



The First World War 1914-1918

World War I

M

Militarism - policy of building up strong military forces to prepare for war

A

Alliances - agreements between nations to help and protect one another

N

Nationalism - pride in or devotion to one's country

I

Imperialism - when one country takes over another country economically and politically

A

Assassination – the murder of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Militarism



- Empires had to be defended and European nations **increased military spending** enormously in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- By 1890 the strongest nation militarily in Europe was Germany
- **Germany had a strong army** and built up a navy to rival England's fleet.
- France, Italy, Japan and the United States quickly joined in the **naval buildup**.



Battleships were being stockpiled by European nations, Japan, and America in the late 19th and early 20th century

Alliance System



- By 1907 there were two major defense alliances in Europe
- The **Triple Entente**, later known as the **Allies**, consisted of France, Britain, and Russia
- The **Triple Alliance**, later known as the **Central Powers**, consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy



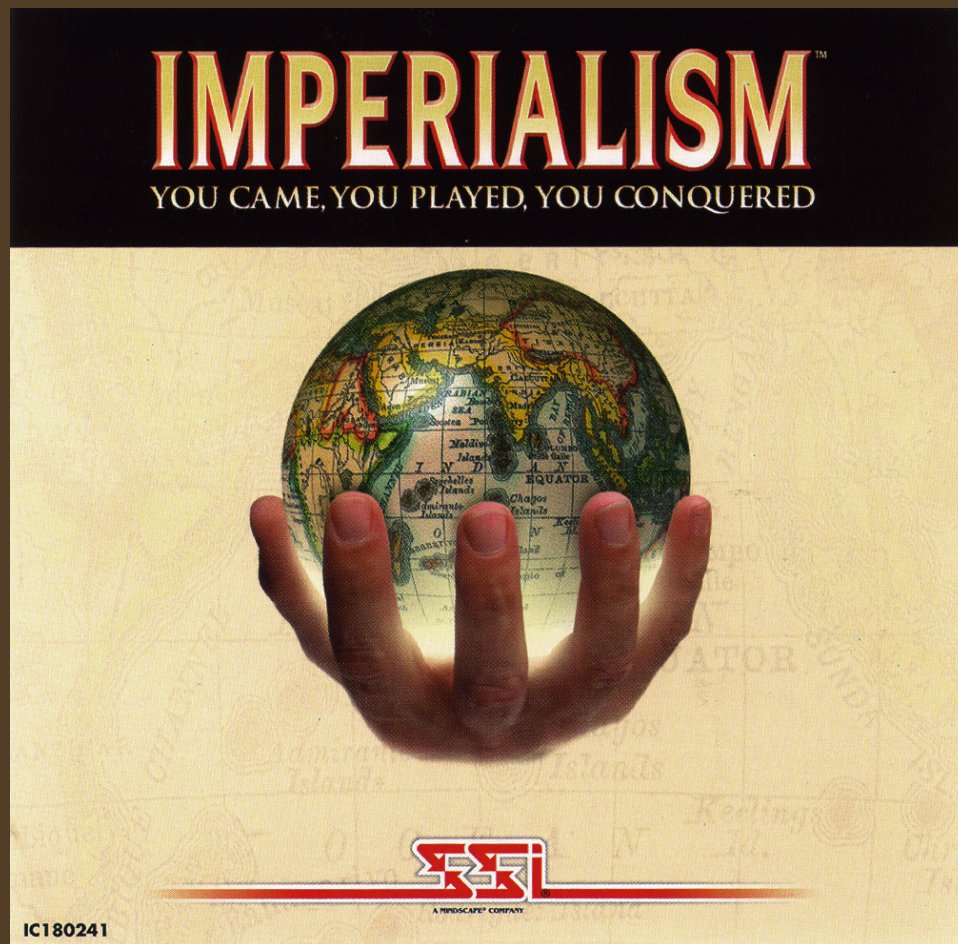
Nationalism

- Often **nationalism** led to rivalries and conflicts between nations. Additionally, various **ethnic groups** resented domination by others and wanted independence. Finally, Russia and Austria-Hungary disagreed over the treatment of Serbs in central Europe.

