

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

- Understand how the United States military contributed to the Allied victory in the war.
- Describe the aims of the Fourteen Points.
- Analyze the decisions made at the Paris Peace Conference.
- Explain why the United States Senate refused to ratify the treaty ending World War I.



Terms and People

- **convoy** – group of ships that traveled together for protection against German U-boats
- **Vladimir Lenin** – radical communist leader who took over Russia in March 1917
- **John J. Pershing** – General who led American forces in Europe
- **Fourteen Points** – Wilson's plan for lasting peace through international openness and cooperation
- **self-determination** – the right of people to choose their own form of government

Terms and People (continued)

- **League of Nations** – world organization to promote peaceful cooperation between countries
- **Henry Cabot Lodge** – Republican Senator who opposed ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- **reparations** – payments for war damages
- **“irreconcilables”** – Senate isolationists who opposed any treaty that included a League of Nations
- **“reservationists”** – Senators who opposed the Treaty of Versailles as written but were open to compromise

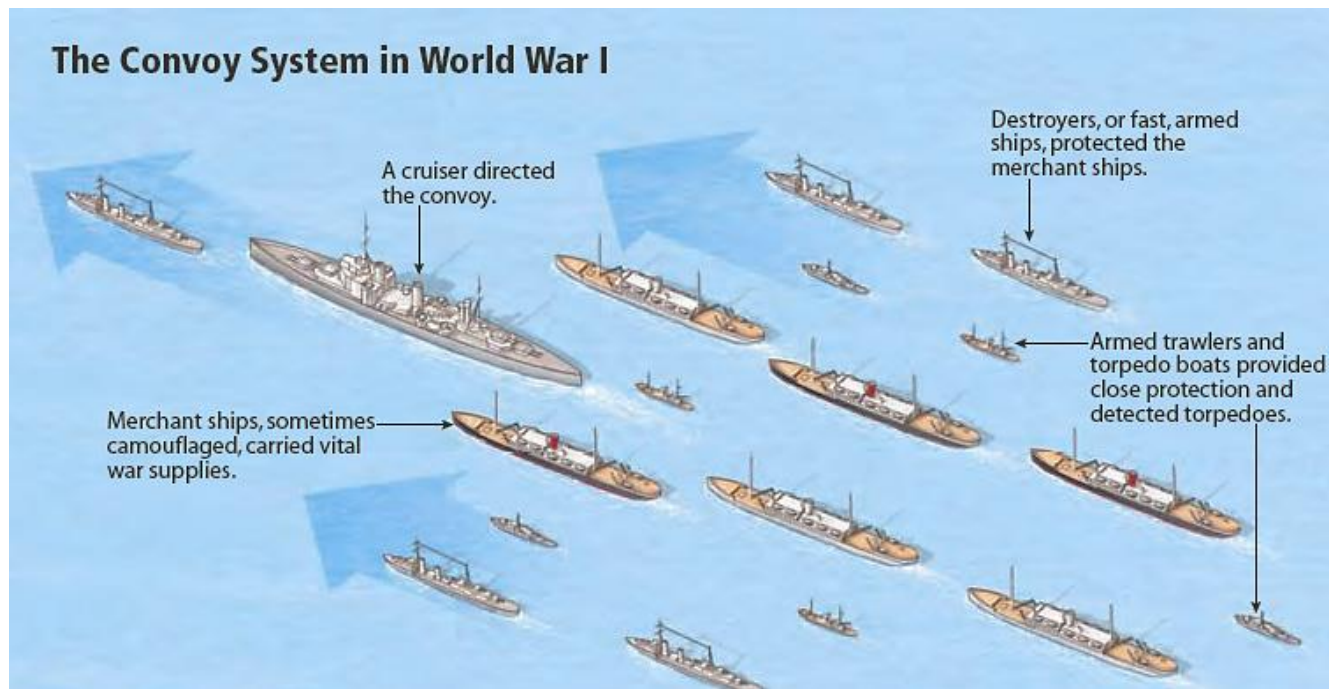


How did Americans affect the end of World War I and its peace settlements?

When the United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917, the war was at a deadly, bloody stalemate along the Western Front.

The American entry into the war would play a key role in the Allied victory.

When the United States entered the war in 1917, Germany increased U-boat attacks, hoping to **win** the war before American troops could make a difference.



Convoys of British and American ships, protected by warships, **provided better safety at sea.**

Several factors gave the Central Powers an advantage on land.

- The **Allies were exhausted** from years of fighting.
- **Russia was torn apart** by revolutions at home.
- Communists gained control of Russia, and their leader **Vladimir Lenin** signed a treaty with Germany in 1918, ending Russian involvement in the war.
- The **closing of the Eastern Front** allowed Germany to send more troops to the Western Front.

In the spring of 1918, Germany began an all-out offensive on the Western Front.

The attacks threatened to break through Allied defenses and open a path to Paris.

More American soldiers began to arrive, and U.S. troops carried more of the burden of fighting.

General John J. Pershing turned millions of untrained American men into soldiers, then led them in France.

- The arrival of American soldiers gave the Allies a military advantage.
- They fought bravely in many battles.
- By the end of the war, 1.3 million Americans had served at the front. More than 50,000 of them died.

By the fall of 1918, the German front was collapsing.



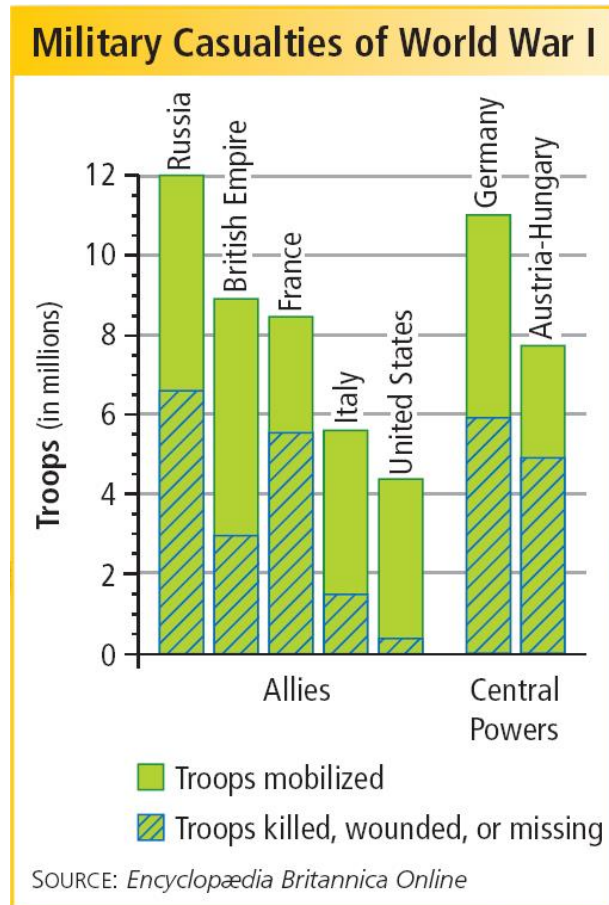
Many German and Austro-Hungarian soldiers deserted, mutinied, or refused to fight.



On November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered to the Allies in Compiegne, France.

The war took a huge toll on those involved.

- Nearly 5 million Allied soldiers and 8 million Central Powers soldiers were killed in the fighting.
- In addition, 6.5 million civilians died during the conflict.



Summary of the Fourteen Points

1.	Make no secret diplomatic agreements.
2.	Allow freedom of the seas in peace and war.
3.	Remove as many economic trade barriers as possible between countries.
4.	Reduce stockpiles of military armaments to lowest point needed for domestic safety.
5.	Adjust colonial claims, giving more weight to the views of the colonized peoples.
6.	Evacuate and restore Russian territories seized during the war.
7.	Restore and protect Belgium's sovereignty.
8.	Restore French territory and settle the debate over Alsace-Lorraine.
9.	Adjust Italy's boundaries according to the nationalities of populations living there.
10.	Allow the peoples of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire to choose their own governments.
11.	Redraw boundaries of Balkan states based on nationalities and historical allegiances.
12.	Separate the Ottoman Empire into independent countries according to nationality; guarantee all nations access to the Dardanelles.
13.	Restore and protect Poland as a sovereign state with access to the sea.
14.	Establish an association of nations to provide collective security and to ensure peace.

In early 1919, President Wilson traveled to Versailles, France for a peace conference.

- He met with European leaders and presented a plan for peace based on his **Fourteen Points**.
- Wilson's vision of a postwar world was grounded in the idea of "peace without victory."

Wilson's Fourteen Points made specific proposals to promote future peace.

- Practice open diplomacy.
 - Allow freedom of the seas.
 - Encourage free trade.
 - Reduce arms stockpiles.
- Scale back colonialism.
 - Encourage **self-determination** of nations.
 - Establish a League of Nations.

Allied leaders at Versailles wanted reparations.



- European leaders did not share Wilson's vision of peace without victory.
- They wanted Germany to pay for war damages.
- They also wanted to protect European colonialism and expand their countries' territories.

One by one, Wilson's Fourteen Points were rejected, leaving only the **League of Nations**.



- The League of Nations was an organization where countries could come together to **resolve disputes peacefully**.
- Wilson's proposal to create a League of Nations was added to the Treaty of Versailles.

The Treaty of Versailles redrew the map of Europe and broke up the Ottoman Empire.

Territorial Changes After World War I



Wilson returned to face a hostile Senate, where two groups opposed the treaty.

- The **“reservationists,”** led by **Henry Cabot Lodge,** opposed the treaty as written but were willing to negotiate changes.
- The **“irreconcilables”** were isolationists who opposed the League of Nations.



Wilson was unwilling to compromise on the treaty.

- On a speaking tour to promote the League of Nations in September 1919, Wilson became ill and suffered a stroke.
- As he lay near death, the Senate voted, refusing to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.

