

Topic/Objective:

World War I (1914-1918)

Name:

Class/Period:

Date: 3/2018

Essential Question:

1. How did the United States react to the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914?
2. What factors led to U.S. involvement in that conflict?
3. Did America live up to its creed of "making the world safe for democracy" at home?
4. Why does the Senate reject the League of Nations? What policy does America return to as a result?

Process your notes (create questions or visuals)

Notes:

Describe the major factors that led to the outbreak of WWI

1. Nationalism: Belief that your nation is superior to other nations. This idea was influential in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Europe
2. Imperialism: As European nations industrialized, they sought raw materials and markets for their products. European nations ran the risk of conflict as they competed over colonies throughout the world
3. Militarism: In order to carry out a policy of imperialism, European nations built massive militaries
4. Alliance System: In order to secure the empires gained through imperialism, nations entered into alliances (many of them secret) with each other. Europe soon divided into two rival alliance systems
  - a. Assassination of Franz-Ferdinand: the "spark of the war." Austria-Hungary ruled over Serbia yet Serbia desired their independence. Gavrillo Princep, a Serbian nationalist, assassinated a member of the royal family of Austria-Hungary, leading to a war between Serbia and Austria-Hungary. This conflict brought all the major powers in Europe into a World War due to the alliance system.
    - i. Allied Powers (Triple Entente): Great Britain, France & Russia
    - ii. Central Powers (Triple Alliance): Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy

What foreign policy did the US follow at the start of WWI?

- 1914: Woodrow Wilson declares America will remain Neutral
  - Continues George Washington's advice to avoid alliances with any European nation!
  - 1916 - Wilson runs for re-election with the campaign slogan: "He kept us out of war"
- Problem: both Allies and Central Powers need loans, supplies, and munitions from America to continue fighting. What should America do?
  - Great Britain blockades Germany to cripple the German economy and preventing American goods from reaching Germany
  - Germany responds by using U-Boats (submarines) to destroy British blockade and sink ships en route to Great Britain or France to cripple their economies

Why does America break its neutrality and intervene in World War I on the side of the Allies?

1. Economic ties to the Allied Powers (England and France)
2. Cultural ties to the Allied Powers (England and France)
  - a. System of government (Democracy)
  - b. Religion (Protestant) - dominant religion in America
  - c. History (America was settled primarily by Englishmen)
  - d. Germany had a military dictator and lacked a tradition of democracy
    - i. British Blockade sponsored by Allied powers depicted German war atrocities in an effort to sway American opinion
3. German policy of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
  - a. British blockade was very effective in causing German economy to struggle to produce necessary materials to wage war.
  - b. Beginning in 1917, German U-Boats sank ships traveling across the Atlantic in an effort to stop America's trade with Britain and France
4. Zimmerman Telegram
  - a. Germany sent a secret telegram to Mexico asking Mexico to declare war on the United States
    - i. This action was a gamble on the part of the Germans - they knew it would lead to war with the United States but Germany hoped they could deliver a knock-out punch to either Britain or France before America could mobilize their forces.
5. A willingness to fight for American values: "To make the world safe for Democracy"
  - a. Woodrow Wilson believed that Germany was a threat to world peace
  - b. American intervention could defeat Germany and provide the world leadership to prevent another war
    - i. Wilson's plan was called the 14 Points
    - ii. 14 Points = Plan for World Peace
      1. Reducing size of every nation's military
      2. No secret alliances
      3. Self-determination end to imperialism and independence for colonies
      4. Reduce barriers to trade (tariffs) that led to imperialism
      5. Freedom of navigation on the seas
      6. Creation of international laws / govt. (League of Nations)

# World War I at Home: Was America "Safe for Democracy?" How well did we live up to our democratic values at home during World War I?

## Anti-War Protestors

Anti-war Protestors were denied their freedom of speech

- Espionage Act - used to imprison Americans who spoke out against the war
- Schenck - arrested & convicted for anti-war pamphlet
- Supreme Ct. rules speech can be limited in time of war "clear & present danger"

## German-Americans

German Americans were denied all freedoms, equality etc. and were discriminated against.

- Search for spies - shut down German culture
- vigilantes attack "unpatriotic"
- Lynching of German baker in 1918

## Women

Women gained a voice in government when they gained the right to vote in 1919

- 1848 First Women's rights convention
- 1913 Protests in Washington 1915
- 1918 - Wilson supports women to show allies are fighting for democracy.

## African-Americans

African Americans were not treated as equals, were denied their natural rights and liberties

- segregation in federal offices
- racial violence
- segregation in the military \* discrimination
- race riots as veterans return and expect equality.

"To Make the World Safe for Democracy"

- Freedom/Liberty (ex: speech, religion)
- Equality
- Natural Rights (life, liberty etc...)
- Consent of Governed: People have a voice in Gov't

What were Woodrow Wilson's core beliefs about international relations?

- America should not be isolationist and should be a permanent player on world stage
- America must spread its values around the world: democracy, rule of law, free trade, and an end to imperialism
- American could avoid future international conflicts by forming and leading the League of Nations
  - An international "government" dedicated to preventing conflicts from breaking out around the world
  - Based on the philosophy of collective security: a threat to one is a threat to all!
- Wilson sought to create a peace treaty that lived up to these values
- Problem: Britain, France, Italy: We hate the 14-points!
  - Wilson is being too easy on Germany - want to punish them for starting the war
  - Self-Determination is a threat to their control of colonies in Africa and Asia
  - No interest in reducing their own military due to a fear of another German invasion
- Final product: Treaty of Versailles (peace treaty that ends World War I)
  - Incredibly harsh on Germany
    - loses territory; prohibited from having military
    - forced to sign "War Guilt" clause
    - must pay reparations (\$\$\$) to Allies
- Only contains 5 of Wilson's 14-points but it does create the League of Nations!
- Wilson returns home to seek ratification of the Treaty of Versailles by the U.S. Senate:
  - Article II: President has the power to make treaties with the advice and consent of the Senate
  - Splitting the treaty making power is an example of checks & balances
- Americans are divided over the Treaty of Versailles
  - "Irreconcilables": "Under no circumstances will America sign the treaty and join the League of Nations"
  - "Reservationists": "America will sign the treaty if certain reservations (or changes) are made to the language concerning the League of Nations"
  - "Wilsonians": "America should sign the treaty as is"

Directions: Use the primary source packet to fill in the chart below

Arguments AGAINST the League of Nations	Arguments FOR the League of Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- impossible to safeguard our own institutions</li><li>- leads to entanglement in foreign affairs - opposite of Washington's neutrality advice</li><li>- America could end up fighting for something they have no interest in.</li><li>- Takes away America's right to govern themselves</li><li>- American troops could be ordered by other nations - out of U.S. control</li><li>- League of Nations would give too much power to other nations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- only a world-wide league can defend rights and improve living conditions of all people</li><li>- Article X states that Council cannot act without US vote</li><li>- A league of nations would have prevented WWI if it had existed</li><li>- Necessary for the good of all mankind</li><li>- Honors those who died in WWI by preventing future wars</li></ul>

- Wilson refused to allow any reservations to be added to the Treaty and instructed his own supporters to vote against the Treaty!
  - o In October 1919, Wilson suffered a devastating stroke, rendering him unable to keep fighting for the Treaty
  - o In November 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles.
  - o With the rejection of the treaty, the U.S. returned to a policy of isolationism during the 1920s and 1930s.

