American Expansionism

By the 1880s, many American leaders believed the US should join European imperial nations and establish colonies overseas. The era of U.S. imperialism was beginning.

- European nations had been establishing colonies for centuries
- Africa and China were both targets for expansion and trade by European and other Asian countries, such as Japan

**Imperialism** - the policy in which stronger nations extend their economic, political, and/or military control over weaker territories.

Three Factors Fueled American Imperialism

1. **Desire for military strength** - American leaders pushed the government to build up its own military strength
   - ***Admiral Alfred T. Mahan*** - In his book *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*, Mahan expressed his belief that a nation benefited from having a strong navy and the overseas bases needed to maintain it.
     - This navy would protect American business and shipping interests around the world
     - The building of battleships such as the *U.S.S. Maine* and the *U.S.S. Oregon* helped propel the U.S. into the world's third largest naval power

2. **Thirst for new markets** - By the late 19th century, American technological and industrial advances enabled farmers and manufacturers to produce more goods than American citizens could purchase.
   - Imperialists looked to foreign trade to seek raw materials for our factories and new customers for our products
     - They hoped to solve problems related to unemployment and economic recessions

3. **Belief in cultural superiority** - Americans subscribing to the philosophy of Social Darwinism, believed in the racial superiority of Anglo-Saxon Americans
   - Believed we had a duty to spread Christianity and American culture to the “inferior” people around the globe
The United States Buys Alaska

Secretary of State William Seward was an early proponent of U.S. expansion.
- 1867: Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million, approximately 2 cents per acre!
  - Some thought this purchase was a mistake and labeled it "Seward’s Icebox" or "Seward’s Folly"
  - BUT...Alaska contained valuable timber, mineral, and eventually oil resources.

America Takes Hawaii

The Hawaiian Islands had been strategically important to Americans for nearly a century
- Since the 1790s, American merchants used the islands as a refueling station on their way to China.
- Beginning in the 1820s, American missionaries started Christian schools and churches on the islands. Their descendants would become sugar planters, selling most of their crop to the United States.
- In 1887, American military and economic leaders negotiated the rights to build a naval base at Pearl Harbor, which would become a refueling station for American naval ships.

The Season for Annexation- By the mid 1800s, American-owned sugar plantations accounted for ¾ of the islands wealth. Laborers from Japan, China, and Portugal came by the thousands to work the plantations. By 1900, foreigners and immigrant workers outnumbered native-born Hawaiians three-to-one.
- 1875- The US agreed to import Hawaiian sugar duty-free (tax free)
  - Hawaiian sugar production increased nine times over the next 15 years
- 1890- The McKinley Tariff removed the duty-free status of Hawaiian sugar, causing the islands sugar growers to compete in the American market
  - American-owned plantation owners cried foul!
  - They called for America to annex the islands, in order for them to avoid paying the tariff duty.
- 1890- Hawaii’s King Kalakaua was forced by foreign business leaders to amend his nation’s constitution, limiting the voting rights to only wealthy landowners.
- 1891- the King died, his sister Queen Liliuokalani took the throne
  - She pursued an agenda to remove property qualifications for voting, known as “Hawaii for Hawaiian” in order to ensure native Hawaiians controlled the islands
  - ***The queen’s attempt to reduce the political influence of American sugar planters would prompt the U.S. government to participate in the overthrow of the Hawaiian government
• 1893- American business groups, encouraged by U.S. Ambassador John L. Stevens, organized a revolt
  o Assisted by the U.S. Marines, they overthrew the queen and set up a government, The Republic of Hawaii, led by Sanford B. Dole
    ▪ Ambassador Stevens informed the State Department, “The Hawaiian pear is now fully ripe, and this is the golden hour for the United States to pluck it.”
  o The new U.S. president, Grover Cleveland, called for Liliuokalani to be reinstated, but Dole refused.
  o Cleveland formally recognized the Republic of Hawaii, but refused to consider annexation unless a majority of Hawaiians favored it...which they didn’t. Of course.
• 1898- The next U.S. president, William McKinley, favored annexation.
  o Aug. 12, 1898, Congress proclaimed Hawaii an American territory.

Support and Opposition to American Imperialism

William McKinley’s reelection in 1900 confirmed that a majority of Americans favored his policies. During his first term in office, beginning in 1897, support for U.S. imperialism would grow, and America would gain an empire.

- American sugar growers supported the overthrow of Liliuokalani and the annexation of Hawaii
- ***U.S. business people who had significant investments in Cuba were supportive of the Spanish-American War, which began in April 1898.
- ***Newspapers such as William Randolph Hearst’s New York Journal sensationalized stories of Spanish atrocities during the Cuban rebellion, and stoked the calls for war following the explosion of the U.S.S. Maine, largely in order to increase circulation of their newspapers...as well as their profits.

But even before McKinley’s reelection, an Anti-Imperialist League, including some of the most prominent people in America, would arise. Notable members of this opposition included:

- Former president Grover Cleveland
- Social reformer Jane Addams
- Industrialist Andrew Carnegie
- Labor leaders including Samuel Gompers
- The presidents of Stanford and Harvard universities
- Leading writers such as Mark Twain
- ***the Anti-Imperialist League spoke out in opposition to U.S. conquest and possession of oversees territories
Cubans Rebel Against Spain

Spain’s empire, once the largest in the world, had dwindled to include only the Philippines and the island of Guam in the Pacific, a few outposts in Africa, and the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Sea by the end of the 19th century. It was about to lose most of those as well.

American Interest in Cuba- Americans had kept their eye on Cuba for over 50 years.

- In the 1850s, diplomats recommended to President Pierce that the U.S. should buy Cuba from Spain. Even president Buchannan attempted to strong-arm the Spanish into selling Cuba. He ultimately had to rescind his Ostend Manifesto.
- 1868-1878: Americans sympathized with Cubans who rebelled, unsuccessfully, against Cuba in their first war for independence
- 1886: Though the Cubans failed to gain independence, they did force Spain to abolish slavery.
  - American capitalists then invested millions of dollars in sugar plantations on the Caribbean island.
- 1895: A second war for Cuban independence erupted, largely due to the influence of Cuban poet Jose Marti
  - Marti organized resistance against Spain, in part by using guerilla warfare and deliberately destroying American-owned sugar plantations in hopes of provoking U.S. intervention to help Cuban rebels gain independence
  - Marti, however, feared that U.S. imperialists would replace the Spanish as imperial possessors of Cuba
  - Many Americans, not just businessmen who had invested in Cuba, sympathized with the Cuban rebels, taking on the cry of “Cuba Libre!” which was similar to Patrick Henry’s “Give me liberty or give me death!”

War Fever Escalates- The Spanish responded to the renewed Cuban revolt by sending Gen. Valeriano Weylar to crush the rebellion. As many as 300,000 Cubans died in barbed-wire enclosed reconcentration camps where they were herded into by “The Butcher” Weyler in order to keep them from helping in the insurrection. Weyler’s brutal actions would also lead to a different kind of war, one fought to increase circulation of American newspapers.

