

# World War I

“The War to End All Wars”

*Unit 24 (1914-1919)*

*American Nation Textbook*

*(Pages 640-671)*



# 1. War in Europe

In 1914 Europe exploded into war. Extreme feelings of nationalism, or pride in one's nation, fueled the tension. European nationalists demanded freedom and self-government. Imperialism fueled rivalries between powerful nations. Between 1870 and 1914, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia scrambled for colonies in Africa, Asia, and Pacific



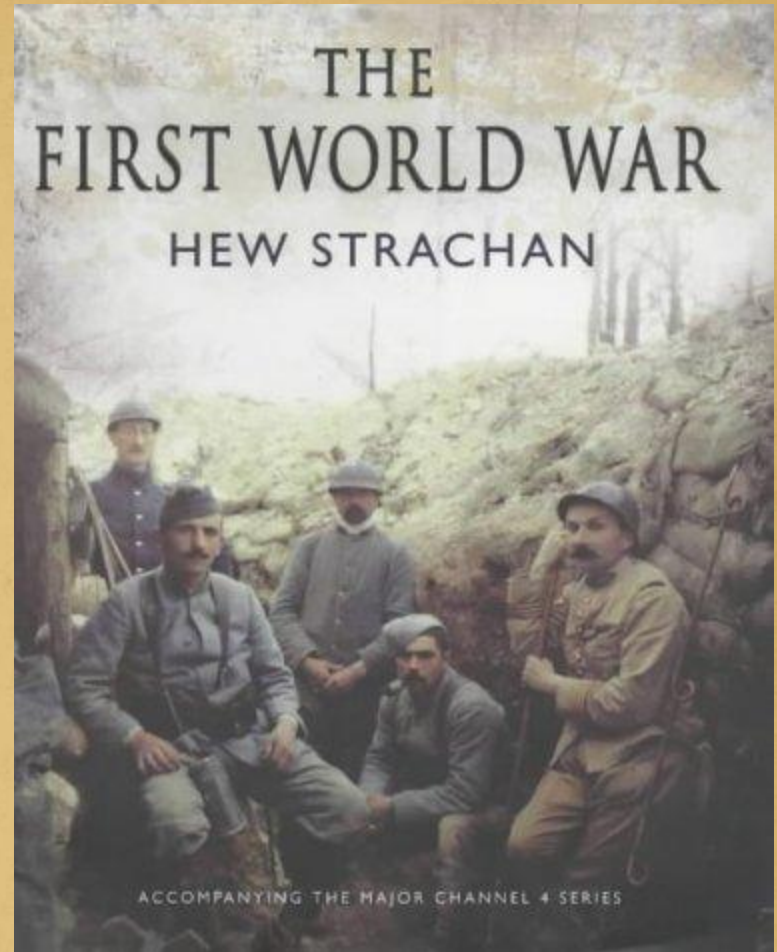


Another source of tension in Europe was militarism, the policy of building up strong armed forces to prepare for the war. To protect themselves, European powers formed a series of alliances. Germany organized a Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy. France responded by allying itself with Russia and Britain in the Triple Entente.

In June 1914, the new crisis struck. Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne in Austria-Hungary. A terrorist fatally shot Franz Ferdinand and his wife on the street in Sarajevo. On July 28, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. The next day, Russia ordered its forces to mobilize, or prepare for war. Germany, called on Russia to cancel the order to mobilize. When they received no reply, Germany declared war on Russia on August 1. Then Germany declared on France.



When German armies sliced through neutral Belgium on their march to France, Britain declared war on Germany. The German emperor, or Kaiser, and promised his troops as they marched to war that they would be home soon. Both sides hoped that the war would end soon. The war dragged on for four years from 1914 to 1918. This war became known as World War I.



The war pitted the Central Powers; Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman or Turkish Empire (Turkey) against the Allied Powers—France, Britain, and Russia. In time, twenty one other nations, including Italy joined the Allies. Both sides dug in, creating a maze of trenches protected by mines and barbed wire. Soldiers spent weeks in these muddy rat-infested holes in the ground. In trench warfare, soldiers spent the day after day shelling the enemy.



