



The Great War And Its Impact on America

The Great War And Its Impact on America



Eight Themes of Discussion

- I. The long-term developments that led to war
- II. The short-term triggers that sparked the conflict
- III. A new type of war
- IV. The course of the early fighting, 1914-16
- V. The four changes of 1917-18
- VI. World War I on the Homefront
- VII. The end of the fighting
- VIII. The repercussions of the war



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

A. Unification of Central Europe

1. Italy, 1861

2. Germany, 1871



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

Italian Unification

Main Figures

- Camillo Cavour, Premier Piedmont-Sardinia
- Victor Emmanuel II, King Piedmont-Sardinia
- Giuseppe Garibaldi, Kingdom of the Two Sicilies

Unification

- March, 1861: Italian independence
- Italian Parliament elected
- King Victor Emmanuel II became king of Italy



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

German Unification

Main Figures

- Otto von Bismarck
- William I, King of Prussia
- General von Moltke

Steps in unification

- Create Prussian military power
- Eliminate Austrian influence
- Est. North German Confed. (1867)
- Franco-Prussian War (1870-71)
- Establish of German Empire (1871)



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

B. European imperial struggle in Africa and Asia

1. Old Imperialism

Began – Portugal, Spain, 15th century
Soon all of Europe involved
300 years of empire building
1780s-1860s decline in empire
Costs, administration, internal issues

2. New Imperialism

Began in the 1870s
Great Britain, Spain, France, Italy, Germany

3. Motivations

Imperial Prestige, Economics, Social Darwinism,
Religion, Public Opinion, Military/Strategic Advantage



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War



Africa, 1885

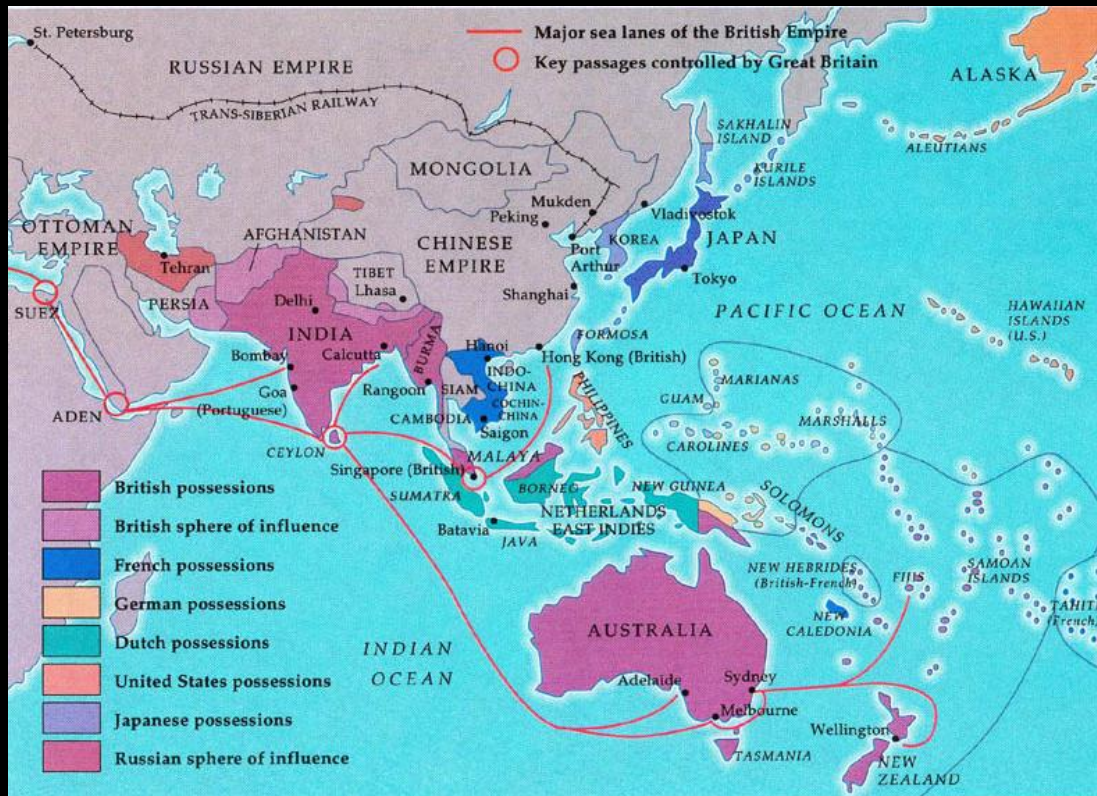


Africa, 1914

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Long-Term Developments that Led to War



Asia, c. 1900

French cartoon (1890s). A pie represents China and is being divided between Queen Victoria of Great Britain, William II of Germany, Nicholas II of Russia, the French Marianne, and the Meiji Emperor of Japan. The Empress Dowager of China is behind them calling for a halt.

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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

C. Formation of the Alliance System

1. Triple Alliance

1882

Germany

Austria-Hungary

Italy

2. Triple Entente

1907

Britain

France

Russia



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

D. Balkan Crisis of 1878-1913

1. Back to Nineteenth Century
2. Ottoman Empire -- “Sick Man of Europe”
3. European areas -- Balkans -- led to WWI
4. Russia & Austria-Hungary: Balkans key
5. Issue of Pan-Slavic State in the Balkans
 - a. Russians = Good
 - b. Austrians = Bad



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

D. Balkan Crisis of 1878-1913

6. Congress of Berlin (1878): Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania independent with Russian aid
7. BUT, Bosnia & Herzegovina under Austrian protection
8. Serbia opposed Austrian control of Bosnia & Herzegovina



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Long-Term Developments that Led to War

D. Balkan Crisis of 1878-1913

9. 1908: Austria annexed Bosnia & Herzegovina
10. Serbia angered by Austria -- but Russia weak
11. First and Second Balkan Wars (1912-13):
Serbia fights to win access to the sea.
12. 1913: After Second Balkan War, Austria
intervened to stop Serbia from gaining "Albania"
13. Stage set for war!



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Short-Term Developments that Led to War

A. State of Europe, 1914

1. Balkan Nationalism sought to destroy crumbling Ottoman Empire
2. Russia committed to Pan-Slavism in the Balkans
3. Austria-Hungary determined to defeat Balkan Nationalism
4. Russia supported by vengeful France and threatened Britain
5. Austria-Hungary backed by an aggressive and arrogant Germany



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Short-Term Developments that Led to War

B. Short-Term Cause

1. Assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand
 - a. Ferdinand and wife visited Sarajevo, Bosnia June, 1914
 - b. Killed by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip (28 June 1914)
2. In response, Austria issued series of demands against Serbians
 - a. 48 hours to fulfill 11 humiliating demands
 - b. Demands were not fulfilled
 - c. Alliance System Comes Into Play



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Short-Term Developments that Led to War

C. Timetable for the Opening of the War

- a. 6 July 1914: Blank Check from Germany to Austria-Hungary
- b. 28 July 1914: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
- c. 30 July 1914: Russian Czar Nicholas II mobilized his armies
- d. 31 July 1914: Germany sent an ultimatum to Russia:
DO NOT MOBILIZE -- German Issue: Schlieffen Plan
- e. 1 August 1914: Germany declares war on Russia
- f. 3 August 1914: Germany declares war on France
- g. 4 August 1914: Britain declares war on Germany:
After German troops invaded neutral Belgium to get to France.



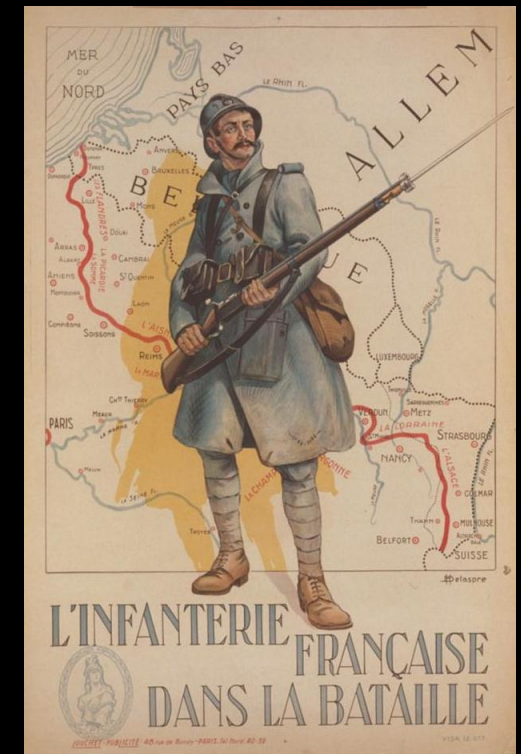
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New Type of War

A. The Use of Massive Armies

Countries in First World War	Standing Armies & Reserves in August 1914	Mobilized Forces in 1914-18
Russia	5,971,000	12,000,000
France	4,017,000	8,410,000
Great Britain	975,000	8,905,000
Italy	1,251,000	5,615,000
United States	200,000	4,355,000
Serbia	200,000	707,000
Germany	4,500,000	11,000,000
Austria-Hungary	3,000,000	7,800,000
Turkey	210,000	2,850,000



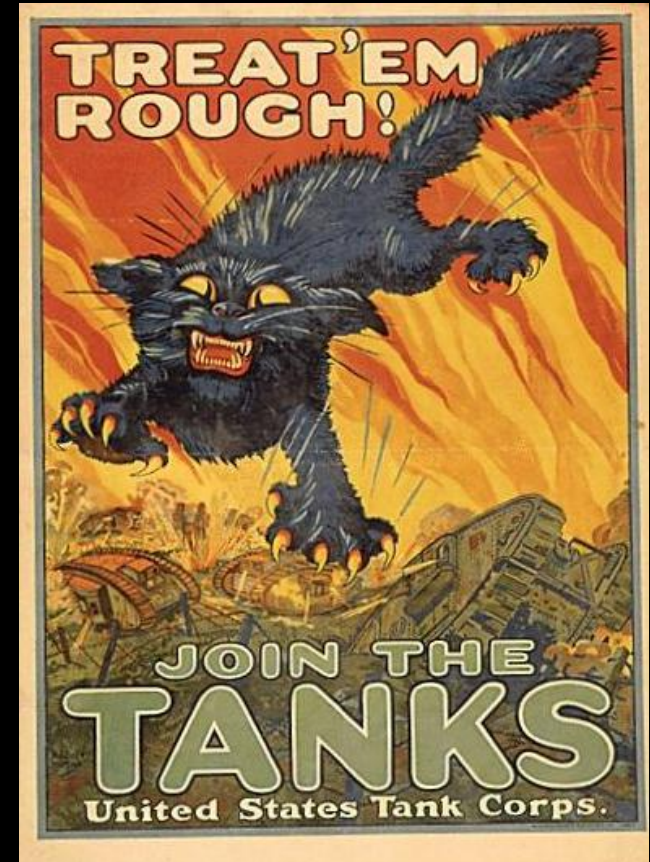
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New Type of War

B. The Use of Total War

1. Requires support of whole nation – conscription
2. Finance
3. Industry
4. Agriculture
5. Clothing
6. Armaments
7. Chemical industry
8. Advertising – Propaganda



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New Type of War

C. The Use of New Military Technology

1. Rapid Fire Machine Gun (infantry magazine)
2. Airplane
3. Barbed Wire
4. Submarine
5. Automobile and Truck
6. Armored Caterpillar – tank
7. Poison Gas
8. Radio
9. Long Range Artillery



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Early Fighting, 1914-1916

A. Initial sides in the War:

1. Central powers:
Austria-Hungary & Germany
2. Allied powers:
France, Russia, & Britain
3. United States neutral
4. Japan > Allies, 1914
Italy > Allies, 1915
5. Ottomans > CPRS, 1914
Bulgaria > CPRS, 1915



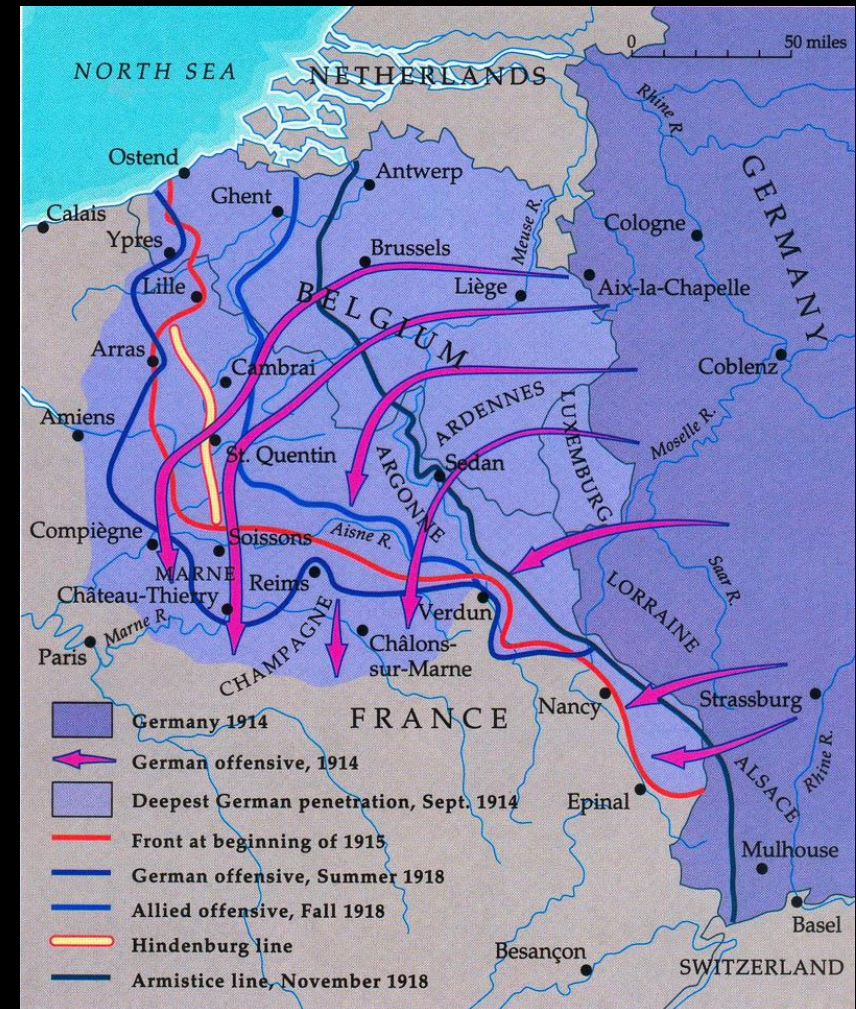
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Early Fighting, 1914-1916

B. Early Western Front: Deadlock after early German gains

1. German Schlieffen Plan
2. First Battle of the Marne (Sept 1914)
3. Trenches established
4. Battle of Verdun (Feb-Dec. 1915)
5. Battle of the Somme (July-Nov. 1916)



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Early Fighting, 1914-1916

C. Early Eastern Front: Germany and Austria-Hungary win

1. Battle of Tannenberg (Aug 1914)
2. Battle of Masurian Lakes (Sept 1914)
3. Galicia (Aug-Sept 1914)
4. Germans aid Austria at Galicia (Nov 1914)
5. Italians join Allies (May 1915)
6. Gallipoli (Feb-Aug 1915)
7. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria eliminate Serbia (Sept 1915)



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Four Changes of 1917-1918

A. February 1917 – First Russian Revolution: Alexander Kerensky - Republican Government

1. Began as a riots protesting food shortages and WWI.
2. Czar Nicholas II ordered the Duma disbanded.
3. The Duma refused to obey the dissolution order.
4. Nicholas called the army to stop the rioters
5. The army mutinied.
6. Nicholas II was forced to abdicate.
7. A provisional “republican” government formed.
8. Government led by Alexander Kerensky.



