Chapter 14: World War I: 1914 - 1918 (2023 version)

Focusing on United States and Jewish Involvement

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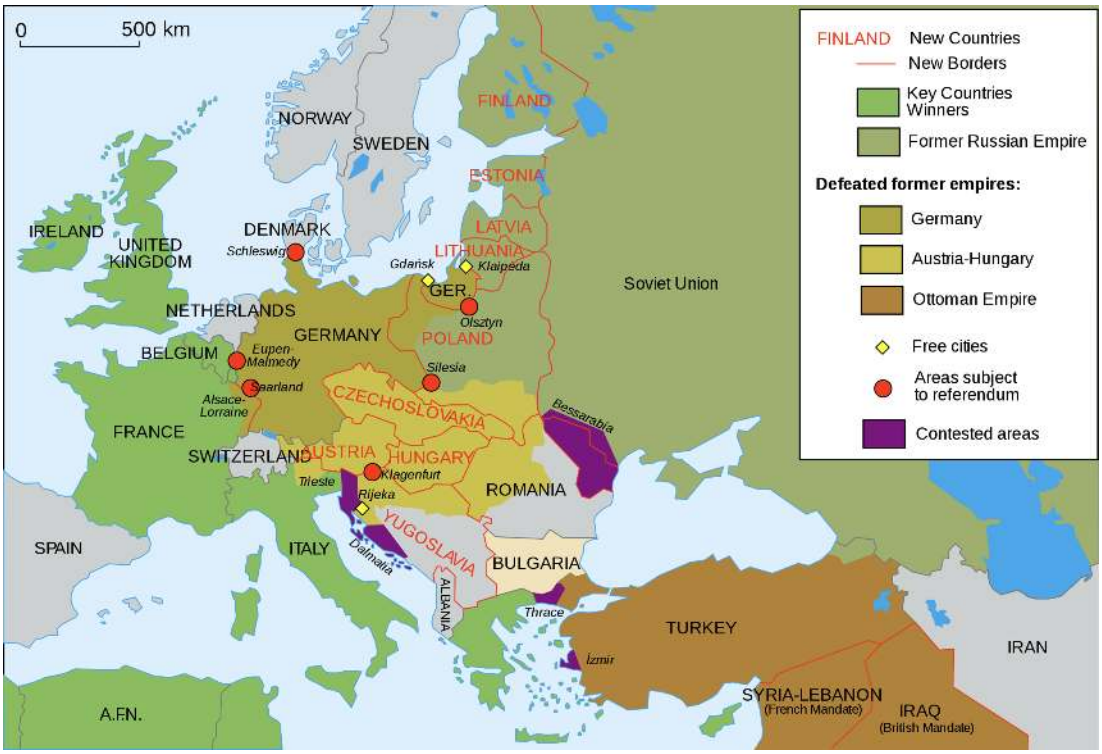
"It's the best joke I've heard in many days, this talk of torpedoing."
Lusitania's captain, W. T. Turner days before his ship sinks killing ~1200 people.

14A: Maps

Before WWI



After WWI

14B: The Monroe Doctrine: 1823

1770s: France helped the United States with the _____ war. France wanted help in return later. Washington said "We're too weak to start another war".[1]

That's about the last time we heard about politics of other countries in this class. Why?

1820: Remember the _____ Compromise? This was a fight over whether new U.S. territories would have slaves. The United States was weak and still figuring itself out.

James Monroe, fifth president of the United States issued the _____ **doctrine** which says - "this is our turf - go make trouble in your own continent"

The Americas | Europe

↖ **Don't cross that line!**[2]

. . . but wait … if the United States was weak, why would Europe listen?

. . . . because _____ _____ was the biggest trading partner and wanted a strong United States without other Europeans getting in the way.

Also, both countries speak the same language.[3]

Therefore the United States became isolationist.

Isolationist: _____

When World War I started in 1914, the United States was officially[4] still ignoring European wars. Now we start talking about the rest of the world like they exist again.

[1] At least, that's what he said in the Hamilton musical. Whatever.
[2] Don't say 36'30 - it's a different line.
[3] In 1898 Otto von Bismarck, the leader of Germany, was asked to name the single greatest fact in modern political history. He said 'The inherent and permanent fact that North America speaks English.'
[4] Too many exceptions to say that the United States was actually isolationist. Just go with it.

14C: Overview of WWI in Play Form

You know how some of your grandparents might still have flip phones and how your great-grandparents would still be using rotary dial phones and record players today?[5] When technology changes, people don't always keep up with the changes. This works the same way for entire empires sometimes.

It becomes harder to control people who start using better t_____ than you, learn to r_____ and w_____ and also want p_____.

The late 1800s saw the decline of empires and the rise of nationalism.
Empire: _____
Nationalism: _____

Round 1: FIGHT![6]

Group 1: Triple Entente

France: Germany, you're our neighbor and we've been fighting over where exactly our border should be since you decided to be a country all of the sudden[7]. You beat us up so badly and Russia is lonely over there on the other side of you. Time to surround you so you don't beat me up again.
Russia: Let's have an understanding with the **British Empire** too. I want to sell them stuff.
France: I guess. I hate them too though I hate Germany more right now.

Group 2: Triple Alliance

Germany: Those guys sure seem safe with their friendships. Austria-Hungary, same team?
Austria-Hungary: Yeah. Ottomans - what about you? You're always fighting with Russia over land. You in?
Ottoman Empire: Count me in…

Fight

Austria-Hungary: A nationalist just killed the heir to the throne![8]
Germany: We got your back, Austria-Hungary.
Russia: I'm not taking chances of being attacked. My soldiers have to cross thousands of miles. Let's get going!
Everyone else: Russia is moving an army? Well, then us too!
Germany: War on both sides of us?! I'm running to take out France right now!

