

Causes of America's entry into WWI

Department of History
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Neutrality

- ▶ In the beginning the United States wanted to remain neutral.
- ▶ The war was happening in Europe.
- ▶ Woodrow Wilson was re-elected in 1916 >>On the slogan
“He kept us out of the war”

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U.S. OFFICIALLY AT WAR

WILSON TELLS PLANS FOR RAISING ARMIES

Approves of Conscription of 500,000 Men in Addition to Regulars.

AGE LIMIT IS 19 TO 35
Drafting to Be Planned in National Guard of Volunteering Firms.

At Saint Louis
WASHINGTON, April 6.—After pronouncing a state of war the President this afternoon issued the following statement regarding the means to be used in carrying the war effort against Germany to its conclusion:

"The conscription authorized in the plan which the military commission of the House and Senate have adopted here is approved."
It is proposed to meet the orders for the necessary work for bringing the regular army and national guard up to their full war strength and adding the additional forces to active conscription. The first increase of active will be authorized immediately and other increases called as rapidly as orders can be obtained to bring the army up to its full strength.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Friday, April 6, 1917.
Columbia, Mo., 65 to 75.
St. Louis, Mo., 65 to 75.
Kansas City, Mo., 65 to 75.
Chicago, Ill., 65 to 75.
New York, N. Y., 65 to 75.
Philadelphia, Pa., 65 to 75.
Washington, D. C., 65 to 75.
San Francisco, Cal., 65 to 75.
Los Angeles, Cal., 65 to 75.
Portland, Ore., 65 to 75.
Seattle, Wash., 65 to 75.
Denver, Colo., 65 to 75.
Salt Lake City, Utah, 65 to 75.
Phoenix, Ariz., 65 to 75.
Albuquerque, N. M., 65 to 75.
El Paso, Tex., 65 to 75.
Houston, Tex., 65 to 75.
New Orleans, La., 65 to 75.
Miami, Fla., 65 to 75.
San Diego, Cal., 65 to 75.
Honolulu, Hawaii, 65 to 75.

GUARDS TO MOBILIZE AT NEVADA IN WEEK

Inspector of Company F Says Fourth Missouri Infantry Will Be Called.

75 RECRUITS NEEDED
Local Unit Will Probably Take Members From Other Cities.

The mobilization of the Fourth Missouri Infantry of which Company F is a unit, will take place at Nevada about the first of next week. The news was brought to Columbia by Lieutenant Colonel Burkhead of the State Guard of the 1. It also has reported the local company of the same unit will be organized in Columbia.

Frank Blair and his associates believed that the inspection will be necessary to the federal inspectors, but they are not sure. They are looking up because back of the company have not organized themselves since being mobilized out of service in the Missouri. These men have also written promises for the inspection but they will be organized in Columbia and will be organized in Columbia.

DRAFTING OF ARMY TO AFFECT STUDENTS

Large Per Cent Come With in Age Limit—Many Have Had Experience.

MUST BE EXAMINED
Recruits Will Be Given Rig of Test and Army Standards Maintained.

The selective conscription military service act now being considered by Congress will have a wide effect on the students of the University of Columbia. It is estimated that 10 per cent of the students of the University will be in the age limit of the act, and many of them will have had military experience. These recruits will be given a rigid test and the army standards maintained.

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WILSON SIGNS RESOLUTION AT 1:13 O'CLOCK TODAY

Four Missouri Representatives Vote "No" When House Passes Act 373 to 50—First War Measures Total \$164,000,000—Conscription Plans Call for 2,000,000 Men.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—The general detentive bill calling for \$164,000,000 for national defense purposes and 2,000,000 men for war purposes was the first war measure to pass Congress today.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—War was declared at 1:13 this afternoon. At exactly that time President Wilson signed the joint resolution passed by the House and Senate declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. An hour before, the resolution was signed by Vice-President Marshall in the Senate at 12:13.

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1917-1918

The United States Entry Into WWI

What pulled America into the War

- ▶ Unlimited Submarine (u-boat) warfare
- ▶ The sinking of the Lusitania
- ▶ British passenger ship carrying American citizens
- ▶ May 7, 1915- The ship is torpedoed by a German U-boat
 - ▶ 124 Americans die
- ▶ Sunk because the Germans believe it is carrying war supplies
- ▶ Sussex Pledge is broken
- ▶ The Zimmerman Telegram

Unlimited Submarine (u-boat) warfare

- ▶ According to international law civilian ships must be warned before sinking - allowing for passengers to escape to safety.
- ▶ Germany was not doing this!

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The Sinking of the *Lusitania*

- ▶ British passenger liner that set sail from New York carrying American citizens.
- ▶ It was sunk without warning on May 7, 1915 off the coast of Ireland
- ▶ 1,198 lost; 128 US citizens
- ▶ Germans claimed the *Lusitania* was carrying contraband (war materials: guns, ammunition...)

William Jennings Bryan- Secretary of State

- ▶ “Expressions of regret and offers of reparation in the case of the destruction of neutral ships sunk by mistake, while they may satisfy international obligations, if no loss of life results, cannot justify or excuse a practice, the natural and necessary effect of which is to subject neutral nations and neutral persons to new and immeasurable risks.”
- ▶ “The Imperial German government will not expect the government of the United States to omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens and of safeguarding their free exercise and enjoyment.”

RESULT of the Sinking of the Lusitania

- ▶ Germany despite promises sunk another ship - The Sussex, killing 2 Americans
- ▶ President Wilson protested & Germany issued the Sussex Pledge - not “to sink merchant or passenger ships without warning and without saving human lives”

Anti-War Sentiment at home

- ▶ News of the brutal trench warfare in Europe leads many Americans to protest US involvement in Europe despite *Lusitania* incident
- ▶ Presidential Election of 1916
 - ▶ Sitting President Woodrow Wilson runs his campaign with the slogan “He kept us out of the war”
 - ▶ Wins reelection with his neutrality stance
- ▶ Has the US actually been neutral since the war has started though?

Sussex Pledge

- ▶ The Sussex Pledge broken: February 1, 1917 Germany continued unlimited submarine warfare

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Zimmerman Telegram

- ▶ March 1917 The Zimmermann telegram released
- ▶ If the U.S. entered War against Central Powers, Mexico should attack the U.S. and receive as a reward: Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

• **AMERICANS WERE OUTRAGED!!!**

MAILED
October 1-8-58
W. L. Harrison, State Dept.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

By *Mark A. Eckhoff*
Date *Oct. 27, 1957*

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"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.

To the German Minister to Mexico

Berlin, January 19, 1917

On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavour to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement...

You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan. Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

Zimmermann
(Secretary of State)

Ludendorff's Offensive

- ▶ Final German Offensive Attack
- ▶ March-April 1918
- ▶ All out German attack in the attempt to capture Paris
- ▶ American troops arrive and provide aid for the ailing British and French troops
- ▶ Germans stopped about 75 miles from Paris
- ▶ About 270,000 German casualties

100 Days Offensive

- ▶ Allied counter-offensive
- ▶ Allies simply outmatch and outmuscle the weakened German troops
- ▶ Germans are pushed back into German territory
- ▶ Germany no longer able to launch a successful offensive attack

America Declares War

▶ April 2, 1917

▶ President Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war

• April 6, 1917 US Congress declares war!!

• WW I course changes and Germany routed