

World War I

The War to End All Wars

MAIN Causes

- Militarism
 - Nations were increasing the size of their militaries in a competitive way
 - Ex: Britain had a strong navy, so Germany wanted a strong navy
- Alliances
 - Nations agree to back each other up in times of conflict
- Imperialism
 - Many nations carve up Africa and take nations as territories during the late 1800s
- Nationalism
 - Pride in ones nation

Alliances

- Triple Alliance (Central Powers)
 - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
- Triple Entente (Allied Powers)
 - England, France, Russia

Immediate Cause

- June 28, 1914
 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand (Austria Hungary) is assassinated by a member of the Black Hand organization of Serbia
- July 28th Austria Declares War on Serbia
- Russia Declares War on Austria
- August 1st Germany Declares War on Russia
- August 2nd Germany Invades Belgium
- August 3rd Germany Invades France
- August 4th France Declares War on Germany & Britain Declares War on Germany



The Austrian government was not much concerned to punish the crime of Sarajevo. They wanted to punish a different crime - the crime that Serbia committed by existing as a free national state.

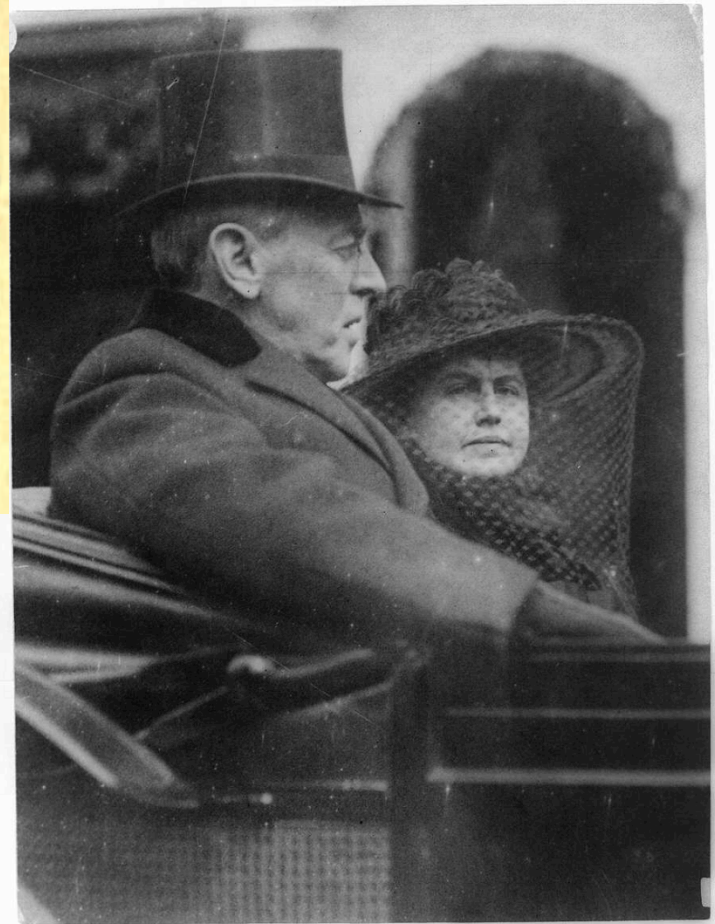
AJP Taylor, *Europe - Grandeur and Decline* (1967)



From Neutrality to War

AMERICA GETS INVOLVED

US Isolationism



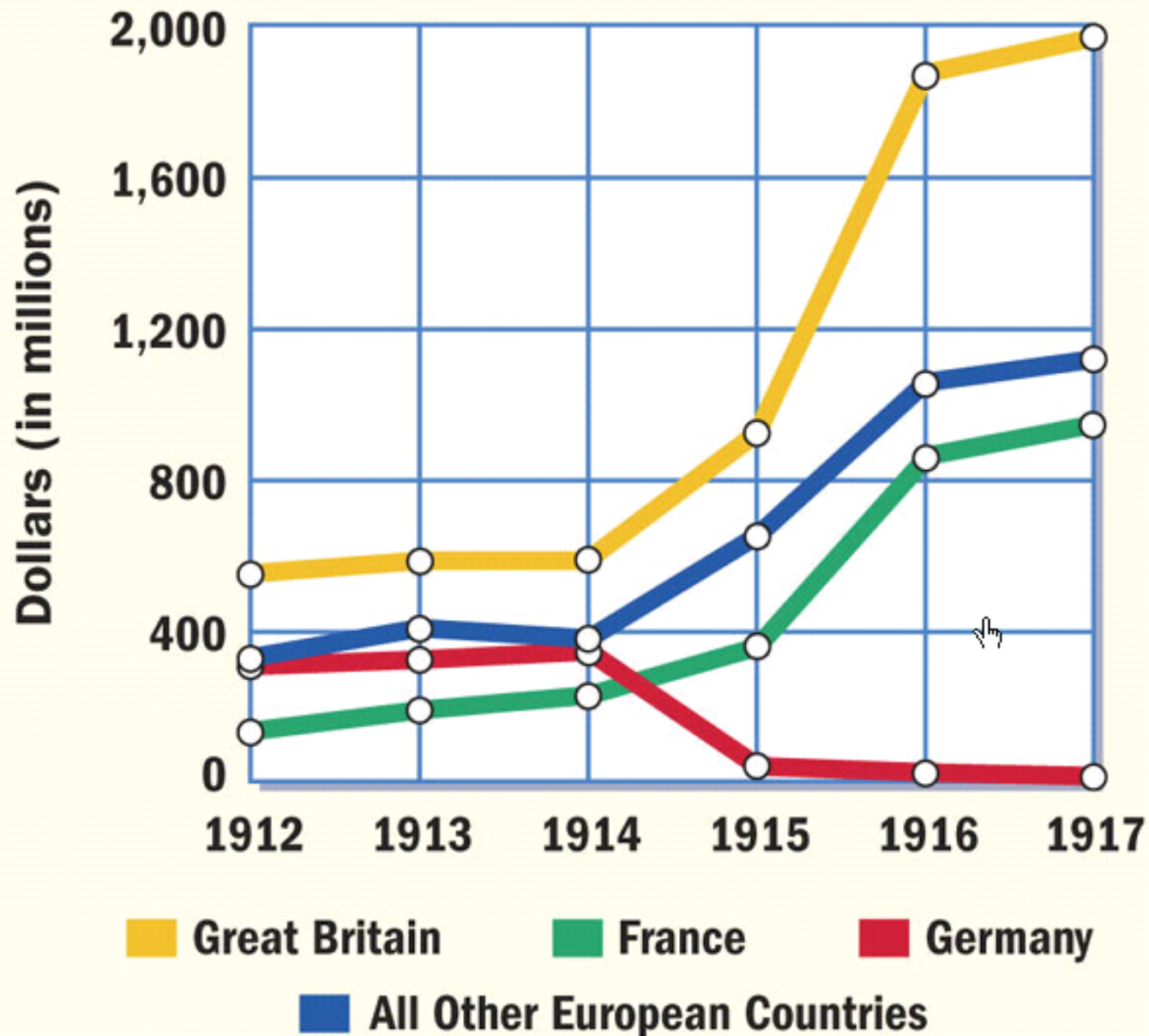
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- Wilson proclaimed American neutrality on August 4, 1914
- Germans announce a blockade and begin to attack unarmed British passenger ships
- Wilson insists American have a right as neutrals to travel safely

