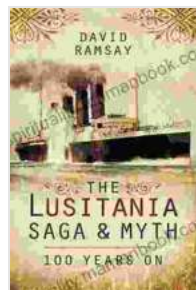


# The Lusitania Saga Myth 100 Years On



## The Lusitania Saga & Myth: 100 Years On by David Ramsay

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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## A Historical Perspective on the Sinking of the Cunard Liner

The sinking of the RMS Lusitania, a British passenger liner, on May 7, 1915, by a German U-boat remains a controversial and emotionally charged event. The loss of over 1,100 lives, including over 100 American citizens, has been the subject of intense speculation and conspiracy theories over the years.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the Lusitania Saga, debunking common myths and shedding light on the historical realities that shaped this tragic event.

## The Lusitania: A Floating Palace

The Lusitania was one of two Cunard Line superliners, along with its sister ship, the RMS Mauretania. These ships were the largest and fastest

passenger liners of their time, and they were designed to be the epitome of luxury and speed.

The Lusitania was launched in 1906 and entered service in 1907. It was over 780 feet long and could carry over 2,000 passengers and crew. The ship was equipped with the latest safety features, including watertight compartments and lifeboats for every passenger.

## **Outbreak of World War I**

When World War I broke out in August 1914, the Lusitania was immediately requisitioned by the British Admiralty as an auxiliary cruiser. However, the ship was not armed and was never used in a combat role.

In February 1915, Germany declared a submarine warfare zone around the British Isles. This meant that any ship found in these waters was liable to be attacked by German U-boats.

## **The Lusitania's Last Voyage**

On May 1, 1915, the Lusitania set sail from New York on its last voyage. The ship was carrying over 1,900 passengers and crew, including over 100 Americans. The ship's captain, William Turner, was aware of the danger posed by German U-boats, but he believed that the Lusitania was too fast and maneuverable to be sunk.

On May 7, 1915, the Lusitania was torpedoed by the German U-boat U-20 off the coast of Ireland. The ship sank in just 18 minutes, with the loss of over 1,100 lives.

## **Myths and Realities**

The sinking of the Lusitania has been the subject of much speculation and conspiracy theories over the years. Some of the most common myths surrounding the event include:

- **Myth:** The Lusitania was carrying munitions to Britain. **Reality:** While the Lusitania was carrying some war supplies, these were not munitions. The ship was primarily carrying food, cotton, and other civilian goods.
- **Myth:** The British government deliberately put American passengers on the Lusitania to provoke the United States into war with Germany. **Reality:** There is no evidence to support this claim. The British government did not want to provoke the United States into war, and in fact, they warned American citizens not to travel on the Lusitania.
- **Myth:** The Germans deliberately targeted the Lusitania to kill American citizens and bring the United States into the war. **Reality:** The Germans did not deliberately target the Lusitania. The ship was torpedoed in accordance with the German submarine warfare policy, which stated that any ship found in the British war zone was liable to be attacked.

## **Historical Realities**

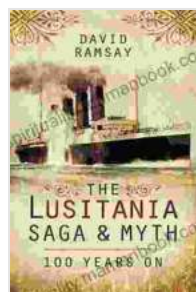
The sinking of the Lusitania was a tragedy that had a profound impact on the course of World War I. The loss of so many American lives helped to turn public opinion in the United States against Germany and eventually led to the United States' entry into the war in 1917.

The Lusitania Saga is a reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of truth and reconciliation. It is a story that continues to resonate today, 100

years after the tragedy.

## Sidebar: Related Resources

- Lusitania Disaster (Encyclopedia Britannica)
- The Lusitania (History.com)
- Titanic's Sister Ship Lost: The Lusitania (PBS)
- The Lusitania Disaster: 1



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