

it will never  
be perfect.

make it work.

-life

# Welcome to Honors American History!

If you didn't get a chance  
yesterday there is a new notes  
handout for today (sorry, forgot to  
send out Remind) . You can take a  
minute to print that!

**Lasting  
Question:  
What is  
America's role in  
the world?**

**Summary:**

**Following the Spanish-American War, anti-imperialists fought against intervention while other Americans continued to support it. The rest of the world had mixed reactions.**

**The US was often resented in Latin America because they backed governments that were disliked by local populations.**

**However, many countries turned to the US for economic and military help. The US was both accepted and rejected on the world stage.**

**NEXT: OVERVIEW OF WWI &  
AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE  
CONFLICT**



**PLEASE TAKE OUT BLANK PAPER FOR NOTES OR USE THE NOTES HANDOUT.**

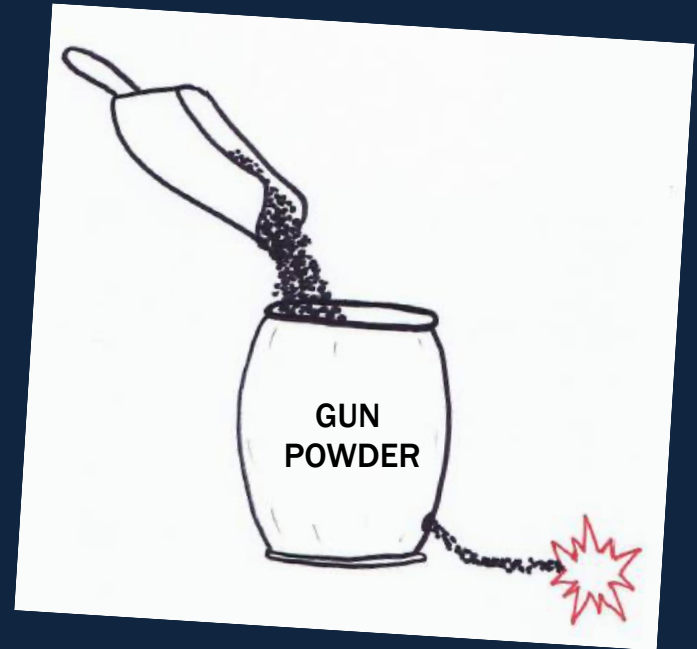
# LONG TERM CAUSES

**M: Militarism**

**A: Alliances**

**I: Imperialism**

**N: Nationalism**



**Formation of Two  
Armed Camps by  
1914**



In 1914, the six most powerful countries in Europe were divided into two opposing alliances: the **Central Powers/Triple Alliance** and the **Triple Entente**.

Each country was heavily armed, and each one had reasons for distrusting other countries in Europe.

# THE ALLIANCES

## Background: Central Powers AKA Triple Alliance

### GERMANY:

- Aggressive, militaristic, building strong navy
- Tense history with France
- Increasing tension w/ Britain
- Kaiser Wilhelm II

### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY:

- Close friend of Germany
- Diverse; wants to be strong unified empire

### ITALY:

- *Wants* a strong military & industry but doesn't have it (wants to join whoever will benefit them most)



## Background: Allies (Triple Entente)

---

### BRITAIN:

- Strongest navy in the world
- Huge empire
- Worried about Germany

### FRANCE:

- Hate the Germans
- Large empire
- Friends with Russia & Britain

### RUSSIA:

- Serbia's "big brother"
- Lacks industrial power but has huge population





# **Short-Term Causes of WWI**

## TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS:

- **Bordered by Austria & Russia**
- **Very unstable**
  - Very diverse & nationalism was encouraging various independence movements
- **Bosnia = taken by Austria**
  - Despite protest of neighboring Russia and Serbia & Serbs w/i Bosnia
- **Austria was looking for a good excuse to crush & silence Serbia & anyone else resisting Austrian influence**
  - Had support of Germany



# The Spark.... and the Chain Reaction



## The Spark.... and the Chain Reaction

**DATE: June 28, 1914**

### **ASSASSINATION OF AUSTRIAN LEADER: Archduke Francis Ferdinand**

- Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia July 28, 1914.
- Russia began mobilization (readying for war) on July 29th and so did France
- Aug 1 Germany declared war on Russia then on France.
- Germany passes through neutral Belgium (*Schlieffen Plan*)
- Britain joins the war on Aug 4, 1914

