

## WHY DID WORLD WAR I START?

- 1) Intense patriotism
- 2) Countries competed for world domination
- 3) Build up of military power
- 4) Secret treaties and alliances

### What event sparked WWI?

- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary.
- Killed by a Serbian nationalist.

### Result of Assassination

- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
- Serbia declared war on A-H
- A-H had alliance with Germany
- Serbia had alliance with Russia, France
- Central Powers vs. Allied Powers

### US neutral at beginning of WWI

- Didn't want to fight "Europe's" war
- US citizens liked being isolationists
  - Isolationism means "to be separated from other country's affairs"
- US traded goods with countries on both sides of the war

### Reasons for US entering WWI

#### I. Germany's submarine warfare

- German subs called "U-Boats"
- Hundreds of U-Boats patrolled Atlantic Ocean
- U-Boats fired on trade/cruise ships
- Sinking of Lusitania
  - British cruise ship sunk in 1915
  - Germans claimed ship had weapons
  - 100 Americans died
- Sussex Pledge – 1916
  - Stated Germans would not sink ship without first trying to save civilian lives

#### II. Allied Propaganda

- Propaganda means "promoting a specific idea or viewpoint"
  - Ex: "Germans are evil"
- Felt Great Britain was still "family" – common language, culture, similar government
- Friendship with French due to help in American Revolution

#### III. Concern for American Security

- Sub warfare by Germans threatening east coast of US
- Germany had military dictatorship
- Zimmerman note – event that finally pushed US in to war

#### **Zimmerman Note**

- German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmerman sent telegram to Mexico
- Stated that if Mexico helped Germany fight US, that Germany will give them money, peace and territory lost to US → Texas, New Mexico, Arizona
- British intercepted note and told US about it
- President Wilson asked Congress to declare war

April 7, 1917

Congress declares war on Germany and the Central Powers