# America in World War I

War started in 1914 by competing alliance in Europe and the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand I think. US joins later.

Germany steamrolls neutral Belgium. Created a weester front against France and Britain.

WWI used new tech like machine guns, aircraft, poison gas, advanced explosives, etc. for the first time.

**Submarines**

Germany developed the U-boat (submarine) to compensate for their lack of naval power. U-boats were aggressive and would sink both military and civilian ships.

A u-boat sunk the HMS Lusitania in 1915. Lusitania was carrying British supplies and 128 American citizens. Germany backs off U-boat warfare to avoid bringing the US into the war, then later changed their minds and used u-boats again.

**The Zimmerman Telegram**

Germany contacts Mexico with a deal: if the US joins the war, Mexico should be on Germany’s side. Britain decoded this message and tattles. Wilson asks Congress to declare war, they do in 1917.

**Progressivism in WWI under Wilson**

* Selective Service Act (1917)
* War Industries Board (WIB)
* Committee on Public Information (CPI) (propaganda)
* Espionage and Sedition Acts
* League of Nations

**General John J. Pershing**

Lead the American Expeditionary Forces in WWI

Germany helps Stalin overthrow the Russian czar and start the Communist Revolution.

**Battles of the Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood**

Reputation of the US Marines picks up here. Germans called them ``theDevil Dogs”, name stuck.

1918 - St. Mihiel offensive, push the Germans back a bit in France. First time US uses tanks in war. Patton is involved.

US Moves north to the Meuse-Argonne.

Sgt. Alvin York - killed 28 Germans and with 7 other Americans captured 132.

Cpt Eddie Rickenbacker - most distinguished American pilot with 26 confirmed victories.

**Treaty of Versailles** - Nov. 11, 1918

Germany has to accept blame and pay for the war. Hitler was a soldier and was very upset that the war ended. Him and other former German WWI soldiers felt they were stabbed in the back. Wilson forms the league of nations to prevent future wars.

**Wilson’s League of Nations**

US republicans are split, half want changed terms for LON, half didn’t want it at all. Wilson wouldn’t budge on terms. Senate votes to not join the LON.