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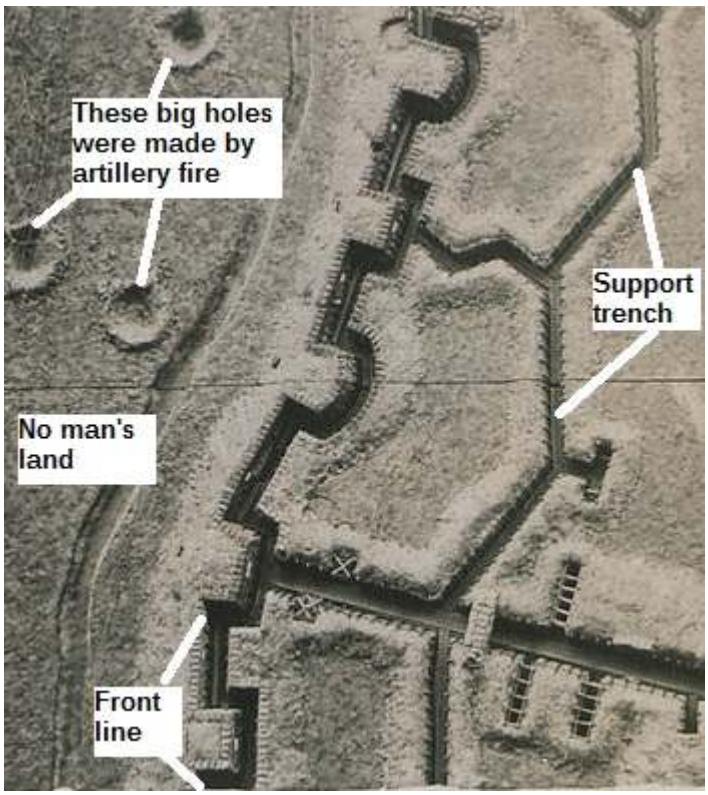
[5] If you don't know what I'm talking about, that might prove my next point.
[6] Probably not their actual words. Also, this is ridiculously oversimplified.
[7] See Talmud Bavli, Megillah 6b - The desires of a wicked man refers to "Germania of Edom, for should they go forth they would destroy the whole world."
[8] On Tish B'Av - this act led to WWI which led to WWII and holocaust.

Round 2: FIGHT!



Germany: Wars aren't supposed to go this long, right?
France: That's what we thought too. What gives?
Germany: Well, nothing gives. We went to run you over and you guys dug long holes in the ground to hide in. So we did that too.
France: Yeah, trenches. We'll just keep throwing 18 year olds at you. Then we'll take your trench and you'll have to dig a new one.
Germany: Fine, though we get to do that to you next week. We'll see who runs out of 18 year olds first.
France: Remember the good old days of war when one side could actually kick the other side off the land and win?
Germany: Yeah, then came machine guns and planes that are designed to shoot bullets between the propellor blades and can drop bombs so neither side can advance.

France: We're pretty evenly matched so this could be a while. Hey, what happened to Russia?
Russia: So … we kind of stink at fighting. Our soldiers are drunk and don't know what they're doing. We have a lot of people so we just keep sending more and can't figure out why even then we have no army left. We surrendered to Germany at Brest-Litovsk in 1917, which the Jews call Brisk and where Rav Solevachik is from.[9]
Germany: Yeah, and I got Poland and Ukraine and fun places like that. I'm sure you'll forget all about that soon enough.
Russia: Actually, no. While you guys are nationalist we'll never stop believing in a greater Russian empire. We'll take back this land after WWII and we'll try again in 2022!

[9] … and Mr. Feigin's grandmother was born there.

Act 3 - Yo America, you going to join this fight? 1917

British Empire: Hey … buddy … old pal … America … we've been besties for like … a hundred years. Help us out?
United States: No can do … Monroe Doctrine. Are you trying to get me to break the rules?
British Empire: Yeah, so like … I'm not asking you to get into trouble. Like when you were a kid you brought an MP3 player or cellular phone into school. Was that any different? Just, you know, when no one is looking, send me texts, you know?
United States: I'm such a goodie-goodie though.
British Empire: No one believes that except the teacher[10] Do you want to keep trading with us and keep getting rich or let the Germans win?
United States: [sighing] Yeah. So here's some weapons … sshhhhh.

Germany: I know what you guys are up to. Now I'm going to bomb your warships.
United States: What? I didn't do anything![11]
Germany: La de da … bombing some more boats … and since we're in submarines we can't even save the passengers.
United States: Why are you always picking on me? This next ship, the Lusitania, is definitely most certainly not sending weapons to the British.
Germany: Don't say I didn't warn you. Bye bye Lusitania!
United States: Dude, you just killed like … 1200 people. Innocent people! Innocent fancy people carrying fancy stuff!
Germany: That's funny because fancy people stuff usually doesn't make its own huge explosion when you hit it.[12]
United States: No! You hit it twice! That's it! I've just about had it with you.
Germany: No, we hit it once. The second explosion was from your weapons on the ship. We're almost finished beating up the British anyway.

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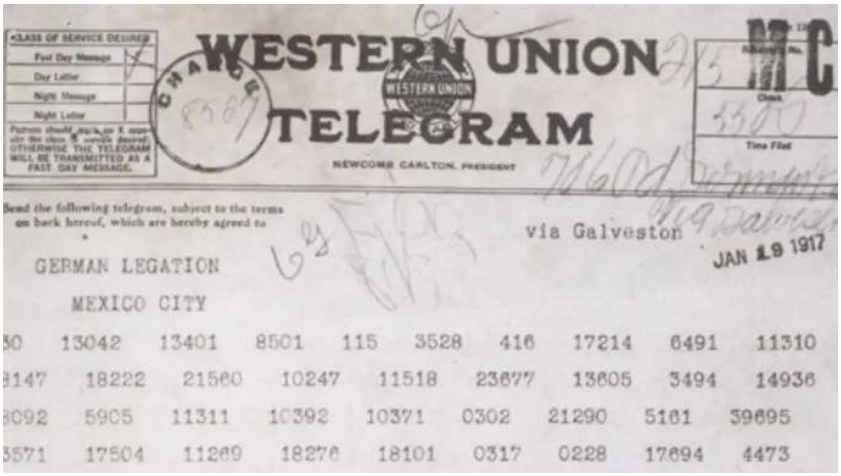
[10] Hey! I do believe that!
[11] "Why don't you punish him? Why do you pick on me?"
[12] https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/divers-find-ammunition-in-lusitania/article_b6fdd7ba-32e4-50d8-8cd1-009db211b1ba.html ←- Germans, it seems, were right.

Act 4 - You violated my Monroe Doctrine


WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

via Galveston

JAN 19 1917

GERMAN LEGATION

MEXICO CITY

13042 13401 8501 115 3528 416 17214 6491 11310

18222 21560 10247 11518 23677 13605 3494 14936

5905 11311 10392 10371 0302 21290 5161 39695

17504 11269 18276 18101 0317 0228 17694 4473

Germany: Yo Mexico … you want Texas back? Join us and it's yours.
Great Britain: Dude, Germany - are you mental? You just sent that message using some of our telegraph lines.[13]
Germany: Well, you cut ours!
Mexico: Y'all are loco. Can't you see we're still having our own civil war? Going back to my siesta, thanks.
United States: That's it! Now I'm mad! Germany is going down!
Mexico: Germany, you boys done goofed up.
Germany: It was an occident, I swear.

Epilogue: … Germany goes down. Treaty of Versailles humiliates Germany - they lose territory, they can never have an army again, and they have to pay all the costs of the war to the other countries.

Compare How The Civil War and World War I Ended

Lincoln: Malice towards none, charity towards all.
Grant: Don't cheer at our win. These are our brothers who are to be welcomed back.
North: Let's invest lots of money rebuilding the South.
Everyone except Lincoln: …. now we're one country again. Yay!
Lincoln: I'm not cheering because I'm dead.

WWI: We'll humiliate Germany and make them poor forever. That couldn't possibly lead to a tyrannical leader who will start another world war which is even worse….[14]

[13] This is known as the Zimmerman telegram because it was sent by Arthur Zimmerman - a Jew. Sigh.
[14] That's sarcasm. Every historian I've ever heard/read says WWI is responsible for WWII.

14D: Wars Compared

Here are all the major wars we've learned about this year. We skipped the War of 1812 and the Spanish-American War.[15]

	Revolutionary	Mexican War	Civil War	World War I
When	**1770s**	**1848**	**1861-1865**	**1914-1918**
Where	13 colonies	Texas & Mexico	USA	
Who	France & US British & DE	US & MX	Union v Conf.	
Why	**Free from UK**	**Get land**	**Keeping union together; slavery; states rights**	**Lots of alliances, a "spark" started them all fighting**
How	One-shot-at-a-time guns and cannons, horses, bayonets/knives			**See page 9**
US #[16]	217,000	79,000	3,300,000	
US Dead[17]	4,400	14,000	620,000	

14E: Some of the Costs of WWI[18]

1. Nearly 9 million soldiers died worldwide.

2. Four empires collapsed: the Russian Empire in 1917, the German and the Austro-Hungarian in 1918, and the Ottoman in 1922.

3. Most lands that had been part of the Ottoman Empire came under the control of Britain and France. The British promised Eretz Yisroel to the Jews (sort of).

4. A flu epidemic that killed over 25 million people worldwide.

5. Germany was required to pay for the war, accept all responsibility for it, lose territory, and France built the maginot line - a wall of fortresses for the day when Germany would attack again. Germany rolled right through it in WWII.

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[15] Not just because they have boring names.
[16] American soldiers; source: https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs_americas_wars.pdf
[17] Americans
[18] Adapted from https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraid=12&smtid=1

WORLD WAR I

HISTORY CRUNCH www.historycrunch.com/world-war-i/

FROM 1914 – 1918
WORLD WAR I

BATTLES TOOK PLACE IN
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

AIRPLANES

Airplanes were primarily used in the war for:

- Aerial Dogfights
- Bombing Runs
- Reconnaissance

A pilot became an 'ace' once they downed at least five enemy planes.

TOP 'ACE' PILOT OF WORLD WAR I

'RED BARON'
MANFRED VON RICHTHOFEN

AIRSHIPS

ALSO KNOWN AS 'BLIMPS'
FILLED WITH EITHER HELIUM OR HYDROGEN

GERMANY USED ZEPPELIN AIRSHIPS TO BOMB BRITAIN FROM 1915 TO 1917

EXPLOSIVE & DANGEROUS

COULD FIRE UP TO 600 ROUNDS PER MINUTE
LED TO HIGH CASUALTIES IN TRENCH WARFARE

MACHINE GUNS

World War I machine guns were based on the earlier Maxim Gun.

- British Vickers Machine Gun
- German Maschinengewehr 08 (MG 08)
- Russian PM M1910

POISON GAS

Several different types of gas.

- Tear Gas
- Chlorine Gas
- Phosgene Gas
- Mustard Gas

DEADLY & PAINFUL

INVISIBLE & ODORLESS
DEADLIEST TYPE OF GAS

Each nation developed gas masks to counter the effects of poison gas.

BOLT-ACTION RIFLES
COULD FIRE UP TO
15 ROUNDS PER MINUTE

RIFLES

RELIABLE & EFFECTIVE

SUBMARINES

GERMANY USED SUBMARINES CALLED 'UNTERSEEBOOTS'
COMMONLY KNOWN AS 'U-BOATS'

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN
FROM 1914 TO 1918

German U-Boats sank as many as 5,000 Allied merchant ships to limit supply lines to Britain.

