

CONTENT BLOCK

WWI: Homefront

Selective Service Act

- Prior to American entry into the war, the U.S. had a volunteer army of about 200,000 soldiers.
- In May 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, which created a national draft.
- This is the 1st time the U.S. government had established a draft before entering a war.



Opposition to the War

- When President Wilson called the nation to war, he knew that not all Americans would respond with enthusiasm.
- For religious or political reasons, some Americans opposed the war.



Jane Addams

- In January 1915, a group of women led by Jane Addams (Hull House) held a peace conference in Washington, D.C.
- They called for limitation of arms and mediation of the European conflict rather than combat.
- Conference leaders formed the Woman's Peace Party.



Conscientious Objectors

- A conscientious objector is someone who opposes war for religious or moral reasons and therefore refuses to serve in the armed forces.
- Those who refused to serve risked going to prison.

20-4-9.C

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF SKIN	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

29. (If the person has scars, lumps, bands, etc., or is otherwise physically disqualified, specify.)

720

30. I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his answers, or watch, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Date of Registration: April 12, 1918

Richard J. Thompson

DIVISION No. 9
BOSTON
OFFICE OF LOCAL BOARD

(The cover of the Local Board hearing proceedings of the year in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

52-427 (OVER)

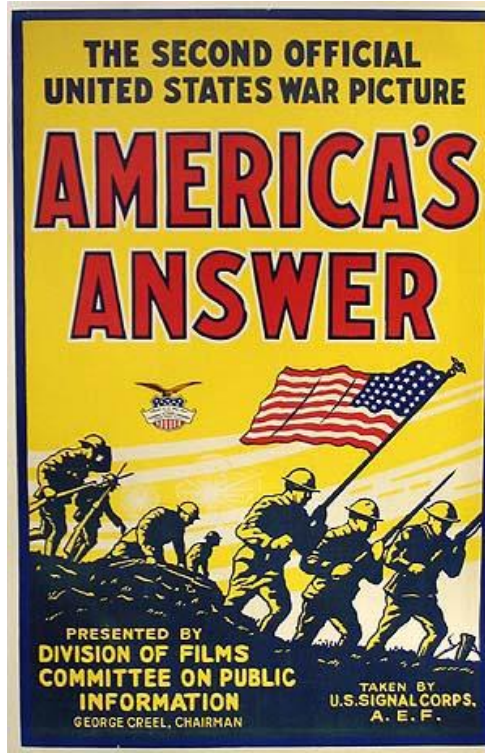
Draft Notice

- To help the government “sell” the war to the public, the president created a propaganda agency know as the Committee on Public Information.
- The agency hired reporters, artists, movie directors, writers, and historians to create a massive propaganda campaign .
- The agency put out press releases supporting the war effort.

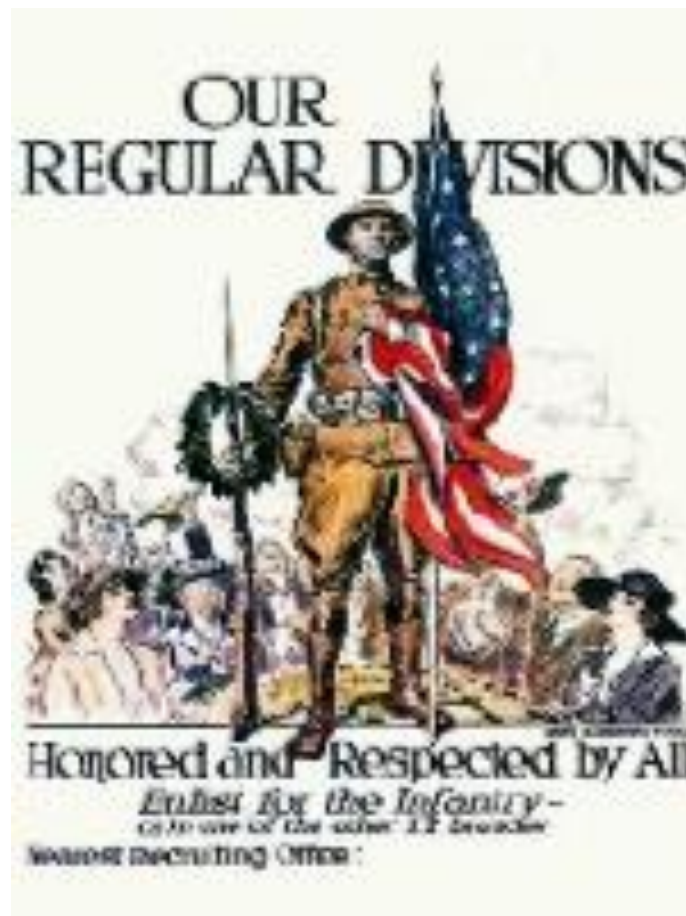


Propaganda Movies

- The Committee on Public Information produced films such as *The Kaiser, Beast of Berlin*, and *Claws of the Hun*.
- These movies showed the Germans as evil savages out to take over the world.

