Future President Warren G. Harding, *Speech*, 1919.

My countrymen, we believe the unspeakable sorrows, the immeasurable sacrifices, and the aspiring conscience of humankind must commit the nations of the earth to a new and better relationship… We were resolved to safeguard America. We were resolved then, even as we are today and will be tomorrow, to preserve this free and independent republic… It is better to be the free… agents of international justice than to be shackled by a written compact which surrenders our freedom of action and gives [The League of Nations] the right to proclaim America’s duty to the world…

President Woodrow Wilson, *Speech: “Appeal for Support,”* 1919.

At the front of this great treaty is… the League of Nations… Unless you get united, concerted purpose… of the great governments of the world… it will fall down like a house of cards…

There is only one power behind the liberation of mankind… It is the power of the united moral forces of the world. And in the… League of Nations, the moral forces of the world are mobilized… They enter into a solemn promise to one another that they will never use their power against one another for aggression. That they will never interfere with the political independence of a neighbor. And that no matter what differences arise amongst them, they will never resort to war…

In other words, they consent… to submit every matter of difference between them to the judgment of mankind… There is one thing that the American people always rise to and extend their hand to, and that is the truth of justice and of liberty and peace.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, *Speech to Congress*, 1919.

I am as anxious as anyone can be to have the US render every possible service to the civilization and the peace of mankind. But I am certain that we can do it best by not subjecting our policies and our [independence] to other nations. The independence of the United States is not only precious to ourselves, but to the world…

The United States is the world’s best hope, but if you tangle her in the quarrels of Europe, you will destroy her power, and endanger her very existence. Leave her to march freely through the centuries to come, as in the years past. Strong, generous, and confident, she has nobly served mankind… For if we stumble and fall, freedom and civilization everywhere will go down in ruin.

Former President William Taft, *Essay for Newspaper*, 1919.

My feeling about the League of Nations is that [it is] inevitable. We are in a League of Nations, we have been enforcing peace, and we are in a place where we cannot escape it.

We went into this war because we were driven into it. We stayed out of it a long time after we ought to have gone in… When we got into the war, Mr. Wilson stated that our purpose in this war was to make the world safe for democracy. Not the US, the *world*… To say that we are not to take our part in world politics is to ignore what our position is – a position we cannot escape from…

The opponents [of the League] will insist that we should keep our skirts clear of it… This is the [advice] of cowardice… Could we selfishly [ignore] the responsibility that our participation in the war and in the terms of peace [has given us]?

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**LEAGUE of NATIONS:**

*Primary Source Analysis*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Source:****Who/When?** | **Position on League: Yes or No?** | **Evidence from Text:***Identify specific words/phrases from source that revealed the person’s position* | **Significance and Meaning:***What does it mean?* |
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