

America's Presidential Election

(November 1916)

Translated by James Doing

On November 7 – shortly after the release of this issue from the press – the people of this Union will decide who, for the next four years, should take into his hands the leadership of the government of this federation of states.

Who should be the President? Just as our Union is a federation of states, so do its citizens come from all corners of the Earth. **But all, without exception, must be Americans!** The well-being of the entire country must be the first priority and supreme principle of every citizen, whatever his race or language. That which is beneficial to our country – that which best serves her, from which she may profit, and which props her up – must therefore be the focus of attention during a Presidential election, ultimately determining the outcome on Election Day. Thus, with respect to foreign policy, every patriotic citizen must demand, first and foremost, that the government he elects continue to protect American interests above all other nations, with no exceptions. Partisan support of American interests will not only seriously compromise the country's international position but will also lead to internal discord among its citizens. This would be nothing short of a *national injustice*, as it stands in irreconcilable contradiction with the fundamental principles upon which this Republic was founded.

Who, then, should be the President? A true American who, starting with his acceptance speech, is determined to continually, intrepidly, bravely, and unambiguously stand up to any and all threats to America's interests, which have been miserably trampled upon since the beginning of the war? – Or a man who allows American interests to be crushed by one single power, England?

Who should be the President? A true American who vows to maintain neutrality (meaning peace and friendship with all) and does not allow special concessions for certain powers, who respects the interests of our free federation of states? – Or a man who has more than once brought our country to the brink of war through un-American, non-neutral partisanship in favor of a foreign power, England?

We do not underestimate the difficulties that the European war has caused the President.¹ However, he could have surmounted *all* of these difficulties had he stayed neutral – as at first, according to his sacred duty – and had he shown consistent fairness to all of the nations, including our own, that are involved in this terrible, destructive struggle. Through his partisanship, he has blood on his hands from the unprecedented arms export; through his partisanship, he has allowed American trade to be harmed throughout the world; through his partisanship, he has permitted the robbery of mail²; through his partisanship, he has enforced England’s “blacklist”³; through his partisanship, he has allowed the Allies to borrow millions of dollars from our sympathetic national banks, which will chain us to England forever (money rules the world!); and, through his partisanship – which will prevent his response to such provocative abuses even after the election – he is criminally allowing America to starve.

The President has not only thrown all of the appeals, petitions, and protests of the German Americans to the wind; he has publicly, repeatedly, and coarsely scolded them in writing and speech. He has thereby committed a **national injustice**. America’s reputation is diminished throughout the world, even in England! No perceptive and patriotic citizen, whatever his race or language, can ignore the fact that a complete reversal is necessary; a conscientious, purposeful, government with a strong core must come to power, one that will restore our damaged reputation and protect American interests, peace, and friendship throughout the world. Our tangible instrument for this purpose is the ballot, which God has bestowed upon us through our laws. But, dear reader, our private rooms precede the voting booth, and the following holds true *before* and *after* the election: *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much* (James 5:16).

¹ Translator’s note: Referring to President Woodrow Wilson (served two terms, 1913-1921).

² Translator’s note: In May 1916, there was public outcry over the Allied practice of seizing and detaining neutral ships carrying mail to and from the United States on the Atlantic.

³ Translator’s note: In July 1916, England “blacklisted” 85 American individuals or companies suspected of association with the Central Powers, forbidding them the use of British trade ships, etc.