1896-1898: Yellow Journalism and the Headline Wars

- William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer printed exaggerated and sensationalized headlines about atrocities in Cuba in order to increase circulation of their newspapers
  - Yellow journalism- sensationalized writing that exaggerates the news to lure and enrage readers
Hearst sent the artists Frederic Remington to Cuba to draw sketches of the supposed crimes of the Spanish.

- When Remington reported that a war between the U.S. and Spain seemed unlikely, Hearst responded, “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war!”
- Remington depicted Spanish customs officials brutally disrobing and searching American women. (Americans were not told that the searches were conducted by female attendants)

Stories of poisoned wells and children being thrown to sharks, patently false, helped to deepen American sympathies for the Cuban rebels.

The DeLome Letter- Another infuriating story, was the publishing of the DeLome Letter in February 1898 by Hearst’s New York Journal.

- President McKinley, preferring to avoid war, tried diplomatic means to resolve the crisis in Cuba.
- Spain relented, at least in part, by recalling General Weyler, modifying the policy on concentration camps, and offering Cubans limited self-government.
- But American anger was stoked when a letter written by Enrique Dupuy DeLome was stolen by a Cuban rebel and leaked to American newspapers, who were eager to create a scandal
  - The DeLome letter criticized President McKinley in unflattering terms
  - DeLome was forced to resign, but the damage was done. Americans were furious!

The U.S.S. Maine Explodes- Only a few days after the publishing of the DeLome letter, American resentment turned to outrage and calls for war!

- Early in 1898, President McKinley had sent the battleship U.S.S. Maine to Cuba to demonstrate Washington’s concern for the island’s stability, and also help Americans escape should violence escalate.
- On February 15th, 1898, the Maine exploded in Havana harbor.
  - 260 American sailors were killed
- Two investigations were immediately undertaken, one by the U.S. naval officers, and another by Spanish officials.
  - The Spanish concluded that the explosion was an accident, and that Spain had played no part in the tragedy.
  - The Americans argued that the explosion was caused by the Spanish in Cuba, presumably by a mine.
- ***The American yellow press sensationalized the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine, offering a $50,000 reward for the capture of the perpetrator
  - Americans were outraged! Calls to “Remember the Maine!” helped to influence the U.S. government to take action
**War with Spain**

To avoid American intervention on the side of the Cuban rebels, Spain agreed to two demands of Washington: to end the reconcentration camps and to sign an armistice with Cuban rebels. This was not enough for angry American citizens. President McKinley was in a jam. He did not want all out war with Spain, but he also wanted to see Cuban’s free of Spanish control. On the other hand, McKinley did not want a fully independent Cuba, one in which in the U.S. could not exercise some measure of control. On April 11, 1898, McKinley gave in to popular pressure and urged Congress to authorize armed intervention to free the oppressed Cubans. Following a week of debate, on April 20th Congress obliged, declaring war on Spain and igniting a “Splendid little war!”

**War in the Philippines** - The first battle of the Spanish-American War did not take place in Cuba. Rather, America launched a surprise attack on another colony of Spain- the Philippines!
- Commodore **George Dewey** led the US navy’s attack on the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay, Philippines.
  - ***The underlying motive for attacking the Spanish in the Philippines was to acquire a base to protect American trade interests in the Pacific.
  - The Spanish fleet was destroyed within seven hours
  - This allowed American troops to land.
  - Over the next two months, Americans joined forces with Filipino rebels led Emilio Aguinaldo
  - Spain surrendered in Manilla in August

**War in the Caribbean** - The battle for Cuba began with a naval blockade around the island, effectively trapping the Spanish fleet in the harbor at Santiago.
- America’s army was much less prepared for war as compared to our navy
  - The U.S. maintained only a small professional force
  - Much of the U.S. troops were volunteers, approximately 125,000, who were sent to training camps that lacked adequate supplies and effective leaders
    - Shortage of guns
    - Troops were given wool uniforms...to fight in the tropical islands of the Caribbean
    - Many of the officers were old Civil War veterans
- June 1, 1898: 17,000 U.S. troops landed in Cuba, and began to converge on the port city of Santiago
  - Four regiments of African American soldiers
The Rough Riders, a volunteer regiment led by Leonard Wood and Theodore Roosevelt, led the charge up Kettle Hill on July 1st, along with two regiments of African American soldiers. Their victory cleared the war for an infantry attack and capture of strategic San Juan Hill later that same day. July 3rd: the Spanish fleet sailed out of the harbor at Santiago and into the waiting American naval blockage

- The Spanish fleet was destroyed

On July 25, American troops invaded Puerto Rico, where they met with even less resistance than in Cuba.

- August 12, 1898: Spain agreed to a cease-fire, signing an armistice with the United States, ending what Secretary of State John Jay called, “A splendid little war.”
- Dec. 10, 1898: Spain and the United States met in Paris to agree on a treaty. The Treaty of Paris contained the following provisions:
  - Cuba gained its independence
  - The United States acquired the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, and paid Spain $20 million for the Philippine islands

Debate over the Treaty of Paris - The treaty sparked heated debate in the United States, which centered on whether or not the United States had the right to annex the Philippines, and more importantly, the nature of imperialism itself.

- President McKinley viewed all his options regarding the Philippines as fraught with trouble
  - If left to govern themselves, he believed the Filipinos might fall into anarchy.
  - If the Philippines were independent, another imperial power such as the Germans or Japanese may try to seize the islands, sucking the U.S. into a major war to protect its interests.
  - McKinley viewed his best choice was to annex all the islands, and perhaps give the Filipinos their independence at a later time
    - **In deciding the fate of the Philippines, McKinley told a group of Methodist ministers that, “There was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate them, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them.”**
    - McKinley failed to take into account that the Philippine economy was among the most modern in Asia, and that most Filipinos were already Christians, converted to Catholicism by the Spanish
Opponents of annexation presented political, moral, and ethical arguments against that proposed course of action
  - They argued the treaty violated the Declaration of Independence by denying self-government to the newly acquired territories
  - Civil rights leaders like Booker T. Washington believed the U.S. needed to solve race problems at home before it took on issues of colonial people abroad
  - Labor leaders such as Samuel Gompers feared Filipino immigrants would compete for American jobs

The debate was settled on February 6, 1899 when the Senate voted to approve the treaty. The United States now had an empire!
- Following the Treaty of Paris, the United States gained the territories of the Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam
- American troops occupied Cuba following the war, angering many Cubans who feared the U.S. would simply replace the Spanish as imperial rulers.
  - Under American occupation, the same officials who had served Spain remained in office. Cubans protesting this policy were often jailed or exiled
  - However, the American military gov. provided food and clothing for thousands, helped farmers recultivate their land, and organized schools. Because of sanitation and medical research, the efforts of the US military government helped eradicate yellow fever.
- The Cubans created their own constitution, but it did not specify the relationship between Cuba and the United States
  - 1901: The United States insisted that Cuba add to its constitution several provisions, known as the Platt Amendment. The provisions included the following:
    - Cuba could not make treaties that would limit its independence or permit a foreign power to control any part of its territory
    - The United States reserved the right to intervene in Cuba
    - Cuba was not to go into debt that its government could not repay
    - The United States could buy or lease land on the island for naval stations and refueling stations
  - ***Passage of the Platt Amendment resulted in the creation of a U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
  - 1903: The Platt Amendment became part of a treaty between the two nations, and remained in effect for 31 years.
American Imperialist Foreign Policy

From McKinley through the Wilson presidency- The acquisition of an American empire following the Spanish-American War brought forth a fierce debate. Both proponents of American expansion and opponents of imperial rule argued over the new influence that the United States would exert around the globe.

