

Did the U.S. enter World War 1 for economic reasons?

Examine the information on this chart and then answer the questions that follow.

Nation	United States Trade with Nations at War (millions of dollars)		
	1914	1915	1916
Great Britain	594	912	1,527
France	160	369	629
Italy	74	185	269
Germany	345	29	less than 1

- 1) According to the chart, the United States had 74 worth of trade with Italy in 1914. What does 74 mean?
A) 74 dollars B) 74 tons C) \$74,000 D) 74 million dollars
- 2) In 1914, at the beginning of World war 1, which country had the most trade with the United States? A) Great Britain B) France C) Italy D) Germany
- 3) In 1914, at the beginning of World War 1, which country had the second most trade with the United States? A) Great Britain B) France C) Italy D) Germany
- 4) During World War 1, which of these countries was not an ally of the others?
A) Great Britain B) France C) Italy D) Germany
- 5) During World War 1, which country did the United State fight against?
A) Great Britain B) France C) Italy D) Germany
- 6) During World War 1, but before the United States entered the war, what happened to United States trade with Great Britain, France and Italy? A) Trade went up
B) Trade stayed the same C) Trade went down D) Trade nearly stopped
- 7) During World War 1, but before the United States entered the war, what happened to United States trade with Germany? A) Trade went up B) Trade stayed the same C) Trade went down
D) Trade nearly stopped
- 8) President Wilson said that the United States policy at the beginning of World War 1 was strict neutrality. If you were a Senator, how would you respond after seeing this chart?

Why did the United States Enter World War I?

An Economic Motive?

A) Secretary of State William J. Bryan (1914):

Key vocabulary: Neutral - not involved; belligerent - participant in a war; contraband- illegal goods.

"It is inconsistent with the spirit of neutrality for a neutral nation to make loans to belligerent nations, for money is the worst of all contrabands....The government withdraws the protection of citizenship from those who do enlist under other flags -- why should it give protection to money when it enters foreign military service?"

What is Bryan recommending? Why?

B) Secretary of State William J. Bryan (1915):

"It is not sufficient to say that according to international law, American citizens have a right to go anywhere....If the authorities of a city are justified in warning people off the streets of the city in which they reside, surely a nation is justified in warning its citizens off the water highways which belong to no nation alone."

What is Bryan suggesting? Why?

U.S. Trade with Belligerents, 1914 - 1916

(Millions of Dollars)

Nation	1914	1915	1916	percent change
Great Britain	\$594 million	912	1,527	+ 257%
France	\$160 million	369	629	+393%
Italy	\$74 million	185	269	+364%
Germany	\$345 million	29	.29	- 1,150%

What is the trend of U.S. trade from 1914 to 1916? Why?