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## "Making the World Safe for Democracy": Free Speech During World War I

"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." What is the story behind how each of these historical figures challenged law and authority during the Great War?

Historical FIGURE	Reputable SOURCE?	QUOTE? (brief/relevant to violation of the law)	ARGUE: Violate <u>Sedition Act</u> ? Fair punishment? Constitutional?
"Red" Emma Goldman	https://www.gilde rlehrman.org/hist ory-resources/sp otlight-primary-s ource/emma-gold man-restriction-c ivil-liberties-1919	"The conscience of America wanting peace, was stifled in the folds of the national emblem, and its voice drowned by the martial beat of a thousand war drums."	<ol> <li>sedition act: This violates the sedition act because in her book, she speaks against what the U.S. government is doing by going into the war. The Sedition act states that one can't "print" any "scurrilous" language. Scurrilous means making claims about someone with the intent of ruining their reputation.</li> <li>The United States government refused to recognize Goldman as a citizen, meaning she wasn't subject to the laws that other citizens were subject to. However, that meant that the government still had the right to deport her, which they did, for violating the Espionage Act by speaking against the draft and the government.</li> <li>This sentence and jail was unconstitutional because she is allowed to speak her mind and speak freely due to the first amendment saying, "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech and to petition the Government for redress of grievances"</li> </ol>

Walter Mathey	-Reliable source from University of Chicago Law School -Author: Geoffrey R. Stone (professor of law) -Quotes book Political Repression in Modern America: From 1870 to the Present 114 by Robert Justin Goldstein (professor of political science at Oakland University)	"sentenced to a year in jail for 'attending a meeting, listening to an address in which disloyal utterances were made, applauding some of the disloyal statements made by the speaker and contributing 25 cents"	Mathey did violate the Sedition act by supporting an anti-war address that spoke out against the United States. He was seen to be supporting these messages because he put a quarter into the address's causes. His punishment was not fair because a quarter, a very little amount of money, doesn't equate to actively taking a course to go against the United States. This punishment was also not constitutional because the first amendment states that any US citizen has the right to petition the government for any issues.
Rev. Clarence Waldron	https://chicagou nbound.uchicago. edu/cgi/viewcon tent.cgi?article=5 173&context=uclr ev#:~:text=Waldr on%20was%20co nvicted%20for%2 Odistribut,attemp ted%20to%20cau se%20insubordin ation%20and Author: Geoffrey R. Stone- American legal Scholar, and first amendment	"if Christians [are] forbidden to fight to preserve the Person of their Lord and Master, they may not fight to preserve themselves, or any city they should happen to dwell in"	<ol> <li>Waldron did violate The Sedition Act by distributing a pamphlet that urged Christians to not fight in WWI. He was telling Christians that going to war was not good Christian behavior and that they should not go. This violates the sedition act because he is going against something that is "necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war" as soldiers are needed in order to fight a war.</li> <li>Although he did violate the sedition act, his punishment of 15 years in prison seems unfair. 15 years is quite a long time for an action that didn't cause anyone physical harm or greatly disrupted society.</li> <li>His punishment was unconstitutional because all he did was voice his opinion,</li> </ol>

	scholar source: Chicago Unbound, University of Chicago Law School		which the first amendment, freedom of speech, allows him to do. By punishing him, it is a violation of the first amendment, in turn making it unconstitutional.
Historical FIGURE	Reputable SOURCE?	QUOTE? (relevant to violation of the law)	ARGUE: Violate Sedition Act? Fair punishment? Constitutional?
John White	https://erenow.or g/modern/give- me-liberty-ameri can-history/644.p hp	"A court sentenced Ohio farmer John White to twenty-one months in prison for saying that the murder of innocent women and children by German soldiers was no worse than what the United States had done in the Philippines in the war of 1899-1903"	<ol> <li>John White violated the sedition act when he made the claims that the German murder of women and children was no different from what the United States perpetrated in the Philippines, due to the disloyal nature of these claims to the "form of the United States government".</li> <li>Though this was in violation of the Sedition Act, the first amendment says that the government cannot make any laws "abridging the freedom of speech", which means that the sedition act in itself is unconstitutional, and he cannot be imprisoned under its statutes.</li> <li>Unconstitutionally sentenced to twenty-one months in prison, so there is no basis for imprisonment of any kind</li> </ol>

"Big Bill" Haywood	https://www.fam ous-trials.com/ha ywood/221-hayw ood	"In 1918, Haywood was convicted of violating a federal espionage and sedition act by calling a strike during wartime"	<ol> <li>William Haywood broke the sedition act as he urged his fellow union members to strike during wartime. This is in violation of the sedition act which: "made it a crime to 'willfully urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment (stoppage) of the production of [anything] necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war". His union was in control of textiles and other necessary materials, so by urging for a strike he attempted to hurt the production of items necessary for the war effort.</li> <li>He was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his efforts, a draconian punishment for his actions. This sentence is not only extreme, but it also violated the first amendment, as it abridged upon his freedom of speech and his right to hold a strike.</li> </ol>
Eugene Debs	National Archives - Free Speech on Trial by Glenn V. Longacre, an archivist with bachelor's degree in history and masters degree in public history	"They have always taught you that it is your patriotic duty to go to war and slaughter yourselves at their command. You have never had a voice in the war."	He is in violation of the sedition act because he is criticizing the draft and urging people to question it. Soldiers are necessary for "the prosecution of the war" and he is "curtailing the production" by telling people they shouldn't have to fight in the war.  He was sentenced to ten years in prison and only served two. We think it is a fair punishment based on the sedition law, but the sedition law itself is not constitutional because it violates his First Amendment right. Under freedom of speech, he should have the right to criticize the government.