

The United States in the Great War
1914 to 1918

“The world must be made safe for democracy”
Woodrow Wilson, 1917

Europe Before World War I, 1914



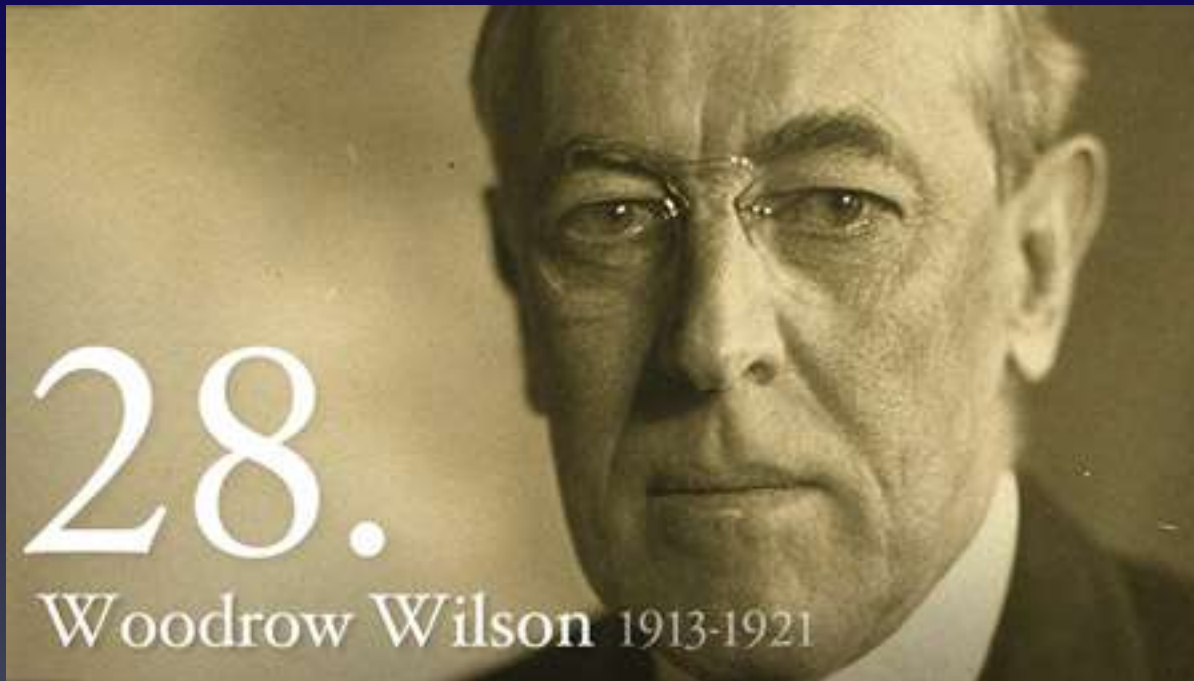
Fill in your maps and pick up two different colored pencils!