**CONSEQUENCE: Within one week after the war started, all of the great powers of Europe had been drawn into it. Each side was confident of swift victory.**



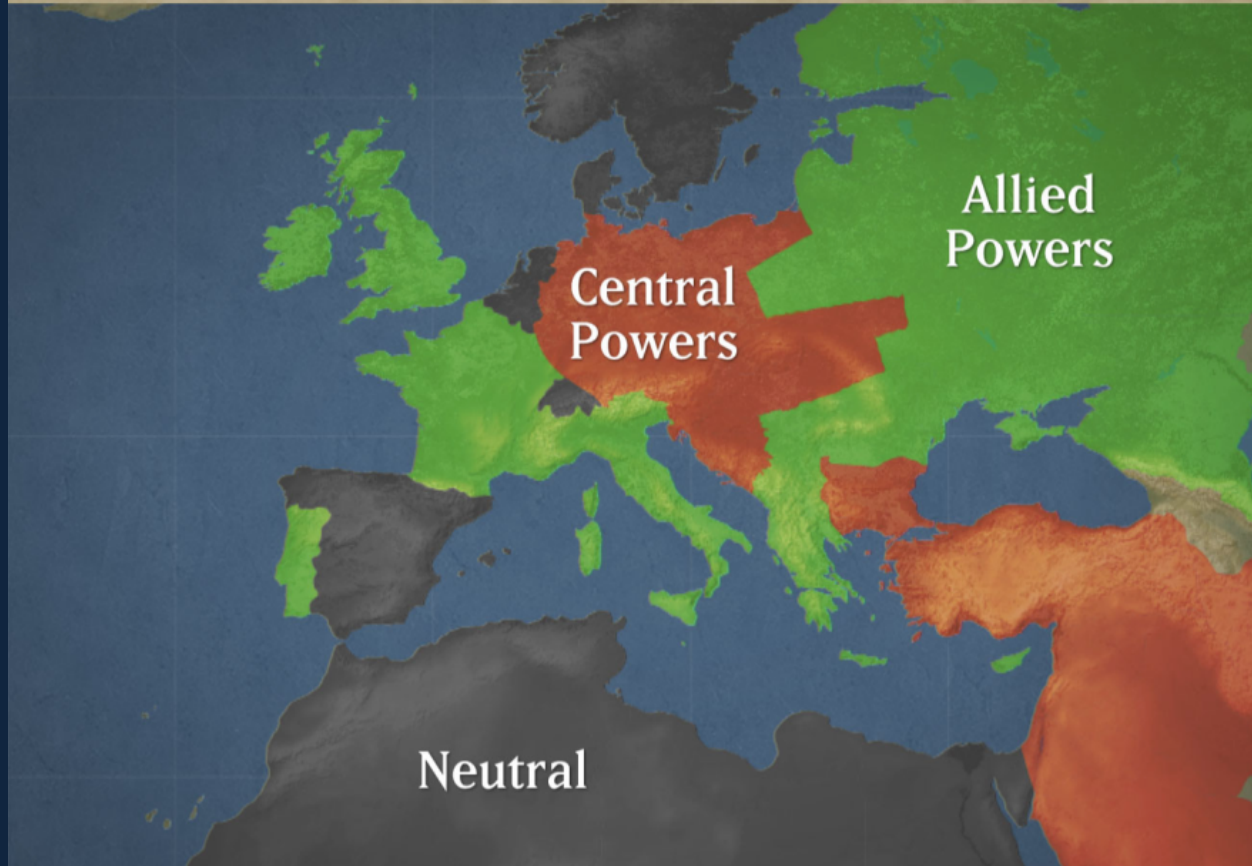


watchmojo.com

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njINCi9ilrA&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njINCi9ilrA&feature=emb_logo)

# Who eventually got involved?

WWI Central Powers vs Allied Powers



# Who eventually got involved?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMo4rxmsBDg&t=2s>

# **THE GREAT WAR BEGINS**

## **Expectations**

**Most of the leaders in 1914 had no real idea of the war machine they were putting into motion.**

**Many believed the war  
would be over by  
Christmas 1914!**



But by the end of the first year, a new kind of war emerged on the battlefield that had never been seen before - or repeated since.

