



# Woodrow Wilson: Moral Diplomacy

# “Moral Principle”

- Duty to work for peace through example & diplomacy
- US has MORAL responsibility to educate developing nations about Constitution & laws
- Moral Nations should obey international laws



REAR VIEW.

—Orr in the Chicago Tribune.

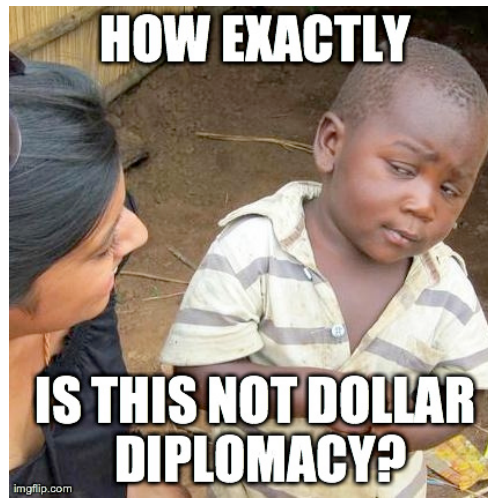
# Challenges

- 1913-14 – Wilson & Bryan (Sec. of State) push for non-aggression pacts w/ 27 nations, but doesn't prevent WWI
- Racism – Few federal positions for AfAm, Supports CA in anti-JPN legislation
  - JPN upset, but Wilson's diplomacy avoids war
  - Tension heightened in Asia



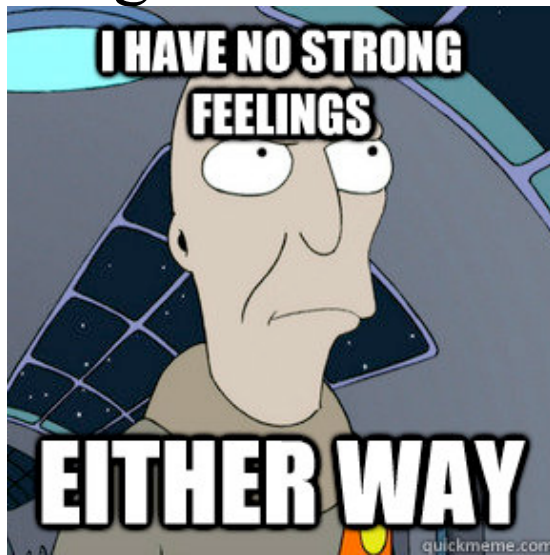
# Latin America

- Wanted better relations → ends dollar diplomacy
- Apologized & paid indemnity to COL over Panama
- Unsuccessful b/c LAm didn't trust his motives & he sent political loyalists to carry out his plans
- Oh, and some stuff happened in Mexico...
- **BLUM**: He never realizes how close he is to Dollar Diplomacy & how much LAm's hate him (597)



# Neutrality?

- “Neutral in fact” (601)
  - **BLUM**: Americans wanted to be neutral, BUT they didn’t understand their own nationalist sentiment
  - Standard for “neutral rights” nebulous & American
- UK believes we should only trade w/ Allies→
  - Blockade GER so US goods can’t enter
  - 1915 – Big loans to UK/FRA→ invested in Allied victory

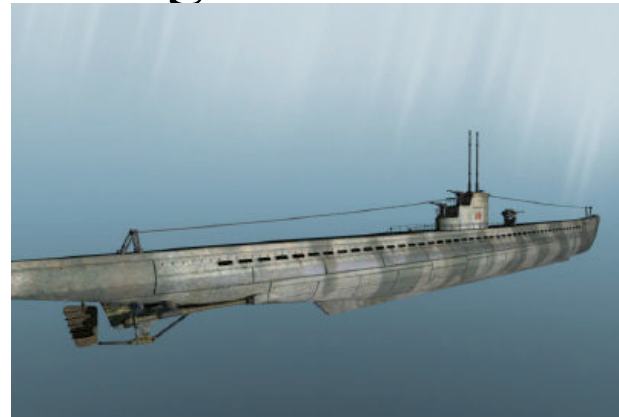
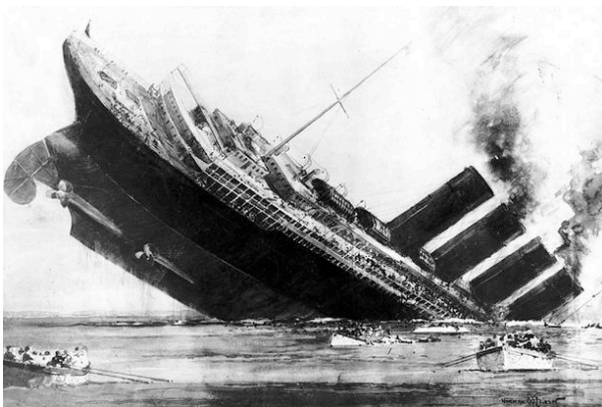


But money says otherwise



# Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

- Thoughts? (602-605)
- 5/7/1915 – *Lusitania* sunk → 128 US killed → demand for apology & indemnity → GER gives it
  - Republicans/Populists: “moral treason” to let Americans sail on these ships → Wilson defeats in Congress
- Later, *Arabic* & *Sussex* sunk
  - Wilson: If GER attacks → diplomatic relations would end
  - *Sussex* Pledge – No GER attacks w/out inspection
  - BLUM: Just gave our decision to go to war to GER!