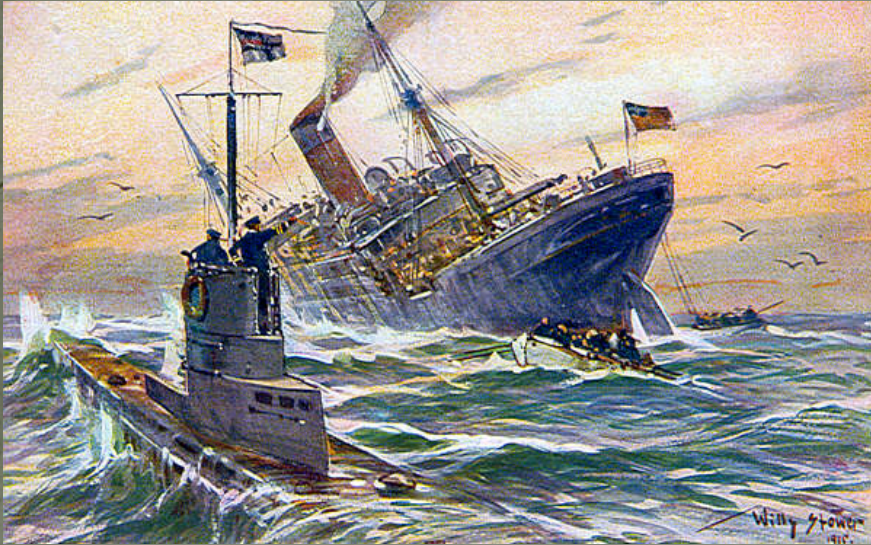
Economics of Neutrality

- US loses approximately \$150 million by not being able to trade with the Central Powers
- Trade with the Allies rose from \$825 million to \$3.2 Billion
- British & French borrow \$3.25 billion from American sources
- US becomes major supplier of Allied munitions, food and raw materials

U.S. Exports to Europe, 1912–1917



Sinking of the Lusitania



May 7, 1915 British passenger ship Lusitania
sunk off coast of Ireland – 128 Americans
died

The War Debate



- After the Lusitania Crisis, a small but vocal minority of influential Republicans from the east argued for US entry into the war against Germany
- Majority of Americans were thankful for the booming economy and peace
- American military hopelessly unprepared for a major war

Progressive Responses

- American Union Against Militarism – virtual who's who of progressive leaders – shared conviction that war was inevitably disastrous to the reforms that were taking place in society
- Some progressives began to see the preparations for war as an opportunity to institute large scale reforms that might otherwise take years to develop – land reclamation, curtailment of child labor, an improved tax system

Wilson Responds

- At first Wilson opposed the call for preparedness but in late 1915 changed his policy - urged Congress to approve an ambitious expansion of the armed forces – provoked a storm of controversy
- Wilson went on a nationwide speaking tour on behalf of preparedness – said no imminent threat but we must be prepared to survive in a world being transformed on the battlefields – set his proposals in broad historical context
- Congress passed National Defense Act – June 1916 – increased army from 90,000 to 220,000 and enlarged the National Guard

Opposition

- Anti war activists include Populists, Progressives & Socialists
- Feminists felt that war posed a particular threat to their movement because men were obviously the warriors and women were trying to minimize sexual differences

America Declares War



- ❖ On April 2, 1917, senators, representatives, ambassadors, members of the Supreme Court, and other guests crowded into the Capital building to hear Wilson deliver his declaration of war.
- ❖ Wilson said, “The world must be made safe for democracy.”
- ❖ Congress passed the resolution a few days later.