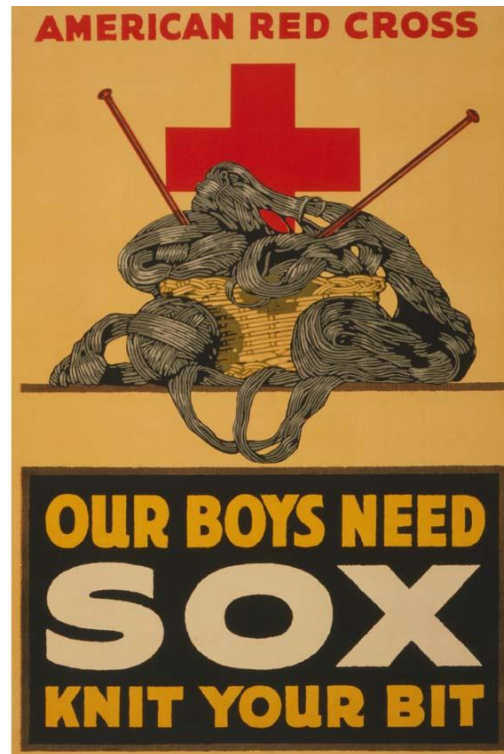


- Posters urged Americans to join the army and buy bonds.



Supporting the Effort at Home

- In schools, children saved tin cans, paper, and old toothpaste tubes for recycling into war materials.
- Women met in homes or at churches to knit blankets and socks for soldiers.



Anti-German Hysteria

- Propaganda and patriotism sometimes had the unfortunate effect of stirring up anti-German feelings.
- German American communities suffered the suspicions of others.
- Employers in war industries fired German American workers, fearing sabotage.



German Immigrants

Censorship

- For many Americans, all things German became associated with disloyalty.
- Symphonies stopped playing music by German composers.
- Libraries removed books by German authors.



Beethoven Banned



The Working Women

- During the war, women took over many jobs traditionally done by men.
- Examples: bank clerks, ticket seller, elevator operator, chauffeur, street car conductor, factory worker, and farmer.

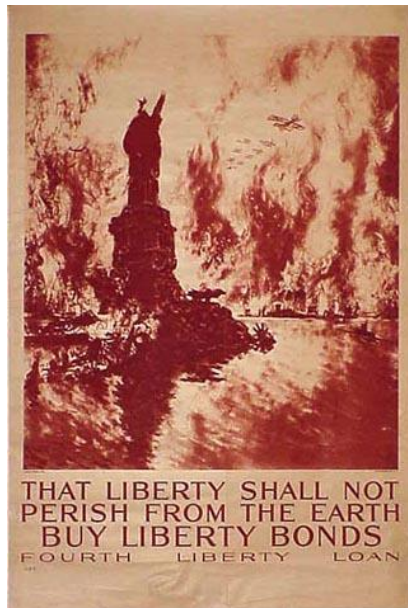


Paying for the War: Bonds

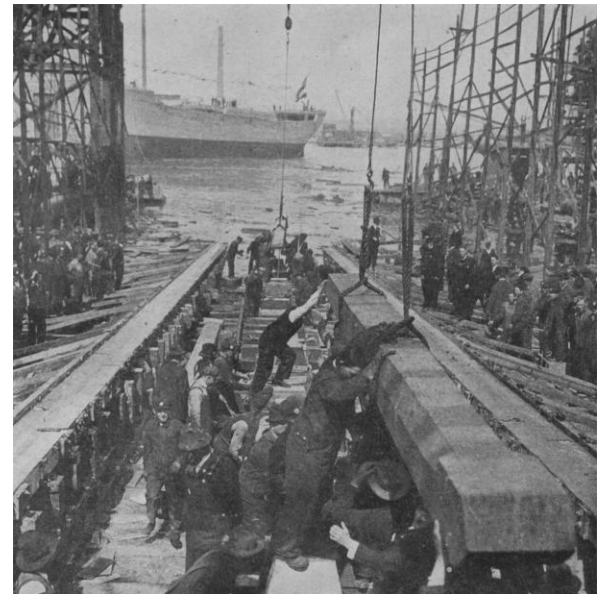
- The government raised the rest of the money through the sale of war bonds.
- A bond is a certificate issued by the government that promises to pay back the money borrowed at a fixed rate of interest.



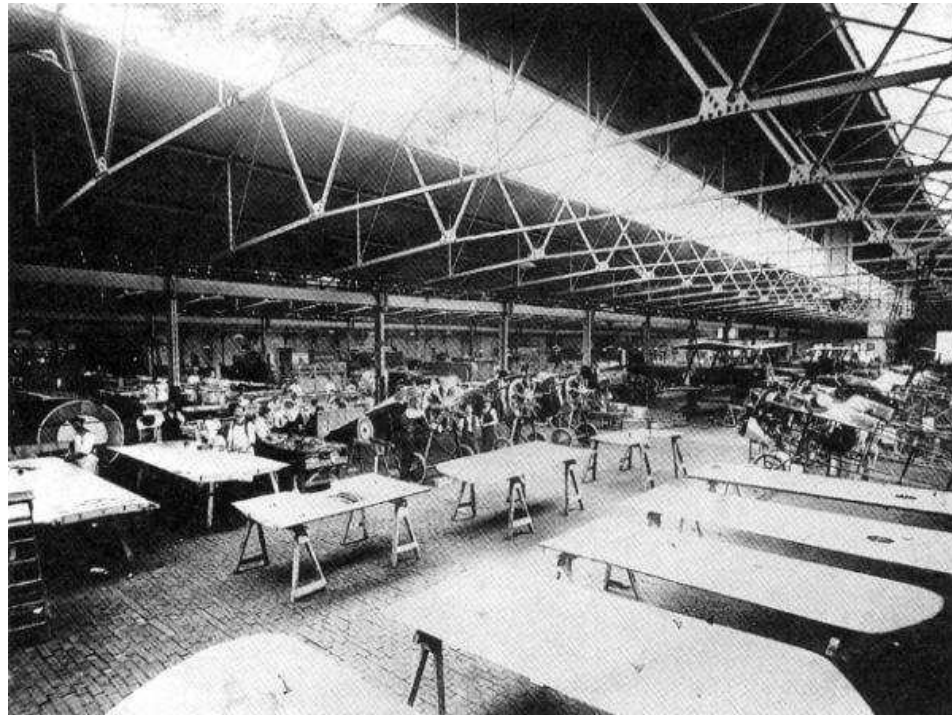
- The purchase of Liberty Bonds by the American public provided needed funding for the war and gave Americans a way to participate in the war effort.
- In big cities, movie stars and sports heroes urged people to buy bonds.



- As the nation geared up for war, industries began to shift from consumer goods to war production.
- In July 1917, Woodrow Wilson created the War Industries Board (WIB) to direct industrial production.
- The WIB coordinated the work of government agencies and industry groups to make sure supplies and equipment were produced and delivered to the military.

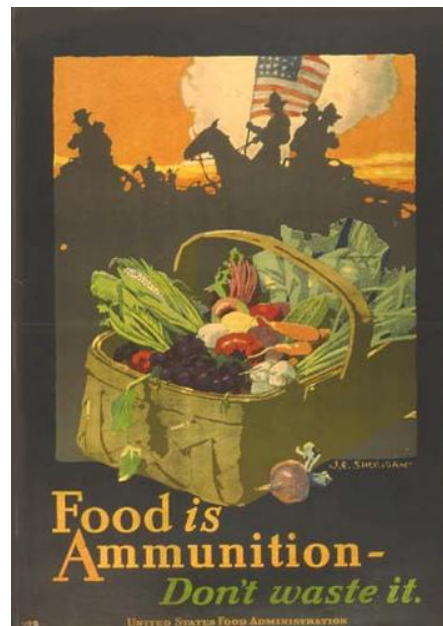


- The National War Labor Board set standards for wages, hours, and working conditions in war industries.
- As a result, labor unrest subsided for the duration of the war.

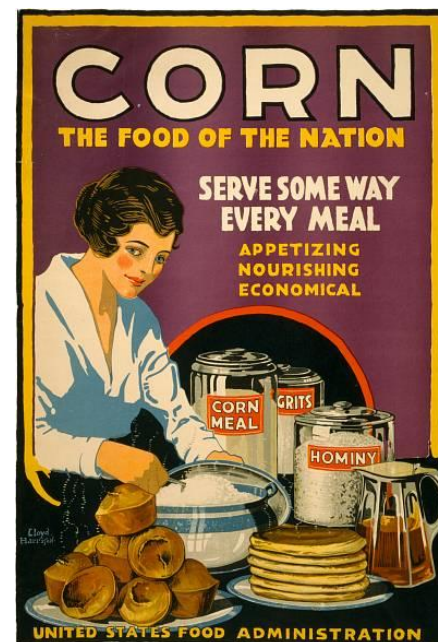
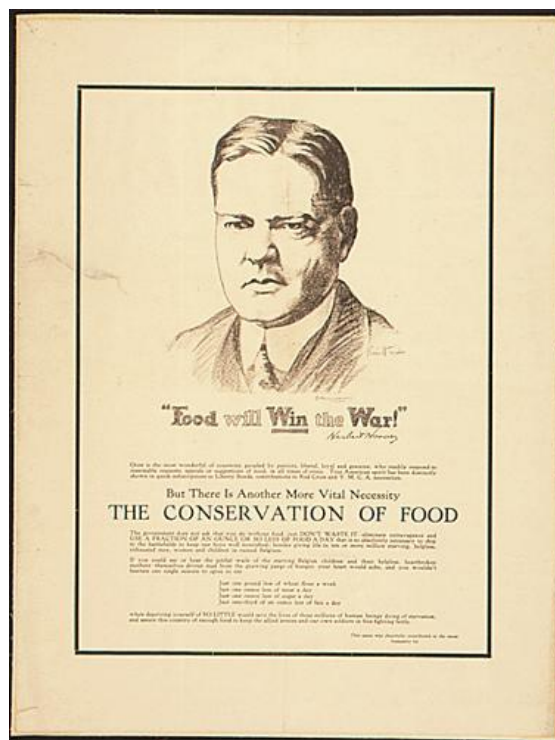


Food

- The U.S. faced the huge responsibility of feeding the armed forces, as well as Allied troops and civilians.
- To meet the challenge, Wilson set up the Food Administration to oversee production and distribution of food and fuel.



- Wilson chose future president, Herbert Hoover to head the Food Administration.
- Hoover raised crop prices to encourage farmers to produce more food and began a campaign that urged Americans to conserve food and reduce waste.



- Conserving food was part of the war effort.

**Will you have a part
in
Victory?**



"Every Garden a Munition Plant"

Charles Lathrop Pack, Designer
THIS POSTER, USED IN 1918, AND WITH DIFFERENT SLOGANS IN 1919, WAS POPULAR WHEREVER IT APPEARED AND DID MUCH TO EXTEND THE WAR GARDEN MOVEMENT

“Victory Gardens”

- Using the slogan “Food will win the war,” he urged families to participate in Meatless Mondays and Wheatless Wednesdays.
- Hoover called on Americans to increase the food supply by planting “victory gardens.”



Fuel Conservation

- The Fuel Administration met the nation's energy needs through a combination of increased production and conservation.
- To conserve energy, Americans turned down their heaters and wore sweaters on “heatless Mondays.” On “gasless Sundays,” they went for walks instead of driving their cars.



African Americans

- President Wilson asked Americans to help make the world “safe for democracy,” but many African Americans wondered more about democracy at home.
- With lynchings, Jim Crow laws, and segregated army units, some were not sure why they should be fighting.



Great Migration

- As production of war materials rose, thousand of new jobs opened up in the North at the nation's steel and auto factories. The mining and meatpacking industries also needed more workers.
- Black newspapers urged southern blacks to leave home and take advantages of these opportunities in the North (The Great Migration.)



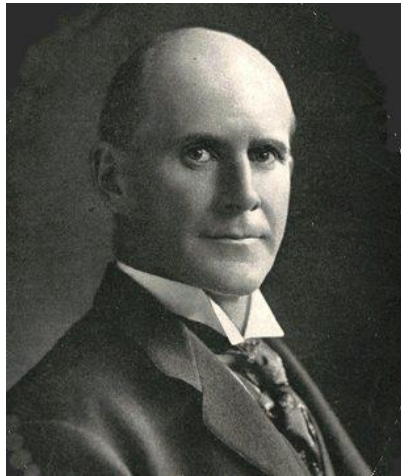
Espionage and Sedition Acts

- The Government cracks down on espionage or spying by passing the Espionage & Sedition Acts.
- These laws made it a crime to try to interfere with the military draft.
- These laws made it illegal to express opposition to the war.



Eugene Debs- Socialist Party

“Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder...that is war in a nutshell. The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose – especially their lives.”



- Socialist Eugene Debs would be jailed for his anti-war messages under the Espionage and Sedition Acts.

Schenck v. United States

- The 1919 Supreme Court case, *Schenck v. United States*, declared that Charles Schenck's propaganda efforts against the military draft were illegal and not protected by his 1st Amendment right to "freedom of speech."
- It ruled that the government could restrict freedom of speech in times of "clear and present danger."



1918 Influenza Epidemic

- “Spanish Flu”
- 500,000,000 infected worldwide
- Estimated 50 to 100 million dead worldwide
- Censors in most western nations hid the death toll, Spain did not – thus: Spanish Flu
- Approx 675,000 killed in the US