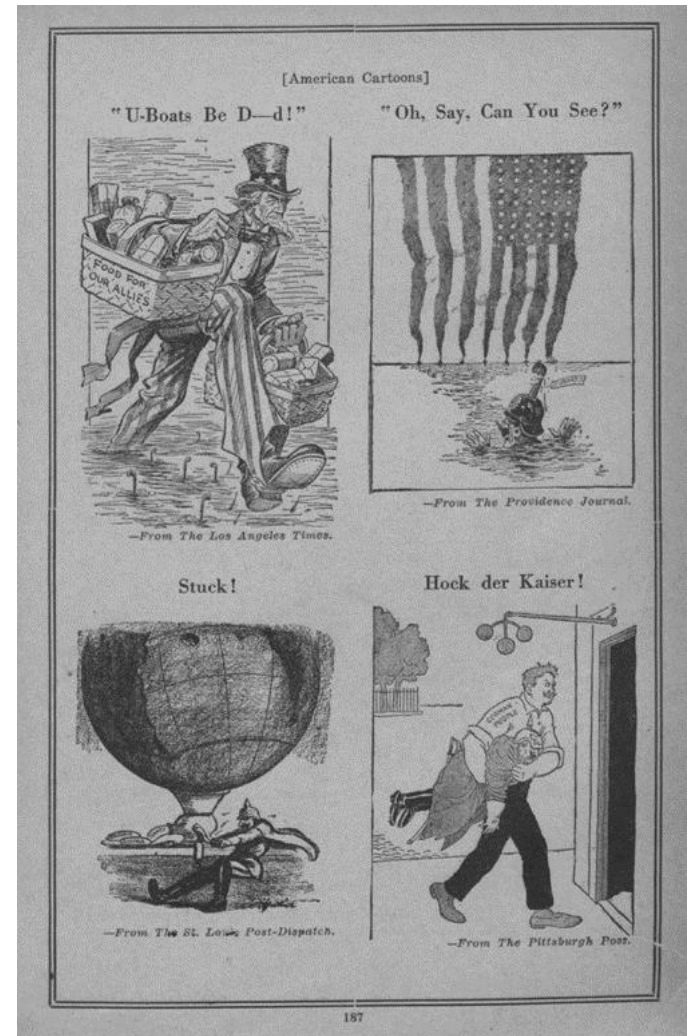
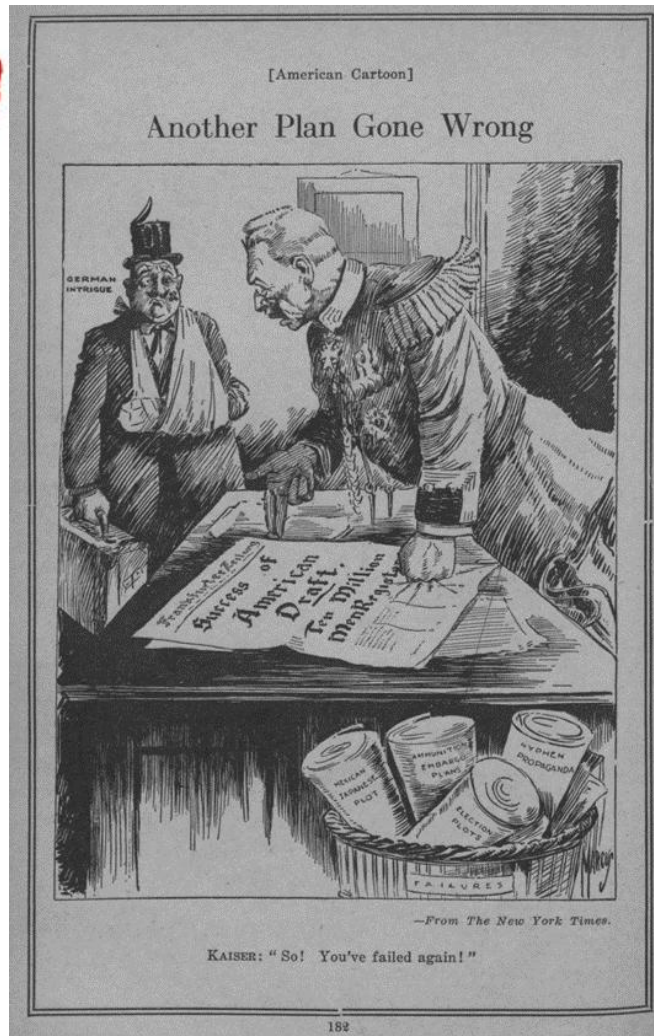
This document has been in the hands of the Government since President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. It has been kept secret, while the President has been asking Congress for full authority to deal with Germany, and while Congress has been hesitating. It was in the President's hands while Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg was declaring that the United States had placed an interpretation on the submarine declaration "never intended by Germany," and that Germany had promoted and honored friendly relations with the United States "as an heirloom from Frederick the Great."

