

The World War 1 Era

Complete Unit Guide Packet

Overview

Several simmering issues had created a tension in Europe in the early 1900's. When Austria-Hungary's Archduke Franz Ferdinand [was assassinated](#) in 1914, it set off a series of war declarations that brought in most of the industrialized world. The Triple Entente of Great Britain, France, and Russia (also known as the Allies) faced off against the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. The initial reaction in the United States was a desire to remain neutral. As a nation of immigrants, America would have difficulty picking a side.

A stalemate developed in the [early years of the war](#) as both sides settled into trenches along the Western and Eastern Fronts.

Advances in weaponry, from improvements to the machine gun and airplane, to the invention of the tank, led to mass devastation on a scale never seen before. After reports of German mistreatment of civilians in Belgium in 1914 and following the sinking of the passenger liner Lusitania in 1915, Americans increasingly came to see Germany as the aggressor.

Germany also made a secret offer to help Mexico regain territories lost in the [Mexican-American War](#) in an encoded telegram that was intercepted by British intelligence. This Zimmermann Telegram outraged Americans just as [German U-boats](#) started sinking American merchant ships in the North Atlantic. President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war and "make the world safe for democracy" in 1917.

The war transformed European and American life, wrecked the economies of Europe, and planted the seeds for a second world war. After the war's end, international organizations (the [League of Nations](#)) and agreements (the Mandate System) were established to avoid future conflicts. However, the [Treaty of Versailles](#) worsened economic and political conditions in Europe and led to the rise of totalitarian regimes.

Essential Questions

- What were the long-term causes of WWI?
- How did new weapons and trench warfare change how war was fought?
- Was it possible for the United States to maintain neutral in WWI?
- What was life like in America during the war?
- What rights and freedoms were limited during the war?
- Was the Treaty of Versailles a fair and effective settlement for peace after WWI?
- Should the United States Senate have ratified the Treaty of Versailles?



Vocabulary

Directions: Write a definition in your own words for each vocabulary term.

Triple Entente	
Triple Alliance	
Propaganda	
Lusitania	
Zimmerman Telegram	
Unrestricted Submarine Warfare	
Treaty of Versailles	
14 Points	
League of Nations	

Geography of World War 1

Directions: Use the maps below comparing Europe at the beginning and end of World War along with [this one of the alliances](#) to answer the questions at the bottom.



Which countries gained territory and which lost territory? Explain why you think that happened.

What new countries were created after the war? Why were these created?

How did the alliances during the war affect Europe's geography after the war?

People to Know

Directions: Use the bank of names below to identify the appropriate category for each person. For each person, identify the significant contributions that person made to American History.

[Woodrow Wilson](#)

[Franz Ferdinand](#)

[Tsar Nicholas II](#)

[Jeannette Rankin](#)

[Georges Clemenceau](#)

[David Lloyd George](#)

[Vittorio Orlando](#)

[Kaiser Wilhelm II](#)

[John J. Pershing](#)

Americans	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:
	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:
Foreign Leaders	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:
	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:	Name: Contributions:

Timeline of the World War 1 Era

Directions: Research [each](#) from the [timeline](#) then add the [date and significance](#) to the table below.

Year	Event	Significance
	Woodrow Wilson Inaugurated President	
	Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand	
	Austria-Hungary, Germany, & Britain Declare War	
	Lusitania sunk by a German U-boat	
	The Battles of Verdun and the Somme	
	Jeannette Rankin Elected to Congress	
	Zimmermann Telegram Intercepted	
	US Enters WW1	
	Sedition Act Passed to Extend the Espionage Act	
	Armistice Agreement ends WWI	
	US Senate Rejects the Treaty of Versailles	
	18th Amendment Established Prohibition	

Key Concepts

Directions: For each section, either takes notes on the required topics or answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Main Causes of World War 1

Briefly explain how each of these [movements helped lead](#) to WWI.

Militarism	Alliances	Imperialism	Nationalism

The Zimmerman Telegram

“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.”

In January 1917, Germany’s foreign minister Arthur Zimmermann sent a [top-secret telegram](#) to the German ambassador to Mexico. It was intercepted and [presented to the US](#).

