

# Lesson 3

## A Global Conflict



# Setting the Stage

- World War I was much more than a European conflict. **Australia** and **Japan**, for example, entered the war on the Allies' side, while **India** supplied troops to fight along-side their British rulers. Meanwhile, the **Ottoman Turks** and later **Bulgaria** allied themselves with Germany and the Central Powers. As the war promised to be a grim, drawn out affair, all the Great powers looked for other allies around the globe to tip the balance. They also sought new war fronts where they might achieve victory.

# War Affects the World

- The Ottoman Empire joins the Central Powers
- The Ottoman Turks cut off crucial supply lines to Russia through the **Dardanelles**, a vital straight connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Allies sent a massive force of British, Indian, Australian, and New Zealander troops to open up the straight.
- At the battle of **Gallipoli**, Turkish troops trapped the Allies on the beaches, about 250,000 soldiers died during a 10 month battle, causing an Allied withdraw from the area.

# Map of Gallipoli/Dardanelles



# Lawrence of Arabia

- On the third front, the Turks were hit hard in the Middle East.
- The Ottoman empire included vast areas of Arab land.
- In 1916, Arab nationalists led by **Husayn ibn Ali** declared a revolt against Ottoman rule.
- The British government sent **Colonel T.E. Lawrence**, later known as **Lawrence of Arabia**, to support the Arab revolt.
- Lawrence led guerilla raids against the Turks, dynamiting bridges and supply trains.
- Eventually, the Ottoman empire lost a great deal of territory to the Arabs, including the key city of Baghdad (Iraq).

# Waging the War

- As the struggle of World War I continued, nations realized that a modern, mechanized war required a nation's entire resources into the war effort, or **total war**.
- All nations imposed universal military **conscription**, or "***the draft***," which required all young men to be ready for military or other service.
- Governments raised taxes and borrowed huge amounts of money to pay the costs of war.
- Governments rationed food and other products, from boots to gasoline.
- Governments also set prices and forbade working strikes.

