

wwI

Causes of WWI (M.A.I.N)

Nationalism (a devotion to the interests and cultures of one's nation)

- Led to competitive and antagonistic rivalries among nations.

Imperialism

- For centuries, European nations had been building empires and competition for new colonies was common.

Militarism

- The growth of nationalism and imperialism led to increased military spending.
- Huge focus on the development of armed forces and their use as a tool of diplomacy.
- By 1890, the strongest army was that of Germany because it had a huge army reserve system.
- Great Britain had the strongest Navy in the world.

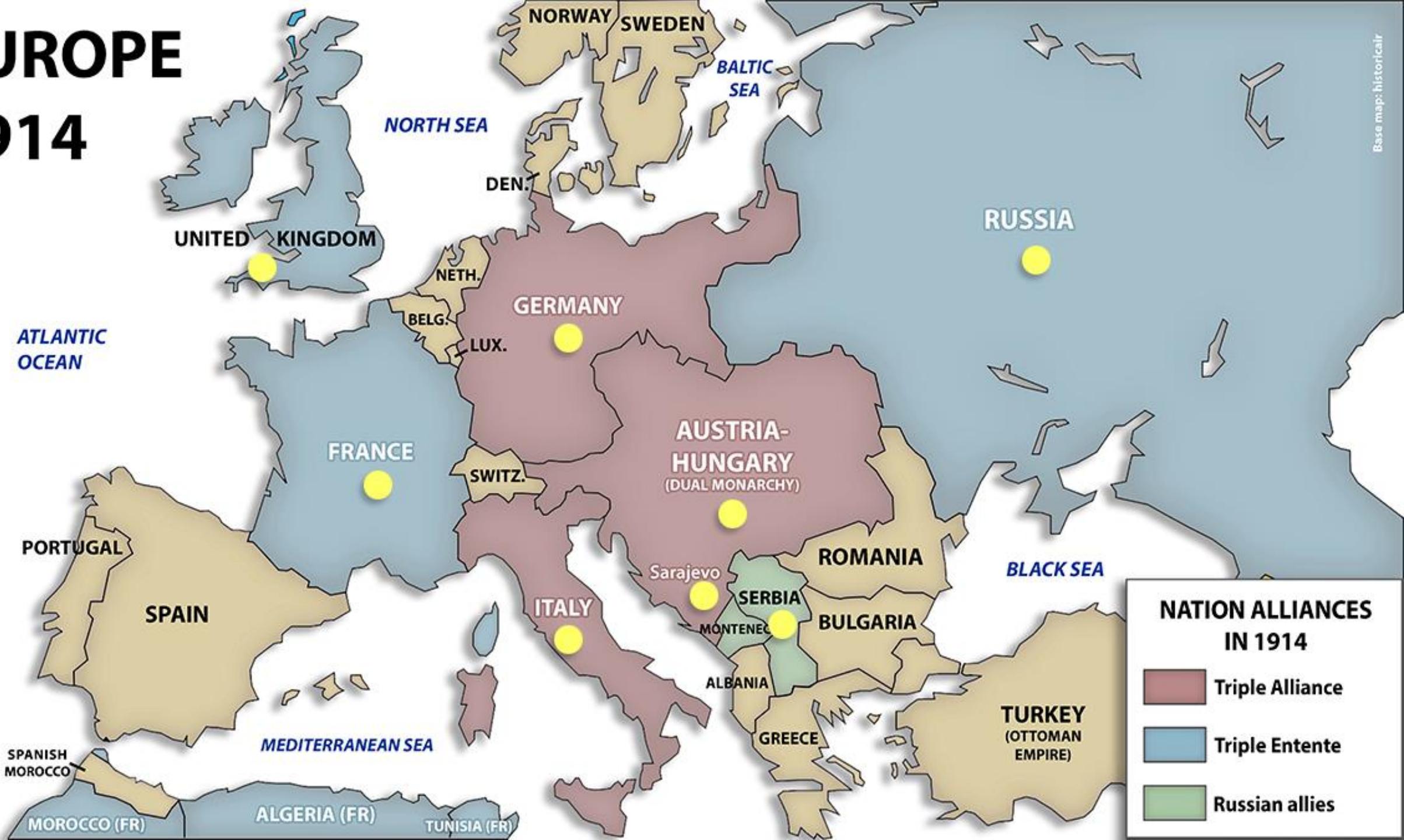
Alliance System

- **Allies:** France, Great Britain, and Russia.
- **Central Powers:** Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Ottoman Empire.

