

SSUSH15 The student will analyze the origins and impact of U.S. involvement in World War I.



a. Describe the movement from U.S. neutrality to engagement in World War I, with reference to unrestricted submarine warfare.

- In 1914 war breaks out among European nations.
- President Woodrow Wilson declares that the U.S. would remain neutral and stay out of foreign wars.

“We must be impartial in thought as well as in action.”



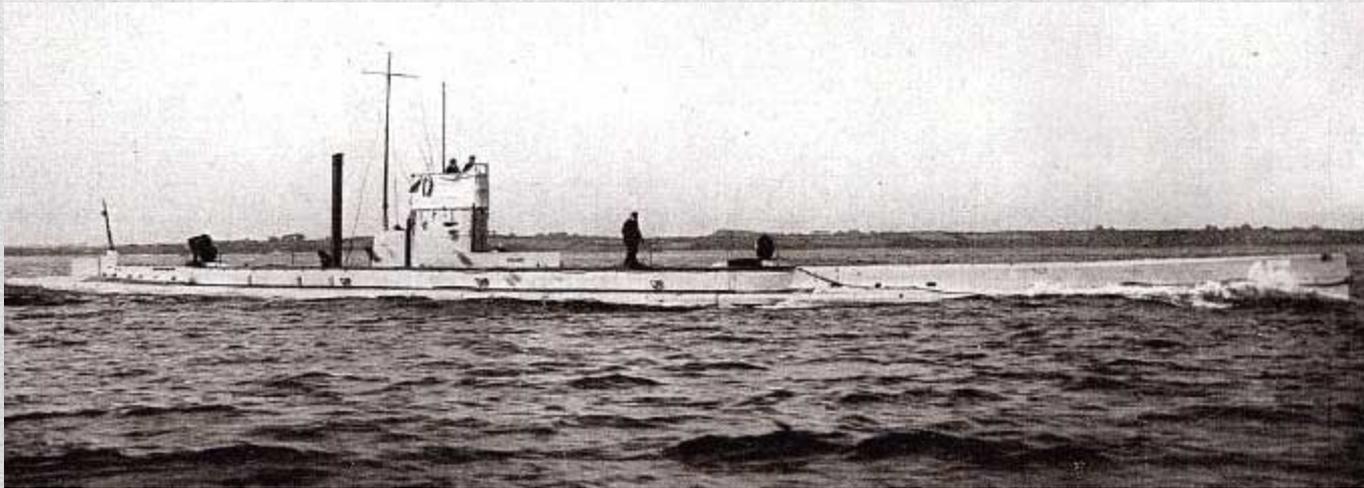
American Neutrality

- Although the President declared the U.S. to be neutral, many in the U.S. supported the Allies (Britain and France).
- Wilson's cabinet, and many businesses supported going to war on the side of the Allies.



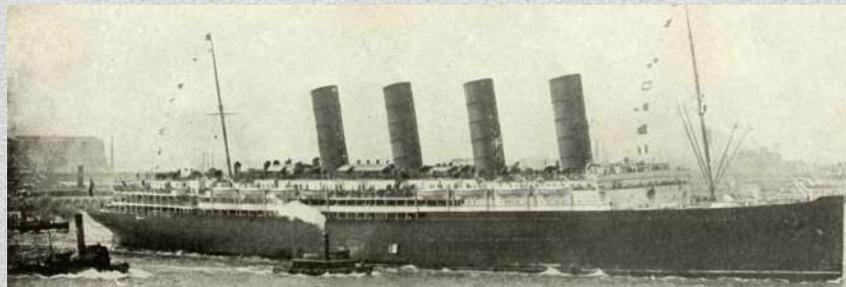
American Neutrality

- To stop the Allies from receiving supplies from foreign countries, Germany announced that it would use U-boats to attack vessels, in British waters. This unrestricted submarine warfare drew protests from the U.S.