## Europe in World War I

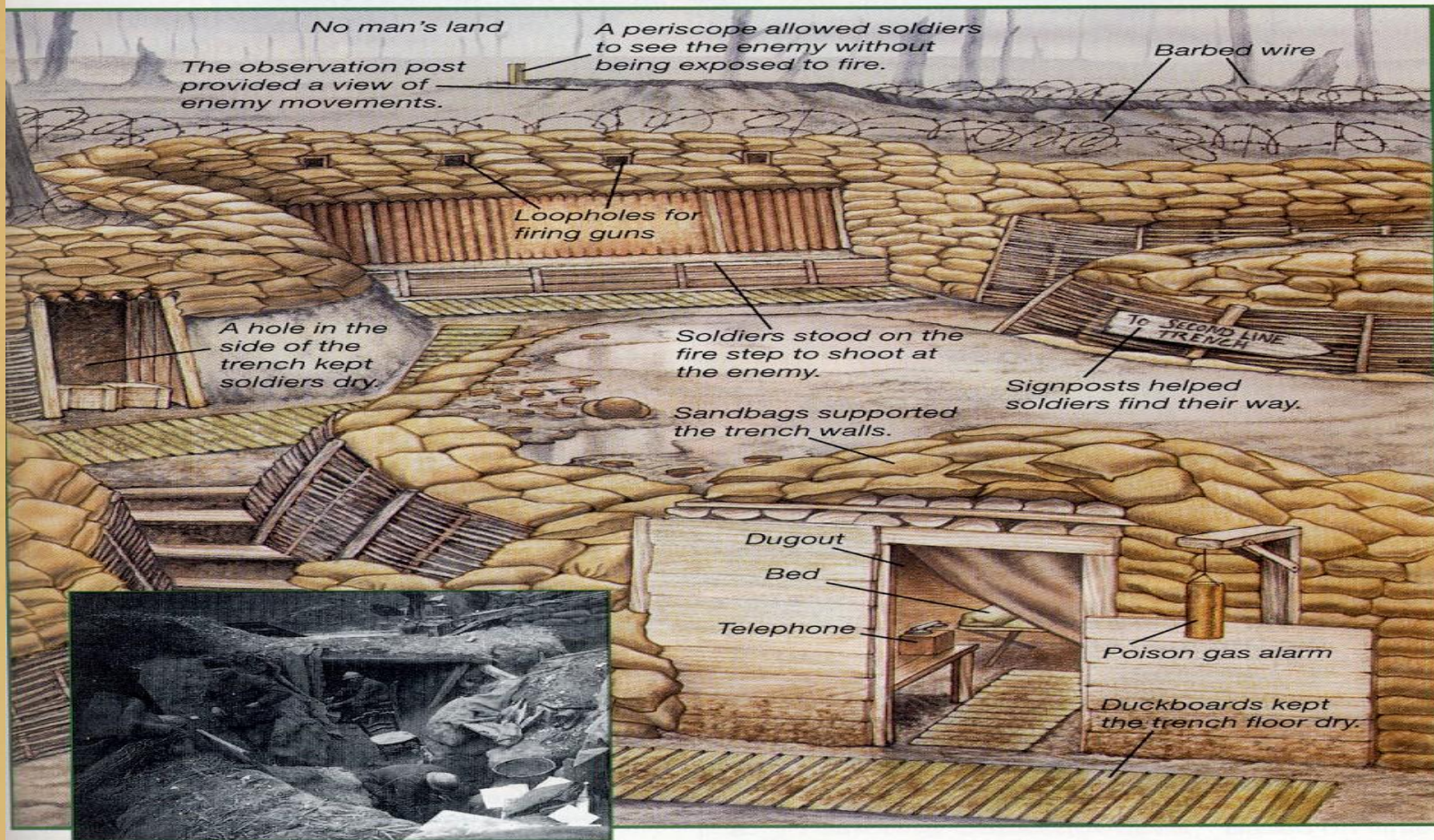


### Geography Skills

World War I was fought on many fronts. The Central Powers clashed with the Allies in France, Belgium, Russia, Italy, and the Ottoman Empire.

- 1. Location** On the map, locate: (a) Sarajevo, (b) Serbia, (c) Austria-Hungary, (d) Germany, (e) Russia, (f) France, (g) Great Britain.
- 2. Movement** Through which country did German troops march on their way to France?
- 3. Critical Thinking** Judging from the map, why was the alliance between France and Russia a threat to Germany?

## Linking History and Technology



### Trench Warfare

During World War I, soldiers on both sides dug networks of trenches. The typical trench was about 6 to 8 feet (1.8 to 2.4 m) deep and just wide enough for two men to pass. "No man's land," a stretch of barren ground protected by barbed wire and land mines, lay between enemy trenches. ★ **How do you think trench warfare affected the land and resources of the surrounding environment?**





**Viewing**  
HISTORY

## Victims of Poison Gas

*Gassed*, by John Singer Sargent, shows troops disabled by poison gas in 1918. Gas was one of the most feared weapons of World War I. Various gases caused choking, blindness, or severe skin blisters.

★ Why do you think nations later agreed to ban the use of poison gas?

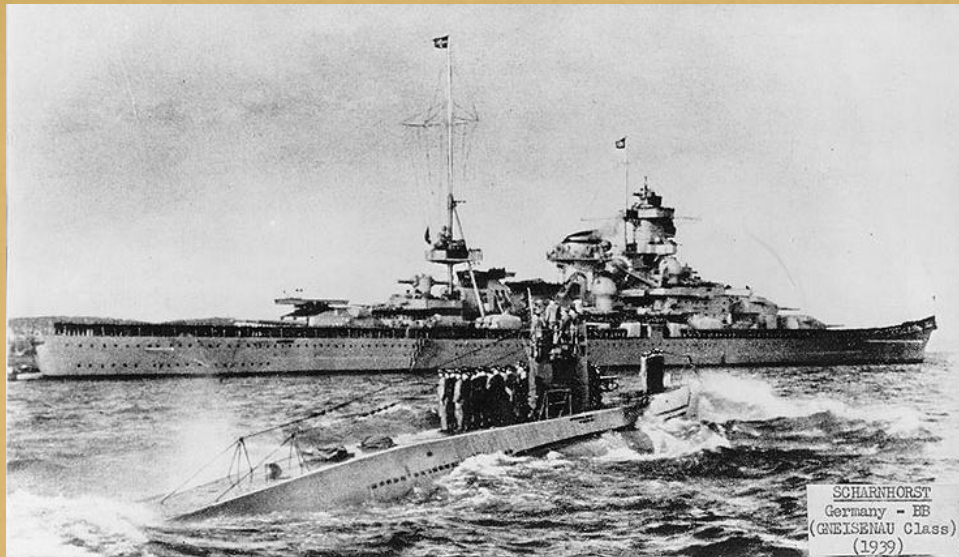
◀ World War I gas mask

When war broke out in Europe, the United States was determined to avoid being dragged into the conflict. The government adopted an official position of neutrality. President Woodrow Wilson called on Americans “to be neutral in fact as well as in name.” Public opinion, however, was divided often along ethnic lines. The war had several immediate effects on the United States. The economy boomed. American farmers and manufactures rush to fill orders for war goods.



