

In sea warfare meant
that america would
no



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

In order to rally up an American army to serve in WWI, a draft was needed. The Selective Service Act of 1917 fulfilled that purpose by having men sign up to be randomly picked to serve in the military. 3 million men were chosen by this system to be drafted but only 2 million actually were sent over to Europe while the war was occurring. 400,000 of the troops in WWI were African Americans, who were in segregated legions and allowed to be in the navy or marine units. Despite this egregious racism and exclusion, the African American in service displayed great valor and contributed substantially to the war effort, especially in France, where two soldiers from the 369th Infantry Regiment (an all-black unit that fought for the longest time on the front lines of war out of all the American legions) were awarded the Croix de Guerre, the most honorable military award in France. Despite Wilson's advocacy of peace, the Germans continued to use unrestricted Uboat war tactics.

According to the earlier ultimatum made by the United States, the German's use of unrestricted sea warfare meant that America would no longer have friendly politics with them and would go to war against them. However, Wilson, a peaceful, but perhaps too trusting and non-confrontational, man, continued to wait to declare war, until "actual overt acts" were made by the Germans. With the arrival of the Zimmerman Note, the Germans certainly made an aggressive act towards the US that would prompt the American declaration of war against the Central Powers on April 2, 1917. Watch the video above to learn about the Zimmerman Note and why it led America to abandon neutrality. Excerpts from various news reports following tragic sinking of the Lusitania:" British ship Lusitania sunk by

Uboats, 1198 dead”” 128 Americans on board killed in the sinking of the Lusitania”” Germans claim the liner was harboring ammunition”” Americans furious, the public blames Germany and its allies”” President Wilson claims no military response to be made yet”” Germany sinks the Sussex one year later...

more Americans dead from German Uboat attacks”” In face of the German attacks on passenger ships, the US gives an ultimatum: the Germans must restrict their sea warfare or America will no longer have diplomatic terms with them. The Germans agree, but the British must lift their blockade on supplies.” In 1915, a British liner named “ Lusitania” was attacked by a German Uboat. The vessel sank, killing hundreds of people, some of whom were Americans. This infuriated the American people, who had thought, as a neutral nation, they would be safe from bloodshed of war. Beginning in 1914, the British set up a blockade around German ports to prevent them from importing any goods as a way to weaken Germany in the war.

However, the blockade blocked American vessels that were carrying goods to Germany which upset many Americans, who saw it as a violation of their freedom to trade. The British should have been more careful in their war efforts to avoid impacting the neutral nations and blocking off the food imports seems inhumane. With Britain and France’s need for weapons and supplies in WWI, and their strong trade with America, the American economy boomed as they worked to meet the Allies’ requests for exports. However, WWI had negative impacts on trade as well..

. As a whole, America did not feel the need to participate in WWI. The fighting took place thousands of miles away and did not threaten them. However, various groups of Americans had sympathies for the different sides in the war, while others were very strongly in favor of neutrality. View the chart below to learn about the varying opinions of Americans. I personally believe that if the Americans had become involved earlier, the war would not have gone on for as long as it did.

An easy way that helps me remember the event that sparked WWI is to think of the 2004 hit song "Take Me Out" by the band Franz Ferdinand. The Black Hand certainly took care of that wish. Many of the factors leading up to WWI were ones born of pride and rivalry, things that may have been avoided with a bit more cooperation between the different countries of the world. The idea of nationalism was deeply pervasive in the politics of the 19th century. Nationalism, a deep loyalty to one's nation, resulted in highly competitive countries.

Imperialism also added increased tensions as the European countries sought to increase their powers, both economic and political, over other nations and colonize them. Militarism did nothing to ease the rising rivalries as nations raced to build up stronger armies than the rest of the world. Britain and Germany especially were competitive in building up formidable naval armies. Finally, the alliance system of politics led to further divisions; France, Britain, and Russia formed the Triple Entente, while Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy made up the Triple Alliance. All of these small factors came together explosively on June 28th 1914..