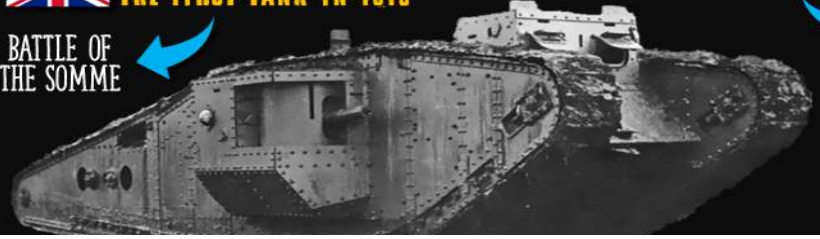
BRITAIN INTRODUCED THE FIRST TANK IN 1916

BATTLE OF THE SOMME

TANKS

ORIGINALLY REFERRED TO AS 'LANDSHIPS'
BECAME 'TANKS' DUE TO CODENAME 'WATER TANK'

British tanks were labelled as 'water tanks' when first being transported to the frontlines of World War I.



EACH NATION DEVELOPED
THEIR OWN TANKS
BY 1918 FRANCE HAD THE MOST

14F: Sinking of the Titanic - 1912

Today the Titanic is remembered as a sort of "Migdal Bavel" - after almost a hundred years of industrial revolutions there were many worldwide movements that said "science is our new G_d" and "here is our unsinkable ship."

Man would solve all world problems in a new world using science without Hashem. The Titanic has nothing to do with World War I directly though it does show how people thought at the time[19]. Technology allowed for great gains - longer lifespans, more time to learn Torah, and so on. On the other hand, arrogance killed 1,500 people who drowned/froze on an "unsinkable" ship and 10 million would be killed with new and improved weapons.

People became very disappointed with their previous beliefs - after the war a famous art exhibition even featured a toilet, a thing of waste, showing the mood after WWI.[20]

Who went on the Titanic?

Everyone - rich and poor. This was its first, and only, voyage from England to the United States. There was an amazingly fancy first class area, second class, and steerage. Ticket prices varied a lot. This could be a trip for pleasure or a trip to move to America.[21]

[19] According to the opinion of Mr. Feigin - feel free to explain why you disagree with me, as always.
[20] https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/duchamp-fountain-t07573 - thank you Art History class
[21] The 1997 Titanic is a masterpiece (though I hated it in high school) showing life aboard the ship and an accurate portrayal of the sinking. While many movies have been made, the agreed upon most accurate movie is "A Night to Remember" released in 1958. The 1997 movie copies A LOT from the earlier movie.

This was a big deal - about twice the size of Noach's teiva and half the size off the largest cruise ships even of today, the ship starting out was on the cover of every newspaper.

Construction

The largest ship at the time holding 3,320 people. The company also built the Lusitania. Using new steel construction techniques based off of the _____ process, larger ships could be built.

Mistakes (today they seem obvious; that's only because we learned from the past)

1) As a safety feature, the ship had nine water-tight compartments. A hole in the ship would just fill a compartment and the ship would keep going - even if four were cut. The iceberg scraped across five compartments. Water from one compartment overflowed into the next because the walls only went a few feet higher than the waterline.[22]

2) The metal connectors (rivets) would not be allowed to be used today. They became brittle (weak) when cooled and some theories are that the iceberg would have caused so many to pop out that this is what flooded the lower compartments.

3) Using _____ code, the ship received multiple warnings that there were icebergs. They ignored the warnings and told other ships to stop sending messages so they could focus on sending messages home from their passengers.

4) The ship traveled at top speed to try and arrive early despite the iceberg warnings.

5) There were not enough lifeboats for all the people on the boat. They even removed some that they were supposed to have because the lifeboats blocked some nice views leaving them with 20 lifeboats. Still, they had more than minimum requirements at the time because … ships were "unsinkable".[23]

6) There was supposed to be a lifeboat drill the Sunday before the ship set sail. The captain of the ship decided he wanted to lead church services one last time instead. He was going to retire after his trip on the Titanic. He went down with the ship.[24]

7) In addition to not knowing how to lower the lifeboats, the ship's crew didn't know the lifeboats had steel rims and were afraid the wooden boats would break apart when lowered so they didn't fill the lifeboats.

[22] You boys done goofed up?

[23] A historian whose writing I can't find right now argued that the lack of lifeboats did not cause lives to be lost because they were barely able to release the boats they did have. The boats were meant to ferry passengers to a rescue ship; not save everyone. Rescue ship took too long. (My counter - if they were trained to load them it would have gone faster.)

[24] There was no legal requirement to go down with the ship though it was the custom and if you didn't, you could be charged with other crimes which caused people to die.

8) Another reason lifeboats weren't filled - without a drill the order to "load women and children first" was understood by some to mean "don't load men at all" even when there were open seats. Only one lifeboat was filled to capacity - the last passenger boat to leave.

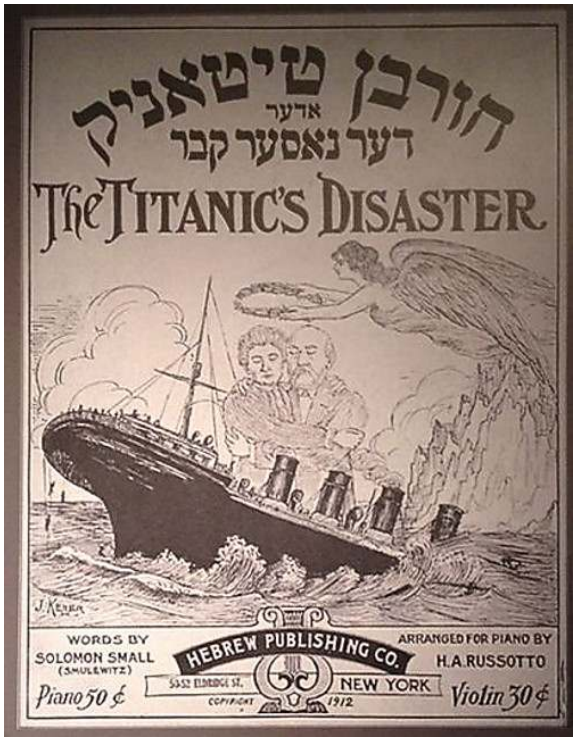
9) There were numerous investigations over whether the SS Caliornian ignored the S-O-S messages from the Titanic sent by radio and by light.

