

from

Was Grandpa Really a Moron?
Critical Inquiries for a New American Century

by

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If The State's Lips Are Moving, It's Lying



"Of course the people don't want war. But after all, it's the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism, and exposing the country to greater danger."

-- Herman Goering at the Nuremberg trials

The April 25th/May 2nd, 2008 edition of the Lost Horizons newsletter had occasion to note the anniversary of the May 7, 1915 sinking of the British ship Lusitania with the loss of 128 American lives, and the use of this tragedy as a propaganda tool in overcoming American resistance to participation in the then-ongoing World War I. By coincidence, that same edition covered this anniversary, as well:

"April 25, 1898- The United States declares war on Spain, using the pretext of the mysterious sinking of the USS Maine in a Cuban harbor. The war resulted in U.S. claims of ownership of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico, and a more limited sovereignty over Cuba."

In fact, over the course of 2008 we have had occasion to note the "Gulf of Tonkin Incident", the contrivance used to justify the Mexican-American war, the Nazi regime's attack on Germany's Gliewitz Radio Station staged in order to serve as the pretext for its invasion of Poland, and several other famous "false-flag" operations as well, the most significant of which (in terms of immediacy, anyway) is that of "9/11", of course.

All of these scams share common characteristics. Among these are that each was deployed in order to engineer the consent (or passive acceptance) of the citizenry to some ambition of the state which was inherently adverse to the citizens' interests; and each was effectuated and sustained by a massive, systematic cacophony of disinformation from all government organs, and all others who perceived their interests as aligned with, or dependent upon, the government. That is, each of these scams, by which a state ambition adverse to the people was accomplished, relied upon a relentless drumbeat of lies by agents of the state and their fellow travelers.

The lying about each subterfuge committed by the state against the people is typically perpetual, of course. Those directly responsible for any one of these crimes hardly want their culpability revealed during their own lifetimes-- crimes of the sort involved here typically result in the needless deaths of thousands, if not millions. Furthermore, even when those responsible for any given offense hand over the reins of the state to their successors and pass from the scene, the inheritors of the state apparatus have an abiding interest in sustaining the lies, so as to allow them to successfully pull off the same sort of scam, at the expense of an unschooled, and thus unsuspecting citizenry, whenever it might suit their own ambitions.

Usually this program works like a charm: A loud, relentless drumbeat of lies surrounding the immediate "incident", all off the same "sound bite" memo; the mobilization of resources and commitment of policy on a rush basis, before any sober and independent evaluation or investigation of the

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pretext can be conducted; the maintenance of the campaign of lies and denigration of dissenting or suspicious voices long enough for the purpose of the subterfuge to become a fait accompli, and the public to be distracted by ongoing, new issues and concerns; and then a more desultory (but still careful and deliberate) incorporation of the lie-- often customized at this point to account for the more egregious and inescapable evidence to the contrary unearthed by voices of opposition over the intervening years-- into the official historical record and government school curricula.

In most cases, the nature of the original subterfuge and its effects are such that the passage of time serves the purposes of this program, making the truth more obscure, or at least, harder to prove and less likely to excite interest. Witnesses passing on; physical evidence being destroyed or scattered; dialogue on the matter coming to be increasingly cluttered with speculations and disinformation; and the state's endless, ubiquitous and generic "I-am-the-people's-friendly-servant" propaganda campaign, along with reluctance of second-stage victims (those of the mobilization in "response" to the false-flag "incident") to face the fact that their personal tragedies were due to their own unquestioning embrace of a lie and the contrary interests of those invested in, or benefiting from, the new status quo all conspire to bury the truth beyond conclusive disinterment.

Sometimes, however, we are blessed with a glitch in the program...

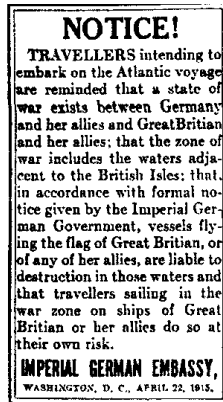
Over the holiday season just past, such a glitch manifested, concerning the Lusitania affair with which this discussion began. To round out the story of that ill-fated ship and its use by the Wilson administration to drag a previously opposed America into war in Europe, let me explain that German intelligence had determined that the Lusitania would be

carrying munitions from America to Great Britain-- one of the belligerents that had declared war on Germany in the then-ongoing World War I. As EyewitnessToHistory.com recounts:

"The British Admiralty had secretly subsidized her construction and she was built to Admiralty specifications with the understanding that at the outbreak of war the ship would be consigned to government service. As war clouds gathered in 1913, the Lusitania quietly entered dry dock in Liverpool and was fitted for war service. This included the installation of ammunition magazines and gun mounts on her decks. The mounts, concealed under the teak deck, were ready for the addition of the guns when needed.

