

Chapter Summary

Section 1: From Neutrality to War

- In 1914, war erupted in Europe. The conflict became a bloody stalemate fought along mud-filled trenches. The United States initially tried to remain neutral but eventually joined the war on the side of Britain and France.

Section 2: The Home Front

- For the first time, the American economy was managed by the government. The war created opportunities for women and minorities. Blacks migrated to northern cities and women finally got the vote.



Chapter Summary (continued)

Section 3: Wilson, War, and Peace

- President Wilson proposed a 14-point peace plan, but his Allied counterparts sought revenge and reparations. Wilson compromised on every point except his plan for a League of Nations. In the end, the U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles.

Section 4: Effects of the War

- The war was followed by a terrible influenza epidemic, an economic recession, and inflation that led to labor strikes and a Red Scare. By 1920, Americans were ready for a “return to normalcy” and elected Warren G. Harding president.

Objectives

- Identify the causes of World War I.
- Describe the course and character of the war.
- Explain why the United States entered the conflict on the side of the Allies.



Terms and People

- **Alsace-Lorraine** – French region lost to German states in 1871
- **militarism** – a glorification of the military
- **Francis Ferdinand** – archduke of Austria-Hungary who was assassinated in 1914
- **William II** – the German emperor
- **Western Front** – trenches that stretched from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border with France, forming the battlefield between the Allies and the Central Powers in Western Europe

Terms and People (continued)

- **casualty** – killed, wounded, or missing soldier
- **contraband** – weapons and other war supplies
- **U-boat** – a German submarine
- ***Lusitania*** – English passenger ship sunk by a German U-boat, killing American civilians
- **Zimmermann note** – a telegram in which the German foreign minister proposed an alliance with Mexico against the U.S.



What caused World War I, and why did the United States enter the war?

In 1914, nationalism, militarism, imperialism, and entangling alliances combined to drag Europe into a world war.

The United States attempted to remain neutral but abandoned its long tradition of staying out of European conflicts.

In 1914, five factors made Europe a powder keg ready to explode.



Nationalism

Militarism

Economic rivalries

Imperial ambitions

Regional tensions

Nationalism, or devotion to one's country, caused tensions to rise.

- Among the powers of Europe, nationalism caused a desire to avenge perceived insults and past losses.
- Some felt national identity centered around a single ethnic group and questioned the loyalty of ethnic minorities.
- Social Darwinists applied the idea of "survival of the fittest" to nations.

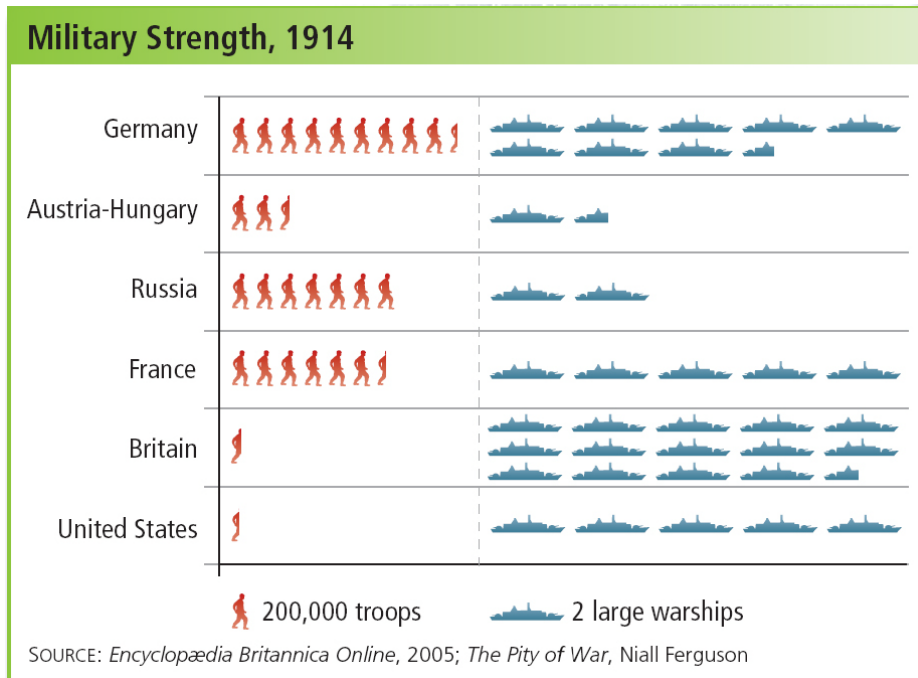
Economic competition for trade and colonies increased nationalistic feelings.