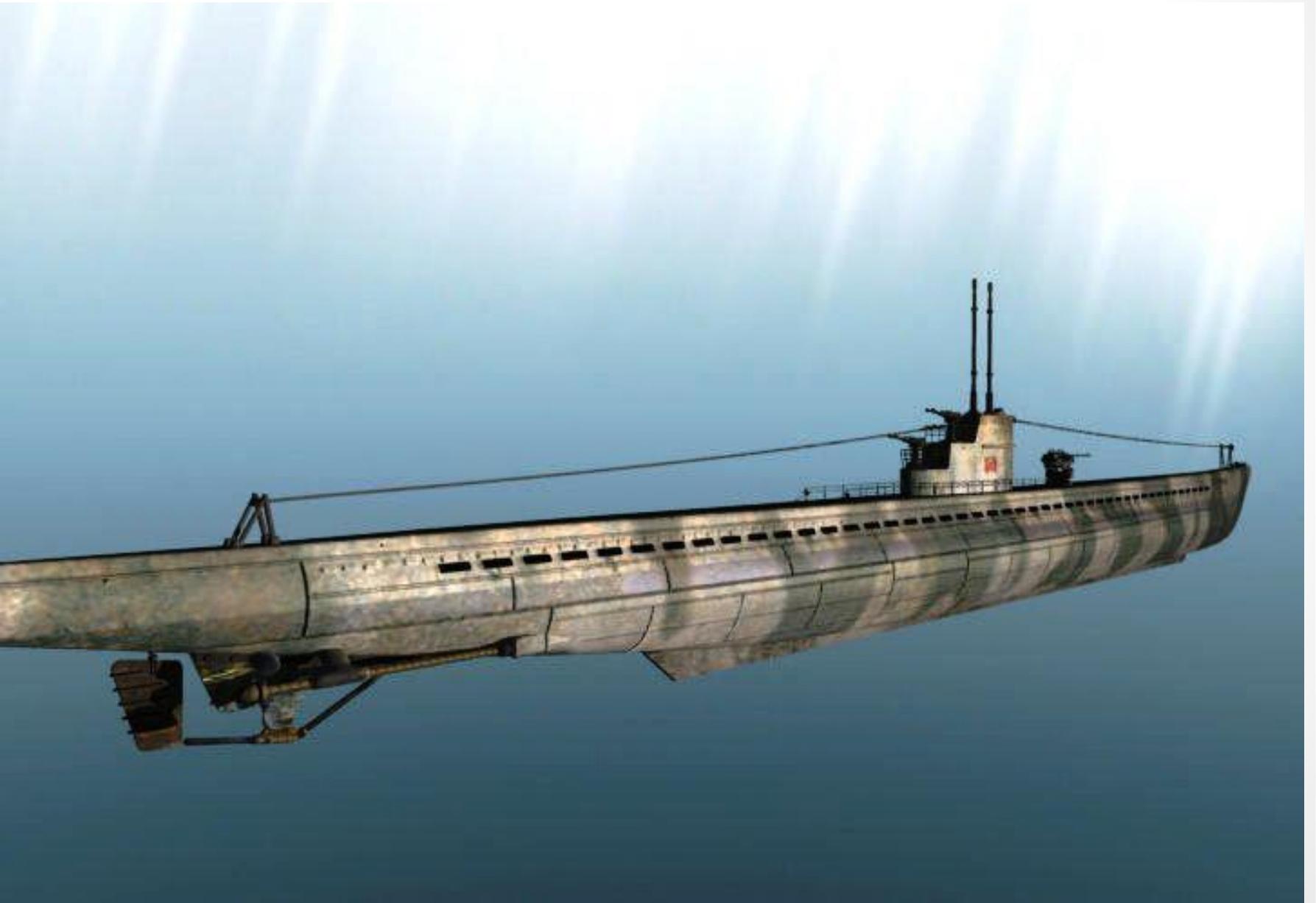
# Economic Warfare

- **Britain's navy** formed a blockade in the North Sea to keep ships from carrying supplies in and out of **Germany**.
- International law allowed wartime blockades to confiscate **contraband**, or military supplies and raw materials needed to make military supplies, but not items such as food and clothing.
- In spite of international law, the British blockade stopped **both** types of goods from reaching Germany.
- As the war progressed, it became harder and harder to feed the German and Austrian people.
- The German winter of 1916 and 1917 were known as the "**turnip winter**," because the potato crop failed and people turned to eating turnips.

# German U-boat Retaliation

- To retaliate, Germany used **u-boats** to create its own blockade.
- Germany declared it would sink all ships carrying goods to Britain through a policy called **unrestricted submarine warfare**.
- In May 1915, a German submarine torpedoed the British liner, *Lusitania* off the coast of Ireland.
- Almost 1,200 passengers were killed, including 128 Americans.
- Germany argued that the *Lusitania* was carrying weapons.
- American **President Woodrow Wilson** threatened to cut off diplomatic relations with Germany.
- Germany agreed to restrict its submarine campaign and give warnings before attacks, allowing neutral passengers to escape using life boats.

