
Summary

WWI- The US was officially neutral in the first two years of WWI; in 1916. In spite of being neutral many Americans felt deeply connected to WWI, as over one-third of the American population was an immigrant. On Aug. 4, 1914, President Wilson issued an official proclamation of American neutrality in the war. America in 1914 desired to continue to trade with both sides. After English and German ships interfered with American trade, American sympathies and practical considerations dictated that American trade with the Allies. By 1916, American trade with the Central powers was down to zero, whereas trade with the Allied powers had increased nearly 400%. Many who traded with Great Britain urged the United States to prepare for eventual war. A private National Security League was founded in late 1914 to instill patriotism in Americans and to psychologically prepare Americans for war. The 1915 sinking of the British passenger ship the *Lusitania* infuriated many Americans, as did the publication of the Zimmerman Note, in which Germany tried to entice Mexico to go to war against the US. In Jan. of 1917 Germany announced a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, and several American ships were sunk. These events caused President Wilson to call for a declaration of war against Germany. American entry into the war was a tremendous psychological lift for the British and the French. The Russian army had suffered crushing defeats since 1916, and without Russia in the war, the Germans could place virtually their entire army in the western front. The initial American Expeditionary Force that landed in France in June 1917 under the command of General Pershing consisted of 14,500 men. Volunteers were recruited to serve in the army, but a Selective Service Act was passed in May 1917. The ages of those originally drafted were between 21 and 30; this was later extended to between 17 and 46. Both women and blacks were in the armed forces during the war. Starting in May 1917, all American shipping to Europe traveled in a convoy system. The navy developed special torpedo boats that were able to destroy submarines. These techniques drastically decreased the damage done by German U-boats and other ships; only two troop transports were sunk from this point onward, and losses suffered by the merchant marine were much fewer. On the American home front, the government imposed unprecedented controls on the economy and on the spreading of news. Despite the fact that America was far removed from the physical fighting of WWI, much had to be done to prepare America for the war effort. Americans were encouraged to buy Liberty Bonds to support the war. Rations were also enforced to regulate food production and consumption during the war years. Another new agency created in 1917 was the Committee on Public Information, headed by George Creel. The job of this agency was to spread anti-German and pro-Allied propaganda through newsreels and lectures, and through the cooperation of the press. The 1917 Espionage Act made it illegal to obstruct the draft process in any way and stated that any material that was sent through the mail that was said to incite treason could be seized. With large numbers of men fighting in Europe and no immigrants entering the country, northern factories needed workers, and encouraged blacks to move north to take factory jobs. This move north was called the Great Migration; during the war, nearly 600,000 blacks moved north. Many women were able to find jobs on farms or in factories for the very first time during the war. After the war, men would replace them in the labor market and force them to return to the "women's sphere." At the subsequent Paris Peace Conference, Wilson attempted to convince the Allies to accept his peace plan, called the "Fourteen Points" which called for open peace treaties, freedom of the seas, free trade, arms reduction, a gradual reduction of colonial claims, and some sort of a world organization to ensure peace. The "Big Four" dominated the conference: the representatives of England, France, Italy and the United States. The suffering of England and especially France during the war was horrific; the goal of the French delegation was clearly to punish Germany as much as possible. They achieved this end with the Treaty of Versailles, which was very harsh on Germany. This treaty caused Germany and her allies to take all blame for the war and the deaths in the war, pay large reparations, and caused Germany to make large concessions. At the peace conference the United States also made some propositions, but Britain and France were generally not enthusiastic about Wilson's proposals except for his idea of the creation of a League of Nations. However, the League was opposed by isolationist members of the U.S. Senate, Henry Cabot Lodge, led the "reservationists" and wanted restrictions on American membership in the League. Lodge, for example, wanted it stated that the Congress would have to approve any American action on behalf of the League, and that provisions of the Monroe Doctrine remain in place even if the League of Nations opposed them. Led by the Senate, the US backed off from the commitment, and entered a period of isolationism that would last through the 1930s and the US never became a member of the League.

-----Possible Essay Questions-----

The below section includes possible essay questions and answer ideas. Make sure you understand the below section just has ideas you still have to give examples and/or explain with a full response.

- 1. What caused the US to get involved in WWI?** + Large cultural ties to the allies + unrestricted submarine warfare when trading as a neutral country + increased propaganda in favor of the allied forces + sinking of the Lusitania and Sussex by German U-boats + Zimmerman telegram.
- 2. How did the home front change during WWI?** + Committee on Public Information was created to promote pro allied propaganda + Food and raw materials were rationed in order to conserve materials + Liberty Bonds were sold to raise money + Espionage Acts created to capture spies + Minorities and Women went to work in the factories and farms + the draft was created in order to recruit.
- 3. What role did the US play in the peace setting process of WWI?** – +Wilson created the 14 Points, which was more lenient on Germany + 14 Points was not followed, instead harsh plan was used + Wilson also encouraged the formation of the League of Nations (peace group) US never joined + Treaty of Versailles was opposed by US Senator who felt the US should go back to isolationism and protect US interests first (leader was Henry Cabot Lodge)

-----Key Terms-----

American Expeditionary Force: American force of 14,500 men that landed in France in June 1917 with General John J. Pershing.