Alexander Kerensky is speaking at a meeting of the Provisional Government in the Library of Nicholas II

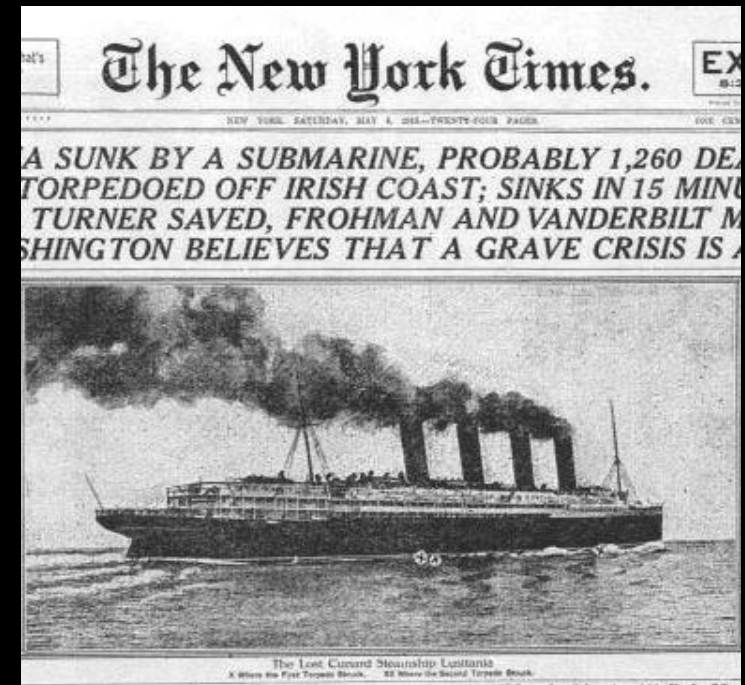
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Four Changes of 1917-1918

B. April 1917 – Americans enter WWI

1. Originally neutral, but drawn into the war.
2. Early Ship Sinkings
 - a. May 7, 1915: German U-boats sink the Lusitania
 - b. March 24, 1916: German U-boats sink the Sussex
3. Nov 1916: Wilson reelected, “He kept us out of war.”
4. After reelection, Wilson began working for peace.
5. Jan 22, 1917: Wilson’s “peace without victory” speech



Lusitania Sinking in New York Times

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Four Changes of 1917-1918

B. April 1917 – Americans enter WWI

6. Jan 31, 1917: Germans announced unlimited submarine warfare in the war zone starting February 1.
7. Feb 1917: Wilson breaks diplomatic ties with Germany
8. March 1917: Zimmerman Note
9. March 1917: Germany sinks 4 U.S. merchant vessels
10. March 1917: February Revolution in Russia
11. April 2, 1917, Wilson asked for dec of war > Germany.
12. April 6, 1917, Declaration of War against Germany.



Woodrow Wilson in Congress, 1917

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Four Changes of 1917-1918

**C. Fall 1917: October Revolution
Bolsheviks take power in Russia**

**D. March 1918: Russians sign
Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany**



Vladimir Lenin

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World War I on the Homefront

A. Wilson's Idealistic Approach to the War

1. Divided country. Issues of:
Race, Class, Ancestry, Gender
2. To get Americans behind the war effort
Wilson needed a strong moral appeal.
3. Wilson declared twin goals, A WAR to
“end all war”
“make the world safe for democracy.”



Woodrow Wilson

[Important link](#)

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World War I on the Homefront

B. Military Conscription (May 1917)

- By May 1917, clear US would need a massive army
- Conscription was only answer to raising army with speed.
- Required registration of males between 18 and 45.
- The military increased from 200,000 to over 4 million.

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Military training as a soldier is not required, and in this branch of the service—Quartermaster Section, Engineer, Reserve Corps—you do not have to drill with rifles, perform guard duty or other purely military duties which fall to the lot of soldiers of the Infantry, Cavalry and other branches of the Army, except in an emergency.

