



THE U.S. IN WORLD WAR I

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION: WHY DID THE UNITED STATES
ENTER WORLD WAR I?**

The Central Powers



Austria-Hungarian
Empire



German Empire



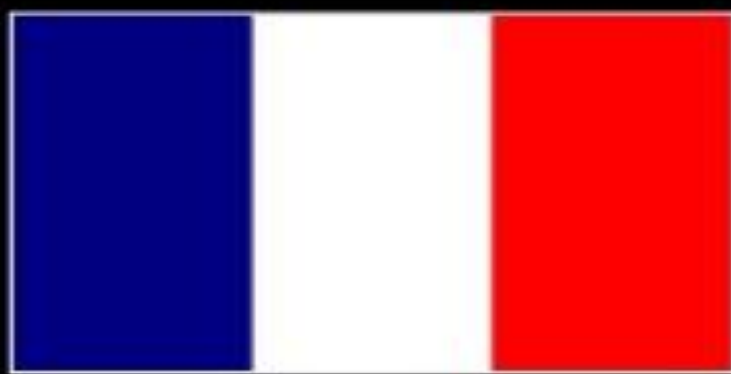
Ottoman Empire

VS

The Allied Nations



Great Britain



France



Russian Empire

AMERICAN ISOLATIONISM



- Neutrality
 - U.S. did not take sides at beginning of WWI
 - President Wilson vowed to keep the country out of war during re-election campaign

REASONS FOR U.S. INVOLVEMENT

- Closer Ties with Allies
 - Most Americans had British ancestry/culture
 - Great Britain, France, and U.S. were democracies
- German Aggression
 - Germany invaded Belgium (neutral)



REASONS FOR U.S. INVOLVEMENT



- Allied Propaganda
 - American newspapers ran stories and pictures depicting German atrocities against civilians
- Zimmerman Telegram
 - Secret message from Germany to Mexico
 - Promised U.S. territory to Mexico in exchange for helping Germany

REASONS FOR U.S. INVOLVEMENT

- Freedom of the Seas
 - Right of neutral nations to ship non-military goods to nations at war
 - Main reason for U.S. involvement in WWI



THE WAR AT SEA



- British Blockade
 - Naval blockade prevented food/arms from being shipped to Germany
 - U.S. became main source for Allied arms, supplies, and food
 - Germans used submarines to sink merchant ships

THE WAR AT SEA

- Sinking of the *Lusitania*
 - British passenger ship on a trip from New York to Liverpool
 - Secretly carrying munitions for the British
 - Sunk by German submarine, killing 1,000 passengers
 - 128 Americans killed; enraged Americans