One of the War Heroes of the Germans was  
“The Red Baron.”





U-boats.



propaganda

Both sides waged a propaganda war in the United States. Propaganda is a spreading of ideas and helped cause or hurt an imposing cause. Each side pictured the other as savage beasts who killed innocent civilians. To enforce a blockade of trade Germany used a new powerful weapon – a fleet of submarines known as U-boats. German U-boats attacked a ship data entered or left British ports.

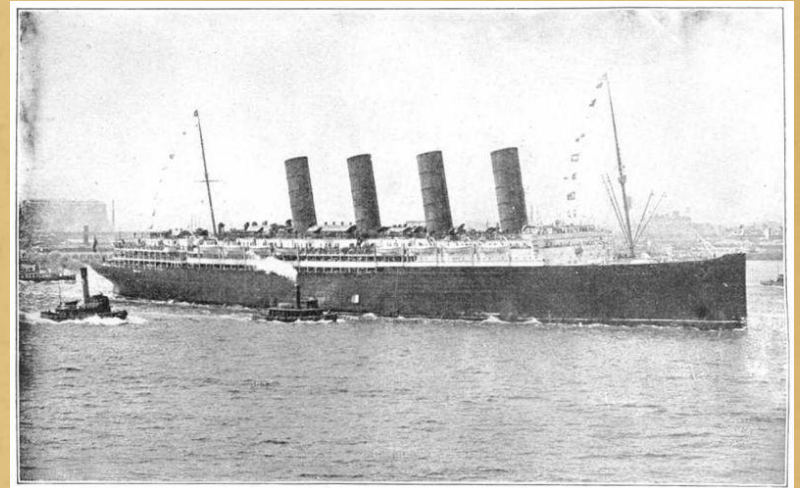


## Viewing HISTORY Alliances Lead to War

*Distressed Americans looked on as World War I unfolded in Europe. This cartoon appeared in an American newspaper in the summer of 1914.*

★ What does the woman in the background represent? What are the nations of Europe doing in the cartoon?

On May 7, 1915, a German submarine torpedoed the Lusitania, a British passenger ship, off the coast of Ireland. Nearly 1,200 people died, including 120 Americans. Wilson called the sinking of the ship murder on the high seas. Germany did not want to risk war with the United States so if they agreed to stop attacking neutral ships without warning.



Lusitania

## 2. From Neutrality to War

The outbreak of war in Europe horrified American or to maker Henry Ford. Ford sailed to Europe to try to bring the warring powers to the peace table. As Christmas past, the war went on. A President Wilson tried to bring both sides to peace talks. He believed that the United States, as a neutral country, could lead the warring nations to a fair peace. The President built a stronger navy and army because he thought the United States to be drawn into the war.



**WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM**  
 NEWCOMB CARLTON, President

Send the following telegrams, subject to the terms on each hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

via Galveston

JAN 6 8 1917

GERMAN LEGATION  
 MEXICO CITY

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21540	10247	11518	23677	13005	3494	14930	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5181	39605	
23571	17504	11209	18278	18101	0317	0228	17694	4475	
22284	22200	19452	21589	07893	5589	13918	8958	12137	
1233	4725	4458	5905	17166	13851	4458	17149	14471	8708
13850	12224	0929	14991	7382	15857	67893	14218	56477	
6970	17553	67893	5870	5454	18102	15217	22801	17132	
51001	17348	7440	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3110	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22401	20859	4377	
23010	18140	22290	6905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20067	
6929	5278	18507	52202	1340	22049	13339	11285	22295	
10439	14814	4178	0992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52282	11287
21100	21272	9342	9559	22424	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2188	5376	7381	98092	10127	13486	9350	9220	76036	14219
6144	2831	17920	11347	17142	11284	7667	7762	15099	9110
10482	97550	3805	3670						

BEPNSTOPFF.

Charge German Embassy.

People who tried to stir up wars were called warmongers. In January, 1917, and Wilson issued what proved to be his final plea for peace, but it was too late. Germany has already decided to use submarine warfare.

In February, Wilson learned that Arthur Zimmermann had sent a secret note to the German minister in Mexico. The Zimmermann Telegram instructed the minister to tell Mexico to attack the United States if the United States to cleared war on Germany. In return, Germany would help Mexico regain the territory is lost to the United States. This action plunged the United States into the war. In addition, German submarines sank several American merchant ships.



When the war in Europe began in 1914, Russians united behind the czar or ruler of Russia. Heavy losses at the front and economic hardship at home caused the riots in Russia. Russian revolutionaries called for democracy. President Wilson welcomed the Russian Revolution. The Russians pulled out of the war because of the revolution. On April 2, and President Wilson went before Congress to ask for a declaration of war. He said the world must be safe for democracy. Congress voted for war. On April 6, the President signed the declaration of war. It thrusts Americans into the deadliest war the world hasn't yet seen.