Of itself, if there were no other, it is considered a sufficient answer to the German Chancellor's plaint that the United States "brusquely" broke off relations without giving "authentic" reasons for its action.



## Political cartoons about U.S. involvement in World War I

Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram



The New York Times Current History: *The European War* July- September Vol. XII, 182, 187.



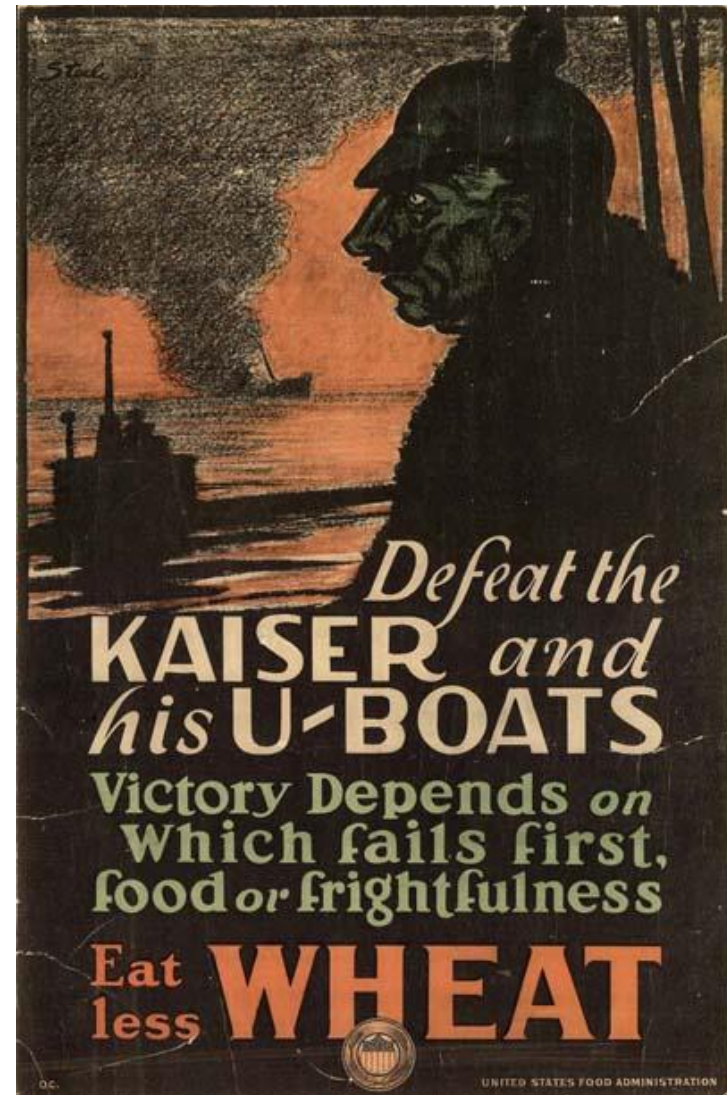
*The* PORTAL to  
TEXAS HISTORY

*Embark on a Voyage of Discovery*

<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

Propaganda posters condemning  
Germany and her U-boats



U.S. Food Administration. *Defeat the Kaiser and his U-Boats*. Ilus. By Steele. n.p., n.d. (Poster, 22"x14").