How would you have reacted as an American in 1917 upon learning of the telegram?

Do you think the United States should have entered the war based on the Zimmermann Telegram alone? Explain why or why not.

[Jeannette Rankin](#) became the first female member of Congress in 1916 when she won one of Montana’s House seats. When President Wilson asked Congress to declare war and “make the world safe for democracy” Rankin cast one of 50 votes in opposition (versus 373 in favor).

Why do you think Rankin voted against the US joining WW1? How did this affect her?

“I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war. I vote no.”

- Jeannette Rankin

[“Over There” is a 1917 song](#) written by George M. Cohan, that was popular with the American public during WWI.

What do you think was the purpose of this song?

Over There

“Over there, over there,
Send the word, send the word, over there,
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tumming everywhere,
So prepare, say a prayer,
Send the word, send the word, to beware -
We’ll be over, we’re coming over,
And we won’t be back till it’s over, over there.”

“A generation of innocent young men, their heads full of high abstractions like Honour, Glory and England, went off to war to make the world safe for democracy. They were slaughtered in stupid battles planned by stupid generals. Those who survived were shocked, disillusioned and embittered by their war experiences, and saw that their real enemies were not the Germans, but the old men at home who had lied to them. They rejected the values of the society that had sent them to war, and in doing so separated their own generation from the past and from their cultural inheritance.”

- [Historian Samuel Hynes](#)

According to this historian, what impact did the war have on soldiers who fought?

Antiwar protests gave rise to several important free speech cases related to sedition and inciting violence. In the case [Schenck v. United States](#), the Supreme Court held that an antiwar activist did not have a First Amendment right to advocate draft resistance. In his majority opinion, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes introduced the [clear and present danger test](#).

Should the government be allowed to limit dissent during times of war and other crises? Explain why/why not.

“The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that the United States Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree. When a nation is at war, many things that might be said in time of peace are such a hindrance to its effort that their utterance will not be endured so long as men fight, and that no Court could regard them as protected by any constitutional right.”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes (1919)

The [Fourteen Points](#) were President Woodrow Wilson’s principles for peace that he outlined in a speech to Congress and used for negotiations to end World War I. Three of his points are excerpted here.

How did Wilson propose to make the world a more peaceful place?

The 14 Points

I. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

XIV. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

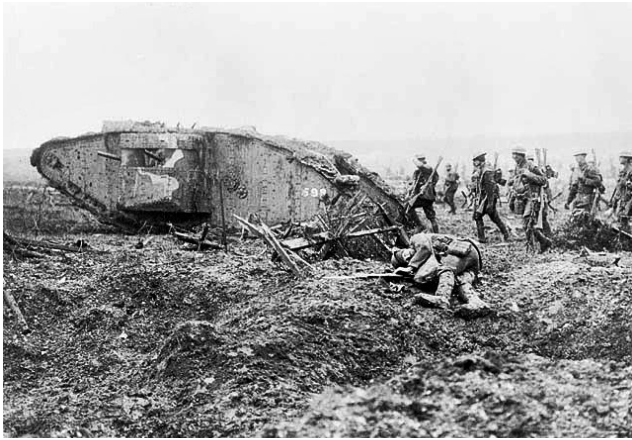
Woodrow Wilson outlined his foreign policy goals (free trade, open treaties, democracy, and self-determination) that would bring about peace in his 14 Points. Other [world leaders had](#) different goals at the peace talks following WWI.

What were their goals at the post-WWI peace conference?



Visual Literacy

Directions: Use the included images and captions to answer each of the questions.



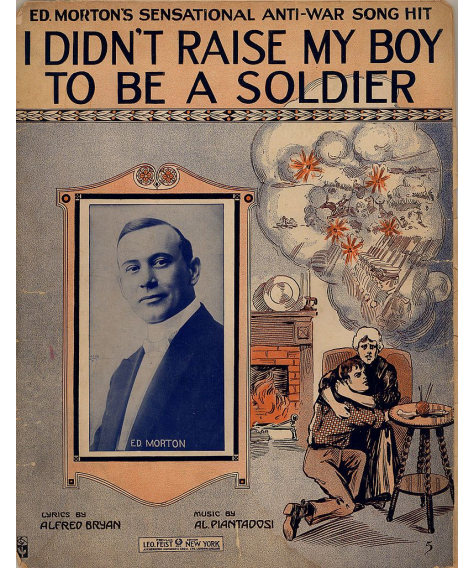
Allied troops advance behind a **new British Mark II tank** at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

What were some of the new weapons used in WWI and how did they change warfare?