Assassination and Fighting Starts

- June of 1914 – **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne was visiting the Sarajevo, Bosnia and was killed by a Serbian nationalist.
- Serbians were upset that Austria-Hungary had taken control of Bosnia in 1878.
- On July 28, A-H declared war on Serbia. On August 1st, Germany declared war on Russia and August 3rd war on France. After Germany invaded Belgium, Great Britain declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- On August 3, 1914, Germany invaded Belgium.
- Germany developed the **Schlieffen Plan** – called for a quick invasion of Belgium and France and then a focus of defeating Russia.
- **Trench Warfare** – in the Western Front, WWI was characterized by Trench Warfare. Both sides dug trenches and waited for the other side to attack. Trench warfare was slow, deadly, and very little territory was ever gained.
- In the **Battle of the Somme** (July 1, 1916 – mid November 1916) – the British suffered 60,000 casualties on the first day alone. Final casualties were 1.2 million and only seven miles of ground changed hands.

EUROPE 1914



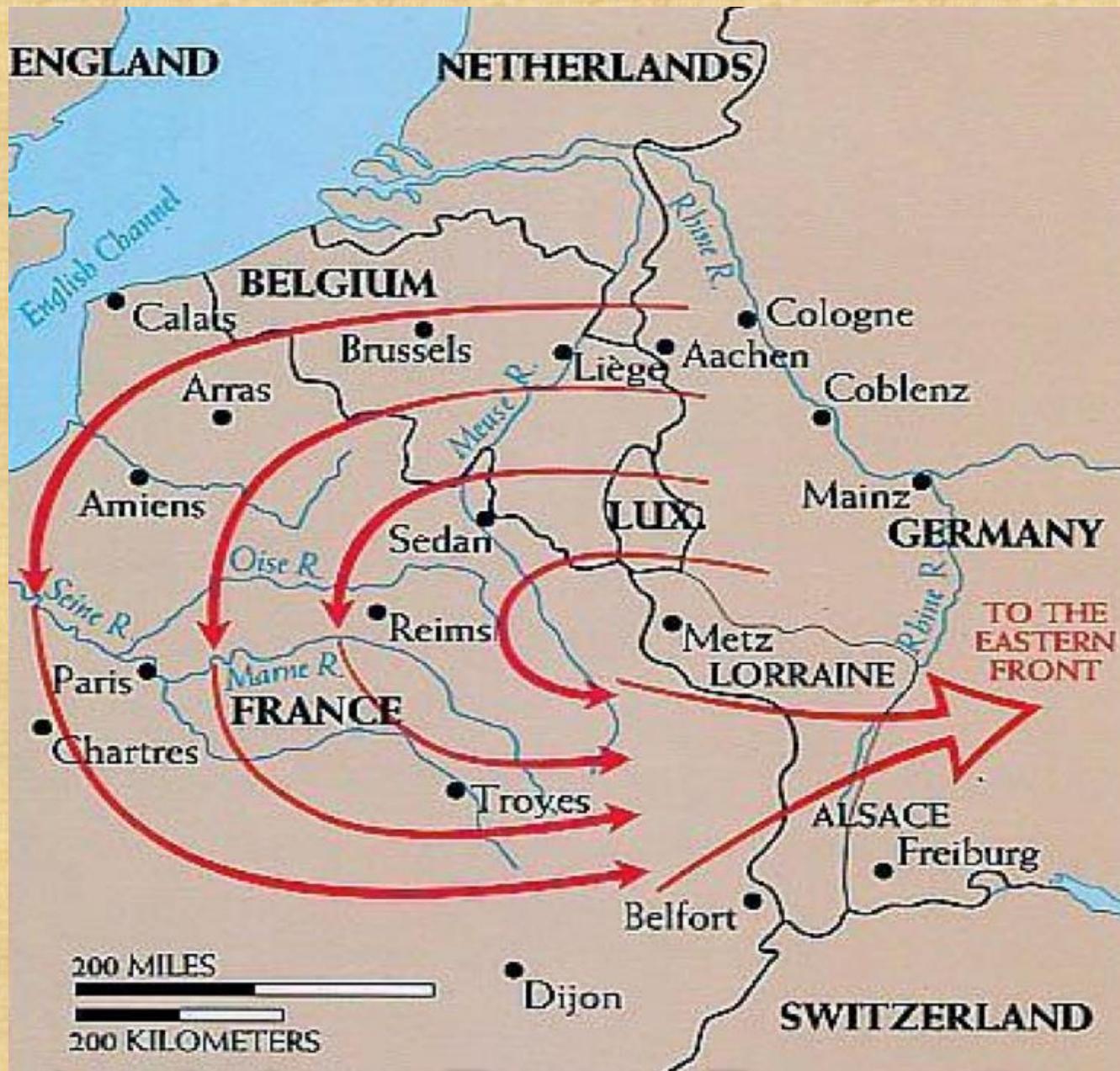


Archduke Franz Ferdinand



Gavrilo Princip

Schlieffen Plan



Americans Question Neutrality

- **Socialist** criticized the war as capitalist and imperialist struggle between European countries and **pacifists** like William Jennings Bryan believed the war was evil and that the US should set an example of peace in the world.
- Americans did not want to send their sons to war.