University of North Texas Libraries

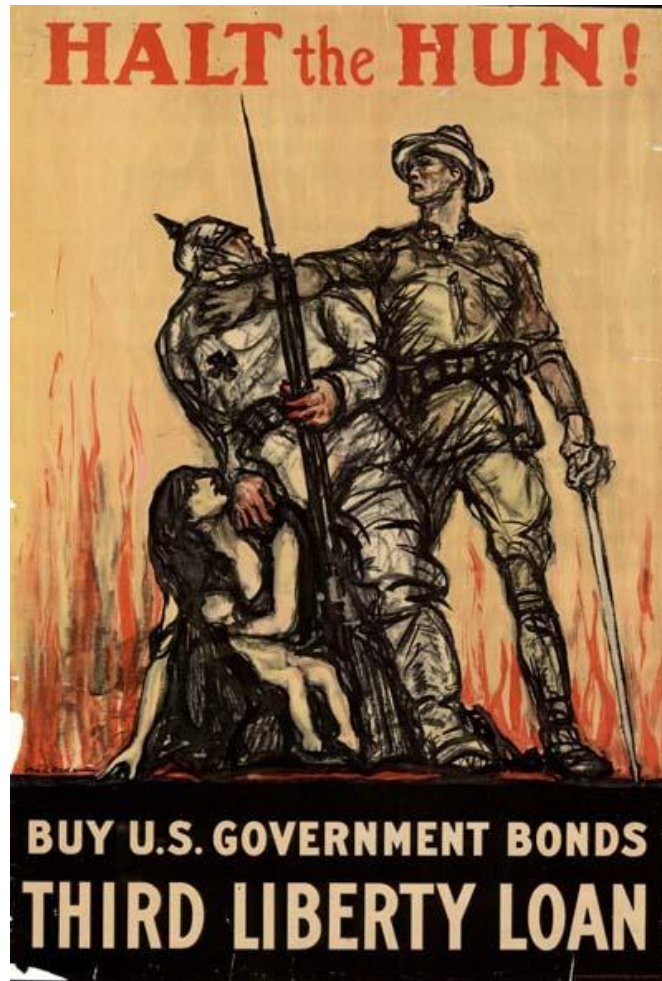


## The PORTAL to TEXAS HISTORY

*Embark on a Voyage of Discovery*

<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

U.S. war poster, note depiction of  
German vs. American soldier



U.S. Treasury Department. Publicity Bureau. *Halt the Hun!* Illus. By Raleigh. Chicago: Edwards & Deutsch Litho Co., [1918]. ([3 liberty Loan poster] 4-A). (T 1.25/7 :4-A; Poster, 30"x20").

## GERMAN PLOT PROVES SENSATION IN LONDON

GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT IT  
WILL PROVE A CASUS BELLI  
FOR UNITED STATES.

London, March 1, 11:10 p. m.—The time is long past when any fresh orientation of the German policy is calculated to astonish the British public, but the revelation of the plot to induce Mexico and Japan to attack the United States provided this country with a first-class sensation today.

The Associated Press Washington dispatch gave the late afternoon papers the first news, which was displayed under startling headlines, such as:

"Great Hun Plot Unmasked;" "Most Sensational Plot of the War;" "Amazing Revelation of German Duplicity."

The immediate idea of the man in the street was that here at last was an undoubted casus belli for the United States, the only matter for curiosity appearing to be how soon an actual declaration of war might be expected.

Perhaps next to the effect of the news in America, the attitude of Japan excited the public mind most. Nowhere, however, did the idea prevail for a moment that Japan could be detached from the entente alliance. While the greatest confidence is felt that such an intrigue could only recoil on its authors, the British public is watching with greatest interest further developments.

A majority of the morning newspapers give the greatest prominence to the German plot to have Mexico and Japan go to war with the United States if that country should not remain neutral in the European situation. In addition to the Associated Press Washington dispatches, they print long special dispatches from Washington and New York under big headlines. "Amazing German Treachery," and "Bernstorff's Perfidy" are among the headlines, which indicate the general treatment of the story.

The British  
reaction  
to the Telegram

Dallas Morning News  
2 August 1917

University of North Texas Libraries

Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram



## Mexico's actions after the telegram and U.S. suspicion

Almost coincident with Zubaran's return from Germany, Cabrera returned to Mexico City, open in his expressions of anti-Americanism. Zubaran, before being sent abroad, had represented General Carranza here while the Niagara mediation conferences were proceeding, and was no less avowedly anti-American than Cabrera.

Carranza's peace proposal was openly pronounced as evidence of German influence in Mexico by officials here, who declared it was intended only to embarrass the United States. Then apparently some influences showed their effect on the course of the Mexican Government, and on Feb. 25 Cabrera, the Minister of Finance, issued a statement describing the "amazement" of the Mexican Government that the American newspapers should have interpreted General Carranza's proposal to cut off exports of munitions as a suggestion that he might cut off shipments of British oil. They were, Cabrera declared, "entirely groundless."