War Industries Board: board that regulated American industry during WWI.

Committee on Public Information: agency created during the war whose mission was to spread pro-Allied propaganda.

Fourteen Points: Wilson's plan proposed open peace treaties, freedom of the seas, arms reductions, and a League of Nations. Britain and France were openly suspicious of these plans, but they supported the creation of a League of Nations.

League of Nations: The world body proposed by Woodrow Wilson as part of his 14-point peace plan. The League was created but without the participation of Germany, the Soviet Union, and the US.

Mobilization- act of assembling troops and supplies for war..

Militarism- is the belief of a government that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it.

Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge- led the campaign against US involvement in the League of Nations fearing it would weaken the US.

Propaganda- is advertisement in order to persuade public opinion.

Sussex Pledge- is as a promise made in 1916 by Germany to the United States promising to stop unrestricted sub warfare.

U-Boat- German submarine

Ration- Government control of supplies in order to conserve items for military use.

Zimmerman Telegram- telegram sent to Mexico from Germany asking them to attack the US and keep us busy. In return they would help Mexico regain lost land. Helped encourage Americans to join WWI.

Lusitania- British passenger ship that was sunk by the Germans 124 Americans were killed and helped gain American support for war.

Selective Service Act- The military draft of young males into service.

Liberty Bonds- is a certificate that was sold in the United States to support the allied cause in World War I.

Doughboy- nickname for American soldiers in WWI and references the fact were joined the war late and were inexperienced.

Treaty of Versailles- Peace treaty that ended WWI and put the entire blame on Germany with massive reparations to the allied forces.

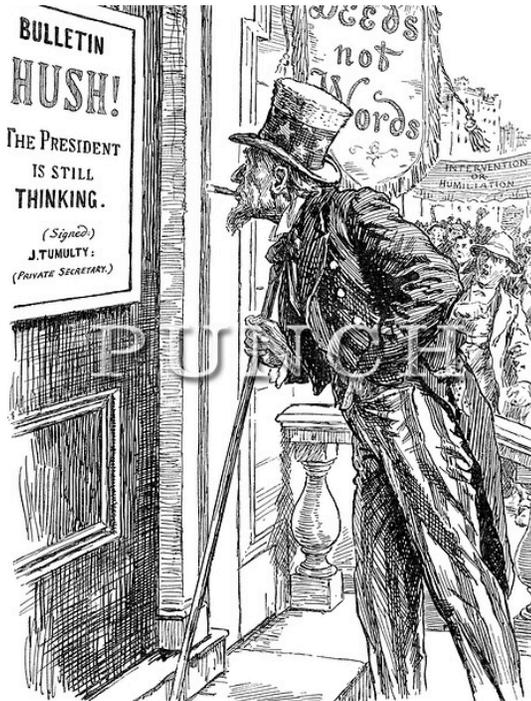
Red Scare- is the fear of communism spreading throughout America.

Standard H.B. 3 c-e- Analyze the United States' expanding role in the world during the late 19th and 20th centuries, to include: **(c) Events that led to the US' involvement in WWI; US' rationale for entry into WW1 and impact on military process, public opinion and policy; (d) US' mobilization in WWI (e.g., its impact on politics, economics, and society); (e) US' impact on the outcome of WWI; US' role in settling the peace (e.g., Woodrow Wilson, Treaty of Versailles, League of Nations, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr**

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This cartoon is criticizing President Wilson for continually pushing back the decision to enter the war. The bulletin that Uncle Sam is reading is basically the attitude the executive branch had towards the war. The president didn't know whether to enter the war, and as such just wanted the people to be quiet about it until he reached his decision.



The boy in the above cartoon is wanting to do something about the war, besides actually entering the war. He is afraid of fighting, but still wants to contribute to the effort in Europe. This cartoon shows the attitude many men had about the war.



Here John Bull, a British man, is shown firing at a German man quite a ways away. He obviously hasn't hit him yet, and is continually using the ammunition he has. The ammunition is a symbol for the British War budget and how, despite it not yielding results, the fact that the United Kingdom kept wasting money for the war.



This picture is anti-German propaganda set up in the United States to promote a desire to fight and defeat Germany. In the cartoon, a German soldier is holding a whip and using the Ukrainians as slaves. The cartoon depicts German war crimes in World War I and is titled, "A German Peace."