Europe After World War I, 1919



Source: *Regional Extensions*, 1999

President Woodrow Wilson

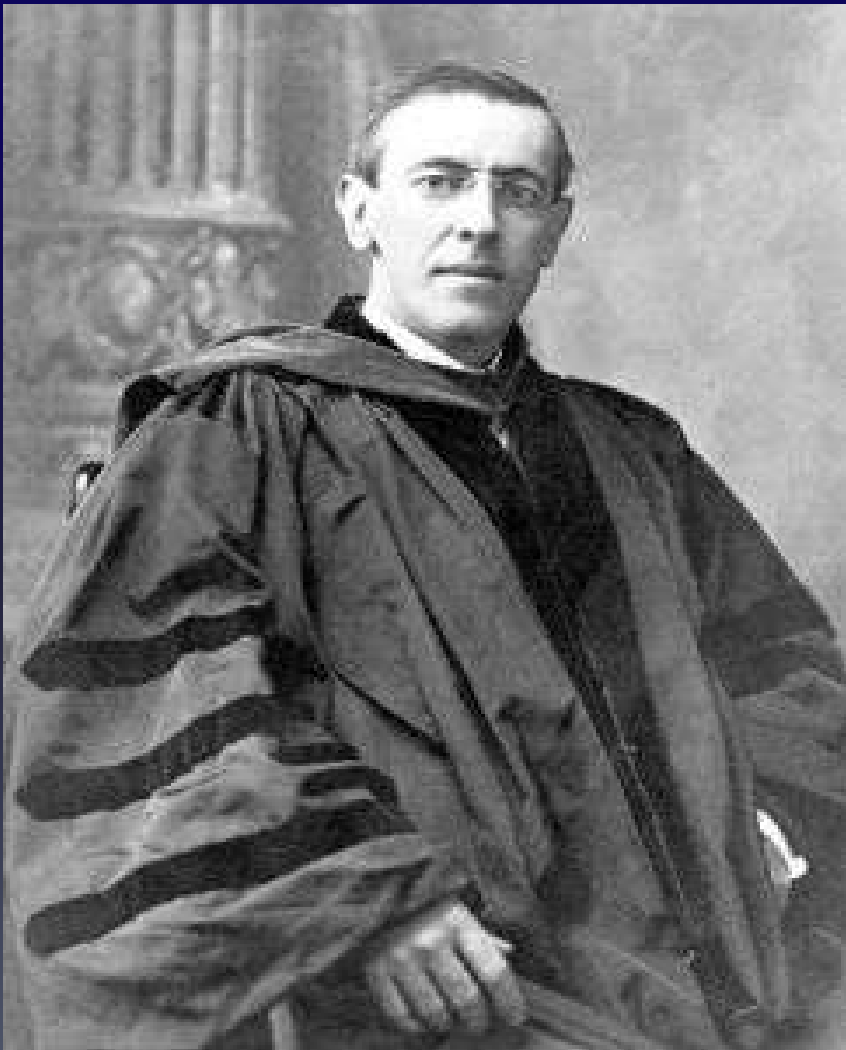


Wilson's Psyche

“Congressional Government” written by Wilson in 1885.
Graduate and President of Princeton University (1902-1910).



President Woodrow Wilson



Gov. of New Jersey (1911-1913).

Believed that the US had a “divine” right to lead the world.

“I couldn’t tell if it was the *President* talking or *God*...”

A close friend said of a young Wilson that he “has all the qualities for an ideal President...”

President Woodrow Wilson

Democrat elected in 1912, he sought to bring American focus and attention back home.



(Wilson won only 41.8% of the total vote in the Election of 1912*)

Wilson's Psyche

Noted to be "intelligent, but egotistical" and to have an "arrogance or smugness" about him that was often portrayed as "righteousness".

As a young man?

Dressy

Loud

Light-Hearted...



“There is one thing stronger than all of the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come.”

VICTOR HUGO

The United States

Since 1865:

One of the wealthiest nations in the world.

A production powerhouse.

(Leading the world in coal, wheat, foodstuffs...)

Reached a population of 75m (1900), larger than any nation in Europe except Russia.

“War is no longer Samson with his shield and spear
and sword, or David with his sling.
It is the conflict of smoke stacks now...”

What is meant by this quote when referring to war?

War...

Was becoming modernized

Was becoming deadly

The Great War

36m casualties

(Ranked at 6 on the Top 10 Deadliest Conflicts in human history.)

157,500,000 casualties would result from World War I and its ripple effect throughout history.

