

## WORLD: The U.S. Joins the Allies

# War in Europe Ends: U.S. Makes Difference

The Western Front,  
November 11, 1918

The war in Europe is over. With U.S. help, the Allied Powers defeated the Central Powers. The last Central Power to give up is Germany.

The U.S. was in the war for only 18 months. In 1914, when the war started in Europe, **President Woodrow Wilson** said the U.S. would stay neutral [not take sides].

But Germany wanted to win quickly, in case the U.S. should change its mind and get into the war. To win quickly, Germany sank more and more ships—many of them American. Americans started crying, "War!"

Finally, on **April 2, 1917**, the U.S. declared war on the Central Powers. President Wilson named **General John Pershing** to head the U.S. Army.

The U.S. did not have a big

Army. Pershing wanted time to train more soldiers. But Pershing's plan did not work out.

The Germans started winning battles in France. Many U.S. soldiers were not ready to fight. But most were sure they could beat the Germans. So, ready or not, they went into battle with the Allied army. The fresh U.S. troops on the Western Front gave new life to the old war. And Germany fell.

## Congress Votes for War—Zimmerman Note Is Last Straw

Washington, D.C., April 1917

The U.S. Congress has declared war on Germany. The **Zimmerman Note** makes the U.S. see that Germany must be stopped. Germany sent the Zimmerman Note to Mexico. But the U.S. found the note. The note says that if the U.S. declares war on Germany:

- Mexico should attack the U.S.—bringing war to the U.S.

- Germany will help Mexico take back Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and part of California—taking away part of the U.S.

Many Americans saw war with Germany coming. In the three years since the war started in Europe, it has been harder for the U.S. to stay neutral.

Here's why:

- Germany keeps sinking American ships. In 1915, German U-boats sank the *Lusitania* with Americans on board. Since then, U-boats have sunk U.S. merchant ships and other ships carrying Americans.

- Germany ignores the rights of neutral countries. Germany sinks ships of neutral countries, such as the U.S. The German army captured neutral Belgium.

- The U.S. gives more help to the Allies. Americans have sent more goods and loaned more money to France and England than to Germany, so Americans

want the Allies to win.

- The U.S. has older ties to England and France. These countries have helped the U.S. in the past.

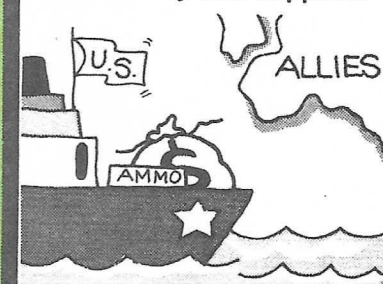
### Why the U.S. Is in the War

The U.S. declared war on Germany and the Central Powers in 1917 because:

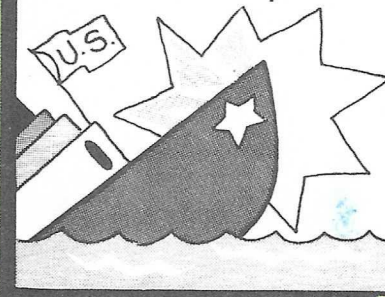
1. Germany broke its promise to stay out of neutral nations. (See p. 54.)



2. The U.S. was helping the Allied war effort more with money and supplies.



3. German U-boats [submarines] sank neutral U.S. merchant ships.



4. The Zimmerman note tried to get Mexico into war with the U.S.



# NATION: The U.S. in the War

## To Raise Money

**What:** New Taxes, Liberty Bonds, Victory Bonds.

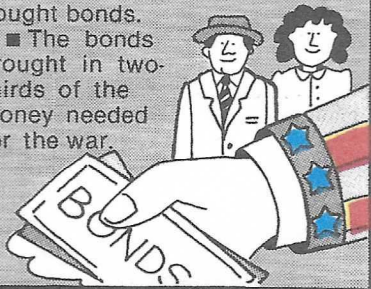
**Why:** To pay for the Army and Navy and all their supplies.

**How:** Taxing—money to keep. The government put higher taxes on incomes and some goods such as tobacco and railroad tickets.

**How:** Borrowing—money to pay back later. The government borrowed from the people by selling them Liberty bonds and Victory bonds.

- Almost half of all Americans bought bonds.

- The bonds brought in two-thirds of the money needed for the war.