Cuba and the United States- When the U.S. declared war on Spain in April of 1898, Congress also passed the Teller Amendment, which state that the U.S. had no intention of taking over any part of Cuba. Following the war, Cuba would gain independence, but the Cuban people would soon find that their new nation would not be free of American influence.

- The United States exerted political control over Cuba with the insistence of the Platt Amendment in 1901.
- U.S. troops occupied Cuba until the passage of the Platt Amendment as part of a treaty between the two countries in 1903. An American military presence is still felt on island today at the naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

Ruling Puerto Rico- During the Spanish-American War, U.S. forces occupied the island, promising to protect its people and property, and to promote the prosperity of the island and “bestow upon you the immunities and blessings of the liberal institutions of our government.” Views of Puerto Ricans varied from some wanting statehood in the Union, others wanting a measure of local self-rule, and still others, like Luis Munoz Rivera, who worked for Puerto Rican independence. The United States gave the island people no promises regarding independence.

- Puerto Rico was strategically important to the US
  - For maintaining a military presence in the Caribbean
  - For protecting a future canal that U.S. leaders had been dreaming of building across the isthmus of Panama for decades.
- The U.S. maintained military gov. in the island until 1900, when Congress passed the Foraker Act
  - Ended military rule
  - Set up a civil government
    - The U.S. president had the power to appoint Puerto Rico’s governor and members of the upper house of its legislature
    - The lower house (House of Representatives) was elected by Puerto Ricans
- 1901: The Insular Cases- The acquisition of newly annexed American territories brought with them peculiar questions: Did the Constitution follow
the flag? Did American laws, including tariff laws and the Bill of Rights, apply in full in the new American possessions? Puerto Ricans petitioned Congress in 1900 with the question “Who are we? Are we citizens or are we subjects?” That question would be answered by a divided Supreme Court in the Insular Cases
  
  - The Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution did not automatically apply to people in acquired territories.
  - Puerto Ricans (and Filipinos) might be subject to American rule, but they did not enjoy all American rights

- 1917: Congress granted U.S. citizenship to Puerto Ricans, and gave them the right to elect both houses of their legislature.

Filipinos Rebel- Filipinos assumed that they, like the Cubans, would be granted independence following the Spanish-American War. They reacted with rage when the U.S. excluded them from the peace negotiations with Spain, and then made it clear that Americans had every intention of staying in the Philippines indefinitely. The bitterness felt by Filipinos would ignite an unsuccessful 3-year war, led by Emilio Aguinaldo (who believed the U.S. had promised independence), against American troops. To leaders in the U.S. military and in Washington D.C., the strategic importance of the Philippines to American interests was worth fighting for.
  
  - ***Acquiring a base to protect U.S. trade interests in the Pacific was a motive that underlay Commodore George Dewey’s attack on the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor, Philippines.
  - ***For President McKinley, increased commercial opportunities for U.S. businesses influenced his decision to maintain U.S. control of the Philippines after the war.
  
  Following the outbreak of the Philippine-American war, Aguinaldo turned to the use of guerilla tactics to try and win independence. The military acted in ways reminiscent of the Spanish bully that they went to war with to oust from Cuba.
  
  - The U.S. built reconcentration camps that rivaled those of the “Butcher” Weyler in Cuba. Poor sanitation, starvation, and disease killed thousands of Filipinos
  - The Philippine-American war lasted until 1901, when Aguinaldo was captured.
  - The war claimed the lives of 4,234 Americans and as many as 600,000 Filipinos
  - The war cost America more than $400,000-20 times the price they had paid to Spain for the islands.

- Following the war, future president William H. Taft became civil governor of the Philippines in 1901.
  
  - He formed a tight attachment to his “Little brown brothers”
  - America poured millions of dollars into the islands
    - Improved roads, sanitation, and public health
    - Made important economic ties, including trade in sugar
American teachers set up an education system and helped make English a second language. The Filipinos hated their forced American assimilation, and hoped for freedom...something they would not receive until July 4, 1946.

Opening the door to China- Imperialists in the U.S. viewed its Philippine islands as the gateway to the rest of Asia, particularly China. China could be a huge market for American products, and it presented potential for profits to American investors with opportunities in large-scale railroad construction. As the twentieth century dawned, the emergence of powerful spheres of influence carved out by Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan, where each claimed special rights and economic privileges, shaped the development of U.S. foreign policy. Americans, fearing European powers would monopolize Chinese markets, moved to open the door to China.

- In the summer of 1899, Secretary of State John Hay penned and dispatched a series of letters, to the imperial powers, which became known as the Open Door notes.
  - The letters urged those nations to announce that in their spheres of influence they would respect Chinese rights and the ideal of fair competition...no notes had been sent to China, itself.
  - ***The goal of the Open Door notes was equal access to trade in areas of China controlled by foreign governments

- In 1900, a group of patriotic Chinese known as Boxers, resenting European influence over the Chinese government, sparked an uprising that became known as the Boxer Rebellion.
  - Boxers murdered more than two hundred foreigners and thousands of Chinese Christians
  - They besieged the foreign diplomatic community in China's capital of Beijing (Peking)
  - ***U.S. interest also came under attack because the Open Door policy attempted to secure for the United States the same power enjoyed by other Western countries in China
  - A multinational force, including several thousand U.S. troops from the Philippines, arrived to put down the rebellion

- Later in 1900, John Hay wrote a second series of Open Door notes, proclaiming that the U.S. would protect the territorial integrity of China, and the principle of equal and impartial trade.
Theodore Roosevelt’s “Big Stick” diplomacy

Two months after Teddy Roosevelt shot into the presidency, at the barrel of Leon Czolgosz’s gun, the U.S. and Great Britain signed the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which gave the United States the rights to build and fortify a canal across the isthmus of Panama. While many Americans proposed the canal be built through Nicaragua, a French engineer, Philippe Bunau-Varilla convinced Congress to buy the French Canal Company’s claim to a passage through Panama for the bargain price of $40 million. Now the only thing between the U.S. and its Panama Canal was the permission of Colombia.

Building the Canal- The U.S. needed the consent of Colombia, which then ruled Panama, for the rights to build its canal. ***When Colombia refused to ratify the agreement allowing construction of the Panama Canal, TR saw his chance to brandish the Big Stick of American might, actively encouraging a revolt in Central America.