This "total war" would drag on for 1,500 days. Before the official armistice was declared on November 11, 1919, millions of people had died on the battlefield and the world was forever changed.



# **TURNING INTO THE WORLD'S WORST BLOODBATH**

## **How & Why**



# New Military Technology



**British troops blinded by tear gas**  
Battle of Estaires - April 10, 1918

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-LxD6Luj4&list=PLF362702F9F1A1984&index=3>

# New Military Technology



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7v3cq1ZJjM>

# NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY

---

## Examples:

- Machine guns
- Poison gas
- Tanks
- Submarine warfare & torpedoes



# STALEMATE BEGINS

The war quickly developed into a bloody stalemate:

- British & French stop German advance. Both sides dug trenches for four year.
- The combination of **TRENCH WARFARE** and **NEW TECHNOLOGY** made this war **DESTRUCTIVE** in a completely unprecedented way.
- Russia's early victories led Germans to split their troops, worsening the stalemate.
- **NEW ALLIES** joined each side (hoping to break the stalemate) but it just **MADE IT WORSE.**







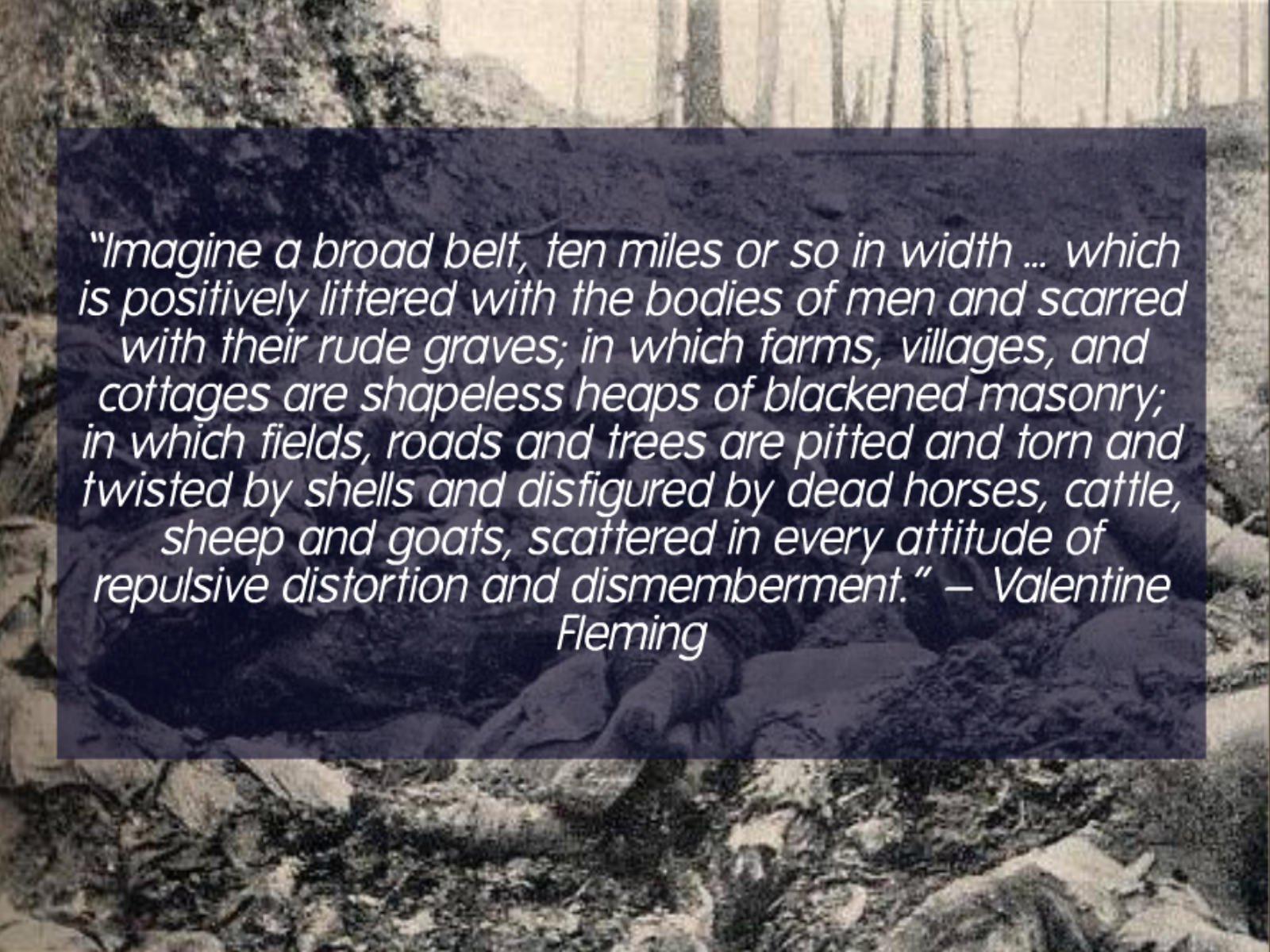
**German Front Line Trenches :**  
German trenches snaked for hundreds of miles through the countryside near the Somme River.