American Neutrality

- In 1915, a German U-boat sank the British passenger liner *Lusitania*, killing almost 1,200 passengers including 120 Americans.
- In 1916, the French ship *Sussex*, was torpedoed by a German U-boat causing several American injuries.
- Germany and the U.S. signed the *Sussex Pledge* in which Germany promised not to sink anymore merchant ships without warning: This kept the U.S. out of the war, and helped Wilson win reelection in 1916.



America goes to War

- In 1917, Germany tried to enlist the help of Mexico in fighting the U.S.: the Zimmerman Note convinced many Americans that they needed go to war against Germany.
- In early 1917, Germany resumed it's unrestricted submarine warfare and sank six U.S. ships.
- Wilson declared war on Germany in 1917, joining the Allies.



b. Explain the domestic impact of World War I, as reflected by the origins of the Great Migration, the Espionage Act, and socialist Eugene Debs.



Great Migration

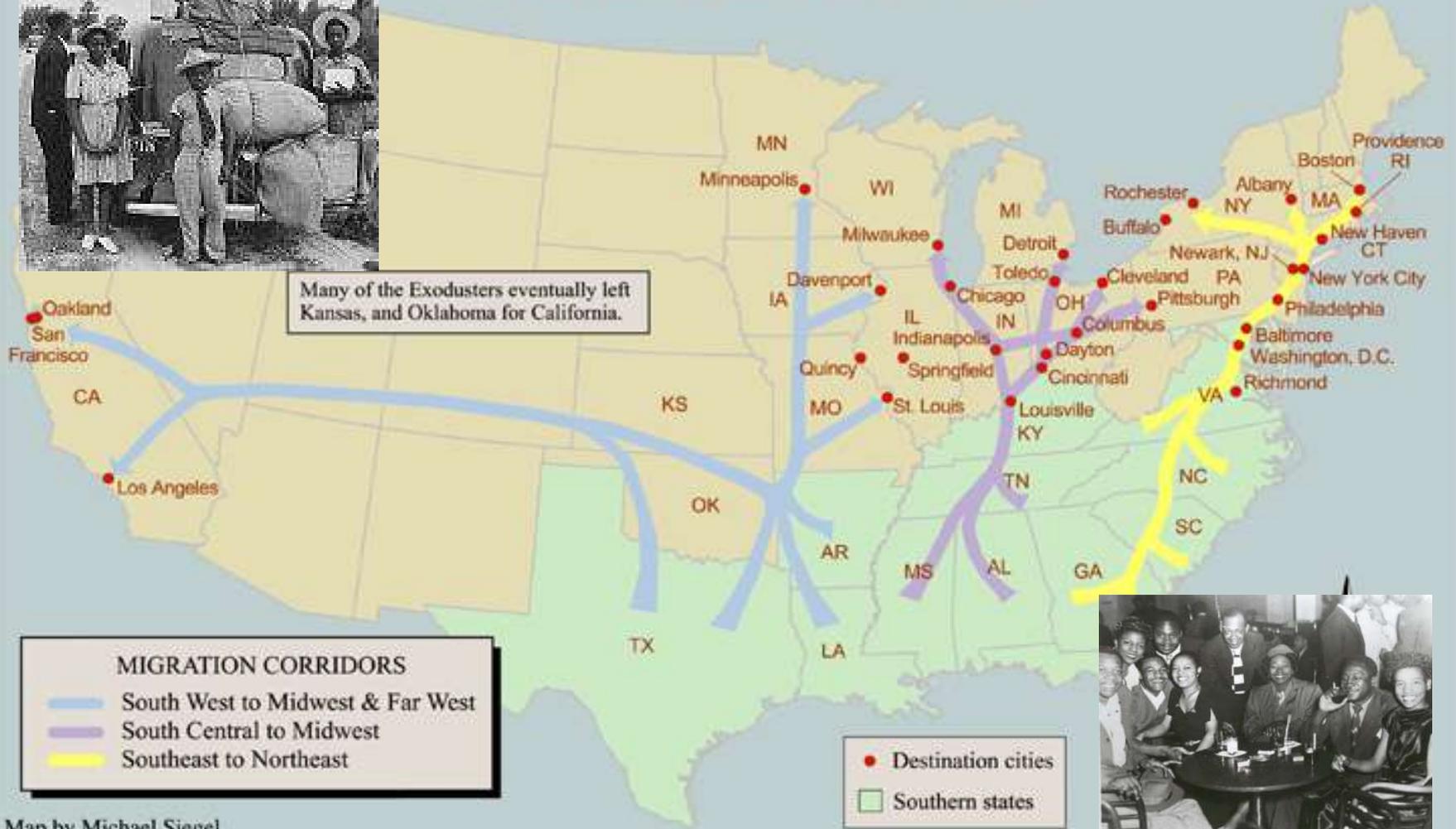
- Northern factories needed workers during the war for two main reasons:
 - Many white workers joined the war effort or were drafted.
 - Nearly all immigration from Europe stopped.