## How the U.S. Got Ready for War

When Congress declared war in 1917, the U.S. was not ready for war. To mobilize [get ready], the government had to act quickly. Congress passed laws and gave President Wilson wartime powers. Here's a look at the steps the U.S. took to turn a peacetime country into a wartime country.

### To Sell Americans on the War

**What:** The Committee on Public Information [a group of people].

**Why:** To make Americans eager to support the war effort.

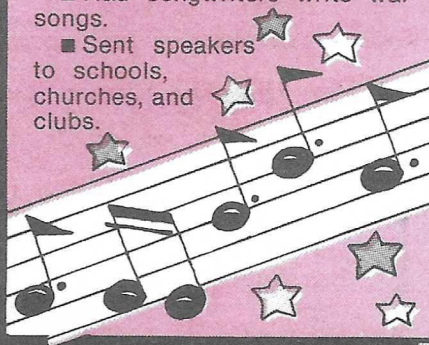
**How:**

- Filled newspapers and magazines with stories about the good side of the war.

- Had famous people selling Liberty bonds.

- Had songwriters write war songs.

- Sent speakers to schools, churches, and clubs.



### To Get Food

**1. What:** Food Administration [a group of government people].

**Who:** Headed by Herbert Hoover.

**Why:** To have food enough for U.S. troops and Allies.

**How:** Asking Americans:

- To grow more food on farm land and in gardens.

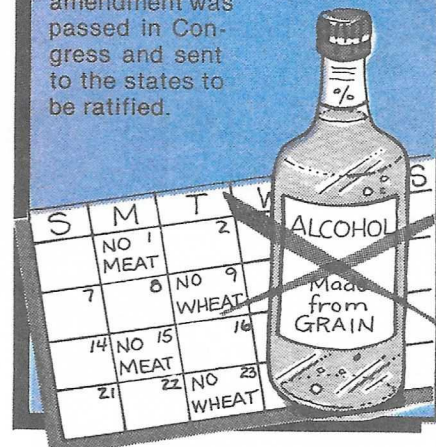
- To waste nothing.

- To go without some foods ["wheatless" and "meatless" days].

**2. What:** Prohibition—stopping the sale of alcoholic drinks.

**Why:** U.S. needed grain for food, not alcohol.

**How:** The 18th amendment was passed in Congress and sent to the states to be ratified.



### To Build an Army

**What:** Selective Service Act [a law].

**Why:** To get enough men for an army.

**How:** A draft [signing up all men between the ages of 21 and 30—later 18 and 45].

**Result:** By the end of the war, 24 million Americans had signed up for the draft. Over 4.7 million served.



### To Make War Supplies Quickly

**What:** The War Industries Board [a group of government people].

**Why:**

- To tell factories what war goods to make.

- To stop the waste of materials needed to make war goods.



### To Keep Industry Running

**What:** National War Labor Board [a group of government people].

**Why:**

- To settle differences between companies and workers so workers would not strike. Strikes keep factories from turning out war goods.

- To open up jobs to everyone. Men were going into the Army. Workers were needed to take their places.

**How:** Giving women and blacks jobs never before open to them.



### To Punish Anti-War Americans

**1. What:** Espionage Act [a law].

**Why:** To keep Americans from doing anything against the war.

**How:** Putting people in prison or fining them for:

- Spying and sabotage.

- Not going along with the draft or the sale of Liberty bonds.

**2. What:** The Sedition Act [a law].

**Why:** To keep Americans from saying anything against the war.

**How:** Putting people in jail for:

- Making speeches in public against the war.

- Saying anything in private against the war.



# WORLD: World War I Is Over

## Allies and Germany Sign Peace Treaty

Palace of Versailles, France,  
June 1919

After six months, the Paris Peace Conference is over. The Big Four have finished working out the peace treaty. Germany has agreed to the hard terms in the **Treaty of Versailles**.

England, France, and Italy are happy with the hard terms. They want to punish Germany for starting the war.

President Wilson has mixed feelings about the treaty.

President Wilson:

- Does not want to punish Germany.

- Thinks punishment will make Germany angry. Then it may start another war.

One thing Wilson is happy about is the new **League of Nations**. He wants all countries of the world to belong to this organization. Countries in the League can talk over problems before they lead to war.

Germany is bitter. It has no money, factories, or raw materials left. It will not even be able to build up its own country again.

But Germany is too weak to fight the terms in the treaty. By the terms in the treaty, Germany has agreed to:

- Give up land in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey.