Economic competition caused a demand for colonies and military bases in Africa, the Pacific islands, and China.

Alliances provided a promise of assistance that made some leaders reckless or overly aggressive.

Nations stockpiled new technology, including machine guns, mobile artillery, tanks, submarines, and airplanes.



Militarism, combined with nationalism, led to an arms race.

On June 28, 1914,
Serb nationalists
assassinated the
heir to the throne of
Austria-Hungary,
Archduke, **Francis
Ferdinand.**

The assassination
triggered a chain
of events that
drew two sets of
allies into a bloody
conflict.

Europe's alliance system caused the conflict to spread quickly, creating two main combatants.



Allied Powers included Britain, France, Russia, and Serbia.

Central Powers included Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Germany invaded Belgium, a neutral country, to attack France.

The German advance was stopped about 30 miles from Paris.

The war bogged down as both sides dug a long series of trenches, creating the **Western Front**.



The era's deadly defensive weapons made attacks difficult and dangerous.

Deadly Technology of World War I

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Machine guns | Improved machine guns could fire 600 bullets per minute. |
| Artillery field guns | These long-range cannons caused more casualties than any other type of weapon. |
| Poison gas | Gases such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas could kill, blind, or burn their victims. |
| Submarines | German U-boats, or submarines, used torpedoes as well as on-deck guns to sink ships. |
| Tanks and armored cars | Both sides tried to develop vehicles that could go over the rough ground and barbed-wire barricades of no man's land, with limited success. |
| Airplanes | Planes were used for reconnaissance, bombing, and fighting but did not prove decisive. |

Neither side could overcome the other's defenses, and a stalemate quickly developed.

As the war dragged on in Europe, President Wilson urged Americans to remain neutral.

- The United States had a long tradition of staying out of European conflicts.
- Yet one-third of Americans had been born in a foreign country and still identified with their homelands.

Many Americans favored one side or the other.

U.S. public opinion fell into three main groups.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Isolationists | Favored staying out of the war |
| Interventionists | Favored fighting on the Allies' side |
| Internationalists | Wanted the U.S. to play a role for peace but not fight |

Early in the war, the British navy had set up a blockade of Germany.

- Britain's goal was to intercept **contraband** goods.
- In defiance of international law, Britain also prevented non-contraband goods, such as food and gasoline, from reaching Germany.

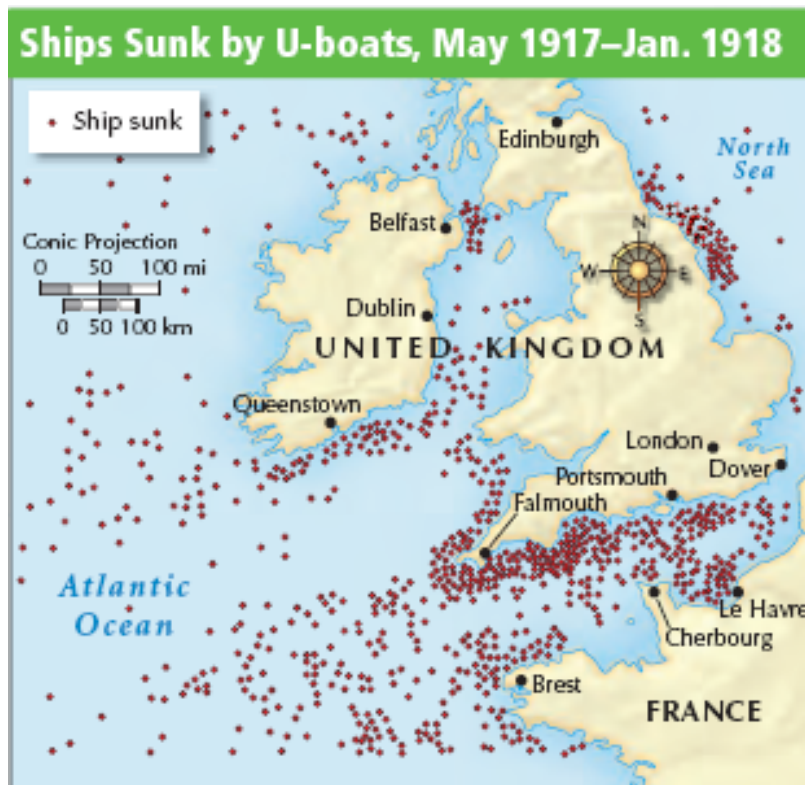
Germany responded by trying to blockade Britain.



