

## **Timeline of World War I** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **1914**

June 28

Archduke Francis Ferdinand is assassinated.

July 28

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, beginning World War I.

August 2-7

Germany invades Luxembourg and Belgium. France invades Alsace. British forces arrive in France. Nations allied against Germany were eventually to include Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Rhodesia, Romania, Greece, France, Belgium, United States, Canada, Serbia, India, Portugal, Montenegro, and Poland.

August 10

Austria-Hungary invades Russia.

September 9

Allied forces halt German advance into France during First Battle of the Marne.

### **1915**

February 18

Germany begins naval blockade of Great Britain.

April 25

Allied forces land on the Gallipoli Peninsula of the Ottoman Empire.

May 7

German submarine sinks the passenger liner *Lusitania* during crossing from New York to Liverpool, England, killing 128 Americans.

May 23

Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.

### **1916**

February 21

Germany begins the attack on Verdun.

May 31

Naval Battle of Jutland takes place between British and German fleets.

July 1

Allied offensive begins the Battle of the Somme.

December 18

Battle of Verdun ends with 550,000 French and 450,000 German casualties.

### **1917**

February 1

Germany returns to unrestricted submarine warfare halted after the sinking of the *Lusitania*.

February 3

United States severs diplomatic relations with Germany.

April 6

The United States declares war on Germany.

June 7

General John J. Pershing, newly selected commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), arrives in England with his staff.

June 24

American combat forces arrive in France.

December 15

Russia signs armistice with Germany.

### **1918**

January 8

President Woodrow Wilson presents to Congress his outline of Fourteen Points required for peace.

March 3  
Russia signs the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany.

March 21  
Germany begins its final offensive of the war.

March  
American women recruited to serve as bilingual telephone operators for the AEF arrive in Europe.

May 28  
United States forces are victorious in the Battle of Cantigny, the first independent American operation.

June 2  
American forces stop German attempt to cross the Marne River at Chateau-Thierry.

September 12  
American First Army attacks St. Mihiel [salient](#) <sup>[2]</sup>.

September 26  
Allied forces begin the attack at Meuse-Argonne, the final offensive of the war.

November 11  
Germany signs the Armistice at Compiègne, ending World War I.

December  
Harold Ross assumes editorship of The Stars and Stripes.

December 1  
British and American forces enter Germany.

## 1919

Jan. 18  
Peace conference begins at Paris.

February 14  
Draft of the covenant of the League of Nations is completed.

June 28  
Allied and German representatives sign treaty of Versailles. The United States signs treaty of guaranty, pledging to defend France in case of an unprovoked attack by Germany.

November 19  
United States Senate fails to [ratify](#) <sup>[3]</sup> Treaty of Versailles.

January 10  
Treaty of Versailles takes effect.

## 1920

March 19  
United States Senate fails to ratify Treaty of Versailles for the second time.

## 1921

August 24-29  
United States signs separate peace treaties with Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

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## Primary Sources:

Zimmermann Telegram (1917) <sup>[16]</sup>  
From the National Archives

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Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War Against Germany (1917) <sup>[17]</sup>

From the National Archives

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