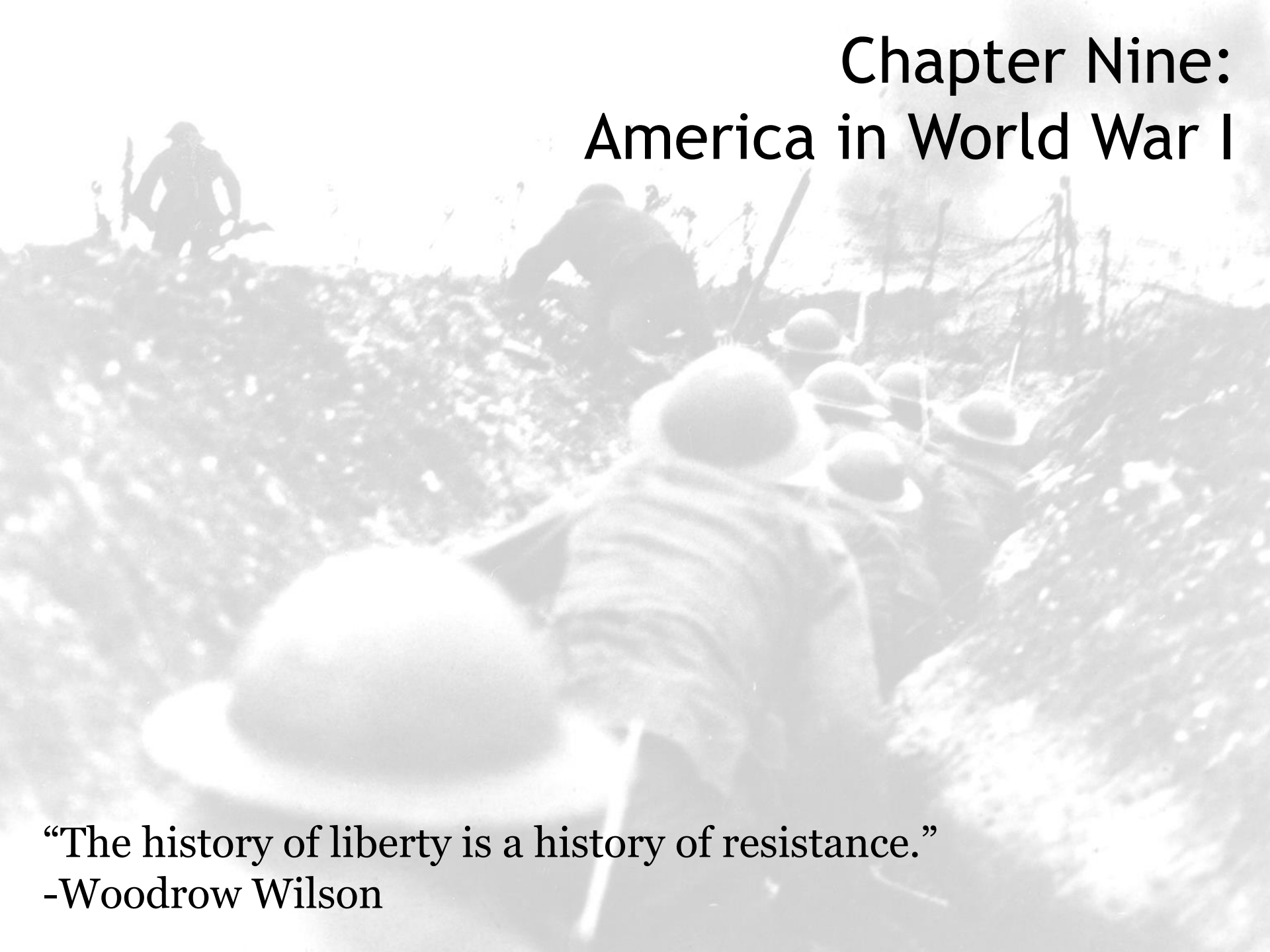


Chapter Nine: America in World War I



“The history of liberty is a history of resistance.”
-Woodrow Wilson

Chapter Objective, Essential Questions, & TEKS

- **Objective:**
 - Identify and explain the significance of the U.S. entry in World War I and understand the contributions of individuals, like General John J. Pershing, and technological innovations, like machine guns.
- **Essential Questions:**
 - Why did World War I break out in Europe?
 - Could the United States have avoided entering World War I?
 - What technological advances made World War I different from earlier wars?
 - Why were the peace treaties ending World War I so controversial?
- **TEKS:**
 - History: 2 (A), 2 (B), 2 (D), 4 (A), 4 (C), 4 (D), 4 (E), 4 (F), 4 (G)
 - Government: 19 (B)
 - Economics: 15 (D)
 - Culture: 26 (F)

Chapter Vocabulary

- World War I
- Zimmerman Telegram
- Freedom of the Seas
- Lusitania
- Sussex Pledge
- Submarine Warfare
- Selective Service Act
- Schenck v. U.S.
- American Expeditionary Force
- John J. Pershing
- Battle of Argonne Forest
- Alvin York
- Trench Warfare
- U-Boats
- Woodrow Wilson
- Fourteen Points
- Versailles Treaty
- Reparations
- League of Nations
- Henry Cabot Lodge
- Isolationism

Important Ideas

- Nationalism, economic rivalry, the alliance system, and militarism contributed to the outbreak of World War I in Europe. In 1914, Europe was divided into two alliances. The spark that began the war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Slav nationalists with Serbian help.
- German troops marched through neutral Belgium and invaded France, but were halted before they could take Paris. New and improved weapons, like the machine gun, created a new form of warfare. Each side dug trenches, set up machine guns, and put land mines in the "no-man's land" between the trenches.
- Germany tried to use its U-boats (*submarines*) to break the British naval blockade that sought to starve Germany and Austria-Hungary into submission.
- By 1918, the war had become deadlocked. Neither side was strong enough to overcome the other.
- President Woodrow Wilson tried to follow America's traditional policy of neutrality, by not taking sides in the early years of the war. However, the United States shared its language, political system, and many traditions with Great Britain and France. Americans were shocked by Germany's invasion of Belgium, which was sensationalized in the press. Germany sent a message offering to help Mexico regain the American Southwest if it joined the war on Germany's side.