**No Man's Land**  
**The space between the trenches.**  
**Officers order attack... men go over top of**  
**trenches... greeted with machine-gun fire.**



**Canadian Soldiers Going into Action From Trench:** A company of Canadian soldiers go "over the top" from a World War I trench



*"Imagine a broad belt, ten miles or so in width ... which is positively littered with the bodies of men and scarred with their rude graves; in which farms, villages, and cottages are shapeless heaps of blackened masonry; in which fields, roads and trees are pitted and torn and twisted by shells and disfigured by dead horses, cattle, sheep and goats, scattered in every attitude of repulsive distortion and dismemberment." – Valentine Fleming*

# EXAMPLES OF DESTRUCTION WITHOUT PROGRESS

**First 5 months = 1 million  
French killed or injured**

**ONE DAY at Battle of  
Somme: British lost  
20,000**

**RESULT OF STALEMATE =  
morale sank & civilians  
suffered (let to greater  
brutality)**



50 yards from the German trenches  
from "Hearts of the World"  
(D. W. Griffith)





One nurse described the death of one soldier who had been in the trenches during a chlorine gas attack. “He was sitting on the bed, fighting for breath, his lips plum coloured. He was a magnificent young Canadian past all hope in the asphyxia of chlorine. I shall never forget the look in his eyes as he turned to me and gasped: I can’t die! Is it possible that nothing can be done for me?” It was a horrible death, but as hard as they tried, doctors were unable to find a way of successfully treating chlorine gas poisoning.



# THE AMERICAN RESPONSE

## PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS

- felt personally connected to those involved because of **huge immigrant population**
  - 92 million people: 1/3 immigrants



## For Central Powers:

- Many Irish & German immigrants were anti-British (1/4 immigrants were German and 1/8 were Irish)

## For Allied Powers:

- Millions have roots in Britain (cultural, linguistic, economic, political)
- Opponents of Kaiser Wilhelm II - saw him as threat to democracy
- Influenced by British propaganda
- Southern and Eastern Europeans hoped for an expansion of their homelands



# THE AMERICAN RESPONSE

## OFFICIAL RESPONSE

- **NEUTRALITY with PREPAREDNESS:**

- The government protested actions of both sides & pushed for peace



- **WHY NEUTRALITY:**

- **Public opinion**

- Majority hope to stay out
- Multiple peace movements:  
Suffragists, Progressives, social reformers, socialists

- **Importance of trade**



# • HOW "PREPAREDNESS"?

## • **Get ready for the war just in case**

- **Set up National Security League**
- 1915: **Began training** men for combat
- 1916: Wilson gets Congress to **increase armed forces**
- **Put \$ into naval construction**

Side: Note: Commercial ties to Britain were stronger than to Germany. This also influenced the thinking of some.

# TRIVIA

Which of the following accurately describe American sentiment at the start of WWI? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY:

- a. America had greater ties to the British (cultural, linguistic, and economic) than it did with other Central Powers.
- b. British censorship and control of the transatlantic cables gave the Allies the ability to keep stories harmful to them from the Americans, while flooding the U.S. with tales of German bestiality.
- c. The majority of Americans were anti-German from the outset, as Kaiser Wilhelm II seemed the embodiment of arrogant aristocracy. This was strengthened by their strike at neutral Belgium.
- d. There were many American immigrants with blood ties to the Central Powers (numbering close to 11 million in 1914). Many of them expressed support for their parent country.
- e. The vast majority of Americans simply hoped to stay out of the war.

