

18/20.

Examine the causes & consequences of the USA's entrance into the First World War in 1917.

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After the assassination of Austrian arch-duke, Franz Ferdinand, majority of Europe was pulled into a costly, destructive ^{world} war which

lasted from 1914, until 1918. For vast majority of the war, the United

States of America publically proclaimed a neutral stance towards the ^{European conflict} war, (although, indirectly ^{the us} were favouring the allied nations through

trade, loans and manufacturing). ^{Germany alongside} This situation changed in 1917, when the Americans joined the war against the Allied powers, eventually

contributing towards the allies triumphing over Germany. ^{in November 1918} This outcome of the war ^{economic} led to the anger and

destruction felt by Germany throughout the 1920s. ^{the} American intervention in the war also partially inspired the 14 points of Woodrow Wilson -

a political concept which transformed 20th century European history. The causes and consequences of the USA's involvement in this significant

20th century event will be carefully examined throughout this essay. In order to answer why, and with what consequences the USA abandoned

its "isolationist" foreign policy, and engaged in this significant historical war. ^{A very nice opening. Clear focus on question with context interestingly and engagingly written.}

Several factors contributed towards the USA's decision to join the war after many years of adapting a "neutral" stance towards

it. The two key causes of this decision were firstly, the Germany's provocative selection of warfare, and secondly, the "Zimmerman

Telegram of 1917. In the year 1915, Germany had begun using unrestricted submarine warfare in attempt to accomplish its aims in the

war, and establish a lead over the British ^{royal} Navy. This form of German warfare (which involved attacking vessels without warning) had become particularly popular after the Allies had formed a naval blockade

around Germany in 1914, causing mass economic problems. ^{Historians such as Arthur Bryant predict that the blockade itself caused over 800,000 fatalities during the war's final two years - a figure which drastically exceeded the deaths of those who fell victims to Germany's unrestricted}

submarine warfare. This historian also argues that the Allies had left the Germans with no other choice. This selection of warfare caused the

controversial sinking of British vessel, "the Lusitania" in 1915. This vessel (in addition to gold and British supplies) was also carrying over 100

innocent American civilians. Whilst this event did not lead directly to Wilson declaring war (a result on-anticipated by Britain), it did intensify

Wilson's attempts to discourage Germany's unrestricted ^{submarine} warfare.

This event also soured the US public's attitude towards Germany. In

1917 ~~Germany~~, Ludendorff & Hindenberg became adamant that the only

way to win war was through resuming this provocative ^{submarine}

warfare. However, with this decision also came ^{the} American desire to

declare war. In addition to this act, the Zimmerman telegram of

1917 also led to America's decision to enter war. The telegram, sent from

German foreign secretary ^{Arthur Zimmerman} to Mexican diplomats, described Germany's

desire for Mexico to initiate an attack upon the USA in exchange

for ~~for~~ US territory upon victory. The telegram, intercepted and

decoded by British ~~for~~ intelligence (days before USA's declaration

of war) resulted in the preparation of the USA's army and the

publication of the telegram, which gathered American public's support

of joining the war. Historian, David Kahn describes the telegram

as being of "enormous consequences" ^{in terms of America's decision} & Germany's desire to re-^{submarine} pass the

usage of unrestricted ~~for~~ warfare and the Zimmerman telegram

collected towards the USA's declaration of war in 1917.

good research!

The consequences of the Americans' entrance into the war was also

very significant. In 1918, Germany had successfully signed the treaty of

Best-Litovsk with ~~Russia~~ the newly formed USSR. After the Americans

declared war, ~~the~~ Germany ~~strived~~ ^{strived} to win the war before

America's ~~entire~~ ^{entire} feared arrival. This (was known as the Ludendorff offensive.

Storm troopers made quick successful advancements on the western

front. However, the lack of supplies available to these soldiers resulted

in successes not being grand enough to declare victory. American arrival

on the western front after the launch of this offensive ^{mean this}

increased the strength of the allies through the force of soldiers and

supplies. Initially, the transportation of ^{American} men and supplies

was quite slow, which was criticized by some, such as Lloyd

George. Historian, David Kennedy argues ~~it was~~ not that

the USA's military contribution towards the war was quite minimal

rather, it was the prospect of limitless men and supplies from the

USA which "scared" Germany into signing the Armistice in

November, 1918. Others, such as Tom Keegan and Martin Gilbert

blame the weaknesses of German tactics, strategies & troops on the

war's outcome. However, it is important to consider that the Americans

good

did in fact participate in some of the attacks which pushed

the German troops away from the western front. Furthermore,

the 14 points, formulated by Woodrow Wilson also persuaded

the Germans to sign the armistice for it was promised that the future

peace treaties would be based on these goals - sparing of freedom,

denuclearisation and peace. However, in reality, the 14 points was extremely

harsh and nothing like what Germany had expected. American intervention

in the war was able to assist the allies in defeating the Germans

through scaring the enemy with mass men, promising a peaceful

negotiation after the war, and providing men/supplies which strengthened

the allied force against the Germans.

In conclusion, there are several different causes and consequences

America's decision to join WWI in 1917. Germany's unwillingness to

abandon unrestricted naval warfare, in addition to the provocative

Zimmerman telegram (1917) led to the American's declaration

of war. ~~That~~ This addition to the war strengthened

the allies, through man-power and supplies. However, the USA's

entrance was also able to bring the war to a premature end.

The thought of more American soldiers arriving in addition to

Woodrow Wilson's promised "14 points" persuaded the Germans

to forfeit their victory. The ~~USA~~ USA's involvement in this war

truly did change the outcome of it.

A focused and detailed essay.

Your are well linked to the question throughout. You

use a simple cause and consequence structure and

have clear factual details and historical opinion

as evidence.

You need to consider, in the consequences, more about the

resources the war brought to the allies and how this came

at a time when Germany was exhausted.

The war also raised morale and the allies.

1. Die Bedeutung der Wirtschaftsinformatik

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