

REMEMBER BELGIUM



>> This poster highlights the fact that even though Belgium declared its neutrality, Germany still invaded.

Interactive Flipped Video

>> Objectives

Identify the causes of World War I.

Analyze the impact of technological innovations in weaponry that resulted in stalemate on the Western Front.

Analyze reasons behind isolationism and neutrality in the United States before 1917.

Explain why the United States entered the conflict on the side of the Allies.

>> Key Terms

- Alsace-Lorraine
- militarism
- Francis Ferdinand
- William II
- Western Front
- casualty
- contraband
- U-boats
- Lusitania
- Zimmermann note

5.1

In 1914, nationalism, militarism, imperialism, and entangling alliances combined with other factors to lead the nations of Europe into a brutal war. The war quickly spread around the globe. The United States remained neutral at first but ended up abandoning its long tradition of staying out of European conflicts.

America Enters World War I

The Causes of World War I

Until 1914, there had not been a large-scale European conflict for nearly one hundred years. However, bitter, deep-rooted problems simmered beneath the surface of polite diplomacy. Europe was sitting on a powder keg of nationalism, regional tensions, economic rivalries, imperial ambitions, and militarism.

Nationalism Escalates Tension in Europe Nationalism, or devotion to one's nation, kick-started international and domestic tension. In the late 1800s, many Europeans began to reject the earlier idea of a nation as a collection of different ethnic groups. Instead, they believed that a nation should express the nationalism of a single ethnic group.

This belief evolved into an intense form of nationalism that heightened international rivalries. For example, France longed to avenge its humiliating defeat by a collection of German states in 1871 and regain **Alsace-Lorraine**, the territory it lost during that conflict. Nationalism also threatened minority groups within nation states. If a country existed as the expression of "its people," the majority ethnic group, where did ethnic minorities fit in?

The spread of the theory of Social Darwinism did not help soothe the competitive instinct. Social Darwinism applied biologist Charles Darwin's ideas of natural selection and "survival of the fittest" to human society. Social Darwinists believed that the fittest nation would come out ahead in the constant competition among countries.

Nationalism also destabilized old multinational empires such as Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. This was particularly true in the Balkan region of southeastern Europe.

For example, when Serbia emerged as an independent nation in 1878, it challenged the nearby empire of Austria-Hungary in two ways: by trying to gain territory controlled by the empire, where Serbs lived, and by the example it offered to Austria-Hungary's diverse peoples.

The nationalist sentiments of the period sometimes spilled over into the economic goals of each nation. Industrial output, trade, and the possession of an overseas empire were the yardsticks of wealth and greatness. The leading industrial nations competed for lands rich in raw materials as well as for places to build military bases to protect their empires. Britain already had a large empire, and France commanded a smaller one. But Germany, Italy, Belgium, Japan, and the United States also rushed to join the race to expand. Together, industrialized nations jostled among themselves as

they carved colonies out of Africa, claimed islands in the Pacific, and began to nibble away at China.

Militarism Increases Arms Production For some European leaders, the question was not so much *if* a great war would start but *when*. To prepare, leaders increased the size of their armies and stockpiles of weapons. No nation readied its war machinery more than Germany. By 1914, it had a huge standing army and the largest, deadliest collection of guns in the world. It also built up its navy enough to rival Britain's, the world's strongest at that time. To keep up, Britain, too, increased the size of its navy. A spirit of **militarism**, or glorification of the military, grew in the competing countries and fueled this arms race even more.

The contest between Germany and Britain at sea and between Germany, France, and Russia on land guaranteed one important thing: The next major war would involve more troops and more technologically advanced weapons than ever before. Machine guns, mobile artillery, tanks, submarines, and airplanes would change the nature of warfare.

Alliances Between Nations Increase the Potential for War European leaders also prepared for war by forming alliances. Before 1914, two major ones emerged.



>> **Analyze Maps** Based on the map, describe one possible disadvantage the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary face.

Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy joined together in the Triple Alliance (although Italy never fought with it). Opposed to the Triple Alliance was the Triple Entente, made up of France, Russia, and Great Britain. Alliances emboldened leaders to act recklessly. They knew that if they did declare war, powerful allies were obligated to fight along with them. No country wanted to be seen as an unreliable partner. As years passed, European leaders thought less of the advantages of peace and more of the possible benefits of war. Some also hoped that a foreign war would help to smooth over domestic problems.

A Significant Assassination On June 28, 1914, Archduke **Francis Ferdinand**, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife Sophie left for what they thought would be a routine visit to Sarajevo (sar uh YAY voh), the capital city of the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia. But a handful of young Bosnians had other plans for the archduke and his wife. These men were ethnic Serbs who believed that Bosnia rightfully belonged to Serbia, and they saw Francis Ferdinand as a tyrant.

After the archduke's driver made a wrong turn, Gavrilo Princip, one of the conspirators, noticed the couple in the car, pulled a pistol from his pocket, and fired it twice. First Sophie and then Francis Ferdinand died. People around the world were shocked by the

senseless murders. But no one expected that they would lead to a great world war.

RECALL What countries formed the Triple Entente?

The Great War Begins

Everything was in place for a great conflict—nationalist ambitions, large armies, stockpiles of weapons, alliances, and military plans. The nations of Europe were hurtling like giant trains toward a great collision. Archduke Francis Ferdinand's assassination was the incident that triggered this conflict.

Alliances Cause a Chain Reaction Soon after the assassination, Kaiser **William II**, the German emperor, assured Austria-Hungary that Germany would stand by its ally if war came. Confident in Germany's support, Austria-Hungary then sent a harsh ultimatum to Serbia demanding Serbia's total cooperation in an investigation into the assassination. When Serbia did not agree to all of the demands, Austria-Hungary declared war on July 28, 1914.

Because of the alliance system, what otherwise might have been a localized quarrel quickly spread. In early August, Russia mobilized for war to help its ally Serbia against Austria. This caused Germany to declare war against Russia.

France, Russia's ally, promptly declared war against Germany. The very next day, Germany declared war

Major Players in World War I

ALLIED POWERS	NEUTRAL POWERS	CENTRAL POWERS
France	Switzerland	Germany
Britain	Spain	Austria-Hungary
Russia	The Netherlands	Ottoman Empire
Serbia	Denmark	
Italy	Sweden	
Japan	Norway	
United States	Albania	

SOURCE: *Britannica Encyclopedia*

Analyze Charts Why was one alliance called "The Central Powers"? (Consulting a map may help you answer.)



Analyze Maps What challenge did Germany's location present to its pursuit of victory in the war?

against neutral Belgium, so that it could launch an invasion of France through that small country. Great Britain, which had treaties with France and Belgium, immediately declared war against Germany. In less than one week, the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria were at war against the Allied Powers of Britain, France, Russia, and Serbia. The Ottoman Empire later joined the Central Powers.

German soldiers fought through Belgium and moved southwest into France, toward Paris. Then in September, with the German advance only 30 miles from Paris, the French and the British counterattacked and stopped the German forces near the Marne River.

Technological Innovations Lead to Stalemate

After the Battle of the Marne, the Germans settled onto high ground, dug trenches, and fortified their position. When the French and British attacked, the German troops used machine guns and artillery to kill thousands of them. The French and British then dug their own trenches and used the same weapons to kill thousands of counterattacking Germans.

Soon, 450 miles of trenches stretched like a huge scar from the coast of Belgium to the border of Switzerland. Although fighting went on in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and in other parts of the world, this **Western Front** in France became the critical battle front. The side that won there would win the war.

The war dragged on for years, and it was hideously deadly—much more so than anyone had expected. The primary reason for the length of the war and its deadly nature was the simple fact that the defensive weapons of the time were better and more devastating than the offensive ones. Generals on each side threw their soldiers into assaults against the enemy without fully considering the new technology. Charging toward trenches that were defended by artillery, machine guns, and rifles was futile. In virtually every battle on the Western Front, the attacking force suffered terribly.

Even the use of poison gas did nothing to benefit the offense, despite its horrifying effects. Airplanes and tanks were both first used during World War I, but neither broke the stalemate.

Airplanes were mostly used for reconnaissance, or observing an area for military purposes. The torn-up ground caused by endless shelling created a need for a new military technology—the tank. Military leaders hoped tanks could plow through devastated battlefield areas, but the first tanks weren't able to ride over such uneven terrain and often broke down during crucial battles. Ineffective offensives and effective defenses produced only a deadly stalemate.

The Reality of Trench Warfare The stalemate led to gruesome conditions for the men in the trenches of the Western Front. The soldiers battled the harsh

conditions of life often as fiercely as they attacked the enemy. They developed “trench foot” from standing for hours in wet, muddy trenches. They contracted lice from the millions of rats that infested the trenches. Dug into the ground, the soldiers lived in constant fear, afraid to pop their heads out of their holes and always aware that the next offensive might be their last.

Even on a quiet day, soldiers could be killed by snipers or a surprise gas attack, like the one described by French officer Paul Truffaut at Verdun:

The special shells the men call “shells on wheels” [shells filled with poison gas] are whizzing by continuously. They explode silently and have no smell but can be deadly. They killed several men yesterday. One of my men refused to put his mask on because he couldn’t smell anything. All of a sudden, he was dizzy, foaming at the mouth and his skin went black, then he went rigid and died.

—Paul Truffaut, March 5, 1917

In between enemy lines was an area known as “no man’s land.” Artillery barrages had blasted no

man’s land until any fields, trees, or homes, that had once existed there, were charred beyond recognition. Soldiers went “over the top” of their trenches into this muddy, nearly impassable wasteland when they attempted to attack the entrenched enemy.

Casualties—or soldiers killed, wounded, or missing—mounted first in thousands, then hundreds of thousands, and finally in millions. Almost one million French soldiers were killed or wounded in just the first three months of the war. The Germans lost only slightly fewer. In two battles in 1916—Verdun (ver DUHN) and the Somme (suhm)—the British, French, and Germans sustained more than 2 million casualties. The British suffered 60,000 casualties on the first day alone at the Somme and achieved virtually nothing. And still the stalemate dragged on.