- Turn its colonies over to the League of Nations. The League will watch over the colonies under the mandate system. [The **mandate system** means that the League names one country, such as England, to govern the colony and get the colony ready to govern itself.]

- Pay the Allies for all losses in the war.



### Top 14

#### Wilson's 14-Point Plan

Washington, D.C.,  
January 1918

President Wilson says there is a way to stop war forever. If all countries follow his **14-point plan**, there will be no more causes of war—so there will be no more wars. His plan asks for:

1. **Open diplomacy**—All agreements between countries should be open, not secret.
2. **Free seas**—The world's oceans should be free for all countries to use.
3. **Free trade**—All countries should be free to do business with all other countries.
4. **Arms reduction**—All countries should cut back on land weapons.
5. **An end to imperialism**—All countries should stop taking colonies.
6. **to 13. National self-determination**—Each group of people with the same languages and customs and living in the same area should have their own country. A country with one group of people should never own another group of people.
14. **The League of Nations**—All countries of the world should belong to this group. They should get together to work out problems with each other peacefully. Then they will not have to go to war to settle problems.

#### The Beginning, August 1914:

**U.S. government promises not to play favorites, but . . .** Some Americans choose sides. Most Americans think the war in Europe is too far away to hurt the U.S. But many are still taking sides. Some Americans want the Central Powers to win. And some want the Allied Powers to win. But President Wilson says, "The U.S. will not take sides. The U.S. is neutral."

#### The First Year, 1914:

**The U.S. stays neutral, but . . .**

- It sells war supplies to both sides.
- It has trouble with both sides.

1. Germany breaks world law which says: Neutral countries must be left alone during war. The German army goes into neutral Belgium.

2. England breaks a world law which says: Neutral ships should be left alone on the sea. England stops U.S. ships carrying goods to Germany.

#### The Second Year, 1915:

**U-boats shake U.S. neutrality because...**

- Germany says English seas are a war zone and plants submarines [underwater ships—U-boats] there. U.S. ships cannot sail safely near England.
- A U-boat sinks the Lusitania, and 128 Americans die.

U.S. begs Germany to leave neutral ships alone. Germany backs off.

#### The Third Year, 1916:

**U.S. votes for peace, but . . .** Gets ready for war.

**March**—Germany breaks its promise. It attacks a passenger ship. Americans die.

**June**—America gets ready for war in case Germany will not stop sea warfare. The U.S.:

- Adds to its Army and Navy.
- Builds ships.
- Plans how to make war supplies and food quickly if war comes.

**November**—Americans re-elect Wilson because he has kept the U.S. out of the war.

#### The Fourth Year, 1917:

**U.S. declares war after . . .** Germany plots against it.

**January**—Germany begins sinking ships from every country. It wants to keep supplies from getting to the Allies. Without supplies, the Allied countries will starve. Then the Allies will give up.

**February**—Germany sends Mexico the Zimmerman note. It promises Germany will help if Mexico will go to war with the U.S.

**April**—The U.S. declares war on Germany.

#### The Final Year, 1918:

**U.S. turns stalemate into win by . . .**

- Sending copies of the 14-point peace plan around the world. Now people in

# WORLD: League of Nations Fails

all countries want to stop the war. They think Wilson's peace terms will be fair.

■ Sending U.S. troops to Europe. In May, thousands of U.S. soldiers join the Allied troops. Together they turn back the bigger German army that was about to take Paris, France.

