

## American Minute with Bill Federer World War I: Middle East Oil, Lusitania, Spanish Flu, & the Courageous Story of Sergeant York

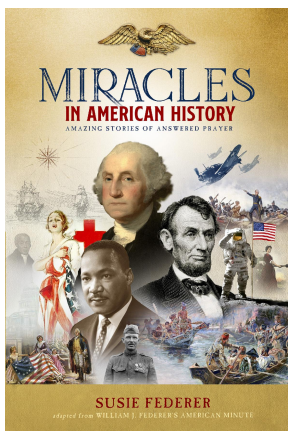
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"The Great War" began in 1914 between **Germany** and its allies, against **England** and **France** and their allies.



Battles were fought in **Europe**, **Africa**, the **Pacific Islands**, **China**, off the coasts of **South and North America**, and in the **Middle East ...**  
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One of the reasons for **World War I** was access to **Middle East oil**.

**Winston Churchill** transitioned the **British Navy** from using **coal** to **oil**, but there was **only one oil well in England**, in the Sherwood Forest.

As oil was recently discovered in Persia, in 1908 was formed the **Anglo-Iranian Oil Company**, which later changed its name to **British Petroleum (BP)**.

In the article "**Falling Empires and their Currencies**" (Centre for Research on Globalization, Global Research, January 15, 2007), Rolf Nef wrote of circumstances leading up to the war:

**"France** after **Waterloo** (1815) had been militarily beaten ... The 19th century was the time when the **British** upper class had the time to spend ... plunder from its colonies ...

... When (**German Chancellor**) **Bismarck** started war against **France** in 1871, **London** found it ... to her advantage to have a weakened **France**.

But the defeat of **France** gave birth not only to a new united **Germany** under **Bismark** and **Prussia**, but also to a new economic powerhouse, **Germany** ..."

Rolf Nef continued:

**"Britain**, where the first **Kondratieff cycle** (50 years of economic growth followed by depression) started with the steam engine, fell into a heavy depression by 1873.

... But **Germany** started the new **Kondratieff cycle** with diesel, gasoline and electric engines (founders were all **German: Messers. Diesel, Otto, and Siemens**).

Soon **Germany** was producing more steel than **England**.

The new source of energy - oil, made the **German** war ships faster than the **English** one, something of great concern to **London**.

... **Deutsche Bank** and **Georg von Siemens** initiated the **Baghdad railway**, which went from **Berlin** through the **Austrian Empire**, **Serbia** and into the **Ottoman Empire**

to the oil fields in **Kirkuk**, north of **Baghdad** (oil was at that time only known in **Baku, Russia, Kirkuk and Pennsylvania**) ...

... The new **German** rail link with **Baghdad** was out of range of British sea power and their controlled waterways.

The alarm bells went on in **Whitehall** (London's government district) ..."

Rolf Nef continued:

"When a young new **German** ... **Wilhelm II**, became **Kaiser** in 1888, he began to assert his own role in foreign policy in direct challenge to the system of the Iron **Chancellor, Bismark**, who had carefully forged a system of alliances around **Germany** to ensure her peace and economic freedom.

... In 1890, **Bismarck** got sacked by **Kaiser Willhelm**, because **Wilhelm** wanted colonies and Empire like his relatives who were monarchs in **England, France and Spain**.

With **Bismark** gone, the **British** decided for a war, one in which the **Continental** powers would crucify each other.

... Britain calculated she could easily break up the tottering **Ottoman Empire** in order to get **Mesopotamia** with **Kirkuk** and its oil under control, to pull the plug on the emerging **German oil line to Baghdad**

and to take **Mesopotamia** and the **oil-rich Middle East including Persia itself**.

The plan is what became known in history as **World War I** ..."

Rolf Nef continued:

"It didn't quite turn out as hoped by **London**.

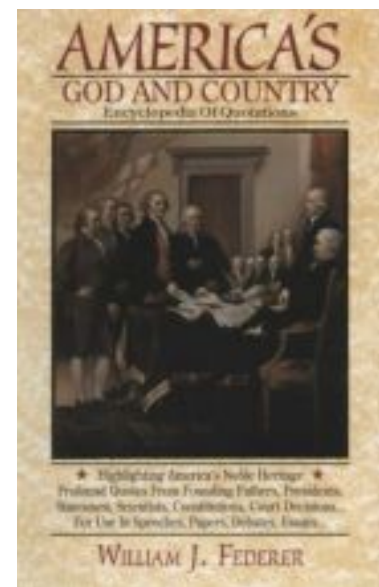
Instead of being a war lasting a few weeks as had been expected, the undertaking was huge and costly, lasted **over four years, cost millions of lives** and was fought on a global theater ...