Meanwhile Baron von Schoen, secretary of the German embassy here, was transferred to the legation in Mexico City. No explanation could be obtained of the reason for his transfer and such investigation as was possible failed to develop why a secretary from the United States should be sent to the German legation in Mexico. Baron von Schoen's association with the moves, if any at all, does not appear. The only outward indication that he might have been connected with them is found in the fact that he recently had been detached from the German embassy in Tokio and was well acquainted with the Japanese Minister in Mexico City.

There was an intimation that Germany's astounding proposal that Japan turn traitor to her allies had been answered by Tokio.

### EMBASSY WAS HEADQUARTERS.

Count von Bernstorff's connection with the plot, further than serving as a channel of communication, is intensified by the fact that the German embassy here was not merely the medium of delivering a message in this instance, but was really a sort of headquarters for all the German missions in Central and South America.

Dallas Morning News, 1 August 1917



## Japan's reaction to the telegram

# German Proposal to Abandon Allies Not Received by Japan

Tokio, March 2, 5:30 p. m.—Japan has received no proposition from either Mexico or Germany, directly or indirectly, to join in a possible war against the United States, Viscount Motono, Japanese Foreign Minister, informed the Associated Press today.

Viscount Motono said he considered such an idea ridiculous, it being based on the outrageous presumption that Japan would abandon her allies. If Mexico received the proposal, Viscount Motono added, that country showed intelligence in not transmitting it to Japan.

Dallas Morning News  
3 August 1917



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

Cartoon about  
congressional reaction to  
Zimmermann Telegram.



Dallas Morning News, 3 August 1917. Editorial cartoon on rush to war.



Pro-Wilson feelings  
in Texas

## IN SAFE HANDS

Woodrow Wilson deserves the implicit confidence of that great majority of the people of the United States who earnestly desire peace. For two years, in the most trying circumstances, under great and repeated provocation, he showed an unwavering determination to keep the United States out of war if that could possibly be done without surrendering rights of such a fundamental nature that none but a contemptible Nation would surrender them.

Last April—a year after the sinking of the Lusitania—he stated the terms upon which this country would continue friendly relations with Germany. The country unquestionably approved that statement. The only notable objections came from those who resented its moderation. After careful consideration, Germany chose to reject those terms. The choice lay with her. When she chose to reject our terms the United States had no choice but to terminate friendly relations.

The situation was thrust upon the President after he had done the utmost to avoid it that national self-respect would permit. On his record all those who sincerely wish peace, but would not purchase it by surrender of vital rights, must give him their complete confidence. His course throughout demonstrated that he was a trustworthy guardian of their interests. Whatever could reasonably be done to avoid war, he would do.

All attempts to discredit and harass him in the crisis were unworthy and should have no countenance. The fatuous and transparent agitation for a referendum previous to a declaration of war was only, in effect, an attempt to get a vote of lack of confidence in the President and to tie his hands; so that, no matter what indignities or outrages might come, the Government of the United States must stand idle for weeks with its hands in its pockets—a spectacle for the laughter and scorn of the nations—while an electioneering diversion was carried out.

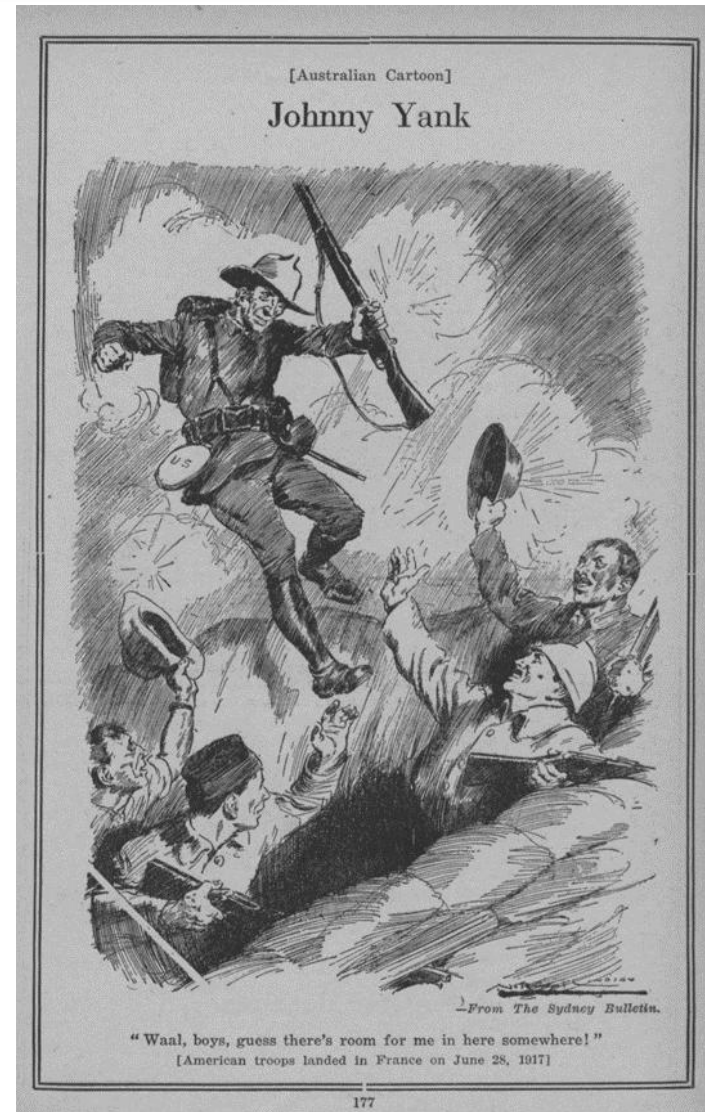
Give no countenance to any attempt to discredit and harass the President. He has deserved your confidence. Let him know he has it.—Saturday Evening Post.

