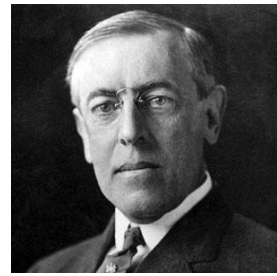


The U.S. Enters World War 1: 1917

At First, American Neutrality



The **U.S. did not side with either European Alliance System.**

Although **most Americans favored the Allies**, President **Wilson** called on the American people **not to take sides.**

When war broke out, America attempted to follow its **traditional policy of neutrality.**

Yet, despite its best efforts, the **U.S. became involved in World War One.** Following are some of the reasons:

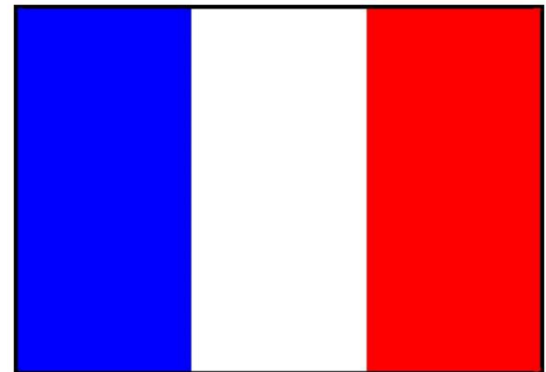
Reasons for U.S. Involvement in WW 1

Closer Ties with the Allies.

Many Americans **traces their roots** to Britain.

A common language and traditions tied Americans to the British.

The U.S., Great Britain and France **shared the same democratic political system.**



Reasons for U.S. Involvement in WW1

German Actions.

Americans were **shocked at Germany's violations of international law** –

- its invasion of neutral Belgium,
- destruction of civilian buildings,
- The Zimmerman Note and the
- sinking of the passenger ship Lusitania



turning American public opinion against Germany.

Reasons for U.S. Involvement in WW1

Submarine Warfare.

To blockade Britain and counteract British superiority in surface vessels, Germany resorted to **unrestricted submarine warfare**.

Germany began to sink **U.S. ships that were supplying materials to England**.

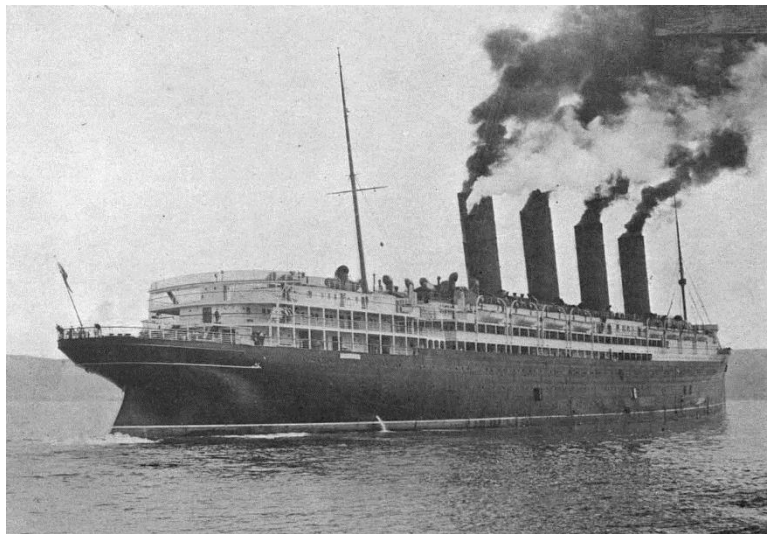
This was a **violation of the principle of freedom of the seas** – that neutrals have a right to ship non-war goods to nations at war and the right of Americans to sail on the merchant ships of nations at war.

Over 200 Americans perished.

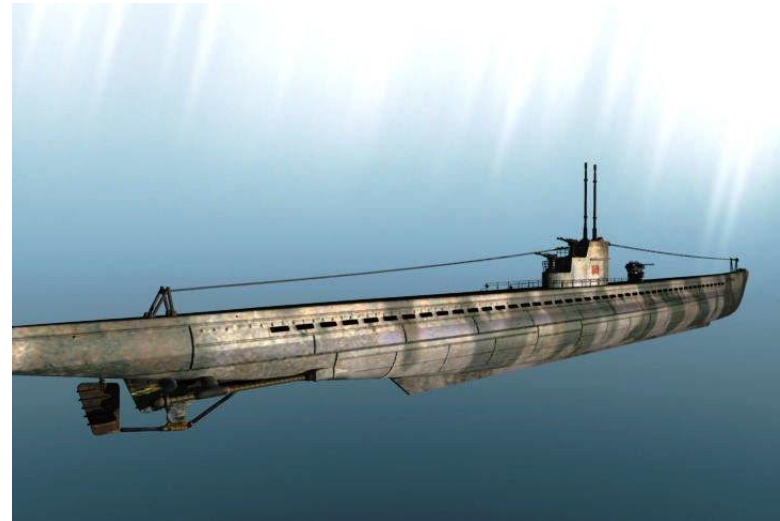


Submarine Warfare cont.

- a. Sinking of the **Lusitania** - **1915**
- b. Sussex Pledge - **1916**
- c. Resumption of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare - **1917**



When **German leaders announced** in 1917 that they would **use submarines to sink all U.S. ships on the way to England**, President Wilson finally had **Congress declare war**.



Zimmerman Note

RECEIVED
October 1-8-58
Washington, State Dept.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

By *Mark A. Eckhoff, Assistant*
Date *Oct 27, 1918*

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, ~~invite~~ *invite* Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMANN.

Reasons For U.S. Involvement in WW1

American Economic Interests:

Because **Britain effectively blockaded the Central Powers**, Americans sold foodstuffs and manufactured goods **almost entirely to the Allies.**

When Allies exhausted their funds, **American investors extended them substantial loans.**