

## America And The Great War

### Chapter Twenty-three Main Themes

1. The gradual involvement of the United States in WWI, from leaning toward the Allies since the outbreak of hostilities to eventually being drawn into full participation in the war.
2. The decisive impact of American intervention on land and sea in tipping the balance of victory for the beleaguered Allied forces.
3. The war mobilization of the Wilson administration - how they financed the war, managed the economy, and encouraged public support of the war effort.
4. The idealistic aims and bitter defeats suffered by Woodrow Wilson internationalist foreign policy after World War I.
5. The profound economic, social, and racial significance of America's involvement in the Great War.

### A thorough study of Chapter Twenty-three should enable the student to understand:

- The background factors and the immediate sequence of events that caused the United States to declare war on Germany in 1917.
- The contributions of the American military to Allied victory in World War I.
- The extent of government control of the economy during World War I and the results of that control.
- The use of propaganda under George Creel and the CPI to further the WWI effort.
- The announced American objectives in fighting the war, Wilson's Fourteen Points.
- Woodrow Wilson's motives, successes, and failures at the Paris Peace Conference.
- The circumstances that led the United States to reject the Treaty of Versailles.
- The economic problems the United States faced immediately after the war.
- The reasons for the Red Scare and the upsurge of racial unrest that afflicted postwar America in 1919.

### Chapter Summary

Following two and a half years of pro-Allied "neutrality," the United States entered World War I because of economic and cultural factors, as well as German submarine warfare. The armies and civilians of Europe had already suffered mightily by the time the United States finally entered. American forces, initially at sea and then on land, proved the margin of victory for the Allies. To mount its total effort, the United States turned to an array of unprecedented measures: sharply graduated taxes, conscription for a foreign war, bureaucratic management of the economy, and a massive propaganda and anti-sedition campaign. Women entered the work force in record numbers and the hopes of African Americans were raised by military service and war-related jobs in the North. President Woodrow Wilson formulated American war aims in his famous Fourteen Points, but he was unable to convince either Europe or the United States to accept them fully as the basis for peace. By 1920, the American people, tired from nearly three decades of turmoil, had repudiated Wilson's precious League of Nations in favor of an illusion called "normalcy."

### Internet Resources

For Internet quizzes, resources, references to additional books and films, and more, consult the text's Online Learning Center at [www.mhhe.com/brinkley12](http://www.mhhe.com/brinkley12).

KEY Terms		
Total War	Trench Warfare	Socialist Party
Triple Entente	Armistice	IWW
Triple Alliance	Gas Warfare/Chemical weapons	Eugene Debs
Neutrality	Liberty Bonds	Billy Sunday
Lusitania	War Boards	American protective League
Pacifists	WIB	Vigilante Groups
Interventionists	NLRB	100 percent Americanism
Election of 1916	Ludlow Massacre	Fourteen Points
Unrestricted Submarine Warfare	Great Migration	League of Nations
Zimmerman telegram	Women's Bureau	National self determination
Russian revolution	CPI	Paris Peace Conference
American Expeditionary Force	Espionage Act of 1917	Big 4
Selective Service Act	Sabotage Act of 1918	Reparations
John J Pershing	Sedition Act of 1918	19 <sup>th</sup> amendment
Mandate system	Marcus Garvey	Sacco and Vanzetti
Treaty of Versailles	Red Scare	
Henry Cabot Lodge	Palmer Raids	

**Enrichment**

(Some movies carry "R" rating.)

Johnny Got His Gun  
Sergeant York  
All Quiet on the Western Front  
Flyboys

**Graduation And End Of Course Test Items**

88. Spanish American War- American Imp.
89. Roosevelt Corollary
90. Panama Canal
91. US Neutrality in WW1
92. Unrestrictive sub warfare
93. Great Migration
94. Espionage Act
95. Eugene Debs
96. AEF
97. Wilson's Fourteen Points
98. Amendments 18-19