Dallas Morning News, 2 August 1917. Reprint of *Saturday Evening Post* article supporting President Wilson



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

A cartoon about  
Europe's reaction to  
America's entry into the war.



The New York Times Current History: *The European War* Vol. XIII, October-December, 1917, 177.



## The PORTAL to TEXAS HISTORY

*Embark on a Voyage of Discovery*

<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

U.S. propaganda poster



*For Liberty Civilization and Humanity.* New York: Il Cittadino, n.d. (Poster, 24"x14."  
"from the original cast by E. Cammilli.")

The British  
Empire's  
financial  
dependence  
on the U.S.

Dallas Morning News  
31 August 1917

## BRITAIN TO BORROW \$250,000,000 IN U. S.

ONE AND TWO-YEAR NOTES OF-  
FERED MAY BE CONVERTED INTO  
LONG-TIME BONDS.

New York, Jan. 17.—Another new British loan amounting to \$250,000,000 will be floated in this country by J. P. Morgan & Co., that banking firm announced tonight. This is the third flotation, including the Anglo-French, of British loans in the United States since the outbreak of the war.

The new loan, secured by high-grade collateral, will take the form of 5½ per cent convertible notes dated Feb. 1, 1917, \$100,000,000 to mature in one year and the balance in two years.

A country-wide syndicate composed of banks and trust companies, banking houses and bond dealers, has been organized to offer the notes to individual participants. The notes will be convertible at par at the option of the holder, prior to maturity, into a 5½ per cent bond of the United Kingdom maturing in twenty years.

"Increasing ease in money conditions and the prevailing demand for high-grade bonds," says the banking firm's announcement, "have led us to suggest to the British Treasury the advisability of issuing at this time a security possessing the advantage of early maturity and at the same time giving American investors, through the conversion privilege, the opportunity to obtain an obligation of Great Britain yielding an attractive interest return for a considerable period of years after normal conditions shall have been restored."

University of North Texas Libraries

Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram



U.S. Food Administration. *Food will win the War You came here Seeking Freedom You Must Now Help to Preserve it*. Illus. by Charles Edward Chambers. NY: Rusling Wood, Litho. ([Poster] no. 18). (Y3.F73/10:18; Poster, 30"x20").

## FOOD CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN TO START

WORK IN NORTHERN, CENTRAL  
AND EASTERN TEXAS WILL  
BEGIN TOMORROW.

The daily effect  
on life in Texas  
after America  
enters the war

Dallas Morning News  
7 August 1917

The campaign to conserve food in Northern, Central and Eastern Texas will begin actively tomorrow morning. Headquarters for the work in these sections has been opened at Commerce and Browder streets by J. R. Babcock, director of the campaign. The first two or three days will be spent in planning the work.

Mr. Babcock will go to Houston Tuesday to attend a meeting of campaign officers called by E. A. Peden, Texas food administrator. Work relating to the week of Oct. 21-28, when food card pledges will be distributed to every home, restaurant and hotel in the State, will be taken up. Representatives from the United States food administration at Washington are expected to be present.