World War I

M.A.I.I.N

Militarism

Alliance System

Industrialization

Imperialism

Nationalism

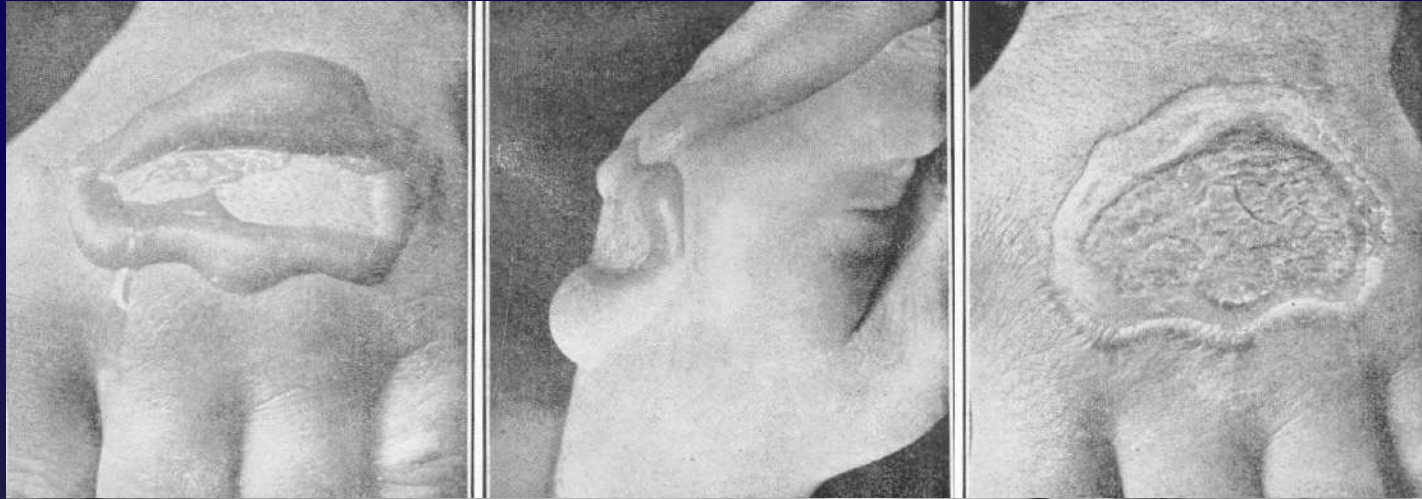
Modern Warfare



Gas Attacks



Chlorine Gas



Modern Weapons...

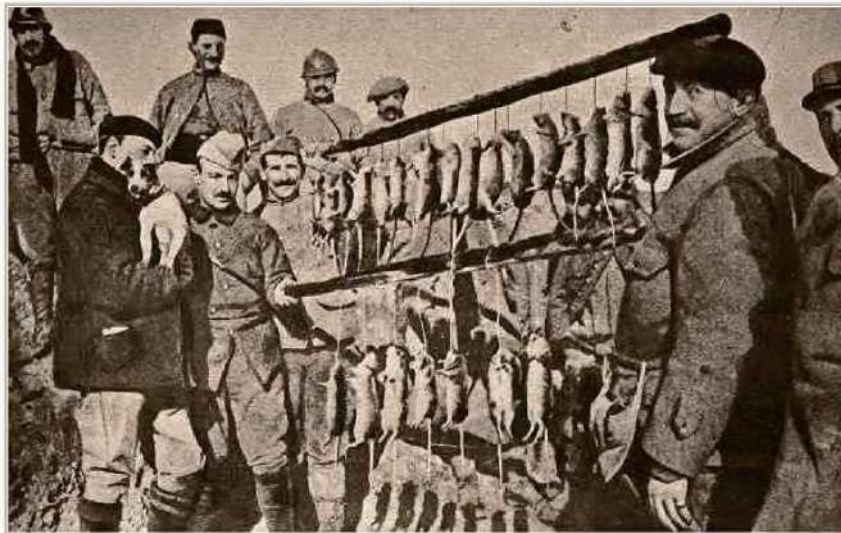


Old Tactics









Das Ergebnis einer viertelstündigen Rattenjagd in einem englischen Schützengraben.
Het resultaat van een rattenjacht van een kwartier in een Engelsche loopgraaf. Le tableau d'une chasse aux rats d'un quart d'heure dans une tranchée anglaise.