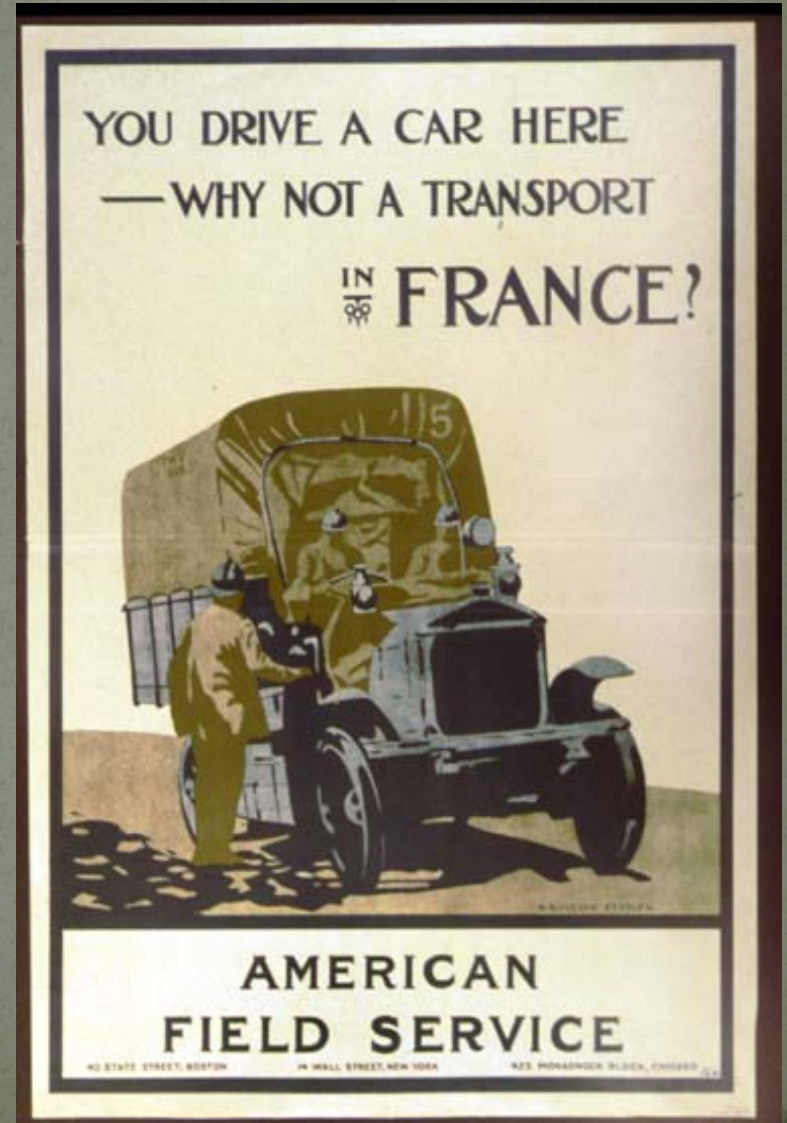
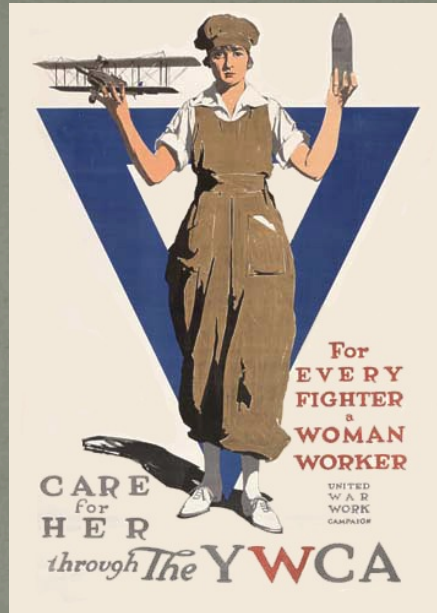
Why US Enters the War

- **1. Unrestricted submarine warfare**
 - sinking of the Lusitania (1915)
 - Germany renews unrestricted U Boat attacks (1917)
- **2. American Propaganda**
 - Stressed German barbarism.
 - Posters depicting the Kaiser as some sort of madman.
 - Urged American to support allies throughout neutrality.
- **3. German Dictatorship**
 - "Make the World safe for Democracy." - Cultural ties
- **4. U.S. Business Interests**
 - US trade w/ the allies increased from 825 million in 1914 to 3.2 billion in 1916.
- **5. Zimmerman Note**
 - Germany asked Mexico to enter the war against the US. We intercepted the note.

Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

- Sudden change in German strategy – resume unrestricted submarine warfare beginning in early January 1917 – realized risk of US entry but saw that by cutting off supplies to the allies, Germany could win war before Americans could react
- January 31st – Germans told Americans of resumption
- A few days later Wilson breaks diplomatic relations with Germany
- 1st weeks of March, 5 unarmed merchant ships of US sank

Propaganda Posters



Zimmerman Note

MAILED
Director 1-8-88
Zimmerman, State Dept.
By *Wm. A. Eckhoff*
Date *Oct. 27, 1917*

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"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, ~~write~~ ^{invite} 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, ZIMMERMAN.

- March 1, 1917 – US newspapers carry shocking news of a secret offer made by Germany to Mexico
- Proposed to ally Mexico with Germany in return for Germany's pledge to recover lost territories of TX, NM and AZ

Arguments For Entry

- Those who spoke on behalf of American entry figured the war as a contest between democracy and autocracy – a profound ideological struggle in which America was aligning herself selflessly and with the forces of right

Arguments Against

- Opponents made three kinds of arguments
 - Saw the danger of entangling alliances with European powers in the service of aims irrelevant – it was okay to go to war in defense of American rights but not a European war of aggression
 - American entry into war was seen as a conspiracy by Easterners to fasten suffering on the common people for the benefit of big capital
 - Conviction that no cause could sanctify the wanton bloodletting of modern warfare

War on the Home Front

The Draft

REGISTRATION CARD		958
1	Name in full <i>Joseph Subotnick</i>	Age <i>23</i>
2	First <i>366</i> Street <i>24</i> City <i>NY</i>	
3	Date of birth <i>Feb 15</i> Height <i>5'7"</i>	
4	Are you (1) a married man, (2) a married woman, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention to do so? <i>Alien</i>	
5	Have you ever been in the armed forces? <i>Never</i>	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? <i>Russia</i>	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or profession? <i>Business & Office</i>	
8	Are you employed? <i>Yes - Subotnick</i>	
9	Have you a father, mother, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (over 21 who is)? <i>No</i>	
10	What is your height? <i>5'7"</i> Eyes <i>Blue</i> Hair <i>Brown</i>	
11	What is your present service? <i>None</i> Bank <i>No</i>	
12	Do you have any other means of support? <i>No</i>	

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

Joseph Subotnick
1282
(Signature of registrant)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT		31-9-113-A
1	Tell whether or when (over 18) <i>Medium</i> Shorter, and over, or over (which)? <i>Medium</i>	
2	Color of eyes <i>Black</i> Color of hair <i>Black</i> Build <i>Not</i>	
3	Has person lost eyes, legs, hands, feet, or both? <i>No</i> Or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?	

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

A. P. Schneider
(Signature of registrar)

Postoffice *4/10*
City or County *NY*
State *NY*

(Date of registration)

1922-2

- Selective Service Act
- Required all men 21-30 to register
- 2.8 million were eventually called by lottery
- Draftees provided over half of the total 4.7 million Americans who were issued uniforms
- Of these 2 million transported overseas

Anti-German Sentiment

- “The Hun within our gates is the worst of the foes of our own household, whether he is the paid or the unpaid agent of Germany. Whether he is pro-German or poses as a pacifist, or a peace-at-any-price-man, matters little....The German-language papers carry on a consistent campaign in favor of Germany against England. They should be put out of existence for the period of this war....Every disloyal native-born American should be disfranchised and interned. It is time to strike our enemies at home heavily and quickly.”