? IDENTIFY SUPPORTING DETAILS What technologies encouraged a stalemate between opposing armies?

The United States Remains Neutral

As the war spread in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson called for Americans to be “impartial in thought as well as action.” In a “melting pot” nation that tried

to make Americans of peoples from diverse origins, Wilson did not want to see the war set Americans against one another. At first, most Americans viewed the conflict as a distant European quarrel for land and influence. Unless the nation’s interests were directly threatened, Americans wanted no part of it. They preferred to maintain what they viewed as traditional American isolation from European disputes. Still, many Americans felt the war’s effects and few were truly impartial in thought. Most held a preference for one or another combatant, and many businesses benefited from the increased demand by warring nations for American goods.

Many Americans Choose Sides In 1914, one third of Americans were foreign-born. Many still thought of themselves in terms of their former homelands—as German Americans, Irish Americans, Polish Americans, and so on. With relatives in Europe, many people supported the nation in which they were born.

Some German Americans in the Midwest and some Irish Americans along the East Coast felt strongly that the Central Powers were justified in their actions. Many Americans had emigrated from Germany or Austria-Hungary. Millions of Irish Americans harbored intense grudges over the centuries of Great Britain’s domination of their homeland. They hoped that Ireland would gain its independence as Britain became entangled in the war. Many Jewish Americans who had fled Russia to escape the Czarist regimes’ murderous pogroms against Jews hoped for Russia’s defeat.

Most Americans, however, sided with Britain and France, both of which had strong historic ties with the United States. America’s national language was English, its cultural heritage was largely British, and its leading trading partner was Britain. France had aided the American cause during the Revolutionary War.

U.S. Opinion Solidifies No event at the beginning of the war swayed American opinion more than the vicious German invasion of neutral Belgium. German soldiers marching through Belgium committed numerous atrocities, killing unarmed civilians, and destroying entire towns. British journalists and propagandists stressed, and sometimes exaggerated, the brutality of the Germans’ actions. Americans might have only dimly understood the causes of the war, but they clearly perceived the human cost of the war for Belgium.

Eventually, three distinct positions on the war crystallized among Americans. One group, the isolationists, believed that the war was none of America’s business and that the nation should isolate itself from the hostilities. A second group, the



>> Soldiers took cover in trenches during gas attacks. **Hypothesize** Why do you think many people consider poisonous gas attacks to be morally wrong while accepting attacks by machines guns, artillery, and tanks?

Interactive 3-D Model



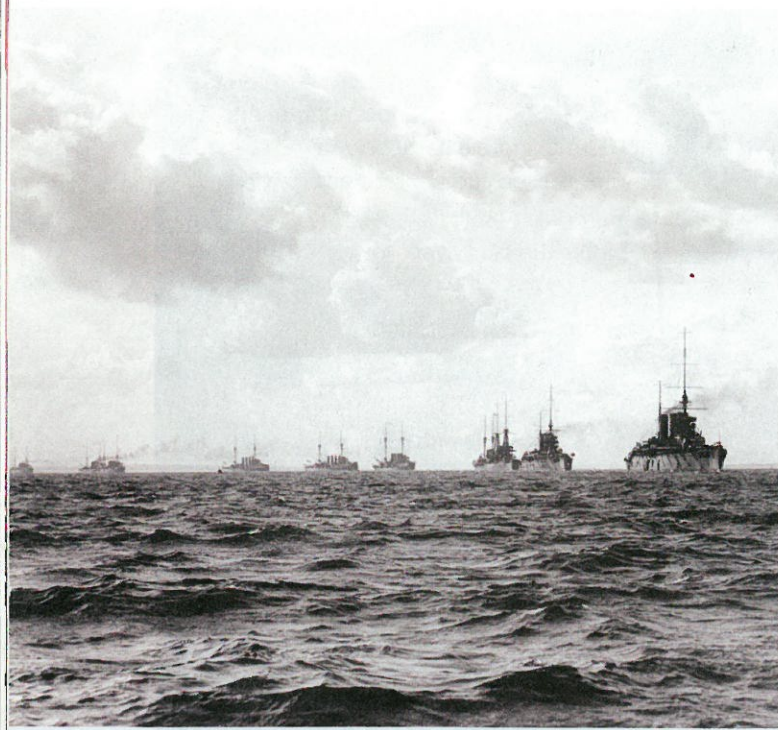
>> **Analyze Political Cartoons** Based on the cartoon, what can you infer about President Wilson’s attitude toward the war?

Interactive Chart

Deadly Technology of World War I

TECHNOLOGY	APPLICATION
POISON GAS	Gases such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas could kill, blind, or burn their victims.
MACHINE GUNS	Improved machine guns could fire 600 bullets per minute.
FLAMETHROWER	A new technology, flamethrowers consisted of a backpack and a gun that could shoot flames as far as 60 feet.
ARTILLERY FIELD GUNS	These long-range cannons caused more casualties than any other type of weapon.
TANKS AND ARMORED CARS	Both sides tried to develop vehicles that could go over rough ground and barbed-wire no, with limited success.
AIRPLANES	Planes were used for reconnaissance, bombing, and fighting but did not prove decisive.
SUBMARINES	German U-boats, or submarines, used torpedoes as well as on-deck guns to sink ships.

>> **Analyze Charts** Based on the types of weapons listed in the chart, what can you conclude about either side’s ability to inflict casualties on the other side?



>> The British Navy was the strongest in the world. **Draw Conclusions** Why was naval superiority so important to Great Britain's war effort?



>> After German U-boats sank the British passenger ship *Lusitania* near the Irish coast, it became clear to many Americans that even ships carrying civilians were potential targets.

interventionists, felt that the war did affect American interests and that the United States should intervene in the conflict on the side of the Allies. A third group, the internationalists, occupied the middle ground. Internationalists believed that the United States should play an active role in world affairs and work toward achieving a just peace but not enter the war.

? CHECK UNDERSTANDING Into what three positions did U.S. opinion generally fall?

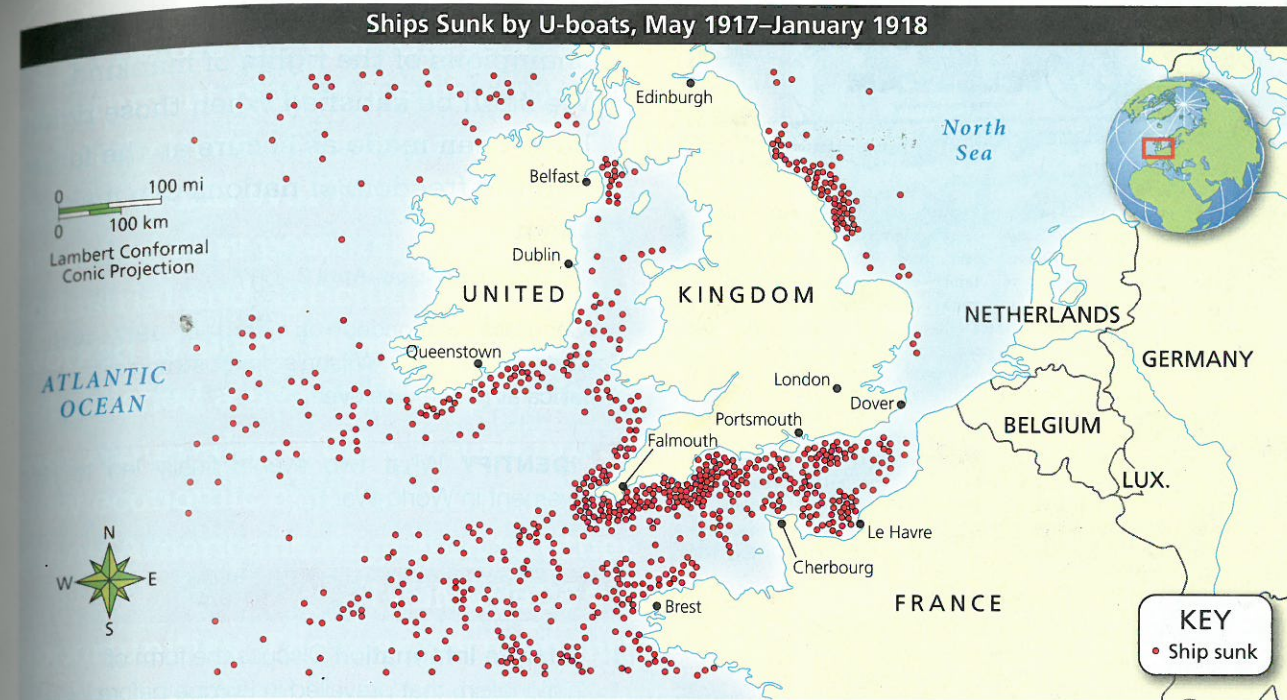
Reasons for U.S. Entry into the War

An internationalist, President Wilson sincerely desired peace in his country and around the world. Between the start of the war in 1914 and America's entry into it in 1917, Wilson attempted to use his influence to end the conflict among the warring countries. He failed in this great effort. Ultimately, he also failed to keep the United States out of the war.

Britain Blockades German Ports Early in the war, British leaders decided to use their navy to blockade Germany to keep essential goods from reaching the other country. International law generally allowed **contraband** goods, usually defined as weapons and other articles used to fight a war, to be confiscated legally by any belligerent nation. Noncontraband goods, such as food, medical supplies, and other nonmilitary items, could not be confiscated. Britain, however, contested the definition of noncontraband articles. As the war continued, Britain expanded its definition of contraband until it encompassed virtually every product, including gasoline, cotton, and even food—in spite of international law.

Passenger Ships Fall Victim to the War at Sea Germany responded by attempting to blockade Britain—even though it lacked the conventional naval forces to do so. Instead, in February 1915, Germany began sinking Allied ships using its **U-boats**, or submarines. The reality of the German blockade struck America on May 7, 1915, when a German U-boat sank the British passenger liner *Lusitania* off the coast of Ireland.

