

# Historic Documents Which Marked the Beginning of Our War with Germany

S. J. Res. 1. (PUBLIC RESOLUTION... NO. 1... 65th CONGRESS.)

Sixty-fifth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the second day of April, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial German Government and the Government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute the same.

Whereas the Imperial German Government has committed repeated acts of war against the Government and the people of the United States of America: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and that the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial German Government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States.

*Champ Clark*

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Thos. R. Marshall*

Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.

Approved 5 April, 1917

*Woodrow Wilson*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States in the exercise of the constitutional authority vested in them have resolved, by joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives bearing date this day "That the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government which has \* \* been thrust upon the United States is hereby <sup>formally</sup> declared";

WHEREAS it is provided by Section four thousand and sixty-seven of the Revised Statutes, as follows:

Whenever there is declared a war between the United States and any foreign nation or government, or any invasion or predatory incursion is perpetrated, attempted, or threatened against the territory of the United States, by any foreign nation or government, and the President makes public proclamation of the event, all natives, citizens, denizens, or subjects of the hostile nation or government, being males of the age of fourteen years and upwards, who shall be within the United States, and not actually naturalized, shall be liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured, and removed, as alien enemies. The President is authorized, in any such event, by his proclamation thereof, or other public act, to direct the conduct to be observed, on the part of the United States, toward the aliens who become so liable; the manner and degree of the restraint to which they shall be subject, and in what cases, and upon what security their residence shall be permitted, and to provide for the removal of those who, not being permitted to reside within the United States, refuse or neglect to depart therefrom; and to establish any other regulations which are found necessary in the premises and for the public safety;

WHEREAS, by Sections four thousand and sixty-eight,

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believe that he is about to violate, any regulation or regulation promulgated by the President, or any criminal law of the United States, or of the States or Territories thereof, will be subject to summary arrest by the United States Marshal, or his deputy or such other officer as the President shall designate, and to confinement in such penalitary prison, jail, military camp, or other place of detention as may be directed by the President.

This proclamation and the regulations herein contained shall extend to all land and water, continental or insular, in any way within the jurisdiction of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington,  
this *Sixth* day of April,  
in the year of our Lord one  
thousand nine hundred and  
seventeen, and of the inde-  
pendence of the United States  
the one hundred and forty-  
first.

*Woodrow Wilson*

By the President  
*Robert L. Bigg*  
Secretary of State.

DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST GERMANY BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION.