



FROM NEUTRALITY TO INVOLVEMENT: THE US AND WORLD WAR I

1914-1920

STANDARDS

- **SSUSH15 The student will analyze the origins and impact of U.S. involvement in World War I.**
 - a. Describe the movement from U.S. neutrality to engagement in World War I, with reference to unrestricted submarine warfare.
 - b. Explain the domestic impact of World War I, as reflected by the origins of the Great Migration, the Espionage Act, and socialist Eugene Debs.
 - c. Explain Wilson's Fourteen Points and the proposed League of Nations.
- **SSUSH16 The student will identify key developments in the aftermath of WW I.**
 - a. Explain how rising communism and socialism in the United States led to the Red Scare and immigrant restriction.

CAUSES OF WWI

- Militarism: glorification of the military; arms race
- Alliances: Germany, Italy and Austria-Hungary vs. France, Russia and Great Britain
- Nationalism: devotion to one's nation; concept sweeping through Europe
- Imperialism
- Assassination



TIPPING POINT (ASSASSINATION)

- Bosnia was a territory that belonged to Austria Hungary.
- Many Bosnians had strong ties to Serbia.
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to throne of Austria Hungary) was murdered while visiting Serbia.
- He was murdered by Bosnians who felt that Bosnia should be part of Serbia.
- War begins July of 1914.



DEADLY TECHNOLOGY

- Trench warfare - soldiers dig trenches; new form of battle
- New weapons prove devastating:
 - Machine gun
 - Poison gas
 - Submarines
 - Tanks
 - Airplanes



DOMESTIC IMPACT

- A number of responses came from Americans reacting to the violence in Europe.
- 1. Tensions ran high as newspapers reported devastating news on a daily basis.
- 2. Americans (many of whom were immigrants) tended to support their native lands.
- 3. Threats of violence in American streets arose from those supporting either side.

PRESIDENT WILSON URGES NEUTRALITY



- Two groups dominate American public opinion:
- 1. Isolationists
 - America should stay out of war
- 2. Interventionists
 - America should enter the war
- In August 1914, US President Woodrow Wilson (left) urged Congress to officially declare neutrality.
- “The United States must be neutral in fact... as well as in name...”

MOVEMENT TOWARDS INVOLVEMENT

- To feed its population and supply its industries with raw materials, Germany relied heavily on imported goods.
- The British (with their superior navy) was able to implement a successful blockade of many German ports.
- To retaliate, Germany began using unrestricted submarine warfare.
- German U-boats expanded attacks not only against war-time vessels, but commercial ships as well.

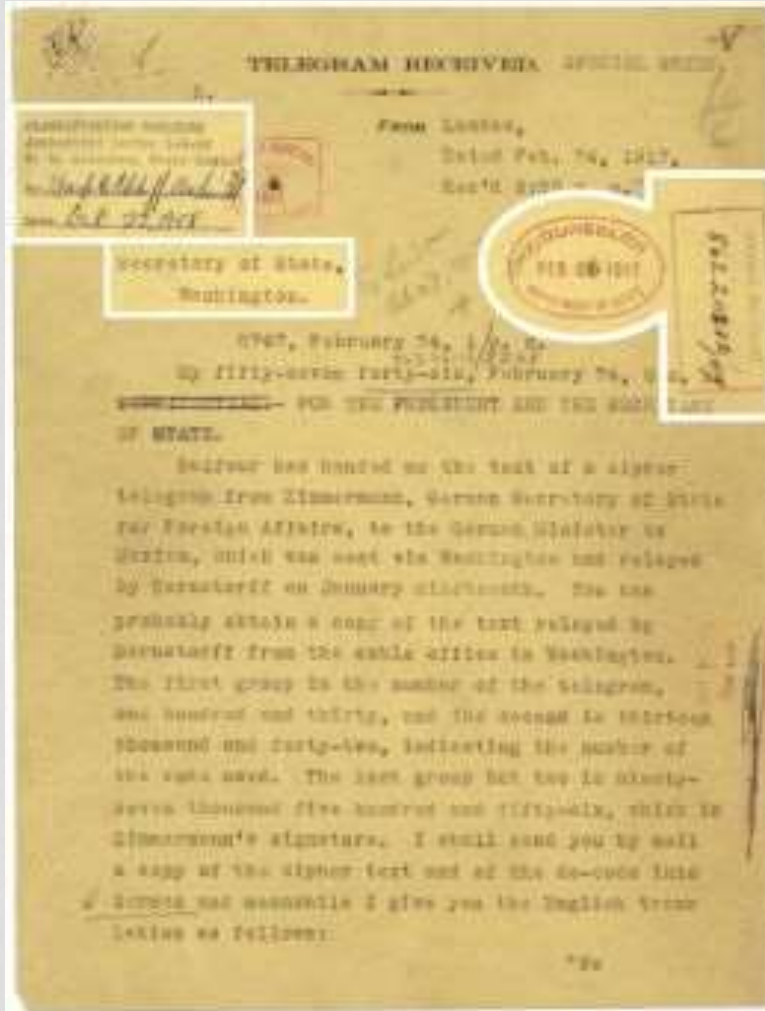


MOVEMENT TOWARDS INVOLVEMENT

- In 1915, Germany stepped up its attacks on sea vessels to include neutral passenger ships.
- In May 1915, the British liner *Lusitania* was sunk off the coast of Ireland killing 128 Americans.
- Despite the loss of American lives, President Wilson continued his policy of neutrality.

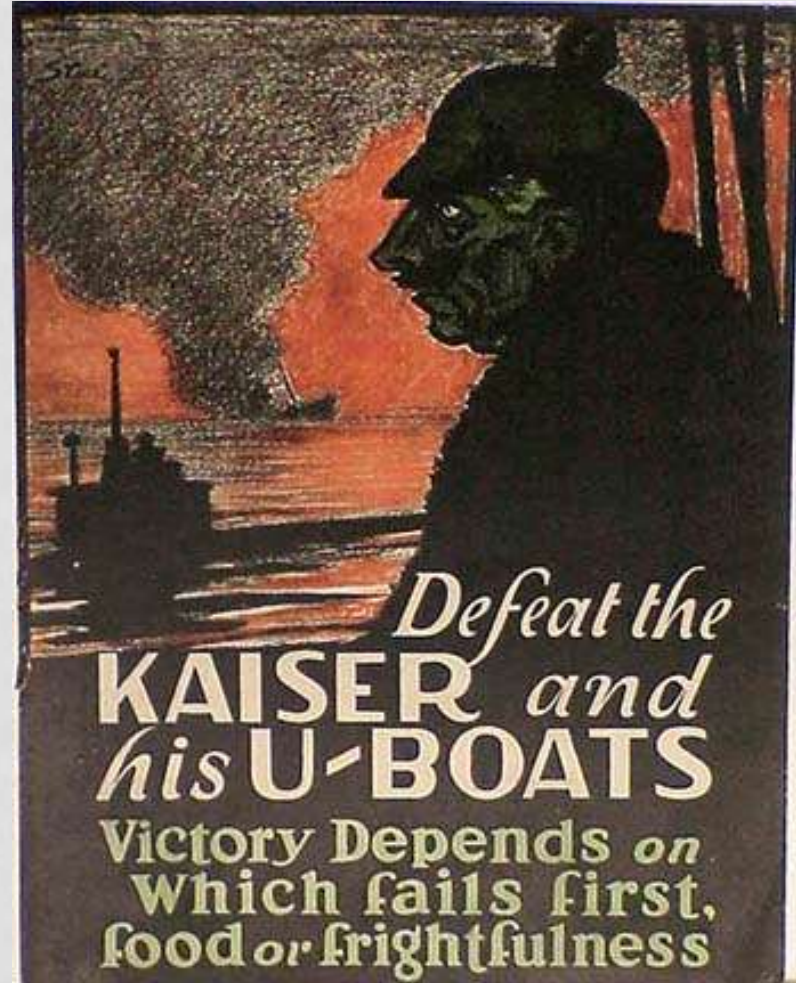
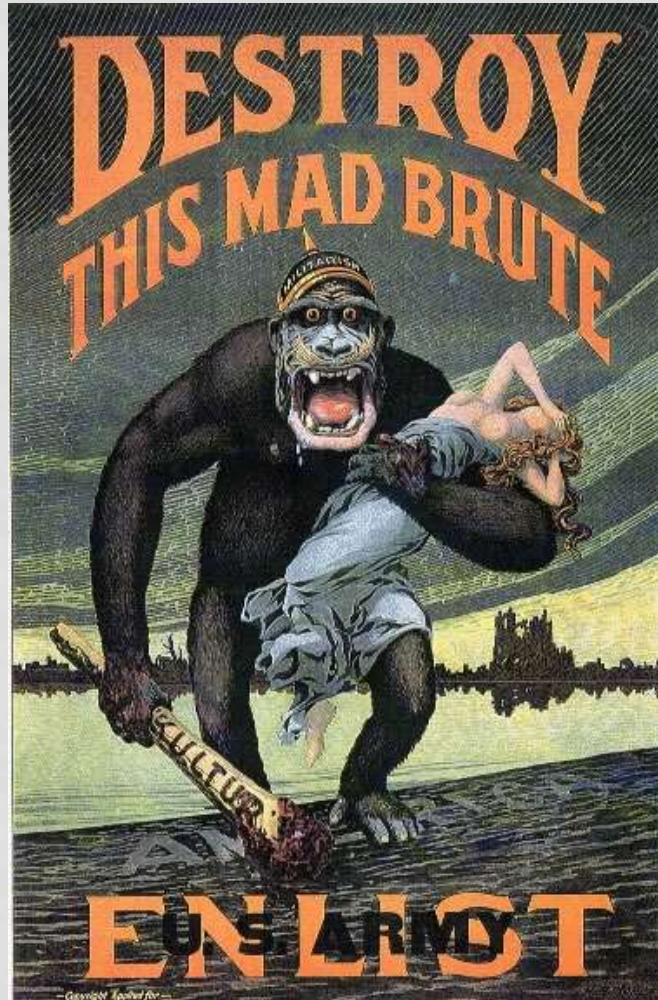


AN END TO US NEUTRALITY



- January 1917 - Germany sends telegram (known as the ZIMMERMAN TELEGRAM) proposing an alliance with Mexico
- Germany promised Mexico a return of the lands lost to US in the Mexican War of the 1840s
- Public support for war against Germany swells.
- Wilson asks Congress to declare war on Germany in April 1917.

ANTI-GERMAN PROPAGANDA

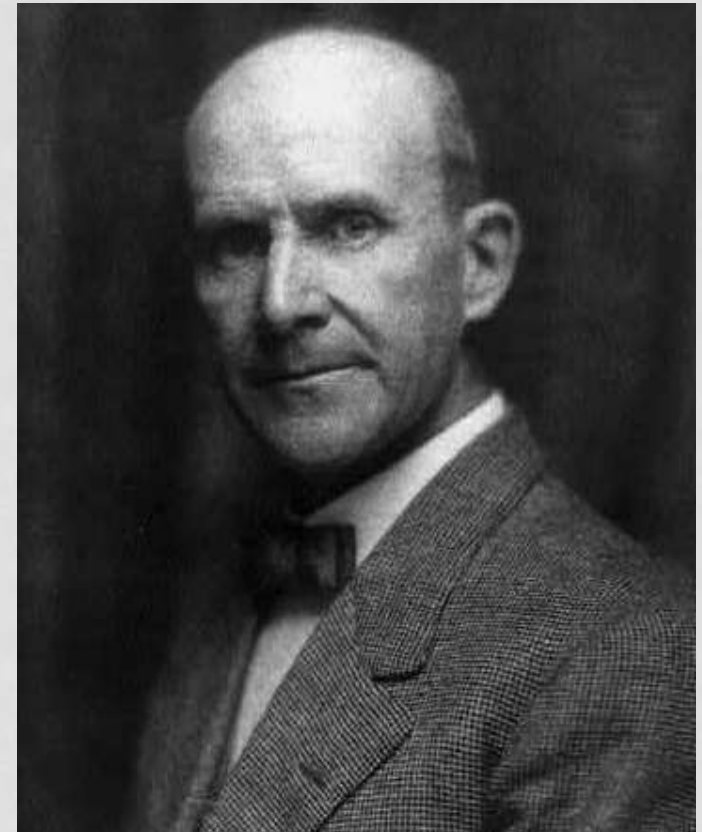


WWI'S IMPACT ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- In order to focus all attention on the war effort, President Wilson took steps to assure that American citizens would not interfere with American victory in Europe.
- In 1917, Congress passed the Espionage Act.
- The Espionage Act prohibited the following:
 - 1. Interference with military operations or recruitment
 - 2. insubordination in the military
 - 3. support of US enemies in wartime
 - 4. any form of speech that was critical of the form of government of the United States (capitalism)