Nearly 1,200 people perished. German officials correctly claimed that the ship was carrying ammunition and other contraband. Americans protested that an unarmed and unresisting ship should not be sunk without first being warned and provided with safety for its passengers. President Wilson was stunned but still wanted peace. "There is such a thing



>> German U-boats destroyed more than 11 million tons of Allied shipping and killed nearly 14,000 people. **Analyze Maps** Why were U-boat attacks clustered in particular areas?

as a man being too proud to fight," he told his fellow citizens. "There is such a thing as a nation being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right."

Germany helped to keep the United States out of the war by eventually promising not to sink any more passenger ships. But in 1916, Germany violated that promise by sinking the unarmed French passenger ship *Sussex*. Another storm of protest erupted in America. Again, Germany pledged not to sink unarmed ships. This promise, called the **Sussex Pledge**, would not last long.

Preparations for War President Wilson wanted to remain at peace, but even he must have realized the futility of that hope. At the end of 1915, Wilson began to prepare the nation for war.

Many believed that "preparedness" was a dangerous course that could actually provoke war. Even so, Congress passed two pieces of legislation in 1916 to prepare for the possibility of U.S. involvement. The **National Defense Act** expanded the size of the army, and the **Naval Construction Act** ordered the building of more warships.

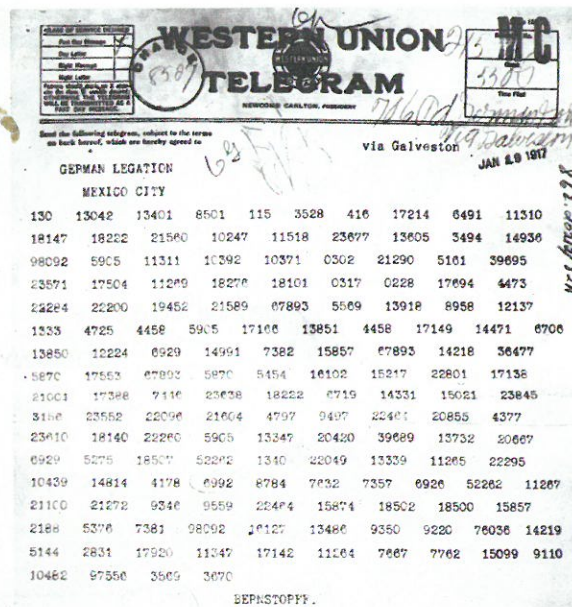
Still, Wilson hoped to avoid conflict. In 1916, he ran for reelection with the slogan "He kept us out of war." It

was a close election, but Wilson won a narrow victory over Republican Charles Evans Hughes.

The United States Is Neutral No Longer Wilson did not have much time to enjoy his victory. In early 1917, two events occurred that helped to push the United States into the war. Both events showed Germany's increasing aggression, the main reason why the United States ultimately entered the war.

American trade with the Allies had sustained Britain and France in the war, while the British blockade of Germany had stopped the flow of American goods to the Central Powers. As far as Germany was concerned, desperate times demanded desperate measures.

In January 1917, suffering severe supply shortages due to the blockade, Germany took action. First, German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram to Mexico. The **Zimmermann note** proposed an alliance with Mexico, stating that if the United States declared war on Germany, Mexico should declare war on the United States. In return, after a German victory, Mexico would get back the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, which it had lost in 1848 after its defeat in the Mexico-American War. The telegram was intercepted by the British, who gave it to American authorities. Next, Germany once again



>> Discovery of the Zimmermann note (a coded telegram) along with unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany led Wilson to ask Congress for a declaration of war.

Interactive Timeline

announced unrestricted submarine warfare against Britain.

Although most leaders knew Mexico had no intention of attacking the United States, Americans were shocked by the publication of the Zimmermann note. Even Wilson no longer called for peace. On April 2, 1917, he asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany:

The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political

liberty. . . . We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them.

—Woodrow Wilson, April 2, 1917

Congress responded on April 6, 1917, with a declaration of war. Wilson's long struggle to keep America at peace was over.

? IDENTIFY What two events finally led to U.S. involvement in World War I?

ASSESSMENT

- Analyze Information** Discuss the form of nationalism that prevailed in Europe before World War I, and explain how it contributed to the start of the war.
- Identify Cause and Effect** Explain why the assassination of Francis Ferdinand led to more than a localized quarrel.
- Generate Explanations** Explain why President Wilson initially opposed U.S. involvement in World War I, and why he later changed his mind.
- Make Decisions** World War I is generally considered to be the first instance of total war, where every of-age citizen and all possible resources are mobilized in the war effort. In light of this, do you believe Britain's blockade of Germany—which eventually extended to all goods, thereby violating international law—was justified? Explain your opinion.
- Compare and Contrast** Discuss the ways in which World War I differed from previous wars.

5.2 Before the war, the federal government played a minor role in the daily lives of most Americans. But during World War I, the government assumed new powers. It regulated industrial and agricultural production, worked to shape public opinion, and established a new military draft. While war required sacrifice, it also brought new economic opportunities, and many Americans migrated to other parts of the country in search of these opportunities. The war permanently changed Americans' relationship with their government.



>> As the United States went to war, many women joined the workforce. This defense worker is welding the shell casing of a depth charge—an antisubmarine explosive.

Interactive Flipped Video

The Home Front During World War I

Mobilizing for War

War affects many things, but its greatest impact is on the lives of ordinary people. People fight, sacrifice, and sometimes die in war. People work to produce the food that soldiers eat and the guns that soldiers fire. People shape the information that others receive about the war. War may be the result of conflicts between nations, but it touches the lives of millions of individuals.

Expanding the Army When the United States entered World War I, the U.S. Army was only a small fraction of the size of European armies. To build the army, President Wilson encouraged Americans to volunteer for service and pushed Congress to pass the **Selective Service Act**. The act, which Congress passed in May 1917, authorized a draft of young men for military service in Europe. On the first day of its enactment, June 5, 1917, more than 9.6 million Americans registered for the draft and were assigned a number. The government held a “great national lottery” in July to decide the order in which the first draftees would be called into service. Blindfolded, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker pulled number 258 out of a jar. The group of men assigned that number became the very first draftees.

>> Objectives

- Analyze** how the U.S. government mobilized the public to support the war effort.
- Describe** opposition to World War I and how the federal government responded to it.
- Analyze** the causes and effects of migration and social changes that occurred during World War I.

>> Key Terms

- Selective Service Act
- Bernard Baruch
- Committee on Public Information (CPI)
- George Creel
- conscientious objector
- Espionage Act
- Great Migration
- Bernard Baruch

Over the course of the war, more than 24 million Americans registered for the draft. Of these, about 2.8 million were actually drafted into the armed forces. Including volunteers, the total number of American men in uniform during World War I reached nearly 4.8 million. More than 4 million of these were sent to help the Allies in France.

Managing Economic Effects The economic effects of the international military conflict of World War I on the United States were significant. While the Selective Service Commission raised an army, President Wilson worked to shift the national economy from peacetime to wartime production. This process proved slow and frustrating. First, the Council of National Defense, which was formed in August 1916, created an array of new federal administrative agencies to oversee different phases of the war effort. Individual agencies regulated food production, coal and petroleum distribution, and railway use. In practical terms, this meant that the government determined what crops farmers grew, what products industries produced, and how supplies moved around on the nation's trains.

Problems and administrative overlap soon led to the creation of the War Industries Board (WIB). The WIB eventually became independent of the Council of National Defense. Headed by **Bernard Baruch** (buh ROOK), an influential Wall Street investment broker who

reported directly to the President, the WIB regulated all industries engaged in the war effort. Baruch's agency determined what products industries would make, where those products went, and how much they would cost. The system of free enterprise was curtailed to fulfill the nation's acute need for war materials. Americans decided to cooperate rather than compete in order to defeat the Central Powers.

What Baruch did for industry, future U.S. president Herbert Hoover achieved for agriculture. As head of the Food Administration, he set prices high for wheat and other foodstuffs to encourage farmers to increase production. He also asked Americans to conserve food as a patriotic gesture. If the American people ate less, then more food could be shipped to American and other Allied soldiers fighting the war overseas. To this end, Hoover instituted wheatless Mondays and Wednesdays, meatless Tuesdays, and porkless Thursdays and Saturdays.

Convincing the American People Hoover's efforts would have been fruitless if the American people did not believe in supporting the war. Most Americans did not understand the reasons for the war in 1914, and many questioned why the United States became involved in 1917. It was the job of the **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** to educate the public about the causes and nature of the war. The CPI had

to convince Americans that the war effort was a just cause.

Wilson appointed **George Creel** as the director of the CPI. A former journalist and a passionate admirer of American institutions, Creel combined education and a widespread advertising campaign to "sell America." The CPI distributed 75 million pamphlets and 6,000 press releases, and it assembled an army of 75,000 speakers who gave lectures and brief speeches on America's war aims and the nature of the enemy. In addition, the CPI designed, printed, and distributed millions of posters that dramatized the needs of America and its allies. The CPI also stressed the cruelty and wickedness of the enemy, particularly Germany, which in some cases aggravated resentment toward German Americans. Still, using these methods, Creel and the CPI earned widespread support for the American war effort.

RECALL What cornerstone of U.S. business philosophy was partially abandoned to aid the war effort?

Opposition to the War

The CPI's work was important because Americans did not always peacefully agree with one another about the war. Members of two large ethnic groups, German Americans and Irish Americans, tended to oppose the Allies for different reasons. Swept up in patriotic fervor, some people treated German Americans with prejudice, or intolerance. Other Americans were pacifists who opposed war for any reason. One major issue raised by U.S. involvement in World War I was that the government acted in ways that sometimes trespassed on individual liberties to quiet dissent, or differing opinions.

