Woodrow Wilson
Pre-WWI Foreign Policy
1914-1917
1914 - The panama canal was finished and the US Ancon was the first ship to sail it! The military and trade route was open.
(10) The Great War began

- Later known as WWI - it was an international conflict primarily involving European nations that was fought between 1914 and 1918.

- 4 MAIN long term causes of WWI:
  1. Militarism
  2. Alliances
  3. Imperialism
  4. Nationalism

- 2 short term causes:
  1. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
  2. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
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.
On May 1, 1915, the ship departed New York City bound for Liverpool, England. Unknown to her passengers but probably no secret to the Germans, almost all her hidden cargo consisted of munitions and contraband destined for the British war effort. As the fastest ship afloat, the luxurious liner felt secure in the belief she could easily outdistance any submarine. Nonetheless, the menace of submarine attack reduced her passenger list to only half her capacity.
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
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

The N.Y. Times reports on the Lusitania
Germany apologized after sinking the Lusitania.

But then...

**A French passenger ferry, the Sussex, was torpedoed without warning** on March 24, 1916; the ship was severely damaged and about 50 lives were lost. No U.S. citizens were killed in this attack, but Woodrow Wilson said that if Germany did it again, the US would break diplomatic relations with Germany.

**Germany did not want the US to enter The Great War** and they tried to make it better by, on May 14, 1916, stating the Sussex pledge, which promised “a change in their naval warfare policy. Germany would sink armed merchant ships - but not passenger ships.”
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 Germany foreign minister to the German Ambassador in Mexico, to proposed an alliance

3) Next came the sinking of four unarmed U.S. merchant ships by German subs
TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From 2nd from London # 5747.

By Mack E. Eddleman
Date: Oct 27, 1917

"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 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, ZINNERNANN.
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 US would be in WWI.
A light drizzle fell on Washington on April 2, 1917, as 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 safe for democracy.”

Congress passed the resolution April 7, 1917. America had joined the war.
(19) The Selective Service Act / The first US Draft

- America was not ready for war – only 200,000 men were in service when war was declared.
- Congress passed the Selective Service Act in May of 1917.
- By the end of 1918, 24 million had signed up and almost 3 million were called to duty.
- About 2 million American troops reached Europe.
FRESH U.S. SOLDIERS JOIN FIGHT

- After 2 ½ years of fighting, the Allied forces (France, Great Britain) were exhausted.

- One of the main contributions of the Americans was fresh and enthusiastic troops.

- American infantry were nicknamed “doughboys” because of their white belts.

- Most doughboys had never ventured far from the farms or small towns they lived in.
NEW WEAPONS USED

- Machine Guns – Guns could now fire 600 rounds per minute
- The Tank – New steel tanks ran on caterpillar treads
- Airplanes – Early dogfights resembled duals, however by 1918 the British had a fleet of planes that could deliver bomb loads
- Poison Gas – mustard gas was used to subdue the enemy
Animals were also susceptible to gas
The War Industries Board (WIB) encouraged companies to use mass-production techniques.

Under the WIB, industrial production and wages increased 20% — don’t mess with the US!!! We were ready for war!

Union membership almost doubled during the war years – from 2.5 million to 4 million.

To deal with disputes between management and labor, President Wilson set up the National War Labor Board in 1918.
Be careful what you say about your country, you never know who is listening and spying—Remember in WWI the Espionage and Sedition Act.

"There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism."

- October 12, 1915 - Woodrow Wilson
The rest is just FYI! Flip through fast just to see what’s going on in America!
The US people came together to conserve food for the troops.

- To conserve food, Wilson set up the Food Administration (FA).
- They had “meatless-Monday’s” “sweetless-Saturday’s” and “wheatless-Wednesdays”
- Homeowners planted “victory gardens” in their yards.
- Schoolchildren worked after-school growing tomatoes and cucumbers in public parks.
- Farmers increased production by almost 30% by adding 40 million acres of farmland (this will be a problem after the war!)
SELLING THE WAR

- The U.S. had two major tasks; raising money and convincing the public to support the war.
- The U.S. spent $35.5 billion on the war effort.
- The government raised about 1/3 of that through an income tax and “sin” taxes.
- The rest was raised through war bonds sold to the public (Liberty Loans & Victory Loans).
To popularize the war, the government set up the nation's first propaganda agency called the Committee on Public Information (CPI).

George Creel led the agency and persuaded many of the nation's artists to create thousands of paintings, posters, cartoons, and sculptures to promote the war.
Young Women's Christian Association USA
Women helped WWI effort by conserving food and working while men were out of the country.

(Young Women's Christian Association USA) Women helped WWI effort by conserving food and working while men were out of the country.
EAT MORE COTTAGE CHEESE

SUPPLIES MORE PROTEIN THAN

ONE POUND

YOU'LL NEED LESS MEAT

A Postal Card Will Bring Recipes

for using this meat substitute

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COTTAGE CHEESE OR MEAT ? ASK YOUR POCKETBOOK !
CORN
THE FOOD OF THE NATION

SERVE SOME WAY
EVERY MEAL

APPEITIZING
NOURISHING
ECONOMICAL
UNCLE SAM

THE LID'S DOWN!

FAMILY SUGAR BOWL

OBEY ORDERS!!

U.S. Food Administration.
Help Uncle Sam Stamp Out The Kaiser!

BUY U.S. GOVT BONDS
Little AMERICANS
Do your bit
Eat Oatmeal-Corn meal mush-
Hominy - other corn cereals -
and Rice with milk.
Save the wheat for our soldiers.
Leave nothing on your plate
Help Them

Keep Your War Savings Pledge

Issued by U.S. Treasury Dept.
Save your Child from Autocracy and Poverty

Buy War Savings Stamps

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INVEST IN THE VICTORY LIBERTY LOAN

THEY KEPT THE SEA LAKES OPEN
HUN OR HOME?

BUY MORE
LIBERTY
BONDS
Beat back the HUN with LIBERTY BONDS