U.S. Reasons For Going to War

- U.S. declares its neutrality in 1914.
- Conditions will be created which pull the U.S. into war on the side of the Allies.
U.S. Reasons for going to War

- The Sinking of Merchant and Passenger ships.
U.S. Reasons for going to War: Lusitania

- Lusitania - May 1915
- German U-boat sinks the Lusitania off the coast of Ireland
- 128 Americans are killed
- Americans outraged
U.S. Reasons for going to war: Lusitania Propaganda
U.S. Reasons for going to war: Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

• German breaks promises (Sussex)
• Germany is risking war with the U.S.

Allied and neutral ships lost during the war

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1914</th>
<th>1915</th>
<th>1916</th>
<th>1917</th>
<th>1918</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To submarines</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>2,439</td>
<td>1,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To surface craft</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To mines</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To aircraft</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ships Sunk by U-Boats

Sept. 1916-April 1917

May 1917-Jan. 1918
## U.S. Foreign Trade During WWI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>824,860,237</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>169,289,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1,991,747,493</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>11,878,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>3,214,480,547</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>1,159,653</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U.S. Involvement - Reasons to go to War: Trade and Loans

- 1914-1916 – Trade between the United States and G.B pulled the American Economy out of Recession
- By 1917 the American banks had loaned $2.3 billion to the Allies and only $27 million to the Central Powers
- Only an Allied victory would assure repayment of these loans
U.S. Reasons for going to war: Zimmerman Note

- Message sent by German foreign minister
- Germans make a deal with Mexico
- British intercept the message
- War declared April 6, 1917.
American Expeditionary Force

How to raise an army??

1. Passage of Selective Service Act 1917.
2. Men Ages 18-45
3. By 1918 almost 24,000,000 registered.
4. Around 4 Million men were ultimately drafted into WWI to serve in the Expeditionary Force.
Johnnie, get your gun,
Get your gun, get your gun,
Johnnie show the Hun
Who's a son of a gun.
Hoist the flag and let her fly,
Yankee Doodle do or die.
Pack your little kit,
Show your grit, do your bit.
Yankee to the ranks,
From the towns and the tanks.
Make your mother proud of you,
And the old Red, White and Blue.
(chorus sung twice)

Chorus
Over there, over there,
Send the word, send the word over there -
That the Yanks are coming,
The Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tumming
Ev'rywhere.
So prepare, say a pray'r,
Send the word, send the word to beware.
We'll be over, we're coming over,
And we won't come back till it's over
Over there.
Gearing up for Battle

- By May 1918 500,000 U.S. soldiers in France
- July was the busiest month with 313,000 U.S. troops arriving in France.
- By October 2,000,000
- Many arrived too late to see any action.
- 180,000 AEF were Black Americans.

1st Division Officers
AEF - Training

- Led by General John J. Pershing
- Pledged that U.S. troops would not be used to “fill in” the lines of the French and British.
- Wanted the troops to fight independently as their own divisions.
Battle of Meuse-Argonne

- Biggest operation by American Troops on the Western Front.
- Intent was to break through the German defenses and capture the railroad hub at Sedan to cut off German supplies.
- Wooded, rough, hilly terrain.
Battle of Meuse-Argonne

- Last Major engagement on the Western Front.
- U.S. casualties – 26,277 killed and 95,786 wounded
- Germans diplomats begin to discuss the conditions of the Armistice.
Home Front – Propaganda

- Propaganda – using various forms of the Media to sway public opinion.
- During WWI – Posters were primarily used
- George Creel heads the Committee on Public Inform.
Home Front – Women in the War

- 11,000 women registered for military service.
- They served as nurses, clerical support and in communications posts.
- Many played key roles in the recruitment process.
- Replaced men in the factories and on the farm.
Home Front – African Americans

• W.E.B. DuBois – The *Crisis*(NAACP newspaper) supports the war effort
• The Great Migration leads to thousands of Southern blacks to American cities in the North.
• Escaped racial discrimination and number of jobs opened during WWI
• *Over 180,000 served in combat duties*
WWI – Home Front

- How to pay for America’s involvement in WWI?
- Liberty Bonds – basically a type of savings bond.
- Everyone was encouraged to buy.
Home Front – Opposition to War

- Not everyone agreed with the war.
- Pacifists – objected for religious and ethical reasons
- Certain religious groups such as Mennonites and Quakers were given active duty exemptions but would still serve in other capacities.
- In WWI 3,989 conscientious objectors went through a court of inquiry to explain their position.
Home Front – Attacks on Civil Liberties

- Anti-Immigrant Hysteria – Hate the Hun Campaigns - banning of teaching German in schools and in some places even listening to music by German Composers
- Espionage Act – 1917
- Hence the quote:
  
  “Make America Safe for Democracy First”
Two Views of the Post War World

United States – Wilson’s “Peace with out Victory”

France and Great Britain – Punishment for the perpetrators of war!
End of war on Eastern Front

- Russia signed an early treaty with Germany ending the war.
- The Russian Revolution made it impossible to fight the war.
Armistice – November 11, 1918

The term "armistice" means a cessation of hostilities as a prelude to peace negotiations.

The armistice was formally signed in Foch's railway carriage on 11 November (in 1940 Hitler exacted revenge by forcing the French to sign an armistice - on German terms - in the same railway carriage). The armistice initially ran for 30 days but was regularly renewed until the formal peace treaty was signed at Versailles the following year. Should the Germans have deviated in any way from the terms of the armistice the Allies warned that a resumption of hostilities would begin within 48 hours.
The Failure of Versailles

• How does WWI bring about WWII?

• Answer - the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles.
Wilson’s 14 points

A proposal for “A Peace without victory”

- Open, instead of secret diplomacy
- Freer trade
- Freedom of the sea
- Halting of Arms Race
- End of Colonialism
- League of Nations – international organization intended to prevent war.
Treaty of Versailles

The opulent palace at Versailles France just south-west of Paris.
Architects of the Peace

French Premier Georges Clemenceau

British Prime Minister David Lloyd George

Italian Premier Vittorio Orlando

US President Woodrow Wilson

[Arguments between Lloyd George and myself were]... so violent that Wilson had to interpose between us with outstretched arms, saying (pleasantly), 'I have never come across two such unreasonable men.'
Who is Missing?
Resentment? The Final Treaty.

Terms – Germany had to:

• Assume responsibility for starting the war
• Agree to pay full reparations - $33 billion
• Remain disarmed with a limited military
• Give up all of her colonies
German Russian Territory Lost!
The final nail in the coffin!

- The U.S. does not sign the Treaty of Versailles.
- We do not want to be a part of the League of Nations. Why?
  1. Congress fear of losing war powers
  2. Isolationists – Senator Lodge
- The U.S. is turning its back on its new leadership role in the world.
“The War to End All Wars”

• WWI lasted for 4 years and involved over 30 nations
• It is estimated that 26 million were killed with half this number being civilians
• Cost of 186 billion dollars
Versailles allows for WWII Major Mistake of World Leadership!!!