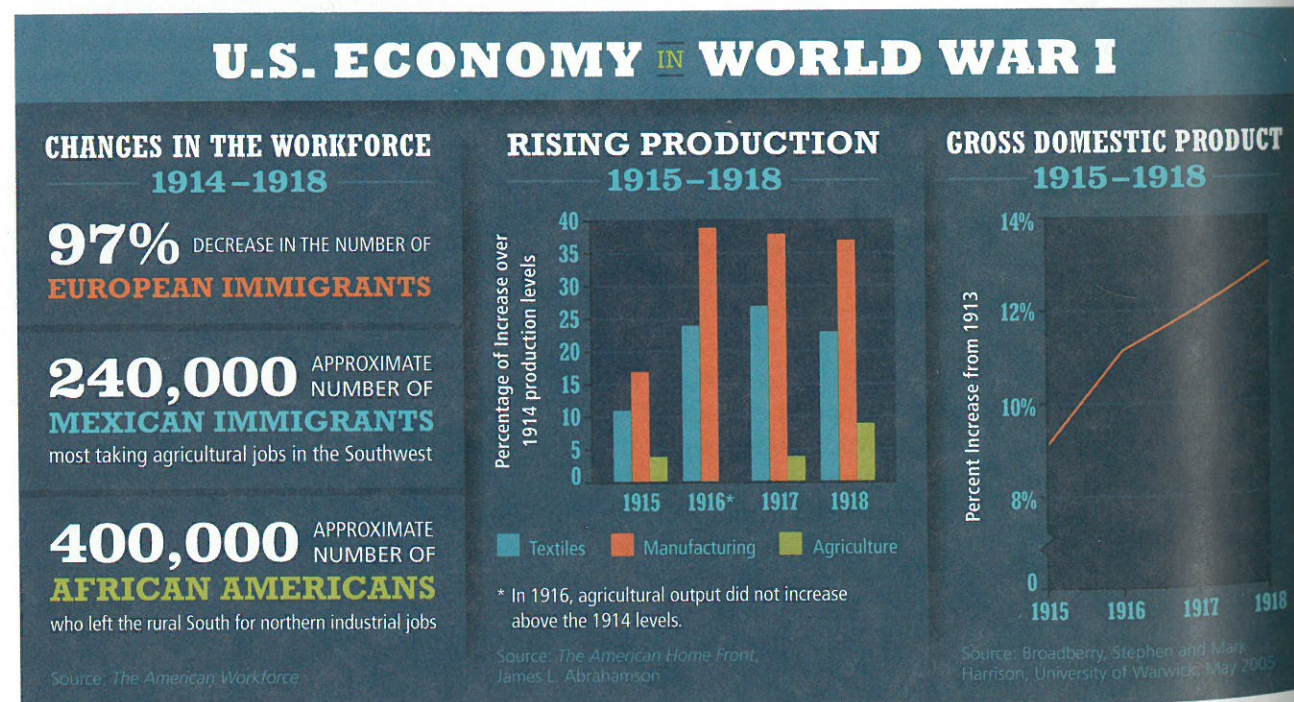
Opposition to the Draft Without a doubt, the draft created controversy. Some Americans believed it was an illegal intrusion of the federal government into their private lives. Some men refused to cooperate with the Selective Service process.

They were often court-martialed and imprisoned. Others simply tried to avoid the draft. Perhaps as many as 12 percent of men who received draft notices never responded to them.

Many Americans were **conscientious objectors**, people whose moral or religious beliefs forbid them to fight in wars. In theory, the Selective Service Act exempted from combat service members of "any well recognized religious sect or organization . . . whose existing creed or principles forbid its members to participate in war." In practice, this policy was widely



>> Some citizens showed their opposition to the war and the draft by staging protests.



>> **Analyze Charts** Which segment of the U.S. economy was strongest from 1914-1918? Why?

Amendment rights of free speech. The work of the CPI created a mood in America that did not welcome open debate. Some felt the CPI stifled the free expression of controversial opinions and worried about the impact of a rigorous military campaign on democracy. They did not want the freedoms that Americans held most dear to become victims of the conflict. Americans treasured their Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

And were not U.S. soldiers fighting for freedom? At the same time, since so much depended on individuals doing their part in the military or on the home front, retaining national unity was vital to America's success in the war. As in previous and future wars, the government navigated a difficult path between respecting and restricting individual rights. Authorities tended to treat harshly individuals who worked against U.S. participation in the war.

In June 1917, Congress passed the **Espionage Act**, allowing postal authorities to ban treasonable or seditious newspapers, magazines, or printed materials from the mail. Thus, another First Amendment freedom, the freedom of the press, was compromised. It also enacted severe penalties for anyone engaged in disloyal or treasonable activities. Anyone found obstructing army recruiters, aiding the enemy, or generally interfering with the war effort could be punished with up to a \$10,000 fine and 20 years of imprisonment.

In 1918, Congress limited freedom of speech even further with the passage of the Sedition Act. The act made it unlawful to use "disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" about the American form of government, the Constitution, or the military forces. The government employed the Sedition Act to prosecute socialists, political radicals, and pacifists. Eugene V. Debs, the leader of the Socialist Party in America, was imprisoned under the act. For his crime—giving a mildly antiwar speech to a convention of socialists in Canton, Ohio—he was sentenced to a 10-year term in a federal prison.

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Sedition Act in the case of *Schenck v. United States* (1919). The Court ruled that there are times when the need for public order is so pressing that First Amendment protections of speech do not apply. The Debs case and others like it show that the war did lead the federal government to follow policies that raised important constitutional issues about the suppression of personal freedoms and individual rights.

Prejudice Against German Americans Sometimes, the war enthusiasm created by the CPI and other groups took an ugly turn. Some German Americans were treated harshly during the war. Largely because of CPI efforts, Americans regarded Germany's kaiser as arrogant, its generals as ruthless, and its soldiers

as spike-helmeted brutes. Germany was seen as the primary foe among the Central Powers. Popular movies, such as *The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin*, as well as some CPI posters and speeches intensified this feeling by portraying Germany as a cruel enemy. Some Americans wrongly generalized that if Germany was cruel, then all German people were cruel.

As a result, Americans stopped teaching German in public schools and discontinued playing the music of Beethoven and Brahms. They renamed German measles "liberty measles," cooked "liberty steaks" instead of hamburgers, and walked their "liberty pups" instead of dachshunds.

German Americans were pressured to prove their loyalty to America by condemning the German government, giving up speaking German and reading German-language newspapers, and participating enthusiastically in any patriotic drive. Occasionally, hatred of the German enemy boiled over into violence against German Americans. Some German Americans were harassed, others were beaten, and a few were killed for no other reason than they were born in Germany or spoke with a German accent.

GENERATE EXPLANATIONS Why was the status of conscientious objectors a constitutional issue?

The War Changes American Society

The war was not only a turning point in the economic and political lives of Americans, but it also brought substantial social changes. New opportunities opened up for women, African Americans, and Mexican Americans. Some left their homes to seek new ones where they could take advantage of these opportunities.

Women Welcome New Opportunities Before the war, some American women campaigned for women's suffrage. They won the vote in several western states and still hoped to gain the franchise nationally. Many feared that the war would draw attention away from their efforts. In fact, the war gave women new chances and won them more support for the right to vote.

As men entered the armed forces, many women moved into the workforce for the first time. Women filled jobs that were vacated by men who had gone to fight.

They worked in munitions factories, on the railroads, as telegraph operators and trolley conductors, and in other jobs that were previously open only to men. Others labored on farms. Some joined the Red Cross or the American Women's Hospital Service and went

A CERTAIN CURE FOR THE GERMAN MEASLES.

Mix some Woolwich Powders with Tinct. of Iron or Essence of lead, and administer in pills (or shells). Have ready a little British Army (a little goes a long way) some Brussels Sprouts and French Mustard. Add a little Canadian Cheese and Australian Lamb and season with the best Indian Curry. Set it on a Kitchener and keep stirring until quite hot.

If this does not make the Patient perspire freely, rub the best Russian Bears' Grease on his chest and wrap in Berlin Wool.
Dr. Cannon's Prescrip.

P.S.—The patient must on no account have any Peace-Soup until the swelling in the head has quite disappeared.

>> Unlike this humorous postcard with a "cure" for German measles, other anti-German sentiment was often more strident.

overseas. They worked as doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, and clerks. Thousands enlisted when the Army Corps of Nurses was created in 1918. Women proved that they could succeed in any type of job, regardless of difficulty or risk.

By their efforts and sacrifices during the war, women convinced President Wilson to support their suffrage demands. He contended that granting the vote to women was "vital to winning the war." If women could do the work of men, they certainly deserved the same voting privileges as men. Finally, in 1919, Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment giving the vote to women. The required two thirds of states ratified the amendment in the summer of 1920, a victory more than 70 years in the making.


African Americans and the Great Migration The war similarly presented new opportunities to African Americans.

From the outset, most African American leaders supported the war. "If this is our country, then this is our war," wrote African American leader W.E.B. Du Bois. He viewed the struggle as an excellent opportunity to show all Americans the loyalty and patriotism of African Americans. Thousands of them enlisted or were drafted into the army and sailed for the battlefields of France. On the battlefield, they fought in

Espionage and Sedition Court Cases During World War I

DEFENDANT	ACCUSATIONS	ARGUMENT
KATE RICHARDS O'HARE	Claimed U.S. involvement in World War I was only to protect U.S. corporate interests and criticized soldiers; accused of violating the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918	First Amendment (freedom of speech)
EUGENE V. DEBS	Criticized U.S. government for prosecuting those who violated the Espionage Act of 1917 and made a speech opposing the war; accused of violating the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918	First Amendment (freedom of speech); led to the Supreme Court case <i>Debs v. United States</i> in 1919
CHARLES T. SCHENCK	Opposed military draft; accused of violating the Espionage Act of 1917 and Sedition Act of 1918	First Amendment (freedom of speech); led to the Supreme Court case <i>Schenck v. United States</i> in 1919
EMMA GOLDMAN	Opposed U.S. involvement in the war; accused of conspiring against the draft law in 1917	First Amendment (freedom of speech)

>> **Analyze Charts** Do you think Eugene V. Debs should have been arrested during World War I? Why or why not?