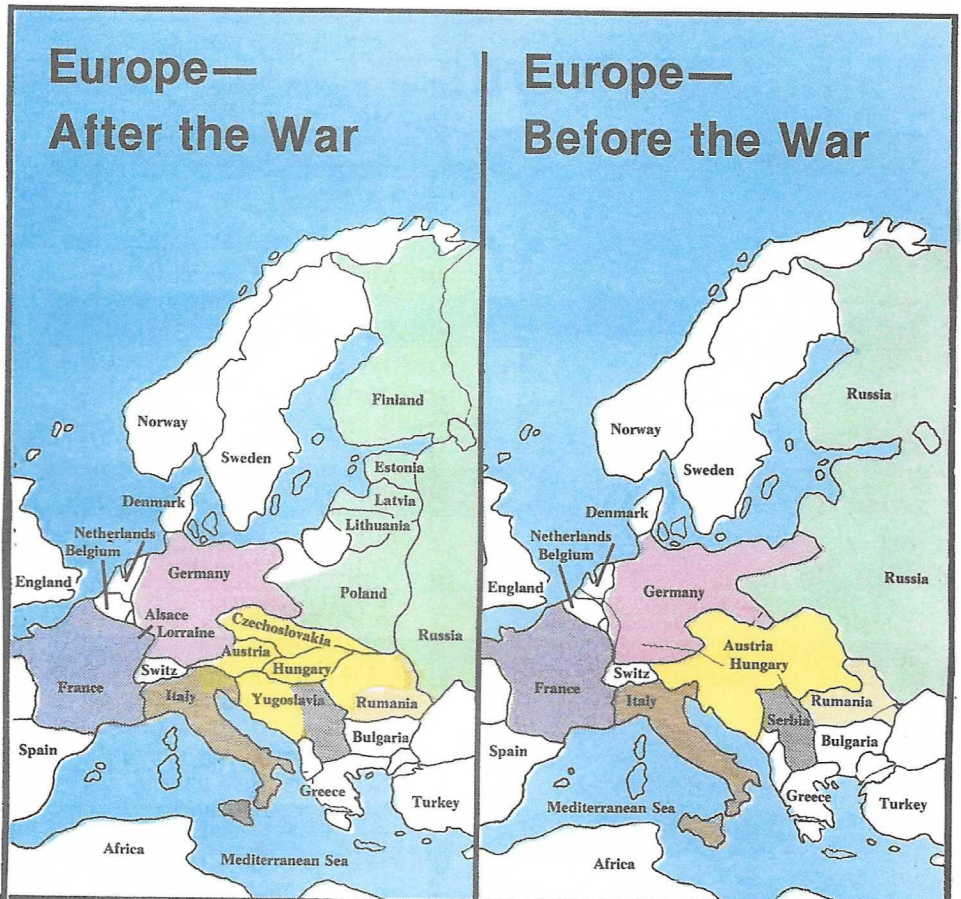
■ Building a 2,000-ship Navy. U.S. and English ships keep supplies from getting to Germany. Starving German people want peace.

■ Bringing enthusiasm to battles. The Allied army has been defending its trenches for three years. Now the U.S. Army is attacking the German trenches. Americans want to end the war.

### The Big Four

Many countries belong to the Allied Powers. But four of these countries have more power than the others. They are called the **Big Four**. The leaders of these four countries worked out the Treaty of Versailles. The Big Four leaders are:

- David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of England.
- Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.
- Georges Clemenceau, Premier of France.
- Vittorio Orlando, Premier of Italy.



The Treaty of Versailles has changed the map of Europe. Here's a look at who gains land and who loses land from the treaty.

Who Gains:		Who Loses:
1. France gets Alsace Lorraine	from	1. Germany
2. Poland is made	from	2. Russia, Germany, and Austria
3. Italy gets the Tyrol	from	3. Austria
4. Czechoslovakia is made	from	4. Austria-Hungary
5. Yugoslavia is made from Serbia and	from	5. Austria-Hungary
6. Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Finland are made	from	6. Russia
7. France gets a neutral zone	from	7. Germany
		8. Austria-Hungary becomes two countries.

## The End: A long war ends with...

■ A long battle. The Battle of the Argonne Forest in France goes on from September to November 1918. For 47 days, U.S. troops drive back the German army toward Belgium. Germany finally gives up.

■ The armistice. November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. Germany and the Allies sign armistice [an agreement to stop fighting]. Germany's armies have to leave the countries where they have fought. Germany must hand over its war materials and most of its ships to the Allies.

# Senate Rejects Treaty: Wilson's League Fails at Home

Washington, D.C., March 1920  
The U.S. Senate has rejected [said no to] the Treaty of Versailles—and U.S. membership in the League of Nations.

Many in the Senate say they do not want to get mixed up again with Europe's problems and fights.

With this rejection, the Senate

shatters President Wilson's dream. He believes a League of Nations can keep world peace. He fought hard to get other countries to accept that idea. Now his own country has turned it down.

By turning down the treaty and membership in the League, the Senate may be hurting more

than President Wilson.

The rejection:

■ Makes other countries angry. They say without the U.S., the League will fail.

■ Takes away America's chance to take on world leadership.

■ Means the U.S. is still at war with the Central Powers.