

## Document C: The Sedition Act of 1918 (Modified)

*This is an excerpt from the Sedition Act, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson in 1918. Along with the Espionage Act, the law shrunk the rights of Americans. Wilson and the United States Congress claimed dissent would harm America's effort to win the war. Congress repealed the act in December 1920, two years after the end of WWI.*

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Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully **utter**, print, write or publish any disloyal, **profane**, **scurrilous**, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States or the Constitution of the United States, or the military or naval forces of the United States, or the flag of the United States, or the uniform of the Army or Navy of the United States . . . or shall willfully utter, print, write, or publish any language intended to **incite**, provoke, or encourage resistance to the United States . . . shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or the imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both.

**Source:** *The Sedition Act of 1918 was passed by the United States Congress on May 16, 1918.*

### Vocabulary

utter: say

profane: disrespectful

scurrilous: insulting

incite: stir up