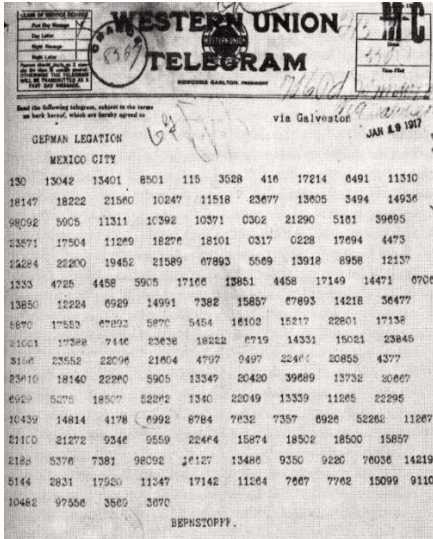


Zimmermann Telegram 1917

In January of 1917, World War I raged across the globe, but the United States remained neutral. That month, the German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a secret, coded message to the German ambassador of Mexico. The telegram helped change the course of World War I.



Arthur Zimmermann, German Foreign Secretary, World War I [Wikimedia Commons](#).



Zimmermann Telegram, 1917 [Wikimedia Commons](#)



U.S. President Woodrow Wilson [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The Telegram

On January 12, 1917, the United States wasn't involved in World War I. German Foreign Secretary Zimmermann wanted to keep it that way. He sent a coded message to be relayed to the president of Mexico that Germany would begin unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic on February 1. He also offered terms for an alliance. The Germans would offer Mexico financial resources if they became a German ally against any eventual U.S. involvement, and would help Mexico regain their lost territories of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Zimmermann also asked for Mexico's help in persuading Japan to join the Central Powers.

The Reaction

The telegram was intercepted and decoded by the British and shared with President Woodrow Wilson in late February. By March 1, the text of the Zimmermann telegram was on the front page of U.S. newspapers. Some people said the telegram was fake, but Zimmermann himself admitted to sending it. This telegram, along with the German sub attacks on American ships, swung public opinion toward entering the war. On April 2, 1917, three years after the beginning of World War I, President Wilson officially asked Congress to declare war on Germany. America had joined the Allies in fighting the first global war.

Zimmermann Telegram 1917

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Fast Day Message	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Day Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Night Message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>

WESTERN UNION
 TELEGRAM

REDUCED CARLTON MESSAGE

M C

Date

Time Filed

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

via Galveston

JAN 29 1917

GERMAN LEGATION
MEXICO CITY

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21580	10247	11518	23677	13805	3494	14938	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5101	39695	
23571	17504	11289	18278	18101	0317	0228	17694	4473	
23284	22200	19452	21589	87893	5569	13918	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4458	5905	17166	13851	4458	17149	14471	8708
13850	12224	6929	14991	7382	15857	87893	14218	36477	
5870	17553	87893	5870	5454	16102	15217	22801	17138	
21001	17388	7440	23838	18222	8719	14331	15021	23845	
3158	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22400	20855	4377	
23610	18140	22280	5905	13347	20420	39889	13732	20887	
6929	5275	18507	52282	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7832	7357	6928	52282	11287
21100	21272	9348	9559	22484	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2188	5378	7381	98092	16127	13488	9350	9220	78038	14219
5144	2831	17920	11347	17142	11264	7687	7762	15099	9110
10482	97558	3589	3870						

BEPNSTOPFF.