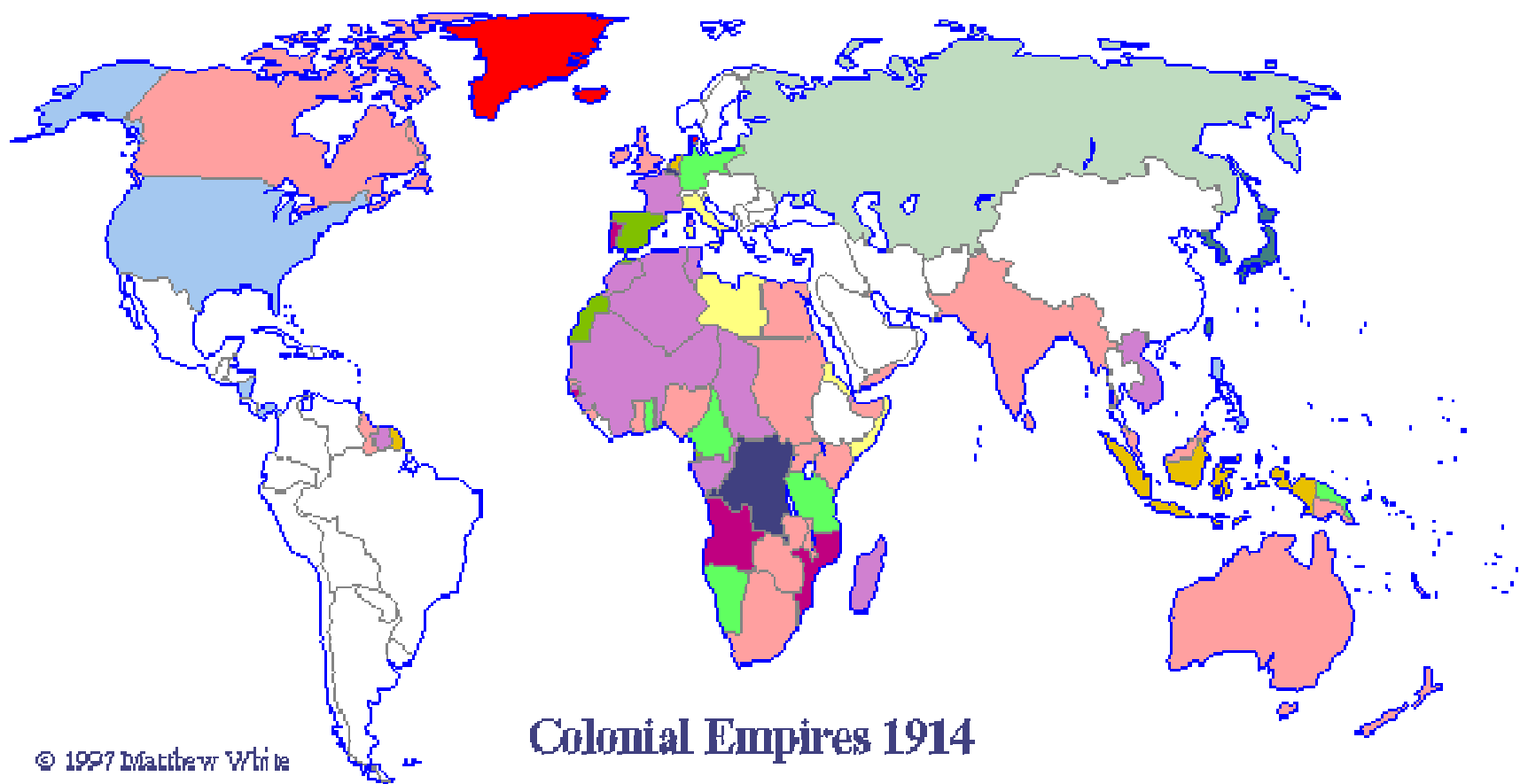


Germany was allied with Austria-Hungary while Russia, France and Britain were partners

Imperialism



- For many centuries, European nations **built empires**. Colonies supplied raw materials and provided markets for manufactured goods. As Germany **industrialized**, she competed with other nations and colonies made her more competitive.

