

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

- Describe the problems Americans faced immediately after the war.
- Analyze how these problems contributed to the Red Scare.
- Understand how the war changed America's role in world affairs.



Terms and People

- **influenza** – the flu virus, which caused a deadly epidemic in 1918
- **inflation** – rising prices
- **Red Scare** – widespread fear of radicals and communists
- **Palmer Raids** – a series of raids, arrests, and deportations of suspected radicals, most of whom never received a trial

Terms and People (continued)

- **Nicola Sacco** and **Bartolomeo Vanzetti** – Italian anarchists convicted and executed for murder despite scarce evidence against them
- **Warren G. Harding** – elected president in 1920 by promising Americans a “return to normalcy”
- **creditor nation** – a nation that lends more money than it borrows



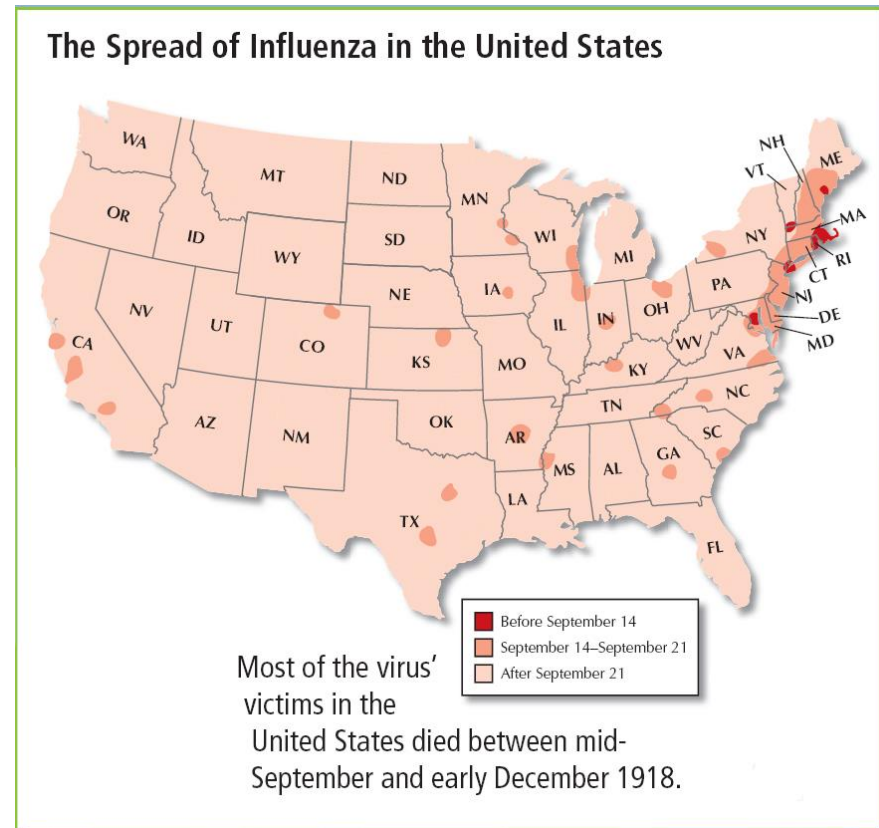
What political, economic, and social effects did World War I have on the United States?

The Treaty of Versailles produced an unstable peace. Its harsh terms left Germany with a strong desire for revenge, while Soviet Russia threatened worldwide revolution.

In the United States, the horrors of the war and the fear of radicals led people to question the nation's role in the world.

The transition to peace was made more difficult by a deadly **influenza** pandemic that began in 1918.

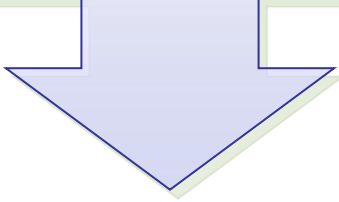
The flu killed 550,000 Americans and more than 50 million people around the world.



Economic troubles also caused problems in the United States.

- A **recession**, or economic slowdown, occurred after the war.
- Many women and African Americans lost their jobs to returning soldiers.
- **Tension over jobs and housing** led to race riots in some cities.
- Scarcity of consumer goods and high demand caused **inflation**, or rising prices.

Because rising prices made it harder to make ends meet, inflation caused labor unrest.



- Many unions went on strike for **higher pay and shorter workdays**.
- In 1919, more than 4 million workers went on strike.
- The workers succeeded in some strikes, but lost far more. Some strikes turned violent.

Several events combined to create the first **Red Scare** in the United States.

- Violent strikes
- The emergence of the **Soviet Union** as a communist country
- A series of **mail bombs** targeting industrialists and government officials

One mail bomb was sent to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, who launched the **Palmer Raids in 1920.**

- Police **arrested thousands** of people.
- Some were radicals; others were simply immigrants.
- Hundreds of people were **deported without a trial**.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was formed in 1920 to **protect people's rights and liberties**.

Nicola Sacco and **Bartolomeo Vanzetti** were Italian anarchists **charged with murder** committed during a robbery in Massachusetts.

- Witnesses claimed the robbers “looked Italian.”
- Despite little real evidence against them, **Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted and executed.**



Many scholars and politicians believed that the men died because of their nationality and political beliefs.

In the 1920 presidential election, Republican **Warren G. Harding** based his campaign on a call for “normalcy,” a return to a simpler time.

- Voters rejected President Wilson’s idealism.
- Harding won the election in a landslide.
- Republicans also won control of Congress.



**After World War I,
a new world order emerged.**



- The German and Russian **monarchies** were replaced by new forms of government.
- The Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman **empires** were **broken up**.
- The United States became the world's economic center and largest **creditor nation**.