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World War I on the Homefront

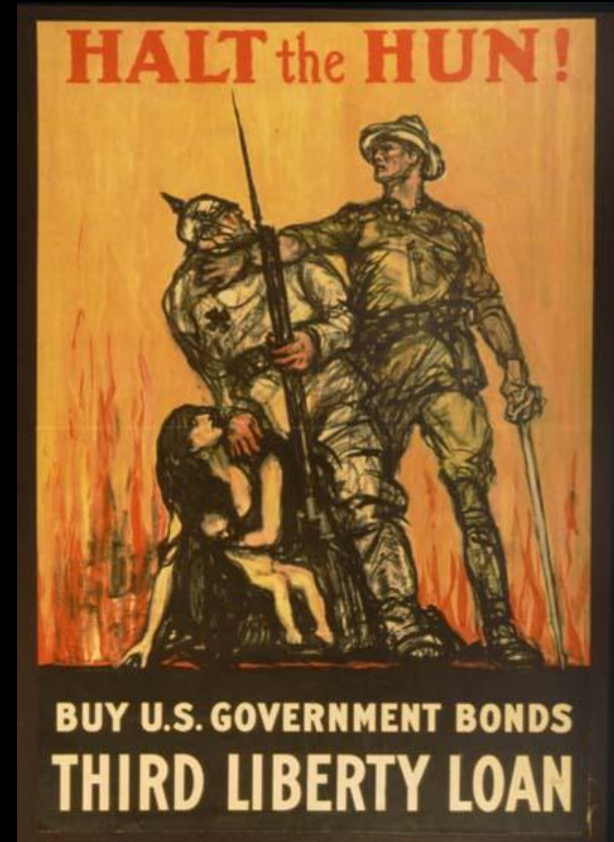
C. Forging an American War Machine

1. Government Propaganda and Administration

- a. Committee on Public Information
- b. War Industries Board
- c. Fuel Administration
- d. Food Administration
- e. Railway Administration
- f. National War Labor Board

2. Government Loyalty Measures

- a. The Espionage Act, 1917
- b. The Sedition Act, 1918



Henry Raleigh | HALT the Hun!
28 3/4 x 19 3/4
Chicago: Edwards & Deutsch [1918]

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World War I on the Homefront

C. Forging an American War Machine

1a. Committee on Public Information

- a. created by Executive Order in April 1917
- b. led by George Creel; known as “Creel Committee”
- c. employed 150,000 workers
- d. keep the American public *informed* about the war
- e. promoted patriotism for the war effort through propaganda, posters, leaflets, movies
- f. glorified American troops
- g. promoted the sale of Liberty Bonds



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World War I on the Homefront

C. Forging an American War Machine

1b. War Industries Board

- a. created by Executive Order in July 1917
- b. imposed order war economic – standardized production
- c. March 1918, Bernard Baruch appointed
- d. set prices, allowed business to profit
- e. approved American/Allied purchases from US business
- f. allocated raw materials to American businesses
- g. directed production decisions
- h. yearly rate of steel production doubled during the war
- i. wages went up
- j. middle class grew
- k. supervised labor relations until April 1918



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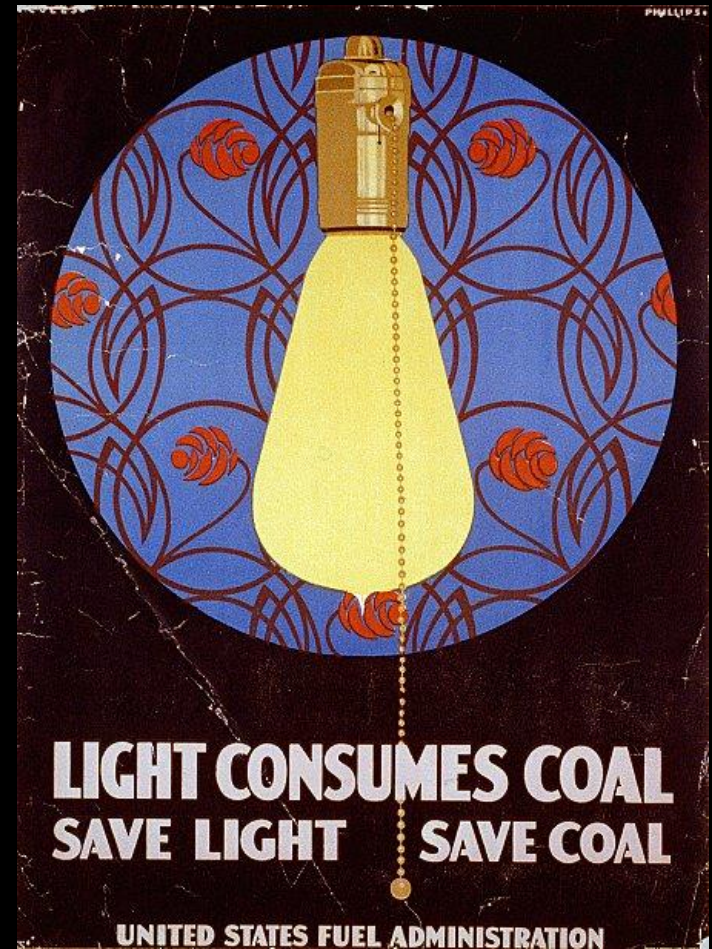