EUGENE DEBS & THE RISE OF SOCIALISM

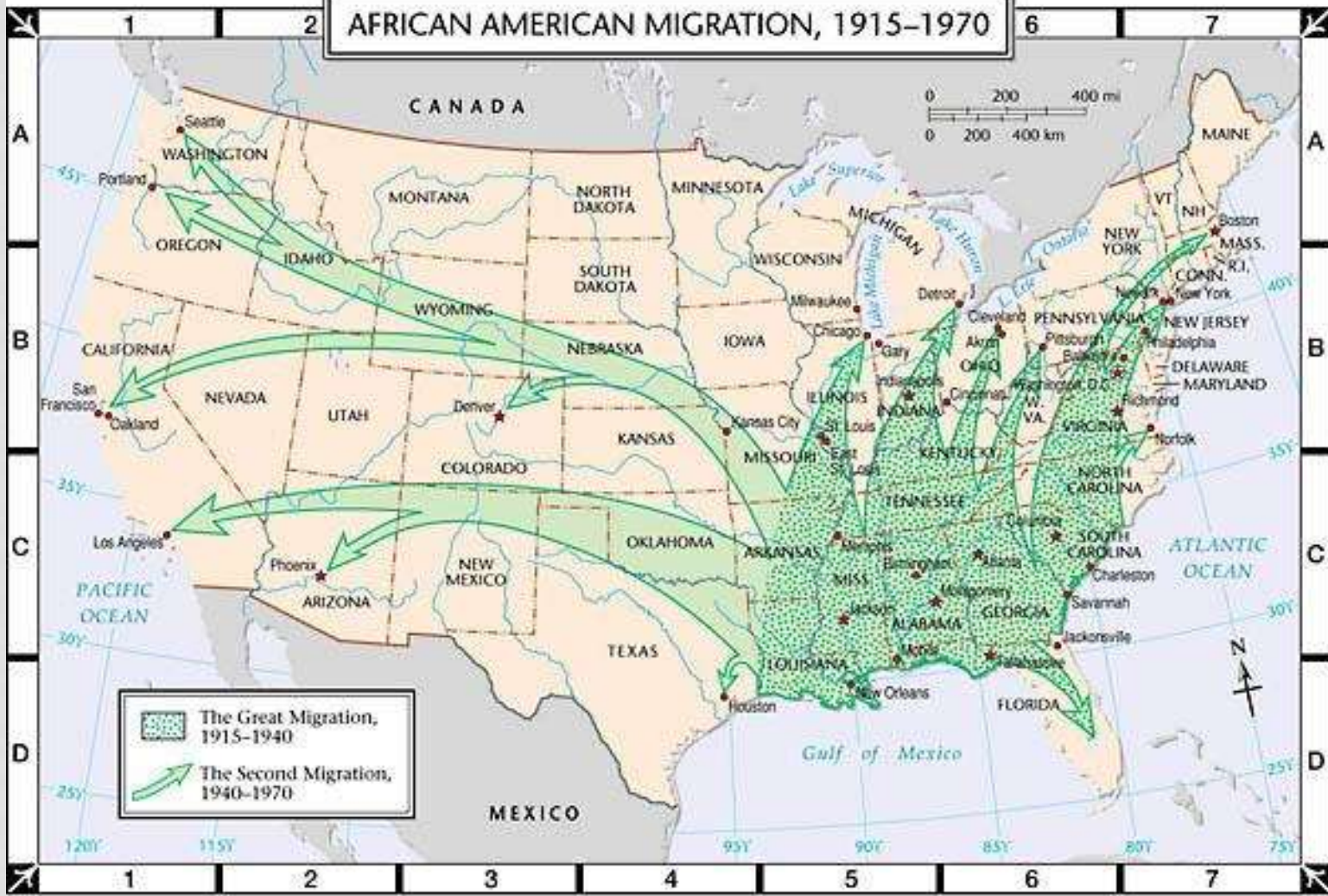
- Eugene Debs
- Famous socialist and union leader.
- Socialism - system under which the means of production are publically controlled rather than owned by individuals
- Debs was arrested after making a series of anti-war speeches urging American men not to fight.
- Was convicted under the laws of the Espionage Act and sentenced to 10 years in prison.
- Debs and the Socialist Party would be a major player in early 20th century politics.