So, what was the **immediate cause** of World War I?!

Archduke Franz

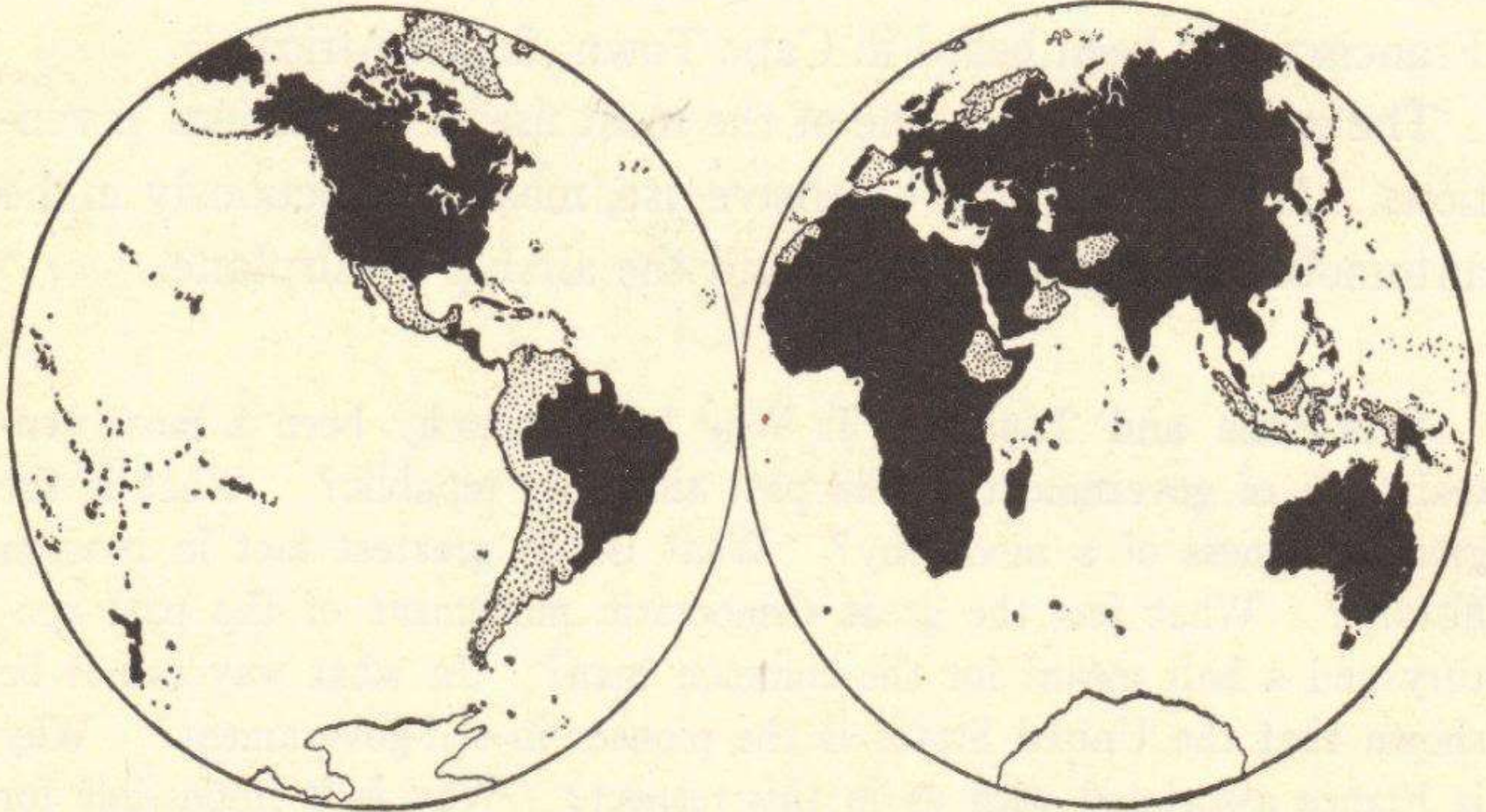


Heir to the throne of [Austria-Hungary](#)
Assassinated by Gavrilo Princip of [Serbia](#) results
in the Alliance System taking actions.