- Bunau-Varilla took advantage of the tension and organized a revolt of Panamanians against Colombia on Nov. 3, 1903, declaring their independence.
  - The U.S. navy prevented Colombian troops from crossing the isthmus to put down the rebellion
  - Three days after the start of the rebellion, TR officially recognized the new country
  - Fifteen days later, Philippe Bunau-Varilla, now the Panamanian minister, signed the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, guaranteeing and expanding U.S. rights to build the canal

- Construction of the canal began in 1904, led by Colonel George Washington Goethals
  - Col William C. Gorgas helped to drain swamps, making the canal zone safe from yellow-fever
  - Construction costs totaled $400 million, being completed in 1914 just as WWI was beginning in Europe
  - The Panama Canal is a modern wonder, shaving nearly 8,000 miles off the journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific.
  - The United States had the ability to police the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and protect its trade
TR’s Take on Monroe’s Doctrine- ***In the late 19th century, many Latin American were defaulting on their debts to foreign investors. By 1903, Germany had bombarded towns in defaulting Venezuela, and in 1904 Roosevelt feared that further defaults may cause debt-collecting European powers to remain in Latin America, thus violating the 80 year old Monroe Doctrine. In his December 1904 message to Congress, TR added his Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.

- He announced that if Latin American countries continued to default, the U.S. would pay off their debts, take over their customs houses, and keep the European creditors on their side of the Atlantic
  - In short, TR explained that it is in the best interest of the United States to intervene in nations whose political stability is threatened
- Roosevelt’s Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine was put into action in 1905, when the Dominican Republic had defaulted on its debt payments.
  - The United States took over the management of tariff collections, a move formalized in a treaty two years later

Roosevelt Around the World- In 1905, following nearly a year of war between Russia and Japan, the Japanese were running out of money and secretly approached President Roosevelt asking him to mediate peace negotiations.

- The warring nations met in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Roosevelt mediated the negotiations.
  - Japan received half of Sakhalin Island, off the coast of Siberia, while Russia agreed to let Japan take over Russian interests in Manchuria and Korea
  - Roosevelt’s successful work in negotiating the Treaty of Portsmouth resulted in him being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906
- Japan’s emergence as a world power after its defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 motivated President Roosevelt to send the Great White Fleet of Navy warships on a fourteen month world tour
  - Part of his goal in the voyage of the Great White Fleet was to demonstrate America’s ability to defend its international interests
- As part of the 1907 Gentlemen’s Agreement with Japan, President Roosevelt agreed to ask San Francisco to halt its’ school systems segregation of Japanese students in exchange for Japan limiting the number of passports issued to laborers seeking to enter the United States
**President Taft and Dollar Diplomacy**

Roosevelt’s successor, President William H. Taft, used the U.S. government to guarantee loans made to foreign countries by American businesspeople. This use of American power was called dollar diplomacy.

- ***The goal of Taft’s Dollar Diplomacy was to create stability abroad for the benefit of U.S. commercial interests.***
- When a rebellion in Nicaragua left the country nearly bankrupt in 1911, President Taft arranged for U.S. bankers to loan Nicaragua money to pay off its debts to foreign creditors.
  - Bankers were given the right to recover their money by collecting Nicaragua’s customs duties
  - Bankers also gained control of the country’s railroad system and national bank.
  - When Nicaragua’s citizens rose up in revolt over their president Aldolfo Diaz’s dealings with America, Taft sent 2,000 marines to put down the rebellion.
    - A number of marines remained in Nicaragua until 1933.

**Woodrow Wilson’s Missionary Diplomacy**

President Wilson hated both Taft’s dollar diplomacy and imperialism in general, announcing that he would end special support to American investors in Latin America and China. On the other hand, according to President Wilson, the U.S. had a moral responsibility to deny recognition to any Latin American government that it viewed as oppressive, undemocratic, or hostile to U.S. interests. A revolution would put Wilson’s foreign policy to the test.

- **1911** - Mexican peasants and workers led by Francisco Madero overthrew the country’s dictator of over three decades, Porfirio Diaz.
  - Diaz had encouraged foreign investments in his country. By 1911, foreigners owned a large share of Mexican oil wells, mines, railroads, and ranches. While politicians grew rich off this investment, most Mexicans were extremely poor.
  - While the revolutionary leader Madero promised democratic reforms, he was unable to keep his promises.
- **1913** - General Victoriano Huerta took over the government, and his supporters ruthlessly murdered Madero within days. U.S. President Wilson refused to recognize Huerta’s “government of butchers.”
- **1914** - A small party of American sailors was arrested in April, bringing Mexico and the U.S. desperately close to war.
While the Mexicans released the prisoners, they refused an American admiral’s demand for a twenty-one gun salute.

President Wilson used the incident as a precedent to act against Huerta. He asked Congress for the permission to use force.

- Before Congress could act, Wilson ordered the navy to seize Mexico’s port city of Veracruz.
- At least 18 Americans and 200 Mexicans died during the invasion.

To prevent war, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile stepped in to mediate an end to the conflict, proposing that Huerta step down and U.S. withdraw its troops and pay for damages.

- Huerta rejected the plan, and Wilson refused to recognize his government

1915- Huerta’s regime collapsed and a nationalist leader, Venustiano Carranza, became president of Mexico.

- Wilson withdrew U.S. troops and formally recognized the Carranza government.
- Mexican rebels led by Francisco “Pancho” Villa and Emiliano Zapata, rose to challenge Carranza’s government and to punish gringos (whites) in Mexico... and beyond.

1916- In January, Villa’s men took sixteen young American engineers off a train in northern Mexico and ruthlessly murdered them.

- Two months later, a group of Villa’s men crossed the U.S. border into Columbia, New Mexico and murdered another 19 Americans. The U.S. held Villa personally responsible.
- President Wilson sent General John J. Pershing and 15,000 U.S. forces into Mexico to capture or kill Villa
- Wilson also called out 150,000 National Guardsmen to the Mexican border
- In June, clashes between U.S. and Mexican troops led to deaths on both sides
- By the end of the year, American forces had failed to capture Villa and the two countries were at an impasse

1917- In January, with the threat of the U.S. being drawn into the Great War in Europe over German aggression, Wilson ordered Pershing and his troops home.
The Great War- World War One

Causes of WWI

America was not one of the original entrants into what was called “the Great War” (WWI). The nations of Europe set off the events that led to war, largely because of competition and national interests. The United States would feel many of the same pressures of competition that led the other countries to fight. The four “MAIN” cause of WWI were militarism, the system of alliances, imperialism, and nationalism.

- **Militarism:** the development of armed forces, including armies and navies, and their use as a tool of diplomacy.
  - To support and protect their empires, imperial nations increased military spending.
  - Military spending increased as the imperial countries competed to build stronger militaries than their potential enemies
    - By 1890, Germany had the strongest military on the European continent
    - In 1897, the German Kaiser (emperor) Wilhelm II, decided to build up Germany’s naval power as well. Germany and Britain would compete to build the largest battleships and destroyers
      - France, Italy, Japan, and the U.S. followed suit.

- **Alliance System:** Countries that pledged mutual defensive protection would form an alliance. There were two major defense alliance in Europe in the early 1900s
  - Triple Alliance (the **Allies**)- Britain, France, and Russia
  - **The Central Powers**- Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire
    - While the system of alliances made countries reluctant to attack each other, it would only take one incident to spark a war between many countries

- **Imperialism:** While European countries had been building global empires for centuries, the race for markets and raw materials intensified as Germany industrialized and competed with France and Britain for colonies.