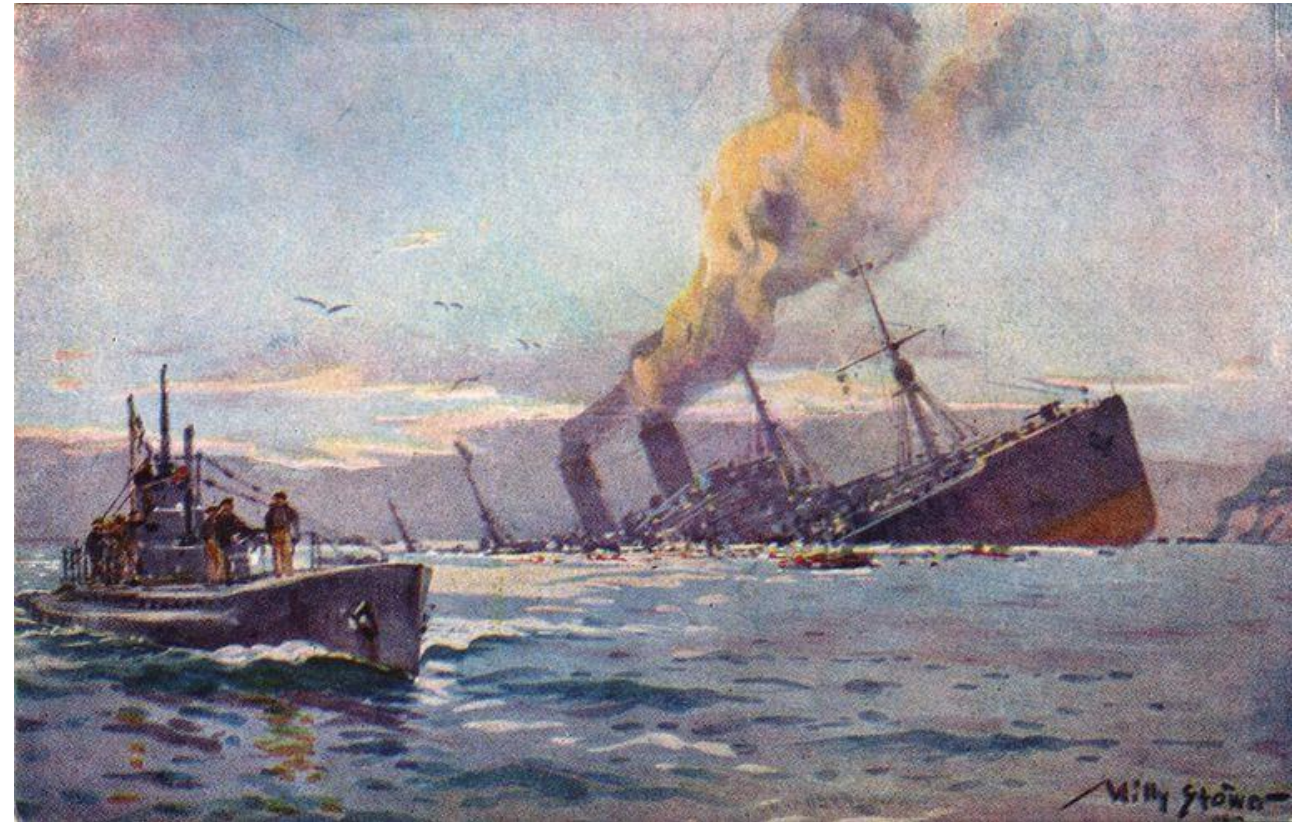
THE WAR AT SEA



- *Sussex* Pledge
 - French ferry on the English Channel
 - Attacked by German submarine
 - President Wilson threatened to break off relations with Germany
 - Germany pledged not to sink anymore passenger ships without warning or providing help to passengers

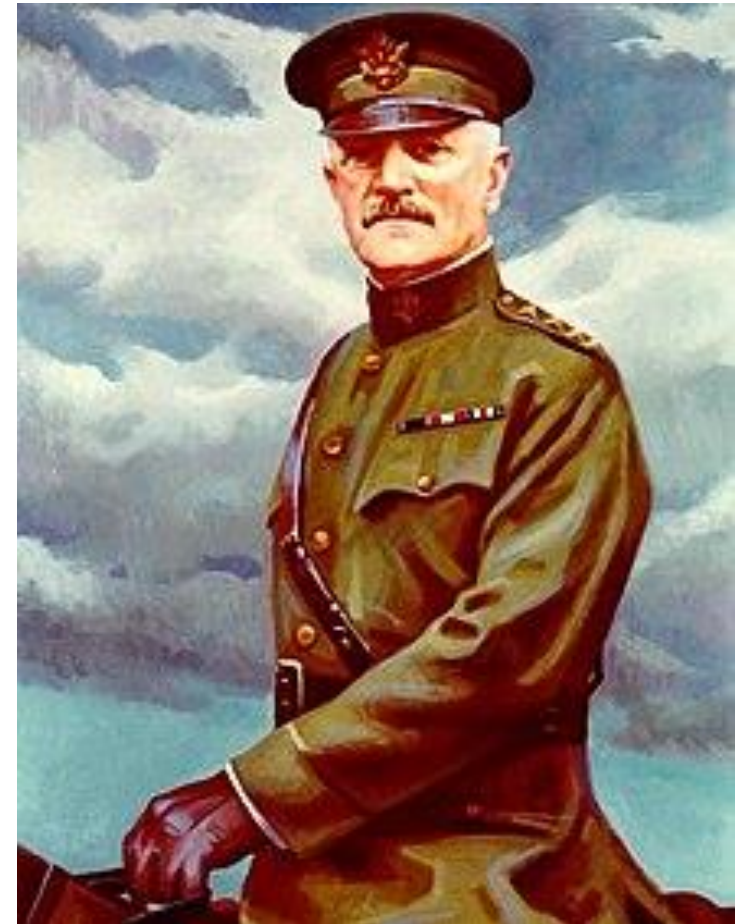
THE WAR AT SEA

- Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
 - Blockade nearly starved out Germany
 - Germany announced it would sink all ships in blockaded areas
 - Violated freedom of the seas
 - Germans sunk American merchant vessels
 - Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war



U.S. INTERVENES

- American Expeditionary Force
 - U.S. troops sent to Europe to fight in WWI
 - Most American troops arrived in 1918
- General John J. Pershing
 - Leader of the AEF
 - Insisted soldiers be well-trained
 - Demanded American forces fight together
(not be used to fill in gaps)