- Theodore Roosevelt, 1917

Education

- School districts banned the teaching of German language - an Iowa politician said that 90% of all men and women who teach the German language are traitors
- Schools demand loyalty oaths from school personnel
- All texts that fail to condemn the Germans or made too much of the past British-American frictions were banned

Education

- Distributed “war study courses” to the nation’s schools
- Patriotism, heroism and sacrifice were made the themes of study for elementary schools - students in more advanced elementary grades were taught the difference between autocratic German form of government and the democratic American form

Education

- “*War Issues Course*” – list of 100 questions to be addresses – survey of 19th and 20th century European history designed to expose the origins of the war and fix the blame on Germany – used crude simplifications, cultural stereotypes, hate propaganda and reactionary political views – fundamental purpose – to present war as a life-and-death struggle between democracy and autocracy

Court Cases

- *Schenck v. United States* (1919) – affirmed Schenck’s guilt for having mailed pamphlets urging potential army inductees to resist conscription (draft) - stated that Congress could limit free speech when the words represented a “clear and present danger” (SC upheld Espionage Act)
- *Abrams vs. United States* - Russian immigrant Jacob Abrams and 4 associates printed pamphlets denouncing the American military intervention in Russia – some justices felt that the clear and present danger test showed he did not sufficiently threaten the American war with Germany – however Court upheld his conviction – court said publication only had to INTEND to disrupt the military effort

Legislation

- *Trading with the Enemy Act* – required foreign language newspapers to submit an English translation in advance of publication to the Post Office Department – any editorials referring to government, allied nations or the conduct of war

Espionage Act

- \$10,000 fines and imprisonment up to 20 years for persons obstructing military operations in wartime and \$5,000 fines and up to 5 years imprisonment for the use of the mail in violation of the statute – if advocated treason, insurrection or forcible resistance to any law
- Amendments to Espionage Act propose to prohibit “any disloyal, profane, scurrilous or abusive language” about the form of government of the US or the Constitution or the flag or the uniform of the Army or Navy – known as the Sedition Act

War Industries Board



- ✘ The War Industries Board (WIB) encouraged companies to use mass-production techniques. Under the WIB industrial production and wages increased 20% and union membership increased from 2.5 million to 4 million.
- ✘ To deal with disputes between management and labor, President Wilson set up the National War Labor Board in 1918.

Preparing for War

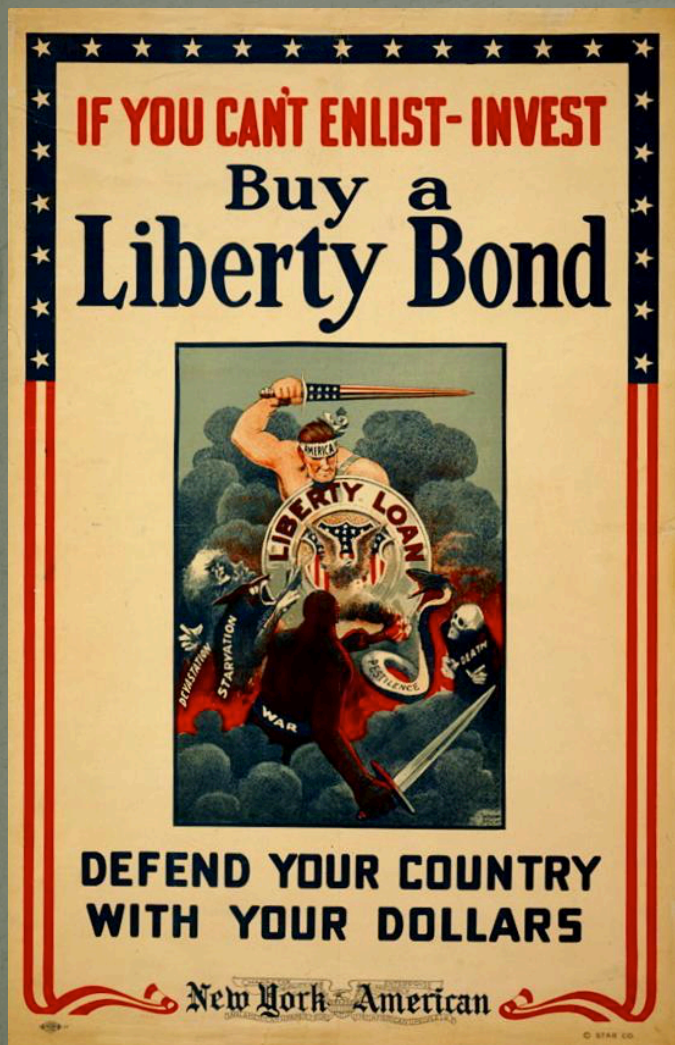
- Food Administration – headed by future President Herbert Hoover – encouraged people to conserve food so it could be shipped overseas
- Fuel Administration – headed by Harry Garfield – directed efforts to save coal – nonessential factories were closed and daylight savings time went into effect
- National War Labor Board – headed by former president William Howard Taft – help arbitrate disputes between workers and employers

Victory Gardens



- ✘ To conserve food, Wilson set up the Food Administration (FA) which declared one day a week “meatless,” another “sweetless,” and two days “wheatless.” Homeowners planted “victory gardens” in their yards and school children worked after school growing tomatoes and cucumbers in public parks.
- ✘ Farmers increased production by almost 30% by adding 40 million acres of farmland