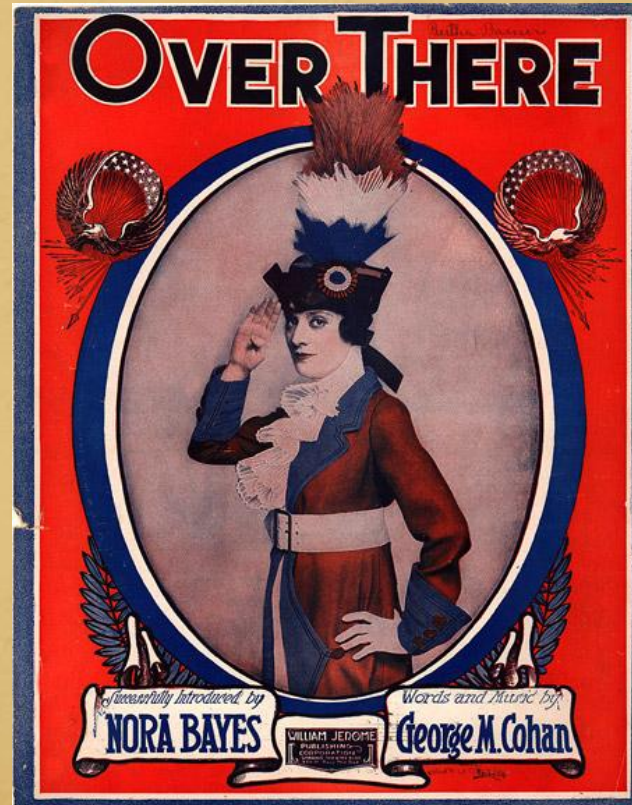


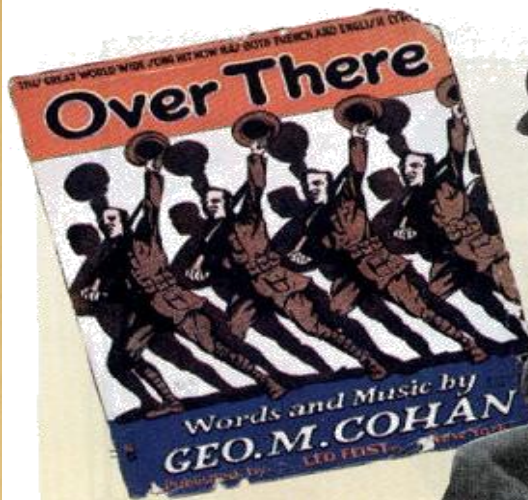
**Czar of Russia**



**Signing the Declaration of War**

The day after Congress declared war, George M. Cohan wrote a new song, "Over There." The two swept the nation. On May 18, Congress passed the Selective Service Act. And it acquired all young men from the age 21 to 30 to register for the military draft. A draft is a law requiring people of certain age to serve in the military. In next eighteen months, 4 million men and women joined the armed forces.





▲ Sheet music for  
"Over There"



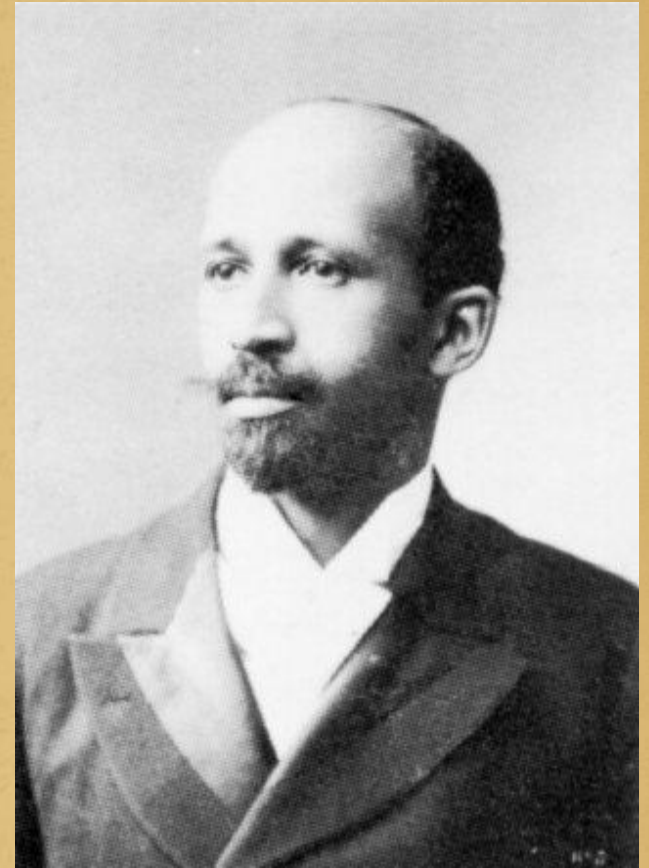
## **Biography** George M. Cohan

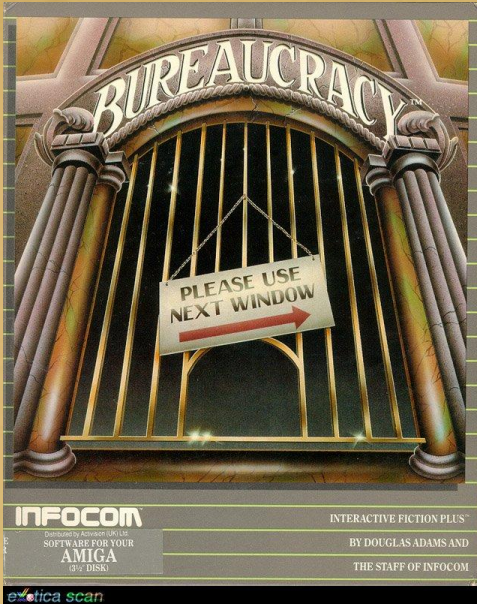
A popular singer and dancer, George M. Cohan was also famous for his patriotism. He wrote such songs as "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy." During World War I, "Over There" boosted soldiers' morale and earned money for the war effort. In appreciation, Congress awarded Cohan a special medal. ★ **Why are patriotic songs important to a nation?**