German **U-boats** torpedoed ships bound for Britain.

On May 7, 1915, a U-boat sank the British passenger ship **Lusitania** off the coast of Ireland, killing many Americans.

Americans were angry about the *Lusitania*. Germany failed to keep its promise to not sink any more passenger ships.



- President Wilson still wanted peace, but he began to prepare for the possibility of war.
- In 1916, Congress expanded the army and authorized more warships.

Two events in 1917 led President Wilson to ask Congress to declare war on the Central Powers.

- The **Zimmermann Note** was intercepted. In this telegram, Germany tried to forge an alliance with Mexico against the United States.
- Germany returned to a policy of **unrestricted submarine warfare**, sinking any ship headed for Britain.



On April 2, 1917, Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying “The world must be made safe for democracy.”

Congress responded with a declaration of war on April 6, and the United States entered World War I.

Objectives

- Analyze how the American government mobilized the public to support the war effort.
- Describe opposition to the war.
- Outline significant social changes that occurred during the war.



Terms and People

- **Selective Service Act** – law that established a military draft in 1917
- **Bernard Baruch** – head of the War Industries Board, which regulated businesses related to the war effort
- **CPI** – Committee on Public Information, which worked to convince the public that the war was just
- **George Creel** – director of the CPI

Terms and People (continued)

- **conscientious objector** – a person whose moral or religious views forbid participation in war
- **Espionage Act** – 1917 law that gave postal authorities power to ban treasonable or seditious materials from the mail
- **Great Migration** – the movement of more than 1.2 million blacks from the South to northern cities between 1910 and 1920



How did the war affect Americans at home?

For the first time, the government played a major role in Americans' daily lives, taking on new powers to regulate industry, draft soldiers, and shape public opinion.

The war required sacrifice, but it also brought new opportunities.

In 1917, the United States needed to increase the size of its army.



- President Wilson called for volunteers.
- Congress passed the **Selective Service Act**.
- More than 4 million U.S. soldiers were sent to Europe.

The federal government took control of the wartime economy.



The Council of National Defense created federal agencies to **oversee food production, fuel distribution, and railroads.**