Chance of Survival

The water temperature was below freezing temperature.[25] It took four minutes to die. Only six people who fell in the water were rescued by lifeboats. One of those died.

Your best chance of living was to be a female, 1st class American passenger. They almost all lived but for a few who refused to board scary lifeboats. Also, Americans had a higher survival rate because British people were telling each other to stand in line and be civilized. A 3rd class male British passenger rarely lived.

Kosher Food on the Titanic?



It is estimated that about 600 of the passengers were Jewish. There was a Jewish cook hired to cook for the Jews. The Titanic was built at the same time as the Olympia which did have kosher food with separate marked dishes for meat and milk. It's unknown if the Titanic had kosher food though it was very common on ocean liners.[26]

Famous Jews on the Titanic

Benjamin Guggenheim was from a German Jewish family who made their money investing in coal mines and switched to managing funds for charity, especially art. Around here they are best known for the Guggenheim museum in New York City. Benjamin had married a Seligman.[27] A survivor of the Titanic testified that after having helped the rescue of women and children, Benjamin said "If anything should happen to me, tell my wife in New York that I've done my best in doing my duty", got dressed up and said, "We've dressed up in our best and are prepared to go down like gentlemen."

[25] Salt lowers the freezing point of water; it's why we use it on the roads to melt ice.
[26] https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-kosher-cook-who-went-down-with-the-titanic/
[27] See special unit 5.

Isidor and Ida Strauss - Extremely rich German Jews; founder of Macy's department stores. Ida got on a lifeboat - Isidor was allowed to board as well though men weren't boarding. "No. Until I see that every woman and child on board this ship is in a lifeboat, I will not enter into a lifeboat myself."[28] Witnesses said they stayed on the ship in each other's arms as is shown in the picture above.[29]

Another fact: The ship left on Pesach so few frum Jews were on the boat![30]

Nathan Strauss Was Supposed to Be on the Titanic -
Broke his Leg in Eretz Yisroel Doing Chesed

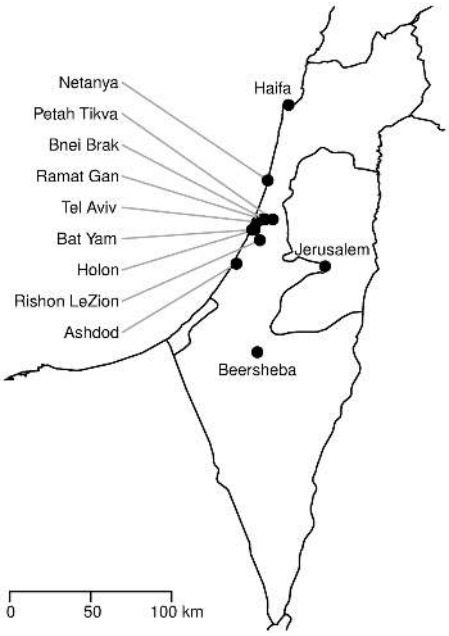
Isidor's brother, Nathan Strauss broke his leg on a 1912 visit to Palestine and was unable to join his brother Isidor who died when the ship sank. He was there building up the land of Israel and the city of Natanya is named after him as well as Rehov Strauss in Yerushalayim.

The Strauss brothers and family went on a tour of the world and he wrote:

> *"On reaching Jerusalem, we changed our plans. All that we saw in the Holy Land made such a deep impression on us that we gave up the idea of going to other places. Visiting the holy sights of which one hears and reads since childhood, watching the scenes in*

[28] https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2021/aug/29/titanic-connections-branson-museum-honors-jewish/
[29] This is how they are shown in the 1958 movie. In the 1997 movie they're shown on their bed.
[30] Thanks Geula Rothberger for this fact.

life as pictured in the Bible, was most soul-stirring. From that time on we felt a strange and intense desire to return to the land."



Some of the things he did in Eretz Yisroel:

- built soup kitchens
- gave money to help people find jobs
- built health stations for medical help
- establishment of the Jerusalem Health Center
- founding of a Pasteur Institute
- Financial support to farmers and immigrants

Pasteurization: _____

When we do this to wine it's called _____.
When we do this to milk it's called _____ children's lives.

In 1890: 25% of kids died young largely from diseases in milk.
. . . in New York City only 7% died - milk was pasteurized.

1892: Nathan founded a pasteurized milk plant in Lakewood, NJ

During the Panic of 1893:

- low price or free coal to poor people from his milk stations.
- Housing for 64,000 people at low price
- Food for 50,000 people at a penny per meal

During World War I:

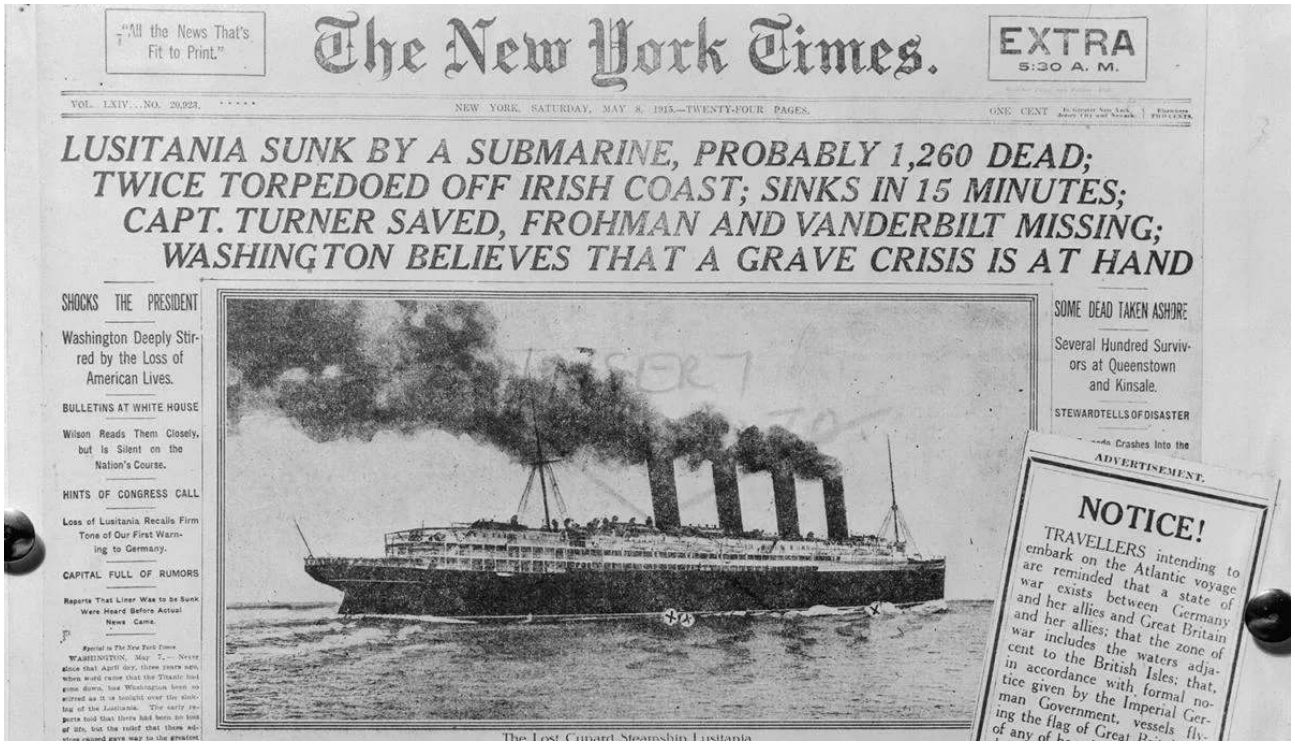
- Sold his boat to the United States to use for the war;
- Used the money to feed orphans.

14G: Sinking of the Lusitania - 1915

Only about three years after the Titanic sank people are still shaken up by the tragedy….

A German submarine sank the Lusitania, a British ship, killing about 1,200 people including 128 Americans.[31] The ship was built by the same company as the Titanic though the Lusitania sank in only 18 minutes . . . after the German missile hit, a large second explosion from the Lusitania, which was said to be without weapons of war, happened causing the fast sinking.[32]

Careful what you believe …



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA 5:30 A. M.

VOL. LXIV...NO. 20,923. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. ONE CENT

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

Wilson Reads Them Closely, but Is Silent on the Nation's Course.

HINTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Recalls Firm Tone of Our First Warning to Germany.

CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Reports That Liner Was to be Sunk Were Heard Before Actual News Came.

SOME DEAD TAKEN ASHORE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

STEWARD TELLS OF DISASTER

ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels fly-

The Lost Cunard Steamship Lusitania

American and British media reported this as "twice torpedoed" when it was actually one torpedo. The second explosion was from American weapons on the boat that they said weren't there.[33]

The President at the time, Woodrow Wislon, barely won reelection in 1916 with the slogan, "He kept us out of war." Not really true . . .

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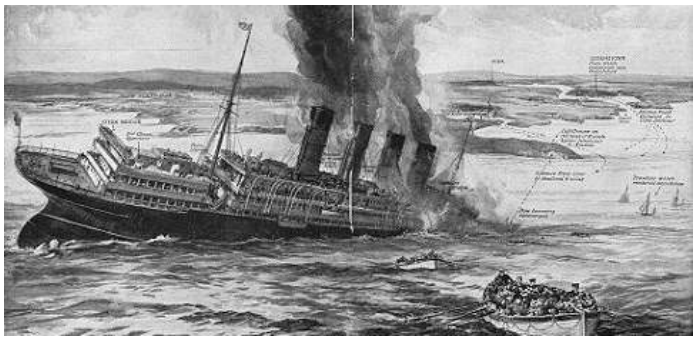
[31] Much of this section from https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/u-s-entry-into-world-war-i-1#section_2

[32] https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/divers-find-ammunition-in-lusitania/article_b6fdd7ba-32e4-50d8-8cd1-009db211b1ba.html

[33] In the same newspaper, Germany had taken out ads warning Americans that all British ships would be attacked.

Survival on the Ship



Since people knew about the Titanic, they were rushing for lifeboats and whomever got there first got on.[34] Many of the lifeboats overturned or weren't launched in time. The water temperature was 52 degrees Fahrenheit[35] so people had better chances of survival than the 28 degree Titanic water though it still took hours to rescue them.

After the Sinking of the Lusitania

United States to Germany: Stop it.
Germany: Okay.
Many Americans: Go to war!

1916 …
United States: You said you'd stop it!
Germany: This time we hit a French ship. We didn't know Americans were on it.
United States: So you'll stop it now?
Germany: I pledge that we will stop it.

1917…
Germany: We need to win the war before the U.S. joins. We're taking down every ship.
United States: You sunk so many of our ships that weren't even for war! We're breaking off all contact with you and getting closer to war.