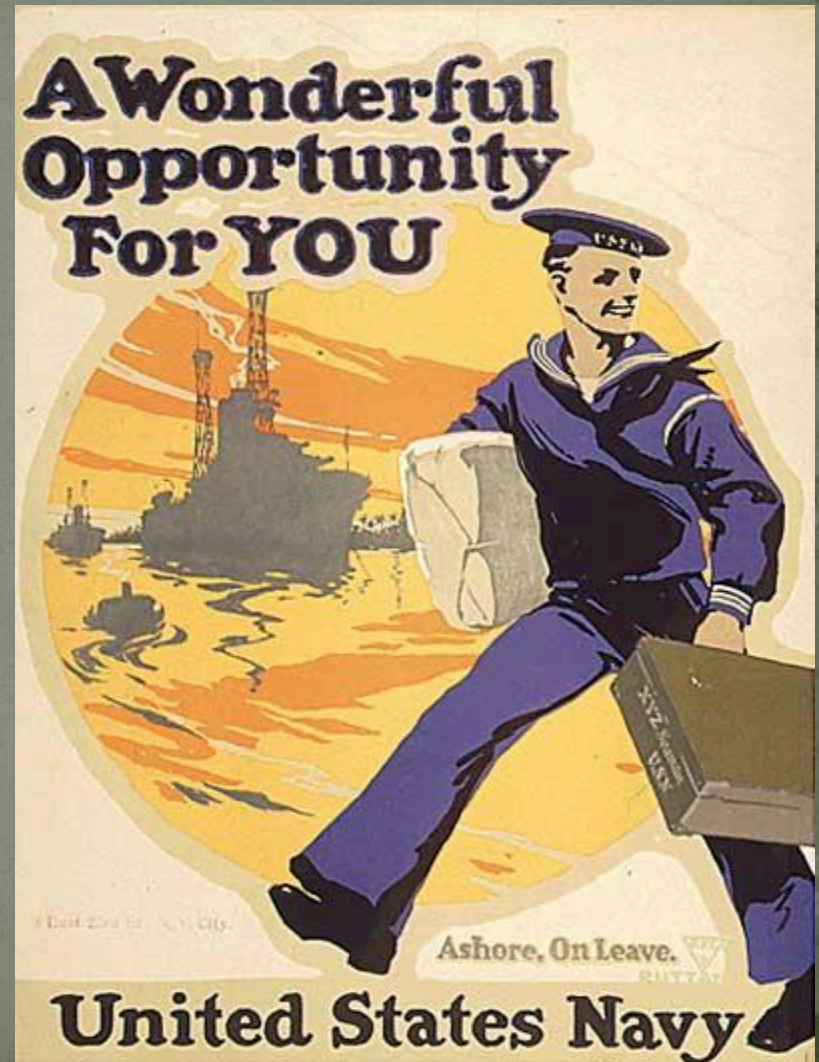
Selling The War



- ✘ The U.S. had two major tasks: raising money and convincing the public to support the war.
- ✘ The U.S. spent \$35.5 billion on the war effort.
- ✘ The government raised about 1/3 of that through an income tax and “sin” taxes.
- ✘ The rest was raised through war bonds sold to the public (Liberty Loans & Victory Loans)

Propaganda

- ✘ To popularize the war, the government set up the nation's first propaganda agency called the Committee on Public Information (CPI)
- ✘ George Creel led the agency and persuaded many of the nation's artists to create thousands of paintings, posters, cartoons and sculptures to promote the war



Attack on Civil Liberties

- ✘ As the war progressed, Civil Liberties were compromised.
 - ✘ Anti-Immigrant feelings were openly expressed especially anti-German and Austrian-Hungarian.
 - ✘ Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed by Congress. These acts were designed to prevent anti-war protests but went against the spirit of the First Amendment (free speech)
 - ✘ Socialists and labor leaders were targeted for disloyalty.

Any anti-American sentiments were targeted during wartime

The Big Four



David Lloyd George – Great Britain *** Woodrow Wilson – United States
Georges Clemenceau – France***Vittorio Orlando – Italy

Wilson's 14 Points

- Self Determination
 - nationalities should be able to have their own countries.
- Disarmament
 - we should take away many of the worlds weapons.
- Freedom of the Seas
 - to be able to sail and trade anywhere.
- No blame or punishment
 - just start over. Blame would create bad feelings.
- League of Nations
 - He wanted an international organization to make sure there wasn't another war.

Wilson's 14 Points

- 1. An end to all secret diplomacy
- 2. Freedom of the seas in peace and war
- 3. The reduction of trade barriers among nations
- 4. The general reduction of armaments
- 5. The adjustment of colonial claims in the interest of the inhabitants as well as of the colonial powers
- 6. The evacuation of Russian territory and a welcome for its government to the society of nations
- 7. The restoration of Belgium
- 8. The evacuation of all French territory, including Alsace-Lorraine

