

Classifying Events of World War I **KEY**

Briefly identify and summarize each event. Identify the date that the event occurred. Then, determine if the event was a cause of war or a reason for U.S. entry into war. Cite your evidence in the space underneath the appropriate column.

Event	Date	Cause of War?	Reason for U.S. entry into war?
Nationalism – rivalries among France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia	Before 1914	Several nationalities in Austria-Hungary wanted to form their own national states	
German Proclamation – Germany forbade merchant ships from traveling through British waters; unleashed unrestricted submarine warfare on any ship entering the battle zone	1915		Declared waters around the British Isles a war zone – American vessels travelled these waters – some to aid the Allied war effort
Sussex Pledge – Germany pledges not to sink merchant ships without warning, but does not uphold this pledge	1916		Impacted American merchant ships
Sinking of the Lusitania- German submarine torpedoed British ocean liner Lusitania and killed 128 Americans	1915		American deaths prompted intervention
Unrestricted submarine warfare – Germany could not overcome the British naval blockade of German shipments so they used submarines to sink merchant ships with goods for Great Britain; diplomatic negotiations failed to end Germany’s unrestricted submarine warfare and continued U-boat attacks on American ships	1917		Attack on American ships prompted intervention
Alliance system – Americans had more in common and more history with Great Britain and France than with Germany (Ex. Austria declared war on Serbia; Germany declared war on Russia, then France, to assist Austria; Britain declared war on Germany for striking at France through Belgium; Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined Germany and Austria to form the Central Powers while Britain, France and Russia, Italy and Japan joined the Allies.)	1916	American political and social ties were more closely aligned to Great Britain and France than to Germany	
Zimmerman telegram – Arthur Zimmerman (German foreign minister) sent a note to the German minister in Mexico to encourage an alliance between Germany and Mexico. The United States intercepted the message and shared it with the American people who were outraged.	1917		American people were outraged and became more supportive of American intervention in World War I.
Militarism – European nations maintained strong military culture and institutions and were prepared for an attack (rather than to be attacked)	Before 1914	Powerful military culture in Europe	
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand	1914	Serbia committed the assassination to communicate its desire for independence from	

		Austria-Hungary.	
Neutrality – World War I begins in Europe; President Woodrow Wilson declares U.S. neutrality to attempt to maintain the traditional American policy	1914		Even with an intention for neutrality, America is drawn to war for several reasons: alliances, German propaganda, Zimmerman telegram, German unrestricted submarine warfare
Economic rivalries/imperialism – European powers had competing imperial ambitions which led to economic rivalries	Before 1914	Economic rivalries led to military expansion, diplomatic maneuvering, and international tensions	