"If Italy or Germany was attacked by France, each would aid the other. If Austria was attacked by Russia, Italy would remain neutral, although Austria would aid Italy if she was attacked by France. If one of the parties was attacked by two or more powers, the other signatories were to come to her aid. And, at Italy's request, both Austria and Germany agreed that in no case would the Treaty operate against Britain, but as the war loomed closer these disputes became less important as attention focused back to Europe."



LANDS INVOLVED IN THE WORLD WAR

More than seven eighths of the inhabited area of the world took part in the war, as indicated by the black shading.

The United States & Germany

1785 – 9% German population.

Prussia (Germany) allied with the Union in 1865.

Almost 40% (187,858 of 478,529) of foreign soldiers in 1865 were German.



The United States & Great Britain

Cultural and linguistic ties.

Large **Irish** population in the US resented the British.

Since **1776**: War of 1812, Disputes over trade, GB almost allied with Confederates in Civil War.



The United States should....

- A. Join the war on the side of the Germans
- B. Join the war on the side of Great Britain
- C. Remain neutral

Answer: All were logical, but Wilson desired what?

To return interest of the United States homebound.

SO...

How did the **United States**, isolated from the world, get dragged into World War I despite their desire to remain neutral?

Answer:

1. German unrestricted submarine warfare & U-Boats
2. The Zimmerman Telegram

Submarine Warfare

“England controlled the seas. For Germany to win, it would have to sink ships...”

