• by war’s end more than 60,000 Canadians had been killed in action
  o 7000 more soldiers than were lost by the U.S

America’s Response: Attempted Neutrality

• with outbreak of war in 1914, Americans remained detached from events in Europe
  o showed little or no inclination to become involved
• Woodrow Wilson called up Americans to stay "neutral"
  o He soon discovered that long-established rules of neutrality could not be easily applied to a "total war"
• Britain and Germany conspired to compel U.S to adopt a policy of neutrality that was beneficial to their own national interests
• Britain imposed a naval blockade around Germany; actively sought to restrict the trade of the U.S and other neutrals with the Central Powers
  o Germany sought to counter British blockade through a blockade around the British isles
• Wilson abandoned his formal position of neutrality after Germany waged unrestricted submarine warfare on belligerent and neutral shipping (late 1916)
  o Following the sinking of four American merchant vessels in March 1917, U.S president asked Congress for a declaration of war
    ▪ April 7, 1917 U.S officially joins war

Opposition to Conscription

• as fighting dragged on, Canadian enthusiasm and involvement waned
• voluntary enlistments dropped
  o sense of crisis arose 1916
• Borden moved reluctantly toward conscription
  o received bitter opposition from French-Canadians + farmers and workers in Ontario and the prairie West
• May 1917 Military Service act created
  o divided Canadian
  o Laurier led opposition to compulsory military service measure
• Another irritant was Manitoba’s decision to eliminate bilingual schools entirely in the province (1916)

Mobilization for War

• During struggle to carry Military Service Act in Parliament, 20 liberals deserted to support conscription, and a unionist coalition was formed
• In U.S resistance to wartime mobilization was different
  o Under Selective Service Act (1917), all able-bodied men had to register with local draft boards
  o 24 million+ Americans enrolled; 3 million trained for armed forces