

Chapter 10 Section 2

The United States Declares War



U-Boats

- Short for Unterseeboot.
- A German submarine that was very effective because it attacked with no warning and could travel anywhere undetected.
- Changed the rules of naval warfare



Fighting Dirty

- This provoked anger from Americans and was seen as uncivilized
- Passenger and merchant ships had no defense against surprise attacks
- British encouraged anti-German feelings by cutting the transatlantic cable connecting Germany to the US – all of our news about the war flowed through London

The Lusitania

- A British passenger liner sunk by a German U-boat. (On May 7th 1915)
- 128 Americans were aboard even though they had been warned by Germany to stay off British ships.



Lusitania Cont.

- Germans said any ship with a British flag suspected of carrying weapons for the Allies would be a target (turns out it was)
- Sunk in 18 minutes – 1200 Dead.
- Germans seen as “barbaric” for this act.



American Response

- President Wilson told citizens to be patient and demanded reparations for the victims families.
- Also made Germany promise not to attack passenger ships without warning. (as long as the ship's crew didn't resist search or seizure)



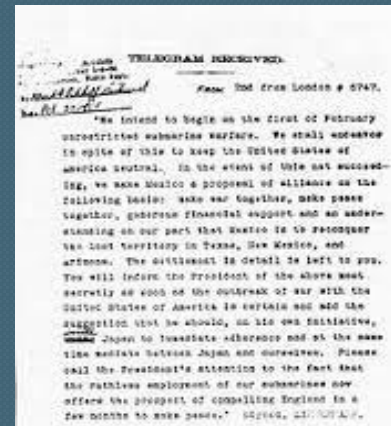
The Sussex Pledge

- Less than a year later a French passenger ship, the Sussex, was torpedoed by a U-boat.
- U.S. threatened to break off diplomatic relations with Germany
- Germany pledged not to do it again. Didn't last.



Zimmerman Note

- A secret note sent by Germany to Mexico and intercepted by the British.
- Supposedly offered to help Mexico reconquer Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in exchange for an alliance.
- Probably made up by the British to draw us into the war.



Russian Revolution

- Changed American attitudes toward the Allies.
- Many hadn't wanted to join a side that included a country with a Czar/Dictator, but after he was overthrown people were more willing to help Russia.



The Last Straw

- When 3 neutral American ships were sunk Wilson declared “the world must be made safe for Democracy”.

