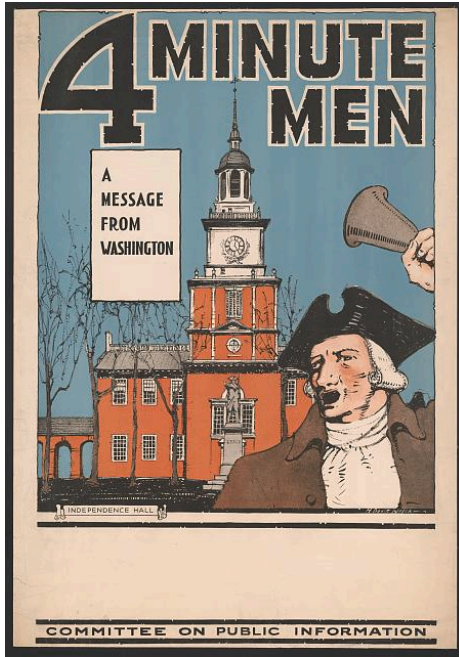


# 'The third Liberty Loan'



Welsh, H. D. (1917) 4 Minute men--A message from Washington / H. Devit Welsh. Philadelphia United States Pennsylvania, 1917. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/93517441/>.

**The Four Minute Men** was a group of volunteers established by the Committee on Public Information (CPI) during the years of World War I as a means to garner support for the war effort from the everyday American. These volunteers would give speeches in public spaces such as movie theaters, where it took up to four minutes to change film reels, to encourage participation in programs such as the Liberty Loan drives. It is estimated that up to 400 million listeners at movie houses, union halls, churches, parks, and other public forums hear these short, carefully worded speeches.<sup>1</sup>

This speech, delivered by Richard Purdy in 1918, emphasizes the Liberty Loan's importance to the Americans' success in the war.

---

1. Four Minute Men | Surveillance and Censorship | Over Here | Explore | Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of World War I | Exhibitions at the Library of Congress | Library of Congress. (n.d.). Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. <https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/world-war-i-american-experiences/about-this-exhibition/over-here/surveillance-and-censorship/four-minute-men/>

## Transcript of 'The third Liberty Loan'

*In the great third Liberty Loan drive, just one statement seems necessary before an American audience: it is simply a question, now, of the survival of autocracy or democracy. They are in their death grapple, it is a fight to the finish, and it is up to us. All the evidences about the city advertising this great loan, and the many speakers that appear before you, do so at the request of the government to thoroughly acquaint the American public with the situation. It is thought that with our 110-million upheaval, fully aroused, we are very likely to start something that can be heard in Berlin.*

*The most convincing reason for this loan as I see it, is the publication in the Daily Press of the last few weeks of the war maps of Europe, showing that shadowy and crooked German line - crooked in more senses than one - that all patriotic Americans have been so anxiously watching as it moves slowly, mile by mile, to the westward. It is our duty to hurry to that war front, with all the hate and energy we can summon, and with every resource that our 250 billion in national wealth can command, before that shadow crosses the Atlantic.*

*The latest news from the front is cheering. Our splendid General Pershing, with our hundred thousand and our allies, are holding that line. Let's do our share and hold it over here and raise this loan. We need every cent of these billions to send the right kind of message to the German Kaiser. We want to say to him that democracy, though handicapped perhaps at the start, can meet autocracy on any ground it chooses. We want to say to him that we intend to sail on all the seas as we have ever done. Our only passport to be our own blessed flag flying!*

# 'Loyalty'



(ca. 1915) James W. Gerard, American Ambassador to Germany, half-length portrait, seated at his desk in embassy. , ca. 1915. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/00652545/>.

**James W. Gerard** was an American lawyer who sat on the New York Supreme Court from 1908-1913. His financial support of the Democratic party during the presidential campaign of 1912 led President Woodrow Wilson to appoint Gerard as foreign ambassador, first to Spain and then later to Germany. He served as the American Ambassador to Germany until 1917, just as the war was intensifying in Europe.<sup>2</sup>

His speech 'Loyalty,' delivered in 1918 was a call to arms targeted specifically towards German-Americans and German sympathizers.

