

0. THE WAR EFFORT - Story Preface

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Harvey Dunn (1884-1952) created this poster in 1917 for the U.S. Food Administration. Printed in Brooklyn, by Latham Litho & Ptg. Co., it urges all Americans—even those at home and not fighting abroad—to participate in the war effort. "Victory," after all, "Is A Question of Stamina: Send—the Wheat, Meat, Fats, Sugar: the Fuel for Fighters." Online, courtesy Library of Congress. Click on the image for a better view.

By war's end, 65 million men had been mobilized in the Great War. More than 8 million died during the long conflict.

America sent nearly 5 million men and spent more money on the war than the country had spent in the hundreds of years since it first became a country. For the first time in its history, the United States imposed an income tax on its citizens.

Woodrow Wilson, who had campaigned for reelection on a peace platform, anguished about joining the hostilities. America was feeding the troops and the people in Europe and the country initially resisted committing its own troops. But Germany's invasion of neutral Belgium and the sinking of the *Lusitania*, among other reasons, hardened the hearts and minds of Americans against the German Empire.

Once the United States declared war on Germany, Americans had to make many sacrifices. To further that end, the federal government used an amazing array of propaganda posters to keep people supporting the war. The Library of Congress has digitized many of those posters. Here are links to some of the most interesting:

- "While Germany dreams of dominating the world by force there can be no peace."
- "Food is ammunition. Don't waste it."
- "If you want to fight join the Marines." (A 1915 poster depicts a young woman in uniform.)
- "Gee!! I wish I were a man. I'd join the Navy. Be a man and do it."
- "An heroic sacrifice" - children give up ice cream, candy and cookies.
- "You are lucky. The 'war' bread that you get would seem like cake to the children of Europe."

- "Defeat the Kaiser and his U-Boats. Victory depends on which fails first, food or frightfulness. Eat less wheat."

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-WAR-EFFORT-Lusitania-Sinking>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-WAR-EFFORT-Lusitania-Sinking>

Questions 2 Ponder

Do People with Hardened Hearts Make Good Decisions?

At the beginning of WWI, neutral Americans sent food supplies to feed European troops and people. Then Germany invaded Belgium and sank the *Lusitania*, hardening the hearts of Americans against Germany.

Do you think people with hardened hearts make good decisions? Explain your answer.

Do political leaders, who are emotionally invested in an issue, make good decisions? Explain your answer.

Can you think of political leaders, in the 21st-century, who were emotionally invested in an issue which then led to adverse consequences? Explain your answer.

By the end of WWI, about 65 million men had been mobilized, counting all warring nations. More than 8 million of those men died during the long conflict. Had national leaders for the warring countries known how deadly the fighting would be, do you think they would have tried harder to avoid war? Explain your answer.

Media Stream



War Poster: There Can Be No Peace

Image online, courtesy the United States National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-There-Can-Be-No-Peace>



War Poster: Food is Ammunition

Image online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-Food-is-Ammunition>



War Poster: Join the Marines

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

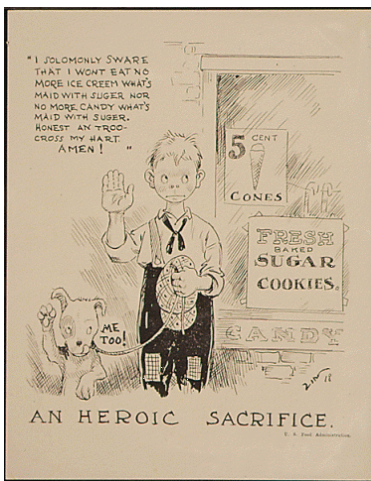
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-Join-the-Marines>



War Poster: Join the Navy

Image online, courtesy the amazon.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-Join-the-Navy>



War Poster: Heroic Sacrifice

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

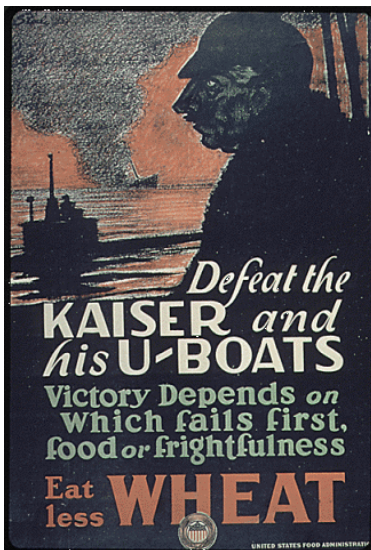
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-Heroic-Sacrifice>



War Poster: You Are Lucky

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-You-Are-Lucky>



War Poster: Defeat the Kaiser and his U-Boats

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Poster-Defeat-the-Kaiser-and-his-U-Boats>



THE WAR EFFORT

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