To replace these workers, thousands of African Americans left the South and moved into Northern cities looking for factory jobs. This movement became known as the Great Migration.

The Great Migration, 1916–1930



Many of the Exodusters eventually left Kansas, and Oklahoma for California.



MIGRATION CORRIDORS

- South West to Midwest & Far West
- South Central to Midwest
- Southeast to Northeast

- Destination cities
- Southern states



Map by Michael Siegel
Rutgers Cartography 2005

Source: "The Atlas of African-American History and Politics"

Espionage Act

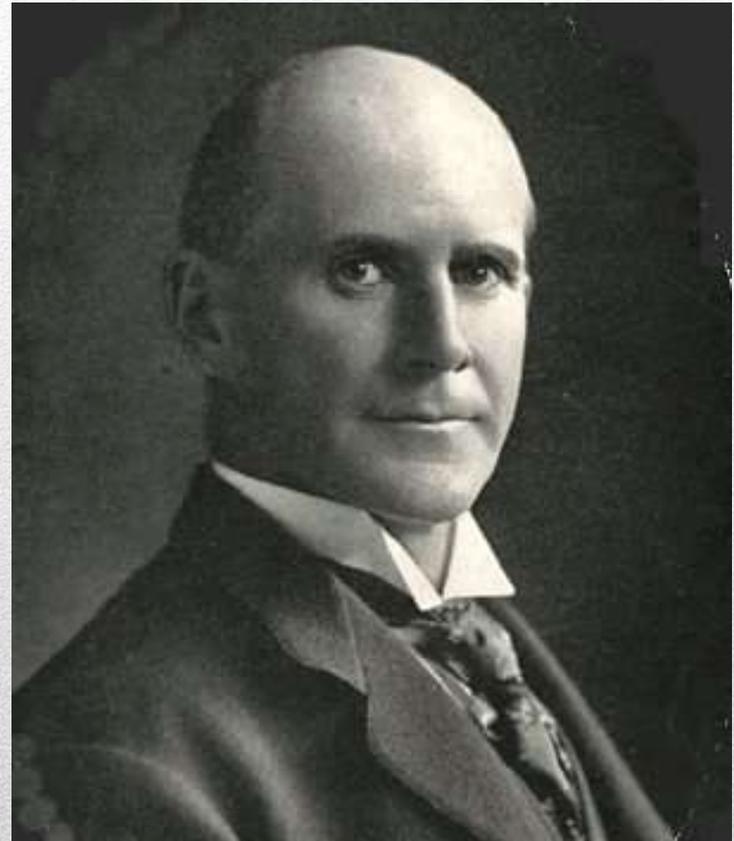
- Passed in 1917 the Espionage Act:
 - established penalties and prison time for aiding the enemy.
 - penalized disloyalty, or interference with the war effort.

The Espionage Act was expanded in 1918 to make it illegal for any public opposition to the war.

