

Chapter Summary

World War I and Its Aftermath, 1914–1920

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do nations go to war?

This chapter discusses how and why the United States entered World War I, the technological advances in the war, and the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the war. The chapter discusses the war effort on the home front and the climate of the country after the war.

The United States Enters World War I

- A naval race caused tensions between Britain and Germany.
- Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy created a Triple Alliance leading to fear that Germany wanted to expand its territories.
- In 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, triggering the war.
- Americans became anti-German and supported the Allies financially and with supplies.
- Germany formed an alliance with Mexico, which angered the United States.
- German submarines attacked neutral ships.
- Germany sank the *Lusitania* and the *Sussex* but halted attacks to keep the United States out of the war.

The Home Front

- The War Industries Board was formed.
- The Food Administration encouraged families to conserve food and plant victory gardens.
- In an effort to conserve energy, shortened workweeks and daylight savings time were established.
- The National War Labor Board was created to prevent strikes, which could disrupt the war effort.
- Women, African Americans, and Mexican Americans took jobs left vacant by white men.

- Many African Americans served in the war.
- The Espionage Act of 1917 passed.
- Laws limiting Civil Rights were upheld by the Supreme Court in *Schenck v. United States* and *Abrams v. United States*.

A Bloody Conflict

- New technologies, such as tanks, aircraft, and poison gas were used.
- The U.S. “doughboys” boosted the morale of the Allies.
- States allowed initiatives, referenda, and recall votes.
- On November 11, 1918, an armistice ended the war.
- Wilson presented his Fourteen Points and called for the formation of the League of Nations.
- The Treaty of Versailles was designed to punish Germany.

The War’s Impact

- The end of the war led to major economic problems and social tensions, including inflation, strikes, and riots.
- The Communists seized power in Russia and signed an agreement with Germany.
- In 1919, strikes, bomb scares, and fear of communism led to the founding of the FBI, which led raids on immigrants.
- Harding was elected president.