# TRIVIA

**True or False:**

**The majority of American business leaders welcomed the American proclamation of neutrality.**

# DRIFTING SUPPORT OVER TIME

- **Became more supportive of ALLIES**
  - Britain too important to lose
- **How did they demonstrate their support?**
  - Bankers made **HUGE LOANS to Allies**
    - By 1917: British & French had borrowed \$3.25 billion!
  - Became **major supplier of Allied munitions, food, and raw materials**

# LIKING GERMANY LESS AND LESS

## UNRESTRICTED SUBMARINE WARFARE

- U-Boat threatened civilians & interrupted trade

## LUSITANIA - British passenger liner

- Sunk on May 7, 1915
- Outcome:
  - 1,200 killed
  - 128 Americans killed
  - After, Wilson & Germans go back and forth; **Germans promise to stop**
    - one promise called the **Sussex Pledge**

*(After Wilson threatened to cut diplomatic ties, Germans say they won't sink passenger ships & merchant vessels w/o warning – but carried requirement that Wilson couldn't really accomplish, getting Britain to stop their blockade)*



*Note: Germans weren't just paranoid!  
The boat actually had 175 tons of war munitions in its cargo hold!*

# TRIVIA

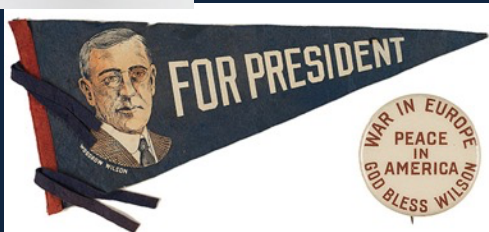
**True or False:**

**The majority of Americans were more sympathetic to Germany as they suffered under the British blockade, than were to the British who suffered as a result of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare.**

# ELECTION of 1916

Wilson re-elected with slogan  
**"He kept us out of war"**

- Suggested a **"peace without victory"** (with no winners or losers) and an **"association of nations"**
- Wilson embraced preparedness, but hoped for neutrality & freedom of the seas & continued to try to mediate
- *But many Republicans criticized him for not taking a stronger stand*





**AMERICA GETS  
INVOLVED**

# MAIN REASON: Germany pushes USA over the edge



## Indirect Threat: **Restarts unrestricted submarine warfare**

- Jan 1917: Germany basically says *"Forget the Sussex Pledge. All bets are off. We'll beat the British and win the war in France before you can get here."*
  - dashed Wilson's hopes of maintaining freedom of the seas and American neutrality



## Direct Threat: **Zimmermann Telegram - urging Mexico to declare war on US**

- Intercepted a note to Mexico offering American land in Southwest if Mexico declares war on U.S.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

MAILED  
 October 1-8-58  
 W. ... ..erson, State Dept.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

By Max A. Eckhoff, Assistant

Date Oct. 27, 1958

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, ~~invite~~ <sup>invite</sup> Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMANN.

# ADDITIONAL REASON REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA: 1917



- **RUSSIANS CHANGE LEADERSHIP**
  - Russians doing very poorly. Czar Nicholas II (autocrat) was forced to give up power & was replaced with temporary democratic government.
- **REMOVED LAST STUMBLING BLOCK TO JOINING THE ALLIES.**
  - **This increased an American pro-war feeling (new govt = more acceptable ally than Czar).**
- Soon, Russia backed out of the war in Dec 1917 (signing separate peace with Germany)



- 
- **WHEN: APRIL 6, 1917**
  - **NEARLY UNANIMOUS**
  - **WILSON'S THOUGHTS:**
    - Discusses war in *moral terms*
    - Hoped he could quicken the end of war & have **major role in designing lasting peace**

# AMERICA JOINS THE FIRST WORLD WAR



**Please take out notes  
on WWI!**

## **Where we left off....**

---

**The hold of American isolationist sentiment was clear. America had resisted getting involved in the war the first three years.**

**But in 1917, Germany restarted unrestricted submarine warfare, sinking four American merchant vessels in the first two weeks of March. Many felt that the time had come to fight back.**