- **Nationalism:** the devotion to the interests and culture of one’s nation often led to competition and conflict.
  - Many European nation’s felt threatened by Germany’s growing power
Many ethnic groups did not share the same ethnic background and culture as the country that whose borders they resided in.

- Millions of Serbs, who are ethnically Slavic, lived under the rule of Austria-Hungary
- Russia, the largest of the ethnically Slavic nations, considered itself protector of all Slavic peoples regardless of which government they lived under.
- Russia and Austria-Hungary were rivals for influence over the Serbia

**An Assassination Leads to War** - Europe was a powder-keg, ready to explode, in the summer of 1914. Many countries were competing for control of the Baltic region. Russia wanted access to the Mediterranean Sea, Germany a railroad linking it to the Ottoman Empire. Austria-Hungary accused Serbia of meddling in its rule over Bosnia. The powder keg was ready to blow!

- June, 1914 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary visited Bosnia’s capital city, Sarajevo.
  - Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip shot the Archduke and his wife Sophie, sparking a diplomatic crisis.
- July 28, 1914 - Austria-Hungary declared what should have been a short war on Serbia
- Aug. 1, 1914 - Because Germany had an alliance with Austria-Hungary, it was obligated to support them. Germany declared war on Russia.
- Aug. 3, 1914 - Germany then declared war on Russia’s ally, France
  - After Germany invaded Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- The Great War was on!

**The Fighting Starts** - Germany’s strategy for fighting the war in Europe was known as the Schlieffen Plan, which entailed a holding action against Russia in the eastern front, and a quick strike through Belgium into France. When Paris fell, the Germans planned to move the bulk of its forces back to the east to defeat Russia. The German invasion started on Aug. 3, 1914 as they swept through Belgium. Unfortunately for all, both sides dug in near the Marne River in France, where both sides began digging a 300 mile long system of trenches. The bloody trench warfare contributed to the horrific carnage of the Great War.

**America Questions Neutrality** - President Wilson vowed to keep us neutral in the great struggle, but the American public was divided on the issue of war.

- Socialists criticized the war as part of the capitalist competition between imperial powers to control foreign markets.
• Pacifists, such as Jeanette Rankin, believed that war was evil and America should be an example of peace.
• First and second-generation immigrants often sided with their homeland. Many Americans of German decent sided with Germany.
• An even greater number of Americans, remembering our shared heritage, sided with the British.
• Economics provided even greater incentive for neutrality. The war helped America’s economy to boom!
  o U.S. manufacturers experienced a labor shortage as the orders from Allied countries for supplies including dynamite, gun powder, submarines, copper wire and tubing, and armored cares skyrocketed.

The War Hits Home

Although a majority of Americans wanted to stay out of war, by 1917 public opinion clearly favored the Allies for two important reasons: to profit and ensure that Allied countries repaid war debt to the U.S., and to prevent the Germans from threatening profitable U.S. shipping. ***Freedom of navigation of the seas would be the issue most significant to Woodrow Wilson’s foreign policy, from 1914 to 1917.***

The British Blockade- Britain blockaded to German coast and waterways into Europe in order to keep military supplies from reaching its enemies. The blockade list of goods was expanded to include foodstuffs. The blockade had two important consequences.
• First, neutral American ships heading to Germany refused to challenge the blockade, and subsequently did not reach their German customers.
• Second, as foodstuffs and fertilizer imports dwindled, a devastating famine decimated the country.
  o As many as 750,000 Germans starved to death.
• While the British blockade hurt America’s trade with Germany, the German response would push America to the breaking point.

Germany’s U-Boat Response- Germany responded to the British blockade with a devastating counter-offensive: sinking any British or Allied ship in British waters, often with no warning to the crews and passengers aboard. ***Prior to U.S. entry into WWI, Germany’s unrestricted submarine warfare most challenged our neutrality.***
• May 7, 1915- The British passenger ship, Lusitania, was torpedoed killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans. While Germany justified its actions by pointing out that ammunition was in the cargo hold, the death of so many Americans turned public opinion against Germany and the Central Powers.
• August, 1915- Germany struck again, this time sinking the British liner, the Arabic, killing two more Americans.
Just like the days following the *Lusitania* disaster, Wilson and protested but ruled out a military response.

- Germany's response was to promise not to target any more passenger ships.

- March, 1916- Germany's promise was broken when it sunk the French passenger ship, the *Sussex*, killing or injuring 80 passengers, including several Americans.
  - America threatened to end diplomatic relations if Germany did not stop the unprovoked attacks.
  - Germany issued its **Sussex pledge**, agreeing to stop the targeting of passenger ships if America successfully persuaded Britain to lift its blockade. Failure to meet that condition would result in unrestricted submarine warfare from the Germans.

**Wilson Wins Reelection in 1916**- Woodrow Wilson won a tight race against his Republican opponent, Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes. The war in Europe was a key issue, and many Democrats campaigned for Wilson with the slogan, “He Kept Us Out Of War!”

  - After Wilson’s second inauguration, many Americans considered this campaign slogan ironic, as Wilson soon made the case to both Congress and the public that “Right was more precious than peace” and it was time for America to join the fight to make the world safe for democracy.

**The United States Declares War**

**Germany's provocations, including a proposed alliance with Mexico, as well as an epic revolution in Russia would contribute to America’s decision to come to the aid of the Allies. But as spring sprung in 1917, it would again be the Germany U-boat attacks that would push the Americans over the edge.**

- Jan. 31, 1917- Germany’s Kaiser, Wilhelm II announced their resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare
  - Any ship in British waters would be shot on sight.
  - Wilson knew this would bring the U.S. into the war, but he told the nation he would wait for “actual overt acts” before seeking Congress’ declaration of war.

- Feb. 1917- News broke of a telegram from Germany to Mexico, intercepted by British agents.
  - This **Zimmerman note** proposed an alliance between Mexico and Germany, that in the even the U.S. declared war on Germany, Germany would support Mexico in recovering territories it had lost to the U.S., including Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.
  - Germany hoped to keep the U.S. occupied in North America, unable to effective help the Allies in Europe.

- March 1917- Events on land in Europe and in the Atlantic pushed America to the brink.
The toppling of Czar Nicholas of Russia resulted in the fall of the monarchy, which was replaced with a representative democracy.

- **This would allow Wilson to claim that this was “waged to make the world safe for democracy”**

- Germany sank four more unarmed American merchant ships
  - Wilson would take little time asking Congress to act

- April 2, 1917- **The German submarines sinking of U.S. merchant ships most influenced President Wilson’s decision to ask for Congress’ declaration of war. In his speech, Wilson made the case for America’s entry into the Great War.**

  - **“The new German policy has swept every restriction aside. Vessels of every kind....have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board....**The present German submarine war.....is a war against all nations....Our motive will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might of the nation, but on the vindication of right, of human right....**We are.....the sincere friends of the German people.....We shall, happily, still have an opportunity to prove that friendship in our daily attitude and actions towards the millions of men and women of German birth and native sympathy who live amongst us and share our life......

