

Jane Addams and United States Foreign Policy



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File > Make a Copy > Entire Presentation

The Student Worksheets linked on slide 4 will also require you to make a copy to edit.

For Teachers:

Time: One 45 minute class period

Objectives and Standards as set forth by the college board for AP U.S. History

Objectives: Unit 7: Learning Objective B - Explain the similarities and differences in attitudes about the nation's proper role in the world.

Historical Developments:

KC-7.3.I.B - Anti-imperialists cited principles of self-determination and invoked both racial theories and the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism to argue that the United States should not extend its territory overseas.

KC-7.3.II.A - After initial neutrality in World War I, the nation entered the conflict, departing from the U.S. foreign policy tradition of noninvolvement in European affairs, in response to Woodrow Wilson's call for the defense of humanitarian and democratic principles.

Suggested Skill(s):

Sourcing and Situation 2.C - Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.

Argumentation - 6.A Make a historically defensible claim. 6.B Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence.

For Teachers:

Student Worksheets:

[Worksheet 1](#) - Structure: (a) Prompt (b) Documents (c) Questions related to documents to help students to organize their ideas.

[Worksheet 2](#) - Structure: (d) Graphic Organizer to guide students in their analysis of documents

How this lesson meets the AP objectives:

KC-6.3.II.B - Some documents reflect Addams' pre-World War I work with anti-Imperialists. Students will also uncover debates within anti-Imperialists about the extent of their opposition to existing foreign policy.

KC-7.3.II.A - Students will explore documents that demonstrate Addams and her affiliates' perspectives on how the United States should respond to World War I and its aftermath.

Historical Thinking Skills -

Sourcing and Situation 2.C - Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, **historical situation**, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.

Argumentation - 6.A Make a historically defensible claim. 6.B Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence.

For Teachers:

This lesson can be completed in a variety of ways:

- (1) Go through this presentation and analyze the documents as a class focusing attention on Addams' major claims about child labor in America and the evidence she utilized to support these claims.
- (2) Review background information on Slides 7 - 10 with students (10-20 minutes). Then have students complete the DBQ worksheet individually or in groups (30-40 minutes). If appropriate - assign last page of the worksheet for homework
- (3) Review background information on Slides 7-10 with students. Then complete the DBQ worksheet as a jigsaw:
 - (a) Put students into 5 groups, assigning each group a single document to read and analyze together using the graphic organizer found on the student worksheet. (About 10 minutes)
 - (b) Put students into different groups with a member from each document represented.
 - (c) Students take turns explaining their document, focusing on Addams' claim in each and the evidence she utilized to support her position. (About 25 minutes)
 - (d) Answer questions on the final page of the worksheet (help students understand how they would formulate a real response to the DBQ prompt). The questions can be answered either individually, within their group, or for homework. (About 10 minutes)



For more lesson plans and to access documents
visit <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/>

United States Foreign Policy in the Late 19th & Early 20th Centuries



- The mass production of the Gilded Age and the closing of the American frontier proclaimed by the Census Bureau in 1890 prompted Americans to look outward for territorial acquisition.
- Motivations for expansion during this period varied:
 - Corporations were interested in expanding markets and access to raw materials.
 - Individuals interests ranged from adventure and turning a profit to helping “civilize” non-white native populations, often through religious conversion.
 - The US government saw opportunities for national security by spreading naval bases through the Caribbean and Pacific.
- These collected motivations led to the annexation of Hawaii and Spanish-American War in 1898. The war resulted in the American acquisition of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines along with the opportunity to exercise supervisory authority over Cuba.

United States Foreign Policy in the Late 19th & Early 20th Centuries (Continued)



- By the turn of the 20th Century, government policy (and many Americans) argued that American had a responsibility to preserve order and protect life and property in the Western Hemisphere.
 - This principle was advocated primarily by President Theodore Roosevelt and referred to as the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.
- Following Roosevelt's presidency, both Presidents Taft and Wilson believed America should exercise authority over Latin America.
- Though America's role in the world had increased, many Americans and their political representatives were reluctant to join World War I at its outbreak in 1914.
- Through a confluence of events such as increasing commercial ties to the Allied Powers, the sinking of the Lusitania, and the Zimmerman Telegram, Congress declared war against the Central Powers in April of 1917.

