Traditional understandings of initial American responses to the outbreak of war in Europe have disproportionately followed the words of President Woodrow Wilson, who urged his countrymen to remain neutral in thought and deed. Scholars have rarely looked beyond Wilson to analyze the actual responses of the American people. In his talk, Dr. Neiberg finds a nation with strong, clearly un-neutral reactions to the war. Although few wanted the United States to join the war in 1914 or 1915, the American people clearly saw the dangers, and the opportunities, that the war presented.

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