The song **"I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier"** was a hit in 1915, selling 650,000 copies. Its expression of popular pacifist sentiment helped make the pacifist movement a political reality to be reckoned with.

Why were many Americans against the US entering WWI in 1915?

Do you think the US could have remained neutral throughout the war? Why/why not?



The **Selective Service Act of 1917** authorized the government to raise a national army for service in World War I through a draft. This draft registration card was from the first of three registrations and was required for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.

How would you have felt about getting drafted to serve?

Form 1 716 REGISTRATION CARD 144 23

1 Name in full Stoddard King Age in yrs. 21

2 Home address 1607 W Jackson Spokane Wash

3 Date of birth Aug 19 1889

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural Born

5 Where were you born? Jackson Wis USA

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? News Paper man

8 By whom employed? Spokesman Review

Where employed? Spokane Wash

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or other person wholly or partly dependent on you for support (specify which)? Wife & child

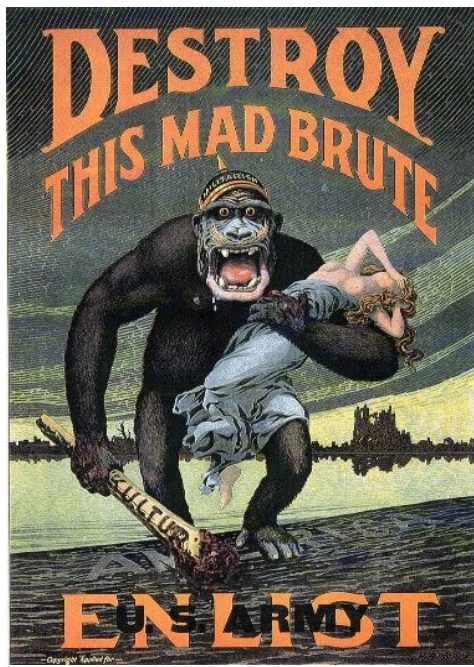
10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which) Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank No; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Wife & child to support

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Stoddard King
(Signature of registrant)



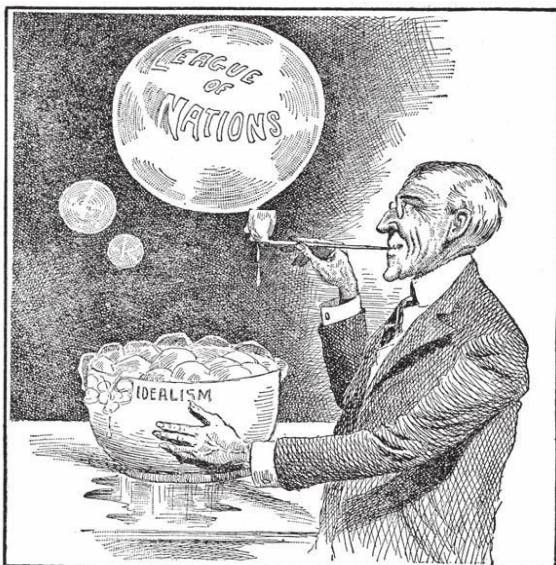
World War I was the first war in which governments systematically produced propaganda designed to alter public opinion and build support for the war effort.

What was the purpose of most propaganda during WWI?

What kind of visuals and messages make for the most effective propaganda? Why?

The Espionage Act of 1917 and Sedition Act of 1918 outlawed the use “disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language” about the government, flag, or armed forces during World War 1. In 1922 families of imprisoned dissidents protested for their release.

Why do you think these protestors reference the Constitution?



BLOWING BUBBLES.

Woodrow Wilson was criticized by some members of Congress as an idealist. They refused to support his dream of a League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles was never ratified by Congress.

Why did Congress reject the Treaty of Versailles?

What resulted from the US rejecting the Treaty?