*"The difference between war and what we have now is that we aren't fighting back." – Philadelphia newspaper*

**Then they posed an even more direct threat to the US when they sent the Zimmerman Telegram to Mexico.**

**Finally, a revolution in Russia meant no more Russian tsar. Now the US could join the Allies and comfortably argue it was fighting with and for only *democratic* countries.**

**Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war in April 1917.**

# TRIVIA

**True or False:**

**German actions were primarily what led  
Americans into the war in 1917.**





- **WHEN: APRIL 6, 1917**
- **NEARLY, BUT NOT UNANIMOUS**
- **WILSON'S HOPES/THOUGHTS ABOUT WAR:**
  - Discusses war in *moral terms*
  - Hoped Americans could quicken the end of war & have **major role in designing lasting peace**

"BRANDISHING THE SWORD OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS"

Wilson would have to proclaim  
more glorified aims ... he  
declared the supremely  
ambitious goal of a crusade to  
"make the world safe for  
democracy."



**He is keeping  
the World safe  
for Democracy**

**Enlist and help him**

# Wilson's 14 Points

## Example of America's Peaceful War Aims

---

- **No secret treaties**
- **Freedom of the seas**
- **Free trade**
- **Disarmament**
- National **self-determination** (a people's right to choose their own form of government without interference)
  - Liked by anti-imperialists
  - "Potentially revolutionary... helped to de-legitimize the old empires and opened the road to eventual national independence for millions of subject peoples"
- Creation of an international peace keeping organization



# American Soldiers Head to Europe

- **Americans not really ready**
  - send anyway to boost morale
  - French & British exhausted & out of soldiers
- **Selective Service Act May 1917**
  - authorizes draft
- **American Expeditionary Force:**
  - Americans sent to France
- **Nickname:** "doughboys"



**ADD TO YOUR NOTES  
UNDER/IN MARGINS OF  
“AMERICAN SOLDIERS”**

**HARLEM HELL FIGHTERS**

# Harlem Hell Fighters



# **AMERICAN HOMEFRONT**

# ADD TO YOUR NOTES NEAR AMERICAN HOMEFRONT: MOBILIZING THE HOMEFRONT or MOBILIZING WAR EFFORT AT HOME

## VI. American Homefront

### A. Were any new opportunities provided to women?

- Did Wilson support women's suffrage? Why?

### B. Were any new opportunities provided to racial minorities?

- Was progress made on racial justice aims?

### C. Enforcing Loyalty with Censorship

- Espionage Act of 1917:
- Sedition Act of 1918:

- *Supreme Court Case to know: Schenck v. United States*

MOBILIZING THE HOME FRONT:

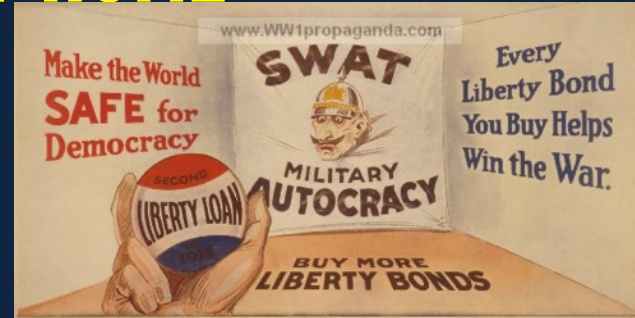
Example



# MOBILIZING THE HOMEFRONT or MOBILIZING WAR EFFORT AT HOME

*What to remember:*

- Tons of civilian support & patriotism
- Lots of VOLUNTARY contribution
  - Raised \$\$\$ to finance war w/ "Liberty" Bonds
  - Encouraged conservation of resources
    - "Victory gardens"
    - "Wheatless Wednesdays" or "Meatless Tuesdays"
- Created federal organizations that increased the government role (e.g., War Industries or War Labor Board)
  - Increased role in setting pricing, directing production/distribution, and handling labor disputes
  - Limited role relative to later wars
  - **Why it matters:** "set precedent for central government control in economic planning in moments of crisis" –  
*Textbook reading*



## Were any new opportunities provided to women during the war?



- New job opportunities, but vast majority returned to traditional work after war
- **Did Wilson support women's suffrage?**
  - He began to support it in 1918 as a war measure (*more on this tomorrow*)