African Americans rallied behind the war effort, W.E.B. Du Bois voiced wrong support for the war's goals. He said:

**“Let us, while the war lasts, forget our special grievances and close the ranks... with our fellow citizens and the Allied nations that are fighting for democracy.”**

While men drilled for combat, women served as radio operators, clerks and stenographers. People got caught up in the wars spirit. For many recruits, especially African Americans, seven years, and immigrants, the army offered several firsts. It was the first exposure to military authority and discipline. About 25% were illiterate, that is, unable to read or write.



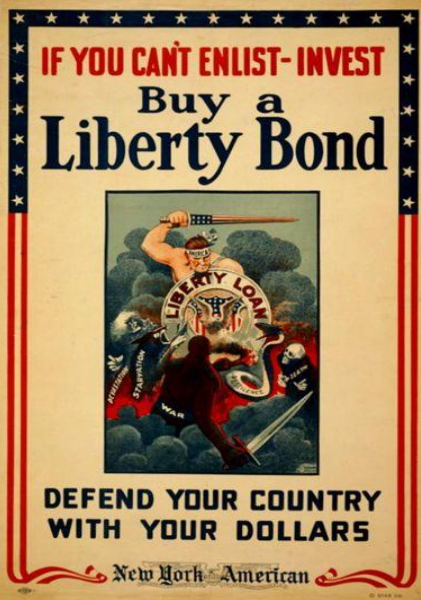
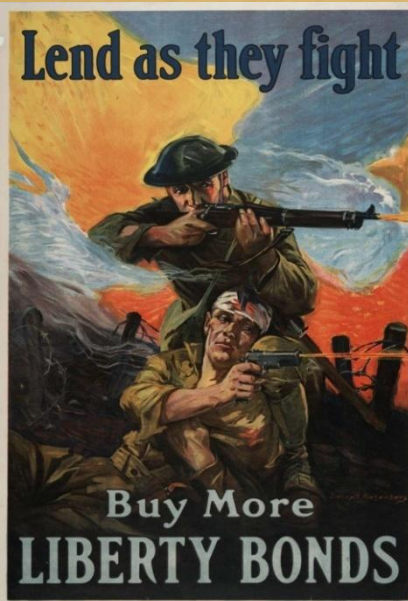


## bureaucracy

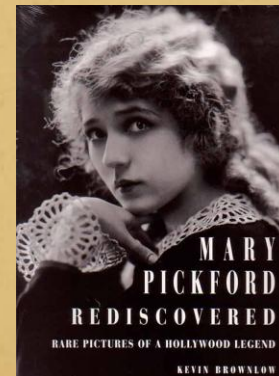
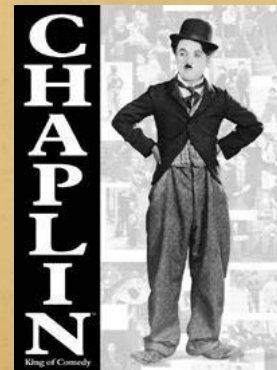
States are recognized its economy to produce food, arms, and other goods needed to fight the war. A huge bureaucracy emerged to manage the war effort. A bureaucracy is a system of managing government through departments run by appointed officials. Wilson chose Herbert Hoover to head Food Administration. Hoover's job was to boost food production. The nation had to feed his troops and help Allies.



Herbert Hoover



Americans on the home front united behind the war effort. Movie stars, such as Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford, helped sell Liberty Bonds. By buying bonds, American citizens were lending money to the government to pay for the war. As men join the armed forces, women stepped into their jobs. Women received better pay in war industries than they had in peacetime. Still, they earned less than men they replaced. Some women drove trolley cars and delivered the mail. By performing well in jobs once reserved for men, women helped change the view that they were fit only for “women’s work.” Indeed German prejudice spread throughout the United States.





**Viewing**  
HISTORY

## Women Support the War Effort

Whether in uniform or on the job, American women rallied behind the war effort. The poster at right urged support for women serving in the military. The shipyard workers above hold the tongs and buckets they used to work with red-hot steel rivets. ★ How do you think wartime work helped women win the right to vote?





