

# U.S. Enters World War I

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## CONTEXT

Prior to the United States' official entry into World War I in 1917, Americans debated their nation's role in the conflict. During the period of neutrality, both a preparedness movement and a peace movement emerged. Led by former President Theodore Roosevelt, the preparedness movement encouraged the United States to strengthen their military power following the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. Anti-war activists, like Jane Addams, Helen Keller, and William Jennings Bryan protested the United States' involvement and advocated for peace. In this activity, students consider the different perspectives Americans might have had on entering the Great War.

## PRIMARY SOURCES

**Photograph, Brown Bros, *Peace Movement in N.Y.C.*, August 29, 1914**

National Archives and Records Administration (165-WW-397B-9)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/45526538>

**Poster, *The minute men of to-day are going to Plattsburg* [sic], 1917**

Library of Congress (2001700133)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2001700133/>

**"Women in Crepe, Of All Nations, Join Peace Parade," *The Evening World*, August 29, 1914**

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/1914-08-29/ed-1/seq-3/>

**"Women Vote for Big Peace Parade," *New York Tribune*, August 13, 1914**

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1914-08-13/ed-1/seq-9/>

## OBJECTIVES

At the end of this activity, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast some of the primary concerns of the Preparedness Movement and the Peace Movement during World War I; and
- Consider the multiple perspectives within each movement, including those which might have been omitted or overlooked.

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## Teacher Instructions

**\*Teacher Tip:** This activity is meant to be used when students have a general understanding of the beginning of World War I in Europe, and American considerations about their own involvement. Students will need to know what the Plattsburg Camps were and well as general background on the Progressive Era and the fight for women's suffrage.

- Teachers seeking information on these topics can access the following sources:
  - The Preparedness Movement, World War I Centennial Commission, <https://www.worldwaricentennial.org/index.php/illinois-in-wwi/934-illinois-in-wwi-article-2.html>
  - U.S. Enters the War, National World War I Museum and Memorial, <https://www.theworldwar.org/us-enters-war>
  - "The Women's Peace Parade (1914)", The Bowery Boys, New York City History, <http://www.boweryboyshistory.com/2014/08/the-womens-peace-parade-moody-anti-war.html>
- Distribute a copy of the Preparedness Movement vs. Peace Movement Handout to each student.
- Project (or distribute copies of) the images of the *Peace Movement in N.Y.C.* photograph and *The Minute Men...* poster for all students to see. Make sure to include citation details, including the original caption from the Women's Peace Parade.
  - Focus on one image at a time.
  - Ask students to individually list all that they see in their notebooks or the provided T-chart.
  - Direct students to write down any questions they have (or consider requiring a minimum number of questions) that, if answered, would help them better understand the image.
- Divide the class into partners and ask students to discuss their interpretations of the image and adding to their own charts.
- Lead a whole-group discussion to facilitate discussion and help answer student questions, making sure to draw attention to aspects of the image the students may not have noticed, prompting students to extend their analysis.
- Direct students to read the articles, "Women Vote for Big Peace Parade," published before the Women's Peace Parade as well as the article "Women in Crepe, Of All Nations, Join Peace Parade," published the day of the event.
- Direct students to respond to the exit ticket questions.

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**PHOTOGRAPH, BROWN BROS, PEACE MOVEMENT IN N.Y.C., AUGUST 29, 1914**

National Archives and Records Administration (165-WW-397B-9)  
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/45526538>



# U.S. Enters World War I

POSTER, *THE MINUTE MEN OF TO-DAY ARE GOING TO PLATTSBURG [SIC]*, 1917

Library of Congress (2001700133)  
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/45526538>









**"WOMEN VOTE FOR BIG PEACE PARADE," *NEW YORK TRIBUNE*, AUGUST 13, 1914**

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1914-08-13/ed-1/seq-9>

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## Preparedness Movement vs. Peace Movement Handout

	PREPAREDNESS MOVEMENT	PEACE MOVEMENT
List all of your observations about the image. Consider colors, people, names, terms, location, symbols, dates.		
What questions do you have about the image?		

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## Exit Ticket

### QUESTIONS:

1. How do these two articles help you better understand the photograph of the marchers you analyzed earlier?

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2. How do these two articles complicate your understanding of the photo of the marchers?

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3. What different concerns were each of the movements - the Preparedness Movement and the Peace Movement - prioritizing in the years leading up to direct American involvement in World War I?

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# U.S. Enters World War I

## Preparedness Movement vs. Peace Movement Handout Answer Key

	PREPAREDNESS MOVEMENT	PEACE MOVEMENT
List all of your observations about the image. Consider colors, people, names, terms, location, symbols, dates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connection over time - minutemen of Revolutionary era to Plattsburg men today.</li><li>• Minutemen universally considered patriotic. Transfer of that to today. Exerting pressure over men who see the poster.</li><li>• Drab colors - like military uniforms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women wearing fine tailored clothing.</li><li>• Symbolism of white outfits?</li><li>• Black armbands</li><li>• Black ties</li><li>• Peace banner</li><li>• City streets (buildings around them)</li><li>• Title of all the women is Miss.</li><li>• Boy on the right</li><li>• Chief Marshal carrying flowers.</li></ul>
What questions do you have about the image?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where is Plattsburg?</li><li>• Who went?</li><li>• How did you get there?</li><li>• Did it cost money to go?</li><li>• Would all men have been welcome at Plattsburg?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why are these women leading the parade?</li><li>• Who are the men?</li><li>• Who might be in the parade but not pictured or not at the front?</li><li>• Who might want to be in the parade but not welcome?</li><li>• Who might object to this parade?</li></ul>