 **Interactive Gallery**

segregated units under the command of white officers. Altogether, 367,000 African Americans served in the military. Hundreds died for their country.

Meanwhile, a great movement of African Americans from the rural South to the industrial North was taking place. This movement to the “Land of Hope,” as many African Americans referred to the North at that time, is called the **Great Migration**. A migration is a movement of a group of people to a new place. Migrations are often described as being caused by “push-pull” factors: people migrate because some factors “push” them away from where they have been living while other factors “pull” them toward their destination.

For African Americans during the Great Migration, factors that “pushed” them out of the South included Jim Crow segregation laws, lynching and other racial violence, and few economic opportunities other than as servants, sharecroppers, or tenant farmers. Many raised cotton, and the arrival in 1910 of an insect pest called the boll weevil ruined their crops, providing yet another push out of the South.

At the same time, the North “pulled” them with the chance of economic opportunities to be found in prosperous cities and wartime factories. As more African Americans moved North, they themselves became pull factors for family and friends back in the South. Newspapers in the North, such as the *Chicago Defender*, an African American newspaper that was widely read in the South, encouraged the migration:

I beg you, my brother, to leave the benighted land. . . . Get out of the South. . . . Come north then, all you folks, both good and bad. . . . The Defender says come.

—*Chicago Defender*

African Americans moved to Chicago, as the *Defender* encouraged, where they found work in meatpacking plants. They migrated to Detroit, where they obtained jobs in auto factories. They traveled to smaller industrial towns in the Midwest and to the giant cities of the Northeast. Between 1910 and 1930, more than 1.2 million African Americans moved to the North. Millions more eventually made the journey. Although they did not entirely escape discrimination in the North, many did find more opportunity. The Great Migration was one of the most dramatic demographic, or population, shifts in American history.

The effects of this change in demographic pattern are still with us today. For example, in 1910, about one percent of Detroit’s population was African American. In 2010, 83 percent of the residents were African American. Similarly, other large cities across the North—Chicago, Philadelphia, New York—have high concentrations of African Americans as a direct result of the Great Migration.

Mexicans Move North Some of the same factors that pushed African Americans out of the South and pulled them to the North caused Mexicans to cross the border into the United States. Because of the ongoing Mexican Revolution, many Mexicans faced violence and desperate poverty. They also wanted better economic opportunities. Most immigrated to the American West, where they sought work on large ranches and farms in Texas and along the Pacific Coast. Increased wartime demands for food and a decrease in American farmworkers (since many were serving in the army) created jobs that Mexican migrants filled.

Some of the Mexican migration was seasonal. Many workers crossed the border to harvest fruits or grains or to pick cotton while each crop was in season, then crossed back into Mexico. But others stayed and made the United States their home. Some Mexican workers migrated first to the Southwest and then to the northern states in search of factory jobs, but a large population stayed in California. They formed *barrios* (BAHR ee ohz), or Hispanic neighborhoods, in Los Angeles and in smaller cities in California’s Imperial Valley, a farming region just north of the Mexican border. California had always had a rich Hispanic heritage, but these new immigrants added an important economic dimension to that heritage.



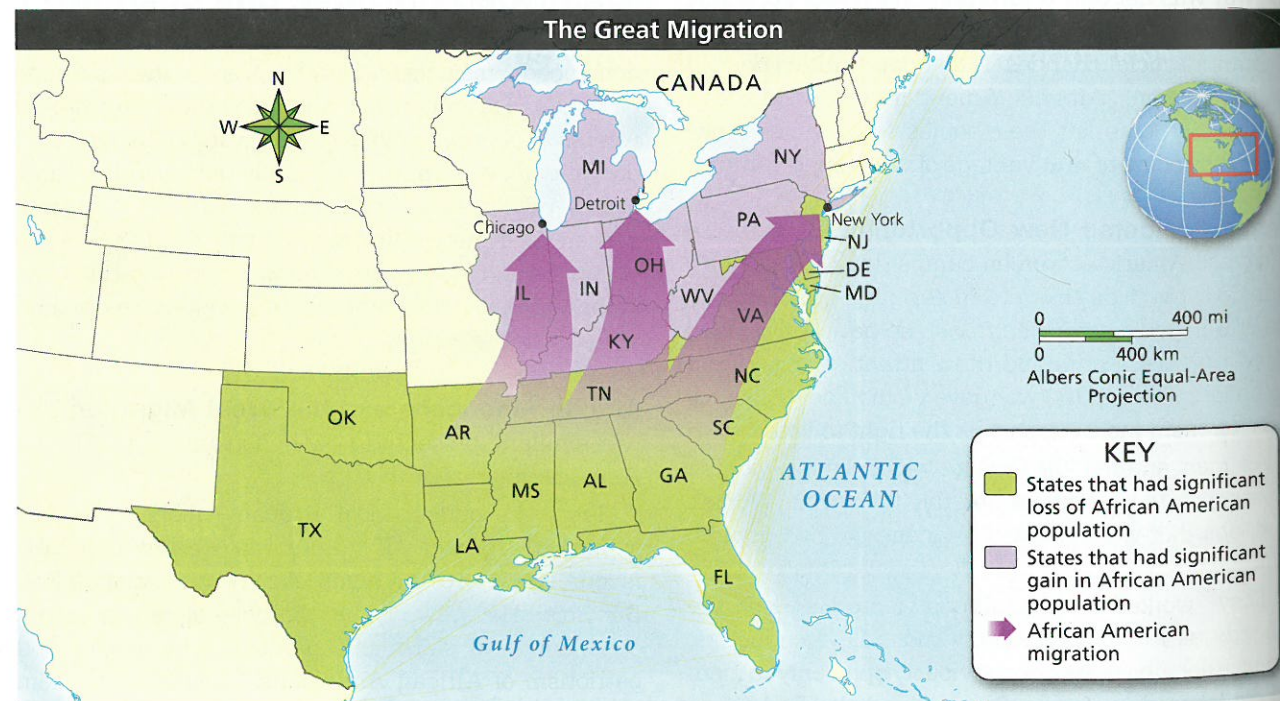
>> As Mexican immigrants came to the United States they sought to create new economic opportunities for themselves and their children in the American West.

DRAW CONCLUSIONS What do you think was the most significant motivation behind the Great Migration?

ASSESSMENT

- Generate Explanations** Explain how the role of the federal government changed during World War I.
- Draw Conclusions** Discuss the purposes and effects of the Committee on Public Information.

- Evaluate Arguments** Discuss the constitutional issues raised by the government’s response to antiwar sentiments.
- Make Generalizations** How did wartime patriotism affect German Americans?
- Identify Cause and Effect** Discuss women’s roles in the war effort, and explain how the war influenced the women’s suffrage movement.



>> **Analyze Maps** How did World War I help create this demographic shift?

Interactive Chart



>> The energy and enthusiasm that American forces brought to the battlefield gave a tremendous boost to the Allied war effort.

 **Interactive Flipped Video**

>> Objectives

Understand the contributions of the American Expeditionary Force to the Allied victory in World War I.

Describe the issues raised by President Wilson's Fourteen Points.

Analyze the decisions made at the Paris Peace Conference and included in the Treaty of Versailles.

Evaluate the pros and cons of U.S. participation in the League of Nations.

Explain why the U.S. Senate did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles.

>> Key Terms

convoy
Vladimir Lenin
John J. Pershing
Fourteen Points
self-determination
League of Nations
Henry Cabot Lodge
reparations
irreconcilables
reservationists
American Expeditionary Forces (AEF)
influenza

5.3 When the United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917, the conflict had become a deadly, bloody stalemate. The war would be won or lost on the Western Front in France. Since 1914, both sides had tried desperately to break the stalemate there—and failed. The American entry into the war would play a key role in the Allied victory.

The End of World War I

America Joins the Fighting

To European leaders, the United States was a great unknown. Ethnic divisions in the United States raised questions about how committed American troops would be in combat. Some doubted that the United States could raise, train, equip, and transport an army fast enough to influence the outcome of the war. Desperate German military leaders renewed unrestricted submarine warfare, hoping to end the conflict before the Americans could make a difference.

The Convoy System The Allies immediately felt the impact of the renewed unrestricted submarine warfare. German U-boats sank merchant ships in alarming numbers, faster than replacements could be built. As one merchant ship after another sank to the bottom of the sea, the Allies lost crucial supplies.

Together, the Allies addressed the problem of submarine warfare by adopting an old naval tactic: convoying. In a **convoy**, groups of merchant ships sailed together, protected by warships. The arrangement was designed to provide mutual safety at sea. Convoys made up of British and American ships proved to be an instant success.

Shipping losses from U-boat attacks fell as sharply as they had risen. Germany's gamble had failed.

The War Ends on the Eastern Front Meanwhile, the situation on land began to swing in favor of the Central Powers. The Allies were exhausted by years of combat. Russia was torn by revolutions. In March 1917, a moderate, democratic revolution overthrew Czar Nicholas II but kept Russia in the war. In November 1917, radical communists led by **Vladimir Lenin** (LEHN ihn) staged a revolution and gained control of Russia.

Russia stopped fighting in mid-December, and on March 3, 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ended the war between Russia (soon to become the Soviet Union) and Germany. The end of the war on the Eastern Front allowed Germany to send more soldiers to the Western Front.

General John J. Pershing and the AEF In the spring of 1918, Germany launched an all-out offensive on the Western Front. A series of five offensives threatened to break through Allied defenses and open a path to Paris. The hard-pressed Allies organized a joint command under French General Ferdinand Foch (fawsh).

General **John J. Pershing**, the commander of U.S. forces in Europe, arrived in France with a small force in mid-1917. However, it was not until early 1918 that U.S. troops began arriving in larger numbers. The forces under Pershing's command were called the **American Expeditionary Forces (AEF)**. By the end of the war, more than two million men would serve overseas in the AEF. Although the Allies wanted to use U.S. soldiers to replenish their armies, Pershing was adamant about keeping U.S. forces independent.

