SSUSH15 Analyze the origins and impact of U.S. involvement in World War I

a. Describe the movement from U.S. neutrality to engagement in World War I, including unrestricted submarine warfare & the Zimmerman Telegram.

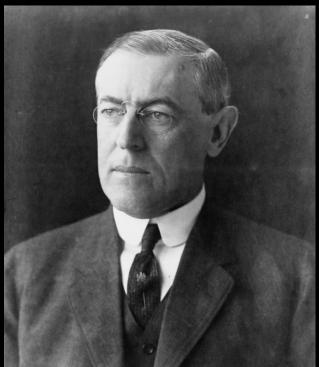




Neutrality to War

- In 1914 war breaks out among European nations
- <u>President Woodrow Wilson</u> declares that the U.S. would remain <u>neutral/isolated</u>
 - The U.S. will stay out of foreign wars
- What does this remind you of?

"We must be impartial in thought as well as in action."



American Neutrality

- President Wilson declared the U.S. to be neutral
 - However many average U.S. citizens began to choose sides
 - Most supported the <u>Allies</u> (Britain and France)
- Wilson's cabinet, and many businesses supported going to war on the side of the Allies
 - Why would business owners support going to war?

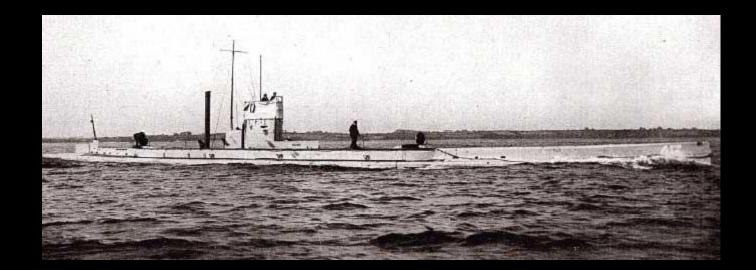


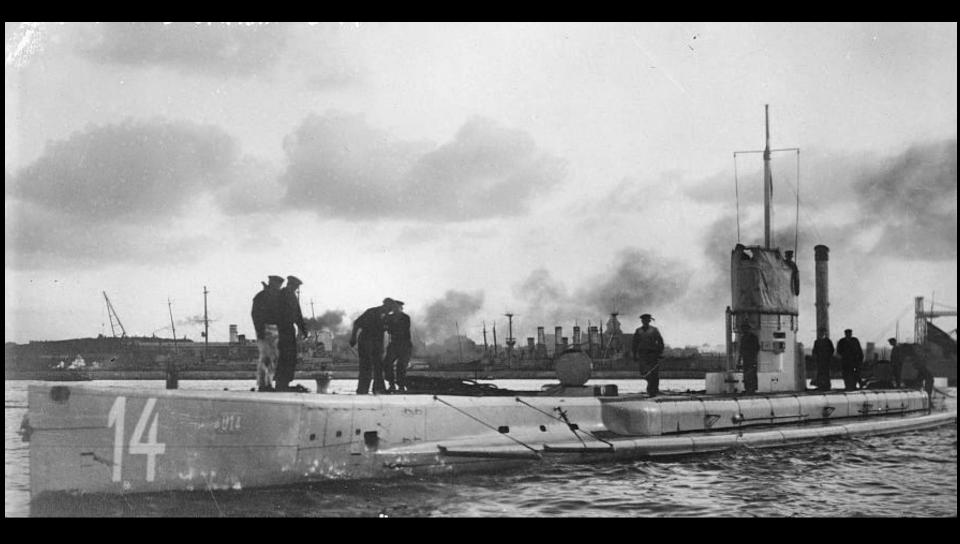


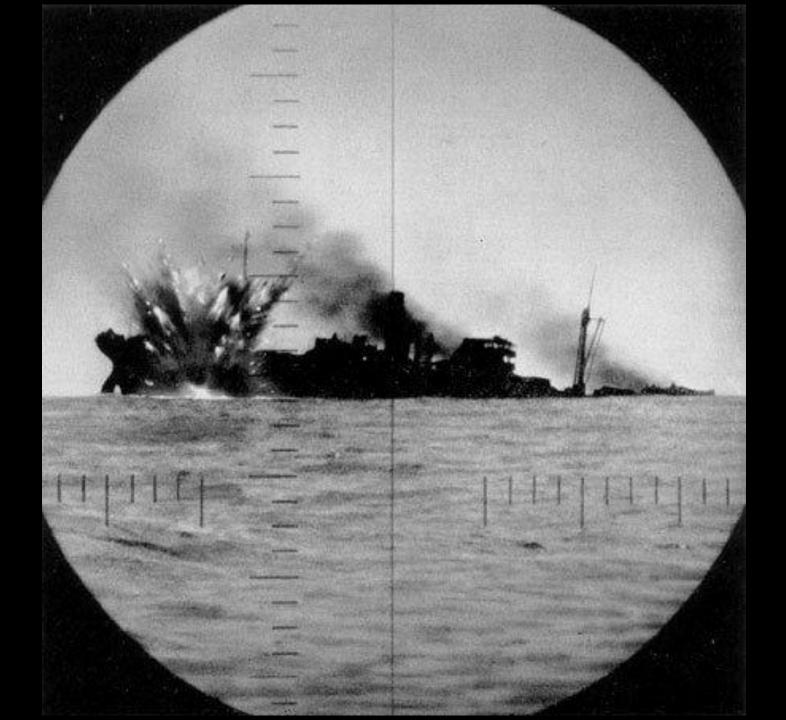


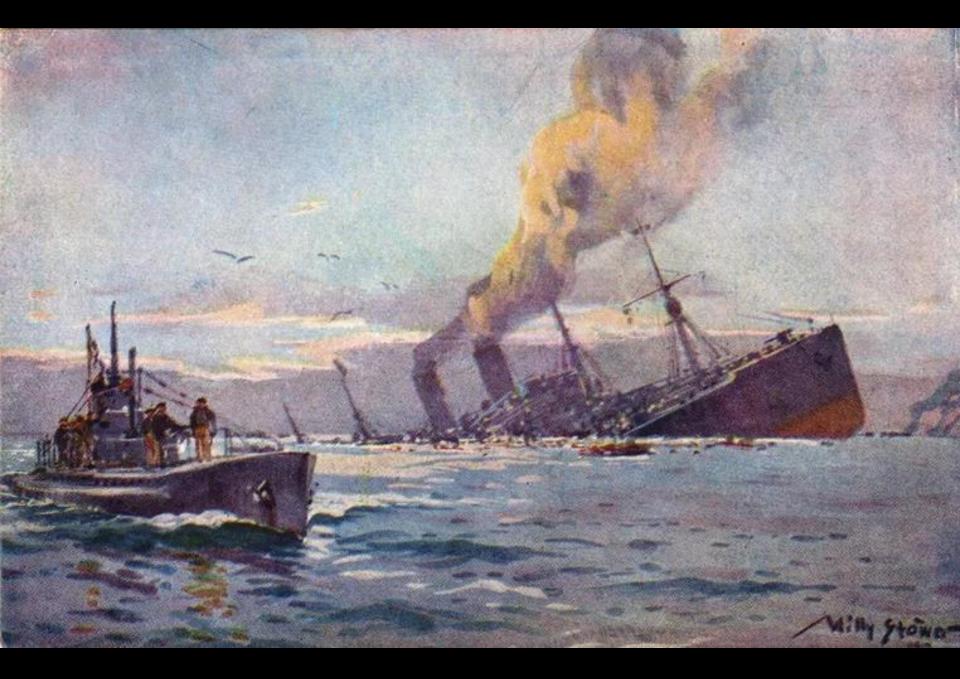
American Neutrality?

- Germany announced that it would begin using <u>U-boats</u> to attack all vessels, including merchant ships, in British waters
 - Stopped the Allies from receiving supplies from foreign countries
 - This <u>unrestricted submarine warfare</u> drew protests from the U.S.