- German submarines sank ships with American passengers, such as the *Lusitania* and the *Sussex*. Germany attempted to avoid such incidents, but Americans were supplying Britain with war materials while Germany was suffering from a British blockade. In 1917, Germany announced it would resume unrestricted submarine warfare and sank more ships. Wilson asked Congress to declare war.

Important Ideas

- The United States prepared the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under the command of General John Pershing. When the AEF arrived in Europe, it broke the deadlock in the war. Men like Alvin York showed great bravery in the war.
- President Wilson announced America's war aims in the Fourteen Points before the war's end. The Fourteen Points demanded the reorganization of Europe based on nationalism. Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Turkey would be divided into smaller national states. Poland would be restored as an independent country. Economic barriers like tariffs would be lowered. Finally, Wilson envisioned a League of Nations-- an international peace-keeping organization.
- Germany surrendered in 1918. President Wilson traveled to Europe to participate in the Paris Peace Conference. To get his allies to agree to the League of Nations, Wilson made many concessions. Against Wilson's wishes, the Versailles Treaty treated Germany harshly. Germany was made to accept responsibility for starting the war and had to pay reparations to the victorious allies.
- When Wilson returned home, the U.S. Senate, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, rejected the treaty. The United States never joined the League of Nations.

Causes of the War in Europe

- World War I was a global war fought with new destructive technologies. It was far more destructive than any previous armed conflict. The war first began in Europe. The outbreak of the war had several major long-term causes:

Nationalism. Nationalism led to rivalries between France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. Several nationalities in Austria-Hungary wanted to form their own national states.

CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

Economic Rivalries and Imperialism. The European powers had competing economic interests. For example, Russian interests in the Balkans threatened Austria-Hungary. Competing colonial claims added to these tensions.