  - There are......many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.

  - **But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts......democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right.....as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world safe for democracy.**

  - To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured.”

- April 8, 1917- Congress declares war on Germany. The U.S. would now have to mobilize for war!
America Mobilizes

In April of 1917 the United States was ill prepared to enter the war in Europe. With a regular army of on 200,000 men, Congress and the nation would have to unite to mobilize for war. From raising an army to building a war machine, America would grease of gears of its industrial might in preparation for the battle across the Atlantic.

Raising an Army- To meet the need of manpower to fight the war, Washington needed to raise an army, Congress, in May 1917, instituted the draft through the passage and implementation of the Selective Service Act.

- The Selective Service Act required men to register with the government in order to be randomly selected for military service.
  - By 1918, 24 million men had registered and 3 million of those were called for duty.
  - 2 million American troops reached Europe before the end of the fighting, ¾ of which saw action.
- 400,000 African Americans served in the American forces, more than half of them in France. Most were assigned to noncombat duties.
  - Blacks served in segregated units, and were not allowed to serve in the Navy and Marines
- An eight-month training period was split between training in the U.S. and Europe.
- Women served important roles in the war effort
  - while not allowed to enlist, were reluctantly accepted in the Army Corps of Nurses
    - They were denied army rank, pay, and benefits
  - 13,000 accepted noncombat positions in the navy and marines
    - Nurses, secretaries, and telephone operators with full military rank

Mass Production- Able-bodied men and women were not the only provisions needed to wage battle. The U.S. would need to find a way to transport men, food, and equipment over U-boat soaked Atlantic. In order to expand its fleet and protect their cargo of war machine, the Washington took four crucial steps.

- Ensure enough shipbuilders to meet the demands of production
  - Shipyard workers were exempted from the draft, other essential workers were given deferred status, delaying their participation in the draft
- Promote the importance of shipyard work
The U.S. Chamber of Commerce joined in a public relations campaign to emphasize the importance of doc work. Distributed service flags to families of shipyard workers, like the flags given to families of soldiers and sailors. Urged automobile owners to give shipyard employees rides to and from work to ease the crowding of mass transit.

The government took over commercial and private ships, converting them for war use. Standardized panels were built in factories, then the ships would be assembled in the yard, drastically reducing the time it took to complete ships.

The first step to winning in Europe...was winning in the Atlantic. The convoy system, in which a heavy guard of destroyers defended merchant ships back and forth across the Atlantic, succeeded in cutting losses from U-boat attacks in half by the fall of 1917. The U.S. Navy assisted on the water by laying a 230-mile of mines across the North Sea from Scotland to Norway, in order to keep U-boats out of the Atlantic Ocean.

By early 1918, Germany struggled to replace losses and staff their fleet with trained submariners. The U.S. strategy on the seas was successful. Of the 2 million Americans who crossed to the seas to Europe during the war, only 637 were killed by U-boat attacks.

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Fighting "Over There" in Europe—American troops were desperately need to reinforce the depleted Allied forces. The fresh enthusiasm of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) would eventually turn the tide for the Allies, but not before our "doughboys," we're shocked by the horrors of the battlefield.

Airplanes—At first used for reconnaissance, planes would be used for dogfights and heavy bombing. Tanks—first developed by the British and used in the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Were capable of clearing a path for infantry by driving through barbed wire and other obstacles between the trenches.
 Eddie Rickenbacker became the most famous “American ace of aces” (pilot), engaging in 134 air battles and downing 26 enemy aircraft.

Rickenbacker repeatedly fought the Flying Circus, a Germany squadron led by the “Red Baron” Manfred von Richthofen.

- Zeppelins- massive airships were used to move troops and even planes and weapons.
- Poison gas- first deployed by the Germans, sickened, suffocated, burned, and blinded its victims.

The environment of trench warfare created other physical and psychological problems, unseen in war.

- Lack of sleep
- “Shell shock”, or PTSD, was the complete emotional collapse from the constant bombardment and horrific experiences of warfare.
  - Some soldiers never recovered.
- Trench foot, trench mouth, and giant rats were constant reminders of the horrors beyond the bullets.

**American Troops On the Offensive** - Following the Bolshevik revolution in October and November of 1917, Russia became a communist nation and its leaders and Shortly thereafter, early in 1918, withdrew their country from the war. **When Russia ended its involvement, President Wilson responded by rapidly deploying thousands of combat troops to Russia to protect Allied supplies and prevent war material from falling into enemy hands. This was just the beginning of the AEF’s experience in the war. As Germany made its final push toward Paris in the spring of 1918, American troops were thrown into battle.**

- June 1918- Americans first significant combat came at Chateau-Thierry helping to stop the German advance which saw the Keiser’s army reach within 40 miles of Paris.
- July-August 1918- The Allies, with the help of American troops, turned the tide at the 2nd Battle of the Marne. They would steadily push the German army back following this victory.
- Sept.-Nov. 1918- General Pershing was given control of 80 miles of the front near the Meuse-Argonne forest. During the fighting near Meuse-Argonne, one of America’s greatest war heroes emerged.
  - Alvin York sought an exemption from the draft as a conscientious objector, a person who opposes warfare on moral grounds. Eventually, York decided it was morally acceptable to fight if the cause was just.
  - On October 8, 1918, York, armed with only a rifle and a revolver, killed 25 Germans – and with six other doughboys - and captured 132 prisoners.
Commander of Allied forces in Europe, Marshal Foch, called York’s bravery, “the greatest thing accomplished by any private soldier of all the armies of Europe.”

York was promoted to sergeant and became a celebrity when he returned to the U.S.

- Nov. 3, 1918- Austria-Hungary surrendered to the Allies.
  - On the same day, German sailors mutinied against government authority. Their revolt quickly spread.
- Nov. 9, 1918- Socialists in Berlin established a German republic. Kaiser Wilhelm stepped down from power.
- Nov. 11th, at 11 a.m., 1918- Germany agreed to a cease-fire, signing the armistice, or truce agreement, that ended the war.

The Wars Astonishing Toll- The Great War was the deadliest war the world had seen up to that point. It was also economically devastating.
- Approximately 22 million were killed, more than half of those being civilians
- More than 20 million were wounded, and the ravages of war produced 10 million refugees
- The United States lost 48,000 in battle, with another 62,000 dying of disease. The number of wounded Americans topped 200,000!
- Economically, the war direct costs of the war are estimated at $338 billion! The U.S. spent nearly $35.5 billion on the war effort.
- Europe suffered widespread devastation of its industrial base

***This economic destruction is widely considered to be a contributing factor to the Great Depression.
The War Increases the Power of Government

In order to mobilize, the entire economy had to be retooled for the war effort. To achieve this, Congress gave President Wilson power to control much of the economy, including the power to fix certain prices, and to regulate - and even nationalize - certain war-related industries.

The War Industries Board (WIB)- Under the leadership of Bernard Baruch, the War Industries Board was charged with taking a central role in economic planning during the war.