Perspectives on United States Foreign Policy in the Late 19th & Early 20th Centuries



- Many voters, American business owners, and government officials promoted the expansion of American territory outside of the continental United States.
- Many also criticized America's growing imperialism as contrary to American ideals and an offense to sovereign nations.
- This oppositional sentiment coalesced into the Anti-Imperialist League in 1898.
- Anti-Imperialist League sentiment specifically criticized American actions in the Philippines and alleged atrocities of the US Military in their fight against Philippine insurgents
- Prominent Americans such as Mark Twain, Jane Addams, Andrew Carnegie, and John Dewey were active members of the league.
- Many Americans also protested against American involvement in World War I.
- Jane Addams' involvement was through the Women's Peace Party that argued for avoiding intervention and then a speedy return to peace once America did join the war.

Jane Addams: Her Life and Work



- Born into a wealthy family
- While touring Europe she came across a settlement house and decided to create her own settlement house in the United States
- Set up Hull House in Chicago in 1890
- Hull House offered classes and services to immigrants in the area & became the public face of the settlement house movement.
- Addams joined the Anti-Imperialist League in 1898 once she was already a prominent figure.
- Addams' anti-imperialist stance resulted primarily from her frustration with the racist undertones of American expansion that looked down on the non-white races of newly acquired territories.
- Addams also spoke out against American entrance into World War I, helped found the Women's Peace Party, and also served as president of the International Congress of Women

Lesson Objective →

Use the Documents on the DBQ to learn more about Jane Addams and her opposition to an interventionist United States foreign policy in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Use the provided documents to answer the following prompt:

What was Jane Addams' perspective on American foreign policy in the early 20th century?

Focus your response on the following:

- Situation and Sourcing - What was the **historical situation** of the document?
- Argumentation - What was Addams arguing for in the document? How can evidence from the document help answer the prompt?

Document 1: [LINK](#)

Source: *Adams, Charles Francis et al., "Thirty Reasons Why Our Navy Should Not Be Enlarged, January 15, 1909," Jane Addams Digital Edition, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/items/show/9262>.*

18. Because a national and racial arrogance is growing in our country, and bumptious talk about our being "master of the Pacific," thought there are ten other nations bordering on it, is leading a part of the press and people to insult and irritate other peoples with the sense of impunity in our impudence which a huge navy lends. We, as well as other nations, have found easy euphemisms to ease our consciences when using our military power to further our own ends. We shall be far less likely to be hot-headed and rash and to rush into needless war if we do not increase our navy. It is naive conceit to say that we are so peaceful and just that we can never be tempted to wage a needless war. The war with Mexico was fought in the interests of slavery, and was called iniquitous by General Grant, who fought in it. Said Secretary of State Sherman concerning the Spanish War: "We could have adjusted our difficulties without the loss of blood and treasure." Said Congressman Boutelle, "President McKinley, if Congress had left the matter to him, would have secured everything we wanted in Cuba without the sacrifice of one drop of American or Spanish blood."

20. Because the increase of our navy does not increase respect of foreigners for us. Respect can be given only to moral qualities. Our indifference to lawlessness and our civic corruption are well known abroad. We have no more moral influence than we had thirty years ago, when every monarchy in Europe was being sapped by our democracy. Plutocracy and militarism made us talked of, and dreaded, but not respected. Many, perhaps, are glad that we are being hampered in our race for commercial supremacy by saddling ourselves with the Old World's military burdens.

Document 1:

Situation and Sourcing:

The historical situation of this document is 1909. Around this time, some of the larger-scale international issues that would eventually cause World War I were ongoing. For instance, alliances between major European powers were established, nations were continuing to militarize (especially by growing their naval forces), and European colonization of Asia and Africa was well underway. The United States had also recently fought and won the Spanish-American War, acquiring an empire of its own in the aftermath. The United States, as argued by influential individuals such as [Alfred T. Mahan](#), also worked to grow the size of its navy to defend overseas markets in these new possessions .

Argumentation:

Addams argues that growing the size of the American navy will appear arrogant to other nations of the war. She worries that this arrogance will make it more likely that the United States will be drawn into an international conflict. Addams also suggests that the growth of the United States Navy will NOT enhance America's global reputation as some suggest. Rather, Addams believes that the United States would be saddling itself with the militaristic burdens of the "Old World"(Europe) that are again likely to bring us into conflict with other nations.

Document 2: [LINK](#)

Source: *Winslow, Erving, "Erving Winslow to Jane Addams, August 7, 1912," Jane Addams Digital Edition, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/items/show/5221>.*

Miss Jane Addams.