Although many business concerns have contributed furniture, supplies and clerical help for the Dallas office additional men, women and office supplies are needed. No money has been appropriated by the Government to finance the food administration work, Mr. Babcock said.



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram

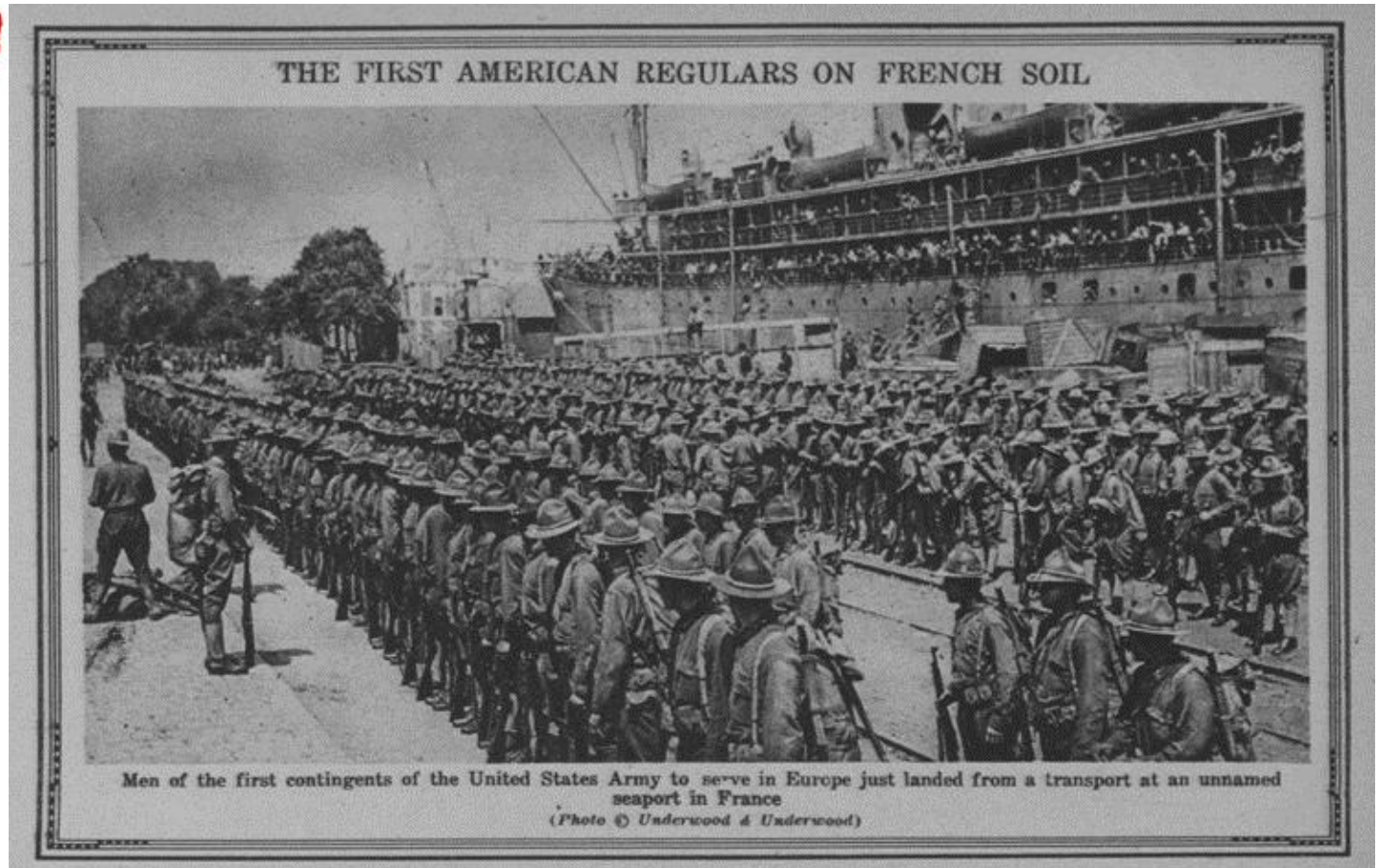
Poster encouraging  
citizens  
to support troops.



American Library Association. "Hey Fellows!" Illus. by Sheridan. n.p. [by 1918].



Primary  
Source  
Adventures:  
Failed  
Diplomacy:  
The  
Zimmermann  
Telegram



The New York Times Current History: *The European War* July- September Vol. XII, 394.