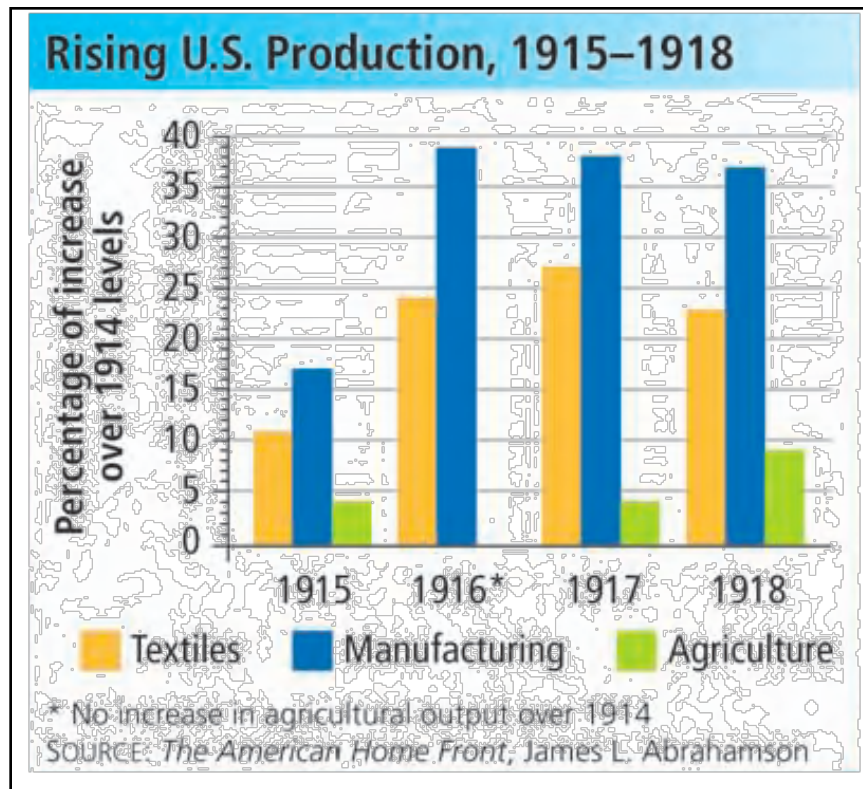


Bernard Baruch headed the War Industries Board (WIB), which **regulated war-related businesses.**



The Food Administration, led by Herbert Hoover, **set prices for agricultural products.**

The War Industries Board encouraged factories to increase output.



Similarly, the Food Administration encouraged farmers to produce more food.

Women entered the workforce to help the war effort.

The **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** encouraged public support for the war.



- Headed by **George Creel**, the CPI distributed millions of pamphlets and sent out thousands of press releases and speakers.
- CPI materials outlined U.S. and Allied goals and stressed the enemy's cruelty.

Not all Americans supported the war.

The draft was controversial, and some men refused to register for it.

Conscientious objectors were supposed to be exempt from the draft.

In practice, however, this exemption was widely ignored by local draft boards.

Some women also opposed the war.

Jeannette Rankin, a pacifist and the only woman in Congress, **voted against the war.**

Jane Addams formed the **Women's Peace Party** and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The government passed laws to discourage dissent.

- The 1917 **Espionage Act** gave postal authorities power to **ban newspapers or other printed materials** that could incite treason.
- In 1918, the Sedition Act **outlawed speech** that went against the government or the military.
- Congress enacted laws that imposed **heavy fines and prison terms** on anyone who interfered with the war effort.

Support of the Allies and anger at Germany caused a backlash against German Americans.



- Some schools stopped teaching the German language.



- People stopped listening to music by German composers.



- They called hamburgers “liberty steaks” and Dachshunds “liberty pups.”

Occasionally, hatred of the German enemy boiled over into **violence against German Americans**.

The war presented new opportunities to Blacks.



- 367,000 Blacks served in the military.
- In the **Great Migration**, more than a million blacks moved north, hoping to escape poverty and Jim Crow laws and find better jobs.

Objectives

- Understand how the United States military contributed to the Allied victory in the war.
- Describe the aims of the Fourteen Points.
- Analyze the decisions made at the Paris Peace Conference.
- Explain why the United States Senate refused to ratify the treaty ending World War I.



Terms and People

- **convoy** – group of ships that traveled together for protection against German U-boats
- **Vladimir Lenin** – radical communist leader who took over Russia in March 1917
- **John J. Pershing** – General who led American forces in Europe
- **Fourteen Points** – Wilson's plan for lasting peace through international openness and cooperation
- **self-determination** – the right of people to choose their own form of government

Terms and People (continued)

- **League of Nations** – world organization to promote peaceful cooperation between countries
- **Henry Cabot Lodge** – Republican Senator who opposed ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- **reparations** – payments for war damages
- **“irreconcilables”** – Senate isolationists who opposed any treaty that included a League of Nations
- **“reservationists”** – Senators who opposed the Treaty of Versailles as written but were open to compromise

