

## Chapter Introduction

This chapter will focus on what caused the United States to become involved in World War I and how the United States changed as a result of this involvement.

- **Section 1:** From Neutrality to War
- **Section 2:** The Home Front
- **Section 3:** Wilson, War, and Peace
- **Section 4:** Effects of the War



## Objectives

- Analyze how the American government mobilized the public to support the war effort.
- Describe opposition to the war.
- Outline significant social changes that occurred during the war.



## Terms and People

- **Selective Service Act** – law that established a military draft in 1917
- **Bernard Baruch** – head of the War Industries Board, which regulated businesses related to the war effort
- **CPI** – Committee on Public Information, which worked to convince the public that the war was just
- **George Creel** – director of the CPI

## Terms and People (continued)

- **conscientious objector** – a person whose moral or religious views forbid participation in war
- **Espionage Act** – 1917 law that gave postal authorities power to ban treasonable or seditious materials from the mail
- **Great Migration** – the movement of more than 1.2 million African Americans from the South to northern cities between 1910 and 1920



## How did the war affect Americans at home?

For the first time, the government played a major role in Americans' daily lives, taking on new powers to regulate industry, draft soldiers, and shape public opinion.

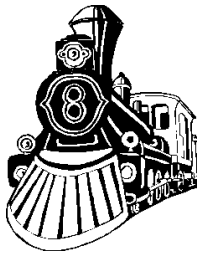
The war required sacrifice, but it also brought new opportunities.

**In 1917, the United States needed to increase the size of its army.**



- President Wilson called for volunteers.
- Congress passed the **Selective Service Act**.
- More than 4 million U.S. soldiers were sent to Europe.

## The federal government took control of the wartime economy.



The Council of National Defense created federal agencies to **oversee food production, fuel distribution, and railroads.**

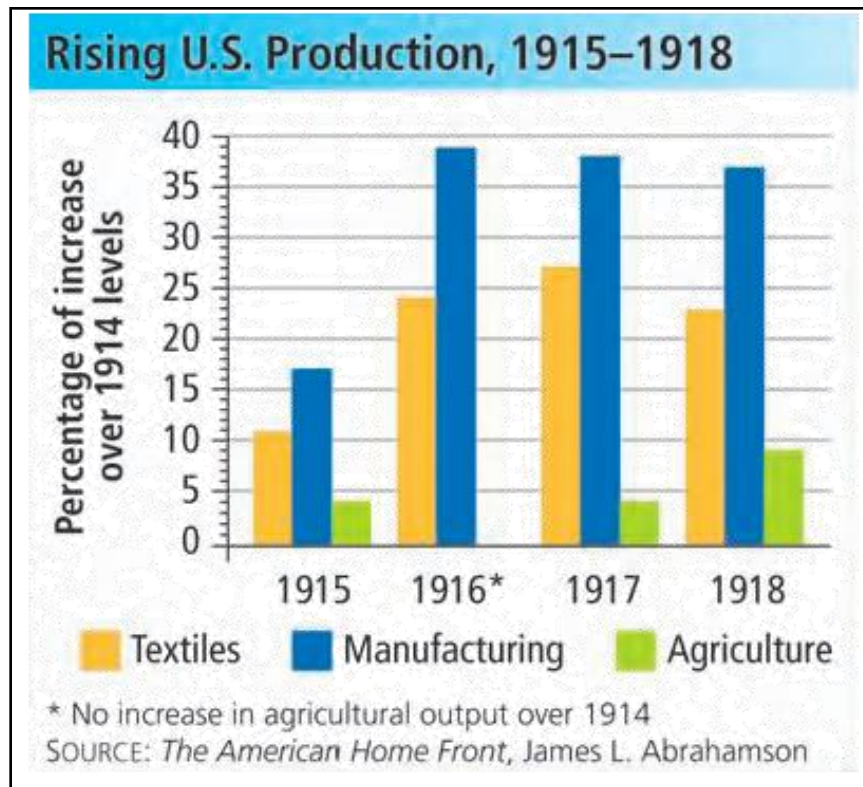


**Bernard Baruch** headed the War Industries Board (WIB), which **regulated war-related businesses.**



The Food Administration, led by Herbert Hoover, **set prices for agricultural products.**

## The War Industries Board encouraged factories to increase output.



Similarly, the Food Administration encouraged farmers to produce more food.

Women entered the workforce to help the war effort.



The **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** encouraged public support for the war.



- Headed by **George Creel**, the CPI distributed millions of pamphlets and sent out thousands of press releases and speakers.
- CPI materials outlined U.S. and Allied goals and stressed the enemy's cruelty.

## Not all Americans supported the war.

The draft was controversial, and some men refused to register for it.

**Conscientious objectors** were supposed to be exempt from the draft.

In practice, however, this exemption was widely ignored by local draft boards.

## Some women also opposed the war.

**Jeannette Rankin**, a pacifist and the only woman in Congress, **voted against the war**.

**Jane Addams** formed the **Women's Peace Party** and the **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**.

## The government passed laws to discourage dissent.



- The 1917 **Espionage Act** gave postal authorities power to **ban newspapers or other printed materials** that could incite treason.
- In 1918, the Sedition Act **outlawed speech** that went against the government or the military.
- Congress enacted laws that imposed **heavy fines and prison terms** on anyone who interfered with the war effort.

## Support of the Allies and anger at Germany caused a backlash against German Americans.



- Some schools stopped teaching the German language.



- People stopped listening to music by German composers.



- They called hamburgers “liberty steaks” and Dachshunds “liberty pups.”

Occasionally, hatred of the German enemy boiled over into **violence against German Americans.**

## The war presented new opportunities to African Americans.



- 367,000 African Americans served in the military.
- In the **Great Migration**, more than a million African Americans moved north, hoping to escape poverty and Jim Crow laws and find better jobs.