



LOC TPS US/WH/APWH 1900-present WWI - Examining US entry into WWI 9-12 Grades

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This activity is sponsored in part by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Region Program, coordinated by Waynesburg University.

One to two class periods of 45 – 60 minutes

Description of activity: Examine and analyze primary sources to learn about US sentiment in early WWI.

Activity Goals: Students will learn about the historical context of early WWI in the US, investigate and analyze news coverage and public opinion.

Focus Question: How did Americans view the events of early World War One?

Context: This activity would fit well after studying the causes of World War One.

Objectives: Students will be able to explain US attitudes regarding involvement

APWH 6.2.III

Virginia Standards

WHII.1, WHII.10

VUS.1, VUS.9

Assessment: Students will answer analysis questions, take a stand on US involvement, and debrief during an in-class discussion.

Activity Details: Students will examine events and coverage by the New York Times of early WWI.

Primary Sources: see below

Procedure: Students should take the link to examine each source and do their best to answer the questions. Class discussion as a wrap-up will be crucial for students to further develop their historical thinking and analysis skills.

What you will need before implementing: This lesson would be most effective with computer access for all students. The documents, directions, and chart should be shared digitally with all students (in Google Docs or another format). This activity could be accomplished with paper copy of the materials for each student.

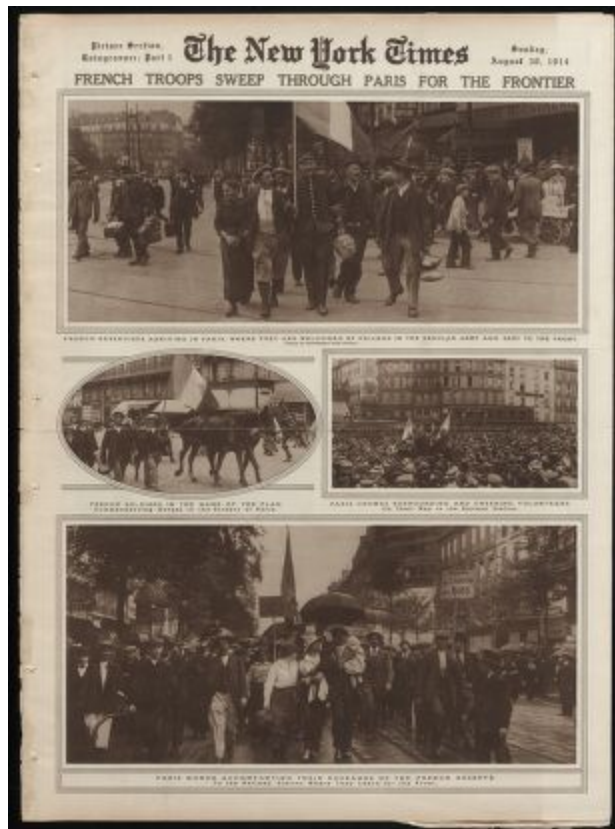


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Part 1: Review the Background and Scope of the Rotogravure collection from the Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-rotogravures/about-this-collection/>

Part 2:



The New York times, August 30, 1914

12 pages

<https://www.loc.gov/item/sn78004456/1914-08-30/ed-1/>

Review all 12 pages. Take note of the date and consider the historical context.

How do these images relate to the events of the time?

What is presumed to be the role of the United States in world affairs?

Where were the photos taken?

Is there a particular side taken by this newspaper? Explain your answer.



Part 3: Examine the next two sources and answer the questions.

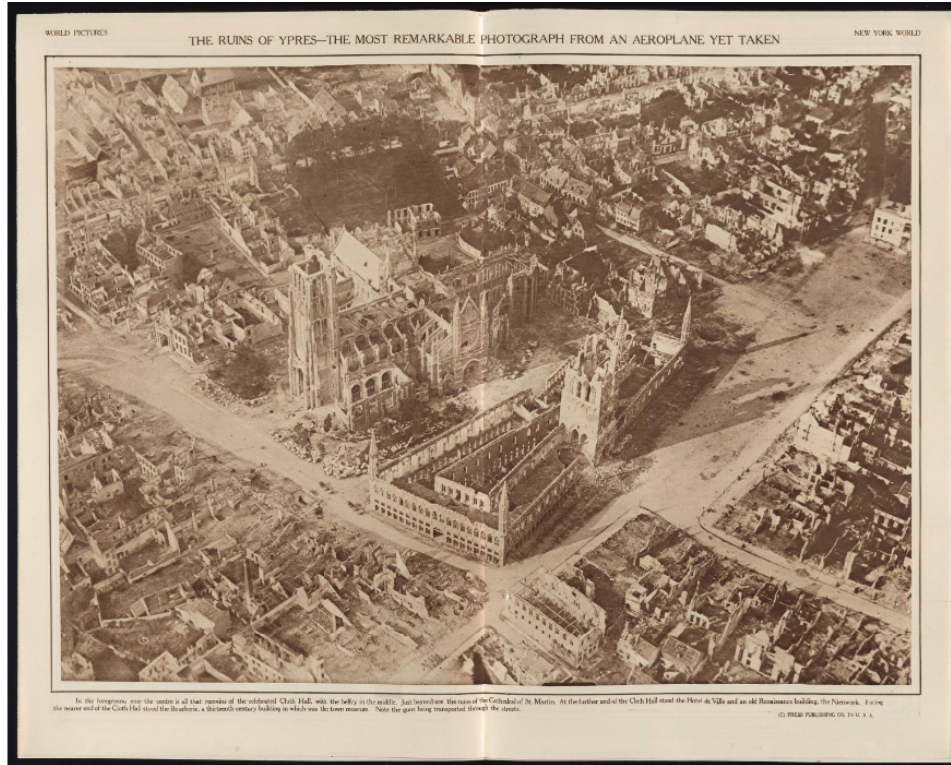


The New York times, September 20, 1914

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn78004456/1914-09-20/ed-1/?sp=1>



Improving Historical Thinking Skills through Source-Based Instruction
Paige K Solomon, Norfolk Collegiate



The world, September 26, 1915

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn86071683/1915-09-26/ed-1/?sp=4>

Would you have supported US involvement? If so, for which side and why?
Would you have supported isolationism? If so, why?



Part 4:



The New York times, December 26, 1915

12 pages

<https://www.loc.gov/item/sn78004456/1915-12-26/ed-1/>

Review all 12 pages. Take note of the date and consider the historical context.

How do these images relate to the events of the time and the role of the United States in world affairs?

Where were the photos taken?

Explain how the images support one another.

Explain how the images seem to contradict one another.

Did the newspaper attempt to sway public opinion to favor one side or the other?

Explain your response.

Are there hints as to how events would unfold over the next two years?