The Great War

The War to End All Wars

Causes of the War



Imperialism: the expansion of a stronger

country over a weaker/more vulnerable country for resources or political power

Nationalism: pride in one's country (The July Crisis - assassination of Archduke Ferdinand)

Militarism: glorifying the military; building a large army and ideals of superiority (Schlieffen Plan - German war plan)

Alliance System: agreements between countries based on need, culture, mutual benefit

Take Notes:

The Causes of World War :

Label these video notes in your composition notebook. ** Will be a grade.



American Neutrality

From the start of the war, Woodrow Wilson (an isolationist) would push for Americans to stay out of war. He encouraged all Americans to remain "impartial in thought as well as in action"

He was elected in 1916 on the promise that "He kept us out of war"

However, President Wilson could not prevent what was to come for the United States.



America's push towards war

British Propaganda: was distributed throughout the United States encouraging American support for the war.

Multiple trade agreements: America was trading with both sides of the war until:

- ★ British blockade of the North Sea cuts off trade with the Triple Alliance
- ★ German U Boats started practicing unrestricted submarine warfare
 - \star The Lusitania is hit and explodes killing Americans on board
 - ★ Germans sign the Sussex Pledge promising to restrict submarine warfare not sinking merchant vessels with passengers and crew on board

Zimmerman Note was intercepted by British intelligence; encouraged Mexico to declare war on the United States in exchanged for lands taken during the Mexican American War (Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California)

Where the Germans Guilty?

The US Declares War

February 1917 - Germans resume unrestricted warfare sinking the Housatonic, an American ship, violating the Sussex Pledge (promised restriction of submarine warfare on non military vessels)

April 1917 - President Wilson gets Congressional approval to declare war on Germany

"The world must be made safe for democracy"

Organizing for War

American Expeditionary Force: American's million man force under the command of General Pershing; a united front moving together (the military was still segregated and African American soldiers would be under French command)

Mobilizing: increased enlistment in the military, shipbuilding, voluntary rationing will begin

Conscription: the draft

Selective Service Act: Congressional order to draft American males, ages 21-30, into the United States military in preparation for war.

Conscientious Objector: objected to the war based on religious beliefs; would serve as medics, ambulance drivers, intelligence, and communications (WW2 example: Hacksaw Ridge)



Organizing for War

Committee of Public Information: created posters, printed pamphlets, billboards and newsreels (show in movie theaters)

Propaganda: Press, public, Hollywood

Organizing for War

- WIB wartime manufacturing; used profits to motivate production
- Food Administration- production and distribution of food; *Herbert Hoover* - raised food prices: guaranteeing minimum prices food crops; he encouraged an increase in production and a decrease in domestic consumption = a surplus for troops
 - Victory gardens: individuals could get
- behind the war effort by growing a victory
- garden and sending their crops to the troops





STAND BY THE BOYS IN THE TRENCHES MINE MORE COAL united states fuel administration



FIND YOUR WAR JOB In Industry – Agriculture – Business

Organizing for War

Fuel Administration- regulated coal and gasoline (voluntary conservation)

Railroad Administration: responsible for maintenance and upkeep

War Labor Board: responsible for mediating disputes between workers and owners

WLB worked with the AFL to ensure that workers would not go on strike during the war effort

Show What You Know

How did the complex web of European alliances contribute to the outbreak of war?

How did the conflict between the policy of imperialism and the principle of nationalism lead to war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia?

Explain how militarism contributed to WW1.

What events motivated the United States to join the war?

How did Germany's use of unrestricted submarine warfare bring the United States into the war?

What did Congress do to prepare the economy for war?

How did victory gardens help civilians contribute to the war effort?

America at War

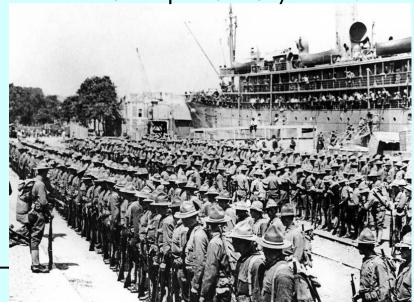
America introduces the Convoy System: by surrounding merchant supply ships with military vessels supply lines were protected from German U-Boats

Trench Warfare

Americans would see new technology in Europe: tanks and airplanes, chemical warfare chlorine and mustard gas American Expeditionary Force:

Harlem Hellfighters:





Harlem Hellfighters



The Hellfighters were so successful and celebrated by the French military the US enacted Jim Crow Laws for their units in France.

Hazards of War

Filth, lice, rats, and polluted water were some of the things soldiers were facing.

They inhaled poison gas and smelled the awful smell of decaying bodies.

