

- Issue that changed war= Submarine Warfare
 - Ger would use *Unterseebooten* – aka “U-boats”
 - NOTE: assumption = Brits ignored submarines before war
 - Difference Ger viewed subs for ocean-going ops
 - Ger delivered psychological blow early in war
 - Sept 22nd, 1914, U9 sinks three Brit cruisers
 - Subs play role not anticipated by Naval experts
 - Brits stretch “acceptable interference”
 - Ger use subs as counter
 - BUT, subs = new challenge to international law
 - Ger ignore complications
 - Feb 4, 1915 – Ger declaration
 - US protests loudest
- In 1914, US = primarily regional power
 - Aug 4th, Wilson proclaims neutrality
 - NOTE: 1914, US population = ~99 million
 - ~Wilson = personally sympathetic to Allies
 - In propaganda war = Allies had advantage
 - War disrupted international trade
 - Result = potential depression

- Brit blockade ends all trade w/ Central Powers
- Allies look to US for manufactures & food
- Result = US was principal supplier
- American view - Allied trade as compromise to neutrality
 - BUT, interference with trade = unacceptable violation
- NOTE: Under international law, blockades = legal
 - BUT, War at Sea would favored Allies
- To Wilson, rights of neutrals = protected by international law
 - Wilson soon in conflict w/ both sides over rights of neutral nations.
 - Brits, in particular caused 3 headaches:
 - 1) Brit definition of “contraband”
 - 2) Brits liberties w/ “visit & search”
 - 3) Brits blockaded of both enemy & neutral ports
 - Wilson protested formal “notes”
 - Brit reply = in war of survival
 - Plus boycott list of US firms
 - Wilson = outraged!
 - Irony: US protested more Brit violations than Ger
 - BUT, Ger violations destructive
- More US trade w/ Allies, more likely US shipping targeted

- NOTE: Ger declaration of Feb 4, 1915
- Ger offered to modify if Brits allow foodstuffs
- April 22, Ger issues warning to Americans
 - Printed in all leading US papers
 - Sec of State Bryan urges Wilson to forbid travel
 - Wilson refuses
- May 7, 1915 – U20 comes up Lusitania off Ireland
 - One torpedo fired; hit on starboard bow
 - 2nd explosions erupts; sinks in 18 minutes
 - Sinking dramatized sub issue
- Some demand declaration of war
 - Wilson sends 3 notes of protest to Ger
 - Ger response = Sept 9th declaration
- But, more sinkings occur
 - March 24, 1916, Sussex torpedoed
 - Wilson responded in address to Congress on April 19
 - Ger alarmed; issues Sussex Pledge of May 4, 1916
 - Wilson would ignore proviso
- Wilson view = to keep US @ peace must end war
 - Gives in to calls for “preparedness”

- NOTE: seizes GOP issue in 1916 POTUS campaign
 - GOP candidate = Charles Evans Hughes
 - 1916 election = 2nd closest in US history
- Wilson renewed attempts to mediate end
 - Sends notes to all belligerents acting for terms; no reply
 - Jan 22, 1917 speech before Senate
 - Outlines own plans for peace & “League of Nations”
 - Calls for “Peace with out Victory”
 - 1) self-determination, 2) freedom of the seas, & 3) disarmament
 - Most Americans = enthusiastic; Allies = withdrawal of US sympathy
- Four incidents fueling fire of war
 - 1) Jan 11, 1917 – Kingsland Fire
 - 2) Feb 24, 1917 – Zimmerman Telegraph
 - 3) Mar 8, 1917 - revolution erupts in Petrograd
 - 4) Resumption of unrestricted sub warfare
 - Dec 22, 1916 - Ger navy plans forms plans
 - Jan 10 - Kaiser given grim update
 - Kaiser urged to unleash submarine fleet
 - Jan 31 - Kaiser signs order
 - Wilson break off diplomatic relations w/ Ger

- U-Boat Campaign = initially great success
- Campaign clarifies issue in minds of Americans
- April 2, Wilson asked Congress for declaration of war
 - Condemns Ger sub-warfare = “warfare against mankind”
 - By entering, US fight for liberation of all peoples, including Germans
 - “The world must be safe for democracy.”
- Mobilization of US capability occurred on scale unseen in human history
 - May 18, 1917, passage of Selective Service Act
 - War was financed by two methods:
 - 1) Half thru Taxation
 - 2) Half thru borrowing – Liberty Bonds
 - Wilson creates Council of National Defense
 - Council oversees takeover of economy
 - Seat given to Samuel Gompers
 - NOTE: wages increase eaten by inflation
 - Best off = businessmen & farmers
- Strong anti-war sentiment
 - Committee of Public Information created to “mobilize” thinking
 - Chair = George Creel
 - NOTE: violation of Civil Liberties

- Conscription Act
- Espionage Act
- Sedition Act
- Other noteworthy incidents
- When US enter war, Allies doing badly
 - Worst = Eastern Front
 - By 1917, Russian people want out
 - Caught in “catch-22”
 - Conditions trigger revolution
 - Russian Revolution
 - Russia long been “volcano”
 - It = supranational empire held by force
 - Warning: 1905 Revolution
 - Other realities “prime” volcano
 - By 1916 = Home front begins to collapse
 - March 8, 1917 - strike erupts in St. Petersburg
 - Soldiers support workers
 - Tsar Nicholas II out of touch
 - NOTE: on front when strikes break out
 - March 15 - Nichols abdicates; gives throne to brother Michael

- It = end of 300 years of Romanov Dynasty
- NOTE: Nicholas attempts to flee w/ family
- Two rival centers of power appear
 - Council of soldiers & workers – Petrograd Soviet
 - Russian Provisional Government
 - Committee = members of Duma; led by Alexander Kerensky
 - Both sought recognition by masses
- March-Nov 1917 - Ger armies continue advance
 - It = political free-for-all
 - 2 deadly errors by Prov Gov't
 - NOTE: April 1917 Lenin arrives in St. Petersburg
 - Prov Gov't slowly loses control
- End of Provisional govt triggered by Kornilov Affair - August, 1917
 - Lavr Kornilov = commander & chief of army
 - Meets w/ Kerensky; wants to create unified gov't
 - Kornilov moves towards Petrograd
 - Rumors spread of military dictatorships; chaos erupts
 - Prov Govt enlists aid of Soviets to block coup
 - Majority of Kornilov's army switch sides
 - Prov Govt loses all credibility; crumbles

- Bolsheviks seize power = November 7-8
 - Lenin proclaims “Soviet Democracy”
- Lenin also pulls Russia out of War
 - Nov 8 - Decree of Peace
 - Trotsky contacts Ger to begin negotiations
 - Dec 15 - Soviet Russia & Central Powers conclude armistice
 - March 3, 1918 – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- » Peace allowed Ger to move men & supplies to West
- » Allies viewed move as stab in back
- Peace does not come for Russia
 - Russian Civil War
 - Creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics