World War I: From Neutrality to War 1914-1919

**Theme:** Wilson turned America's participation in World War I into a fervent crusade for democracy that successfully stirred the public to a great voluntary war effort, but at some cost to civil liberties.

**Theme:** After America's contribution to the Allied victory. A triumphant Wilson attempted to construct a pact based on his idealistic Fourteen Points. But European and senatorial opposition, and especially his own political errors, doomed American ratification of the Versailles Treaty and Participation in the League of Nations.

**Summary:** Wilson temporarily avoided war by extracting the precarious *Sussex* pledge from Germany. His antiwar campaign of 1916 narrowly won him reelection over the still-quarreling Republicans.

Germany's declaration of unlimited submarine warfare and the Zimmerman note finally forced the United States to declare war. Wilson aroused the country to patriotic heights by making the war an idealistic crusade for democracy and permanent peace based on his Fourteen Points.

Wartime propaganda stirred voluntary commitment to the war effort, but at the cost of suppressing dissent. Voluntary efforts also worked wonders in organizing industry, producing food, and financing the war. Labor, including women, made substantial wartime gains. The beginnings of black migration to northern cities led to racial tensions and riots.

America's soldiers took nearly a year to arrive in Europe, and they fought in only two major battles at the end of the war. America's main contribution to the Allied victory was to provide supplies, personnel, and improve morale. Wilson's immense prestige created high expectations for an idealistic peace, but his own political blunders and the stubborn opposition of European statesmen forced him to compromise his lofty aims.

As Lodge stalled the treaty, Wilson tried to rouse the country on behalf of his cherished League, but his own physical collapse and refusal to compromise killed the League. Republican isolationists effectively turned Harding's victory in 1920 into a death sentence for the League.

#### Identify and state the historical significance of each of the following:

Neutrality proclamationPropagandaLiberty LoansKaiser Wilhelm IIGeorge M. CohanConscriptionLusitaniaEspionage Act of 1917/SeditionChateau ThierrySussex PledgeAct of 1918General John J. PershingElection of 1916War Industries Board/BernardMeusse-Argonne offensive

Charles Evans Hughes

Baruch

National War Labor Board

Zimmermann note

Russian Revolution

Baruch

National War Labor Board

Henry Cabot Lodge

Treaty of Versailles

Nineteenth Amendment

Lodge reservations

Russian Revolution Nineteenth Amendment Lodge reservations
Wilson's Fourteen Points Sheppard-Towner Maternity Act Warren G. Harding

League of Nations of 1921
Committee on Public Herbert Hoover
Information/George Creel Eighteenth Amendment

#### Answer

- 1. Support the authors' assumptions that the United States exploited opportunities to profit from the European war from 1914-1917. To what extent do you think this contributed to America's eventual involvement in the entanglement?
- 2. What were the reasons to support America's involvement in World War I? What were the reasons to oppose the war?
- 3. Describe how Wilsonian idealism turned the war into an ideological crusade that inspired fervor and overwhelmed dissent.
- 4. Explain the consequences of World War I for labor, women, and African-Americans.
- 5. While the **Treaty of Versailles** was built on Wilson's Fourteen Points, the United States never ratified the agreement and failed to join the League of Nations. Who "defeated" this treaty and what were the long-term political effects of the American government's inability to compromise on this important global agreement?

## **Identification:**

1.	World War I alliance headed by Germany and Austri-Hungary
2.	The coalition of powers – lead by Britain, France, and Russia – that opposed Germany and its supporting nations in WWI
3.	New underwater weapon that threatened neutral shipping and apparently violated traditional norms of international law
4.	Large British passenger liner whose sinking in 1915 prompted some Americans to call for war against Germany
5.	Germany's highly conditional agreement in 1916 not to sink passenger and merchant vessels without warning
6.	Key electoral state where a tiny majority for Wilson tipped the balance against Hughes in 1916
7.	Wilson's appeal to all the belligerents in January 1917, just before the Germans resumed submarine warfare
8.	Message that contained a German proposal to Mexico for an anti-American alliance
9.	Wilson's idealistic statement of American war aims in January 1918 that inspired the Allies and demoralized their enemies.
10.	American government propaganda agency that aroused zeal for Wilson's ideals and whipped up hatred for the Kaiser
11.	Radical antiwar labor union whose members were prosecuted under the Espionage and Sedition Act
12.	Weak federal agency designed to organize and coordinate U.S. industrial production for the war effort
13.	Constitutional provision endorsed by Wilson as a war measure whose ratification achieved a long-sought goal for American women
14.	Treasury Department bond-selling drives that raised about \$21 billion dollars to finance the American war effort
15.	The nations that dominated the Paris Peace Conferencenamely, Britain, France, Italy and the United States
16.	The proposed international body that, to Wilson, constituted the key provision of the Versailles Treaty
17.	Controversial peace agreement that compromised many of Wilson's Fourteen Points but retained his League
18.	Senatorial committee whose chairman used delaying tactics and hostile testimony to develop opposition to Wilson's treaty and the League of Nations
19.	A hard core of isolationist senators who bitterly opposed any sort of league; also called the "Battalion of Death"
20.	Amendments to the proposed Treaty of Versailles, sponsored by Wilson's hated senatorial opponent, that attempted to guarantee America's sovereign rights in relation to the League of Nations
21.	Wilson's belief as to what the presidential election of 1920 would be, if it were presented as a direct popular vote on the League