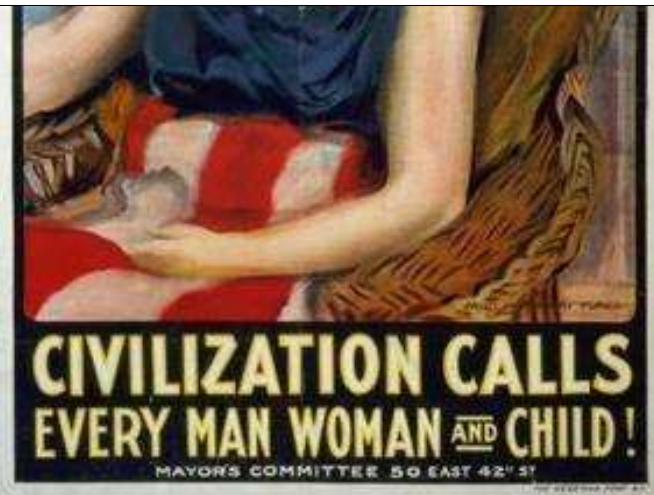


WAR'S IMPACT ON DEMOGRAPHY

- Seeking employment and escape from racism, approximately 1.2 million African American moved to Northern industrial cities in the early 1900s.
- Trend accelerated as defense manufacturing jobs became available during the war.
- Temporary suspension of immigration led to an increased demand for black laborers.
- Rise of black populations in cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and St. Louis.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MIGRATION, 1915-1970





THE WAR ENDS

- In November 1918, Germany officially surrenders.
- Treaty of Versailles officially ends war one year later in 1919



WILSON AND THE FOURTEEN POINTS

- Wilson's Fourteen Point plan - list of terms resolving World War I; included proposed League of Nations
- Wilson wanted "Peace Without Victory" - no winner, no loser
- Wanted the "Great War" to be the war that ended all wars
- Most of Wilson's ideas were rejected by Allies; Germany forced to pay reparations - payments for war damage
- League of Nations - world organization that would increase and support cooperation between countries



AMERICANS OPPOSE THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

- American opposition to US involvement in the League of Nations led the US Senate to refuse to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.
- Isolationists believed that by joining the League of Nations, the US would become involved in future conflicts all around the world.
- In the end, the US never joined the League of Nations.



THE ORIGINS OF COMMUNISM

- In the 19th century, philosopher Karl Marx developed a new theory of politics and economics.
- Marx's theory was known as communism.
- Marx believed that oppressed workers around the globe would work to overthrow the capitalist system.
- Under communism, the workers (not individuals or the government) would share the means of production and distribution. Idea appealed to many industrial workers.
- In 1917, communist revolutionaries (the Bolsheviks) overthrew the czar in Russia and created a new, communist nation called the Soviet Union.
- Many believed the goal of this new, powerful communist country was to work to destroy capitalism all over the world.



THE RED SCARE

- After World War I, labor unions began relentlessly to strike for higher wages
- Many suspected these strikes were organized by communists.
- The fear that the US would face a similar fate as Russia (now communist Soviet Union), led to a period in US history called the Red Scare.
- These fears were further heightened by a series of bombings and attacks against public officials and buildings thought to be the work of communists.



RED SCARE IMPACTS IMMIGRATION

- The Red Scare led to a series of new social and legal restrictions on immigration.
- A new wave of “nativism” swept the country.
- The Ku Klux Klan experienced a strong revival throughout the country in opposition to immigrants, Jews and Catholics.



THE QUOTA SYSTEM

- In 1924, Congress reacted to the new wave of anti-immigrant sentiment by passing the National Origins Acts.
- Part of this legislation created the Quota System.
- The Quota System set limits on the number of immigrants who could come from each country.

