



**How did trade blockades in World War One cause starvation in Lebanon?**

**Narrated by Luis Fajardo**

#### **4. Make war together, make peace together**

The Mexican president at the time, Venustiano Carranza, would entertain German diplomats here at his residence. What he lacked up for in charisma and charm, president Carranza made up for in physical presence, standing at almost two metres tall. Frank conversations with German attaches frequently took place in Chapultepec, often criticising America, and discussing how the two countries could form closer ties.

Then in 1917, a telegram from Berlin brought the First World War straight to Carranza's doorstep. *We make Mexico a proposal for alliance on the following basis Make war together, make peace together.*

The German foreign minister, Arthur Zimmerman, offered to help Mexico invade America, seizing back their lost lands: Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

[Dr Josefina Zoraida Vásquez – Historian] – After Mexico lost all its territory to the United States, there was always enormous resentment towards America. So when the offer of the Zimmerman telegram arrived there were many Mexicans who thought it was an attractive opportunity to recover the region.

[Luis's commentary resumes] - believed that an invasion would distract America, and prevent them from joining the war in Europe. The scheme backfired spectacularly. The coded message had been intercepted and decrypted by the allies on its way to Mexico.

The German plot was revealed to the world. The Zimmerman telegram had inadvertently pushed America into war with Germany.