

SS5H4

U.S. Involvement in
World War I
& Post-War America



Standards

SS5H4 The student will describe U.S. involvement in World War I and post-World War I America.

- a. Explain how German attacks on U.S. shipping during the war in Europe (1914- 1917) ultimately led the U.S. to join the fight against Germany; include the sinking of the Lusitania and concerns over safety of U.S. ships, U.S. contributions to the war, and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.
- b. Describe the cultural developments and individual contributions in the 1920s of the Jazz Age (Louis Armstrong), the Harlem Renaissance (Langston Hughes), baseball (Babe Ruth), the automobile (Henry Ford), and the airplane (Charles Lindbergh).

SS5H4a

World War I

World War I

- World War I began in 1914 with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary.
- The murderer was a Bosnian terrorist.
- The archduke's murder caused Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand with his
Wife, Sophie, and 3 Children
1910

Alliances

- Military alliances made the conflict grow larger.
- Russia came to Serbia's aid.
- Germany declared war on Russia and France.
- Great Britain came to the aid of France by declaring war on Germany.
- The Ottoman Empire entered the war a few months later.
- Italy entered the war in 1915.



Alliances

Allies	Central Powers
Serbia	Austria-Hungary
Russia	Germany
France	Ottoman Empire
Belgium	Bulgaria
Great Britain	
Italy	

Isolationism

- The US stayed out of the war at first.
- President Woodrow Wilson thought that the US should remain neutral and that isolationism was the best option for the country.
- However, the US did have a little involvement.
 - US merchant ships were sending food to devastated areas in Europe and helping block supplies from reaching Germany.

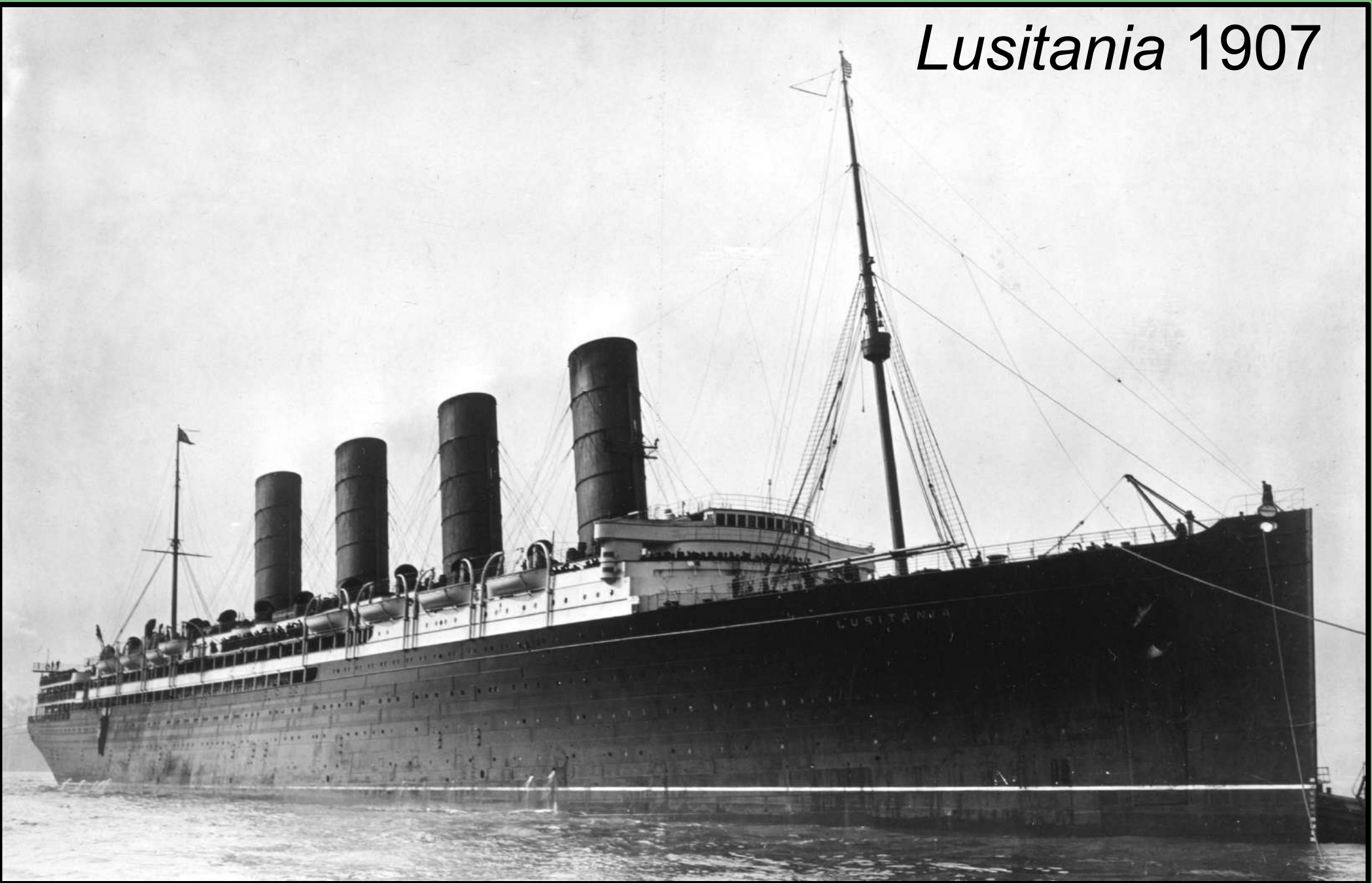


U.S. President
Woodrow Wilson

Lusitania

- Things changed when Germany began using its submarines to sink ships in the Atlantic Ocean.
- In May 1915, a German U-boat sank the British passenger liner *Lusitania*.
 - 1,198 people died, including 128 Americans.
- This angered many Americans and it went against the American belief of freedom of seas.

Lusitania 1907



Sinking Ships

- Germany continued to sink ships because they were trying to keep supplies from reaching Great Britain.
- Americans sympathized with the Allies and were concerned about the safety of US ships.
- The last straw was when several US ships were sunk in February and March 1917.

German U-boat 1910



US Enters War

- On April 6, 1917, the United States entered the war as an ally of Great Britain and France and declared war on Germany.
- The US military drafted 4 million men and was sending thousands to Europe every day.
- The US Navy sent supplies, Marines, and battleships to fight the Central Powers in Europe.

Young Men in NYC Registering for the Army 1917





WWI Ends

- America's entry into the war gave the Allies the extra power they needed to defeat the Central Powers.
- In 1918, American troops fought the final battles of WWI.
- In November 11, 1918, the Central Powers surrendered to the Allies.

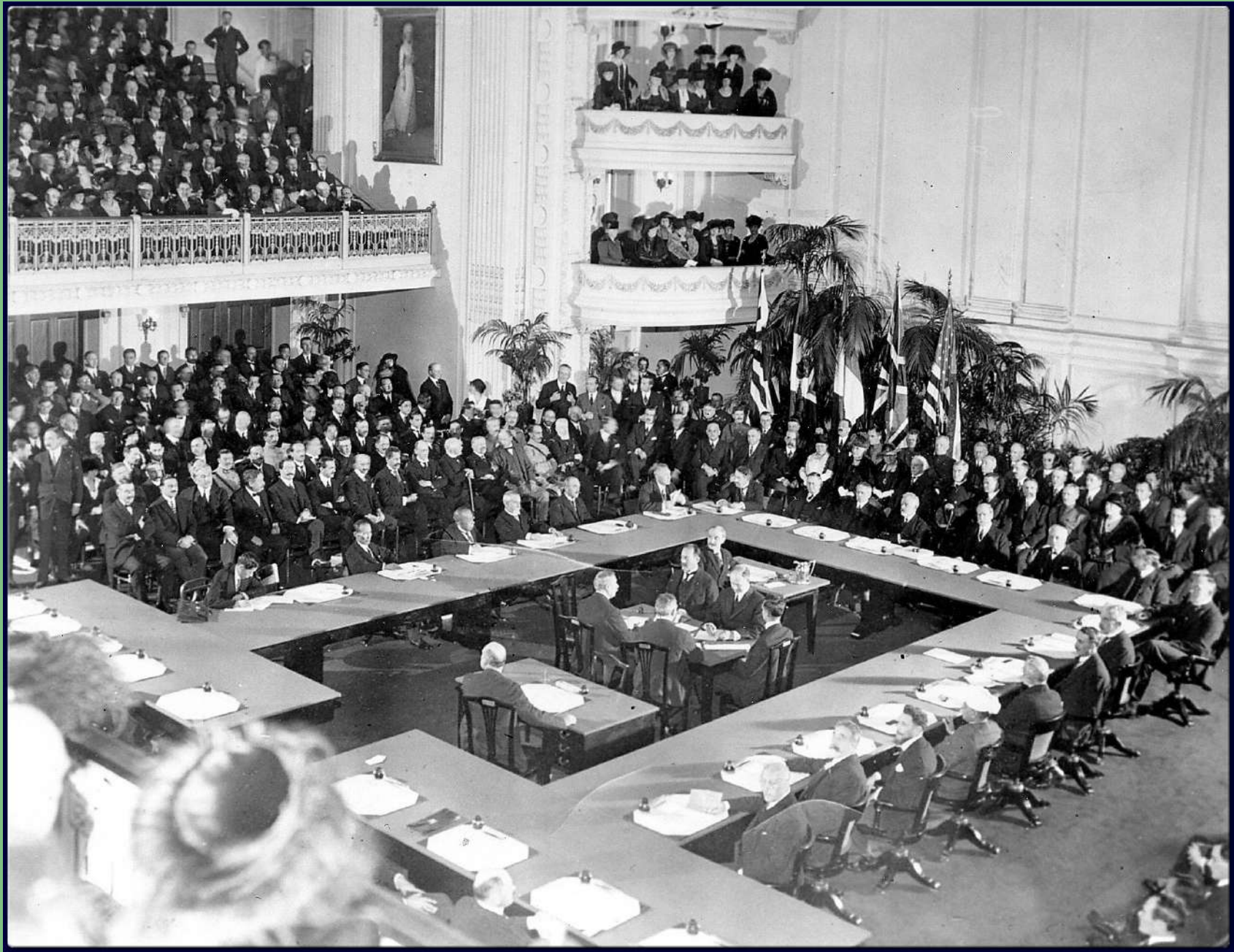


Celebrating the End of WWI



Treaty of Versailles

- In June 1919, leaders from countries involved in the war met in a French palace called Versailles to write a treaty for WWI.
- The treaty outlined the terms of the winners and what they expected of the losing countries.
- The Allied Powers dictated the treaty to Germany—it did not have a say in the terms.



THE
TREATY OF PEACE

BETWEEN
THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS

AND
GERMANY,

The Protocol annexed thereto, the Agreement respecting
the military occupation of the territories of the Rhine,

AND THE
TREATY

BETWEEN
FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

RESPECTING
Assistance to France in the event of unprovoked
aggression by Germany.

Signed at Versailles, June 28th, 1919.

(With Maps and Signatures in facsimile.)



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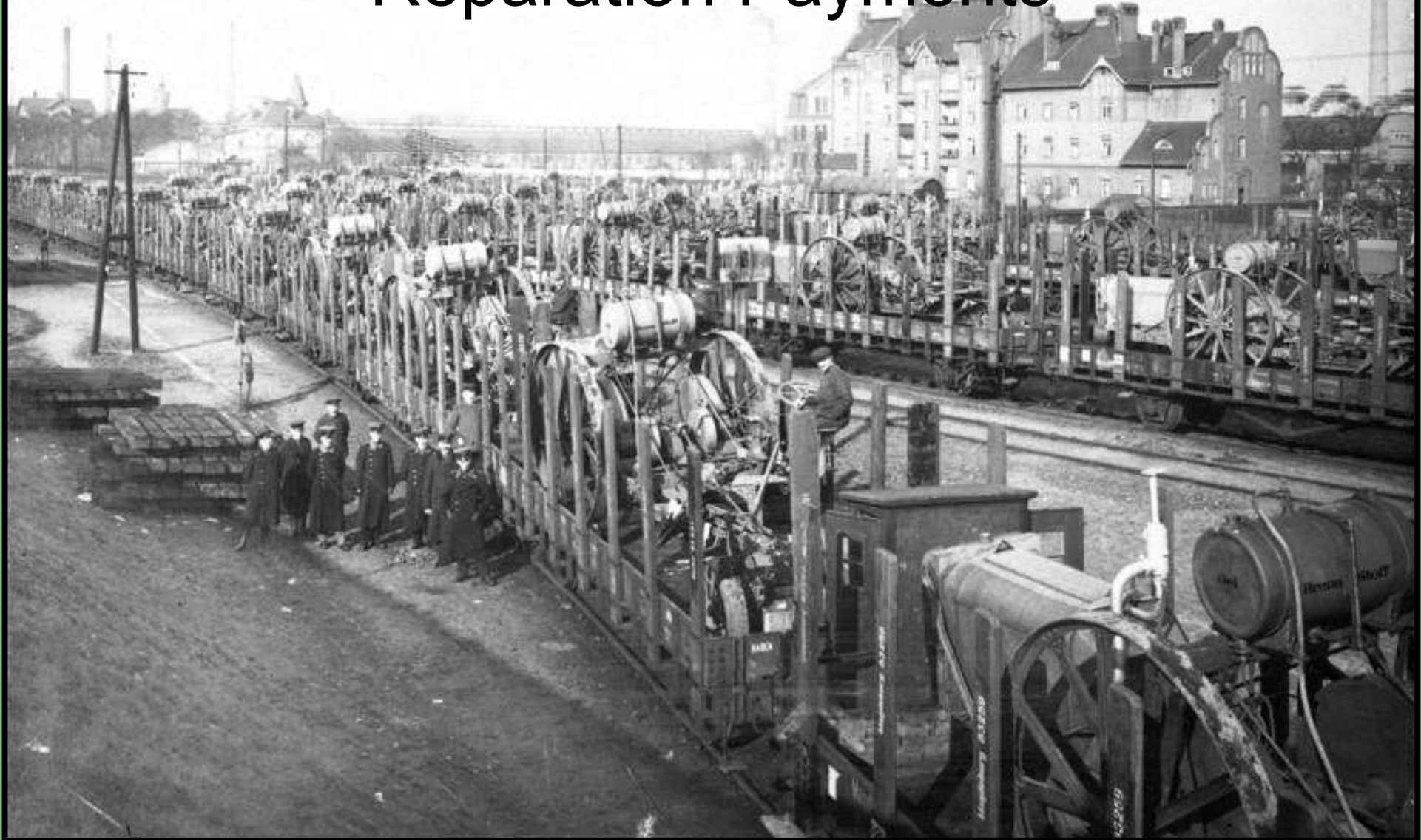
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Treaty of Versailles
(English Version)
June 28th, 1919

