


## II. The United States in World War I

Main Idea: The United States helped turn the tide for an Allied victory.

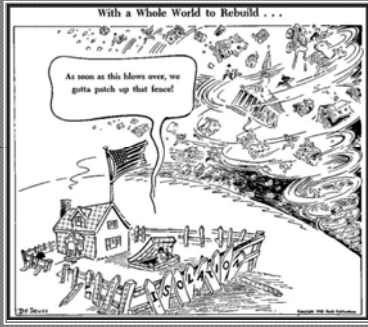
### Ohio Academic Standard

- **History**
- 6. Trace the development of the U.S. as a world power with emphasis on:
  - a. the decision to enter into World War I

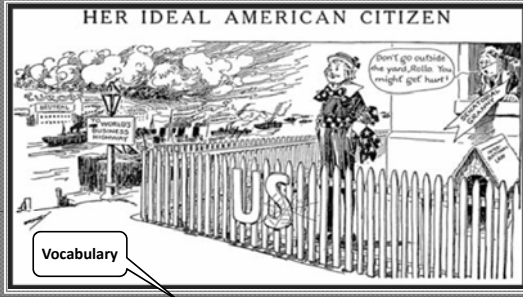


### United States Stays Neutral

- **neutral**
- not aligned with either side in a war or dispute
- **isolationism**
- a policy in which a nation avoids entanglement in foreign wars




### HER IDEAL AMERICAN CITIZEN



Vocabulary


- 1a. Define What was isolationism?
- This was a policy of not being involved in the affairs of other nations.
- 1b. Explain Why did the United States pursue a policy of isolationism?
- Americans thought of World War I as a European conflict with little effect on their country.

### Wilson's Neutrality Ideal




- At the beginning of the "Great War" (1914) most Americans believed neutrality the best policy.

### Caught in the Middle



## United States Stays Neutral

- What campaign
- promise did Wilson
- give in order to be
- re-elected?

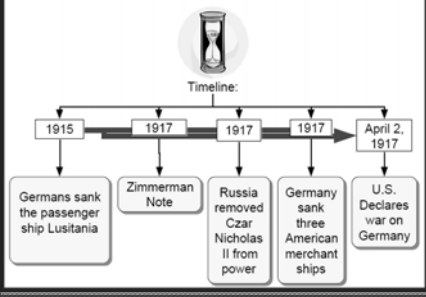


ENTERING CLEAR OF THE ROCKS

- To stay neutral.

### Major events that led the United States to declare war against Germany

Timeline:




Time Line: the decision to enter into World War I

**Major Events That Led the U.S. to Declare War Against Germany**

### 1915: Why would the sinking of the *Lusitania* help draw us towards war?

Vocabulary




- Killed more than 1,200 people
- Among the dead were 128 Americans

### Sussex Pledge

Vocabulary

March 24, 1916: Germany attacked the French passenger ship *Sussex* on March 24, 1916, killing about 80 people.



- German officials feared that the United States might enter the war, so Germany issued the "**Sussex pledge**, which included a promise not to sink merchant vessels "without warning and without saving human lives."

### Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare on **February 1, 1917**.

Vocabulary




- U-boats
- small German submarines
- Two days later, the United States ended diplomatic relations with Germany.
- Wilson asked Congress for the authority to install guns on U.S. merchant ships.

### 2 a. Recall What was the Zimmermann Note?

Vocabulary

- **March 1, 1917**
- The Germans hoped that an American war with Mexico would keep the United States out of the war in Europe. Since Mexico expressed no interest in fighting, this German strategy backfired.
- German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram to a German official in Mexico. The Zimmermann Note proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico. "We shall make war together, make peace together," the telegram offered. "[In exchange] Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory."



Press Publishing Company SOME PROMISE! April 1917

2 b. Draw Conclusions How did the Zimmermann Note affect American public opinion about the war?

- Many began to support the idea of the United State entering the war.

Major Events That Led the U.S. to Declare War Against Germany

- 1c. Elaborate How did Germany's actions make the United States begin to consider abandoning isolationism?
- Germany's war tactics
- Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare
- The Zimmerman Note to Mexico -- Germany wanted Mexico as an ally against the United States.
- The Americans got copies of the note and called for war.

Lusitania and Zimmermann Note affect American public opinion about the war

Why would the Russians removing Czar Nicholas II from power help lead the U.S. to war?

This occurs before the Communist take-over in Russia!

- Mid-March, 1917
- An uprising in Russia forced Czar Nicholas II to give up his absolute power over the government.
- Rebel leaders set up a government based on republican ideals.
- These changes made Russia more democratic but also raised questions about how long the new Russian government would continue to fight on the Eastern Front.

