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Am. History Pd.8 WWI Body Paragraph

The United States of America entered World War I on April 6, 1917 because of the general public’s outrage of the actions of Germany and its other allies of the Central Powers. A German U-boat had, two years previously, on May 7, 1915, had torpedoed the *Lusitania*, a British passenger ship, killing one-hundred and twenty-eight Americans onboard. Americans became extremely irate of Germany’s relentless submarine campaign in the Atlantic waters because the U-boats destroyed American property of merchantable value and took away American lives. Germany signed the Sussex Pledge, in which Germany stated it would confine the submarine warfare. Though the Sussex Pledge was signed, Germany continued to torpedo American ships, mostly merchant ships which brought in capital to the American businesses. The American businesses urged President Wilson to declare war on Germany to protect American trade, investments and the “freedom of the seas”, as did the American public advocated President Wilson to declare to protect Americans traveling on the seas from Germany. Another element of America’s declaring of war against the “Huns” was the Zimmerman telegram. In February of 1917, the foreign secretary of Germany, Arthur Zimmerman, sent a telegram to the German minister in Mexico, commanding him to demand Mexico to declare war on the United States if the United States joined the Allied Powers. The American community became very indignant and incensed towards Germany. Many Americans, because of the greatly elevated Anti-German feeling, were prejudiced and questioned fellow American citizens and immigrants from Germany of their loyalty to the United States. The German language ceased to being taught in schools. The German measles was later nicknamed the “liberty measles” as did sauerkraut, becoming more commonly known as “liberty cabbage”. Finally, the Russian Revolution in 1917 proved to be the occurrence that would further justify President Wilson’s decision in joining the Allied Powers. The revolution overthrowing the Russian czar was successful. President Wilson thought this may have been his chance to employ his moral diplomacy, in turning Russia into a democracy. It was one of his principles to help spread democracy throughout the world. America’s entrance into World War I was seen as, like the Spanish-American War, the government stipulating the foreign policy procedures to formulate and support the national interest.

America’s entry into World War I was the influence of many substantial results. One was that the American workforce laboring in the factories became mostly women. The men of the families, the “bread-winner”, were all off to war, so the women had to step into their shoes and take on all the responsibilities of the men. The factories became solely focused on producing war goods, such as the saying of making guns instead of butter. Victory gardens were grown to help save food for the military. Civilians were encouraged to participate in the “wheatless Mondays” and the “meatless Tuesdays”. The War Industries Board and the War Labor Board were the federal departments created to control the factories to create war goods and to reduce the strikes of the workforce. More importantly, America helped win the war. American soldiers were vital in fighting alongside the French and the British. The Americans helped win the Battle of Belleau Wood and the Battle of the Argonne Forest. The armistice was to the end of the war was signed on November 11, 1918, largely due to the Americans along with the other nations of the Allied Powers breaking through the final German defenses. The American government had defied the contents of George Washington’s Farewell Address and meddled into European affairs, both in entering the war and also in President Wilson’s Fourteen Point Peace Plan. Also, the American government didn’t remain neutral, but America didn’t have to since becoming a global power. President Wilson’s Fourteen Point Peace Plan outlined that secrecy and alliances would not be allowed, free trade and travel should be allowed, a limit on each country’s military, the principle of self-determination and the creation of the League of Nations. Later, though, the United States became only the creator of the League of Nations and never a member; the Senate believed the League of Nations would lead to more alliances and possibly another war. Also, Americans wanted to return to a sense of “normalcy” meaning going back to the isolationistic state. The Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles, which contained the documentation of the League of Nations in November 1919. America retreated into isolationism and “normalcy” after President Harding won the election of 1920, saying that he wanted America back to “a regular steady order of things… normal procedure…” Hence, America contrasted greatly from the entrance to World War I to the aftermath; from being very impetuous with foreign actions to receding back to isolationism.