# German U-Boats



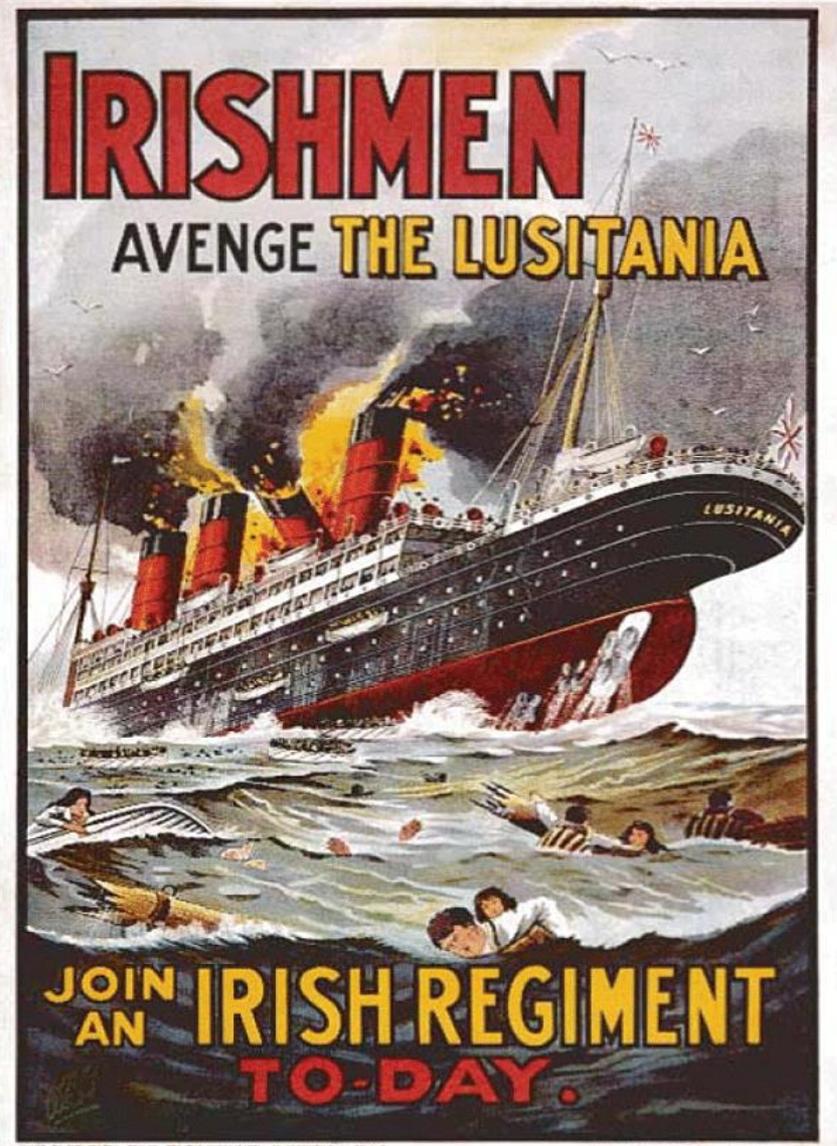
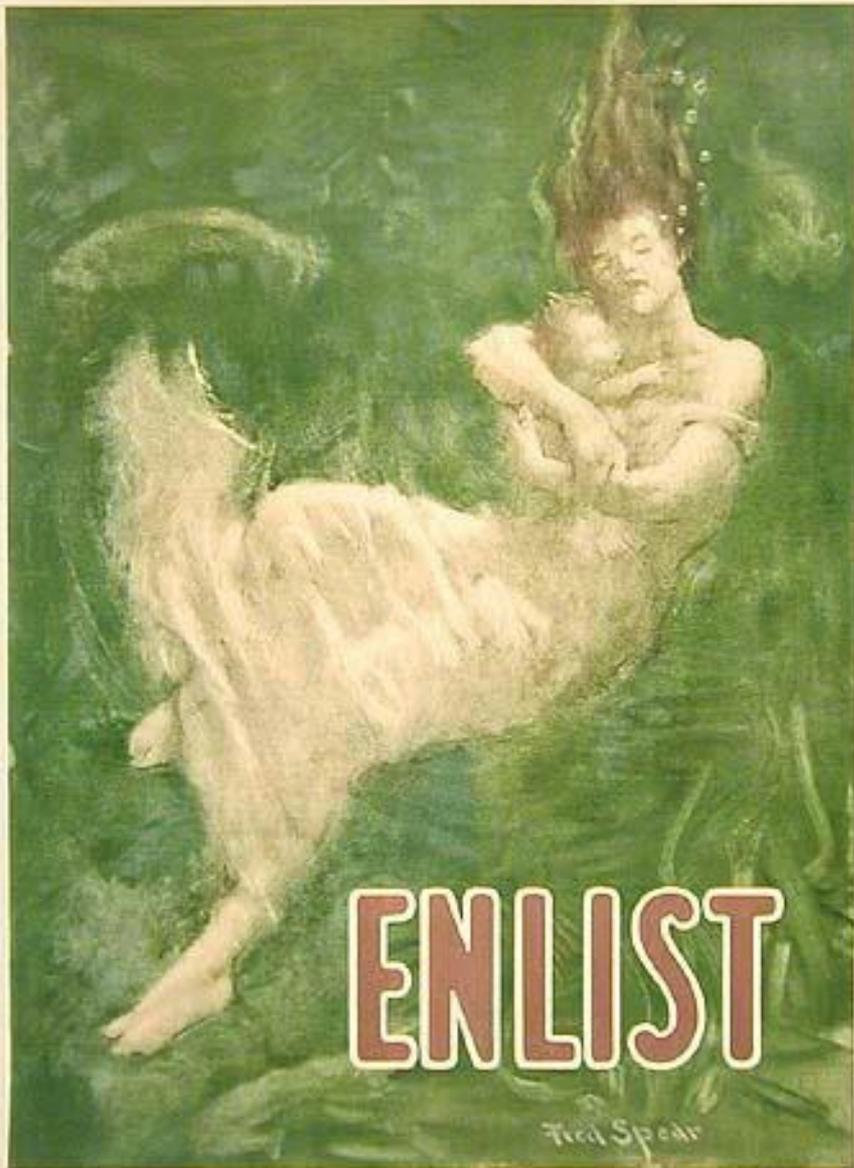
# Lusitania



# Governments Wage Total War

- **Total War** also meant controlling public opinion.
- Nations censored the press, keeping casualty figures from reaching the public.
- Government censors also restricted popular literature, historical writings, motion pictures, and the arts.
- **Both sides waged a propaganda war.**
- **Propaganda is the spreading of ideas to promote a cause or to damage an opposing cause.**
- In France and Germany, propaganda urged civilians to loan money to the government.
- Allied propaganda played up the brutality of Germany's invasion of Belgium.
- The British and French press circulated tales of **atrocities**, horrible acts against innocent people.

# Propaganda Posters of WWI



# Women and the War

- As millions of men left to fight, women took over their jobs and kept national economies going.
- Many women worked in war industries, manufacturing weapons and supplies.
- Other women in Britain went to the fields to grow needed food for their nation.
- Nurses worked in aid stations close to the front lines, all day and night.
- War work gave women a new sense of confidence and pride.
- After the war, women had to give up their jobs to men returning home.
- In many countries, women's support for the war effort finally helped them to win the right to vote.