.. However, despite being restricted from the draft and frontline combat, women had extremely important and valuable contributions to the war effort. They were able to serve as nurses for the wounded and worked in the munition factories to make bullets and ammunition for the soldiers. Moreover, they held down the fort in America by taking over many “ male” jobs while the soldiers were fighting overseas. Women’s contributions to the war helped hold the country together and provided vital resources for the soldiers involved. The German U-boats sank twice as much weight in ship materials and supplies as the Allies had produced.

However, the German attacks on the Allies’ merchant ships were greatly reduced by the use of the convoy system (suggested to Britain by the American William S. Sims) which involved destroyer ships guarding and surrounding outgoing merchant ships. The American Navy was very important in helping the British set up a minefield which would keep U-boats out of the Atlantic waters. This diminished the power of the German submarines and did substantial damage to their fleets by early 1918.

Correct! All three of these were employed in WWI. Tanks were used by the British as early as 1916, but not effectively until 1917 when they learned to use the vessels to break down barbed fences in order to make an easier path for the marching soldiers. Airplanes were often involved in firing down enemy planes and spying for intelligence; most had mounted machine guns on them and by 1918 they could carry bombs. Trenches were used for soldiers to shelter from attacks in and to prepare for advancing on enemy lines; however, trench war was brutal and dangerous, with poor sanitary conditions and frequent bombings with poison gas.

People even developed “ trench foot”, an infection which often required toes to be amputated. General John J Pershing was especially important, leading the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), a large group of infantrymen from all over the US. Alvin York was another famous American soldier of the AEF, becoming a legend in his own regard. Originally a devout Christian believing it was wrong to kill, York was forced to go to war by the draft and earned military honors and fame for single handedly killing 25 Germans in a machine gun nest. Quite the turn around for his moral code indeed. It seems his duty to his country and fellow soldiers took precedence to his strict beliefs and allowed him to find some gray area to the idea of right versus wrong. Watch the video above to learn more.

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The Germans, due the surrender of their Austrian ally, to mutinies by their soldiers, to their kaiser's abdication of throne when a republic was formed, and to the lack of moral and ehaustion of the soldiers, surrendered with a ceasefire and signing of an armistice in November 1918. The most victorious Allied pilot was an American: Eddie Rickenbacker, firing down 26 Central Power airplanes. At the Battles of Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood, the American's impact was especially influential in pushing the Germans back from France. With the war over, terms for the Central Powers' surrender had to be made.

Although the treaty did officially end the war and establish the League of Nations (which would work to solve international conflicts and prevent future world wars), it made Germany claim full responsibility for WWI and instituted heavy reparation payments upon them; furthermore, it reduced their territory and limited their military power. President Wilson, always a peacemaker, regretted the harsh terms on Germany, but the other Allied powers were insistent. It is highly likely that the difficult terms of the treaty of Versailles led to World War II. With the German people resentful of the huge reparation payments and the economic toll it was taking, along with the outrage inspired by the "guilt clause", Hitler's path to power was facilitated. The economy: The wages for the manufacturing class rose significantly.

However, annual income remained essentially the same due to the rising prices of goods occurring in conjunction with the new higher wages. Public Mindset: became more paranoid; Americans were suspicious of immigrants from other nations involved in the war, especially those originally from

Germany. Government power: greatly increased during wartimes; legislature like the Espionage and Sedition Acts served fines and jail time to anyone who interfered with Allied War efforts, verbally or otherwise. Likewise, the War Industries Board was able to regulate prices and standard quotas for industries during WWI. African American's Lives: The Great Migration occurred, and many moved from the South to the North's cities; Women's Lives: were able to hold jobs that had previously been "men's work" and were influential in the hospitals of WWI and the peace movements.

It is highly likely that their contributions to the war led to the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919, as the support of suffrage grew significantly following WWI.