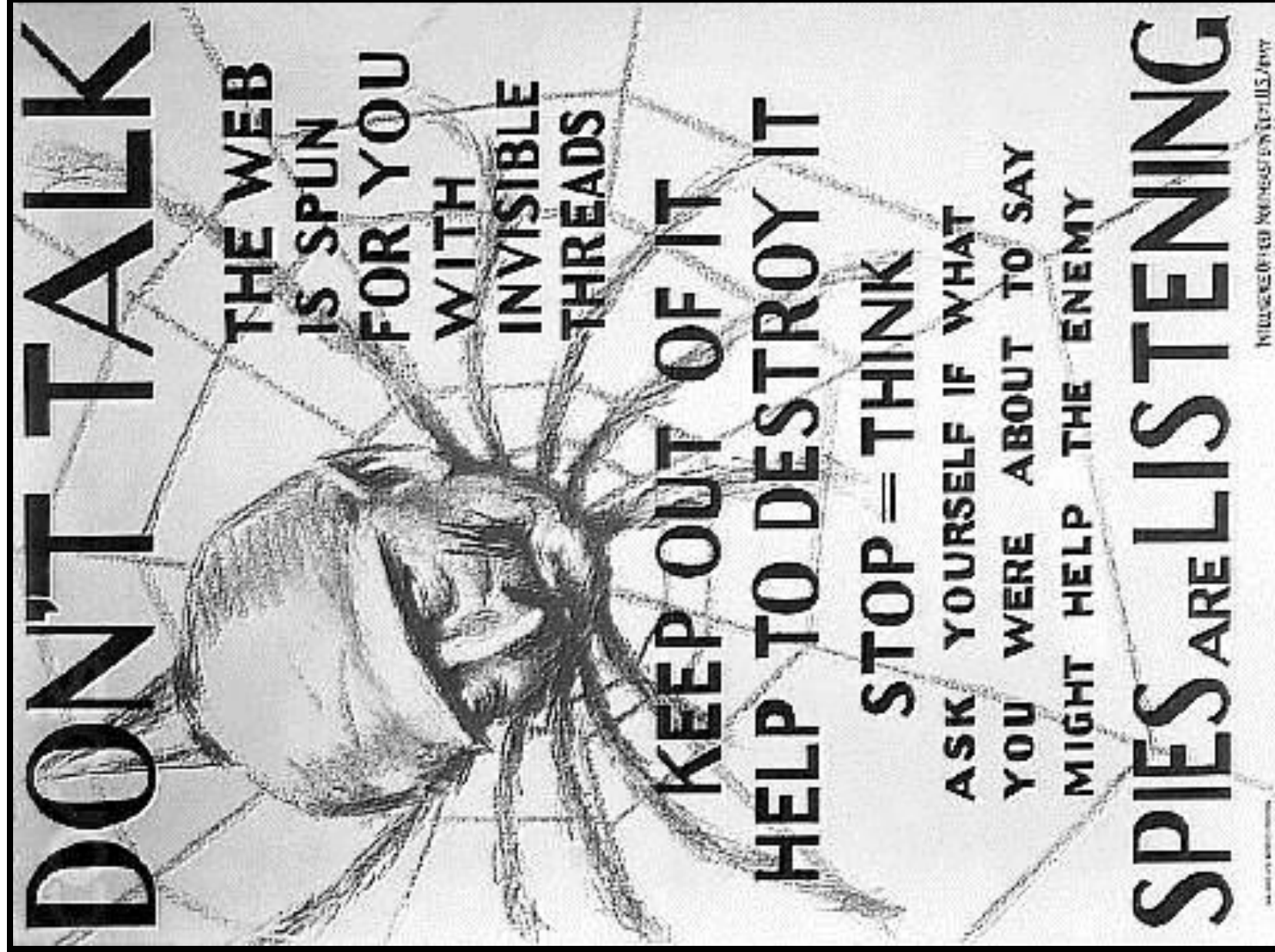


Civil Liberties During WWI: Document A

- President Wilson warned that WWI would require a redefinition of national loyalty, claiming "millions of [Germans] with native sympathies live amongst us."
- Congress passed the **Espionage and Sedition Acts**
 - Under these laws, a person could be fined up to \$10,000 and jailed up to 20 years for interfering with or saying anything disloyal about the war effort. These laws clearly violated the First Amendment, guaranteeing freedom of speech.
 - Over 2,000 people were prosecuted, including newspaper editors, Socialists, anarchists, union leaders, & citizens who protested the draft

