**Chapter 19, Section 1: The United States Enters World War I**

**I. Woodrow Wilson’s Diplomacy** *(pages 576–577)*

**A.** President Wilson was opposed to imperialism and believed democracy was necessary to keep the nation stable and prosperous. He wanted a world free from revolution and war.

**B.** In 1911 a revolution in Mexico forced its leader, Porfirio Díaz, to flee the country. The new leader, Francisco Madero, was a poor administrator. General **Victoriano Huerta** took over in Mexico and presumably had Madero murdered. Wilson refused to recognize the new government and prevented weapons from reaching Huerta.

**C.** In 1914 Wilson sent marines to seize the Mexican port of Veracruz to overthrow Huerta. Anti-American riots broke out in Mexico. International mediation of the dispute placed Venustiano Carranza as Mexico’s new president.

**D.** Mexican forces opposed to Carranza conducted raids into the United States, hoping Wilson would intervene. **Pancho Villa** led a group of **guerrillas,** an armed group that carries out surprise attacks, into New Mexico, and a number of Americans were killed.

**E.** Wilson sent General **John J. Pershing** and his troops into Mexico to capture Villa. Pershing was unsuccessful. Wilson’s Mexican policy damaged U.S. foreign relations.

**Discussion Question**

What was President Wilson’s foreign policy in Mexico? *(Wilson refused to recognize the new Mexican government led by General Victoriano Huerta, who had seized power in Mexico. Wilson sent U.S. marines to Mexico to overthrow Huerta. When anti-American riots broke out in Mexico, Wilson was forced to accept international mediation over the dispute. Venustiano Carranza was made Mexico’s president. Mexican forces, led by Pancho Villa, were opposed to Carranza and conducted raids into the U.S. Wilson sent general John J. Pershing into Mexico to capture Villa.)*

**II. The Outbreak of World War I** *(pages 577–580)*

**A.** The roots of World War I can be traced back to the 1860s, when Prussia began a series of wars in order to unite German states. By 1871 Germany was united. The new German nation changed European politics. France and Germany were enemies. Germany formed the **Triple Alliance** with Austria-Hungary and Italy. Russia and France formed the Franco-Russian Alliance against Germany and Austria-Hungary.

**B.** Great Britain remained neutral until the early 1900s, when it began an arms race with Germany. This increased tensions between the two countries, causing the British to gain closer relations with France and Russia. The three countries became known as the **Triple Entente.**

**C. Nationalism,** intense pride for one’s homeland, was a powerful idea in Europe in the late 1800s. The right to **self**-**determination,** the idea that people who belong to a nation should have their own country and government, was a basic idea of nationalism. This idea led to a crisis in the **Balkans** where different national groups within the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires began to seek independence.

**D.** In June 1914, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke **Franz Ferdinand,** was killed by a Bosnian revolutionary. This act set off a chain of events that led toWorld War I. On July 28, Austria declared war on Serbia. On August 1, Germanydeclared war on Russia. Two days later Germany declared war on France.

**E.** The **Allies**—France, Russia, Great Britain, and later Italy—fought for the Triple Entente. Germany and Austria-Hungary joined the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria to form the **Central Powers.**

**F.** Germany and France became locked in a stalemate along hundreds of miles of trenches. The stalemate lasted three years. The Central Powers had greater success on the Eastern Front, capturing hundreds of miles of territory and taking hundreds of thousands of prisoners.

**Discussion Question**

What factors led to the start of World War I? *(The roots of World War I can be traced back to the 1860s, when Prussia began a series of wars in order to unite German states. By 1871 Germany was united. The new German nation changed European politics. France and Germany were enemies. Germany formed the Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy. Russia and France formed the Franco-Russian Alliance against Germany and Austria-Hungary. Great Britain remained neutral until the early 1900s, when it began an arms race with Germany. This increased tensions between the two countries, causing the British to gain closer relations with France and Russia. Nationalism led to a crisis in the Balkans where different national groups within the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires began to seek independence. In June 1914, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was killed by a Bosnian revolutionary. This event caused the alliances of Europe to declare war on each other.)*

**III. American Neutrality** *(pages 580–581)*

**A.** Wilson declared the United States to be neutral. He did not want his country pulled into a foreign war. Americans, however, began showing support for one side or the other with many immigrants supporting their homelands. Most Americans favored the Allied cause.

**B.** President Wilson’s cabinet was pro-British, believing that an Allied victory would preserve an international balance of power. The British skillfully used **propaganda,** or information used to influence opinion, to gain American support.

**C.** Companies in the United States had strong ties to the Allied countries. Many American banks gave loans to the Allies. As a result, American prosperity was tied to the war. The money would only be paid back if the Allies won.

**Discussion Question**

How did propaganda influence Americans? *(The British cut the transatlantic telegraph cable from Europe to the United States to limit news about the war to mainly British communication. Outrageous reports about German war atrocities convinced many Americans to support the Allies.)*

**IV. Moving Toward War** *(pages 581–583)*

**A.** While most Americans supported the Allies, they did not want to enter the war.

**B.** The British navy blockaded Germany to keep it from getting supplies. The British redefined **contraband,** or prohibited materials, to stop neutral parties from shipping food to Germany. To get around the blockade, Germany deployed submarines known as **U-boats.** Germany threatened to sink any ship that entered the waters around Britain. Attacking civilians ships without warning violated an international treaty and outraged the United States. The *Lusitania*, a British passenger liner, was hit by the Germans, killing almost 1,200 passengers—including 128 Americans.

**C.** Americans instructed Germany to stop U-boat strikes. Germany did not want the U.S. to join the war and strengthen the Allies. The **Sussex Pledge,** a promise made by Germany to stop sinking merchant ships, kept the United States out of the war for a bit longer.

**D.** A German official, Arthur Zimmermann, cabled the German ambassador in Mexico, proposing that Mexico ally itself with Germany. In return, Mexico would regain territory it had earlier lost to the United States. The **Zimmermann telegram** was intercepted by British intelligence and leaked to American newspapers.

**E.** In February 1917, Germany went back to unrestricted submarine warfare and, soon after, sank six American merchant ships. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany.

**Discussion Question**

What events led to the United States declaring war against Germany? *(The British navy blockaded Germany to keep it from getting supplies. To get around the blockade, Germany deployed U-boats. The* Lusitania, *a British passenger liner, was hit by the Germans, killing almost 1,200 passengers including 128 Americans. A German official, Arthur Zimmermann, cabled the German ambassador in Mexico, proposing that Mexico ally itself with Germany. In return, Mexico would regain territory it had earlier lost to the United States. The Zimmermann telegram was intercepted by British intelligence and leaked to American newspapers. In February 1917, Germany went back to unrestricted submarine warfare and, soon after, sank six American merchant ships. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany.)*