U.S. INTERVENES



- African Americans
 - Not allowed to serve in the AEF
 - Served directly under French command

BATTLE OF ARGONNE FOREST

- Argonne Forest
 - Located in Northeastern France near Belgian border
 - Heavily defended by Germans
 - Hidden barbed wire, concrete walls, deep pit traps, and machine gun nests



BATTLE OF ARGONNE FOREST



- AEF at Argonne
 - 600,000 soldiers; 40,000 pieces of artillery
 - Shattered German defenses and opened a hole in German lines
 - Forced Germans to surrender

BATTLE OF ARGONNE FOREST

- Alvin York
 - Drafted into the army at 29
 - Reportedly killed 25 Germans and captured 132 prisoners with only a rifle and a pistol
 - Awarded the Medal of Honor



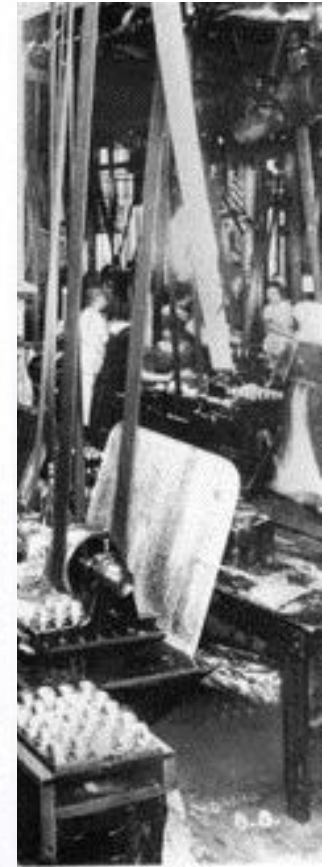
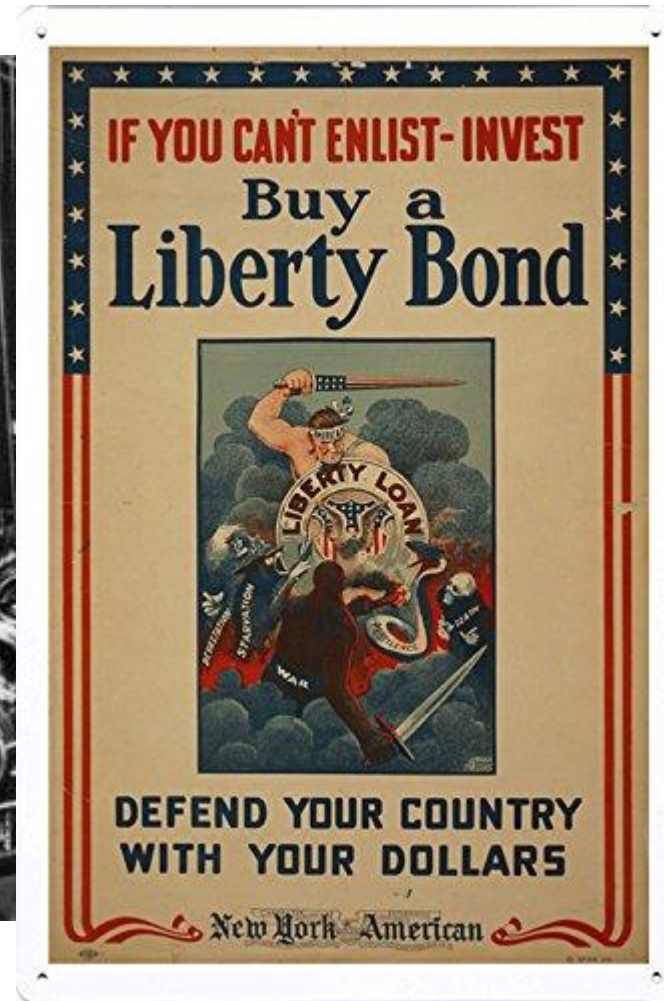
THE HOME FRONT, 1917-1918



- Selective Service Act
 - Passed by Congress in 1917
 - Required all men (21-30) to register for military service
 - Millions of Americans registered for the draft

THE HOME FRONT, 1917-1918

- American Economy
 - War industries created many factories jobs
 - Female and African American employment increased
- War Bonds
 - Certificates bought by civilians to fund the war



THE HOME FRONT, 1917-1918



- Espionage Act of 1917
 - Curtailed civil liberties
 - Made it a crime to criticize war efforts

END OF WWI

- Armistice
 - No decisive battle
 - Both sides agreed to stop fighting
- Treaty of Versailles
 - Ends war with Germany
 - Allied Powers defeat Central Powers