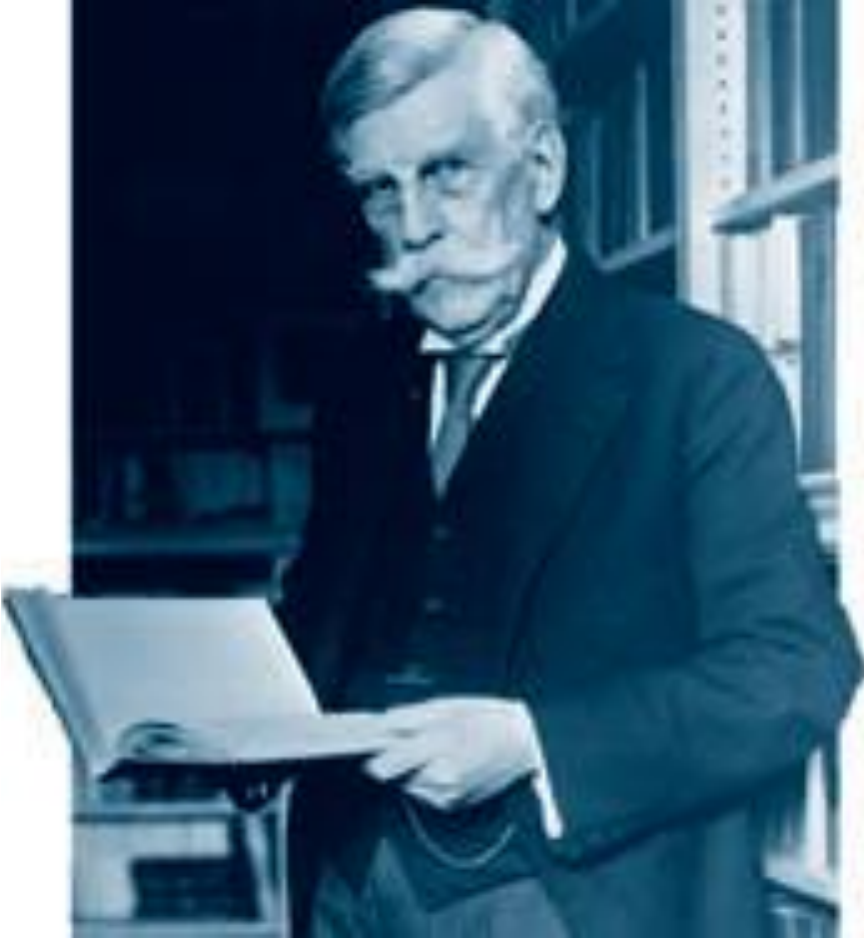
Civil Liberties During WWI: Document A



Civil Liberties During WWI: Document B

- During WWI, the Supreme Court heard the case *Schenck v US* (1919) regarding free speech:
 - Charles Schenck, a Socialist, handed out anti-war leaflets that told Americans not to fight in WWI if they were drafted
 - Schenck was jailed under the Espionage & Sedition Acts, but he argued that his conviction violated his 1st Amendment right to free speech
 - The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that under wartime conditions, his actions presented a “clear and present danger” to the U.S. and that his free speech was not protected

Civil Liberties During WWI: Document B



“Protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting ‘Fire!’ in a theatre and causing a panic”

—Supreme Court Justice
Oliver Wendell Holmes
in the case *Schenck v US* (1919)

Civil Liberties During WWI: Document C

- During World War I, nativism & strong anti-German feelings grew:
 - German-Americans were called “Huns,” lost their jobs, changed their names
 - Orchestras refused to play Mozart, Bach, & Beethoven; Schools stopped teaching German; Sauerkraut was renamed “liberty cabbage”; Saloons stopped offering pretzels
 - Vigilante groups attacked anyone suspected of being unpatriotic; In April 1918, German-born baker Robert Prager was lynched in Illinois; A jury found the defendants not guilty

Civil Liberties During WWI: Document C

“I remember when they smashed out store windows at Uniontown that said Kraut on it. Nobody would eat Kraut. I remember even the great Williamson store, he went in and gathered up everything that was made in Germany, and had a big bonfire out in the middle of the street.”

—Lola Gamble Clyde on Anti-German Sentiment in Idaho during World War