- Americans of German descent sympathize with Germany but most Americans felt close to Great Britain because of common ancestry, language, democratic institutions, and legal systems. Plus, the U.S. had closer economic ties with Great Britain. (ex. before WWI had double the trade with the Allies than the Central Powers and by 1917 American banks had lent the Allies \$2.3 billion dollars)

War Hits Home

- The U.S. got involved in WWI because it wanted repayment of the money lent to the Allies and to prevent the Germans from threatening U.S. shipping.
- Great Britain organized a blockade of German ports – by 1917 Germany was experiencing a famine (750,000 Germans starved to death)
- In response, Germany started carrying submarine warfare with their U-boats, any British or Allied ships found in waters around Britain would be sunk.
- On May 7, 1915 a U-boat sank the British liner *Lusitania* off the southern coast of Ireland. Of the 1,198 persons lost, 128 were Americans. Germany claimed that the liner carried ammunition (which it did.) Americans were upset and called for war but President Wilson just protested Germany's use of **unrestricted submarine warfare**.
- August 1915, British liner *Arabic* sunk – killed two Americans
- March 1916, French liner *Sussex* sunk – killed 80 people including Americans.
- During the 1916 Presidential election Wilson ran against the Republican candidate Charles Evans Hughes. Wilson won with the slogan “He Kept Us Out of War”

"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA
6:30 A. M.

VOL. LXXV NO. 2425

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

COR. CREDIT: THE NEW YORK TIMES

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stricken by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

White House There Quietly but in Stress on the Relation's Course.