# Women Work During WWI



# The U.S. Declares War on Germany

- Germany was desperate to break the stalemate and announced it would resume unrestricted submarine warfare.
- President Wilson angrily denounced Germany.
- In 1917, the British intercepted a message from the German foreign minister, Arthur Zimmerman, to his ambassador in **Mexico**.
- In the **Zimmerman Note**, Zimmerman authorized his ambassador to propose that Germany would help Mexico “to re-conquer its lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona,” in return for Mexican support against the U.S.
- Anti-German feeling intensified in the U.S.



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SOME PROMISE!

*April 1911*

# Declaring War

- In April 1917, **President Wilson** asked Congress to declare war on Germany.
  - Wilson saw this as a “war to end all wars”
  - By 1918, about 2 million American soldiers joined the Allied troops fighting on the Western Front.
  - Few American troops engaged in combat, but their arrival gave Allied troops a morale boost.
- In 1918, President Wilson issued the **Fourteen Points**, a list of his terms for resolving this and future wars.
  - it called for freedom of the seas, free trade, large-scale reduction of arms, and an end to secret treaties.
  - for Eastern Europe, Wilson urged **self-determination**, the right of people to choose their own form of government.
  - Wilson urged the creation of a “general association of nations” to keep the peace in the future (U.N.).

# The Allies Win the War

- A final showdown on the Western Front began in early 1918.
- Germany launched a huge offensive that pushed the Allies back 40 miles.
- The Allies launched a counter attack slowly driving German forces back across France and Belgium.
- German generals told the **kaiser** that the war could not be won.
- Uprisings exploded among hungry city dwellers in Germany.
- German commanders advised the kaiser to step down, and early November **Wilhelm II** did so, fleeing into **exile** in the Netherlands.
- The New German government sought an **armistice**, or agreement to end the fighting, with the Allies.
- They signed the armistice in a railway car near Paris. Hitler would force the French to sign surrender papers in the same railway car during WWII.

# Armistice Day

• November 11, 1918

Regular Edition! 3:45 p. m. Third Edition!

## THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH

# ARMISTICE IS SIGNED GERMANY SURRENDERS

Washington, Nov. 11, 2:30 a. m.—  
Government at Washington officially  
announced the signing of the armistice  
by Germany, which occurred at 5:00 a. m. Paris time.  
Hostilities ceased at 11 a. m. News from Washington reached St. Paul 20  
seconds after announcement was made.

**President Reads Armistice Terms**

**"America Gains All She Fought For."**

Washington, Nov. 11, (Special)—The following are the terms of the armistice which was signed at Compiègne, France, at 5 o'clock this morning, Paris time, and which terminated the hostilities between the United States and Germany on the Western front of the European theater of war. The armistice is subject to the ratification of the United States Senate and the French Government.

**PRES. CANCELS OUTSTANDING DRAFT CALLS**

Washington, Nov. 11, (Special)—President Woodrow Wilson today announced that he had cancelled all outstanding draft calls. The president's action was taken in view of the fact that the armistice between the United States and Germany had been signed and that the war had ended.

**Kaiser Bill Flees to Holland**

Washington, Nov. 11, (Special)—The Kaiser, William II, has fled to Holland. The Kaiser's flight was announced by the Dutch government today. The Kaiser is believed to be in the city of Dordrecht.

**All Draft Calls are Cancelled**

Washington, Nov. 11, (Special)—President Woodrow Wilson today announced that he had cancelled all outstanding draft calls. The president's action was taken in view of the fact that the armistice between the United States and Germany had been signed and that the war had ended.

**Big Parade at Brainerd**



# The Legacy of the War

- 8.5 million soldiers died.
- 21 million soldiers were wounded.
- Over 20 million civilians died due to starvation, slaughter, and disease, such as **influenza**.
- European economies collapsed as the war cost \$338 billion, a staggering amount for that time.
- A sense of disillusionment settled over the survivors and was often reflected in the art and literature of the time.

Feb. 1915	Gallipoli campaign begins
Jan. 1917	Germany announces a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare
Feb. 1917	British intercept the Zimmerman Note
April 1917	The U.S. enters the war
Nov. 1917	Lenin seizes power in Russia.
March 1918	Germany and Russia sign Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
July 1918	Allies and Germans fight Second Battle of the Marne
Nov. 1918	World War I ends

## #4

1. What was the purpose of the Gallipoli campaign?

2. Why did the U.S. enter the war?

3. Why did the Czar's government collapse?

4. What did this treaty accomplish?

5. What was the significance of this battle?

6. What events signaled the final defeat of the Central Powers?