The Supreme Court also limited American's freedom of speech (*Schenck v. U.S.*)

Eugene Debs

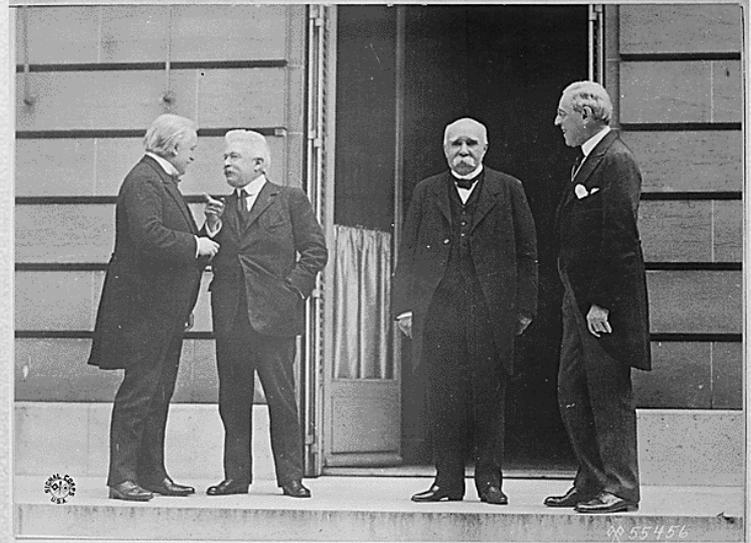
- Leader of the American Railway Union
- Socialist leader who ran for president in 1912
- Socialist believe that the government should own industries (railroads, utilities)



c. Explain Wilson's Fourteen Points and the proposed League of Nations.

- The Allies won the war in 1918 and began settling for peace.
- The “Big Four” (leaders from the U.S., Britain, France, and Italy) lead the meetings.

Which country is missing from the meeting? Why is this important?



Wilson's Fourteen Points

Wilson presented his plan for peace, called the Fourteen Points to Congress.

-In the first 5 points he wanted all countries to have

- free trade
- freedom of the seas
- disarmament
- open diplomacy
- adjustments of colonial claims

These five points were what Wilson felt caused World War I.

Wilson's Fourteen Points

- The final point called for the creation of the League of Nations, an organization which would help settle disagreements between member countries.
 - Many countries viewed the Fourteen Points as being too lenient on Germany
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The Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty was signed by Germany in 1919, and punished Germany for “starting” the war.
- Germany would have to:
 - dismantle their army and navy
 - pay war reparations of \$33 billion (which they did not have)
 - The Treaty left Germany in shambles

Most of Wilson’s Fourteen Points were dismissed by the other leaders, with the exception of the Fourteen Point.

League of Nations

- Wilson's League of Nations was voted down by the U.S. Congress in 1920.
- Many Congressmen worried that it made the U.S. too involved in European affairs.



d. Describe passage of the Eighteenth Amendment, establishing Prohibition, and the Nineteenth Amendment, establishing woman suffrage.

- The 18th Amendment took effect in 1920 banning the manufacturing, sale, and transportation of alcohol

Supporters of prohibition thought that it would reduce unemployment, domestic violence, and poverty.

Which groups of people do you think supported prohibition?



18th Amendment

The Amendment was extremely difficult to enforce so that by 1933, the 21st Amendment was passed repealing the 18th Amendment.

Why do you think the 18 Amendment was so difficult to enforce? What wasn't banned by the 18th Amendment?



Nineteenth Amendment (1920)

Women's Suffrage: The Right to Vote



Women's suffrage movement groups originally tied their cause to that of African-American suffrage.

Nineteenth Amendment

-In 1890 the National American Women's Association was formed. Carrie Chapman Catt became the leader.

-Individual states began giving women the right to vote, gaining support for a Constitutional Amendment.

-The Nineteenth Amendment was ratified in 1920.