---

2. World War I | From War To Normalcy: An Introduction to the Nation's Forum Collection | Articles and Essays | American Leaders Speak: Recordings from World War I | Digital Collections | Library of Congress. (n.d.). Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-and-1920-election-recordings/articles-and-essays/from-war-to-normalcy/world-war-i/>

## Transcript of 'Loyalty'

*I know that it is hard for Americans to realize the magnitude of the war in which we are involved. We have problems in this war that no other nations have. Fortunately, the great majority of American citizens of German descent have, in this great crisis of our history, shown themselves splendidly loyal to our flag. Everyone had a right to sympathize with any warring nation.*

*But now that we are in the war there are only two sides, and the time has come when every citizen must declare himself American or traitor. We must disappoint the Germans who have always believed that the German-Americans here would risk their property, their children's future, and their own neck, and take up arms for the Kaiser. The Foreign Minister of Germany once said to me, "Your country does not dare do anything against Germany because we have in your country 500,000 German reservists who will rise in arms against your government if you dare to make a move against Germany." Well, I told him that might be so, but that we had 500,001 lamp posts in this country, and that that was where the reservists would be hanging the day after they tried to rise. And if there are any German-Americans here who are so ungrateful for all the benefits they have received that they are still for the Kaiser, there is only one thing to do with them. And that is to hog-tie them, give them back the wooden shoes and rags they landed in, and ship them back to the Fatherland.*

*I have traveled this year over all the United States. Through the Alleghenies, the White Mountains, and the Catskills, the Rockies and the Bitterroot Mountains, the Cascades, the Coast Range, and the Sierras. And in all these mountains, there is no animal that bites and kicks and squeals and scratches, that would bite and squeal and scratch equal to a fat German-American if you commenced to tie him up and told him that he was on his way back to the Kaiser.*

# 'Americanism and Nationalism'



(1920) Warren G. Harding. District of Columbia Washington D.C. United States Washington D.C., 1920. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016828201/>.

**Warren G. Harding** was an Ohio state Senator from 1900-1904 before serving as Lieutenant Governor of Ohio from 1904-1906 and US Senator from 1915-1921. During his time as a Senator, Harding won the Republic party's nomination for presidential candidate for the 1920 election. Running against fellow Ohioan James Cox, Harding's campaign promised a return to "normalcy" following World War I. He won by a landslide, serving as president for two years before his passing in 1923.

His speech 'Americanism and Nationalism,' delivered during the 1920 election, addresses the need for a national identity and concerns with connections to "the Old World."

---

3. World War I | From War To Normalcy: An Introduction to the Nation's Forum Collection | Articles and Essays | American Leaders Speak: Recordings from World War I | Digital Collections | Library of Congress. (n.d.). Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-and-1920-election-recordings/articles-and-essays/from-war-to-normalcy/world-war-i/>

## Transcript of 'Americanism and Nationalism'

*My countrymen, the pioneers to whom I have alluded, these stalwart makers of America, could have no conception of our present-day attainment. Hamilton, who conceived, and Washington, who sponsored, little dreamed of either a development or a solution like ours of today. But they were right in fundamentals. They knew what was safe and preached security. One may doubt if either of them, if any of the founders, would wish America to hold aloof from the world. But there has come to us lately a new realization of the menace to our America in European entanglements which emphasizes the prudence of Washington, though he could little have dreamed the thought which is in my mind.*

*When I sat on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and listened to American delegations appealing in behalf of kinsman or old home folks across the seas, I caught the aspirations of nationality, and the perfectly natural sympathy among kindred in this republic. But I little realized then how we might rend the concord of American citizenship in our seeking to solve Old World problems. There have come to me, not at all unbecomingly, the expressed anxieties of Americans foreign born who are asking our country's future attitude on territorial awards in the adjustment of peace. They are Americans all, but they have a proper and a natural interest in the fortunes of kinsfolk and native lands. One cannot blame them. If our land is to settle the envies, rivalries, jealousies, and hatreds of all civilization, these adopted sons of the Republic want the settlement favorable to the land from which they came. The misfortune is not alone that it rends the concord of nations. The greater pity is that it rends the concord of our citizenship at home. It's folly to think of blending Greek and Bulgar, Italian and Slovak, or making any of them rejoicingly American, when the land of adoption sits in judgment on the land from which he came. We need to be rescued from divisionary and fruitless pursuit of peace through supergovernment. I do not want Americans of foreign birth making their party alignments on what we mean to do for some nation in the old world. We want them to be Republican because of what we mean to do for the United States of*

*America. Our call is for unison, not rivaling sympathies. Our need is concord, not the antipathies of long inheritance. Surely no one stopped to think where the great world experiment was leading. Frankly, no one could know. We're only learning now. It would be a sorry day for this republic if we allowed our activities in seeking for peace in the Old World to blind us to the essentials of peace at home. We want a free America again. We want America free at home, and free in the world. We want to silence the outcry of nation against nation, in the fullness of understanding. And we wish to silence the cry of class against class, and stifle the party appeal to class, so that we may ensure tranquility in our own freedom. If I could choose but one, I had rather have industrial and social peace at home, than command the international peace of all the world.*

---

transcripts provided by Jed Edwards, 2024.