**BIG IDEA: Women's involvement/effort during war years paved way success of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment after war**


## Were any new opportunities provided to racial minorities?

- More jobs opportunities
- Many black Americans leave South in "**Great Migration**"
  - **Was progress made on racial justice aims?**
    - Complex answer, but while there was some improvement for certain individuals, **there were NO large scale, short term gains made in race relations**
    - Evidence: Resentment of white northerners and race riots

# How WWI Changed America: African Americans in WWI



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YliPRfjIzdE>

A black and white photograph showing a large group of women working in a factory or workshop. They are focused on their tasks, which appear to be related to manufacturing or assembly. The scene is busy and captures the industrial effort of the time. The text 'Women in' is written in a cursive font, and 'WORLD WAR I' is in a bold, sans-serif font, both in a light color that stands out against the darker background of the photograph.

*Women in*  
**WORLD WAR I**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UmERSpTtJc>



*Native Americans in*  
**WORLD WAR I**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGuAlzgkOUk>

Where we left off....

---

**America enters the war in  
1917 and mobilizes a  
massive war effort at home.**

# Enforcing Loyalty with Censorship



## Created Committee on Public Information:

- **Goal:** rally support for the war
  - Paid 150,000 volunteer writers, lecturers, artists
- **Why it matters: HUGE PROPAGANDA EFFORT**
  - Portrayed American cause as idealistic crusade
  - Portrayed Germans as barbaric Huns

## *Impact discussed in reading:*

- **Anti-German, anti-subversive hysteria** and **unjustified persecution** (e.g., development of vigilante groups).

Not in notes (**in reading**) but can add in margins!






A black and white historical photograph showing a group of people, likely immigrants, gathered around a large pile of luggage and suitcases. The scene is set outdoors, possibly at a port or a train station, with wooden structures and other people visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of activity and preparation for travel.

*Immigrants and*  
**WORLD WAR I**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_CKhzqamEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_CKhzqamEo)



# SELLING THE WAR

Strongly  
recommend!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qU9zOLIPjdl>

# ENLIST



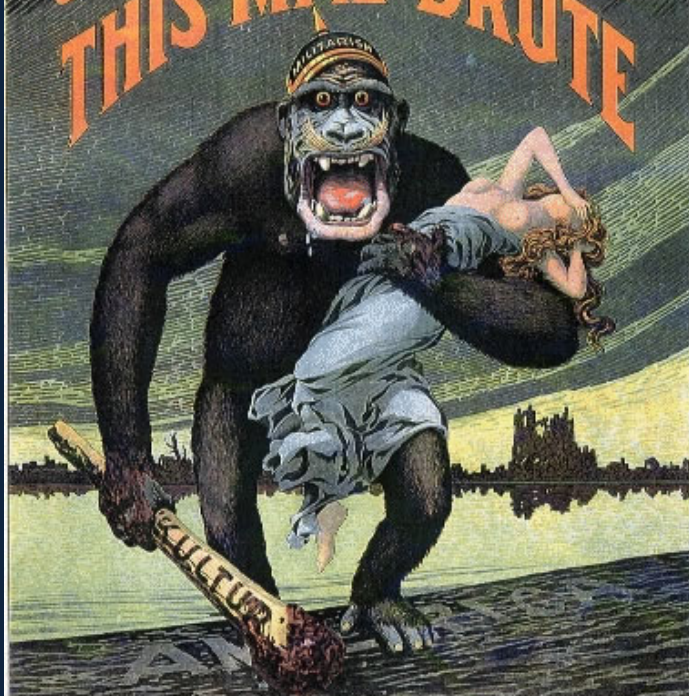
L. L. BERRY

On Which  
Side of the  
Window are  
**YOU?**

OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

WWW.MILITARYAFFAIRS.COM

# DESTROY THIS MAD BRUTE



# ENLIST

Copyright 2001 by the U.S. Army



My Daddy Bought Me a Government Bond  
of the  
**THIRD LIBERTY LOAN**  
Did Yours?

You kept fit  
and defeated the Hun



Now—  
set a high standard

A  
**CLEAN  
AMERICA**

!