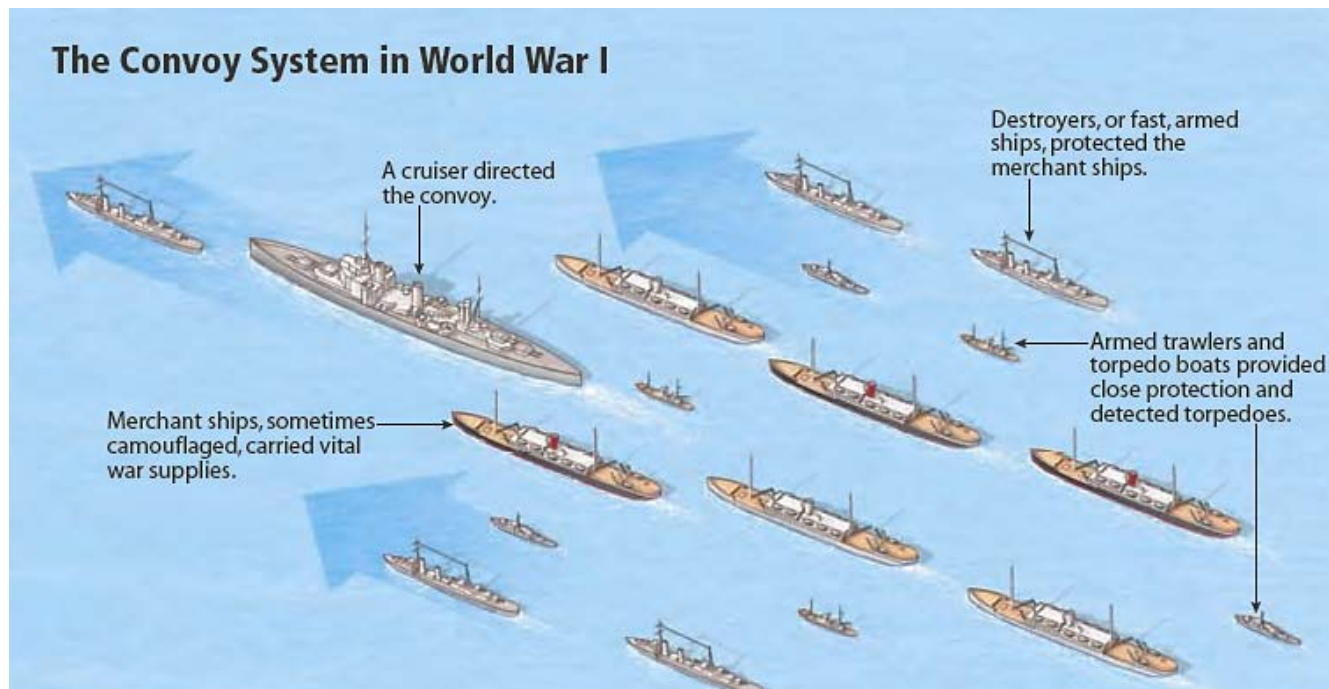


How did Americans affect the end of World War I and its peace settlements?

When the United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917, the war was at a deadly, bloody stalemate along the Western Front.

The American entry into the war would play a key role in the Allied victory.

When the United States entered the war in 1917, Germany increased U-boat attacks, hoping to **win** the war before American troops could make a difference.



Convoys of British and American ships, protected by warships, provided better safety at sea.

Several factors gave the Central Powers an advantage on land.

- The **Allies were exhausted** from years of fighting.
- **Russia was torn apart** by revolutions at home.
- Communists gained control of Russia, and their leader **Vladimir Lenin** signed a treaty with Germany in 1918, ending Russian involvement in the war.
- The **closing of the Eastern Front** allowed Germany to send more troops to the Western Front.

In the spring of 1918, Germany began an all-out offensive on the Western Front.

The attacks threatened to break through Allied defenses and open a path to Paris.

More American soldiers began to arrive, and U.S. troops carried more of the burden of fighting.

General **John J. Pershing** turned millions of untrained American men into soldiers, then led them in France.

- The arrival of American soldiers gave the Allies a military advantage.
- They fought bravely in many battles.
- By the end of the war, 1.3 million Americans had served at the front. More than 50,000 of them died.

By the fall of 1918, the German front was collapsing.