The Alliance System. By the 1890s, Europe was divided into two alliances. On one side stood Germany and Austria; on the other side Russia, France and Great Britain. Any dispute involving two of these nations threatened to involve all of them.

Militarism and Military Planning. Powerful military establishments dominated European life. People were often seen in uniform and extolled the virtues of military discipline and war. Army generals believed it was better to attack than to wait to be attacked because of the time it took to get troops into position.

The Spark that Ignited WWI

- The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Serb nationalists in 1914 was the immediate cause of the war. Austria-Hungary was then a large multi-national state. Some Slavic groups demanded their independence and were willing to commit acts of terrorism to achieve it. Officials in Serbia, a neighboring Slavic state, secretly planned the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, with specially recruited terrorists.
- Austria gave an ultimatum to Serbia and then invaded Serbia to avenge the assassination. They were encouraged by their ally, Germany. Existing alliances quickly brought the other major powers into the war. Russia was allied to Serbia; Germany was allied to Austria-Hungary; and Britain and France were allied to Russia. What might have been a minor regional crisis quickly escalated into a major European war. The generals on each side hoped for a quick victory before their enemies could get their forces into action.



A New Kind of War

- Military leaders on both sides predicted the war would be over quickly. To avoid a two front war, German war plans called for their army to march through neutral Belgium to take Paris before Russia could enter the war. The Germans advanced across Belgium into France, but they were stopped before reaching Paris.
- New and improved weapons were used to fight the war, including the machine gun, poison gas, submarines, and airplanes. These weapons made it easier to defend positions than to attack. Soldiers dug deep, fortified trenches. Soon trenches extended hundreds of miles along eastern France, on Germany's **"Western Front."** **"Trench warfare"** was a new and strange form of warfare that the world had never seen. These trenches were separated by fields of barbed wire and mines known as "no man's land." Anyone who climbed out of the trenches faced instant death from enemy machine gun fire. Soldiers spent years in the trenches, facing shelling from artillery fire for hours each day. Since neither side could advance, fighting lines became stationary.



A New Kind of War

- Sometimes, soldiers faced attacks with **poison** gas. Casualty rates were high. **Tanks** were they first introduced in World War I, but were still too primitive to be effective. Overhead, the first **airplanes** were used to see what was going on across enemy lines. In the oceans, **submarines**, known in German as "**U-boats**," were used to attack large ships. When a battleship sank another ship, it rescued survivors. However, submarines lacked room to take in those who had survived an attack.
- Britain placed a blockade around Germany and Austria-Hungary in an attempt to starve them into submission. Russia became cut off from the West and lacked ammunition and supplies. Each side tried to mobilize all its resources, turning the conflict into a **total war**.



America Intervenes

- When the war first broke out in Europe, President Wilson attempted to follow the traditional American policy of **neutrality**. In 1916, he even campaigned for re-election on the grounds that he had kept America out of the war. Yet despite Wilson's best efforts, the United States eventually became involved in the conflict for several reasons:
- **Closer Ties with the Allies:**
 - Many Americans traced their ancestry to Britain. A common language and history also tied Americans to the British. The United States, Great Britain, and France all shared the same democratic political system. On the other hand, many Americans were of German ancestry.
- **German Actions and Allied Propaganda:**
 - Americans were especially shocked at the German invasion of neutral Belgium. German war plans had called for the invasion of this neutral country to speed up their conquest of France. American newspapers ran stories and pictures depicting German atrocities against civilians.



America Intervenes

- **Zimmerman Telegram:**

- This was a secret message from the German Foreign Minister, promising to return U.S. territories to Mexico if Mexico would help Germany fight the United States. American public opinion was enraged when the telegram was discovered and printed in the newspapers.

- **Freedom of the Seas:**

- The main reason for American entry into World War I was German unrestricted submarine warfare:

- **The British Blockade:**

- A British naval blockade prevented food and arms from being shipped to Germany. Meanwhile, the United States became the main source for Allied arms, supplies and food. The German navy was too weak to break through the British blockade. By using submarines, Germany was able to retaliate by sinking merchant ships delivering goods to Great Britain. However, unlike battleships, submarines had no room to pick up survivors.

- **Sinking of the *Lusitania*:**

- The *Lusitania* was a British passenger ship. In 1915, the *Lusitania* left New York City for Liverpool. Unknown to her passengers, much of the cargo below deck was made up of munitions for the British war effort. A German submarine sank this British passenger ship, killing more than 1,000 passengers, including 128 Americans. The sinking of the *Lusitania* enraged opinion in the United States.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIGN	
Post Date Message	
Day Letter	
Night Letter	
Night Letter	
Priority (Priority, Priority, and Special Service) (Priority, Priority, and Special Service)	
Time of Day (Time of Day)	
Time of Day	

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

RECEIVED CARLTON, PRESIDENT

MC
33-777
Time Day

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed:

via Galveston

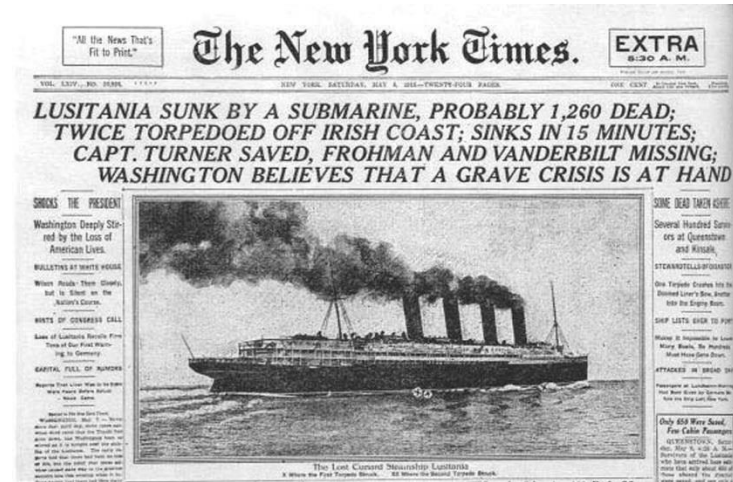
JAN 18 1917

GERMAN LEGATION
MEXICO CITY

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18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13605	3494	14936	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5101	39695	
23571	17504	11299	18276	18101	0317	0228	17694	4473	
22224	22200	19452	21589	07893	5569	13918	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4458	5905	17106	13851	4458	17149	14471	6706
13850	12224	0929	14991	7382	15857	67893	14218	36477	
5870	17553	67893	5870	5454	16102	15217	22801	17135	
21001	17388	7446	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3164	23552	22006	21604	4797	9497	22441	20855	4377	
23610	18140	22260	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	30667	
0929	5275	18507	52202	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11267
21100	21272	92340	9559	22494	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2188	5376	7381	98092	16127	13480	9350	9220	76036	14219
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BEPHSTOPFF.

Charge German Embassy.



