**Documents: US into WWI**

The people of the United States are drawn from many nations, and chiefly from the nations now at war. It is

natural and inevitable that some will wish one nation, others another, to succeed in the momentous struggle. Such divisions among us would be fatal to our peace of mind and might seriously stand in the way of our duty as the one great nation at peace, the one nation ready to play a part of mediator and counselor of peace. The United States must be neutral in fact, as well as in name, during these days that are to try men’s souls. We must be impartial in thought as well as action.

Woodrow Wilson speech to Congress August 1914

The German policy has swept every restriction aside. Ships of every kind, whatever their flag, their character,

their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom of the ocean without warning. American ships have been sunk, American lives have been taken. I advise that Congress declare the recent actions of the Imperial German Government to be, in fact, nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States. Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved. The world must be made safe for democracy...It is a fearful, but right thing to lead this great peaceful people to war. We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of [people] to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations.

Woodrow Wilson speech to Congress April 1917

1.) Wilson’s 1914 speech is a great example of the American policy of

a. Isolationism b. Assimilation

c. Capitalism d. Self-Determination

2.) What historical trend does Wilson reference in 1914 to explain why Americans would be so interested in the Great War and why their involvement could be so dangerous?

a. American Experience in the War of 1812

b. American identity as a nation of immigrants

c. Americas long line of successful military leaders

d. Americas success at neutral foreign policy

3.) Why does Wilson emphasize the need to be “neutral in fact, as well as in name” in 1914?

a. The language of neutrality is important to get support from Congress for the President’s plans

b. The American people all want neutrality

c. England & France will only trade with the US if they are officially neutral

d. Actual neutrality as recognized by the warring nations is important to keep the US out of the war

4.) What action does Wilson argue is an unofficial declaration of war by German?

a. Attacks on US ships b. Alliance with Mexico

c. Invasion of Belgium d. Attacks on American soil

5.) What German policy does Wilson refer to in 1917?

a. Trench warfare b. Invasion of Belgium

c. Unrestricted submarine warfare d. Alliance with Mexico

6.) Which post War priority for Wilson from his 14 Points most directly relates to the passage from the 1917

speech?

a. Self-determination b. Freedom of the seas

c. League of Nations d. Free Trade

**Documents: Fundamentalism**

When the Bill against the teaching of evolution in public schools was passed, I could not see why more mothers were not thanking the lawmakers. They were protecting our children from on the destructive forces which will destroy our civilization. I for one was grateful that they stood up for what was right. And grateful too, that we have a Christian man for governor who will defend the Word of God against this so-called science.

Mrs Jesse Sparks letter to the editor of the Nashville Tennessean July 1925

The least that this generation can do, your honor, is to give the next generation all the facts and theories that

observation and learning have produced – give it to the children in the hope of heaven that they will make a better world than we have. We have just had a war with 20 million dead. Civilization is not so proud of the work of the adults. For God’s sake let the children have their minds kept open- close no doors to their knowledge. Make the distinction between religion and science. Let them have both. Let them both be taught. Let them both live. We feel we stand with progress. We feel we stand with science. We feel we stand with intelligence. We feel we stand with freedom in America. We are not afraid. Where is the fear? We meet it! Where is the fear? We defy it!

Dudley Field Malone’s speech on the 4th day of the Scope’s Trial as one of the defense team lawyers

1.) What is implied as part of the “civilization” Mrs Sparks refers to?

a. Literacy

b. White race

c. Christianity

d. American superiority

2.) How does Mr Malone’s feelings and perceptions of “civilization” appear to differ from Mrs Sparks?

a. Mr Malone clearly separates religion from the idea of civilization while it is the most important factor for Mrs Sparks

b. Mr Malone is pessimistic about some of the things accomplished by and done in the name of civilization while Mrs Sparks appears to see civilization as a more positive thing

c. Mr Malone dismisses the use of civilization in any discussion about science while for Mrs Sparks it is at the heart of any discussion about science

d. While Mr Malone and Mrs Sparks agree that Christianity is at the heart of civilization, Mr Malone sees its origin and focus based in Europe while Mrs Sparks sees it in America

3.) Both passages bring to light which tension that has been present in American history and politics from the

very beginning?

a. The roles and interactions of church and state

b. How to define civilization and Christianity

c. The roles of race and nationality

d. The roles of personal liberties and security

4.) Mrs Sparks and her beliefs would fit what

movement in American history?

a. Racism b. Progressivism

c. Populism d. Fundamentalism

**Documents: Red Scare**

The whole purpose of communism appears to be a mass organization of the criminals of the world to overthrow the decencies of private life, to usurp property, that they have not earned, to disrupt the present order of life. Communism distorts our social law. The Department of Justice will pursue the attack of these “Reds” upon the government of the United States with vigilance, and no alien, advocating the overthrow of existing law and order in this country, shall escape arrest and prompt deportation.

A Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General, from essay “The Case Against the Reds” 1920

Today so called aliens are deported. Tomorrow American citizens will be banished. Already some “patriots” are

suggesting some native born American citizens should be exiled. The free expression of the hopes of a people is the greatest and only safety in a sane society. The object of the deportations and of the anti-anarchist law is to stifle the voice of the people, to muzzle every aspiration of labor. That is the real and terrible menace of these

proceedings. Their goal is to exile and banish every one who does not agree with the lies that our leaders of

industry continue to spread.

Emma Goldman speech at her deportation hearings. She was an anarchist & socialist deported during the Palmer Raids

1.) From Palmer’s passage, what appears to be the true threat of Communism?

a. It may incite immigrants (aliens) to revolution in America

b. The extent of global organization and goal of overthrowing established institutions

c. That it may cause another world war

d. The further divisions between races in America

2.) How does Palmer justify the Justice Department’s pursuit of Communists and Anarchists?

a. They are all illegal immigrants

b. They have violated anti-trust laws and other principles of capitalism

c. They are spies for the Soviet Union

d. They have attacked the US government

3.) According to Goldman’s speech, who is REALLY calling the shots in America and defining what voice get heard?

a. Big Business leaders b. Politicians

c. Immigrants d. Men

4.) What does Goldman argue is the real danger of the Palmer raids?

a. That it will further divided America along racial and nationalistic lines

b. That the violation of rights if allowed against aliens, will eventually attack the rights of citizens as well

c. It uses fear of Communism to solicit support for another war in Europe

d. That it unfairly targets the poor, who are vulnerable and without legal representation

5.) What historical event provides the context for increased interest in and fear of Communism in the 1920’s?

a. The Harlem Renaissance b. Flappers

c. The Great Depression d. Communist Revolution in Russia

6.) Legitimate fear or paranoia over communism in America as seen in Palmer’s passage is often referred to as the

a. Red Scare b. McCarthy Era

c. Native born movement d. Feminism

7.) In addition to fears of communism and anarchism, Palmer’s passage also shows

a. Feminism b. Nativism/Xenophobia

c. Assimilation d. Progressivism

**Documents: Dust Bowl**

For twenty years this little spot on the vast expanses of the Great Plains has been the center of all our thought and hope and effort. And marvelous are the changes that we have seen...The almost unbroken buffalo grass sod has given way to cultivated fields. The old trails have become wide graded highways. Little towns have sprung up with attractive homes, trees, flowers, schools, churches, and hospitals. Automobiles and trucks, tractors and combines have revolutionized methods of farm work and manner of living. The wonderful crop of 1926 when our country alone produced 10,000,000 bushels of wheat - more it was said than any equal in the world - revealed the possibilities of our productive soil under modern methods of farming. It seemed as if at last our dreams were coming true...Yet now our daily torture, confusion or mind and gradual wearing down of courage, seem to make that long continued hope look like a vanishing dream. For we are in the worst of the dust storm area where “dust to eat” is not merely a figure of speech, but the phrasing of a bitter reality...

 Caroline Henderson’s (Oklahoma homesteader) letter to Henry A Wallace (Secretary of Agriculture) in 1935

There had been overgrazing before the coming of the settlers and the invasion of barbed wire, but the death knell of the Plains was sounded and the birth of the Great American Desert was inaugurated with the introduction and rapid improvement of power farming. Tractors and combines made the Great Plains a regions a new wheat empire, but in doing so they disturbed nature’s balance, and nature is taking its revenge.

Lawrence Svobida “Farming the Dust Bowl: A First-Hand Account from Kansas” published 1940

1. Ms Henderson lives in what we would term

a. New England b. Dust Bowl

c. Deep South d. Rust Belt

2. What positive changes has Ms Henderson seen in her time as a homesteader?

a) Crop prices rise b) Modernization & efficiency improvements

c) Increased literacy rates d) Increased political representation in the national parties

3. What does Mr Svobida identify as the cause of desertification of the Great Plains?

a) Barbed Wire b) Overgrazing

c) Mechanization and machines d) Government supported overpopulation

4. In what way would Mr Svobida see nature as“taking its revenge”?

a) bank foreclosures on farms b) failed crops

c) rising cost of mechanized agriculture d) Lack of government aid for farmers

**Documents: Atomic Bomb**

I discussed with him [President Truman] the whole history of the project. We had with us General Groves, who explained in detail the progress which had been made and the probable future course of the work. I also discussed with President Truman the broader aspects of the subject, and the memorandum which I used in this discussion is again a fair sample of the state of our thinking at the time.

MEMORANDUM DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN, APRIL 25, 1945

1. Within four months we shall in all probability have completed the most terrible weapon ever known in human

history, one bomb of which could destroy a whole city.

2. Although we have shared its development with the U.K., physically the U.S. is at present in the position of controlling the resources with which to construct and use it and no other nation could reach this position for some years.