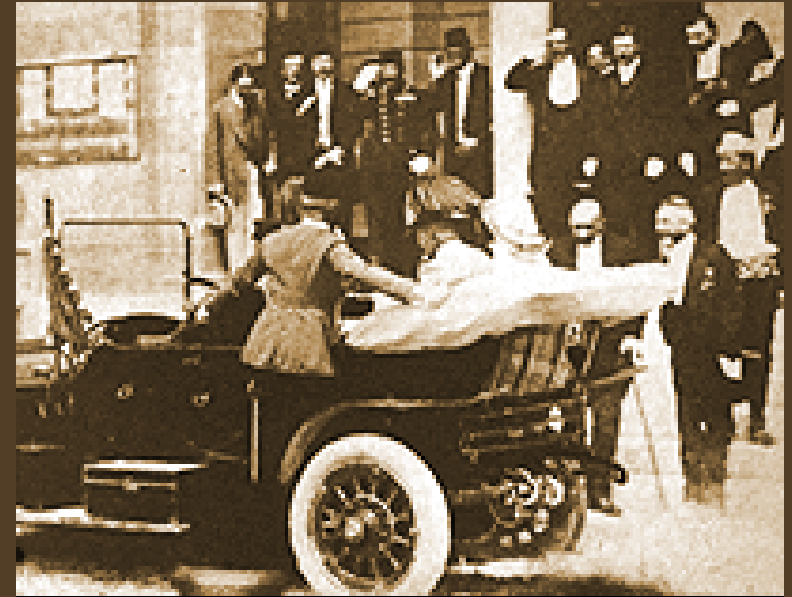


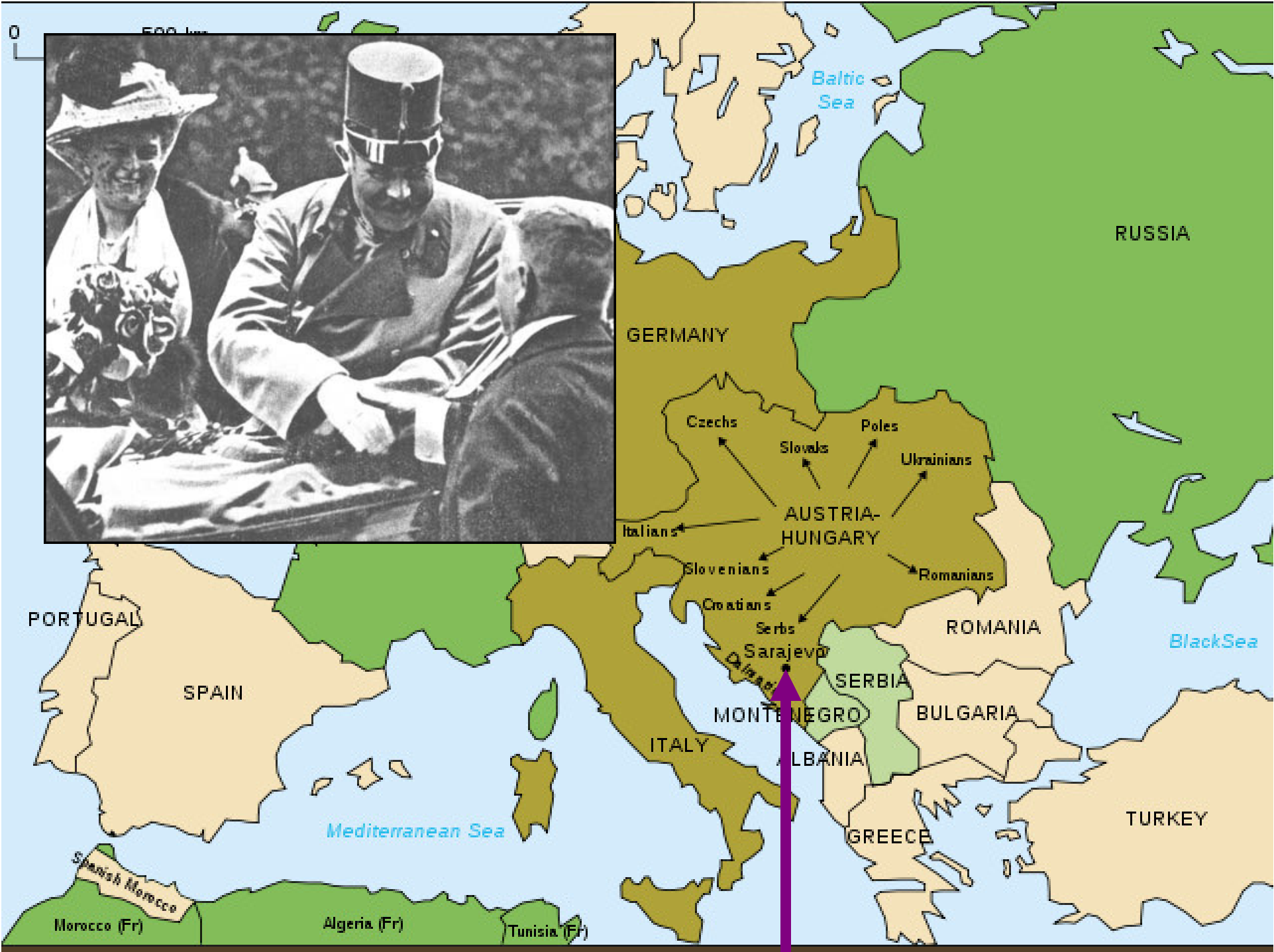
Colonial Empires 1914

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| ■ Belgium | ■ France | ■ Great Britain | ■ Japan | ■ Portugal | ■ Spain |
| ■ Denmark | ■ Germany | ■ Italy | ■ Netherlands | ■ Russia | ■ United States |

The Spark: An Assassination

- The Balkan region was considered “the powder keg of Europe” due to competing interests in the area. **Russia** wanted access to the Mediterranean Sea. **Germany** wanted a rail link to the Ottoman Empire. **Austria-Hungary**, which had taken control of Bosnia in 1878, accused Serbia of subverting its rule over Bosnia.
- Finally, in June of 1914, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to the Austrian throne was gunned down by a Serbia radical igniting a diplomatic crisis.







Gavrilo Princip



The Fighting Begins

- The Alliance system pulled one nation after another into the conflict – **The Great War had begun**. On August 3, 1914, Germany invaded Belgium to Paris, France. Next, Germany would attack Russia





The conditions in these trenches were horrific. Aside from the fear of bombardment, soldiers also had to contend with mud, flooding, lice, vermin, and disease associated with living in such an unhealthy environment.

