

World War I: **The Home front**

AIM: Should the government assume greater power during times of war?

I. Why did U.S. Enter WWI?

- American “Neutrality”
 - Trading with Allies
 - British Blockade
- Lusitania
- Sussex Pledge
- Election of 1916
 - Wilson calls for “peace without victory”
- Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
 - Wilson arms merchant ships
- Zimmerman Telegram
 - Background: Wilson’s “moral diplomacy” and intervention in Mexico
 - Tampico Incident
- Asks Congress to declare war on Germany in April, 1917
 - Wilson wanted to make “the world safe for democracy.”

II. Mobilizing Troops

- Selective Service Act (1917) – authorized a draft of all young men into the armed forces (conscription)
- Military Draft Act of 1917 – prohibited prostitution and alcohol near training camps – promote high moral and civic purposes
 - 18th Amendment - Prohibition
- 2 million doughboys, (American Expeditionary Force) fought in Europe; 112,000 died.

III. Mobilizing Industry and Economy

- War Industries Board (Baruch) – created to stimulate and direct industrial production
- Food Administration (Hoover) – meatless Mondays, wheatless Wednesdays; victory gardens
- Daylight Savings
- National War Labor Policies Board – resolved labor disputes; enacted eight-hour workdays, minimum wages, collective bargaining
 - Wages rose
 - Women entered the workforce
- Liberty Bonds

IV. Controlling Public Opinion

- Committee on Public Information (George Creel) – in charge of stirring up patriotic fervor
 - “Four-Minute Men” – gave brief pep talks
 - posters, pamphlets, films, cartoons – brave Americans, evil Huns
- Anti-German sentiment
 - No German in high schools; no German music; Germans were lynched; sauerkraut □ liberty cabbage

Controlling Public Opinion

- Espionage Act (1917), Trading with the Enemy Act (1917), Sedition Act (1918)
 - Gave gov't sweeping powers to punish any activity it considered “disloyal, profane, or abusive” to the American flag or uniform
 - Could not interfere w/ draft
 - Blocked mailing privileges for disloyal publications
 - Limited civil liberties
- *Schenk v. United States* (1919) – Supreme Court decided that free speech could be limited when such speech posed a “clear and present danger” to the nation.

V. Women and African Americans

- Women's Rights
 - More women in the workforce
 - After nearly a century of struggle, 19th Amendment is ratified (1920)
- African Americans
 - Great Migration from south to north to find work
 - Race riots
 - Segregation remained

VI. The End of the War

- Wilson's Fourteen Points
 - Open diplomacy, freedom of seas, free trade, reduction of armaments, self-determination, and League of Nations
- Treaty of Versailles
 - Punish Germany (War Guilt Clause); establish League of Nations (Article X)
 - US Senate does NOT ratify

The Battle for Ratification

Wilson argues for Ratification

- Believes League of Nations will prevent future wars
- Debilitated by stroke and unable to compromise w/ Senate Republicans

Republican Senators argue against ratification

- Led by Henry Cabot Lodge
- Feared League of Nations would draw the United States into unnecessary wars.
- Believed Article X would undercut Congress's power to declare war.
- Returned to G. Washington's sentiment of avoiding entangling alliances.

VI. Return to “Normalcy”

- U.S. retreats to isolationism
- Labor unrest
- Race riots
- Red Scare
- Immigrant quotas; Nativism