

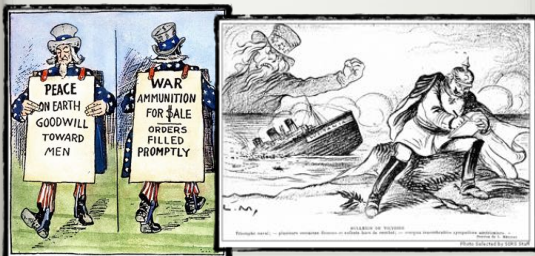
A STRAINED NEUTRALITY: AMERICAN ENTRY INTO WAR

War in Europe & American Neutrality



Uneasy Neutrality

- Why would most Americans oppose U.S. involvement in World War I in 1914?
- Was the United States truly playing the part of a neutral country?
- What factors brought the United States into the Great War on the Allies' side in 1917?



Uneasy Neutrality

- Woodrow Wilson → repeated declarations of neutrality
- **Problem:** 1910 → nearly 1/3 of Americans are
 - many still side w/ Britain & French
 - Nearly all news about war comes from Britain
 - Anti-German Propaganda
- Strained Neutrality
 - War-time economic BOOM
 - secret trading/offers of credit (\$) to England & France
 - to Germany
 - War of Attrition
 - German
 - Lusitania (May 7, 1915)



Preparing for War

- Last Efforts for Peace
 - Germany's give warning → U-Boats will
 - Wilson→
- Path to War (1917)
 - Arthur Zimmermann (German Foreign Sec.)
 - Offers \$ aid & territory to Mexico if attack U.S.
 - Renewal of unrestricted U-Boat warfare
- Money talks (war profiteers/loans)
- Declaration of War (April 6, 1917 -- Good Friday)
 - Wilson before Congress: "The world must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty." (Idealism)
 - First woman elected to House of Reps
 - Voted for peace