... End June (1914) the **Prince of Austria, Francis Ferdinand**, heir to the **Austro-Hungarian Empire**, got **shot** in Sarajewo.

That event started the war with the declaration of **Austria** against **Serbia**, which in turn drove **Russia** against **Austria** and kick-started all the tangled **web of mutual defense treaties across Europe**.

By August 1914, **Russia, Austria, Germany, France and UK** were all at war."

[America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations](#)



With the world preoccupied with war, **Ottoman Turks** took the opportunity to exterminate millions of non-Muslims in the **Greek Genocide, Assyrian Genocide** and **Armenian Genocide**.

The strain of over 3 million **Russians** killed in **World War I** led to the assassination of **Russia's Tsar Nicholas II**, followed by the **Bolshevik Revolution**.

As the war progressed, longer than anyone had anticipated, the **British** grew desperately short of ammunition.

**Jewish biochemist Chaim Weizmann** developed a **bacterial fermentation process of ethanol-butanol-acetone** which greatly helped **Britain** in **manufacturing explosives**.

**Chaim Weizmann** had helped organize the **Palestine Land Development Company** so **Jews** could resettle their ancient homeland.

Though **President Woodrow Wilson's** re-election slogan was "**He Kept Us Out of War,**" the United States was covertly supplying **ammunition to the British**.

The ship ***Lusitania*** had been the largest and most sumptuous passenger ship in the world for a time.

Intelligence sources leaked that the ***Lusitania***, in addition to passengers, was used to transport **ammunition to the British**.

The **Imperial German Embassy** published advertisements in 50 American newspapers warning passengers not to board the ***Lusitania***.

"NOTICE! Travellers intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists ... Vessels flying the flag of Great Britain ... are liable to destruction .... **-Imperial German Embassy** ... April 22, 1915."

On May 1, 1915, the ***Lusitania*** departed from New York to Liverpool, England, sailing south of Ireland in an area **Kaiser Wilhelm's Imperial forces** had declared a "war zone."

On May 15, a **German U-boat** fired a torpedo which struck the ***Lusitania***, and it sank in 18 minutes, killing



1,198.

The crisis caused an immediate change in public opinion and the United States entered **World War I** on APRIL 6, 1917.

The sinking of the ***Lusitania*** is surrounded by unanswered questions, leading many to consider if it was somehow allowed to happen to provide an incident which could **sway public opinion to support direct U.S. military intervention.**

Another incident affecting public opinion was the **Zimmermann Telegraph**, intercepted by **British** intelligence in January of 1917, which purported a **Germany-Mexican alliance against the U.S.**

Throughout history, pivotal incidents have been debated to determine if they were legitimate, or conspiratorial false-flags intended to create a **pretense for war.**

The term "false-flag" is traced back to pirates who would fly a flag of surrender or truce, or the flag of a different country, as a disguise in attacking unsuspecting ships.

It has since become a term for **creating** or **capitalizing on incidents**, which could be **blamed on others, to justify a military response.**

- In 332 BC, when the **city of Tyre** refused to let **Alexander the Great** offer a sacrifice to Heracles, he blamed them for the insult, and used it as a pretense to begin an enormous campaign to destroy the city;
- c.66 A.D., **Nero** set Rome on fire, **blamed it on Christians**, and proceeded the first major persecution;
- In 1652, a **Dutch fleet failed to dip their flag** in salute, the British considered it an insult, and used it

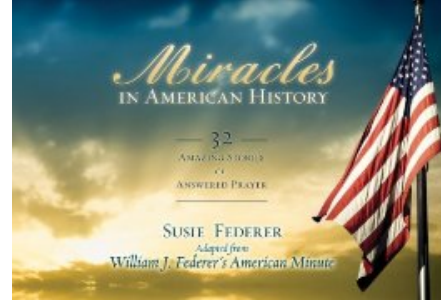
as an excuse to begin a Anglo-Dutch War;