Mid-March 1917, German U-boats sank three American merchant ships


Vocabulary

- small submarines named after the German word *unterserboot*, which means "undersea boat"

U-Boats

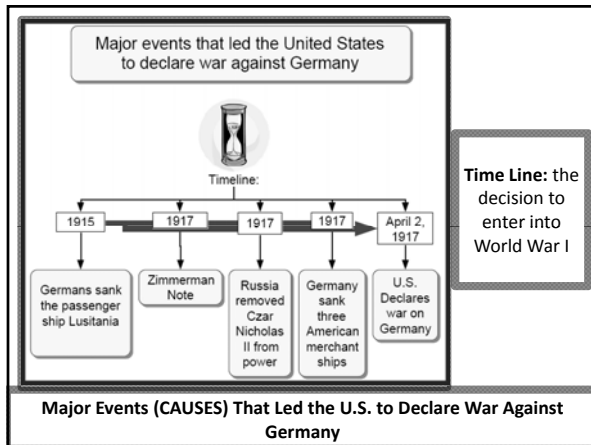
- Probably the sinking of the merchant ships even though the U.S. was neutral in the war.
- Why?
- It was apparent that the Germans were not going to stop sinking American merchant ships without warning even though they promised they would give a warning according to the Sussex Pledge.
- This was coupled with a list of things that the Germans had done to irritate the Americans. The sinking of the merchant ships in March, 1917 was the last straw.

2 c. Evaluate Which event do you think was the most significant in convincing Americans to join the war? Why?




### Identifying Cause and Effect

- 5. Identifying Cause and Effect with information from the section, placing on the timeline the major events that led the United States to declare war against Germany.
- 6. Expository What caused the United States to enter World War I? Write a short paragraph in which you explain the events that led the United States to declare war.



- President Woodrow Wilson calls on Congress for a **declaration of war against Germany on April 2, 1917** in response to the continued German U-boat attacks on American ships. In his speech before Congress, Wilson proclaimed that "The world must be made safe for democracy."




## America Enters the War




### Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

- 4. Analyze instances in which the rights of individuals were restricted including:
  - a. **conscientious objectors** in World War



**Vocabulary** **America Goes to War**

- Explain:** What was the purpose of the **Selective Service Act**?
- Required young men to register for the military
- Define:** What was a **conscientious objector**?
- Someone whose moral or religious beliefs prevented him from fighting in the war.



American C.O.s sentenced to death in WWI before they were given prison terms instead

**Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities**

- During World War I, **conscientious objectors** to military service were often accused of disloyalty, and some conscientious objectors were sentenced to prison.
- However, other conscientious objectors were willing to accept noncombatant service.
- The assignment of conscientious objectors to noncombatant service was an attempt by the government to **balance individual rights and the common good**.

**OGT Question**

**EXPLANATION:**

- Assigning conscientious objectors to noncombatant service roles during World War I **enabled the government to protect the individual rights of objectors while also preserving the common good during wartime.**
- Individual rights in the United States are **relative, not absolute**, and are **sometimes limited by the government in order to preserve the common good.**

**Americans in Europe**




- African American soldiers were **segregated** into separate divisions and trained in separate camps.
- Many white Army officers and southern politicians objected to the training of African American soldiers to use weapons.
- They feared that these **black soldiers might pose a threat after the war.**
- Because of these beliefs, only a few black regiments were trained for combat.**

About 42,000 African American soldiers served in combat positions in World War I. The 369th Infantry served a record 191 days in the trenches. They fought alongside the French in the 1918 Battle of Meuse-Argonne. After the war, the French awarded the entire unit the Croix de Guerre, a prestigious medal for bravery.

**Americans in Europe**

Why did many white Army officers and southern politicians object to the training of African American soldiers to use weapons? Do you recall the Brownsville incident after the war?




- These soldiers were among the **more than 400,000 Black Americans** who joined the armed forces during the Great War (WW I). The majority of Black Americans who saw active duty on the front line fought under French command, while those who stayed under American command served as laborers rather than fighters.
- Black American "Buffalo" soldiers of the 367th Infantry, 77th Division posing for a portrait in France.**

**3 a. Identify What was the convoy system?** **Vocabulary**

- Troop-transport ships were surrounded by destroyers or cruisers for protection.**
- It reduced the number of ships sunk and limited the loss of troops and supplies.**

**German submarine attack was cut by more than 50 percent**

1915 The German government announced that the waters around Great Britain would be a war zone in which Germany would destroy all enemy ships.



**Communists** **Vocabulary**

- Allied setbacks**
- November 1917 a group known as the Bolsheviks took control of Russia's government. The Bolsheviks were **Communists**—people who seek the equal distribution of wealth and the end of all private property.
- The new government, led by Vladimir Lenin, withdrew the Russian army from the Eastern Front and signed a peace agreement with the Central Powers. **Now Germany was free to focus on fighting in the west.**

**3 b. Explain What effect did U.S. troops have on the outcome of the war?**

U.S. troops advance against entrenched German positions in 1918.

- They played a major role in helping French troops stop the German advance on Paris.



**4 b. Analyze How did the economic effects of the war help bring an end to the fighting?**



- The cost of the war crippled the German economy.
- German food riots and strikes hurt the Central Power's ability to continue to fight.

**“the war to end all wars”**



- People around the world had grown weary of death.
- Some 8.5 million people had been killed.
- People everywhere hoped that the Great War would be “the war to end all wars.”

**The War Ends**



- November 11, 1918, a truce, or armistice, went into effect.