

American Entrance into World War I

- in the early 20th
Century, American foreign
policy was "Isolationism"

- in other words,
American concerns were
concentrated on

- domestic (inside US) issues first & foremost
 - it was easy for US to be this way
 - great distance from Europe
 - large oceans protected US borders
 - US had only two foreign countries on its borders (still does)
- Germany had seven

● - US remained "neutral" during early years of WWI

● - US did send some supplies to allies (British & French)

because they were democracies

● (A-H & Germany were dictatorships)

- President Woodrow Wilson (D) won 1916 re-election mostly based on slogan "He kept us out of the war"

- 2 turning points
1) German policy of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
- Germany blockaded

● Britain w/ its submarine fleet, called U-Boats

-they fired on any and all ships trying to reach Britain, including non-military ships and ships from neutral countries

- May 7th, 1915

cruise ship Lusitania

● sunk, 1,200 dead

including 128 Americans

2) Zimmerman Note

- British intercepted a telegram from Germans to Mexico

- German Minister Alfred Zimmerman invites Mexico to join into war on their side, to declare war on US to occupy US, Mexico would get territories of

● Texas, Arizona, N. Mexico importance

- these events sway public opinion against isolationism
- American troops arrive
● late 1917, early 1918
- their numbers are final straw in the defeat of Germany & AH
- Americans led by
● General John Pershing...
AEF - Amer. Expeditionary Force

— Americans refuse to be under command of either British or French

— Americans refuse to go into the trenches because...

— over 112,000 American dead, over 230,000 Americans wounded... in 11 months

— ironies

Lusitania was carrying weapons to British when it was sunk despite US neutrality

• some claim Zimmerman Note may have been a British forgery to get US into the war

Lyrics to "Over There" by George M. Cohan

**Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your gun
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run
Hear them calling you and me
Every son of liberty**

**Hurry right away, no delay, go today
Make your daddy glad to have had such a lad
Tell your sweetheart not to pine
To be proud her boy's in line.**

***CHORUS (repeated twice):
Over there, over there
Send the word, send the word over there
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming
The drums rum-tumming everywhere***

***So prepare, say a prayer
Send the word, send the word to beware
We'll be over there, we're coming over
And we won't come back till it's over over there.***

**Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your gun
Johnnie show the Hun you're a son of a gun
Hoist the flag and let her fly
Yankee Doodle do or die**

**Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit
Yankees to the ranks from the towns and the tanks
Make your mother proud of you
And the old Red White and Blue.**

***CHORUS (repeated twice):
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***So prepare, say a prayer
Send the word, send the word to beware
We'll be over there, we're coming over
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