The United States probably would have joined the war though the people would need to be convinced. Then Germany done goofed up …[36]

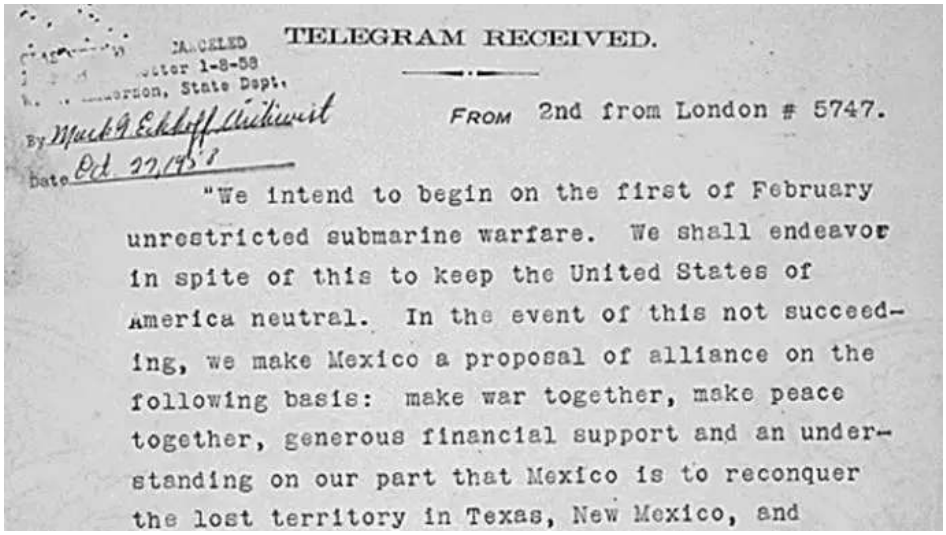
[34] https://time.com/3840371/lusitania-100-years/
[35] I refuse to use Celsius which is designed around water temperature - 0 is freezing and 100 is boiling. We live in the air. It's more meaningful to say 0 to 100 as the temperatures we usually live within have more detail. Ignore the fact that on this page I'm talking about water temperature. (Celsius is good for science class.)
[36] See the earlier play.

14H: The Zimmerman Telegram - 1917[37]

1914: World War I starts; Britain cuts German telegraph lines; Germany communicates around the world via U.S. telegraphs

1915 - 1917: U-Boat (German submarines) destroy ships; Germany keeps trying to get get Mexico and U.S. to fight (barely succeeds)

January 1917: Arthur Zimmerman of Germany sends message to Mexico:



TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and

Message was sent from the U.S. embassy in Germany → Denmark → London → Washington D.C. → Mexico.

London! Whaaaa??

British guy cracks the code, goes to his boss and says:

"Do you want to bring America into the war?"

March 1, 1917: The British want to keep it secret that they're spying on the United States. The British say they got a copy in Mexico and sent it from Mexico to the United States. The United States claims it was really us who intercepted the message and publishes the Zimmerman telegram in newspapers.[38]

March 29, 1917: Many Americans think the document must be fake. Arthur Zimmerman then says in public, "Yeah, I sent it. Wha? Whaz the big deal? It's only a plan if America goes to war."[39]

April 2, 1917: The U.S. goes to war on Germany partially because of the telegram.

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[37] Largely from https://www.history.com/news/the-secret-history-of-the-zimmermann-telegram
[38] Why the British government is high-fiving each other for a job well done.
[39] Not his exact words - not even close. His full speech is available here: https://www.firstworldwar.com/source/zimmermann_speech.htm

14I: World War I Zionism

Germany's help to reestablish Jews in Eretz Yisroel up until World War I is usually overlooked because, well, what they did in World War II. In Jerusalem there's a neighborhood called "The German Colony" which was founded by Christians; many side streets are named after Germans who supported Zionism.

Hebrew in Israel?! No! German before World War I.[40]

The early secular Zionists were German Jews and their Zionist documents were all in German! Who among us knows Hebrew, asked Theodore Hertzl, the leader of the secular Zionists.

European countries wanted a part of Eretz Yisroel. Jewish schools in Eretz Yisroel spoke various languages depending on which country was paying for the school.

By World War I Germany had about 50 schools in Eretz Yisroel ! German songs and books were taught.

Then the Technion in Haifa was built - this is the best science-based university in Israel even today. Arthur Zimmermann (of the Zimmerman Telegram) was behind Germany's funding of the building. The Germans insisted that the language be German, the language of science and technology at the time.[41]

The teachers and students went on strike! They wanted Hebrew for their new country. Germany stopped funding all 50 of their schools in protest. After Germany lost World War I and any claims to Eretz Yisroel, the university opened after the war with Hebrew.

Germany Saves the Jewish Community of Eretz Yisroel in 1914[42]

During World War I Germany was on the same side as the Ottoman Empire which controlled Eretz Yisroel. The Ottoman empire now said all Jews from Britain, France, and Russia, which was about half of them, were enemies to be deported. Jamal Pasha, a local

[40] This information is taken from an article by Mitchell First which first appeared in the Jewish Link and can be accessed here: https://jewishlink.news/features/34054-the-language-conflict-in-israel-in-1914

[41] This would remain so until World War II. I do a lot of business with a patent attorney in Germany. He speaks English better than a lot of Americans because that is now the language of science and tech.

[42] Source: https://www.haaretz.com/life/books/.premium-how-germany-helped-save-palestines-jews-1.5257621 though I worry about the bias of this article.

Ottoman leader, then wanted to go further and to force them on marches to kill almost all of them which was already being done to the Armenians, Greeks, and others.[43]

Germany tells the Muslim Ottoman Empire - don't do this. It's … baaaaddd. Don't hurt Jews and Christians! … and Jews, such as Arthur Zimmerman, were in high places in the German government .