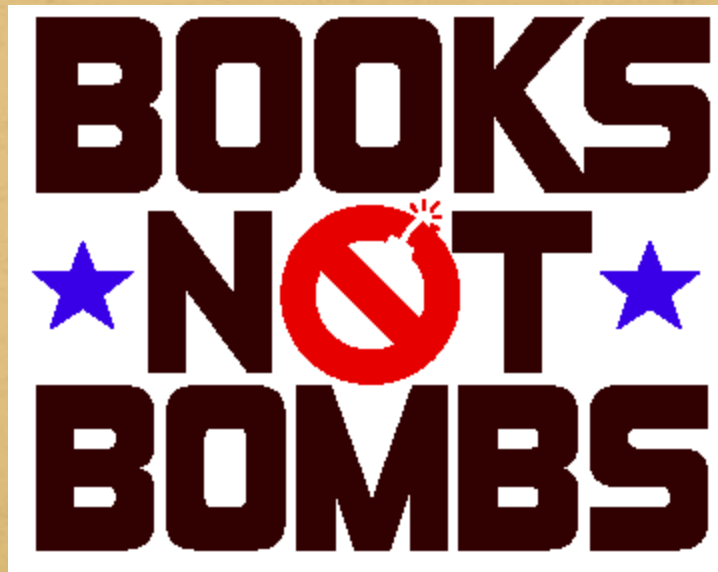
**Describe this picture.**



Some Americans opposed the war. Among them were progressives such as Jane Adams. Many of these critics were pacifists, people who refuse to fight in any war because they believe the war is evil. Antiwar feelings rose with the socialist believers. A socialist believes that the people as a whole rather than the private individuals should own all property and share the profits from all businesses.



Jane Adams

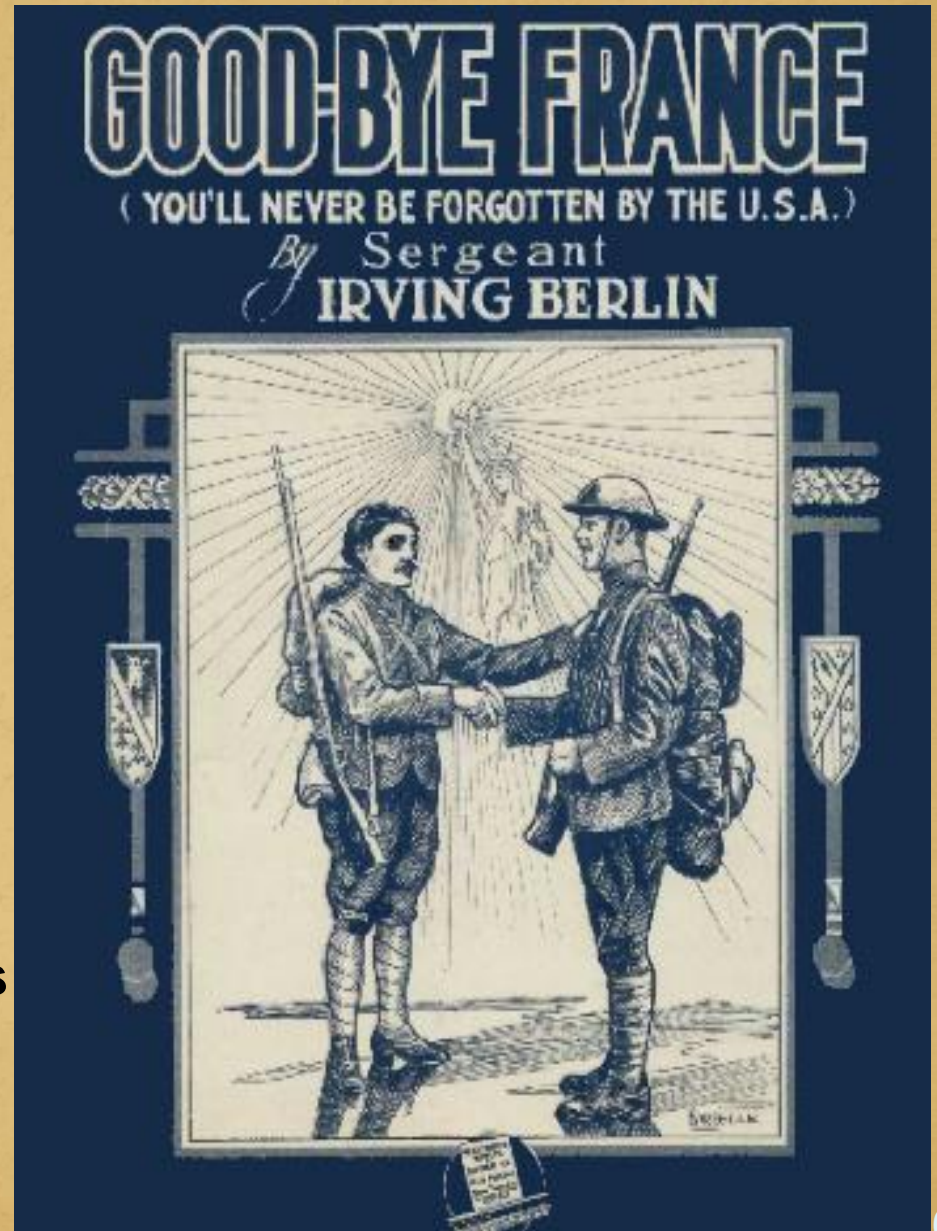


Why is this a pacifist sign?

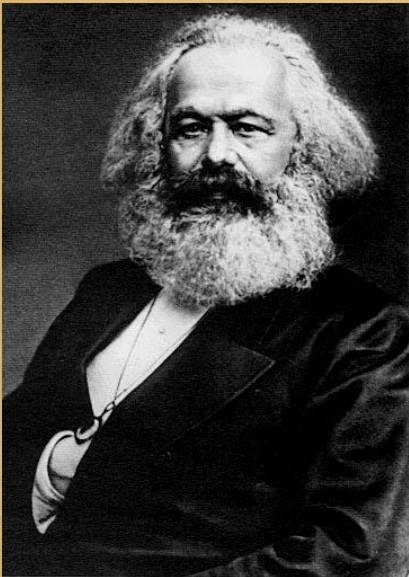
### 3.Americans in Battle

The United States would send more than 2 million soldiers to France. The buildup of soldiers took time. The first the troops had to be trained and then armed. By March, 1918, fewer than 300,000 American troops and reach France.