- Encouraged companies to use mass-production techniques to increase efficiency
- Urged manufacturers to eliminate waste by standardizing production
- Set production quotas and allocated raw materials
- Under the WIB, industrial production increased 20%
- The WIB applied price controls at the wholesale level, but NOT at the resale level
  - This caused retail prices to skyrocket.
  - Corporate profits increased as well

The Railroad Administration

- Controlled the nation’s railroads, ensuring essential resources were delivered where they were needed

The Fuel Administration- monitored coal supplies and rationed gasoline and heating oil

- Encouraged “gasless Sundays” and “lightless nights”
- March 1918- introduced daylight savings time nationwide

The National War Labor Board- Headed by former president Howard Taft, the NWLB hoped to avoid disputes between labor and management that would hamper the war effort.

- Tried to avoid strikes through its “Work or Fight!” rule
  - Any unemployed male could be immediately drafted
- Encouraged employers to grant higher wages and the eight-hour workday
- Worked to improve factory conditions
- During the war, Union membership nearly doubled to more than 4 million
- Despite the NWLB’s efforts, more than 6,000 strikes occurred during the war
The Food Administration - Led by Herbert Hoover, the food administration called on citizens to self-ration, avoiding federal mandates.

- “Meatless Mondays”, “Sweetless Sundays”, “Wheatless Wednesdays”
- Restaurants removed sugar bowls from tables
- Families grew “Victory Gardens”, donating the harvests to the armed forces
- Hoover set a high government price on wheat and other staple crops
  o Farmers put 40 million more acres into production, increasing their income in the short-term...but leading to economic strife in the long-term

Selling the War

Controlling the economy was not the only task for the federal government. They also had to gain popular support for financing and waging the war.

Funding the War - Fighting the war would be expensive, ultimately costing the government $35.5 billion. To pay for the war, Washington increased taxes and encouraged the purchasing of bonds public borrowing from the government.

- Raising taxes- the progressive income tax (16th Amendment), war-profits tax, higher excise taxes on tobacco, liquor, and luxury goods
- “Liberty Loan” and “Victory Loan” bonds- the gov. sold bonds through the use of volunteers, including movie stars and other celebrities
  o 2/3 of the war’s cost were raised through the sale of these war bonds

The Committee on Public Information - The Committee on Public Information was Washington’s propaganda agency, and was headed by former muckraking journalist George Creel.

- ***The purpose of the CPI was to encourage broad public support for entry into the war and support for the war effort in general
  o Creel used propaganda, biased communication designed to influence peoples’ thoughts and actions.
- The CPI sent out 75,000 volunteers known as “four-minute men” to deliver patriotic speeches
- Posters and billboards, pamphlets and leaflets were sent around the country and the world containing President Wilson’s war message

Attacks on Civil Liberties

Attacks on civil liberties, by both the public and the government, were unintended consequences of the war.

Anti-Immigrant Attacks - The main targets of anti-immigrant hysteria were those who had come from Germany and Austria-Hungary.
A first-generation German immigrant living in the United States in 1917 would most likely have faced repression and possible deportation for objecting to the war in Europe:
- Many lost jobs
- Orchestras refused to play Mozart, Bach, and Beethoven
- Some towns with German names changed them
- Schools stopped teaching German language and libraries removed books of German authors
- Some Germans were even tarred and feathered
- German-origin foods were renamed
  - Hamburgers became “Salisbury steak”
  - Sauerkraut became “liberty cabbage”

**The Espionage and Sedition Acts** - Some violations of civil liberties came with the weight of the law. In June 1917 Congress passed the Espionage Act, and in May 1918 it passed the Sedition Act. Under the **Espionage and Sedition Acts**, one could be fined up to $10,000 and serve 20 years in jail for interfering with the war effort or saying anything disloyal, profane, or abusive about the government or the war effort.
- Over 2,000 prosecutions of violations of these laws
- Newspapers and magazines that opposed the war could lose mailing privileges
- Socialist and labor leaders were often targeted
  - Eugene V. Debs was convicted and handed a 10-year prison sentence for speaking out against the war and the draft
  - “Big Bill” Haywood, leader of the Industrial Workers of the World was also thrown in jail
  - Anarchist Emma Goldman was jailed for 2 years and received a $10,000 fine for organizing the No Conscription League
    - She was deported to Russia when released from prison
- The most famous challenge to the Espionage and Sedition Acts was the case **Schenk V. United States.**
  - Schenk’s conviction for distributing leaflets encouraging avoiding the draft was upheld
  - The Supreme Court claimed that during war time, speech that posed a “clear and present danger” could be limited

**The War Encourages Social Change**

The war had lasting effects, both positive and negative on African Americans and women.

**African Americans Debate the War** - Opinions regarding the war varied in the black community.
- W.E.B. DuBois believed blacks should support the war
He thought support for the war would strengthen their calls for
equality and racial justice

- William Monroe Trotter, founder of the Boston Guardian, called for victims of
  racism to protest against the US. Government
- Others questioned why blacks should fight for the freedom of others abroad,
  when they didn’t have freedom at home

The Great Migration - America’s entry into the Great War accelerated the large-
- scale movement of African Americans from the South to the North, known as the
Great Migration.

- African Americans sought to escape Jim Crow of the South
  - The black-owned paper Chicago Defender ran articles contrasting
    Southern lynchings with the prosperity of African Americans in the
    North
  - Unfortunately, racism and discrimination existed in the North as well
- A boll weevil infestation, drought, and floods had ruined much of the cotton
  crop in the South
- Job opportunities in the North, especially in war-related factories, helped
  lure job seekers
  - European immigration was virtually stopped with the outbreak of war
  - Manufacturers sent recruiting agents to the South, with free railroad
    passes to entice blacks to move North

Women and the War Years - Women also benefited from new job opportunities
during the war. Their service during the war years would help them achieve their
long-awaited goal of suffrage.

- Women gained new job opportunities, previously held only for men
  - Railroad workers, cooks, dockworkers, bricklayers, coal miners, and
    shipbuilders
- Women also increased their success in more traditional roles
  - Nurses, clerks, teachers
- Some women worked in volunteer service for the war effort
  - Red Cross bandage rollers
  - Sold war bonds
  - Grew victory gardens
- Other women were pacifists, speaking out against the war
  - Jeanette Rankin, the first female member of the House of
    Representatives, voted against Congress’ declaration of war
  - Jane Addams helped found the Women’s Peace Party in 1915
- Women’s work in the war effort helped bolster public support for suffrage
  - “The services of women during the supreme crisis have been of the
    most signal usefulness and distinction; it is high time that part of our
    debt should be acknowledged” - President Wilson
  - In 1919 Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment, to be ratified by
    the states in 1920
The Spanish Flu Epidemic- Perhaps the most devastating effect of the war on the home front was the Spanish influenza pandemic that ravaged the country, and the world, in 1918 and 1919.