3. Nevertheless it is practically certain that we could not remain in this position indefinitely...

4. As a result, it is indicated that the future may see a time when such a weapon may be constructed in secret and used suddenly and effectively with devastating power by a willful nation or group against an unsuspecting nation or group of much greater size and material power. With its aid even a very powerful unsuspecting nation might be conquered within a very few days by a very much smaller one . . .

6. To approach any world peace organization of any pattern now likely to be considered, without an appreciation by the leaders of our country of the power of this new weapon, would seem to be unrealistic. No system of control heretofore considered would be adequate to control this menace. Both inside any particular country and between the nations of the world, the control of this weapon will undoubtedly be a matter of the greatest difficulty and would involve such thoroughgoing rights of inspection and internal controls as we have never theretofore contemplated.

7. Furthermore, in the light of our present position with reference to this weapon, the question of sharing it with

other nations and, if so shared, upon what terms, becomes a primary question of our foreign relations. Also our leadership in the war and in the development of this weapon has placed a certain moral responsibility upon us which we cannot shirk without very serious responsibility for any disaster to civilization which it would further.

8. On the other hand, if the problem of the proper use of this weapon can be solved, we would have the opportunity to bring the world into a pattern in which the peace of the world and our civilization can be saved.

“ The Decision to Use the Bomb” by Henry Stimson (1940-1945 Secretary of War) in Harper’s Magazine article in 1947

1.) Why did Truman have to be brought up to date on the weapon?

a. It was so top secret, even he did not know about it

b. His background and understanding of science was limited, so he needed multiple sessions on the project

c. Military leaders & scientists had secretly developed the weapon without knowledge by the Legislative or Executive branches

d. He had no political or scientific experience and had to be brought up to date on everything

2.) What was the name of the project that developed the weapon Stimson was discussing?

a. D-Day b. Star Wars

c. Manhattan Project d. Area 51

**Documents: Internment**

Along the eastern coast of the United States, where the numbers of Americans of Japanese ancestry is

comparatively small, no concentration of camps have been established. From a military point of view, the only

dangers on this coast is from Germany and Italy...But the American government has not taken such high-handed action against Germans and Italians - and their American-born descendents - on the East Coast, as has been taken against Japanese and their American-born descendents on the West Coast. Germans and Italians are “white.” Color seems to be the only possible reasons why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps. Anyway, there are no Italian-American, or German-American citizens in such camps.

Harry Paxton Howard, “Americans in Concentration Camps”, The Crisis official magazine of the NAACP, September 1942

We uphold the exclusion order...In doing so, we are not unmindful of the hardships imposed on it by a large group of American citizens...But hardships are a part of war, and war is a aggregation (sum) of hardships...Citizenship has its responsibilities, as well as its privileges, and, in time of war, the burden is always heavier. Compulsory (mandatory) exclusion of large groups of citizens from their homes, except under circumstances of direct emergency and peril, is inconsistent with our basic governmental institutions. But when, under conditions of modern warfare, our shores are threatened by hostile forces, the power to protect must be commensurate (in proportion) with the threatened danger...To cast this case into the outlines of racial prejudice, without reference to the real military dangers which were presented, merely confuses the issue.

Chief Justice Hugo Black, Korematsu v United States, 1944

1. According to Howard, why are Japanese-Americans but not German or Italian Americans in concentration

camps?

a. Deeper hatred of Japanese after Pearl Harbor Attack

b. There are much fewer German & Italian Americans than Japanese Americans

c. Racism against Japanese Americans

d. There was less land for concentration camps on the urbanized east coast

2. Americans generally refer to the Japanese American concentration camps as

a) Internment camps b) Prison camps

c) Work camps d) Refugee camps

3. According to Chief Justice Black, why were Japanese-Americans put into concentration camps?

a) The military threat of Japanese invasion

b) Because they were not of European descent

c) Because of their proven activity as spies and rebels against the United States

d) Because they were not citizens and therefore not protected by the Constitution

4. What allows for the us government to take actions “inconsistent with our basic governmental institutions”

according to Justice Howard

a) the lack of citizenship for Japanese-Americans

b) the primacy of the responsibility of government to provide protection & security

c) that rights and liberties never apply during wartime

d) once a threat is proved beyond a reasonable doubt, rights can be restricted

5. How does Justice Black respond to arguments, like Mr Howard’s, that race played a role in Japanese being placed into concentration camps?

a) he agrees that it is unfair and German & Italian-Americans should be placed in camps as well

b) he argues it is a misguided argument made out of the context of war and security

c) he argues only people who are racist themselves would argue that racism was the cause

d) he disproves the argument by stating other groups have been placed in camps as well

6. Mr Howard’s main argument and evidence is that

a) in all circumstances the Constitutional rights of Americans must be preserved

b) even non-citizens deserve due process and equal protection

c) this abuses are based on racism because no German or Italian Americans are losing their rights

d) the whole war is an abuse of power by the government and an infringement on the rights of all Americans