Reparations

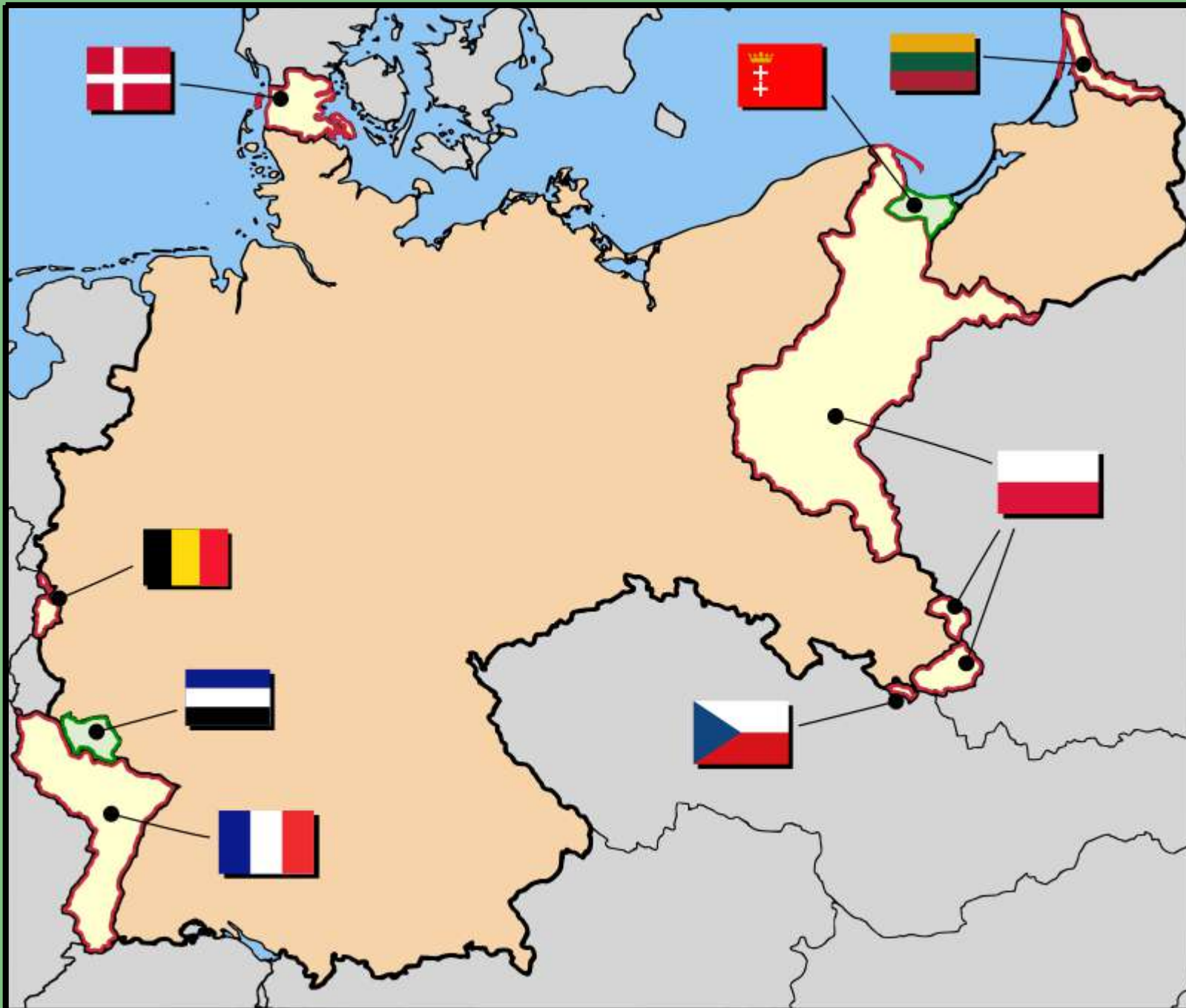
- Germany had to pay \$33 billion in reparations to the allies.
- Paying these reparations was nearly impossible because the war had left Germany's economy bankrupt.

German Trains Loaded with Cargo to Make Reparation Payments






Land

- The Allies redrew the map of Europe.
- The treaty took one million square miles of land from Germany.
- Germany also lost its colonies.
- New countries were created from some of this land.



Germany After Versailles

-  Administered by the [League of Nations](#)
-  Annexed or transferred to neighboring countries by the treaty, or later via plebiscite and League of Nation action
-  [Weimar Germany](#)

Military

- Germany had to disarm its military.
- The army was cut to just 100,000 men and the navy could only have 6 battleships.
- They were not allowed to make any new planes, tanks, or submarines.
- Germany could not make or export any new weapons.

