

# CHAPTER 31

## The U.S. in World War I

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### 1. U.S. Enters the War (pp. 705–707)

a. Early in 1917, President Wilson pressed for a compromise end to the bloodshed by proposing the concept of “peace without \_\_\_\_\_.” However, desperate to use its strongest weapon to best advantage, the Germans declared “unlimited \_\_\_\_\_ warfare,” vowing to sink all ships in the war zone. This resulted in the sinking of four unarmed American merchant vessels. Meanwhile, public sentiment was aroused when the \_\_\_\_\_ note was intercepted—seemingly an attempt by the Germans to recruit \_\_\_\_\_ (a country) as an ally in the event of war with the United States. Wilson finally asked Congress for a declaration of war in April of 19\_\_\_\_. It is pretty clear on pages 705–706 that the authors think that Wilson had little choice but to jump into this war. Wilson, they say, “was forced to lead a hesitant and peace-loving nation into war” against “Germany’s warlords.” \*\*\* Do you fully buy this interpretation? Do you think that U.S. involvement could reasonably have been avoided? If so, how?

b. Because of America’s traditional hostility toward involvement in Europe’s wars, Wilson played to his own idealistic inclinations by framing the war as a crusade “to make the world safe for \_\_\_\_\_” and a “war to end \_\_\_\_\_.” Americans would be fighting not as just another greedy warmonger, but to help remake a corrupt world and avoid future tragedies. These ideas were formalized in Wilson’s famous \_\_\_\_\_ Points Address, in which he spelled out the democratic structure of the new world order he hoped to create. This address ended with the proposal for a new international organization that came to be called the League of \_\_\_\_\_. \*\*\* In his “Peace Without Victory” speech of January 1917, Wilson had seen the war as a grubby nationalistic conflict that could be settled by a territorial compromise. One year later, in his “Fourteen Points” speech, he saw the war as a moral crusade in which righteousness belonged to only one side. What had changed in the year between January 1917 and January 1918?

c. \*\*\* Do you see any connection between Wilson’s widening of the war goals into a moral crusade and Lincoln’s issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation nearly fifty years earlier?

### 2. The Home Front (pp. 707–715)

a. The U.S. mounted a vast pro-war and anti-German propaganda machine headed by George \_\_\_\_\_ and his Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ Information. With new laws like the \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1917 and the \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1918, free speech and other civil liberties were suspended and antiwar leaders such as Eugene V. \_\_\_\_\_, the perennial Socialist candidate for president, were put behind bars. \*\*\* List one argument in favor of and one argument against the restriction of civil liberties during wartime.

(1) For restrictions:

(2) Against restrictions:

b. The demand for labor during the war buildup brought many southern blacks to northern cities and put large numbers of women to work, eventually prompting Wilson's reluctant support for women's suffrage, which was passed in 19\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment. Typical of the voluntary nature of the domestic buildup was the call by Food and Drug administrator (and future president) Herbert \_\_\_\_\_ to grow "\_\_\_\_\_ gardens" and make "\_\_\_\_\_ loans" to the government to finance the war effort. This spirit of self-denial may have aided the eventual passage of Prohibition in 1919 in the form of the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment. To raise the needed armies, a draft law was reluctantly passed and ultimately, the size of the army was raised from 200,000 to about \_\_\_\_\_ million men, and, for the first time, women.

3. **Fighting in Europe (pp. 715–718)** After the communistic \_\_\_\_\_ seized power late in 1917, Russia withdrew from the war, leaving Germany free for a massive push on the \_\_\_\_\_ front. Significant American forces did not arrive in Europe until the late spring of 19\_\_\_\_, over one year after U.S. entry into the war. Under French Marshall \_\_\_\_\_ and U.S. Gen. "Black Jack" \_\_\_\_\_, American forces had a significant role in only two major battles, but it was the threat of unlimited American reserves that helped influence Germany to surrender on November 11, 19\_\_\_\_ (now called Veterans Day). The chart on page 717 shows that about \_\_\_\_\_ Americans were killed in WW I (about the same as in Vietnam), a number which amounted to only about \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the total killed by all parties to this most horrific armed conflict to date. The country that incurred the greatest number of casualties was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **Versailles Treaty (pp. 718–722)** Wilson's personal venture to the Paris Peace conference in January 19\_\_\_\_ shows the disillusionment that often develops when idealism confronts cold power politics. At Versailles, he met with leaders of the victorious powers, including David Lloyd \_\_\_\_\_ of Britain and Georges \_\_\_\_\_ of France, who were more interested in punishing Germany than in remaking the world. While in Paris, Wilson made few efforts to convert domestic critics of a League of \_\_\_\_\_, including Senate Republican leader Henry Cabot \_\_\_\_\_. In the end, Wilson lost stature and few were happy with the treaty, which was extremely harsh on Germany (setting the stage for Hitler and World War II) and carried out few of the liberal ideas on self-determination contained in Wilson's \_\_\_\_\_ Points. However, Wilson thought that the centerpiece League of Nations would eventually cure these injustices.
5. **Failure to Ratify (pp. 722–725)**
- a. With Senator \_\_\_\_\_ delaying Senate action on the treaty, Wilson took off on a speaking tour that resulted in his incapacitation from a stroke. Lodge then proposed approving the treaty with a series of (just coincidentally) fourteen formal \_\_\_\_\_ designed to protect American sovereignty and foreign policy flexibility in the face of a new League of Nations. Wilson twice refused to accept Republican modifications to the treaty. The U.S. therefore never ratified the Treaty and never joined the League. By the time the Republican Warren G. \_\_\_\_\_ was elected president in 1920, America had grown tired of Wilson's internationalism, moralism, and idealism. In one of history's great ironies, the U.S. never joined the League (and largely doomed it to failure), for which its president had been the primary advocate. In an unusually strong opinion, the authors conclude that the U.S. failure to ratify an admittedly flawed treaty was "tragically shortsighted," weakening an international structure that might have averted a second world war. \*\*\* Do you agree with this? If so, who was primarily responsible for the failure to ratify?

