

Lesson #73 U.S. History

The Great War Home Front

United States

Political

1913 Income tax was from 1% to 7% on the highest income

16 th amendment Single	1% paid income tax on \$3,000 or more
Married	7% paid income tax on \$4,000 or more
Corporation	67%

1916 Revenue Act from 2% to 15%

1917	it was 65%
1918	it was 77%

Zimmermann Telegram released:

March 20, 1917 Cabinet voted for Declaration of War against Germany

April 2, 1917 Wilson asked Congress for Declaration of War

Senate 82 to 6

House 373 to 50 one of the 50 was Jeannette Rankin who also voted against war in 1942

April 6, signed

April 6, 1917 Enemy Alien Act

Espionage Act June 15, 1917 - suppress discontent and no open debate (everyone was to get in Line or!)

June 26, 1917 14,500 Americans in Europe

May 18, 1917 Selective Service Act men 21 to 30 / changed in August 1918 Draft 18-45 plan to call up (10,000,000 men) with deferments (vital workers) or conscientious objector (pacifist beliefs)

Liberty Bond Act April 24 - Five drives raised 21.4 \$ billion

Five Liberty Bond drives.	May 1917 – at 3.5 % interest
	October 1917 – 4.6 %
	1918 – 4.2 %
	September 1918 – 4.25 % interest

1917 start of Consumer Price Index to measure inflation

August 1917 Food Bill passed which ban on amount of alcohol in beer at 3%. Prohibitionist led by Senator Morris Sheppard pushing campaign to end the sale of spirits in the U.S.

By the end of the war the United States became a Creditor nation. Banks and munition makers would be blamed for the war in the 1920's.

Credit Nations

U.S.A + 278.5 billion
Japan + 183.0 billion
Spain + 84.0 billion

Debts Nations

Germany – 123 billion
Britain - 42 billion
Austria/Hungary - 25 billion
France - 25 billion

U.S. Government Wartime Powers:

Washington D.C. population exploded

1910 – 331,067

1920 – 437,571

Government became bigger with more administrative agencies and policies.

War Risk Insurance for troops with a premium of \$6.50 a month. A soldier who made \$37.00 a month could buy into the insurance - 90% signed up.

Soldiers were issued Dog Tags and Blue Star (in service) and Gold Stars (Death) started.

Herbert Hoover was called home as head of Food and Drug Administration. He started to *Hooverize* things like the “Hoover Gardens”.

1917 Bernard Baruch and the War Industries Board increased production 20%

Set priorities

Plan production

Allocated raw materials

Standardized styles and designs

Ration – set price – set wages

Joke – Tuesday were Meatless

Wednesday were Wheatless

“I’m getting more eat less each day”

Coal shortage

U.S. Production:	Overcoats	9.5 million
	Shoes	34.0 million
	Rifles	3.1 million
	Gas Mask	5.4 million
	Blankets	22.0 million
	Locomotives & trucks	

There were 431 ship under construction in August 1917-with 50,000 workers and by 1918 U.S. shipyards produce 533 ships and in 1919 produced 1,180 ships with 350,000 workers completing 100 ships per month.

Rail Roads lacked organizing

Day Light Saving Time started March 31, 1918 and ended August 1919 to be restarted in 1942

Wobblies (IWW) Big Bill Haywood and Labor

September 5. 1917 indicted 165 members 101 convicted after 5 month - trial Bill Haywood and 13 others given 20 years –jumped bail and fled to the Soviet Union and died in 1929 he is buried in the Kremlin Wall

Strikes were fought with cheap labor from the South - Wilson said “Work or Fight” draft?

Racial Unrest:

East St. Louis riot on July 2, 1917 – 39 Blacks and 9 Whites

In Houston, the police beat 3 Black soldiers. Black troops then went into town with rifles shooting Whites – 17 whites killed and 3 Blacks. Trials held on riot 13 black troopers were hung on December 11, 1917 – 41 sentence to life. Of the condemned 16 of these men President Wilson commuted their sentences.

Billy Sunday asked do you want the Kiser of Wilson, Hell or Heaven, Krupp or Christ, the Iron Cross or the Cross of Christ?

George Creel a journalist to run the Committee of Public Information (CPI) Propaganda He hired 75,000 4-minute men to promote propaganda in 7,555,190 speeches around the nation. Hire 23 newspaper new to go over to Europe and report on events and 300 artist and illustrator for posters. Had a wooden Battleship *USS Recruit* built to promote sale of bonds.

RED,WHITE & BLUE Pamphlets

Loyalty Pamphlets

April 6, 1917 Enemy Alien Act - Censorship in the name of winning the war. Thousand arrested or under house-arrest and more than 5,000 forced to leave the nation.

Espionage Act June 15, 1917

Provided a \$10,000 fine and/or 20 years prison for interfering with draft, government bonds, saying anything disloyal, profane, or abusive about the war effort.

President Wilson's Flag Day speech fed the anti-German hysteria – Enemy allies held in four camps.

Language changed:

German measles – Liberty measles

Hamburger – Liberty Stake

“Slacker” term for not doing duty

Sour Kraut renamed Liberty Cabbage

Germany language out of schools

Music not allowed:

Mozart and Beethoven not played by orchestras

Sedition Act May 16, 1918 (6,000 arrested and 1,500 convictions)

Reverend Clarence Waldrow given 15 years for saying in Bible class that a Christian can take no part in the war.

John White given 20 years for complaining of conditions in the army.

Eugene V. Debs 10 years – pardon in 3 by Harding

July 1, 1917 8,000 socialist held a peace parade on Boston Common sailors and soldiers attacked them and beat many of them.

July 25 in Neu Ulm, Minnesota peace demonstration of 10,000 American/Germans

November 25 the Red Flag was banned in New York riot at Madison Square Garden followed the next day by another.

Robert Prager was lynched on April 5, 1918 by a mob in Collinsville, Illinois

Senator La Follette spoke for 3 hours and Congress had a vote to expel him from the Senate – he survived the vote.

Mitchell Palmer “Fighting Quaker” was in charge of enemy alien property

Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman opposed the Draft

June 5, Two anarchists arrested under the Espionage Act – sentence to two to five years

Conscientious Objector could become Ambulance drivers for 6-month tours. E.E. Cummings and William Slater Brown in their home spoke of their conversation with French soldiers of they heard of a Mutiny in the French Army. The French censors arrested both men and Cummings was held for 3-months for not stating he hated the Germans.

Ernest Meyer the son of a German immigrant at the University of Wisconsin refused to fight in the war and then defended a German professor. He had to resigned from the college magazine and was expelled from the University. Then he was drafted in July 1918 and refused to wear a uniform and held in the Brig until he released in December 1918 and never court marshalled.

In Butte Montana the citizen loaded up 1,000 German Americas in boxcars and then left them in the desert without food and water.

N.Y. Herald said that the Germans were given “dope” to make them beast.

Schenck v. United States – Justice Oliver W. Holmes made his famous statement “One cannot yell fire in a crowded theater” a Clear and Present Danger. He was wounded twice in Civil War.

Europe: Women in every nation went to work and did their part for their nation and were demanding

Germany by 1915 was starting to fell food shortages and had food riot in 1916.



The Krupp arms marker had 30% of its workforce female.

Great British women in the arms industry had the hair, faces and hands turn ‘Yellow’ form chemical manufacturing weapons. The term “canary” came into the language. They were slowly being poisoned at work and many would never have children.

The Occult and spiritualism and seances became popular for those that tried to contact their loved ones.