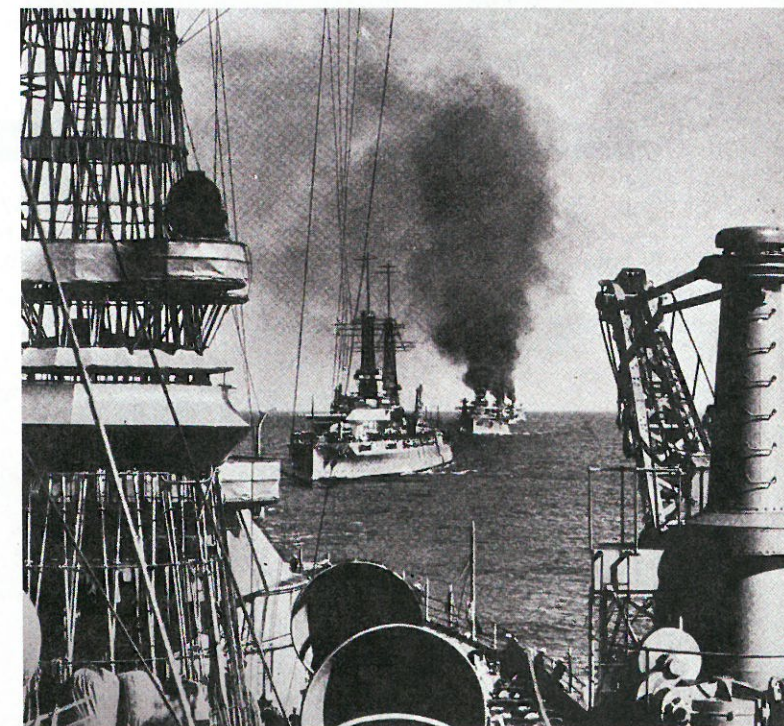
At about the time of Pershing's arrival, the first German offensive began to stall. By the end of March 1918, Allied counterattacks and German exhaustion ended the first great German offensive. Germany had gained miles rather than yards of land but failed to end the war before American troops could arrive in force. Both sides lost hundreds of thousands of men, but the Allied forces were being bolstered by American troops.

More fighting followed, and with each passing week, American troops made more and more contributions on the battlefield, driven forward by Pershing's leadership. Germany launched several more offensives. Allied defenses buckled and stretched but did not break. Each failed offensive weakened Germany more and raised Allied hopes. A British volunteer nurse working near the front described the arrival of new American troops:

I pressed forward with the others to watch the United States physically



>> A church in Ypres (EE-pruh), Belgium, lies in ruins. The use of powerful new military technologies by both the Allied and Central powers left many parts of Europe devastated.



>> American vessels crossed the Atlantic Ocean in convoys to help defend themselves against German U-boat attacks. **Identify Cause and Effect** Why was it so important to find a solution to the U-boat threat?

entering the War, so god-like, so magnificent, so splendidly unimpaired in comparison with the tired, nerve-wracked men of the British Army. So these were our deliverers at last, marching up the road to Camiers in the spring sunshine!

—Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

American Troops in Battle American troops, called “doughboys,” saw significant action in the late spring and summer of 1918. Americans fought on the defensive along with the French at the Second Battle of the Marne and on the offensive at the Battle of Cantigny (kahn tee NYEE), where they dislodged a large German force from fortified positions. They battled valiantly at Château-Thierry (sha TOH tir EE) and Belleau Wood, Meuse-Argonne (myooz ahr GAHN) and Saint-Mihiel (mee YEHL). Although it took some time, American troops learned quickly and fought bravely.

One of America’s greatest war heroes was Alvin York of Tennessee. On October 8, 1918, York was one of thousands of Americans fighting in the Meuse-Argonne region of northeastern France. Trapped behind enemy lines, York and 16 other Americans took cover from blistering machine-gun fire. As half of the

American force fell to German bullets, York took aim with his rifle and silenced a nearby German machine-gun nest. He then dodged a flurry of bullets to attack several other machine gunners and even charged one German position with only a pistol! When the firefight died down, York and the surviving Americans had taken the German position against amazing odds. York’s battlefield heroics earned him a Congressional Medal of Honor.

Alvin York was only one of thousands of heroes, many of whom died and most of whom were never recognized for their deeds. They followed orders, fought bravely, and made great sacrifices. Although African American soldiers often faced discrimination in the United States Army, they demonstrated their patriotism in dozens of engagements. For example, an entire African American unit, the 369th Infantry Regiment, received the *Croix de Guerre*, a French award for bravery, for its members’ actions in the Meuse-Argonne region.

The fighting in the Meuse-Argonne region is also called the Meuse-Argonne campaign. The campaign was a widespread attack along the Western Front launched in September of 1918. The AEF under General Pershing were tasked with advancing through the thick, tangled Argonne Forest. The dense trees and rocky ridges gave the advantage to the German defenses, but the Americans persisted. After weeks of heavy fighting, they had driven the Germans from

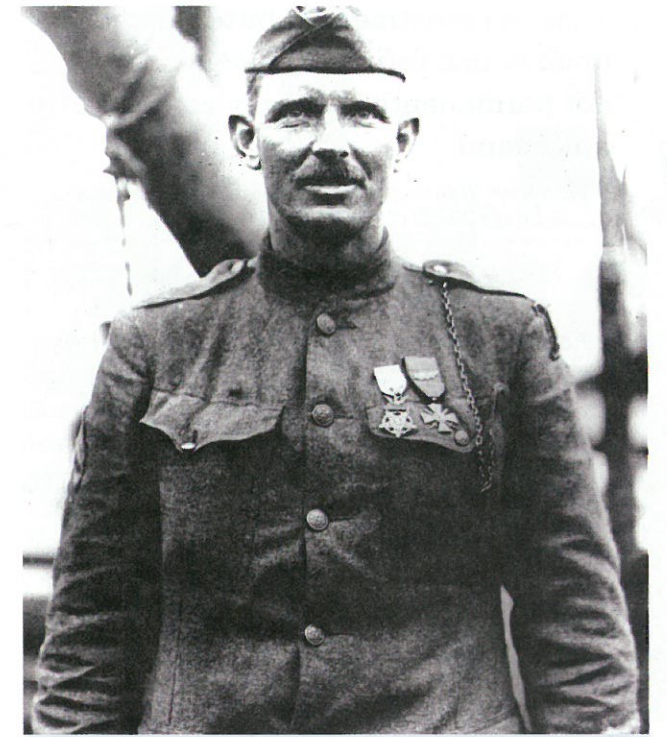
the forest. The American victory in the Battle of the Argonne Forest was a devastating defeat for Germany that hastened the end of the war.

Germany Surrenders The American troops, added to those of France, Britain, and Italy, gave the Allies a military advantage. By the fall of 1918, the German front was collapsing. Both the German and Austro-Hungarian armies had had enough. Some men deserted, others mutinied, and many refused to fight. Their leaders faced little choice but to surrender. On November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered to the Allies in a railway car in Compiègne (kohn PYEHN), France.

The war was over.

Of the millions of soldiers who mobilized to fight, almost 5 million Allied and 8 million Central Power troops were dead. Nearly 6.5 million civilians were also dead, victims of the terrible conflict. Of the 2 million U.S. soldiers sent to Europe, about 1.4 million served on the front. More than 50,000 lost their lives, and about 230,000 were wounded. It was left to the peacemakers to determine whether the results would justify the costs.

? GENERATE EXPLANATIONS What contributions did the U.S. military make to World War I?



>> Alvin York, a conscientious objector before the war, earned the Medal of Honor after helping Allied forces defeat the Germans at the Battle of Argonne Forest.



>> **Analyze Maps** Why did Germany ask for peace while they still controlled most of Belgium and northeast France?

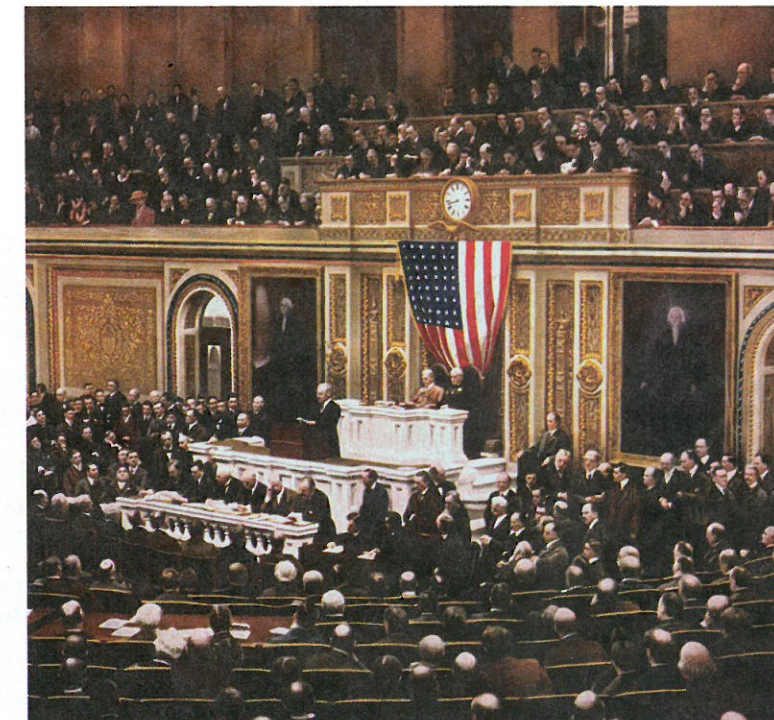
Interactive Map

Wilson Wants “Peace Without Victory”

Vladimir Lenin, leader of the communist revolution in Russia, maintained that the entire war was nothing more than an imperialistic land-grab. Once in power, he exposed secret treaties that Russia had made with the other Allies in which they agreed to divide among themselves the empires of their enemies. These revelations undercut the morality of the Allied cause in the war.