"On May 1, 1915, the ship departed New York City bound for Liverpool. Unknown to her passengers but probably no secret to the Germans, almost all her hidden cargo consisted of munitions and contraband destined for the British war effort."

It was for this reason that Germany considered the ship a legitimate target of attack (as was an accepted principle under the rules of war), and had taken pains to warn Americans to stay off the ship:



This notice was placed in newspapers prior to the May 1, 1915 sailing of the Lusitania, in some cases appearing alongside ads for that very voyage. The British and the Wilson

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administration, however, publicly discounted the warnings as merely intended to discourage peaceful trade, withheld from public knowledge the fact that the Lusitania was, in fact carrying munitions bound for the British military, and thus acted to ensure that Americans WOULD be on the ship when it set sail.

After the sinking of the ship on May 7, both the Wilson administration and the British government denied that the Lusitania had been outfitted as a British naval auxiliary and was carrying munitions (the admission of which would have undermined the affair's utility as a tool in fomenting enthusiasm for American entry into the war in Europe). Wilson actually wrote a note of protest to Germany following the sinking, expressing these denials (and prompting his own Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryant, to resign in protest):

"Your Excellency's note, in discussing the loss of American lives resulting from the sinking of the steamship Lusitania, adverts at some length to certain information which the Imperial German Government has received with regard to the character and outfit of that vessel, and your Excellency expresses the fear that this information may not have been brought to the attention of the Government of the United States.

It is stated in the note that the Lusitania was undoubtedly equipped with masked guns, supplied with trained gunners and special ammunition, transporting troops from Canada, carrying a cargo not permitted under the laws of the United States to a vessel also carrying passengers, and serving, in virtual effect, as an auxiliary to the naval forces of Great Britain.

Fortunately these are matters concerning which the Government of the United States is in a position to give the Imperial German Government official information. Of the facts alleged in your Excellency's note, if true, the Government of the United States would have been bound to take official cognizance in performing its recognized duty as a neutral power and in enforcing its national laws.

It was its duty to see to it that the Lusitania was not armed for offensive action, that she was not

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...serving as a transport, that she did not carry a cargo prohibited by the statutes of the United States, and that, if in fact she was a naval vessel of Great Britain, she should not receive clearance as a merchantman; and it performed that duty and enforced its statutes with scrupulous vigilance through its regularly constituted officials.

It is able, therefore, to assure the Imperial German Government that it has been misinformed. If the Imperial German Government should deem itself to be in possession of convincing evidence that the officials of the Government of the United States did not perform these duties with thoroughness, the Government of the United States sincerely hopes that it will submit that evidence for consideration."

In concert with official denials of this sort, the sinking of the Lusitania and related loss of American lives was subsequently treated as an illegitimate provocation by the Wilson administration in order to sway American public opinion toward entry into the war against Germany.



These efforts DID ultimately help persuade Congress to declare war on Germany-- resulting in direct American casualties totaling more than 320,000, and many other adverse

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consequences that reverberated throughout the rest of the twentieth century and into the present.

This is all old news, of course-- long out of the American consciousness. What controversy did exist over the Lusitania and its cargo, and the exploitation (if not connivance, or contrivance) of the tragedy for use as a propaganda tool to further the ambitions of a nearly hundred-year-past political faction has been supplanted by all the ploys of the same sort that have followed. But in 2008 this hoary and mostly-forgotten object lesson in the systemic mendacity of the state re-surfaced, when a salvage team began bringing up from the wreck of the Lusitania the first batch of munitions located in the sunken ship's cargo holds: more than 4,000,000 rounds of British military ammunition.

Take this serendipitous reminder, and the lesson it teaches, to heart: When the federal state ventures beyond guarding the borders against invasion and seeing that you have judicial remedy for physical aggressions against your person or property, it is no longer your servant or your friend. On the contrary, at that point, the state is your competitor and your enemy. At that point its words, and those of its sycophants, agents and beneficiaries, should be taken as a matter of course to be lies, as any fair reading of the historical record proves them always to have been.

"There is no safety for honest men but by believing all possible evil of evil men."

– Edmund Burke