

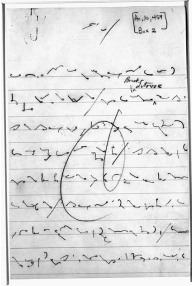


Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

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TOPIC 11.3. PRIMARY SOURCES: THE FOURTEEN POINTS

THE FOURTEEN POINTS



The U.S. entered World War I in April 1917. On January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson announced his [Fourteen Points](#), which would serve as the basis for peace in November 1918. The points are shown here in the original shorthand draft by Wilson himself (Wilson habitually drafted his speeches in shorthand). With the Fourteen Points, Wilson sought to break the will of the Central Powers to fight by promising a just peace that would guarantee national independence and self-determination for all peoples involved in the war.

An underlying assumption of the Fourteen Points is that America should use its power to ensure that the world "be made fit and safe to live in..." Is this the proper role of the United States? Why or why not?

Adapted from [American Treasures of the Library of Congress](#)