# **Matching People, Places and Events**

1. John J. Pershing	A. Inspirational leader of the Western world in wartime who later stumbled as a peacemaker
2. Belgium	B. Senatorial leader of the isolationist "irreconcilables" who
3. Serbia	absolutely opposed all American involvement in the League of Nations
4. Kaiser Wilhelm II	C. Climactic Battle of World War I
5. Haiti	D. The "tiger" of France, whose drive for security forced Wilson to compromise at Versailles
6. Charles Evens Hughes	E. Head of the American propaganda agency that mobilized public opinion for World War I
7. George Creel	F. Folksy Ohio senator whose 1920 presidential victory ended the last hopes for U.S. participation in the League of Nations
8. Eugene V. Debs	G. Hated leader of America's enemy in World War I
9. Bernard Baruch	H. Head of the Food Administration who pioneered successful
10. Herbert Hoover	voluntary mobilization methods
11. Chateau-Thierry	I. Crucial battle of May 1918 in which American troops defended Paris in their first European engagement
12. Meuse-Argonne	J. Site where state police killed 39 striking miners and their families in 1917
13. Kaiser Wilhelm II	K. Commander of the American expeditionary force in France
14. Woodrow Wilson	L. Site of Wilson's collapse during his last-ditch trip to win public support for his League of Nations
15. Henry Cabot Lodge	M. Wilson's great senatorial antagonist, who succeeded in his goal of keeping America out of the League of Nations
16. Georges Clemenceau	N. Head of the War Industries Board, which attempted to impose
17. William Borah	some order on U.S. war production
18. Ludlow, Colorado	O. Socialist leader who won nearly a million votes as a presidential candidate while in a federal prison for antiwar activities
19. Pueblo, Colorado	P. Small European nation whose neutrality was violated by Germany in the early days of the war.
20. Warren G. Harding	Q. Small European nation in which an Austro-Hungarian heir was killed, leading to the outbreak of World War I.
	R. Autocratic ruler who symbolized ruthlessness and arrogance to many pro-Allied Americans.
	S. Caribbean nation where Wilson sent American Marines in 1915.
	T. Narrowly unsuccessful presidential candidate whose campaign was plagued by confusion on the issue of American policy toward Germany

#### **Matching Cause and Effect** Cause **Effect** 1. Germany's resumption of A. Led to major racial violence in Chicago and East unrestricted submarine warfare St. Louis, Illinois 2. Wilson's Fourteen Points B. Forced Democrats to vote against a modified treaty and prevented any American participation in \_\_ 3. The wartime atmosphere of the League of Nations emotional patriotism and fear C. Stopped the final German offensive and turned 4. Women's labor in wartime the tide toward Allied victory factories D. Allowed domestic disillusionment and opposition \_\_ 5. The migration of Africanto the treaty and League to build strength Americans to northern cities E. Finally pushed the United States into World War I \_\_ 6. American troops' entry into combat in the spring and summer of 1918 F. Weakened the president's position during the peacemaking process \_\_ 7. Wilson's political blunder in the fall of 1918 G. Caused harsh attacks on German-Americans and other Americans who opposed the war 8. The strong diplomatic demands of France, Italy, and Japan H. Lifted Allied and American spirits and demoralized Germany and its allies \_\_ 9. Senator Lodge's tactics of delaying and proposing reservations in the I. Forced Wilson to compromise his Fourteen Points Versailles treaty in order to keep the League as part of the peace treaty \_\_\_\_ 10. Wilson's refusal to accept any J. Helped pass the Nineteenth Amendment but did reservations supported by Lodge not really change society's emphasis on the maternal role 11. America's close cultural and economic ties with Britain K. Caused most Americans to sympathize with the Allies rather than the Central Powers 12.Germany's sinking of the Lusitania, Arabic, and Sussex L. Enabled the Democrats to win a narrow presidential victory in the election of 1916 \_\_\_ 13. Wilson's apparent success in keeping America at peace through M. Caused President Wilson and other outraged diplomacy Americans to demand an end to the unrestricted submarine warfare **Putting Things In Order** Germany's resumption of submarine warfare forces the United States onto a declaration of war. The Senate's final defeat of the Versailles treaty and a Republican election victory end Wilson's last hopes for America's entry into the League of Nations The United States takes the first hesitant steps toward preparedness in the event of war. The effectiveness of American combat troops in crucial battles helps bring about an Allied victory in World War I. Wilson struggles with other Allied leaders in Paris to hammer out a peace treaty and organize the postwar struggle. Wilson extracts a dangerously conditional German agreement to halt submarine warfare. The heavy loss of American lives to German submarines nearly leads the U.S. into war with

Germany

#### **Answers:**

#### **Identification:**

- 1. Central Powers
- 2. Allies
- 3. Submarine
- 4. Lusitania
- 5. Sussex Pledge
- 6. California
- 7. "peace without victory"
- 8. Zimmerman note
- 9. Fourteen Points
- 10. Committee on Public Information
- 11. Industrial Workers of the World (IWWs)
- 12. War Industries Board
- 13. Nineteenth Amendment
- 14. Liberty Loans
- 15. Big Four
- 16. League of Nations
- 17. Treaty of Versailles
- 18. Foreign Relations Committee
- 19. irreconcilables
- 20. Lodge reservations
- 21. "solemn referendum"

## Matching People, Places and Events

- 1. K
- 7. E
- 8.O
- 9. N
- 10. H 11. I
- 12. C
- 13. G
- 14. A
- 15. M
- 16. D
- 17. B 18. J
- 19. L
- 20. F

## **Matching Cause and Effect**

- 1.E
- 2. H
- 3. G
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- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. F
- 8. I
- 9. D 10. B
- 10. B
- 12. L
- 13. M

## **Putting Things in Order**

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