For President Woodrow Wilson, however, the war was not about acquisitions and imperialism—it was about peace and freedom. In January 1917, Wilson had introduced the idea of a “peace without victory” in an address to Congress:

Only a tranquil Europe can be a stable Europe. . . . [There] must be a peace without victory Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser, a victor’s terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be accepted in humiliation...and would leave a



>> President Wilson asks Congress to declare war in April, 1917.

sting, a resentment, a bitter memory upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand.

—Woodrow Wilson, “Peace Without Victory” speech, January 22, 1917

The Fourteen Points In another address to Congress in January 1918, Wilson answered Lenin’s charges about the nature of the conflict by outlining America’s war aims in what became known as the **Fourteen Points**. At the heart of the Fourteen Points was his idea of “peace without victory.” Wilson proposed a peace inspired by noble ideals, not greed and vengeance.

The Fourteen Points raised some major issues. They sought to fundamentally change the world by promoting openness, encouraging independence, and supporting freedom. Critical of all secret treaties, Wilson called for open diplomacy. He insisted on freedom of the seas, free trade, a move toward ending colonialism, and a general reduction of armaments.

He also championed national **self-determination**, or the right of people to choose their own form of government. This would lead to the creation of several new, independent states but also raised many questions of which populations would achieve statehood and under what circumstances. Finally, he asked for a

League of Nations to secure “mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.”

Wilson Travels to Paris In early 1919, the victorious Allies held a peace conference in Versailles (ver si), a suburb of Paris, in the former palace of Louis XIV. President Wilson believed that the peace conference was too important to be left to career diplomats and lesser politicians, so he crossed the Atlantic Ocean himself to represent the United States at the conference, something no president had ever done.

Wilson did not invite any leading Republicans to join him in his peace delegation. Wilson’s decision angered Republicans, who had won control of Congress in the 1918 elections.

Senator **Henry Cabot Lodge**, a leading Republican foreign policy expert, was especially angry. Wilson left Lodge behind because Wilson disliked him intensely, but the feeling was mutual. Lodge and Wilson had fundamentally different views about America’s place on the world stage. Lodge was suspicious of Wilson’s progressivism and idealism, which he viewed as dangerously naive. Whereas Wilson spoke of “peace without victory” and “mutual guarantees,” Lodge, keen to move the United States into the position of a world power, spoke unabashedly about putting American interests first:

Wilson’s Fourteen Points, 1918

1. Make no secret diplomatic agreements.	6. Evacuate and restore Russian territories seized during the war.	11. Redraw boundaries of Balkan states based on nationalities and historical allegiances.
2. Allow freedom of the seas in peace and war.	7. Restore and protect Belgium’s sovereignty.	12. Separate the Ottoman Empire into independent countries according to nationality; guarantee all nations access to the Dardanelles.
3. Remove as many economic trade barriers as possible between countries.	8. Restore French territory and settle the debate over Alsace-Lorraine.	13. Restore and protect Poland as a sovereign state with access to the sea.
4. Reduce stockpiles of military armaments to lowest point needed for domestic safety.	9. Adjust Italy’s boundaries according to the nationalities of populations living there.	14. Establish an association of nations to provide collective security and to ensure peace.
5. Adjust colonial claims, giving more weight to the views of the colonized peoples.	10. Allow the peoples of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire to choose their own governments.	

>> **Analyze Charts** How did Wilson’s Fourteen Points aim to reduce the potential for future wars to develop?

“I can never be anything else but an American, and I must think of the United States first, and when I think of the United States first . . . I am thinking of what is best for the world, for if the United States fails, the best hopes of mankind fail with it.”

—Henry Cabot Lodge, letter to President Woodrow Wilson, 1919

The decision to leave Lodge behind would come back to haunt Wilson.

However, when the American president arrived in France, adoring crowds greeted him. “Never has a king, never has an emperor received such a welcome,” wrote one journalist.

? IDENTIFY CENTRAL IDEAS What was the central idea behind Wilson’s “peace without victory” proposal?

The Paris Peace Conference

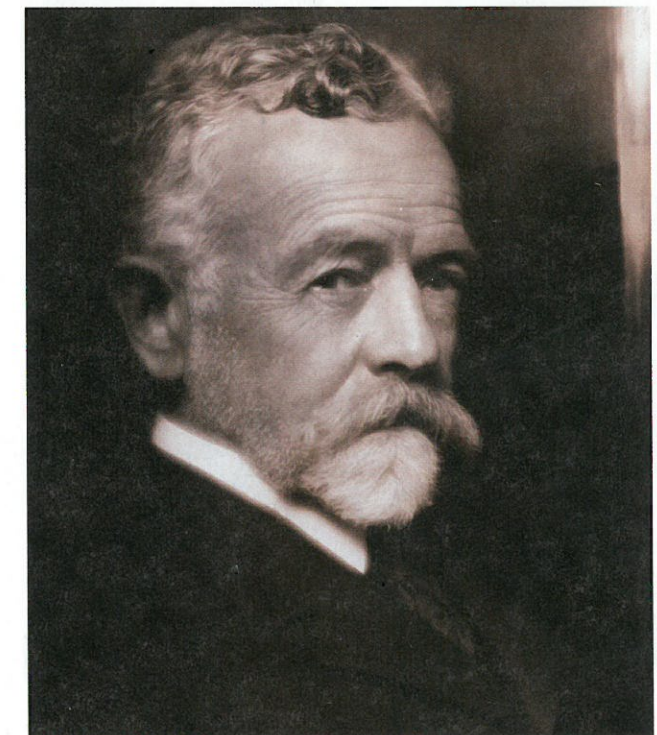
Wilson’s idealism did not inspire the other Allied leaders at the peace conference. They blamed Germany for starting the war, reminded Wilson that they had suffered more in the war than the United States, and insisted that Germany make **reparations**, or payment for war damages. They wanted to weaken Germany so that it would never threaten Europe again.

Allied Leaders Reject Wilson’s Ideas British prime minister David Lloyd-George and French premier Georges Clemenceau (klay mahn soh) knew that the citizens of their countries expected both peace and victory. Lloyd-George insisted on protecting the existing colonial status quo and punishing Germany. Clemenceau wanted to make Germany pay dearly for what it had done to France. In addition to reparations, he demanded the return of Alsace-Lorraine and several key German colonies. Besides Britain and France, other Allies also had goals of their own and were skeptical of Wilson’s grand vision.

Once the Versailles conference began, Clemenceau, Lloyd-George, Italian Premier Vittorio Orlando, and other Allied leaders started to chip away at Wilson’s Fourteen Points. Onto the scrap heap of failed proposals they piled freedom of the seas, free trade, the liberation of colonial empires, a general disarmament, and several other ideas.



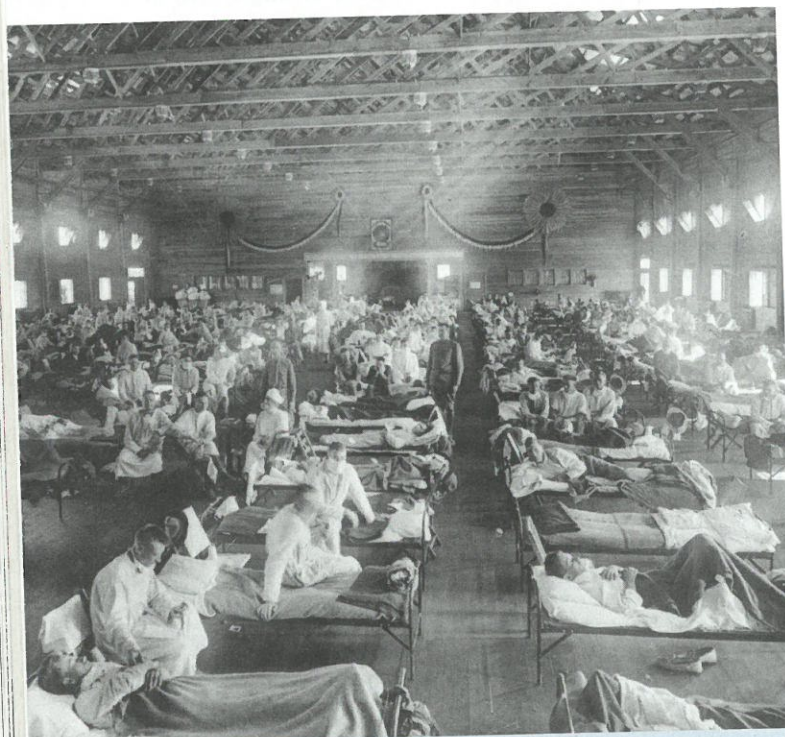
>> Woodrow Wilson joined French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau on the left, and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, on the right, at Versailles in 1919.



>> Senator Henry Cabot Lodge disagreed with Wilson over the proposed League of Nations, arguing that entangling the United States in European affairs would weaken U.S. sovereignty.



>> The League of Nations' first session took place in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 1920.



>> The spread of the influenza pandemic from 1918 to 1919 left millions dead worldwide, creating a sense of dread among peoples of all nations. Pictured are soldiers at an army hospital in Kansas.

The League of Nations Wilson lost a number of battles but kept fighting to salvage a League of Nations, a world organization where countries could gather and peacefully resolve their quarrels. On this point, Wilson refused to compromise. The other delegates finally voted to make the League of Nations part of the treaty.

Problems With the Peace In the end, the various peace treaties created almost as many major issues as they solved. The changes in political boundaries that resulted from the international conflict were not always driven by self-determination or the best interests of the people living there. In the new map that emerged from the Paris Peace Conference, national self-determination was violated almost as often as it was confirmed. In Europe, several populations of Germans found themselves attached to non-German nations. The same was true of several Austrian populations.