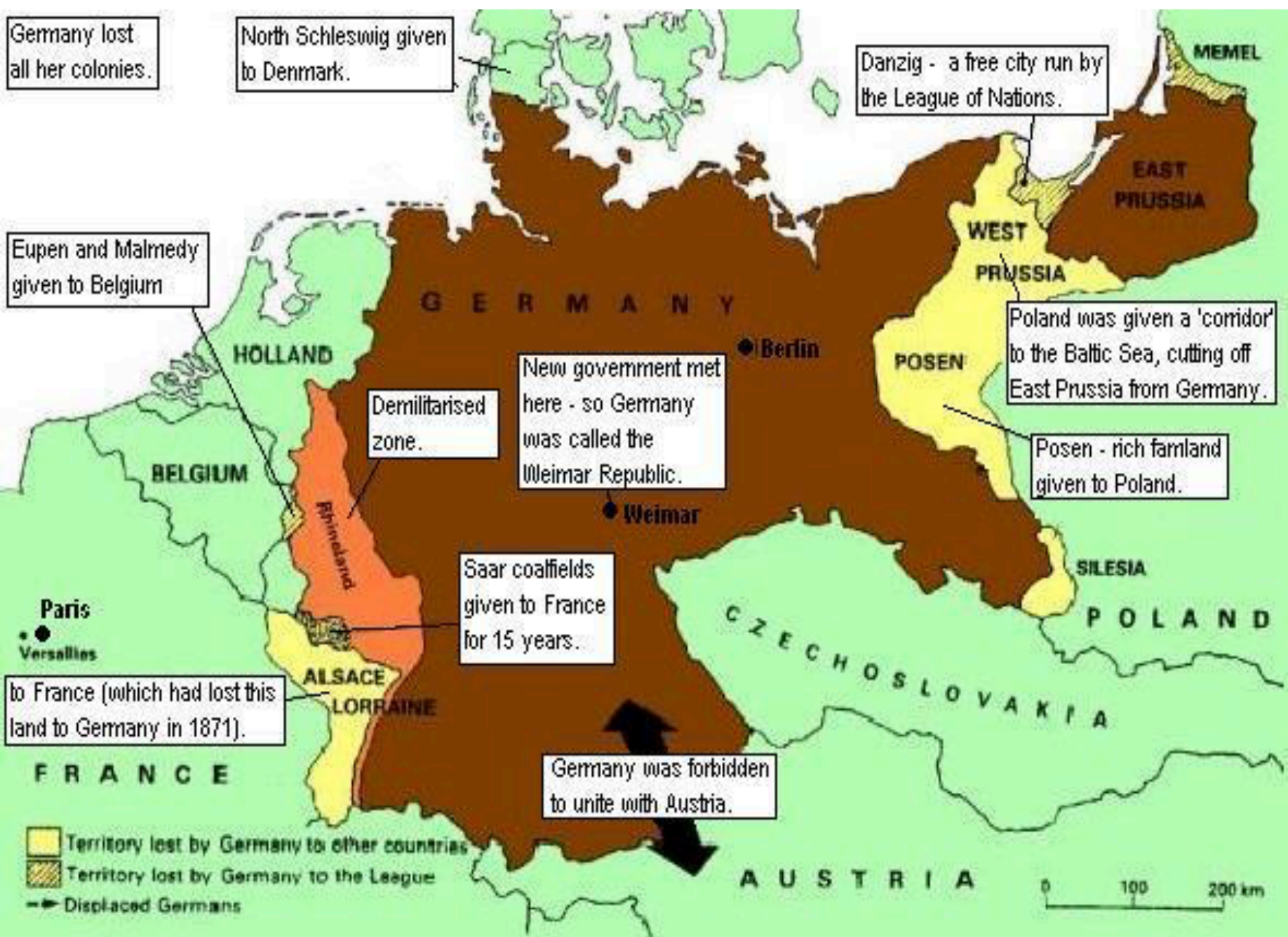
Wilson's 14 Points

- 9. The readjustment of Italian boundaries along clearly recognizable lines of nationality
- 10. Independence for various national groups in Austria-Hungary
- 11. The restoration of the Balkan nations and free access to the sea for Serbia
- 12. Protection for minorities in Turkey and the free passage of the ships of all nations through the Dardanelles
- 13. Independence for Poland, including access to the sea
- 14. A league of nations to protect "mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small nations alike."

Wilson brought many of his closest advisors with him to Versailles, but he did not bring along any Republicans.



Republican Senators like
Henry Cabot Lodge vowed
to thwart all of Wilson's plans



The Weakness of the Treaty



Germany

Germans felt the Versailles Treaty was unfair

- ✘ The harsh treatment of Germany prevented the Treaty from creating a lasting peace in Europe
- ✘ The Treaty humiliated the Germans by forcing them to admit sole responsibility for the war (War-Guilt Clause)
- ✘ Furthermore, Germany would never be able to pay \$33 billion in reparations.

Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles: Major Provisions

League of Nations

- International peace organization; enemy and neutral nations initially excluded
- Germany and Russia excluded

Territorial Losses

- Germany returns Alsace-Lorraine to France; French border extended to west bank of Rhine River
- Germany surrenders all of its overseas colonies in Africa and the Pacific

Military Restrictions

- Limits set on the size of the German army
- Germany prohibited from importing or manufacturing weapons or war material
- Germany forbidden to build or buy submarines or have an air force

War Guilt

- Sole responsibility for the war placed on Germany's shoulders
- Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 billion in reparations over 30 years



Immediate Effects

- A generation of Europeans is killed or wounded.
- Dynasties fall in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia.
- New countries are created.
- The League of Nations is established to help promote peace.

Long-Term Effects

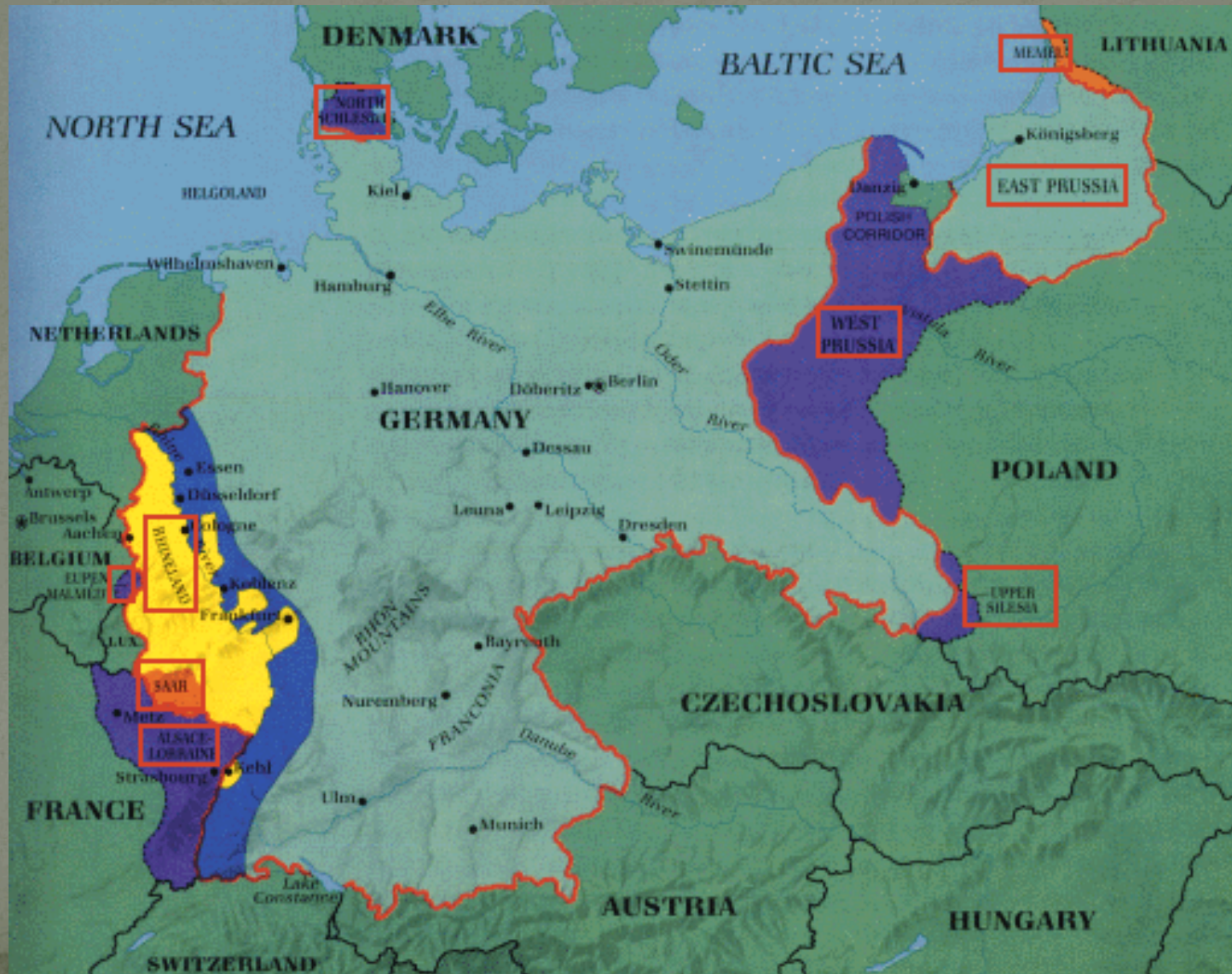
- Many nations feel bitter and betrayed by the peace settlements.
- Forces that helped cause the war—nationalism, competition—remain.