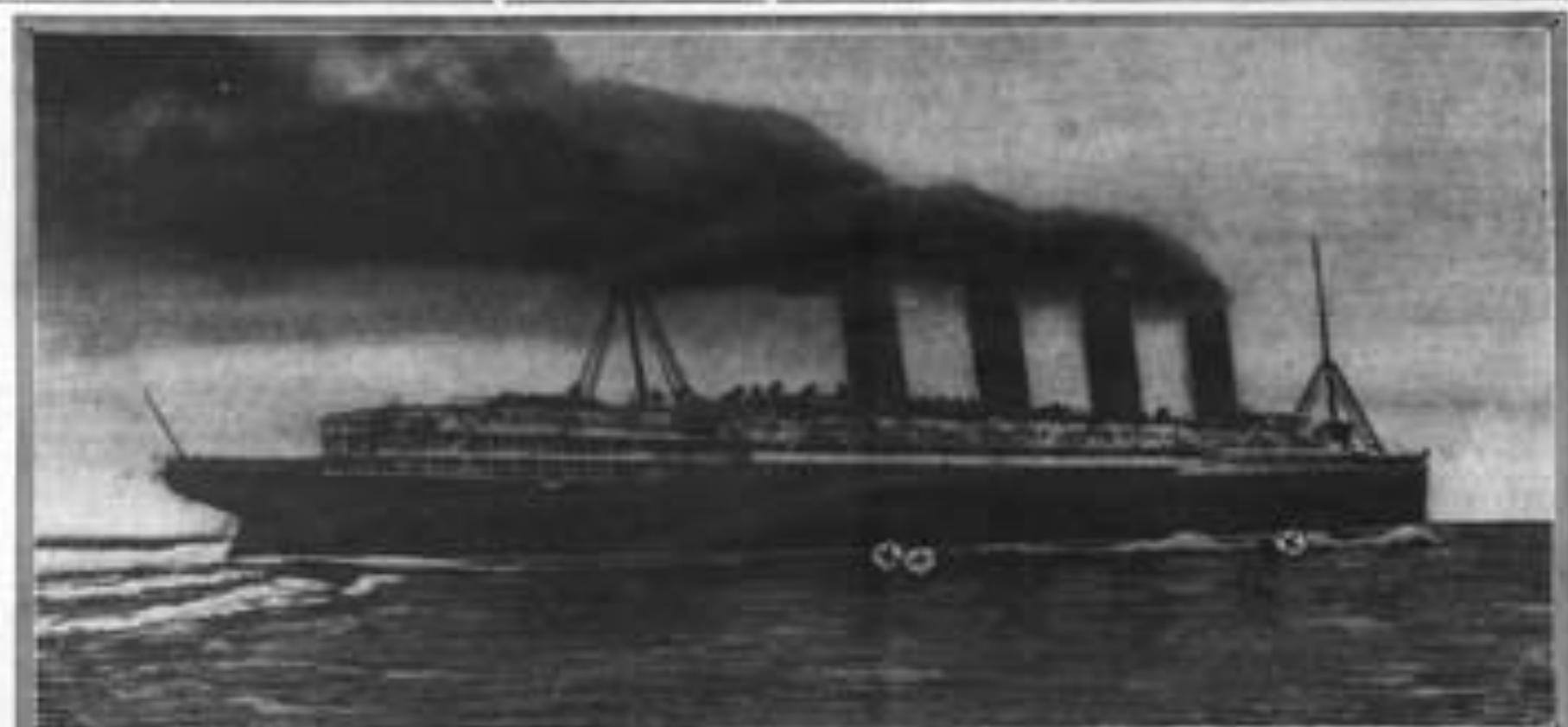
MINTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Line of Leaflets Benefits Five Times of Oil Field Workers to Germany.

CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Reports That Cuban Was by Air Bombs Were Being Bombed About Roads.

Reported to the White House
Washington, May 7.—The
dead were said to have been
about 1,260, and the
survivors about 700. The
ship was torpedoed twice
and sank in 15 minutes.
Capt. Turner was saved,
but Frohman and Vanderbilt
were missing.



SOME DEAD TAKEN ASHORE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

STEWARDESSES OF DISASTER

One Torpedo Crashed Into the Steamed Liner's Bow, Another Into the Engine Room.

SHIP LISTS OVER TO PORT

Wishes to Impose No Lower Money Seats. Six Hundred Miles Have Been Sailed.

ATTACHED TO BROAD DAY

Passenger on Liner—Woman
Not Seen Since by Name—
Now She Was Seen Near New York.