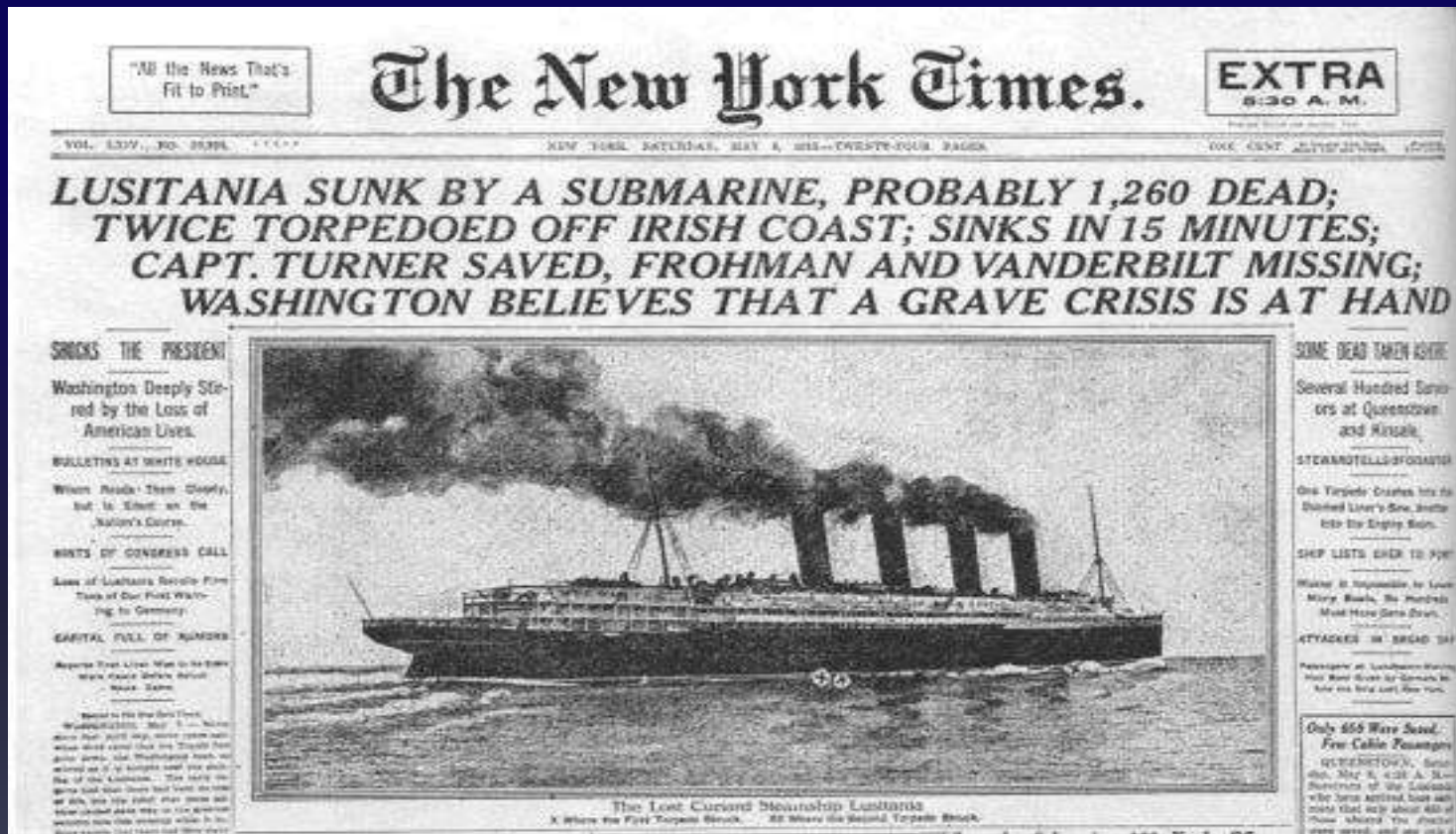


*“Subs cost **lives**... surface fleets do not.”*



May 7th, 1915

RMS Lusitania



128 American citizens drowned.
Germany backs off unrestricted submarine warfare...
In **1917**...

Great Britain & Germany

BOTH nations ignored US decision to remain neutral.

BOTH nations stopped cargo from reaching the other.

GERMANY was the only nation taking life in the process.



The Zimmerman Telegram

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED <input type="checkbox"/> Post Day Message <input type="checkbox"/> Day Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Night Message <input type="checkbox"/> Night Letter <small>For the purpose of this form, a message sent by day letter or night letter is considered a day message.</small>		WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM <small>HERSCHELE CARLTON, PRESIDENT</small>		M.C. <small>Class</small> <small>Time First</small>					
Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:		<i>via Galveston</i>		JAN 8 9 1917					
GEPMAN LEGATION MEXICO CITY									
130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13605	3494	14936	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5161	39695	
23571	17504	11269	18276	18101	0317	0228	17694	4473	
24284	22200	19452	21589	67893	5569	13918	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4458	5905	17166	13851	4458	17149	14471	6706
13850	12224	6929	14991	7382	15857	67893	14218	36477	
5870	17553	87003	5870	5454	18102	15217	22801	17132	
21001	17388	7446	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3158	23552	22098	21604	4797	9497	22466	20855	4377	
23610	18140	22280	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20687	
6929	6276	18507	62262	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11267
21100	21272	9346	9559	22464	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2185	5376	7381	98092	16127	13486	9350	9220	76036	14219
5144	2831	17926	11347	17142	11264	7667	7762	15099	9110
10482	97556	3569	3670						