- In 1788, **Swedish soldiers dressed in Russian uniforms** attacked a Swedish outpost to provide a pretense for King Gustav III to begin the Russo-Swedish War;
- In 1898, the **USS Maine** suspiciously blew up Havana's Harbor, igniting the Spanish-American War;
- In 1931, a **railroad explosion** in **China** near **Liutiaohu or Mukden** provided the pretense for Japan to invade China and kill thousands in Nanking;
- In 1933, Germany's capital **Reichstag** building **suspiciously caught fire** allowing Hitler in the panic to round up and execute his political opponents, allowing him to seize absolute control;
- In 1934, **Stalin** had a rival, the Party boss of Leningrad, **assassinated**, and blamed it on **anti-Stalinists**, providing an excuse to kill over a million;
- In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, **Franco** allowed Nazi planes to **bomb rebellious Spanish towns**, so he could seized power as a dictator";
- In 1939, Operation Himmler's Gleiwitz incident had **Nazi soldiers dressed as Polish soldiers attack a German town**, providing an excuse for Nazis to invade Poland;
- In 1939, Soviet Russian army **shelled a Russian village** near the Finnish border and had the government controlled media blame Finland, providing an excuse for Soviets to invade in the Winter War;

- In 1941, **Pearl Harbor attack** resulted in U.S. entering WWII;
- In 1953, Iran's Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh sided with U.S.S.R. He nationalized oil industry, seizing assets of Britain's Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (BP). Britain appealed to U.S.. but Truman refused help. Then Eisenhower approved the CIA's first operation to overthrow a government **Project TP-Ajax**. Orchestrated by Kermit Roosevelt Jr., imams were recruited, press was bribed, and feared mobsters in Tehran were hired to organize agitators, stage riots, attack mosques, and destabilized the country. Media was co-opted to blame Mossadegh for all the problems. When public opinion turned against him, he was put under house arrest and replaced with the pro-West Shah Resa Pahlavi;
- Soviet KGB **victim-oppressor tactics** destabilized many countries, bringing them behind "Iron Curtain";
- In 1955, false reports that **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's home was bombed** turning Turkish public opinion to commit Istanbul's pogrom of Greeks;
- In 1964, the **Gulf of Tonkin** incident resulted in LBJ escalating the Vietnam War;
- In 2013, **gas attacks on Syrian citizens** by Saudi-supplied rebels was intended as a pretense to get the U.S. to help overthrow Syria's government, which, according to some, would have allowed a pipeline from Qatar and Arabia to cross Syria into Turkey, undercutting Russia's oil exports to Europe.

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After the sinking of the *Lusitania* on May 1, 1915, the United States' public opinion moved in the direction of supporting intervention in Europe.

In 1917, **American troops** began arriving in Europe at the rate of **10,000 a day to fight "the Hun."**

Some of the American soldiers were infected with the Spanish Flu.

In January 1918, American soldiers at Fort Riley, Kansas, were reportedly **inoculated** with an **experimental bacterial meningitis vaccine** before being sent to Europe, where they were in close quarters and unsanitary conditions.

The website [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) published (May 19, 2017) "Scientists learn history of **Spanish Flu** at Fort Riley":

"With the assistance of ... director of military affairs at Kansas State University ... scientists received the history of the H1N1 Influenza, or **Spanish Flu**, that struck **Fort Riley** and **spread across the world** in 1918.

**Fort Riley** is believed to be the **origin** of the **world-wide epidemic** that **killed millions**, said Robert Smith, director of the museum division at Fort Riley. 'It was probably the **greatest pandemic** the world has ever seen,' he said. 'They (researchers) think **it killed between 2 and 4 percent of the world's population**. It was **even greater** than the **bubonic plague** back in the **14th century**.'"

The United States enlisted **4 million soldiers** and spent 35 billion dollars.

World-wide, over **70 million military personnel** were mobilized.

One of them was Orval W. Epperson, the grandfather of this author, who served in the 338th Machine Gun Battalion, 88th Division in France.

**George M. Cohen** wrote the popular song, "**Over There**," for which he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1936:

"Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word over there  
That the Yanks are coming,  
the Yanks are coming  
The drums rum-tumming everywhere.  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware -  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back till it's over, over there."

On May 30, 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** addressed the Grand Army of the Republic:

"In the providence of **God**, America will once more have an opportunity to show the world that she was born to serve mankind."

On April 16, 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** stated:

"This is the time for America ... I hope that the clergymen will not think the theme of it an unworthy or inappropriate subject of comment and homily **from their pulpits.**"

**Germany's Red Baron** dominated the skies. **Eddie Rickenbaker** joined the **94th Aero Pursuit Squadron** which destroyed 69 enemy aircraft.

A pilot in **Rickenbaker's** squadron was **Theodore**

**Roosevelt's son, Quentin**, who was unfortunately **shot down in a dogfight**, July 14, 1918.

**Pope Benedict XV**, August 1, 1917, offered to mediate peace between European Powers:

"Do not ... turn a deaf ear to our prayer, accept the...invitation which we extend to you in the name of the Divine Redeemer, Prince of Peace.