Dear Madam:

Your public appearance as an endorser of Mr. Roosevelt's candidacy certainly justifies a remonstrance, -- from one of the many who have looked to you for social leadership and in particular from one who has regarded you as a valuable [cooperator] in the great work of the Anti-Imperialist League: because, although Mr. Roosevelt has been fully informed as to the situation, he refuses to advocate a promise of Philippine Independence, to warn off those exploiters who are vigorously planting in that virgin soil the seeds of irresponsible capitalism for which Mr. Roosevelt claims so vociferously to apply panaceas in the United States, and which would render Philippine Independence impossible.

Document 2

Situation and Sourcing:

The historical situation of this source is the months leading up to the Presidential election of 1912. This election was to be contentious as Teddy Roosevelt returned to politics to run as a third party candidate for the Progressive (Bull Moose) Party after a following out with incumbent William Taft. Also running for President was Woodrow Wilson. Each candidate tried to demonstrate their credentials as progressive reformers. All candidates, albeit from different angles, were supporters of an active American presence in the Western Hemisphere. Roosevelt had a reputation as maybe the most aggressive of the trio when it came to American foreign policy, especially given his advocacy of what came to be known as the [Roosevelt Corollary](#) to the Monroe Doctrine during his own presidential term. The author of this document was [Erving Winslow](#) an author and activist, who at the time of this letter was serving as Secretary of the Anti-Imperialist League.

Argumentation:

In this source, Erving Winslow criticizes Addams for supporting Roosevelt's presidential candidacy because she had not committed to supporting Philippine independence, a key tenet of the Anti-Imperialists.

Source: *Addams, Jane, "Address at the Chicago Auditorium, July 22, 1915," Jane Addams Digital Edition, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/items/show/10150>.*

Document 3: [LINK](#)

"Fifteen hundred women met in The Hague. They came in smaller or larger numbers from 12 different countries. These women submit that whatever the cause of the war -- however necessary it may have been to continue the war for the past ten months, -- has not the time come for beginning some sort of negotiation? Is it not true that in the end some negotiation must take place? This war cannot go on forever -- it is not conceivable that year after year it shall continue until exhaustion, financial and otherwise, shall end it. That moment will come at the end, and why cannot some sort of negotiation begin now? If Europe is in disorder because of deep-rooted injustices, because certain countries are not having the chance they ought to have, commercial, political or maritime, or whatever it is, cannot that be discovered better by a set of men who begin now rather than after the war has gone on and on and the whole question becomes confused with military victory or loss?" In every country the foreign office said practically the same thing: -- "A country at war can only go on fighting. It may not ask for negotiations. But if propositions come to us which it seems we could consider with honor, of course they would be considered." That seems a simple matter, but to the men in Europe it seems the most complex matter possible. It is incredible that war should go on when the beginnings of negotiation might so speedily be inaugurated."

Document 3

Situation and Sourcing:

By the time of Addams' address in this source World War I had been ongoing for nearly a full year. In January of 1915 Addams was elected President of the Women's Peace Party. In March of 1915, European women peace advocates invited the Women's Peace Party to attend a [convention](#) at The Hague in The Netherlands. The convention lasted from April 28, 1915 through May 1, 1915 and included nearly 1500 delegates. The convention resulted in a series of resolutions agreed upon by the attendees. Addams gave the closing address at the convention. This source reflects Addams sharing information about the convention with a stateside audience in Chicago a few weeks after her return.

Argumentation:

In this source Addams argues that it is essential for warring nations to begin peace negotiations. More specifically, Addams argues that the longer the war persists, the more difficult it will be for peace negotiations. She believes this to be especially the case when the war is over and some nations are designated military victors and others military losers. She concludes by reiterating the time time is right, NOW, to undertake peace negotiations and that it would not be challenging to speedily begin such proceedings.

Document 4: [LINK](#)

Source: *Addams, Jane, "Jane Addams to Woodrow Wilson, February 3, 1917," Jane Addams Digital Edition, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/items/show/13460>.*

February 3, 1917

To PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON
WASHINGTON D.C.

MANY OF US HOPE THAT YOU MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO MEET THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN LEAGUE WITH OTHER NEUTRAL NATIONS IN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA WHOSE INTERESTS ARE SIMILARLY INVOLVED STOP SUCH AN ALLIANCE MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE BEGINNING OF A LEAGUE <of nations> STANDING FOR INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND WOULD AT LEAST OFFER A METHOD OF APPROACH LESS LIKELY TO INVOLVE ANY ONE NATION IN WAR.