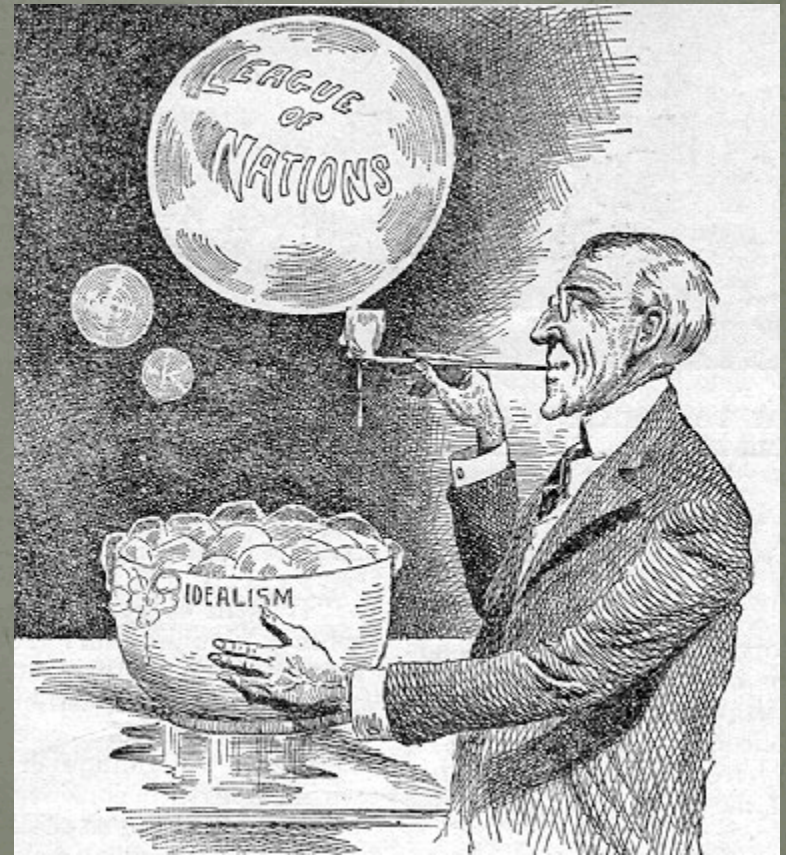
The Peace Conference

- *Russia and Germany were NOT invited!!!*
- *France & Britain wanted to PUNISH Germany*
- *US Wanted to Ensure NO FUTURE War*

Effects of the Treaty



League of Nations



Debate Over Ratification

- Many Americans were concerned with the constitutionality of the League
 - Washington's Farewell Address
 - Monroe Doctrine
- The Treaty/League caused a stir in the US Senate.
 - **Internationalists** (Democrats and Wilson)
 - **Irreconcilables** (Progressive Republicans)
 - William Borah (Idaho)
 - Hiram Johnson (California)
 - Robert La Follette (Wisconsin)
 - **Reservationists** (Republicans)
 - Henry Cabot Lodge

Debate Over Treaty at Home

✧ In the United States, the Treaty was hotly debated especially the League of Nations. Conservative senators, headed by Henry Cabot Lodge, were suspicious of the League's joint economic and military commitments. Many wanted the U.S. Congress to maintain the right to declare war itself. Ultimately, Congress rejected U.S. involvement in the very League the U.S. President had created



The U.S. never did join the league

POINT

“The League of Nations was the world’s best hope for lasting peace.”

President Wilson campaigned for the League of Nations as “necessary to meet the differing and unexpected contingencies” that could threaten world peace. Wilson believed that the League would create a forum where nations could talk through their disagreements. He also hoped it would provide collective security, in which nations would “respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League,” and thereby prevent devastating warfare.

Critics complained that membership in the League would limit American independence in international affairs. However, Wilson argued that League membership included “a moral, not a legal, obligation” that would leave Congress free to decide its own course of action. Wilson tried to assure Congress as well as the general public that the League was “not a straightjacket, but a vehicle of life.” It was also a definite guaranty . . . against the things that have just come near bringing the whole structure of civilization into ruin.”



COUNTERPOINT

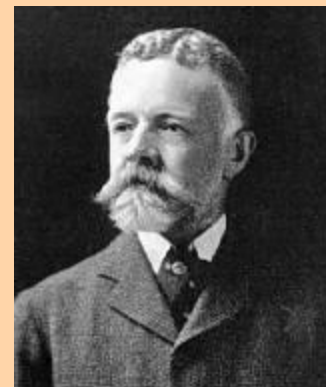
“The League of Nations posed a threat to U.S. self-determination.”

Senator William Borah was one of the foremost critics of the Treaty of Versailles because he objected to U.S. membership in the League of Nations. Borah feared that membership in the League “would draw America away from her isolation and into the internal affairs and concerns of Europe” and involve the United States in foreign wars. “Once having surrendered and become a part of the European concerns,” Borah wondered, “where, my friends, are you going to stop?”

Many opponents also feared that the League would nullify the Monroe Doctrine by limiting “the right of our people to govern themselves free from all restraint, legal or moral, of foreign powers.”

Although Wilson argued that the League of Nations would have no such power of restraint, Borah was

unconvinced. He responded to Wilson’s argument by asking, “What will your League amount to if it does not contain powers that no one dreams of giving it?”