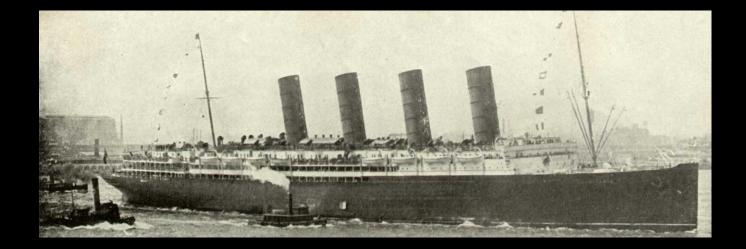






American Neutrality?

- 1915 a German U-boat sank the British passenger liner *Lusitania*
 - Killed almost 1,200 passengers including 120 Americans
- Germany and the U.S. signed the <u>Sussex Pledge</u> in which Germany promised not to sink anymore merchant ships without warning
 - This kept the U.S. out of the war, and helped Wilson win reelection in 1916



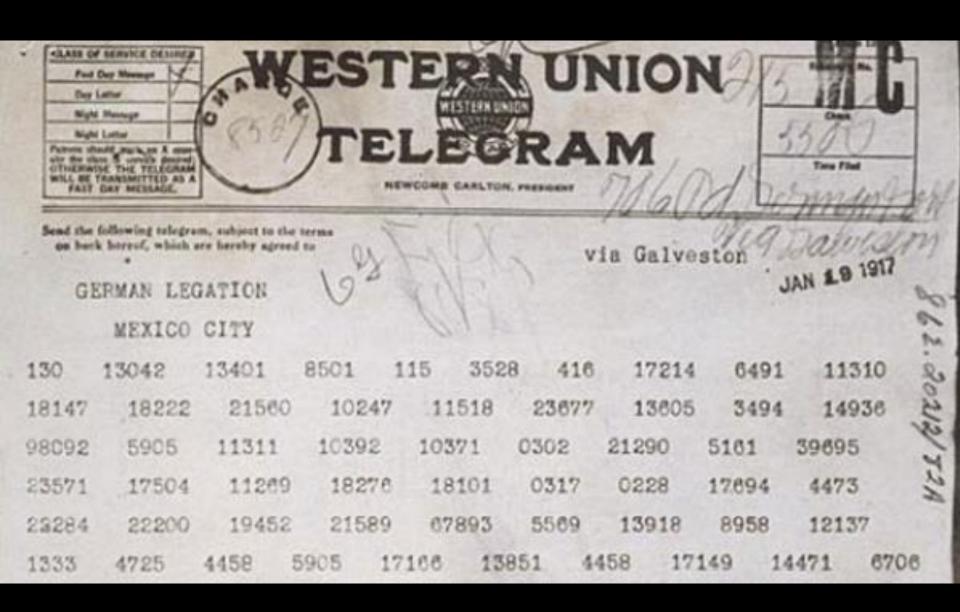
Question #1

• Do you think the US was really neutral from the beginning? If not, why?

U.S. Declares War

- 1917 Germany tried to enlist the help of Mexico in fighting the U.S. if the U.S. entered the war
 - The <u>Zimmerman Telegram</u> convinced many Americans that they needed go to war against Germany
- Early 1917 Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare
 - Sank six U.S. ships
- Pres. Wilson was backed into a corner
 - <u>Declared war</u> on Germany in April 1917
 - Joined the Allies















Reasons for US entry into WWI:

- 1. Unrestricted submarine warfare
- 2. Zimmerman Telegram: letter sent from Germany to Mexico to convince Mexico to invade the US so that US attention was not in Europe
- 3. Sinking of the Lusitania

Question #2

 What violation did Germany break by interacting with Mexico (Western Hemisphere) to get America's attention? b. Explain the domestic impact of World War I, including the origins of the Great Migration, the Espionage Act, and socialist Eugene Debs



Total War

"It is not an army that we must shape and train for war, it is a nation"