**STAMP OUT VENEREAL DISEASES—**

## Espionage Act of 1917:

- fines/imprisonment for spying

## Sedition Act of 1918:

- any speech/action that...
    - encourages rebellion
    - or is "disloyal, profane, or abusive" about the American form of govt, the Constitution, or military
- ... is **illegal**

## Impact:

- **Trampled on civil liberties**

Led to ***Schenck v. United States* decision:**  
*Supreme Court ruled that Congress could limit free speech when the words "represent a clear and present danger."*



# Schenck v. United States

SUPREME COURT HOMEWORK HELP



BILL *of* RIGHTS  
INSTITUTE 

00:00 / 00:00



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bkpZkVnVGM>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqZ00K731hQ>



**How does this war come to  
an end?**

---



The entrance of America into the war, and its demonstrated capacity to move its army across the Atlantic in huge numbers, now faced the Germans with the prospect of a **virtual endless limitless supply of reinforcements** that could be brought to the Allied side.

# HOW DOES THE WAR END?

*Don't need to take notes on this.*

- **Germans tries one last offensive & gets close (50 miles from Paris)**
- ***Just in time* Americans turn back the German offensive & end any real hope of possible German victory**
  - 250,000 American arriving each month!
- **Because the Allies required total surrender, some Germans were reluctant to give in. Others knew it was futile.**
  - Germans begin to mutiny
  - Kaiser flees to Holland
- **Allies continued to counter-attack along western front. It was not a matter of time before the Allies defeated Germany.**
- **Wilson again pushes for “peace without victory” and international order**
- **Germany asks for peace based on Wilson’s 14 points**



**Connection to Hitler & WWII:**  
Though defeat was inevitable, the Germans had given up before they were completely defeated, which would come into play later. Most Germans didn't understand how bad Germany's military situation really was – as a result, different conspiracies about what should have happened would later spread.

# WAR ENDS

---

**WHEN: NOVEMBER 1918**

Representative of a new German Republic sign an armistice to stop fighting on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month of 1918



**WAR ENDED.**  
**ARMISTICE SIGNED**  
**AND**  
**FIGHTING OVER.**

The war has ended. This great news was conveyed to the people this morning in these words : —

The Prime Minister makes the following announcement :

The armistice was signed at 5 a.m. this morning, and hostilities are to cease on all fronts at 11 a.m. to-day.

# **Consequences, Costs, and Lives Lost**

---

# In the end... a whole generation gone.



## American losses:

- **Over 100,000** died abroad
- Around 200,000 wounded
- **Over 500,000** killed by FLU

## Other countries:

- **Flu kills over 30 mil**
- Around **9 million** killed in battle (5,000 a day)
  - *not including sick, wounded, or civilian*



*World War I:*  
**COMING HOME**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvsJIWm6zsY>



**Canadian Soldiers During World War I**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hl5OqQVaD9Y&list=PLF362702F9F1A1984&index=>



# Impact of the War (continued)

## Social & Cultural:

- Racial and ethnic conflict would heighten as men returned from war
- Women would face both success (19<sup>th</sup> Amendment) and resistance to change as they were forced back into traditional roles
- Anti-foreign sentiment would carry over into new restrictions on immigration
- Death toll small in comparison with Europe, but mood of "gloom" and disillusionment prevailed

# Impact of the War (continued)

## Economically:

- **Many benefits:** Though there was a **downturn & readjustment period** (as the industries readjusted to peacetime), BUT by 1922, the **American economy was growing fast**
  - Had lent money, sold munitions and supplies, were able to **increase exports** to areas controlled by European colonial powers
  - Already **led most of the world in most areas of industry & continued** (largest oil producer; steel, coal, and textiles; newer industries such as chemicals growing fast; new film industry led world)
  - **American agricultural** had become the **most efficient and productive** in the world (BUT **producing more than could sell**, which would be problematic)
  - The war **hadn't drained American resources** the way that it had for Europe

# Impact of the War (continued)

Internationally:

- **Pushed America into position of strength**
  - USA emerges as an **economic** and **political leader** of the world undoubtedly
    - *even if Americans were not prepared to accept the responsibility!*
- **The debate over what should happen next** and **what America's role would be would have lasting consequences** (e.g., in designing the peace treaties and participating in the League of Nations)