World War I on the Homefront

C. Forging an American War Machine

1c. Fuel Administration

- a. created by an act of Congress (Lever Act, August 1917)
- b. authorized to fix the price of coal
- c. authorized to make allocation decisions



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World War I on the Homefront

C. Forging an American War Machine

1d. Food Administration

- a. created by act of Congress (Lever Act, August 1917)
- b. Herbert Hoover headed the organization
- c. controlled prices farmers received for wheat, pork, etc.
- d. managed the distribution/conservation of food
- e. voluntary compliance rather than ration cards
- f. required propaganda campaign
- g. TO SAVE FOOD FOR EXPORT.
- h. Congress restricted use of food for producing alcohol.
- i. 1919 Eighteenth Amendment--prohibition.
- j. Farm production increased by 1/4
- k. Food exports to the allies tripled in volume.



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World War I on the Homefront

C. Forging an American War Machine

1e. Railway Administration

- a. created by Executive Order in December 1917
- b. operated all railroads for the duration of the war
- c. forced improvements and standardization of equipment
- d. built, maintained, and improved track\terminal facilities
- e. bargained collectively with railway worker unions



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World War I on the Homefront

C. Forging an American War Machine

1f. National War Labor Board

- a. created by Executive Order in April 1918
- b. Former President Taft Co-chairman of NWLB
- c. labor shortage in war = business/government accept unions
 - c1. 6,000 strikes during the war
 - c2. AFofL grew from 2.7 million in 1915 to 5 million in 1920
 - c3. Gompers gave “complete support” to the war effort
- d. investigated labor disputes and recommended solutions
- e. standardized labor practices in industries with gov. contracts
- f. Legitimized the right of workers to organize/seek “living wage.”
- j. Although wages doubled between 1914 and 1918, the war caused inflationary prices that kept pace with the wage scale.



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World War I on the Homefront

D. Loyalty Measures: The Espionage and Sedition Acts



"COME UNTO ME, YE OPPREST!"

The Espionage Act, 15 June 1917

The Sedition Act, 16 May 1918

Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully . . . utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States, or the Constitution . . . , or the military . . . shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than twenty years

Limiting Dissent During WWI

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World War I on the Homefront

D. Loyalty Measures: The Espionage and Sedition Acts



Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Facts of the case:

The secretary of the Philadelphia Socialist Party was indicted for sending out pamphlets urging resistance to the draft.

A unanimous Court held that this action was not protected by the First Amendment.

SCHENCK v. U.S. (1919)

“The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic. . . . The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree. When a nation is at war many things that might be said in time of peace are such a hindrance to its effort that their utterance will not be endured so long as men fight”

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World War I on the Homefront



Zechariah Chafee, Jr.

Facts of the case:

Defendants distributed pamphlets in Yiddish and English criticizing the Wilson administration for sending troops to Russia in July, 1918.

7 members of the Supreme Court decided that the pamphlets might have diminished the number of troops available to fight the Germans because revolts/strikes might have resulted from their distribution in America.