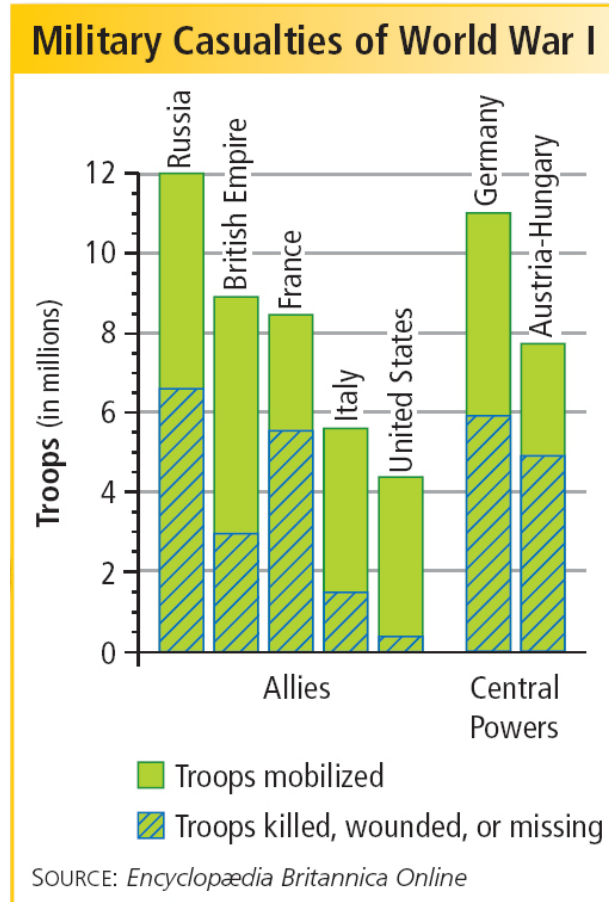
Many German and Austro-Hungarian soldiers deserted, mutinied, or refused to fight.



On November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered to the Allies in Compiegne, France.

The war took a huge toll on those involved.

- Nearly 5 million Allied soldiers and 8 million Central Powers soldiers were killed in the fighting.
- In addition, 6.5 million civilians died during the conflict.



Summary of the Fourteen Points

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

In early 1919, President Wilson traveled to Versailles, France for a peace conference.

- He met with European leaders and presented a plan for peace based on his **Fourteen Points**.
- Wilson's vision of a postwar world was grounded in the idea of "peace without victory."

Wilson's Fourteen Points made specific proposals to promote future peace.

- Practice open diplomacy.
- Allow freedom of the seas.
- Encourage free trade.
- Reduce arms stockpiles.
- Scale back colonialism.
- Encourage **self-determination** of nations.
- Establish a League of Nations.

Allied leaders at Versailles wanted **reparations**.



- European leaders did not share Wilson's vision of peace without victory.
- They wanted Germany to pay for war damages.
- They also wanted to protect European colonialism and expand their countries' territories.

One by one, Wilson's Fourteen Points were rejected, leaving only the **League of Nations**.



- The League of Nations was an organization where countries could come together to **resolve disputes peacefully**.
- Wilson's proposal to create a League of Nations was added to the Treaty of Versailles.

The Treaty of Versailles redrew the map of Europe and broke up the Ottoman Empire.

Territorial Changes After World War I



Wilson returned to face a hostile Senate, where two groups opposed the treaty.

- The **"reservationists,"** led by **Henry Cabot Lodge**, opposed the treaty as written but were willing to negotiate changes.
- The **"irreconcilables"** were isolationists who opposed the League of Nations.



Wilson was unwilling to compromise on the treaty.

- On a speaking tour to promote the League of Nations in September 1919, **Wilson became ill and suffered a stroke.**
- As he lay near death, **the Senate voted, refusing to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.**



Objectives

- Describe the problems Americans faced immediately after the war.
- Analyze how these problems contributed to the Red Scare.
- Understand how the war changed America's role in world affairs.



Terms and People

- **influenza** – the flu virus, which caused a deadly epidemic in 1918
- **inflation** – rising prices
- **Red Scare** – widespread fear of radicals and communists
- **Palmer Raids** – a series of raids, arrests, and deportations of suspected radicals, most of whom never received a trial

Terms and People (continued)

- **Nicola Sacco** and **Bartolomeo Vanzetti** – Italian anarchists convicted and executed for murder despite scarce evidence against them
- **Warren G. Harding** – elected president in 1920 by promising Americans a “return to normalcy”
- **creditor nation** – a nation that lends more money than it borrows