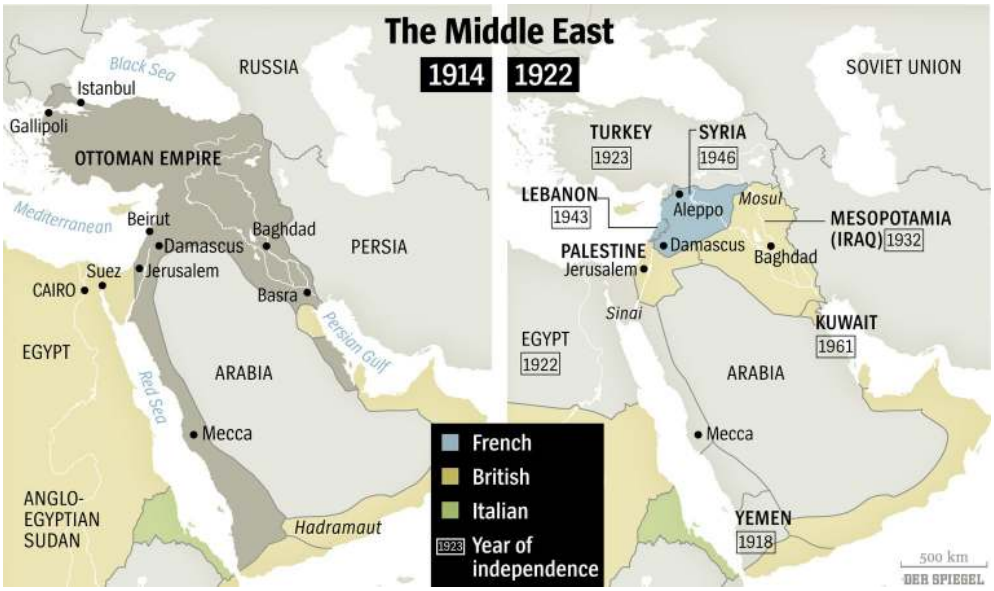
The British took over Eretz Yisroel in 1917 and were much better to the Jews.[44] Almost a half million Jews were able to move to Israel from 1917 until 1948 under the British.[45]

The British Also Want Jewish Support: The Balfour Declaration - 1917

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

The text says support for a "national home". The text does not say "a Jewish country" though this is how it came to be interpreted later. This document helped the cause of Zionism and Jews moving to Eretz Yisroel in very large numbers.

Why did the British create this document? The simple answer: Support of American Jews to help convince the United States to enter World War I and help.



[43] They did this to Armenians - this is called the "Armenian Genocide" for which the Germans in World War II used to say that that no one would remember that the Jews being killed either.
[44] Still not always great.
[45] It would have been many more - the British restricted immigration during the holocaust.

14J: How WWI Changed Jewish Communities[46]

Short answer: World War I was terrible for the Jews. Most Jews lived where the fighting was taking place between Poland, Germany, Russia, Ukraine . . . each side found a reason to blame the Jews.

Russia

Before World War I: Force Jews into the army, kill Jews, take almost all rights.
Two million Jews leave for the United States.
There was a high Jewish birth rate so the Jewish population stayed steady.

World War I: Russia takes over land where 4 million Jews live; kicks 600,000 out of home[47]
500,000 Jewish soldiers in the Russian army (forced to and treated very badly)
~100,000 Jews killed by Russians, Polish, Ukranians
. . . for "supporting the Russian revolution"

After World War I: Russia becomes anti-religious and cut off from the world.
Jews become isolated and find it nearly impossible to be frum … until the 1990s![48]

Germany

Before World War I: The government starts granting more freedom to Jews.
Most Jews assimilate to be like the Christians.

During World War I: 100,000 Jews fought for the German army.
German Jews did okay in Germany though there was a lot of anti-semitism.
Higher percentage of Jews fought for Germany than other German citizens.

After World War I: Jews largely blamed for the war as traitors.
Hitler uses this argument and blames the Jews for Germany's problems.

United States

Before World War I: Lots of German and Russian Jews in the United States.
High anti-semitism and German Jews look down on the poor Russian Jews.
(The German Jews gave a lot of money to help Russian Jews though.)

During World War I: Russia is very, very hated by Russian and German Jews (see above)
Most Jews support Germany in the war at first or don't want war at all.

After World War I: Many more Jews came to the U.S. until the U.S. largely closed immigration to Jews in 1924 . . . until after World War II.

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[46] Sources: https://www.lbi.org/exhibitions/german-jews-eastern-front-wwi-modernism-meets-tradition/ ; https://mjhnyc.org/events/german-patriots-jewish-germans-during-wwi/ ; https://yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/world_war_i; and https://www.grin.com/document/130668

[47] This is shown at the end of Fiddler on the Roof which is based on a series of stories written by Solomon Rabinovich, known as "Shalom Alechem" - sure enough, this part of the story was written in 1914.

[48] There are many frum Russian Jews today especially in the U.S. and Israel. They're ba'al teshuvahs.

14K: Treaty of Versailles and the End of WWI[49]

The treaty ended the war in 1919. France embarrassed Germany in the same location and similar terms as when Germany won the last war . . .

1) **Germany must pay money to the other countries** which everyone knew was more than they could ever reasonably pay.

2) **Germany can't have an army**. France builds fortresses along the border fully expecting Germany to create an army again and get even with them. Hitler does this in 1939.

3) **Germany loses land to France and Russia** including what was gained when Germany had beaten Russia previously. Germany loses 7 million people in the land they had to give up. Hitler will start getting this land back in 1939.

4) **The League of Nations is formed where all countries will join together and discuss their issues**. The United States doesn't join. **Germany isn't allowed to join**[50]. The United Nations comes out of this.

5) **The Ottoman Empire is cut into pieces controlled by Britain and France**. The pieces are often along lines which ignore which groups live in each place. For example, Syria and Iraq have ethnic groups cut in half - the Islamic State tried to reverse this in the 2010s.

6) **Palestine[51] is one of the former Ottoman territories under control of the British.[52] This will eventually lead to the State of Israel in 1948**.

. . . this Treaty is blamed by almost everyone for World War II
. . . an even worse war.

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[49] Sources: https://www.lbi.org/exhibitions/german-jews-eastern-front-wwi-modernism-meets-tradition/ ; https://mjhnyc.org/events/german-patriots-jewish-germans-during-wwi/ ; https://yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/world_war_i; and https://www.grin.com/document/130668

[50] Aren't they the ones you need to join most!??!!

[51] Named by the Romans for the Plishtim who no longer lived there even then … the Romans wanted to remove any Jewish connection to the land. Jews living there before 1948 were called "Palestinian Jews".

[52] There was some debate amongst frum Jews in Eretz Yisroel at the time because the British Empire uses a clock where the day starts at midnight. The Ottoman's used a clock where the day starts at sundown.