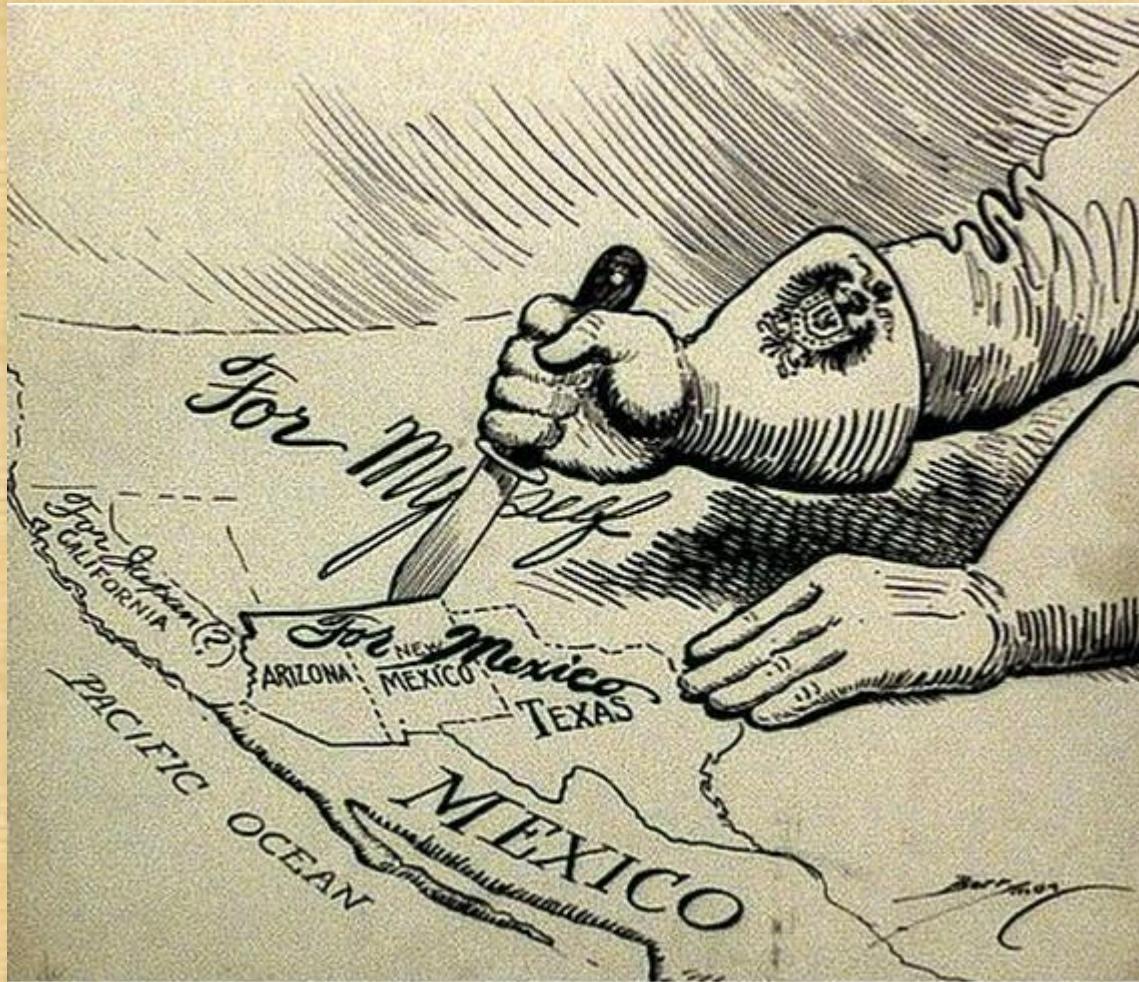
Only 458 Were Saved.
Few Cabin Passengers
QUEENSTOWN, Ireland,
May 8, 4:30 A. M.—



The United States Declares War

US entered WWI because

1. on January 1917, the Germans announced that U-boats would sink ALL ships in British waters. (4 unarmed U.S. merchant ships were sunk – killing 36 Americans)
2. Zimmerman Note – a telegram from the German foreign minister to the German ambassador in Mexico that proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico. Germany promised that if war broke out with the U.S., Germany would help Mexico recover the land they lost during the Mexican-American War.
3. In 1917, Russia left the war to fight its communist revolution – now the U.S. could claim that the war was between democracies and brutal monarchies.
 - On April 2, 1917, Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war
 - a war to make the world “safe for democracy.”