Was it in the national interest of the United States to stay neutral or declare war?

Americans Question Neutrality



French propaganda poster portrayed the Germans as inhuman.

- In 1914, most Americans saw no reason to join a struggle 3,000 miles away – they wanted **neutrality**. Some simply did not want their sons to experience the horror of warfare. Some German-Americans supported Germany in World War I. However, many Americans felt closer to the British because of a shared ancestry and language. Most importantly, **American economic interests were far stronger with the Allies.**

The War Hits Home



GERMAN SUBMARINE (U-118)
ASHORE AT HASTINGS
15 APRIL 1919.

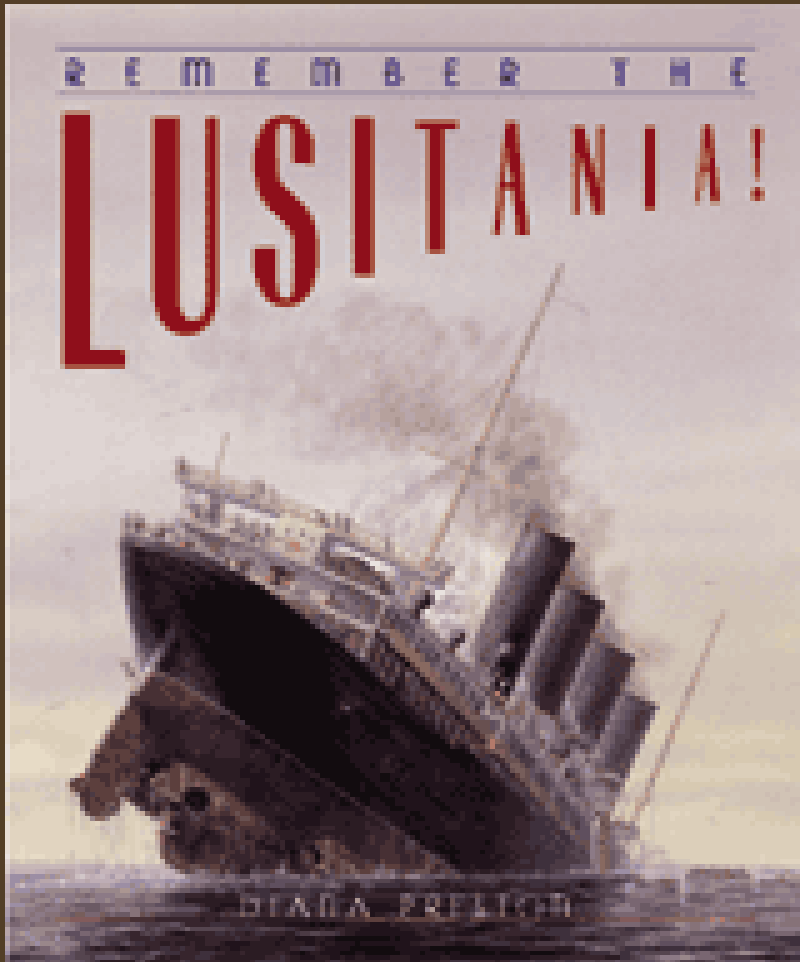
- During the first two years of the war, **America was providing** (selling) the allied forces dynamite, cannon powder, submarines, copper wire and tubing and other war material.
- Both the Germans and British imposed **naval blockades** on each other. The **Germans used U-boats** (submarines) to prevent shipments to the North Atlantic. Any ship found in the waters around Britain would be sunk.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCrzaC4aLPg>

