

Statement
of Context

In 1916, Woodrow Wilson was running for his second term as President of the United States on the slogan, "He kept us out of war!" By 1917, however, Wilson was requesting a declaration of war. Congress overwhelmingly authorized his request. What accounts for this swift reversal? The United States entered World War I for a variety of reasons. This paper will demonstrate how economics, U-boat attacks, and the Zimmerman Telegram persuaded the American government to enter the war.

Thesis

Statement of organization

Topic
Sentence

U-boat attacks were one of the strongest factors to draw the United States into the War. According the author of *A People's History of the United States*, Howard Zinn, "In early 1915, the British liner Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk by a German Submarine. She sank in eighteen minutes and 1,198 people died, including 124 Americans." As Zinn goes on to observe, even though the ship was carrying weapons the United States portrayed this as a "German atrocity." Clearly, this attack and the deaths of innocent Americans could have provided the United States with one reason to oppose Germany. **CD** _____

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Certainly, the continued attacks on ships and innocent lives played an important role in America's involvement in the war.

Conclusion
Sentence

Topic
Sentence

Another reason the United States went to war had to do with economic incentives. In his book, *The American Age*, Walter LaFeber notes, "War-related exports doubled in the last half of 1915 to \$2 billion (with most going to England and France), then doubled once more in 1916."

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