Government

- Germany's government had to accept the blame for the war.
- The Allies put a new government in place, but the citizens didn't support it.
- The people were unhappy and protested against the government because economic conditions were not improving.



Germans Protesting the Treaty of Versailles

Depression

- World War I had left Germany's economy in ruins.
- The war, along with the Treaty of Versailles, caused Germany to go through an economic depression.
- People lost their jobs and could not find new ones.

By 1923, German money had lost so much value that it was used as kites, wallpaper, and to start fires.



What Next?

- People who could not find jobs joined the Communist and National Socialist parties.
- The National Socialist Party's leader, Adolf Hitler, was gaining more and more power.
- Many Germans were also still mad at the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
 - Some began calling for revenge...

Excerpt from a Germany Newspaper on the Day the Treaty of Versailles was Signed:

“Today in the Hall of Mirrors of Versailles the disgraceful Treaty is being signed.

Do not forget it. The German people will press forward to reconquer the place among nations to which we deserve. Then will come revenge for the shame of 1919.”

SS5H4b

Post-War America

Good Times

- Many Americans were shocked by the horrors of World War I.
- They decided to change their way of life in the 1920s.
 - Most wanted to live for the present and enjoy life before something bad happened again.
- Americans had more leisure time to do what they enjoyed.

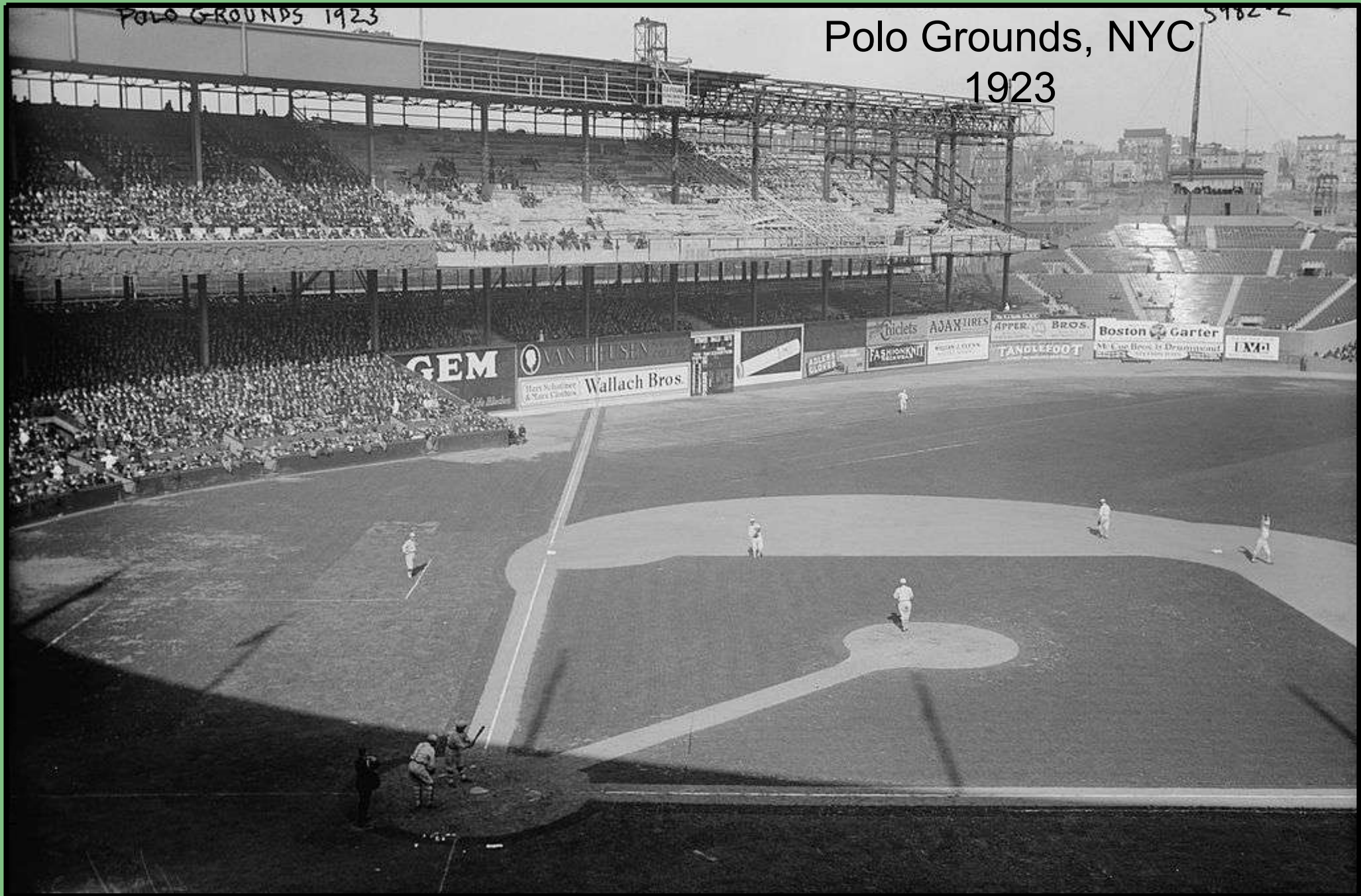
Baseball

- Organized sports became more popular.
- Americans loved baseball and baseball players became national heroes.
- People followed every move of Babe Ruth, the greatest baseball player in the 1920s.