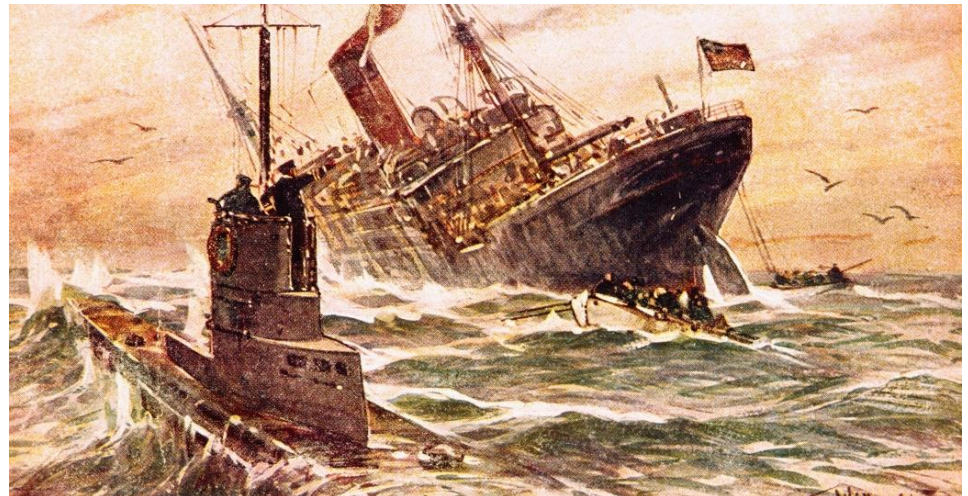
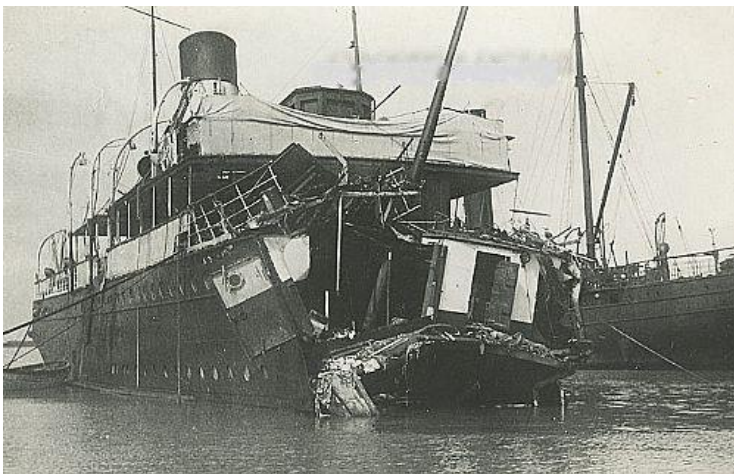
America Intervenes

- **Sussex Pledge:**

- The *Sussex* was a French ship that provided ferry service on the English Channel. After a German submarine attacked the ship in 1916, killing more than 50 passengers, President Wilson threatened to break off relations with Germany. Germany pledged not to sink any more ocean liners without prior warning or providing help to passengers.

- **Germany Announces Unrestricted Submarine Warfare:**

- Suffering from near-starvation by the British blockade, desperate German leaders announced finally that they would sink all ships in the blockaded areas. This declaration of **unrestricted submarine warfare** violated the principle of "freedom of the seas" - the right of neutral nations like the United States to ship non-military goods to nations at war. When German submarines then actually attacked American merchant vessels, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany.



Highlights of the War

- Soon after joining the war, President Wilson ordered a force of U.S. troops, known as the **American Expeditionary Force (AEF)**, to be sent to Europe. The AEF was put under the command of General **John J. Pershing**. A West Point graduate, Pershing had fought in the Indian Wars, the Battle of San Juan Hill, against Filipino rebels, and had led the expedition against Pancho Villa. In 1917 Pershing insisted that American soldiers be well-trained before being sent to the Western front. As a result, few American troops arrived before 1918. Pershing also demanded that the American forces fight together and not just be used to fill gaps in the French and British armies.
- By 1918, the AEF numbered over a million men. The AEF suffered more than a quarter of a million casualties, including more than 50,000 men killed in battle. President Wilson had refused to allow African-American regiments to serve in the AEF, but two of these regiments served directly under French command.



Battle of Argonne Forest

- One of the greatest American battles of the war occurred in 1918 in the Argonne Forest in Northeastern France near the Belgian border. The Germans had spent four years fortifying their positions which they believed were unassailable. The terrain was steep with barely a flat piece of land. One general remarked that it was "a region forgotten when level ground was being created." German defenses included miles of barbed wire, often hidden in the underbrush. There were also high concrete walls to block the progress of tanks and deep pit traps into which tanks might fall. Machine gun nests were everywhere.
- The AEF, under General Pershing, assembled 600,000 soldiers and 40,000 pieces of artillery. They fought through the hilly terrain, shattered the German defenses, and opened a hole in the German lines. This final and most important battle of the AEF lasted a month and half. A total of 1.2 million Americans were involved in the campaign from start to end, of whom 117,000 were killed or wounded.