D. Loyalty Measures: The Espionage and Sedition Acts



ABRAMS v. US (1919):

Holmes Changes Position | Dissent, Holmes

“But when men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas - that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out. That at any rate is the theory of our Constitution. It is an experiment, as all life is an experiment.”

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The End of the Fighting, 1918

A. American Idealism: Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points

8 January 1918: Wilson delivered 14 points address to Congress.

- a. Open covenants of peace openly arrived at -- no secret treaties
- b. Freedom of the seas in peace and war time
- c. Removal of international trade barriers -- free trade
- d. Reduction of armaments -- disarmament
- e. Impartial adjustment of colonial claims with due regard for the interests of native people
- f. German troops to leave Russia
- g. Independence for Belgium
- h. France to regain Alsace-Lorraine
- i. Frontier between Austria and Italy to be adjusted
- j. Adjustment of European boundaries -- with "self-determination" for minority groups (Eastern Europe)
- k. Serbia to have access to the sea
- l. Self determination for the people in the Turkish Empire
- m. Poland to become an independent state with access to the sea
- n. Establishment of the League of Nations.



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The End of the Fighting, 1918

B. American Expeditionary Force

1. Fought in independent units alongside allied forces
2. Led by General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing
3. June 1917: 14,000 soldiers; May 1918: 1 million; 4 million total
4. African Americans made up 13% of the draftees. Over 350,000 served in segregated AEF units on the Western Front.
5. September 1918: Battle of Saint-Mihiel, Pershing commanded 500,000 men, in the largest U.S. offensive operation ever
6. September to November, 1918: successful Meuse-Argonne offensive -- Pershing commanded 1 million U.S. and French forces
7. In these two military campaigns, Allied forces recovered two hundred square miles of French territory by the German army
8. 360,000 casualties: 116,000 dead and 234,000 wounded.



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The End of the Fighting, 1918

B. Exhaustion of Central Powers

1. September 29, 1918: German General Ludendorff advised his government to seek peace
2. October 3: new German Chancellor first overtures of peace
3. November 9: Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated -- German Republic
4. November 11 – Armistice signed



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Repercussions of the War

A. Paris Peace Conference, January 1919

1. Victorious Allies met in Paris
2. 27 nations attended -- not Russia or Germany
3. Britain, US, France, & Italy dominated
4. Different ideas about peace treaty
 - a. Clemenceau/France: harsh terms for Germany
 - b. David Lloyd George/Britain: for moderate treaty, but had promised to punish Germany
 - c. Wilson/US: treaty based on 14 points



Big Four: Lloyd George, Orlando, Clemenceau, Wilson

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Repercussions of the War

B. Treaty of Versailles

1. Compromise between four major powers
2. Forced on Germany -- signed it on June 28, 1919
 - a. Germany deprived of portions of European territory, Alsace-Lorraine and Polish corridor
 - b. Germany deprived of its colonial empire.
 - c. Germany disarmed and forced to accept Allied military occupation of the Rhineland
 - d. Germany forced to accept blame for war
 - e. Germany forced to pay \$33 billion in reparations.



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Repercussions of the War

C. Global Results of the War

1. 65 million men mobilized
2. 10 million killed / 20 million wounded
3. Central Powers were defeated
4. German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian, and Ottoman empires destroyed.
5. Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland independent from Austria
6. War precipitated Bolshevik Revolution, leading to communism in Russia.
7. Enormous cost of the war undermined financial stability, leading to a Depression.





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Repercussions of the War

D. The Result at Home: Treaty Fight

1. All treaties must be ratified by US Senate
2. Versailles Treaty contained League of Nations covenant
3. Opposition to League/ Treaty led by Henry Cabot Lodge, Head of Foreign Relations Committee; opposed Wilson
4. Reasons for general opposition to League of Nations:
 - a. Some opposed it on purely personal or political grounds
 - b. Other opposed Article 10. - Collective security
5. Wilson tried to go to the people in an ambitious train tour
6. Wilson suffered a severe stroke (2 Oct. 1919)
7. Senate voted to reject the treaty
8. Eventually, Senate ratified new treaty (1921)