POLO GROUNDS 1923

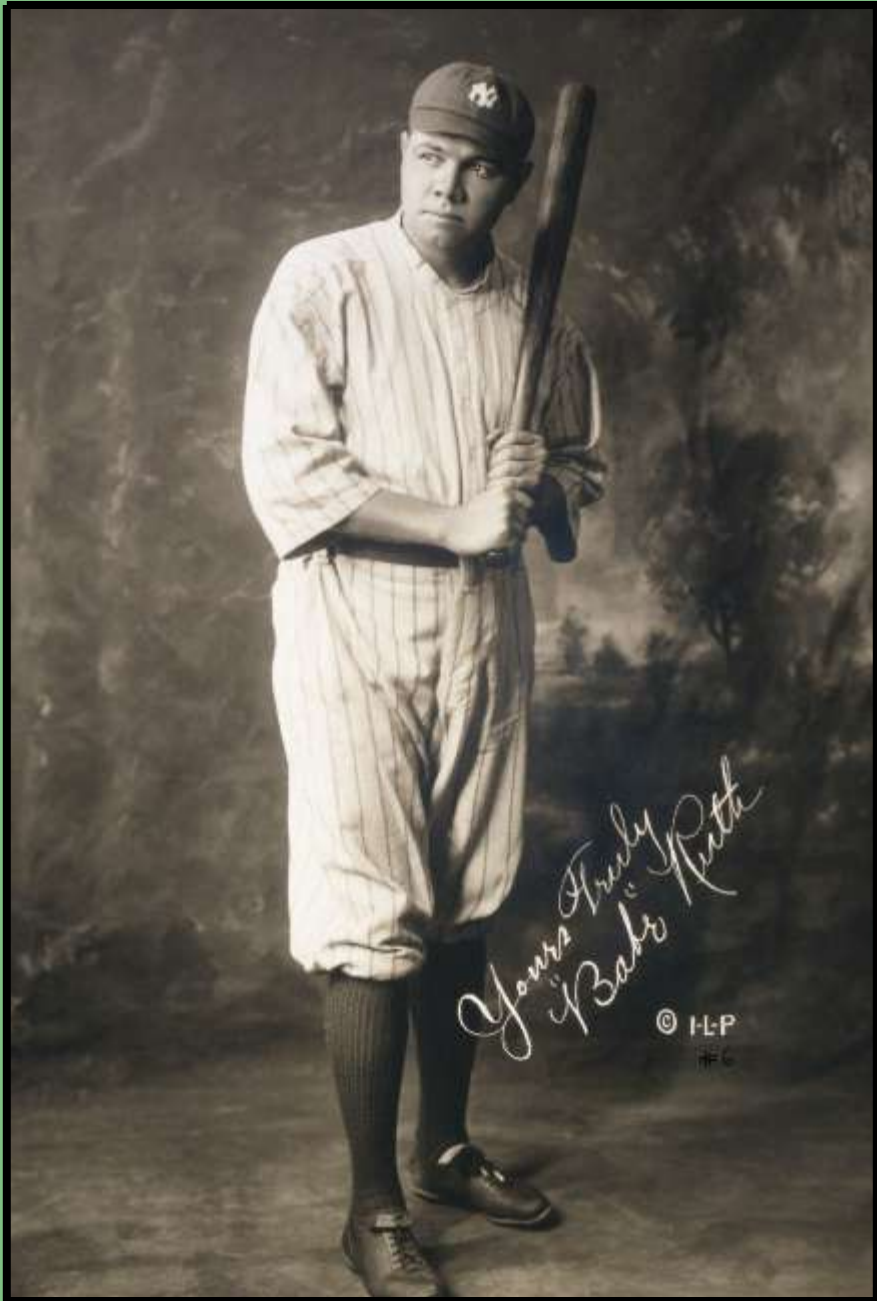
Polo Grounds, NYC 1923

5982-2



Babe Ruth

- Babe Ruth was very talented and he made the game exciting.
- In his 15 seasons with the NY Yankees, the team won 4 World Series championships, and Ruth set many hitting records.
- Many people loved to listen to games on their new radios, and baseball became the most popular sport during the 1920s.



Babe Ruth
in a Yankees Uniform
1920

Jazz Age

- The 1920s in America were known as the Jazz Age, or the “Roaring Twenties”.
- Americans enjoyed baseball, dancing, listening to the radio, and fun new music called jazz.
- Jazz music developed among African Americans in the South, and quickly became popular all over the US.
- Its popularity quickly spread to America’s biggest cities.

