A STRAINED NEUTRALITY: AMERICAN ENTRY INTO WAR

War in Europe & American Neutrality

Why would most Americans oppose U.S. involvement in World War I in 1914?

Was the United States truly playing the part of a neutral country?

What factors brought the United States into the Great War on the Allies' side in 1917?

Uneasy Neutrality

- Woodrow Wilson repeated declarations of neutrality
- Problem: 1910 — nearly 1/3 of Americans are
  - many still side w/ Britain & French
  - Nearly all news about war comes from Britain
  - Anti-German Propaganda

Strained Neutrality

- War-time economic BOOM
  - secret trading/offers of credit ($) to England & France to Germany
  - War of Attrition
  - German
  - Lusitania (May 7, 1915)
Preparing for War

- Last Efforts for Peace
  - Germany’s
  - Wilson
- Path to War (1917)
  - Arthur Zimmermann (German Foreign Sec.)
  - Offers $ aid & territory to Mexico if attack US.
  - Renewal of unrestricted U-Boat warfare
- Money talks (war profiteers/loans)
- Declaration of War (April 6, 1917 — Good Friday)
  - Wilson before Congress: “The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty.”
- First woman elected to House of Reps
- Voted for peace