How did the Germans use u-boats to fight the war?



The Lusitania Disaster



May 7, 1915

- United States involvement in World War I was hastened by the **Lusitania disaster**. The Lusitania was a **British passenger liner** that carried 1,198 persons on a fateful trip on May 7, 1915.
- A German **U-boat sank the British passenger** liner killing all aboard including 128 American tourists. The Germans claimed the ship was carrying Allied ammunition.
- **Americans were outraged** and public opinion turned against Germany and the Central Powers.

"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA
8:30 A. M.

VOL. LXXV., NO. 28891

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

ONE CENT.

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stunned by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLETINS BY WHITE HOUSE

White House: Then Gladly, but is Silent on the Nation's Course.

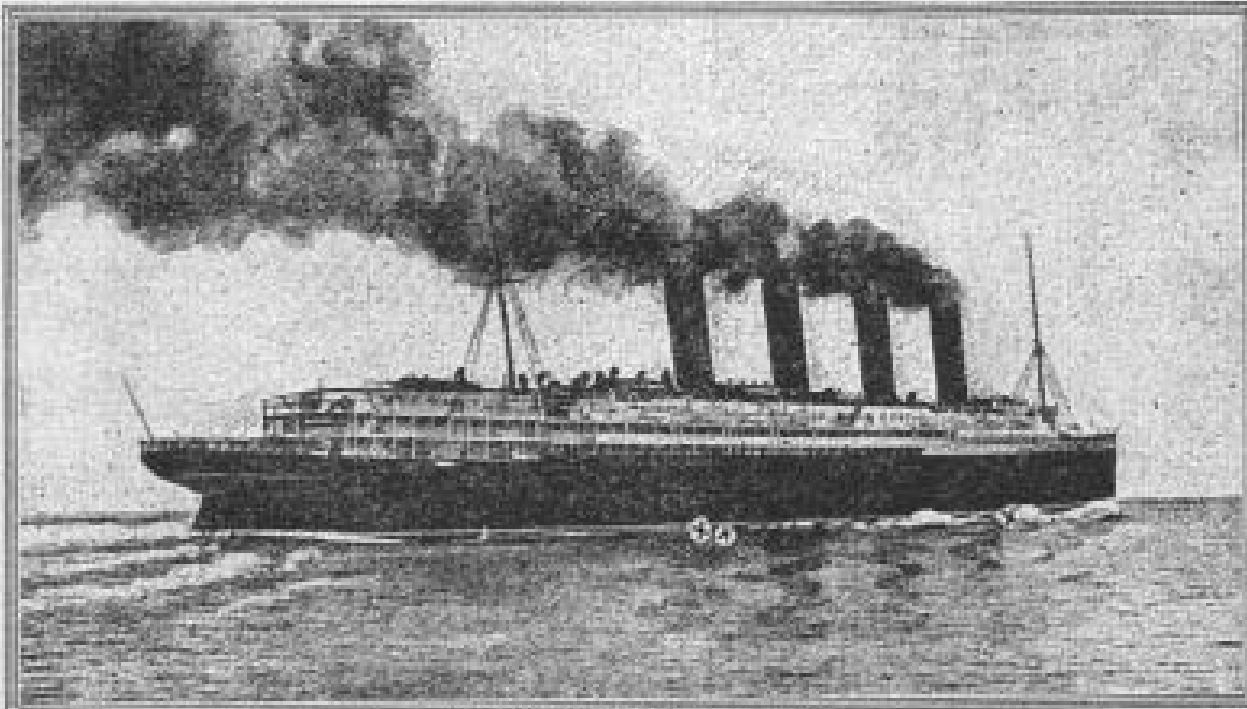
SENATORS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Recalls First Test of Our Fleet Warning to Germany.

CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Reports That Loss of Ship to be Made More Public Before Return.

Special to the New York Times.
Washington, May 4.—The news that the Lusitania had been sunk by a submarine was received here with a shock that was not only felt in the capital but in every part of the country. The news is regarded as a tragedy and the possibility of a grave crisis is being discussed. The news is regarded as a tragedy and the possibility of a grave crisis is being discussed.



The Lost Grand Steamship Lusitania
A Where the First Torpedo Struck. B Where the Second Torpedo Struck.

SOME DEAD TAKEN CARE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Bristol.

STEWART TELLS OF DEATH

One Torpedo Crashes Into the Damaged Liner's Bow, Another Into the Empty Room.

SHIP LISTS GIVEN TO PORT

Master It Impossible to Load Many Goods, He Warns Must Have Come Down.

ATTACKED IN BROAD DAY

Passengers at Lusitania Warning Not Seen Given by Germans to See the Ship Lost for Good.

Only 450 Were Saved.
Few Cabin Passengers.
QUEENSTOWN, Ire., Sat.—May 3, 4:25 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have arrived here estimate that only about 450 of those aboard the grand liner were saved, and that only

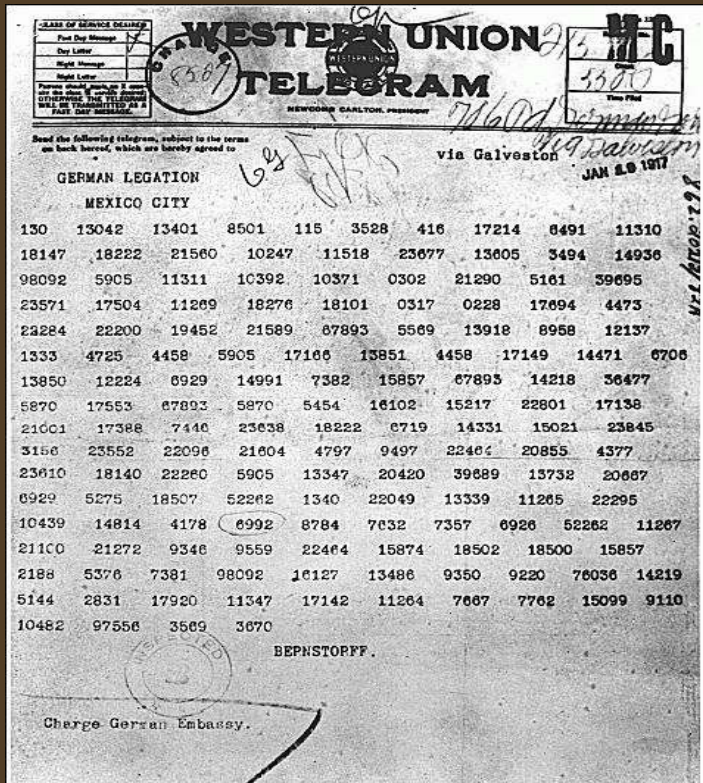
The N.Y. Times reports on the Lusitania

1916 Election

- The November 1916 election pitted incumbent Democrat **Woodrow Wilson** vs. Republican candidate Supreme Court justice **Charles Evans Hughes**.
- **Wilson won** a close election using the slogan, “He kept us out of war.” That slogan would prove ironic because within a few months the United States would be embroiled in World War I.



America Edges Closer To War



Encoded message from Germany to Mexico

- Several factors came together to bring the U.S. into the war:
 1. Germany ignored Wilson's plea for peace.
 2. **The Zimmerman Note**, a telegram from the German foreign minister to the German Ambassador in Mexico, proposed an alliance with Mexico and a return of their "lost territory" in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.
 3. Next came the sinking of four unarmed U.S. merchant ships by **German subs**.

