He Kept Us Out of War

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CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

Transcript
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Dr. ALBERT R. HIBBS, narrator: When the First World War started, America was determined to stay neutral. Not because we were small and weak but simply because of our traditional policy that we should stay out of European affairs. As for our power it had been growing steadily. But we, and our idealistic president Woodrow Wilson, were determined to keep America out of the war. This was difficult; in May of 1915 a German submarine sank the mighty steamship Lusitania. 1,200 hundred people were killed and 128 of them had been American citizens. There was a great outcry over this, but Wilson realized the country was still not clamoring to get into the war, in spite of the fact that there was a great deal of shock and anger over this German action. He spoke to a group in Philadelphia, three days after the Lusitania sinking and made a statement that was to echo around the world. He said, “There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight. There is such a thing a nation being so right it does not need to convince others by force that it is right.” The phrase “too proud to fight” was quoted by a number of newspaper writers, and was used against Wilson over and over again by those who wanted America to go into the war. But Wilson judged the mood of the country properly and he was reelected in 1916 on the slogan, “He kept us out of war.”