Ma Rainey & her Georgia Jazz Band 1924



Louis Armstrong

- Louis Armstrong, an African American musician from New Orleans, made a big impact in the 1920s.
- He played the trumpet, cornet, and he sang.
- Armstrong rose from poverty to become a legend in jazz.

Louis Armstrong



Harlem Renaissance

- Many African Americans moved into cities in the 1920s, especially into New York.
 - African Americans made the Harlem section of New York their home.
- A cultural movement known as the Harlem Renaissance was started when African American artists and writers expressed their talents.
- It focused on literature, music, theater, art, and politics.



Langston Hughes

- Langston Hughes was one of the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance.
- He wrote more than 60 books, including poems, novels, short stories, plays, children's poetry, musicals, operas, and autobiographies.



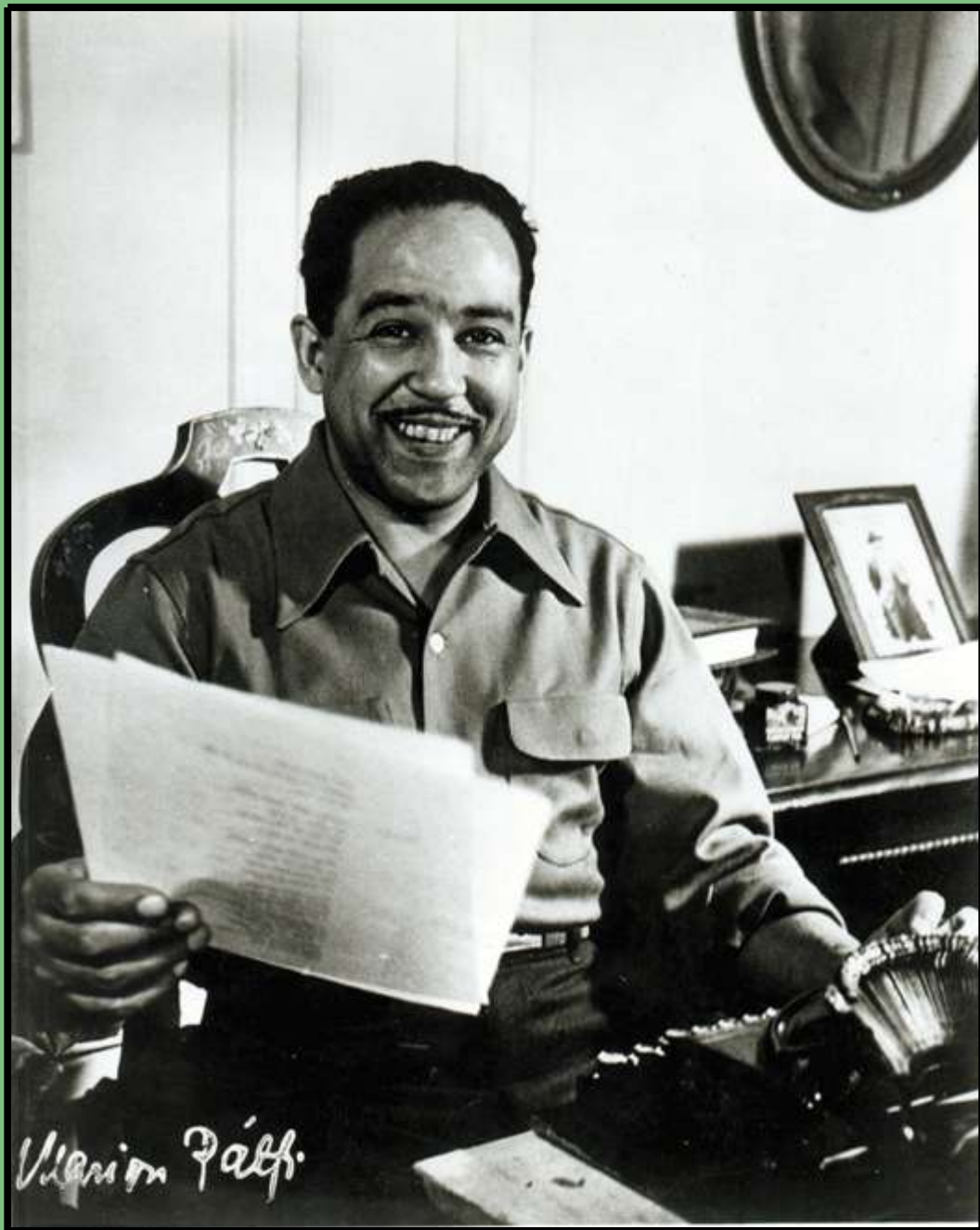
Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

-Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes

- Hughes wrote from his own experiences and combined African and American culture in his work.
- His technique involved using jazz rhythms and dialects.
- This helped readers understand the life of African Americans in the big cities during the 1920s.