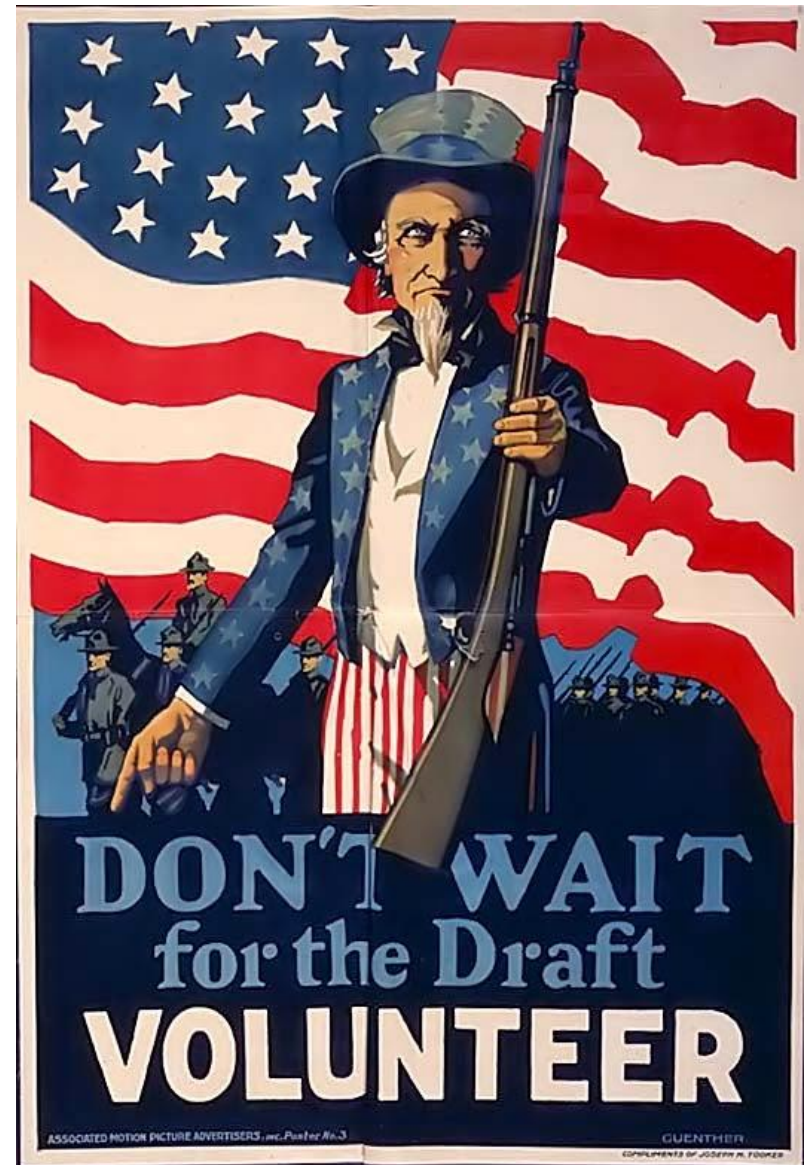
Medal of Honor & Alvin York

- During the Civil War, Congress had created the **Medal of Honor** for officers and noncommissioned soldiers who "most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action." More than 3,400 soldiers have been awarded the medal.
- **Alvin York** (1887-1964) was a devoted Bible reader, and almost avoided military service as a conscientious objector. He was drafted into the army at age 29. In many respects, he was typical of the draftees -- underprivileged and undereducated-- who were sent to France to make the world "safe for democracy." In the Battle of the Argonne Forest, with nothing more than his rifle and pistol, he reportedly killed 25 Germans and captured 132 prisoners.