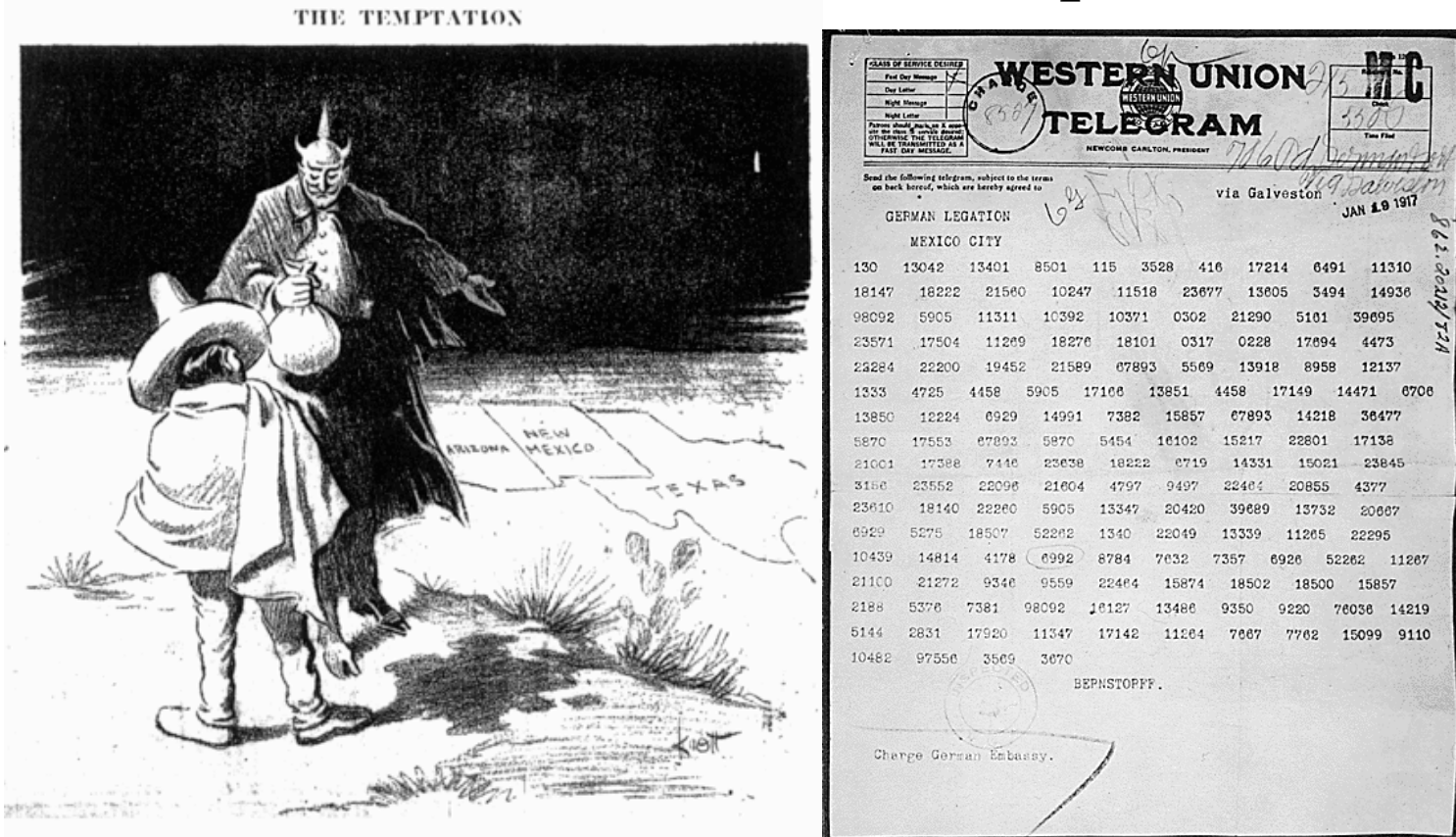
# Americanism & Preparedness

- Pro-war philosophy championed by TR and adopted by Wilson → justified racism/jingoism (605)
- 1916 - \$500M in arms sales to Allies
- **National Defense Act** – Army from 90K → 400K
  - \$313M to build up Navy
- 1916-1917 – GER fakes out US w/ desire to negotiate → resume USW in Feb. & sinks US ships



# Zimmerman Note

- Telegram from GER to Carranza asking to keep US busy in exchange for American SW after GER win
  - Intercepted by UK & shown to USA
- 3/1/1917 – Published to American public





# US Entry into WWI

- 4/4/1917 – Congress votes for war w/ huge majority
- 5/18 – **Selective Service Act**
  - Men 21-30 register (later 18-45)
  - Can't buy your way out like in Civil War
  - 2.8M drafted, 4.8M serve, 50K KIA
- **BLUM**: US unprepared for war; Causes (608)
  - **Gen. John Pershing** wants 6mos. Training in EUR before fighting → to FRA in June 1917