Jane Addams

Document 4

Situation and Sourcing:

February of 1917 saw the United States sever diplomatic ties with Germany and declare war soon thereafter. The outcome followed a series of events that steadily drew the United States into war with Germany including the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the revelations of the Zimmerman Telegram, and Germany's decision to return to unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1, 1917. At the moment that Addams sent this telegram the United States was remained a neutral nation (as evidenced by Addams stating "in league with other neutral nations.") However, that was soon to change as described above.

Argumentation:

Addams argues for Wilson to band together with other nations of the world that have remained neutral by forming a league (of nations). Addams believed that such a league would stand for international rights and make it less likely for any one of those nations to be drawn into the war.

Document 5: [LINK](#)

Source: *Addams, Jane*, "The New Internationalism, April 16, 1907," *Jane Addams Digital Edition*, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/items/show/5954>.

When we get down to the real essence of war, whenever we try to find out what it is which we actually admire -- that which has made men extol war through many generations -- we suddenly discover that it is this high carelessness concerning life, that it is the spirit of the martyr who sets his faith above his life. So I believe that when we once apprehend the international goodwill which is gathering in the depths of the cosmopolitan peoples, that we will there discover a reservoir of that moral devotion which has fostered "the cause of the people," so similar in every nation, throughout all the crises in the world's history. All that we need to do for the healing of the nations is to provide channels through which its beneficent waters may flow. If this devotion to unselfish aims were given its ritual, or, if you please, its paraphernalia, the beat of its own drums; if it were made such a spectacle as men like to see and have a right to see, then I believe that we would be in no danger of losing the value of the war virtues, and that we would find their substitutes in a new cosmopolitanism which is developing in the life of the common people. It is too precious a moral asset to be longer overlooked.

Document 5

Situation and Sourcing:

This source dates to the years between American expansionism of the late nineteenth century (characterized by the growth of international markets for US-made goods and the Spanish-American War) and the outbreak of World War I in 1914. As previously mentioned, many of the developments that would come to be considered causes of World War I were occurring. For instance, alliances between major European powers were established, nations were continuing to militarize (especially by growing their naval forces), and European colonization of Asia and Africa was well underway.

Argumentation:

Addams' "New Internationalism" had both a domestic and international relevance. At the foundation of the approach was a "moral devotion which has fostered 'the cause of the people.'" Internationally, Addams hoped that this renewed commitment to the individual, especially the common individual (think the urban poor that Addams had dedicated her life to in Chicago) would shift the countries of the world from their focus on militarism to pacifism. More specifically, Addams argues that this commitment to pacifism will allow previous national wartime commitments to be diverting to a focus on improving the lives of common people.

Document 6: [LINK](#)

Source: *Addams, Jane, "Jane Addams to Woodrow Wilson, May 16, 1919," Jane Addams Digital Edition, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/items/show/18627>.*

This international congress of women regards the unemployment, famine and pestilence extending throughout great tracts of central and eastern Europe and through parts of Asia as a profound disgrace to civilization. This congress urges the governments of all the powers assembled at the Peace Congress to develop the [inter-allied] organization formed for purposes of war into an international organization for purposes of peace and urges that the following intermediate steps be taken; one that the blockade be immediately lifted, two that all resources of the world food, raw materials, finance, transport be organized immediately for the relief of the peoples from famine and pestilence; three that if there is an insufficiency either of food or of transport to supply all the demands luxuries shall not be given transport from one country to another until the necessaries of life are supplied to all and that the people of every country be rationed in order that all the starving shall be fed. We believe that only immediate international action of this kind can save humanity and bring about the permanent reconciliation and union of the peoples.

Document 6

Situation and Sourcing:

The historical situation of this source is a few months after the armistice that ended World War I in November of 1918. The Paris Peace Conference that called delegations of negotiators from many nations that fought in World War I began in January of 1919 and continued until 1920. More specifically, the International Congress of Women was held in Zurich, Switzerland in May of 1919 as peace was being negotiated in Paris. The main focus of the congress was promoting peace, achieving equality, and binding the world more closely together. This letter from Jane Addams to Woodrow Wilson was sent in light of these major world events.

Argumentation:

Addams used this message to Wilson as an opportunity to convey the perspective of the International Congress of Women. She shared that the Congress was in support of an “inter-allied organization formed for purposes of war (ie - the Allied Powers) (to be transitioned into) an international organization for purposes of peace.” Addams and the Congress also tried to persuade Wilson to do more to support people in countries throughout the war whose countries were physically impacted by the fighting to ensure that they were supported in the transition from war to peace. This included ensuring that people had the necessities of life and would not have to live in fear of starvation.

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