In the U.S. Senate, “strong reservationists” & “irreconcilables” rejected joining the League because of fears that it would pull the USA into future wars



THIS
LEAGUE OF NATIONS
BRIDGE
WAS DESIGNED BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE
U.S.A.



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.



The Legacy of the War

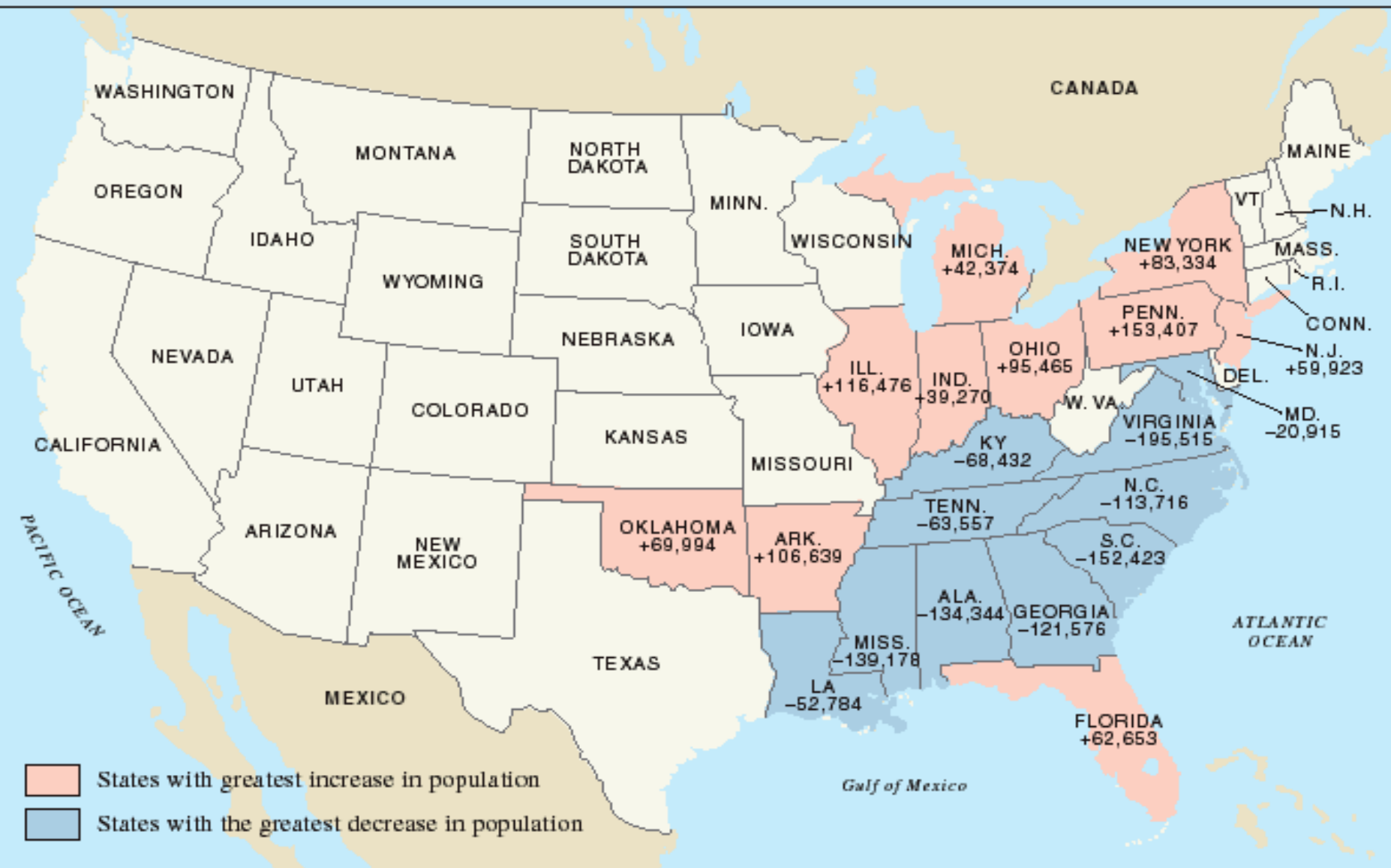


22 million dead, more than half civilians. An additional 20 million wounded.

- ✘ At home, the war strengthened both the military and the power of the government.
- ✘ The propaganda campaign provoked powerful fears in society.
- ✘ For many countries the war created political instability and violence that lasted for years
- ✘ Russia established the first Communist state during the war
- ✘ Americans called World War I, “The War to end all Wars” --- however unresolved issues would eventually drag the U.S. into an even deadlier conflict.

African-American Migration, 1910–1920

This map makes graphic the massive migration of African Americans from the South to the North during the Great War. Most moved to find better jobs, but in the process they changed the dynamics of race relations in the country.



Military Casualties in World War I 1914-1918

- Belgium 45,550
- British Empire 942,135
- France 1,368,000
- Greece 23,098
- Italy 680,000
- Japan 1,344
- Montenegro 3,000
- Portugal 8,145
- Romania 300,000
- Russia 1,700,000
- Serbia 45,000
- United States 116,516
- Austria-Hungary 1,200,000
- Bulgaria 87,495
- Germany 1,935,000
- Ottoman Empire 725,000

Consequences

- Nearly 10 million soldiers died and about 21 million were wounded. U.S. deaths totaled 116,516.
- Four empires collapsed: the Russian Empire in 1917, the German and the Austro-Hungarian in 1918, and the Ottoman in 1922.
- Independent republics were formed in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Turkey.
- Most Arab lands that had been part of the Ottoman Empire came under the control of Britain and France.
- The Bolsheviks took power in Russia.
- Under the peace settlement, Germany was required to pay reparations eventually set at \$33 billion; accept responsibility for the war; cede territory to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, and Poland; give up its overseas colonies; and accept an allied military force on the west bank of the Rhine River for 15 years.

- World War I killed more people--9 million combatants and 5 million civilians--and cost more money--\$186 billion in direct costs and another \$151 billion in indirect costs--than any previous war in history. Politically, it resulted in the downfall of four empires and contributed to the Bolshevik rise to power in Russia in 1917 and the triumph of fascism in Italy in 1922. The war allowed the United States to become the world's leading creditor and industrial power. Its consequences included the mass murder of Armenians in Turkey and an influenza epidemic that killed over 25 million people worldwide.