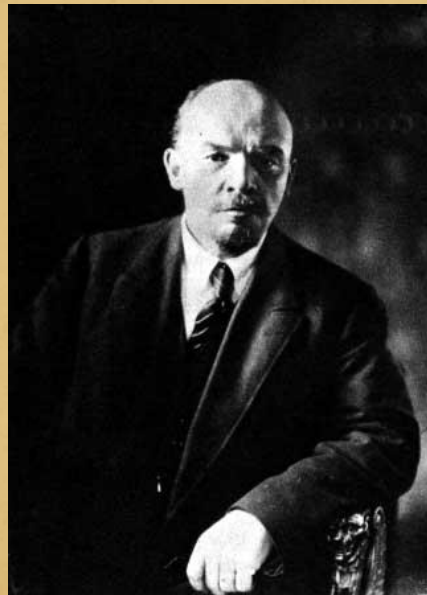
The first American troops reach France in June, 1917. The Allies had lost millions of soldiers. Troops in the trenches were exhausted and ill. Many civilians in Britain and France were near starvation.



To make matters worse, Russia withdrew from the war. A group known as the Bolsheviks seized power from the government. Under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, the Bolsheviks wanted to bring the communist revolution to Russia. Lenin embraced the ideas of Karl Marx, a German thinker of the 1800's. Marx had predicted that the workers around the world would unite to overthrow the ruling class. After the workers resulted, they would in private property and set up a classless society. Lenin was determined to lead such a revolution in Russia. In March 1918, Russia and Germany signed the Treaty of Best-Litovsk. Although Russia had to give a plan to Germany, Lenin welcomed peace in Russia.



Karl Marx



V.I. Lenin



Treaty of Best-Litovsk

By June, 1918, American troops were reaching France in record numbers. General John Pershing commanded of the American army. Pershing agreed to let some Americans fight with the British and French. Among the first American use of tax to the French army was a 369th United States Infantry. This African American unit became known as the Harlem Hell Fighters. Although the United States allowed few African Americans to train for combat, the French respected the bravery of African American soldiers and were glad to fight side by side with them.



Harlem Hell Fighters



General John Pershing

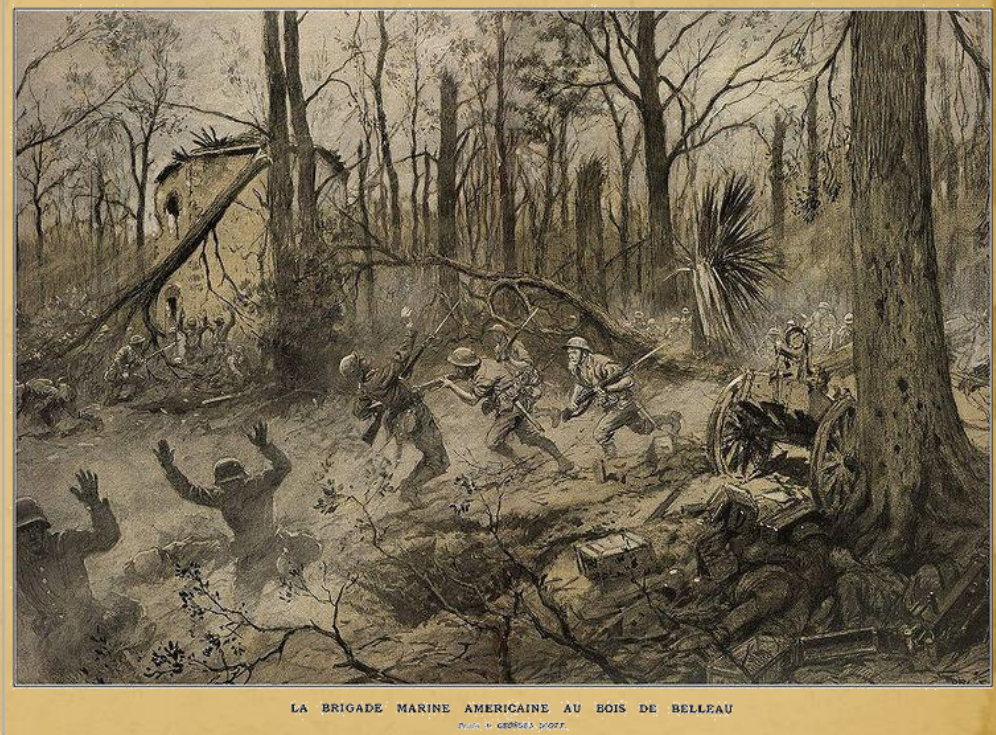


A Veteran of the  
Harlem Hell  
Fighters

In June, 1918, American troops plunged into the first major battle of the war in Belleau Wood. This battle raged on for three weeks. It was called the Battle of Belleau Wood. In September, German generals told the Kaiser, or German ruler, that the war could not be one. An armistice is an agreement to stop fighting. President Wilson's set up two conditions for armistice. First, Germany must accept his plan for peace. Second, the German emperor must abdicate, that is, give up power.



