



# SPIDER SCHNEIDER Supplemental Guide

## Background Reading

- U.S. consular affairs are a very important part of American diplomacy. Read more about what consular officers do [here](#) and [here](#).
- The bulk of Spider Schneider's story took place at the height of the Red Scare. This [webpage](#) gives background about it.
- Schneider came of age in Imperial Germany. Read more about the Weimar Republic—and its political, social, and economic turmoil [here](#).
- Key to Schneider's story was the closing of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, which you can read more about [here](#).

## Discussion Questions

- “Spider” Schneider lived a very eventful life abroad. What do you think about her story overall? Why was her story unique?
- What was the impact of the Red Scare on American politics and internationally? Can it be compared to any more recent events?
- What do consulates do? Why is it important that U.S. consular offices and passport services are available to Americans abroad?

## Who's Who

Lindsay Henderson is a consular officer in the Foreign Service and is a founding member of the Consular Affairs History Project, which seeks to tell stories like that of Schneider. She was the featured guest on this episode.

This is one of the only available photos of Agnes Schneider herself—and it even happens to be her U.S. passport photo from 1914!



Photos courtesy of Lindsay Henderson

## Diving Deeper

- The episode briefly mentioned the *Kindertransport* program from the early days of World War II. Read more about it [here](#).
- Francis Knight, the director of the U.S. passport office during the early Cold War, has an interesting and [slightly controversial](#) story, similar to Schneider's.
- Read more about *Kent v. Dulles*, the Supreme Court case that prevented U.S. citizens from being denied passports on the basis of First Amendment rights—including political beliefs—[here](#).
- For a comprehensive look at what it takes to be in the Foreign Service today, read [this document](#) from the State Department.