Bear in mind your very grave responsibility to God and man; on your decision depend ... the lives of thousands of young men."

On September 3, 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** wrote to the National Army:

"My affectionate confidence goes with you in every battle and every test. God keep and guide you!"

On October 19, 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** issued a **Proclamation of a National Day of Supplication and Prayer**:

"Congress, in view of the entrance of our nation into the vast and awful war which now afflicts the greater part of the world,

has requested me to set apart by official proclamation a day upon which our people should be called upon to offer concerted prayer to **Almighty God** for His divine aid in the success of our arms ...

... It behooves ... a nation which has sought from the earliest days of its existence to be obedient to the divine teachings which have inspired it in the exercise of its liberties,

to turn always to the **Supreme Master** and cast themselves in faith at His feet,

praying for His aid and succor in every hour of trial, to the end that the great aims to which our fathers dedicated our power as a people may not perish ...

Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States ... appoint a day ... exhorting all my countrymen...in solemn prayer that **God's blessing** may rest upon the high task which is laid upon us."

On November 7, 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** issued a **Proclamation of a National Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer:**

"Even in the midst of the tragedy of a world shaken by war and immeasurable disaster ... we can see the great blessings **God** has bestowed upon us ...

We have been given the opportunity to serve mankind as we once served ourselves in the great day of our Declaration of Independence, by taking up arms against a tyranny that threatened to master and debase men everywhere ...

Our duty not only to defend our own rights as a nation but to defend also the rights of free men throughout the world."

On December 4, 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** addressed Congress:

"A supreme moment of history has come ... The hand of **God** is laid upon the nations. He will show them favor, I devoutly believe, only if they rise to the clear heights of His own justice and mercy."

In 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson**, former **President Theodore Roosevelt** and **General John J. Pershing** wrote **Prefaces to New Testaments** which were given out by the thousands to **World War I** soldiers.

**President Wilson** gave an Executive Order to the Army and Navy, January 20, 1918:

"The President, commander in chief of the Army and Navy ... enjoins the orderly **observance of the Sabbath** by the officers and men in the military and naval service of the United States.

The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of **Christian soldiers and sailors**, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a **Christian people**, and a due regard for **the Divine Will** demand that **Sunday** labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity."

On May 11, 1918, **President Wilson** proclaimed a **National Day of Fasting**:

"It being the duty peculiarly incumbent in a time of war humbly and devoutly to acknowledge our dependence on **Almighty God** and to implore His aid and protection ...

a **Day of Public Humiliation, Prayer and Fasting** ... be observed by the people of the United States with **religious solemnity**

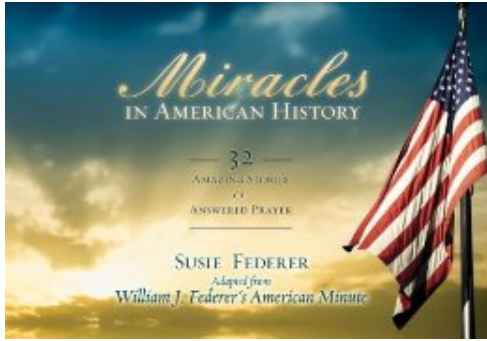
and the offering of fervent supplications to **Almighty God** for the safety and welfare of our cause, His blessings on our arms, and a speedy restoration of an honorable and lasting peace to the nations of the earth ...

Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim ... do exhort my fellow-citizens of all faiths and creeds to assemble on that day in their several places of worship and there, as well as in their homes,

to pray **Almighty God** that He may **forgive our sins** ... and to purpose only those righteous acts and judgments



which are in conformity with His will; beseeching Him that He will give victory to our armies as they fight for freedom."



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Less than a month later, May 28, 1918, four U.S. divisions were deployed with **French** and **British troops**. They won the **Battle of Cantigny**, America's first offensive of the war.

On October 8, 1918, an **American battalion** was pinned down by machine gun fire along the **Decauville rail-line north of Chatel-Chehery, France**.

**Sergeant Alvin. C. York** described:

"The **Germans** got us ... They stopped us dead in our tracks. Their **machine guns** were up there on the heights overlooking us and well hidden, and we couldn't tell for certain where the terrible heavy fire was coming from ...

... Those **machine guns** were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me."

With all but 8 of his platoon killed, **Sergeant York** took charge and proceeded to take out **32 machine guns**, kill **28 of the enemy** and take **132 captive**.