- Possibly spread by returning soldiers, the flu epidemic affected about one-quarter of the U.S. population
  - Mines shut down, telephone service was cut in half, and factories and offices staggered working hours to avoid spreading the disease
- More than one-quarter of service members were also hit by the flu
- ***At least 50 million people died worldwide as a result of the Spanish influenza pandemic!
Wilson’s Fight for a “Just and Lasting” Peace

Long before the war had reached its conclusion, President Wilson was thinking to the future. On January 8, 1918, the president delivered his Fourteen Points, his vision to prevent another war, to Congress.

Wilson’s Fourteen Points: *** The goal of President Wilson’s Fourteen Points was to provide a plan for a just and lasting peace. The points were divided into three groups.

- The first five points aimed to prevent another great war
  1. There should be no secret treaties between nations
  2. Freedom of the seas to be maintained for all nations
  3. Tariffs and other economic barriers between nations should be lowered or removed altogether- a push for free trade
  4. Military arms should be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety, thus lessening the possibility of military responses” during diplomatic crises
  5. Adjust colonial claims in the interests of both native peoples and those of the imperial powers.

- The next eight points dealt with boundary changes, based on the principle of “self-determination”
  - Ex. Poles, millions of whom lived within the boundaries and control of German and Austria-Hungary, should be given their own nation.
  - ***Wilson’s refusal to recognize the legitimacy of the Bolshevik government in Russia contradicted this principle of self-determination.

- The last, and most important point to Wilson, was the creation of a League of Nations- an international organization to address diplomatic crises before they sparked a war
  - A system of collective security
  - Wilson hoped the League of Nations would guarantee political independence and territorial integrity of all countries

The Allies Reject Wilson’s Plan- Certain Allied leaders rejected Wilson’s plan for peace. They had hoped to gain territory and influence with their victory in the war. To make matters worse, the leaders of the Central Powers were not included in the peace conference that followed the war.

- French premier Georges Clemenceau was determined to prevent another German invasion of France
British prime minister David Lloyd George had won reelection, promising to “Make Germany Pay!”

Vittorio Orlando, Italy’s prime minister, wanted to control Austrian-held territory

As the “Big Four”- Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George, and Orlando hammered out the war-ending treaty, Wilson was forced to capitulate on most of his Fourteen Points in return for the creation of the League of Nations

The Treaty of Versailles

In late 1918 and early 1919, President Wilson tried to persuade leaders of the victories Allies to implement the Fourteen Points, his plan based on idealism. They wanted none of it. Instead, the treated hammered out at the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, France was one that reflected the goals of the vengeful Allies, who wanted nothing more than to make Germany pay! Defying the laws of tradition, neither Germany, nor the former ally Russia, were invited to the peace conference.

Provisions of the Treaty- The Treaty of Versailles brought an official end to the war...but created the conditions for one to be fought in the future- one more far-reaching and deadly.

- Created nine new nations
  - Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
  - Shifted the boundaries of other nations- namely Russia
- Carved five areas out of the Ottoman Empire, and gave control of these mandates to France and Great Britain
  - They would have temporary control over these colonies until they were ready for self-rule and then independence
- The treaty punished Germany
  - Barred Germany from maintaining an army
  - Required Germany to return the Alsace-Lorraine region to France
  - Forced Germany to pay reparations, war damages, totaling $33 billion to the Allies

Weaknesses of the Treaty- The Treaty of Versailles, in large part, set the conditions for an even greater world war. Several flaws, including the severe punishment of Germany and the land snatched from Russia, would contribute to a larger and more devastating war over the same land...in only twenty years.

- The Treaty humiliated Germany
  - The war-guilt clause forced Germany to take sole responsibility for starting the war, even though every other country was guilty of the same contributing behavior.
- The Treaty crushed the German economy
  - There was no way Germany could repay the massive reparations
• Germany was stripped of its colonies in the Pacific
  o These colonies could have helped Germany to pay its reparations
• The Treaty stripped Russia of even more land than it did Germany
  o Following Russia's pull from the war and turned to communism, the Allies left them out of the peace process
  o Russia, or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics after 1922, became determined to regain the territory that was lost in the treaty
• The Treaty ignored colonial cries for self-determination
  o Ho Chi Minh, of Vietnam, pleaded for independence from the French. He was ignored by all parties, including President Wilson
• ***The conditions of the Treaty of Versailles contributed to the rise of German nationalism and the Third Reich (German Empire), which would be destined to get revenge and take its place as the leader of Europe (and possible the world) just 14 years later.

Opposition to the Treaty at Home- Just as Wilson faced opposition to his Fourteen Points in Europe, when he returned home from Versailles, the Treaty would face stiff opposition in both houses of government and public opinion.
• Wilson, appealing to the public to vote Democratic in the Nov. 1919 midterm elections, lost. The public gave the Republicans a small majority in Congress
  o Wilson’s decision to go to Paris in person, and failing to include a single Republican in his peace delegation, infuriated Republicans in both houses of Congress.
• ***When the President came home, Senatorial opposition to the Treaty of Versailles was led by **Henry Cabot Lodge**
  o Senators William Borah of Idaho and Hiram Johnson of California, known as the **irreconcilables**, helped Lodge in his drive to defeat the treaty
• Herbert Hoover believed the treaty too harsh, stating that, “The economic consequences alone will pull down all Europe and thus injure the United States.”
• Some criticized the Treaty as another win for imperialism- noting that the Treaty simple exchanged one set of imperial rulers for another
• Various ethnic groups opposed the Treaty because the new boundaries did not satisfy their demands for self-determination
  o While many Poles were under German rule before the war, many Germans were now under Polish rule following the Treaty

Debate Over the League of Nations- The greatest obstacle to the Treaty was its inclusion of the League of Nations
• Most members of Congress opposed to the Treaty wanted to turn back to America's isolationism, and feared that the League of Nation's usurped Congress' sole power to declare war
They feared U.S. joining the League of Nations would bring them into another war

**Wilson Refuses to Compromise...Killing the Treaty Himself** - Wilson may have had better luck getting the Senate to compromise on the League of Nations had he included Republicans in the treaty delegation. But he didn’t. Instead, Wilson dug in his heals and set out in September 1919 on an 8,000 mile tour, giving 34 speeches in three weeks, in an attempt to bend public opinion in favor of the U.S. joining the League of Nations. This would turn out to be a disastrous decision.

- On Oct. 2\(^{nd}\) 1919, Wilson suffered a stroke
  - He was partially paralyzed, unable to meet with his cabinet for two months.
- Nov. 1919 - Senator Lodge introduced a number of amendments to the Treaty, when it came up for a vote.
  - President Wilson instructed all Democrats to vote against the treaty with the Lodge amendments.
  - The Senate rejected Lodge’s amendments, and ultimately failed to ratify the Treaty.
- Public was so frustrated, that the Senate was forced to bring the Treaty up for ratification a second time, in March 1920.
  - The Treaty was brought up again, and again it contained Lodges reservations.
  - It could only be passed if it included the Lodge amendments
    - President Wilson again asked all loyal Democrats to vote down the Treaty.
- On March 19, 1920, the Senate again rejected the Treaty, killing it once and for all.
  - The U.S. would sign a separate treaty with Germany in 1921

***The main consequence of the Senate’s refusal to ratify the Treaty of Versailles was that the League of Nations was greatly weakened***