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## Jane Addams and World War I Perspectives DBQ

### **Prompt:**

- How did Jane Addams reflect or differ from the mood of the United States around the era of World War I?

### **Document 1**

Source: Jane Addams, "Hearing before the Committee on Military Affairs," (Washington D.C.: Washington Government Printing Office, 1916)

I speak not only for the members of our organization, but for many women in all parts of the country, who feel that the talk so general throughout the country, urging a very marked increase of the Navy and the Army, is simply the result of what is happening in Europe; that the sentiment of the United States is unconsciously affected by the conditions on the other side of the Atlantic. Our war contagion is a good deal like the case of a man living in the middle of Kansas who, hearing that there were a great many burglaries in New York City, thereupon immediately armed himself against the advent of burglars, although there were none in Kansas. His panic would be purely subjective and the result of what he read was happening elsewhere.

Mr. Chairman, there are two lines of presentation I would like to put forward in support of our contention. The first is that among many experienced people in England and in Germany and in other countries there is the belief that one of the results of this war will be a proportional reduction of armaments. Even before the war Germany and England were beginning to consider the increases in their navies in relation to maintaining a certain proportion. If such a thing as that could be done before the war started, when the finances of all the nations were in a good condition, it certainly would be easier to do such a thing after the war, when most of the nations now engaged in war are going to be bankrupt and we hope more or less convinced of the folly of attempting to settle any international difficulties through warfare...

..Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, at the close of this war we will have arrived at a turning point in the world's history. The nations must decide whether the world is going through another lengthy

series of years of armed peace, or whether the world is going to make a sharp turn as a result of the lessons learned in this war, and evolve some kind of agreement for international adjudication.

**Document 2:**

Source: Hicks, Walter Edmund, "World War I and American public opinion, 1914-1917." (1949). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Paper 1973. p.78

“Following a meeting of the Cabinet, March 20, the Literary Digest reported that we changed from ‘armed neutrality’ to ‘a state of war.’ Commenting on the coming session of Congress, most of the American press seemed to feel the same way. ‘It will be the duty of Congress to recognize the fact of war and authorize the President’, stated the New York Times. The Boston Transcript felt that "Germany was at war with US, and we should be at war with Germany!’ The New York Tribune wanted to know ‘what we were going to do about it?’ and the Cleveland Press believed ‘war is inevitable’. The action of Congress, April 6, 1917, in declaring war against Germany found the American press united behind the call to arms. The Chicago Herald stated ‘If this, indeed, be not the voice of the nation, we are not fit to be a nation’ and the Courier-Journal remarked that it was the "most significant and momentous deliverance on the part of the American people since the Declaration of Independence.’ The Boston Transcript heard the voice of the people with the remark, ‘the president has heeded the mandate of the people.’ The pro-German press and the German-American press also fell into line. The Milwaukee Free-Press patriotically calling that ‘where the flag leads all America will follow’ and the New York Staats-Zeiung could see one goal and ‘but one duty -- America’.”

**Document 3:**

Source: A mother begs Addams to do all she can to prevent war. Anonymous, "Anonymous (A Mother of Sons) to Jane Addams, March 30, 1917," Jane Addams Digital Edition

My dear Miss [Addams]

I have read so much about you and the good you have done in connection with the Peace League in our country. As a mother of sons I love and for all real mothers I urge you and all peace workers to do all you can towards keeping this country from war it seems mothers are perfectly helpless in that matter. We are supposed to hand over our sons [whenever] war agitators think we need some [page 2] blood shed to satisfy the greed and lust of men that if they were called first, the war agitation would now cease, it seems terrible that our young men the best in the country must needs be slain, like sheep led to the slaughter and the world war must have broken hearted mothers by the score never to be healed on earth [and] if this is to continue, future women ought to refuse to bear children. I hope and pray our country will keep out of war and not become a military nation. May God forbid. This is from a plain mother, but if [page 3] my few words would make any impression towards peace please send to the president or, Mrs Wilson.

Sincerely

from a mother of sons

#### Document 4:

Source: James Atkinson criticizes Addams's continued work for peace, claiming that the time has come to support the war effort. Atkinson, James A. J., "James A. J. Atkinson to Jane Addams, May 11, 1917," Jane Addams Digital Edition

Dear Miss [Addams].

Being the father of two Sons, who will be called on to defend the honor of our beloved Country, and being myself a [veteran] of the Civil War, I protest against a person of your prominence, engaging in proceedings calculated, and intended to embarrass our efforts for national defense.

We have been attacked. What would you have us do. You have had the experience of trying out the Ford plan: It was a humiliating joke. Those "Sabre [rattlers]" who have attacked us, are not of the [pacifist] sort: They will yield only to Superior force. They began to spy on us when they betrayed the hospitality of our nation by sending the Emperor's brother, Prince-Henry, to spy out our internal transportation and defense lines. [Their] Diplomatic relations with us has proven to be a tissue of lies. [page 2]

They have, and are now, supporting a well organized system of espionage throughout the Country. The rank and file of them in this country, can and do communicate by Motion-Code and, as will be later shown, are betraying us on every hand. Is the United States your Country; do you intend still, to invoke the laws of this Country in your behalf. Would [you?] pretend that you and your co-workers have a larger vision of the real and [crystallizing] methods of Civilization, than the great mass of men and woman who must bear the burdens of the real work. For my part, I am in no mood for sidestepping: I am convinced that the great unit of American men and woman, have considered to the last Analysis, the Justice of our cause and the momentum of the movement to that end, cannot be [stopped].

I am truly, your friend,

James. Atkinson  
Box 42, Kirkwood  
Illinois

## Document 5:

Source: Jane Addams informs President Wilson that the international congress of women urges the the powers of the Peace Congress to follow the steps to ensure peace. Addams, Jane, "Jane Addams to Woodrow Wilson, May 16, 1919," Jane Addams Digital Edition

... "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."

JANE ADDAMS, President,  
Glockenhof, Zurich.

**Document 6:**

*Source:* Chart of U.S. Senate Votes Rejecting the Treaty of Versailles

Date	▲ Treaty-making Country	Subject	Vote
Nov 19, 1919; Mar 19, 1920	Multilateral	Treaty of Versailles	<b>Nov 19, 1919:</b> Yeas=38; Nays=53 <b>Mar 19, 1920:</b> Yeas=49; Nays=35

## Answering the Question

Prompt:

- How did Jane Addams reflect or differ from the mood of the United States around the era of World War I?

What were the goals of Jane Addams and the organizations she represented?

What evidence supports those goals?

What evidence refutes those goals?