**Sergeant Alvin. C. York** received the **Medal of Honor**. His story, edited by Tom Skeyhill, was printed in *The Washington Post*, March 17, 1929:

"Some of them officers have been saying that I being a

mountain boy and accustomed to the woods ... done all these things the right way jes by instinct ...

... I hadn't never got much larnin' from books, except the **Bible**.

Maybe my instincts are more natural ... but that ain't enough to account for the way I come out alive, with all those German soldiers raining death on me ...

**I'm a-telling you the hand of God must have been in that fight ...**

... Jes think of them **30 machine guns** raining fire on me point-blank from a range of only 25 yards and all them-there **rifles** and **pistols** besides, those **bombs**,

and then those men **charged** with **fixed bayonets**, and I never receiving a scratch, and bringing **132 prisoners**.

I have got only one explanation ... that **God must have heard my prayers.**"

He said:

"When you have God behind you, you can come out on top every time";

and

"The fear of God makes a hero; the fear of man makes a coward."

**Sergeant York's** story was turned into the movie '**Sergeant York**' starring Gary Cooper.

The highest grossing movie of 1941, **York** donated his proceeds to fund a Bible college, **The York Bible Institute**.

On November 11, 1918, the war ended with the signing of the **Armistice**.

**World War I** left combined casualties of nearly **18 million killed or missing and 20 million wounded**.

Five days after the signing of the **Armistice**, **President Wilson** proclaimed a **National Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer**:

"Complete victory has brought us, not peace alone, but the confident promise of a new day ... **God** has indeed been gracious ...

While we render thanks for these things, let us not forget to seek the **Divine guidance** in the performance of those duties, and divine mercy and forgiveness for all errors of act or purpose ...

... Wherefore, I, **Woodrow Wilson**, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate ... a day of thanksgiving and prayer,

and invite the people throughout the land to cease upon that day from their ordinary occupations and in their several homes and places of worship to render thanks to **God, the Ruler of Nations.**"

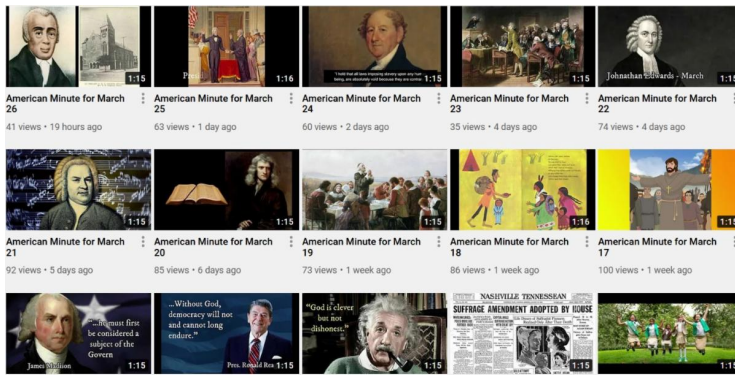
**President Wilson** said in his 6th Annual Address, December 2, 1918:

"What we all thank **God** for with deepest gratitude is that our men went in force into the line of battle just at the critical moment when the whole fate of the world seemed to hang in the balance."

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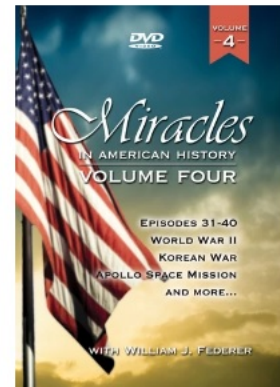
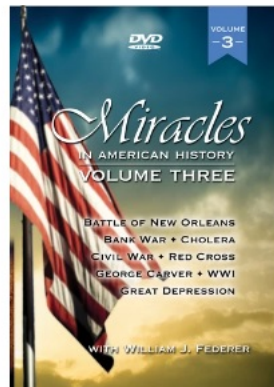
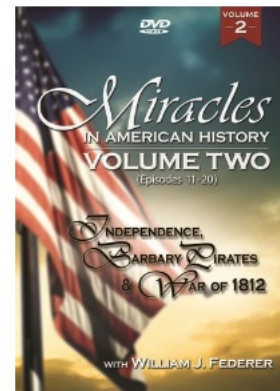
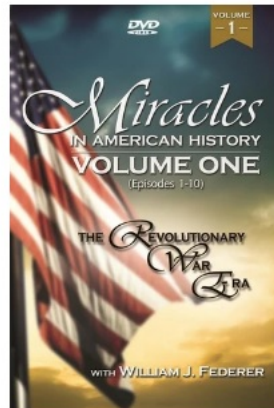
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