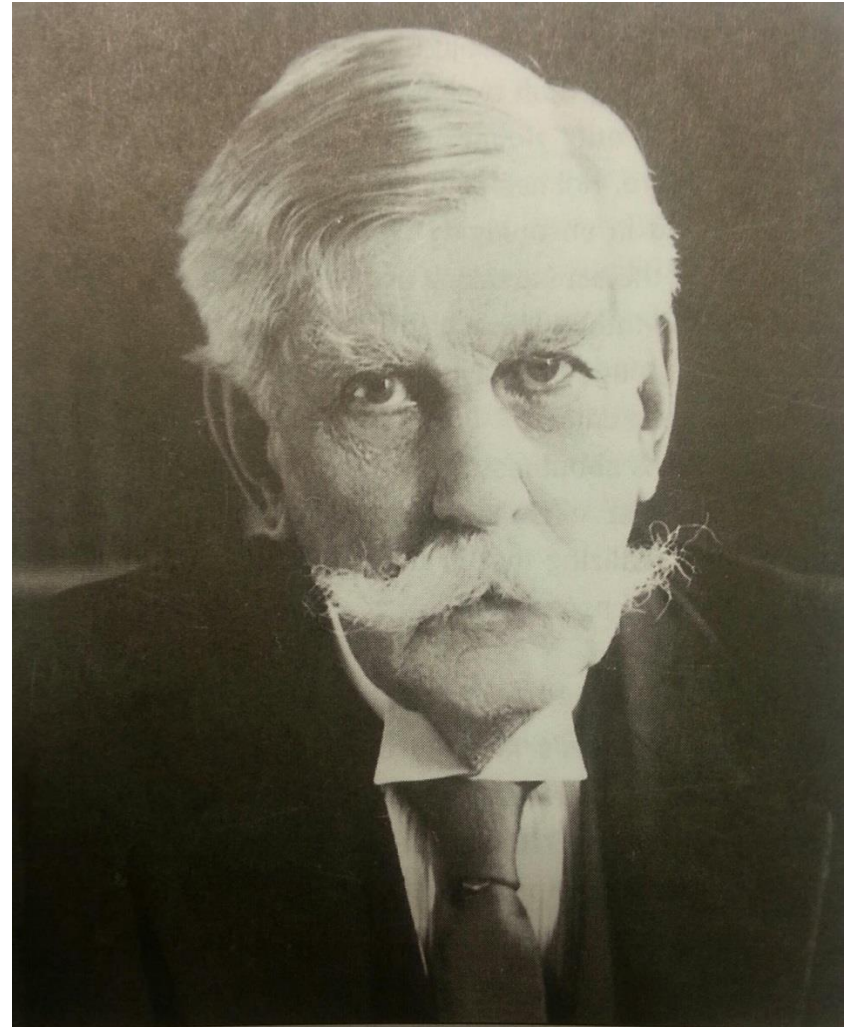
The Home Front, 1917-1918

- To fight the war, President Wilson was given sweeping powers by Congress. He established several agencies to regulate the economy during the war. Railroads were placed under direct government control. Congress passed the **Selective Service Act** (1917) and millions of Americans registered for the draft. Almost two million American troops eventually reached Europe, while women and African Americans filled many of their jobs at home. The cost of the war, about \$30 billion, was paid for by higher taxes and war bonds. The war greatly benefited the American economy, since exports to the Allied powers greatly increased.
- During the war, civil liberties were curtailed to meet wartime needs. The **Espionage Act of 1917** made it a crime to criticize the war effort.



Schenck v. U.S. (1919)

- Charles Schenck was a member of the Socialist Party who felt that drafting men was an unfair use of governmental authority. During World War I, Schenck was convicted for distributing literature that encouraged men to resist the draft. Schenck claimed his First Amendment right to freedom of speech had been violated. His case turned on whether the First Amendment was violated if Congress passed a law punishing dissent in wartime. In *Schenck v. U.S.*, the Supreme Court ruled that there were limits to free speech. The Court said that free speech is not protected from falsely "shouting fire in a crowded theater and causing panic." The First Amendment did not protect words that create a "clear and present danger." This decision became a guide for measuring the limits of free speech.