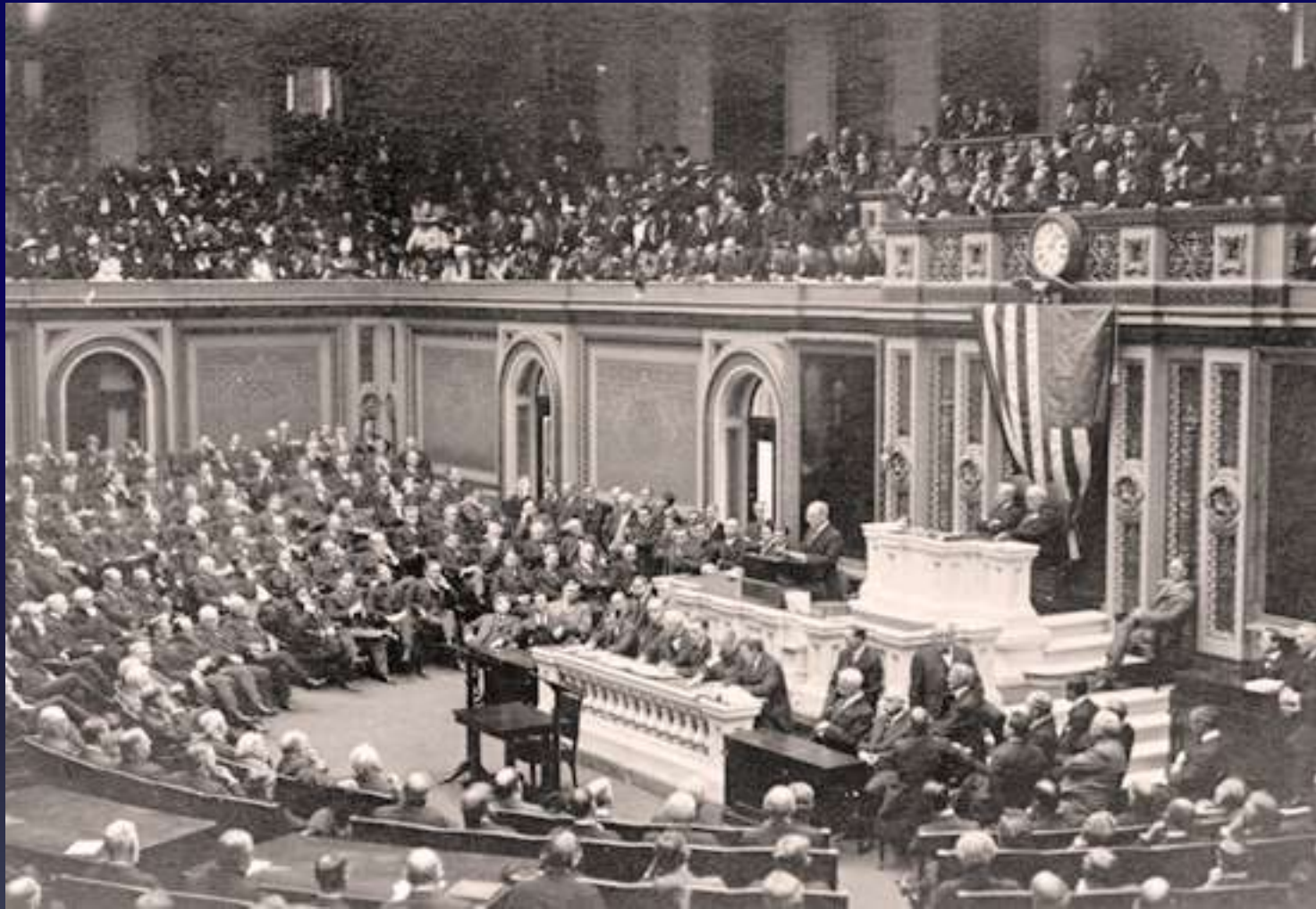
BEPHSTOPFF.

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."

Why This Would Have Failed...

1. Germany had no way to support Mexico despite saying so.
2. Mexico would have lost almost immediately.
3. If land was reclaimed, it would have been nearly impossible to hold.



“... For the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience.
The world must be made safe for democracy.”

End of Section Thoughts..

Despite the long term and immediate causes that led to the start of World War I, how did the United States get swept into the conflict?

Do you believe that the United States had the chance to avoid conflict, or, like modern day, do you believe it would have been the United States' responsibility to intervene?