

Why Did the United States Enter WWI?

Name: _____

The Zimmerman Note

Germany wanted Mexico to declare war on the U.S. Germany promised to help Mexico if they did. The Zimmerman note was written by the Foreign Secretary of the German Empire, Arthur Zimmermann and was intended to serve as instructions to the ambassador of Germany. The hopes and intent of the Zimmerman telegram was for Germany to persuade the Mexican Government to attack the U.S. from the south, if the U.S. were to enter the war. If Mexico was to comply, Germany would give substantial financial support and give back territories that Mexico lost in the U.S.-Mexican war of 1846-1848. According to the telegram, it told Mexico to communicate with Japan to try to persuade the Japanese to join the alliance.

To the German Minister to Mexico

Berlin, January 19, 1917

On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to repossess the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement...

You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

Zimmermann
(Secretary of State)



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SOME PROMISE!

April 1917

How did the Zimmerman Note lead the US to enter into WWI?