American Mobilizes

Raising an Army

- **Selective Service Act (1917)** – men were required to register with the government in order to be randomly selected for military service. (24 million registered, 3 million called up, 2 million reached Europe)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ saw actual combat, most had not attended high school, and 1 in 5 was foreign born.
- Training lasted 8 months – practiced with fake weapons (rocks instead of hand grenades and wooden poles instead of rifles.)
- 400,000 **African-Americans** served in segregated units and were excluded from the navy and marines. Most were signed up to noncombat duties except the 369th Infantry Regiment which saw the most continuous duty on the front lines than any other American regiment.
- 13,000 **women** were accepted in noncombat positions in the navy and marines – they served as nurses, secretaries, and telephone operators.





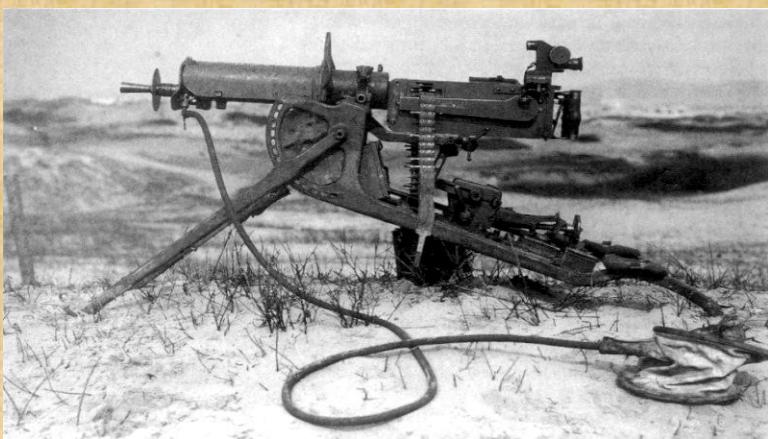
**Soldiers of the 369th – awarded the *Croix de Guerre* by France
for gallantry in action in 1919.**

Mass Production and America Turns the Tide

- Shipyard workers were exempted from the draft
- Shipyards used prefabricated parts which reduced construction time – in just one day 95 ships were launched.
- Government took over commercial and private ships and converted these for transatlantic war use.
- **Convoy System** was used to make sure that supplies got safely from the U.S. to Europe. Destroyers escorted merchant ships across the Atlantic Sea.
- 230-miles of mines were established on the North Sea from Scotland to Norway – purpose was to destroy German U-boats.
- American's entered the fighting 2.5 years after the war began and brought with them enthusiasm for the war.

New Weapons and New Hazards

- **Tanks** were first used at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Tanks ran on caterpillars and were built of steel so that bullets bounced off. Tanks helped in clearing path for soldiers.
- **Airplanes** were used for “dogfights” where pilots shot at each other in the air. Eventually, machine guns were mounted on airplanes.
- Great Britain had 22,000 airplanes.
- **Machine guns** were capable of firing 600 rounds per minute.
- Trench warfare – men were surrounded by filth, lice, rats, and polluted water that caused dysentery. Men suffered from lack of sleep, battle fatigue, and “shell shock” or PTSD.
- Trench foot was caused by standing in polluted water – feet would rot and have to be amputated.
- Trench mouth was a painful infection of the gums and throat.



Final Toll

- On November 11, 1918 Germany agreed to a cease fire or armistice (truce to end the war.)
- Deaths numbered 22 million – half of those were civilians.
- 20 million were wounded and 10 million became refugees.
- War cost \$338 billion.
- The US spent \$32 billion – half of the Gross National Product.
- The U.S. lost 48,000 men and 62,000 died of disease. More than 200,000 were wounded.