b. \*\*\* Can you think of any way that one country could approve a treaty "with reservations" without opening it up to proposed amendments from all other signing countries?

VARYING VIEWPOINTS  
Woodrow Wilson: Realist or Idealist

1. The second paragraph of this essay lists three elements of the Wilsonian vision of American foreign policy. \*\*\* Pick ONE of these elements and write a short personal opinion as to its desirability and practicality in today's world.

(1) Isolationism is dead:

(2) U.S. should export its political and economic ideas:

(3) U.S. should push for a cooperative international system (i.e. support U.N., etc.):

2. Paragraphs 3 and 4 present a useful summary of the debate between foreign policy "realists" and "idealists" that continues today. Briefly, what are the essentials of these two viewpoints? \*\*\* Into which of these two camps do you think you would be inclined to fall and why?

(1) "Realists" (George Kennan/Henry Kissinger):

(2) "Idealists" (Arthur Link):

(3) Your view:

## CHAPTER 31 TERM SHEET

### The U.S. in World War I

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#### **Pages 705–707**

“Peace without victory” (January 1917)

Unlimited submarine warfare (January 1917)

Zimmerman note (March 1917)

Russian Revolution (March 1917)

War declaration (April 1917)

“War to end all wars” / “Make the world safe for democracy”

Wilson’s “Fourteen Points” address (January 1918)

“Self-determination”

League of Nations

#### **Pages 707–715**

George Creel

George M. Cohan’s “Over There”

Espionage Act (1917)

Sedition Act (1918)

Eugene V. Debs

William (“Big Bill”) Haywood

*Schenck v. United States* (1919)

War Industries Board (Bernard Baruch)

“Work or fight” rule

National War Labor Board

AF of L

IWW (“Wobblies”)

National Woman’s Party (Alice Paul)

National American Woman Suffrage Assn.

Nineteenth Amendment (1920)

Food and Drug Administration (Herbert Hoover)

“Victory gardens”

Eighteenth Amendment (1919)

Liberty / Victory Loans

“Doughboys”

Draft Act (1917)

**Pages 715–718**

Bolshevik Revolution (November 1917)

German spring offensive (1918)

Marshal Foch

Chateau-Thierry

Second Battle of the Marne

St. Michel salient

Gen. John J. Pershing

Meuse-Argonne offensive

German surrender (November 11, 1918)

**Pages 718–722**

Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge

Vittorio Orlando

David Lloyd George

Georges Clemenceau

Sen. William Borah (“irreconcilables”)

Versailles Treaty (June 1919)

**Pages 722–725**

Wilson’s tour and stroke (September 1919)

Lodge’s fourteen “Reservations”

Treaty rejection (November 1919 and March 1920)

Warren G. Harding

1920 election

## AMERICA IN WORLD WAR I—Key Dates

August 1914	War Starts <u>Central Powers:</u> Germany Austria-Hungary Turkey	<u>Allied Powers:</u> Britain France Russia Italy
<hr/>		
Feb. 1915	Germany announces submarine warfare	
May 1915	Lusitania sunk (Wilson protests; Bryan resigns)	
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March 1916	Germany agrees to <i>Sussex</i> Pledge regarding U-boat activity	
Nov. 1916	Wilson re-elected (“He Kept Us Out of War”)	
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Jan. 1917	Wilson’s “Peace Without Victory” speech	
Jan. 1917	Germany announces <i>unrestricted</i> submarine warfare	
March 1917	Russian Revolution; Zimmerman note	
April 1917	U.S. enters the War; draft law passed	
Nov. 1917	Bolshevik Revolution in Russia	
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Jan. 1918	Wilson’s Fourteen Points	
Spring 1918	American troops arrive	
May 1918	Chateau-Thierry	
Sept. 1918	St. Michel salient and Meuse-Argonne offensive	
Nov. 1918	Armistice signed (10 million killed; 53,000 are Americans)	
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Jan. 1919	Paris Peace Conference opens	
June 1919	Treaty of Versailles completed	
July 1919	Lodge holds hearings in the Senate regarding ratification	
Sept. 1919	Wilson goes to the country; suffers stroke	
Nov. 1919	Lodge’s fourteen reservations. Senate defeat of treaty	
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March 1920	Final defeat of treaty	