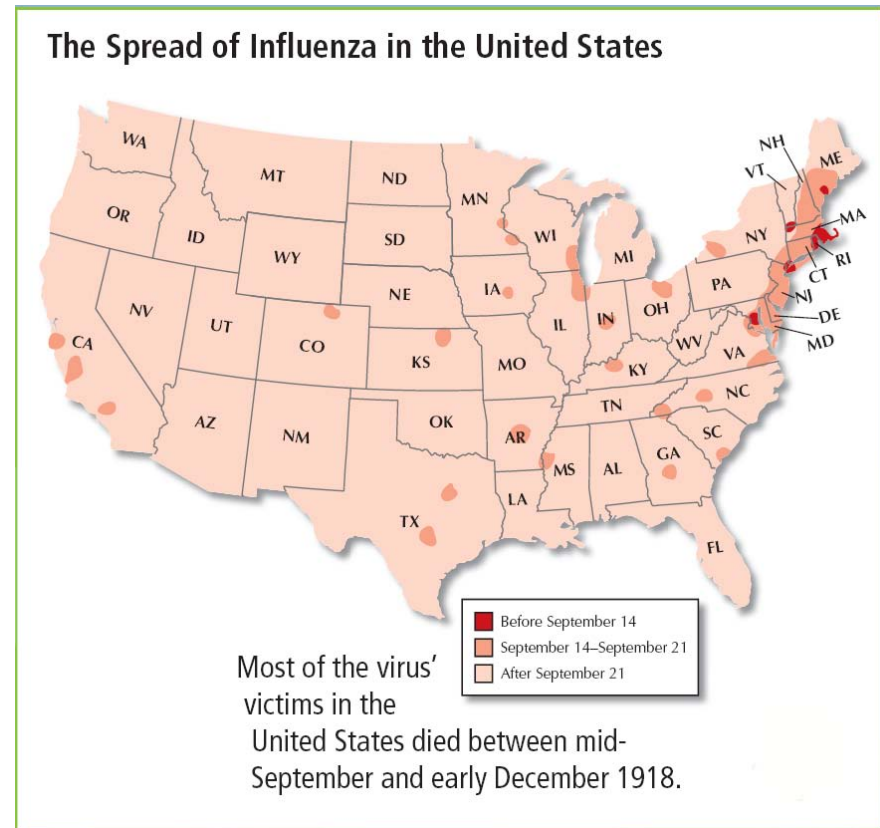
What political, economic, and social effects did World War I have on the United States?

The Treaty of Versailles produced an unstable peace. Its harsh terms left Germany with a strong desire for revenge, while Soviet Russia threatened worldwide revolution.

In the United States, the horrors of the war and the fear of radicals led people to question the nation's role in the world.

The transition to peace was made more difficult by a deadly **influenza** pandemic that began in 1918.

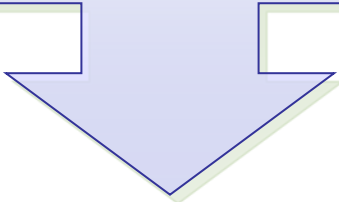
The flu killed 550,000 Americans and more than 50 million people around the world.



Economic troubles also caused problems in the United States.

- A **recession**, or economic slowdown, occurred after the war.
- Many women and blacks lost their jobs to returning soldiers.
- **Tension over jobs and housing** led to race riots in some cities.
- Scarcity of consumer goods and high demand caused **inflation**, or rising prices.

Because rising prices made it harder to make ends meet, inflation caused labor unrest.



- Many unions went on strike for **higher pay and shorter workdays**.
- In 1919, more than 4 million workers went on strike.
- The workers succeeded in some strikes, but lost far more. Some strikes turned violent.

Several events combined to create the first **Red Scare** in the United States.

- Violent strikes
- The emergence of the **Soviet Union** as a communist country
- A series of **mail bombs** targeting industrialists and government officials

One mail bomb was sent to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, who launched the **Palmer Raids** in 1920.

- Police **arrested thousands** of people.
- Some were radicals; others were simply immigrants.
- Hundreds of people were **deported without a trial**.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) formed in 1920 to **protect people's rights and liberties**.

Nicola Sacco and **Bartolomeo Vanzetti** were Italian anarchists **charged with murder** committed during a robbery in Massachusetts.

- Witnesses claimed the robbers “looked Italian.”
- Despite little real evidence against them, **Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted and executed.**



Many scholars and politicians believed that the men died because of their nationality and political beliefs.

In the 1920 presidential election, Republican **Warren G. Harding** based his campaign on a call for “normalcy,” a return to a simpler time.

- Voters rejected President Wilson’s idealism.
- Harding won the election in a landslide.
- Republicans also won control of Congress.



**After World War I,
a new world order emerged.**



- The German and Russian **monarchies** were replaced by new forms of government.
- The Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman **empires** were **broken up**.
- The United States became the world's economic center and largest **creditor nation**.