

## Ch 6 Study Guide

### Ch6.1 From Neutrality to War

Although there had been no major wars, the 50 years before World War I were not tranquil. Nationalism renewed old grudges among countries. **Militarism**, or glorification of the military, eventually produced an arms race between Germany and Britain at sea and among Germany, France, and Russia on land.

In addition to strengthening their military power, European leaders prepared for war by forming alliances. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. Opposing them were France, Russia, and Great Britain, which formed the Triple Entente. In 1914, a Serbian youth assassinated **Francis Ferdinand**, the archduke of Austria-Hungary. War spread as European countries entered the fighting to help their allies. Russia came to the aid of Serbia against Austria. Germany declared war on Russia. France, Russia's ally, declared war on Germany. After Germany declared war on Belgium, Great Britain declared war on Germany. World War I had begun.

Although fighting went on in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and other parts of the world, the **Western Front** in France became the critical battle front. German soldiers settled onto high ground, dug trenches, and fortified their position. The French and British then dug their own trenches. A stalemate developed and the war dragged on for years. New military technology, including machine guns and poison gas, led to millions of **casualties**.

As the war continued in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson called for Americans to remain impartial. However, the brutal German invasion of Belgium swayed American opinion against Germany. Americans also protested when a German submarine, or **U-boat**, sank the British passenger liner **Lusitania**.

In January 1917, German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram to Mexico proposing an alliance between Germany and Mexico. The **Zimmermann note** was intercepted by the British, who gave it to American authorities. When the telegram was published, Americans were shocked by its contents. Next, Germany announced unrestricted submarine warfare against Britain. On April 6, 1917, the United States Congress declared war on Germany.

### Ch6.2 The Home Front

When the United States entered World War I, its army was only a fraction of the size of European armies. To build the army, Congress passed the **Selective Service Act**, which authorized a draft of young men for military service in Europe.

While the Selective Service Commission raised an army, the War Industries Board (WIB), headed by **Bernard Baruch**, regulated all industries engaged in the war effort. The WIB also urged Americans to conserve food as a patriotic gesture. As head of the Food Administration, future U.S. President Herbert Hoover set high prices for food to encourage farmers to increase production.

In 1917, many Americans questioned U.S. involvement in the war. The **Committee on Public Information (CPI)** worked to convince the American public that the war effort was a just cause. **George Creel**, the director of the CPI, combined education and a widespread advertising campaign to “sell America.”

Still, not all Americans favored America’s entry into the war. German Americans and Irish Americans tended to oppose the Allies. Opposition also came from **conscientious objectors**, people whose moral or religious beliefs forbid them to fight in wars.

During the war, the U.S. government restricted individual rights. In June 1917, Congress passed the **Espionage Act**, which banned subversive newspapers, magazines, or printed materials. Congress further limited freedom of speech with the Sedition Act. In *Schenck v. United States* (1919), the Supreme Court ruled that there are times when the First Amendment protections on speech do not apply.

The war also brought substantial social changes. It created jobs for women while men were serving in the military and ushered in the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Meanwhile, a great movement of African Americans from the rural South to the industrial North was taking place. The **Great Migration** saw more than 1.2 million African Americans move to the North to escape racism and find better jobs. Many Mexicans also sought to improve their lives. Some crossed the border into the United States, where they looked for jobs. World War I had opened up new opportunities for women, African Americans, and Mexican Americans.

## Ch6.3 Wilson, War & Peace

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the conflict had become a deadly stalemate. Hoping to end the conflict before the Americans could make a difference, Germany renewed unrestricted submarine warfare. British and American **convoys** provided mutual safety by sending warships to protect the merchant ships. As a result, shipping losses from U-boat attacks fell sharply.

In November 1917, radical communists led by **Vladimir Lenin** gained control of Russia. Fighting stopped between Russia and Germany, which allowed Germany to launch an all-out offensive on the Western Front. American troops under the command of **John J. Pershing** helped stop the German offensive and launch successful counteroffensives. On November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered, officially ending World War I.

In what became known as the **Fourteen Points**, President Woodrow Wilson promoted openness, encouraged independence, and supported freedom. Wilson also advocated **self-determination**, or the right of people to choose their own form of government. Finally, he asked for a **League of Nations**, a world organization where countries could gather and peacefully resolve their quarrels.

In 1919, the victorious Allies held a peace conference in France. Although Wilson’s hope for the League of Nations was fulfilled, the various peace treaties created almost as many problems as they solved. The other Allied leaders insisted that Germany make **reparations**, or payment for war damages. When the map of Europe was redrawn, national self-determination was violated many times.

In the United States, many people opposed the treaty. A handful of senators known as the **“irreconcilables”** believed that the United States should not get entangled in world organizations such as the League of Nations. A larger group of senators, led by **Henry Cabot Lodge** and known as the

“**reservationists**,” was opposed to the treaty as it was written. Wilson and his opponents refused to put aside their differences and compromise, and the Senate did not ratify the treaty. Without full American support, the League of Nations proved unable to maintain peace among nations.

## Ch6.4 Effects of the War

World War I produced significant economic, social, political, and cultural changes in America. An **influenza** virus that killed millions worldwide made the movement from war to peace even more difficult. The flu pandemic created a sense of doom and dread.

The end of the war spelled the end of wartime economic opportunities for women and African Americans. Adding to this crisis atmosphere were normal postwar adjustments. Falling agricultural prices made it difficult for farmers to pay their debts. **Inflation**, or rising prices, meant industrial workers’ wages did not buy as much as they had bought during the war. All around the country, workers struck for higher wages and shorter workdays. They won some of the strikes, but they lost far more.

The violence of some strikes was often attributed to the presence of radicals among the strike leaders. The emergence of the Soviet Union as a communist nation compounded the fear of radicals and communists. Communist ideology called for an international workers’ revolution, and communist revolts in Central and Eastern Europe made it seem like the worldwide revolution was starting.

Widespread fear of suspected communists and radicals thought to be plotting revolution within the United States prompted the first American **Red Scare**. In early 1920, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer mounted a series of raids, known as the **Palmer Raids**. Police arrested thousands of people, some who were radicals and some who were simply immigrants from southern or Eastern Europe. To many, these actions seemed to attack the liberties that Americans held most dear. By the summer of 1920, the Red Scare hysteria had run its course. **Warren G. Harding** campaigned for President calling for a return to “normalcy.” Harding won in a landslide.

By 1920, the United States was the richest, most industrialized country in the world. The United States was also the largest **creditor nation** in the world, meaning that other countries owed the United States more money than the United States owed them. As a result of World War I, America’s economic and political standing in the world had fundamentally changed.