



## MacArthur Memorial Education Programs Changing Opinions of World War I

Directions: Answer the questions below based on the primary source documents. All documents are from the American newspapers The Virginian-Pilot and the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

1. What event(s) could the headline below be referring to? How did these events lead to war in Europe?

**It Means European War**

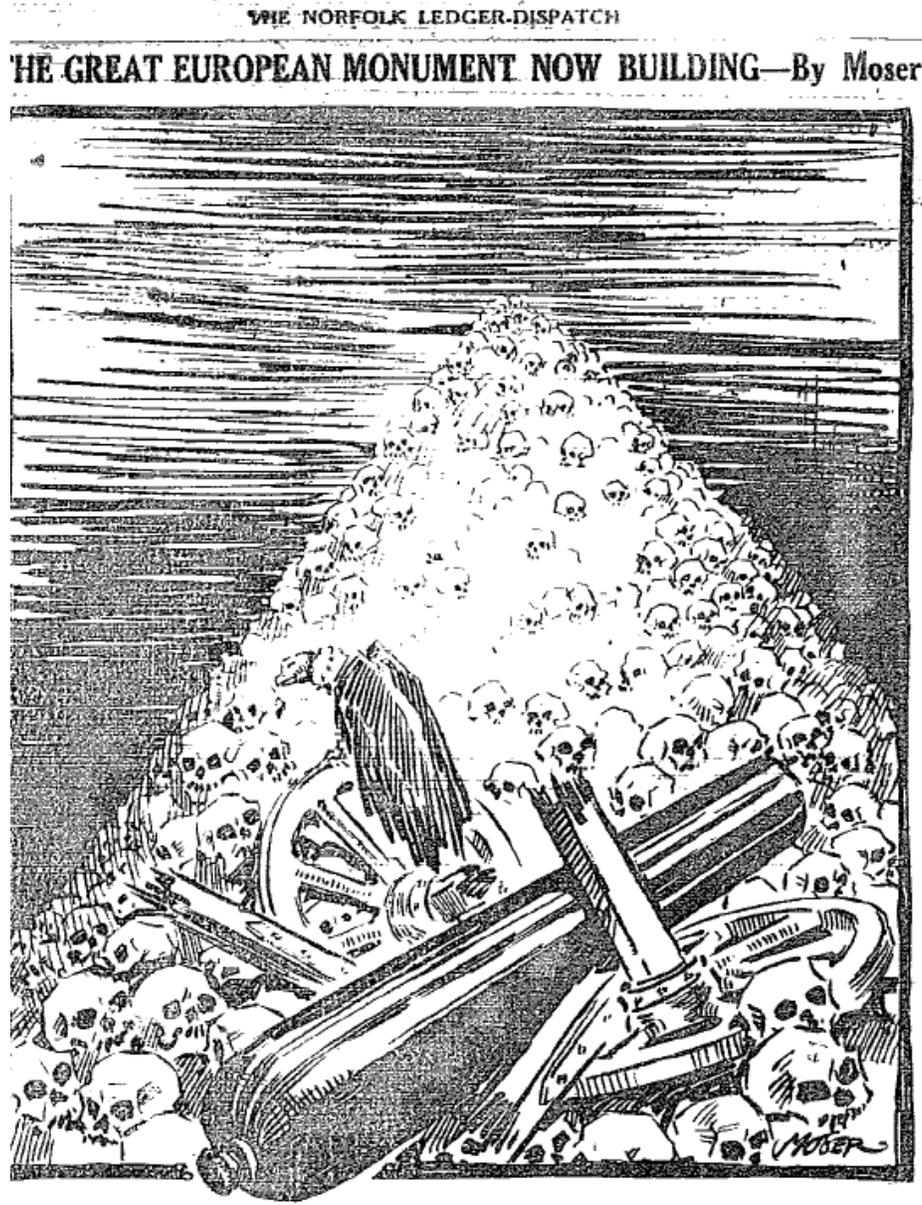
2. At the outbreak of the war, Kaiser Wilhelm said “you will be home before the leaves have fallen from the trees.” What does this quote tell us about the Kaiser’s thoughts on the war? Do you think other people agreed?

3. In August 1914, Max Weber declared “regardless of outcome, this war is great and wonderful.” What do you think he meant by that? Why did people think the war would be “great and wonderful” in 1914? What would make the war “great and wonderful”?

4. Initially, many people believed that the war would be over quickly. Based on the cartoon below, why did many people expect a short war? Was this a reasonable assumption?



5. As the war progressed, people's opinions about the war began to change. Using this cartoon from 1916 (two years after the start of the war), describe the attitude of the United States to the war. What led you to this conclusion?



6. What is the position of the United States regarding the war in 1916?



7. President Woodrow Wilson was re-elected to a second term as President in 1916 on the popular slogan: “He Kept Us Out of War.” In 1917 however, the United States entered the war. What factors prompted this change?

8. Based on the information learned in *The Best Laid Plans* film and the primary sources in this exercise, give a brief overview of public opinion of World War I and how it changed over time. Make sure to include factors that contributed to any changes in public opinion.