Furthermore, in the Middle East, the breakup of the Ottoman Empire led to new political boundaries in which ethnic groups were clustered together randomly. To form Iraq, for example, the Versailles peacemakers threw together three provinces of the defeated Ottoman Empire—Basra, Baghdad, and Mosul. But Basra had natural links to the Persian Gulf and India, Baghdad to Persia, and Mosul to Turkey and Syria. The various regions had no sense of Iraqi nationalism. In addition, Iraq, like other holdings in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, was not allowed to practice self-determination. It was attached to Britain as a mandate, or territory overseen by another nation.

? DRAW CONCLUSIONS Why did the Allies reject Wilson's ideas for peace?

America Rejects the Treaty of Versailles

When Wilson left Versailles to return to the United States, he knew the treaty was not perfect. But he believed that over time the League could correct its problems. He still thought that a lasting peace could emerge.

The Flu Pandemic The movement from war to peace would have been difficult even in the best of times. But the end of 1918 and 1919 were not the best of times. In September 1918, an unusually deadly form of the **influenza**, or flu, virus appeared. Research in recent years shows that the 1918 influenza virus was originally a bird flu that mutated to spread to humans. Many historians now believe that the virus originated

Comparing Irreconcilables, Reservationists, and Wilson Democrats

IRRECONCILABLES	RESERVATIONISTS	WILSON DEMOCRATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed the treaty in any form • Convinced that the idea of a League of Nations was idealistic and unrealistic • Suspicious of the actions and intents of the other countries in the League of Nations • Wished to maintain American isolationism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would accept the treaty if it were modified • Believed the League of Nations removed congressional power to declare war, making it unconstitutional • Opposed Article 10 of the League Covenant, which required the U.S. to defend other members of the League under certain circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most supported the treaty • Believed no changes to the treaty were necessary • Wanted U.S. to be part of the League of Nations

>> **Analyze Charts** What was the primary difference between reservationists and irreconcilables?

in the United States, then traveled around the world, thus becoming a pandemic.

As many as 50 million people died—among them, about 675,000 Americans. The Great Influenza pandemic, also called the Great Pandemic or the Flu Pandemic of 1918, coming on the heels of the Great War, gave a sense of doom and dread to people around the globe.

The pandemic may have even reached Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference. He fell seriously ill, and his temperature reached 103 degrees. Wilson's physician diagnosed the president as suffering from the flu. Although there is some doubt that it was actually the flu, there is no doubt that Wilson's sickness kept him from participating in many meetings. His illness may have been a factor in Wilson not achieving all he had hoped to.

Wilson Faces Opposition at Home Much as Wilson faced opposition to his ideas at the Paris Peace Conference, he faced opposition in the United States to the Treaty of Versailles he had negotiated—but for different reasons. German Americans thought the treaty was too harsh toward Germany, especially the “war guilt clause” that suggested that Germany had caused the war. Irish Americans criticized the failure to create an independent Ireland.

Most important, however, the treaty would need to be submitted to the Republican-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then ratified, or approved, by the Republic-controlled Senate. In both

bodies, as well as in his own Democratic Party, Wilson faced stiff opposition.

A handful of senators believed that the United States should not get entangled in world politics or involved in world organizations at all. Known as **“irreconcilables,”** these isolationist senators opposed any treaty that had a League of Nations folded into it. They particularly disliked Article 10 of the League covenant. Article 10 called for mutual defense by the signers of the treaty, a pledge that each nation would “respect and preserve . . . the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all the Members of the League.”

A larger group of senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge and known as **“reservationists,”** were opposed to the treaty as it was written. Some wanted only small changes, while others demanded larger ones.

For example, many felt Article 10 could lead the United States into a war without the consent of Congress, which was unconstitutional. Reservationists believed that the language of the article was too vague and demanded that it not contradict the power of Congress to declare war. But with some changes, the reservationists were prepared to vote for the Treaty of Versailles. They knew that polls indicated that the American people favored the League of Nations.

Wilson had compromised in Versailles, but he was not ready to compromise in Washington, D.C. When the Senate delayed its ratification vote, Wilson took his case directly to the people. The League of Nations had become his personal crusade, and convincing the



>> As part of his speaking tour to promote the League of Nations, President Wilson makes a stop in St. Louis, Missouri.

 **Interactive Chart**

American people of its worth would test his leadership. The qualities of effective leadership, for a president of the United States, include the ability to appeal to a wide variety of people and persuade them that certain ideas are in the best interest of the country. Even though he was ill and weak, he set himself the grueling task of crossing the country and giving 32 addresses in 33 days. But his health failed on September 25, 1919, in Pueblo, Colorado. He was rushed back to Washington, D.C., but suffered a debilitating stroke a few days later. As the Senate prepared to vote on the treaty, Wilson lay close to death, barely able to speak.

The United States Fails to Approve Treaty of Versailles In November 1919, one year after the war ended, a treaty revised to eliminate the complaints of the reservationists reached the Senate for a vote. Wilson would not compromise and told his Democratic supporters to vote with the irreconcilables against it. They did, and it was defeated. Next, the Senate voted on the treaty without any changes. The Democrats voted for it, but the combined strength of the irreconcilables and reservationists defeated it. Once more it was voted on, this time with only modest changes. Again, Wilson told his followers to vote against it. Although

some Democrats voted for it, the combination of Wilson Democrats and irreconcilables defeated the treaty.

The problem was not that most of the Senate was isolationist. Except for the irreconcilables, most senators wanted the United States to participate in world affairs. They differed slightly on what form that participation would take.

However, at a moment that demanded compromise, Wilson and his opponents refused to put aside personal and political differences for the good of the country. The tragedy of the failed votes was that without full American support, the League of Nations would prove unable to maintain peace among nations.

It was the League of Nations that U.S. opponents of the Treaty of Versailles most objected to. In evaluating the pros and cons of U.S. participation in the international organization and treaty, opponents judged that the cons outweighed the pros. They were especially concerned that the League would entangle the United States in conflicts that would not advance U.S. interests. Supporters, in contrast, thought the pros outweighed the cons. They thought the United States would benefit by being part of an international organization in which other countries could come to the aid of the United States. They also wanted the United States to have a voice in international politics—before a huge conflict broke out.

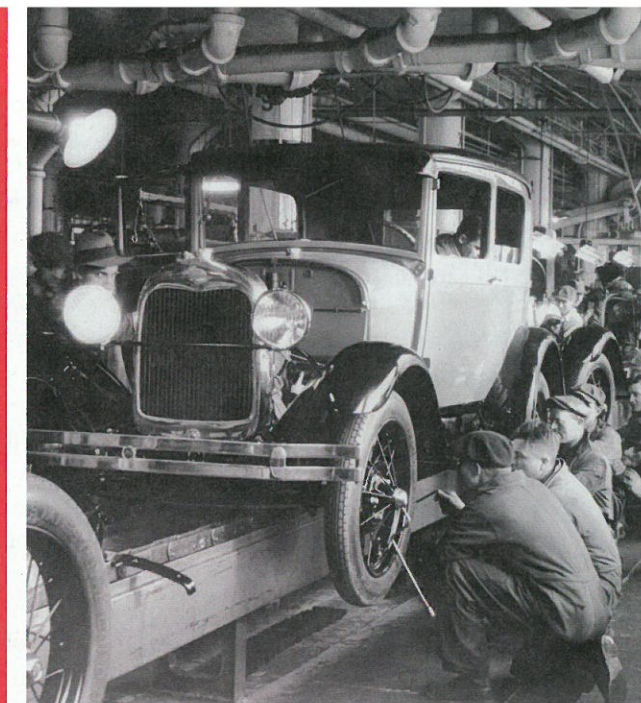
? DRAW CONCLUSIONS What was the principal argument of the irreconcilables against the Treaty of Versailles?

ASSESSMENT

- 1. Evaluate Arguments** Explain the reasoning behind President Wilson's concept of "peace without victory." Do you think it was a viable idea? Explain why or why not.
- 2. Apply Concepts** What opposition did President Wilson's ideas face among Allied nations as well as within the United States?
- 3. Generate Explanations** Explain how European and Middle Eastern nations adjusted to peace after the Paris Peace Conference.
- 4. Describe** the impact of the Great Influenza pandemic after World War I.
- 5. Identify Cause and Effect** Explain why the United States failed to approve the Treaty of Versailles, and discuss how this impacted the future of world relations.

5.4

November 11, 1918, was a day celebrated around the world. World War I—known then as the Great War—had ended with the armistice. The greatest war in human history to date had ended. Every year, the United States celebrates Veteran's Day on November 11 to commemorate the service of Americans in the armed forces in any war. With the war's end, the United States faced a painful adjustment period, then a decade of amazing economic growth and prosperity.



>> To help speed up production and ensure his cars were made well, Ford had his workers build cars on an assembly line, where each worker had a specific task.

 **Interactive Flipped Video**

The Postwar Economy Booms

Postwar Issues

But in 1918, the victory was bittersweet. The flu pandemic still raged, and it would end up killing far more Americans than had died in the war.

[The Year]1918 has gone: a year momentous as the termination of the most cruel war in the annals of the human race; a year which marked the end, at least for a time, of man's destruction of man; unfortunately a year in which developed a most fatal infectious disease causing the death of hundreds of thousands of human beings.

—Journal of the American Medical Association, December 28, 1918

The flu faded out in 1919. The next year, an American public tired of world affairs and problems at home, elected a new president. Republican Warren G. Harding easily defeated the Democratic nominee, Governor James M. Cox of Ohio. Harding campaigned on a slogan that captured perfectly the American spirit of the time:

>> Objectives

Describe the economic problems America faced after World War I.

Explain the economic growth and prosperity of the 1920s, including how Henry Ford and the automobile industry helped spark the boom.

Analyze the consumer revolution and the bull market of the 1920s.

Compare the different effects of the economic boom on urban, suburban, and rural America.

>> Key Terms

Henry Ford
mass production
Model T
scientific management
assembly lines
consumer revolution
installment buying
bull market
buying on margin
inflation
creditor nation