Wilson's Fourteen Points

- Wilson broadened American war aims from a defense of "freedom of the seas" to a crusade to make the world "safe for democracy." Americans found it inspiring to endure the war for such high-minded ideals. In January 1918, Wilson delivered his **Fourteen Points** in a speech to a joint session of Congress. The Fourteen Points stated that each major European nationality, like the Poles, should be given its own country and government. Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were therefore to be divided up into several independent nation-states. Poland was to be reborn, and Alsace Lorraine was to be returned to France. Wilson's Fourteen Points introduced several other changes to increase international cooperation. They called for freedom of the seas, a reduction of armaments, the removal of trade barriers, and an end to secret diplomacy. Wilson felt the most important part of his plan was the creation of a League of Nations. This was to be a new organization of nations that would mediate international disputes and act against aggressors. Wilson hoped to create a world of peaceful nations in which future wars could be avoided .



The Treaty of Versailles

- American troops broke the deadlock in Europe, causing Germany to surrender in November 1918. Wilson hoped to use his Fourteen Points as the basis for a peace plan.
- At the end of the war, separate treaties were concluded with Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey. Wilson traveled to Europe to help negotiate these peace treaties. He made a crucial mistake in not inviting influential Republican Senators to accompany him, since the Senate would eventually have to ratify the treaty. Almost immediately, Wilson came into conflict with other Allied leaders at the Paris Peace Conference. They wanted to impose a harsh treaty on Germany that would make the Germans pay for the war.



The Treaty of Versailles

- Wilson made many concessions in order to get the support of the other Allied leaders for the creation of the League of Nations. The final terms of the Treaty of Versailles and the other peace treaties supported nationalism but ended up being extremely harsh on Germany and the other defeated powers.

Germany's Territorial Losses. A new independent Poland was created. Germany lost territory to France and Poland, as well as all of its overseas colonies.

Austria-Hungary and Turkey. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was divided into several new national states. Turkey lost its territories in the Middle East.

THE PEACE TERMS ENDING WORLD WAR I

Punishing Germany. Germany lost its navy, while its army was reduced to a small police force. Germany was forced to accept blame for starting the war in the **War Guilt Clause** and was required to pay huge **reparations** (*payments for damages*) to the Allies.

League of Nations. The Treaty created the League of Nations, an organization of nations pledged to defend each other against aggressors. The League was severely weakened when several major powers, such as the United States and Russia, failed to join it.

U.S. Senate Rejects the Treaty

- President Wilson hoped that the League of Nations would prevent future wars, but his opponents in Congress argued that it would drag the country into unnecessary military commitments. Wilson needed two-thirds of the U.S. Senate to ratify the Versailles Treaty, but he rejected any compromise with the Senate.
- **Henry Cabot Lodge** (1850-1924) had studied history and political science at Harvard University. He was a friend of Theodore Roosevelt's and a strong supporter of imperialism. Lodge had been in charge of the Congressional committee that had investigated the conduct of the U.S. Army in suppressing rebels in the Philippines. He was a strong opponent of the League of Nations. He believed that if the United States joined the League, it would lose its freedom of action.
- To overcome the Senate's objections, President Wilson decided to appeal directly to American voters for support. He went on a national speaking tour, but he had failed to gauge the feelings of most Americans. During his tour, Wilson suffered a stroke. Later, the Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Despite Wilson's grand vision, the United States never joined the League of Nations.



America Retreats Into Isolationism

- By 1919, most Americans were disillusioned with world affairs. The small gains they seemed to have made in World War I came at a terrible cost. Americans once again heeded George Washington's advice to avoid European entanglements, and they turned their attention towards their material well-being at home.
- America returned to its more traditional policy of **isolationism** -- separating themselves from other countries' affairs. Americans turned their backs on Europe by raising tariffs, and restricting European immigration. Rejection of the Versailles Treaty, refusal to join the League of Nations, higher tariffs, and new immigration restrictions were all signs of America's decision to turn inward.

