

## Japanese Prime Minister Count Terauchi on the Zimmermann Telegram *March 1917*

*The following is the Japanese response to news of the Zimmerman telegram, which proposed an alliance between Germany, Japan, and Mexico against the United States.*

The revelation of Germany's latest plot, looking to a combination between Japan and Mexico against the United States, is interesting in many ways.

We are surprised not so much by the persistent efforts of the Germans to cause an estrangement between Japan and the United States as by their complete failure of appreciating the aims and ideals of other nations.

Nothing is more repugnant to our sense of honour and to the lasting welfare of this country than to betray our allies and friends in time of trial and to become a party to a combination directed against the United States, to whom we are bound not only by the sentiments of true friendship, but also by the material interests of vast and far-reaching importance.

The proposal which is now reported to have been planned by the German Foreign Office has not been communicated to the Japanese Government up to this moment, either directly or indirectly, officially or unofficially, but should it ever come to hand I can conceive no other form of reply than that of indignant and categorical refusal.

Source: *Source Records of the Great War, Vol. V*, ed. Charles F. Horne, *National Alumni* 1923