Trench Foot





Hazards of War

Consequences of chemical gas







American, British, French, German Gas Masks

An American Hero

Alvin York, on October 8. 1918, armed with only a rifle and a revolver, killed 25 Germans and with six other soldiers captured 132 prisoners. His accomplishment was one of the greatest single soldier feats during WWI



An Unknown American Hero

Sgt. Henry Johnson, a Harlem Hellfighter under French Command. Single handedly stopped a sneak attack by German soldiers, when his gun jammed he fought an estimated 30 soldiers by hand with a knife. He received a Medal of Honor from France but was not acknowledged by his own government until 1996.



America on the Homefront

President Woodrow Wilson had major control over the nation's economy during the war period.

The entire economy had to be refocused on the war.

War Financing:

The U.S. spent around \$35.5 billion on the war effort.

The government raised 1/3 of its money through taxes and the rest came from public borrowing.

The government would sell bonds through volunteers to the public.

The WIB, Food Administration, Fuel Administration, Labor Board, CPI, Railroad/Transportation Administration

America on the Homefront

Women in the Workforce:

factory jobs, farming, communication, nurses, the Red Cross, munitions manufacturing, railroad/dock workers, construction

Other contributions: Victory Gardens, Rationing, War Bonds

Their contributions will influence the Women's Rights Movement and the passing of the 19th Amendment.

Immigrants and Nativism: WW1 did not help immigrants in the United States especially those of German/Austrian descent. It was not unusual for them to lose their jobs, be harassed or targets of groups like the KKK. Many Hispanic immigrants migrated due to job availability on farms in the West.

African Americans during the War

African Americans:

~ supported Wilson but were disappointed with his views/stance on race relations (focused on the war not civil rights)

~ marched down 5th Avenue in protest of Jim Crow Laws

~ Great Migration - moved away from the South and their segregation laws

~ actively participated in the war effort, enlisted - fought under French Command

America on the Homefront

The Flu Epidemic of 1918

In the fall of 1918, the U.S. suffered a crisis when the flu epidemic affected around 25% of the U.S. population.

Countless people died from the flu as doctors did not know what to do other than keep people clean and isolated.

So many people died cities ran out of coffins and people laid dead unburied for as long as a week.

More people actually died from the influenza virus in 1918 than World War I. (around 50 million worldwide were killed)



America on the Homefront

Espionage Act: made it a crime to "convey information with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the armed forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies." (conscription)

Sedition Act 1918: reinforced Espionage Act and extended it to cover public criticism of the government during times of war

Debs v United States: the Court had concluded that the arrest of an individual for distributing leaflets encouraging readers to oppose the draft was constitutional. The Court found Debs' sympathy for individuals convicted of opposing the draft and obstructing recruitment analogous to the situation in Schenck.

Schenck v United States: Schenck was charged with conspiracy to violate the Espionage Act by attempting to cause insubordination in the military and to obstruct recruitment. ~ the Court had concluded that the arrest of an individual for distributing leaflets encouraging readers to oppose the draft was constitutional.

World War 1 in Florida

~ 42,030 Floridians enlisted in the war effort

~ others performed their patriotic duty by purchasing liberty bonds, volunteering with service organizations, and conserving food and raw materials

~ influenza outbreaks in 1918, heightened racial tensions, intense anti-German sentiment, and the increased political agitation of woman suffragists and African-Americans all impacted Floridians

~ WWI marked Florida's transition into a new era with modern industrial, political and economic possibilities

End of the War



November 3, 1918 Austria Hungary surrendered to the Allies and on the same day German soldiers began to stand down.

On November 11, 1918 Germany agreed to a ceasefire known as the "<u>Armistice Treaty</u>". Date to Know (11/11 @ 11:00am)

The Big Four (Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George, Orlando) start negotiating the Treaty of Versailles

End of War

Fourteen Points: this was Wilson's plan for world peace after WWI.

First 5 issues were to prevent another war:

- 1. There should be no secret treaties among nations
- 2. The seas should be free and open to all
- 3. Free trade must exist
- 4. Arms should be reduced to prevent war in diplomatic times

5. Colonial policies should consider interests of colonial peoples, as well of interests of imperialist powers

The next 8 dealt with boundary issues.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: meant to eliminate further world conflict but many saw it as another military alliance; would never pass US Congress

End of War

Treaty of Versailles:

Ended WW1

- War Guilt Clause: punished Germany for the war and forced them to take responsibility for the entire war and all of the destruction. (WW2 Cause)
- They would be charged millions in reparations that they could not afford to repay (WW2 Cause)
- New boundaries were drawn; new neutral zone (demilitarized zone), Ottoman Empire reshaped and distributed to other European countries,
- Demilitarized Germany no standing army/military force allowed
- The League of Nations: Central Powers were forced to join and be monitored by former Allied Powers

After much debate: *THE UNITED STATES DID NOT RATIFY THE TREATY OR JOIN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS*: this action will eventually lead to the start of WW2, as Americans return to isolationism in the 1920s and 30s.

Post War America

Welcome to the 1920s!