Woodrow Wilson

Role of the U.S. Gov in WWI

- Selective Service Act (May 1917)
 - Creates national draft
 - First time in American history that a draft was instituted prior to entering war
 - Significant opposition for religious, moral, political reasons
- War Industries Board
 - Gov. agency established to coordinate the production and purchase of war materials
 - Oversaw conversion of nation's industry to wartime production
 - Controlled flow of raw materials
 - Told manufacturers what they could and could not produce
 - Set prices
 - Ensured supplies and equipment were produced and delivered to military
 - Essentially ran the nation's economy for the duration of the war
- National War Labor Board
 - Gov. agency tasked with settling labor disputes during WWI
 - Set standards for wages, hours, and working conditions in war industries
- Food Administration and Fuel Administration
 - Encouraged Americans to conserve food and fuel
 - Raised crop prices to encourage more production
- Committee on Public Information
 - Gov. propaganda agency designed to "sell" the war to the public
 - Hired reporters, artists, movie directors, writers, and historians to create massive propaganda campaign
 - Encouraged Americans to enlist in the military
 - Encouraged civilians to support the war effort by purchasing war bonds, recycling essential materials, conserve food and grow their own

Great Migration

- Northern factories needed workers during the war for two main reasons:
 - Many white workers joined the war effort or were drafted
 - Nearly all immigration from Europe stopped
- To replace these workers African Americans left the South and moved into many Northern cities
 - Looking for factory jobs
 - The movement became known as the Great Migration
 - Between 300,000 and 500,000 African-Americans moved North







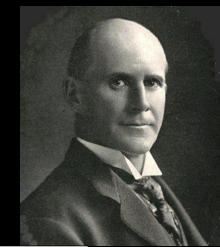
Espionage Act

- Passed in 1917 the Espionage Act:
 - Established penalties and prison time for aiding the enemy
 - Penalized disloyalty, or interference with the war effort
- The Espionage Act was expanded in 1918 with **Sedition Act**, making it illegal for any public opposition to the war

The Supreme Court also limited American's freedom of speech – 1st Amendment Right

Eugene Debs

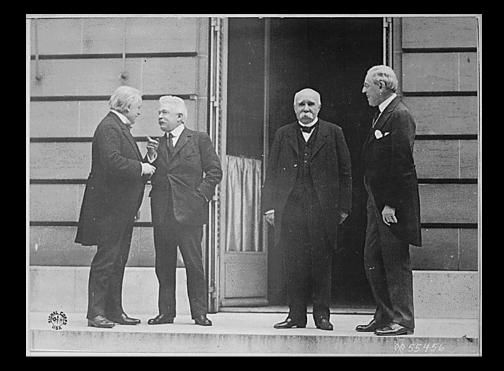
- Leader of the American Railway Union (ARU)
- Socialist leader who ran for president in 1912
- What is a Socialist?
 - A person who believes that the government should own industries (railroads, utilities)
 - A nation's wealth should be more evenly distributed in order to alleviate suffering





c. Explain Wilson's Fourteen Points and the debate over US entry into the League of Nations

- The Allies won the war in 1918 & began settling for peace
- The "Big Four"
 - Leaders from the U.S., Britain, France, and Italy
 - They lead meetings which will decide the fate of Post-War Europe



Which country is missing from the meeting?

Why is this important?

Wilson's Fourteen Points

- Wilson presented his plan for peace, called the Fourteen Points to Congress
 - -In the first 5 points he wanted all countries to have: free trade
 - freedom of the seas disarmament open diplomacy (no secret treaties) adjustments of colonial claims

These five points were what Wilson felt caused World War

Wilson's Fourteen Points

• The next 8 points dealt with self-determination

- The final point called for the creation of a **League** of Nations, an organization which would help settle disagreements between member countries.
- Many countries viewed the Fourteen Points as being too lenient on Germany

The Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty was signed by Germany in 1919, and punished Germany for "starting" the war
- Germany would have to:

-dismantle their army and navy

- -pay war reparations of \$33 billion (which they did not have)
- -Admit guilt for causing the war

-Germany was not allowed to place any troops in the Rhineland, the strip of land, 50 miles wide, next to France.
-The Treaty left Germany in shambles

Most of Wilson's Fourteen Points were dismissed by the other leaders, with the exception of the Fourteenth Point

Question #3

 By punishing Germany & making them take full responsibility for the war, how do you foresee problems in the future?

League of Nations

- Wilson's League of Nations was voted down by the U.S. Congress in 1920.
- Many Congressmen worried that it made the U.S. too involved in European affairs

