

## Key Events for the U.S. Involvement in World War I

Event	Date	Location	Significance
Archduke Ferdinand assassinated	28-Jun-14	Sarajevo, Bosnia	Unsteady alliances erupt into war as Russia, Serbia's ally, begins to mobilize
Germany declares war on Russia and France	1-Aug-14		Although guaranteeing Belgian neutrality, Germans march through Belgium into France.
Nations align for war	Aug-14		Bulgaria and Turkey join Germany and Austria-Hungary in the Central Powers. France, England, Russia (later Japan and Italy) join the Allied Powers
Wilson declares U.S. neutrality	4-Aug-14	Washington, D.C.	Reflecting strong public opinion, Wilson states that U.S. will not join the war
Germany declares waters around British Isles a war zone	15-Feb-15		Neutral vessels are warned of potential u-boat attacks. Wilson warns Germany that it would be accountable for any loss of American life
Lusitania sunk by Germans	7-May-15	Off coast of Ireland	Torpedoed without warning, the Lusitania sinks in 18 minutes, killing 1198 (128 Americans)
Arabic Pledge	1-Sep-15	Berlin	Germany promises not to sink unarmed liners following sinking of British liner Arabic
Sussex Pledge	31-May-16	Berlin	Following sinking of French steamer Sussex, Germany again agrees to "visit and search" rules, but insists that Great Britain should also agree to obey international laws regarding freedom of the seas
Wilson wins 1916 presidential election	Nov-16	U.S.	Declaring "he kept us out of war," Wilson and Democrats barely defeat Hughes and Republicans (277 to 254 in electoral college)
Wilson calls for "peace without victory"	22-Jan-17	Washington, D.C.	Frustrated with his efforts to mediate a peace, Wilson becomes convinced that both sides needed to cease hostilities
Germany resumes unlimited submarine warfare	31-Jan-17	Berlin	Confident that U.S. help would be too late, Germany seeks to starve England into submission

Zimmermann note discovered	Feb-17	Berlin to Mexico City	Foreign minister Zimmermann asks Mexico to join Germany in exchange for return of southwest U.S. British intercept message
Wilson asks Congress for greater powers	Feb-17	Washington, D.C.	Senate, led by La Follette of Wisconsin, refuse to grant Wilson power to wage an undeclared naval war
Russian Revolution deposes Czar Nicholas	15-Mar-17	Russia	Instability in Europe encourages Wilson to act
Wilson asks for declaration of war	2-Apr-17	Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.	"The world must be made safe for democracy," Wilson insists
Food Administration formed	May-17	Washington, D.C.	Herbert Hoover heads effort to conserve food and boost agricultural output
Creel Committee issues official propaganda	May-17	Washington, D.C.	Daily "Official Bulletins" seek to convince Americans of the crusade for freedom and democracy and the bestial nature of the "Huns"
War Industries Board created	May-17	Washington, D.C.	Led by Bernard Baruch, the WIB set prices and determined what goods should be produced by private industry
Selective Service Act passed	28-May-17	Washington, D.C.	Nearly 10 million men are listed and a lottery chooses first 687,000 to serve. Eventually 3,000,000 men serve as draftees in the war
14 Points declared	Jan-18	Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.	Wilson lists his goals for a war-free world, including a League of Nations
Cantigny	28-May-18	North of Paris	First victory for American troops
Chateau-Thierry	May-18	France	French and American troops block German advance
Belleau Wood	Jun-18	France	American forces suffer heavy losses but defeat Germans
Second Battle of the Marne	Jul-18	France	Allied forces defeat Germans who begin retreat east
Meuse-Argonne	September to November 1918	Eastern France	Gen. Pershing loses 120,000 men (10%) of his troops in heavy fighting

Sedan	Oct-18	Eastern France	American troops cut German supply lines 50 miles behind German front
Germans surrender, expecting a peace drawn up under Wilson's generous 14 Points	11-Nov-18	Compiègne, France	Worst war in world history is over. 10 million soldiers killed, 10 million civilians die from disease and starvation
Treaty of Versailles signed	28-Jun-19	Versailles, France	Germany signs treaty drafted by "Big Four" which includes huge reparation demands