James Langston Hughes
1902-1967

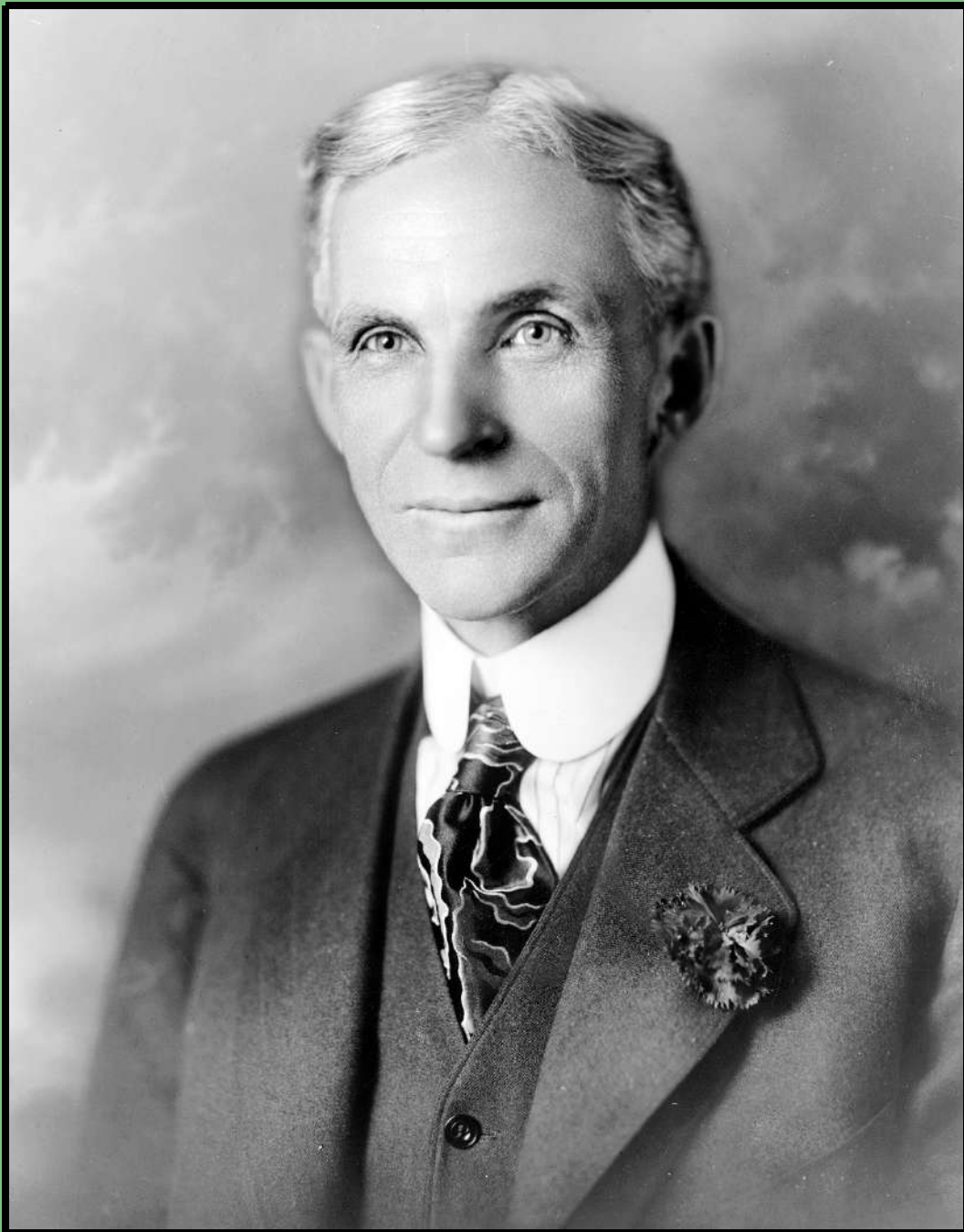
Economic Boom

- After World War I, there was a boom in the American economy.
- America had become the richest country in the world.
- Factories stopped making war supplies and were now producing goods like radios and cars.

Henry Ford

- Henry Ford did not invent the automobile, but his assembly-line innovations made it possible to sell cars cheaply.
- When Ford installed his assembly line, each worker on the line became a specialist.
- One worker bolted on 1 wheel on each car as it moved along the line.
 - He worked faster than if he had to move around the car bolting on all the wheels.

Henry Ford & Wife in his First Automobile – the Quadricycle



Ford Assembly Line 1913



Henry Ford

- This increased productivity and meant that Ford produced its cars at a lower cost and could sell them at a lower price.
- As a result, more people could buy cars.
- Ford's mass production of the automobile resulted in more jobs, greater mobility, movement to suburban areas, and the growth of transportation-related industries.



Henry Ford's first automobile was the Model T. In the first year it was produced, more than 10,000 were sold.

Charles Lindbergh

- In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first man to fly in an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean.
- He traveled from New York to Paris in a single-engine airplane named the “Spirit of St. Louis”.
- His flight created interest in airplanes and air travel, and more people started flying as a result.

Charles Lindbergh