**Belleau Wood, France**



**Battle of Belleau Wood**

On November 9, the German emperor was forced to resign. He ran away to Holland, and Germany became a Republic. The new German leaders agreed to the armistice terms. Between eight million and nine million people died in the battles of the war. Germany, a loan was close to 2 million men. Much of northern France lay in ruins. Million Germans were near starvation. In France and other nations, many children were left orphaned and homeless.



**German Soldiers**



**The  
German  
Emperor**

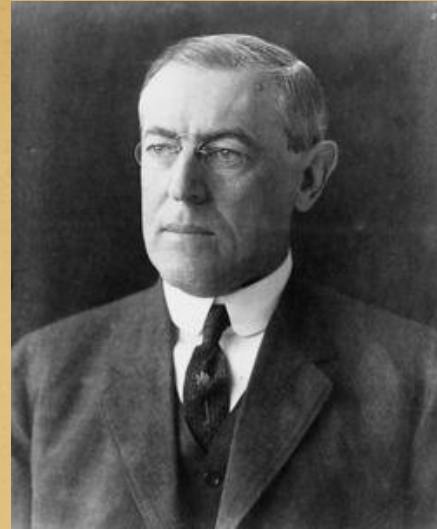
In 1918, a new disaster struck. A terrible influenza epidemic spread around the world. An epidemic is a rapid spread of a contagious disease among large numbers of people. Between 1918 and 1919, more than half a million Americans died in the flu epidemic.



The flu epidemic of 1919

## 4. The Failed Peace

President Wilson Visited Paris, London, Milan, and Rome to work on a peace plan. In January 1918, Wilson outlined his peace plan called the Fourteen Points. His plan was meant to prevent international problems from causing another war. The first point of his agreement called for an end to secret agreements. Next he called for freedom of the seas, free trade and a limit on arms. He also supported the principle of self-determination, that is for the right of national groups to their own territory and forms of government.



President Wilson

### THE FOURTEEN POINTS

*(Woodrow Wilson—Jan. 18, 1918)*

1. "Open covenants of peace . . ."
2. "Absolute freedom upon the seas . . ."
3. "The removal, . . . of all economic barriers . . ."
4. "Adequate guaranties . . . [of disarmament]"
5. [Equitable colonial self-determination]
- 6-13. Specific provisions relating to:  
Russia, Belgium, France  
(including Alsace-Lorraine),  
Italy, Austria-Hungary,  
Balkan Nations, Turkey  
(and the Dardenelles),  
"An independent Polish state . . ."
14. "A general association of nations . . ."[The League of Nations]



The fourteenth point was the most important. It called for a “general association of nations,” or League of Nations. Its job was to protect the independence of countries.



National Archives of Canada

A meeting of the League of Nations, Geneva, 1936



**President Wilson convinced the allies to accept this proposal, but many countries were only concerned with their own interests. The diplomats from the more than 30 nations met in Paris and Versailles, France. Key issues were decided by the big Four- Woodrow Wilson of the United States, Davis Lloyd George of Britain, Georges Clemenceau of France and Vittorio Orlando of Italy. Woodrow Wilson urged the nations to “have peace without victory.” Instead the counties had their own aims.**

**League of Nations**



The other allies called for Germany to pay reparations, or cash payments for the losses, they had suffered during the war. The allies were also determined to stop Germany from building up its military again. By June 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was ready. Under the treaty Germany had to take complete blame for the war. Germany had to pay 300 billion dollars in reparations. The treaty limited the size of the German military.

## Versailles





## Viewing HISTORY

### Wilson at the Peace Conference

---

*British artist William Orpen painted this scene at the 1919 Paris peace conference. The Big Four, including Woodrow Wilson, are seated center. Facing them, two German representatives read the treaty.*

**★ How do you think the Germans responded to the Treaty of Versailles?**

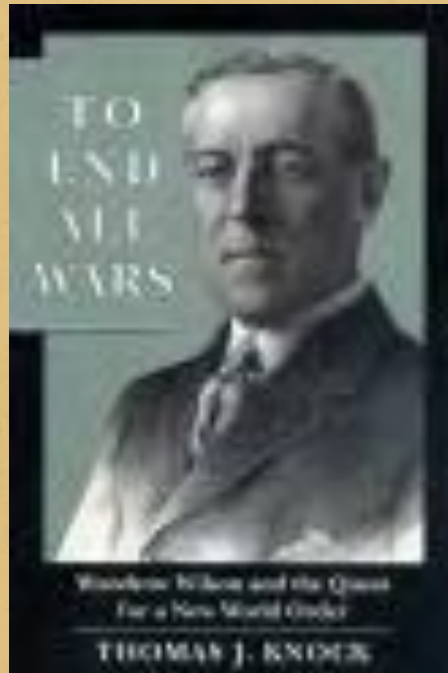
The treaty provided for several nations to be formed. They included the counties of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. They were created from the land once owned by Germany.

When President Wilson returned home he had to convince Americans to support the treaty. Most German –Americans thought the terms of the treaty was too harsh. Many Americans were Isolationists because they wanted the United States to stay out of world affairs. Critics such as, Henry Cabot Lodge, accepted the idea of a League of Nations, but he called for changes in the provisions of the league. He did not like the fact that members of the league had to protect countries that were threatened. He felt this provision would bring us into future European wars.



Henry Cabot Lodge

**As a result of the pressure from this provision, President Wilson suffered a stroke in November 1919. It was not until 1921 did America join the League of Nations due many opponents in the United States**



## President Wilson's Biography

NEWS multimedia

THE ~~ARAB~~ TIMES  
Perspectives

# World War One



# The End