*Zimmerman
note
intercepted
by a British
agent and
decoded*

RECEIVED
OCT 22 1918
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

By *Wm. A. Eckhoff*
Date *Oct. 22, 1918*

"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, ZIMMERMAN.

America Declares War



- On April 2, 1917, senators, representatives, ambassadors, members of the Supreme Court, and other guests crowded into the Capital building to hear Wilson deliver his **declaration of war.**
- **Wilson said, “The world must be made safe for democracy.”**
- Congress passed the resolution a few days later.

THE NATIONS INVOLVED IN WORLD WAR I

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Declared **war** on Serbia: July 28, 1914
Declared **war** on Russia: Aug. 6, 1914

Declared **war** on Belgium: Aug. 28, 1914
Declared **war** on Portugal: March 15, 1916

GERMANY

Declared **war** on Russia: Aug. 1, 1914
Declared **war** on France: Aug. 3, 1914
Declared **war** on Belgium: Aug. 4, 1914
Declared **war** on Portugal: March 9, 1916
Declared **war** on Romania: Aug. 28, 1916

MONTENEGRO

Declared **war** on Austria-Hungary:
 Aug. 5, 1914
Declared **war** on Germany:
 Aug. 8, 1914

FRANCE

Invaded by Germany: Aug. 2, 1914
Declared **war** on Austria-Hungary:
 Aug. 12, 1914
Declared **war** on Turkey: Nov. 5, 1914
Declared **war** on Bulgaria: Oct. 16, 1915

GREAT BRITAIN

Declared **war** on Germany: Aug. 4, 1914
Declared **war** on Austria-Hungary:
 Aug. 12, 1914
Declared **war** on Turkey: Nov. 5, 1914
Declared **war** on Bulgaria:
 Oct. 15, 1915

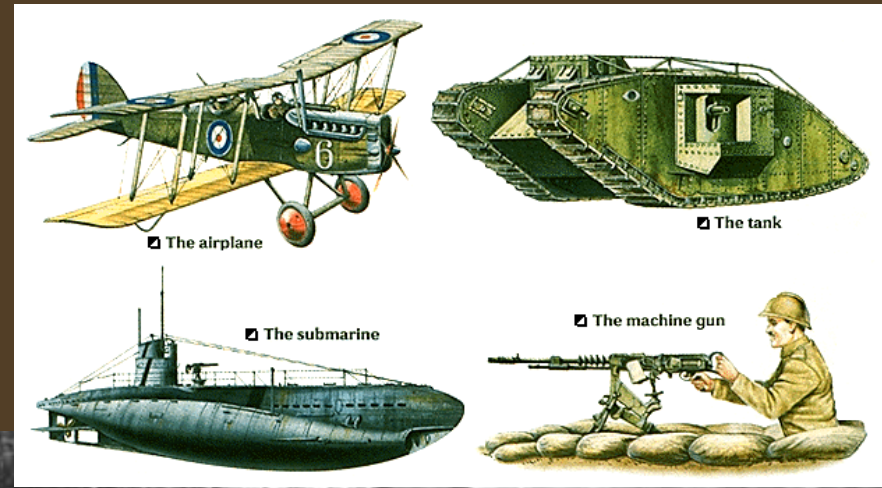
U.S.

Declared **war** on Germany: April 6, 1917
Declared **war** on Austria-Hungary:
 Dec. 7, 1917

Read Excerpts from *All Quiet on the
Western Front*

Important New Weapons

- ✘ **Machine Guns:** Guns could now fire 600 rounds per minute.
- ✘ **The Tank:** New steel tanks ran on caterpillar treads.
- ✘ **Airplanes:** Early dogfights resembled duels, however by 1918 the British had a fleet of planes that could deliver bombs.
- ✘ **Poison Gas:** Mustard gas was used to subdue the enemy.



Weapons & Equipment

- Flamethrowers
- U-boats/submarines
- Battleships
- Trench system
- Machine guns
- Airplanes
- Tanks
- Poison gas
- Artillery





Both humans and animals were susceptible to the effects of poison gas. Dogs were used during World War I as sentries, sled dogs, pack animals, and messengers.