

Chapter 1 : America in the Great War

America entered World War One on April 6th, Up to that date, America had tried to keep out of World War One - though she had traded with nations involved in the war - but unrestricted submarine warfare, introduced by the Germans on January 9th, , was the primary issue that caused Woodrow Wilson to ask Congress to declare war on Germany on April 2nd.

Apart from an Anglophile element urging early support for the British , American public opinion reflected that of the president: On the other hand, even before World War I had broken out, American opinion had been more negative toward Germany than towards any other country in Europe. President, it was Wilson who made the key policy decisions over foreign affairs: Until , Wilson made minimal preparations for a land war and kept the United States Army on a small peacetime footing, despite increasing demands for enhanced preparedness. He did however expand the United States Navy. In , with Russia experiencing political upheaval following widespread disillusionment there over the war, and with Britain and France low on credit, Germany appeared to have the upper hand in Europe, [5] while the Ottoman Empire clung to its possessions in the Middle East. In the same year, Germany decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare against any vessel approaching British waters; this attempt to starve Britain into surrender was balanced against the knowledge that it would almost certainly bring the United States into the war. Germany also made a secret offer to help Mexico regain territories lost in the Mexican-American War in an encoded telegram known as the Zimmermann Telegram , which was intercepted by British Intelligence. Publication of that communique outraged Americans just as German U-boats started sinking American merchant ships in the North Atlantic. Wilson then asked Congress for "a war to end all wars " that would "make the world safe for democracy", and Congress voted to declare war on Germany on April 6, Early in the war, the United States started to favor the British and their allies. When the German U-boat U sank the British liner Lusitania on 7 May with US citizens aboard, Wilson demanded an end to German attacks on passenger ships, and warned that the US would not tolerate unrestricted submarine warfare in violation of international law and of human rights. On the other hand, Wilson came under pressure from war hawks led by former president Theodore Roosevelt , who denounced German acts as "piracy", [10] and from British delegations under Cecil Spring Rice and Sir Edward Grey. Wilson realized he needed to enter the war in order to shape the peace and implement his vision for a League of Nations at the Paris Peace Conference. Opposition to World War I American public opinion was divided, with most Americans until early largely of the opinion that the United States should stay out of the war. The great majority of German Americans, as well as Scandinavian Americans , wanted the United States to remain neutral; however, at the outbreak of war, thousands of US citizens had tried to enlist in the German army. Insull funded many propaganda efforts, and financed young Americans who wished to fight by joining the Canadian military , [21] Canada at that time being a Dominion of the British Empire. Preparedness Movement By , Americans were paying much more attention to the war. The sinking of the Lusitania aroused furious denunciations of German brutality. It argued that the United States needed to build up immediately strong naval and land forces for defensive purposes; an unspoken assumption was that America would fight sooner or later. Indeed, there emerged an "Atlanticist" foreign policy establishment, a group of influential Americans drawn primarily from upper-class lawyers, bankers, academics, and politicians of the Northeast, committed to a strand of Anglophile internationalism. The small regular army would primarily be a training agency. Public opinion, however, was not willing to go that far. The National Guard on the other hand was securely rooted in state and local politics, with representation from a very broad cross section of the US political economy. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Learn how and when to remove this template message The Democratic party saw the Preparedness movement as a threat. Roosevelt, Root and Wood were prospective Republican presidential candidates. More subtly, the Democrats were rooted in localism that appreciated the National Guard, and the voters were hostile to the rich and powerful in the first place. Working with the Democrats who controlled Congress, Wilson was able to

sidetrack the Preparedness forces. In reality, neither the US Army nor US Navy was in shape for war in terms of manpower, size, military hardware or experience. The crews of the Texas and the New York , the two newest and largest battleships, had never fired a gun, and the morale of the sailors was low. The Army and Navy air forces were tiny in size. Despite the flood of new weapons systems unveiled in the war in Europe, the Army was paying scant attention. For example, it was making no studies of trench warfare , poison gas or tanks , and was unfamiliar with the rapid evolution of aerial warfare. The Democrats in Congress tried to cut the military budget in . The Preparedness movement effectively exploited the surge of outrage over the "Lusitania" in May , forcing the Democrats to promise some improvements to the military and naval forces. Wilson, less fearful of the Navy, embraced a long-term building program designed to make the fleet the equal of the British Royal Navy by the mids, although this would not come to pass until after World War II. The facts of submarine warfare which necessitated destroyers, not battleships and the possibilities of imminent war with Germany or with Britain, for that matter , were simply ignored. Specifically, they warned the chief warmongers were New York bankers such as J. Morgan with millions at risk, profiteering munition makers such as Bethlehem Steel , which made armor, and DuPont, which made powder and unspecified industrialists searching for global markets to control. Antiwar critics blasted them. These selfish special interests were too powerful, especially, Senator La Follette noted, in the conservative wing of the Republican Party. The only road to peace was disarmament in the eyes of many. In peacetime, War Department arsenals and Navy yards manufactured nearly all munitions that lacked civilian uses, including warships, artillery, naval guns, and shells. Items available on the civilian market, such as food, horses, saddles, wagons, and uniforms were always purchased from civilian contractors. Peace leaders like Jane Addams of Hull House and David Starr Jordan of Stanford University redoubled their efforts, and now turned their voices against the President because he was "sowing the seeds of militarism, raising up a military and naval caste. Wilson, in deep trouble, took his cause to the people in a major speaking tour in early , a warm-up for his reelection campaign that fall. Wilson seemed to have won over the middle classes, but had little impact on the largely ethnic working classes and the deeply isolationist farmers. Congress still refused to budge, so Wilson replaced Garrison as Secretary of War with Newton Baker , the Democratic mayor of Cleveland and an outspoken opponent of preparedness. The Army was to double in size to 11, officers and , men, with no reserves, and a National Guard that would be enlarged in five years to , men. Preparedness supporters were downcast, the antiwar people were jubilant. The United States would now be too weak to go to war. Bullard privately complained that "Both sides [Britain and Germany] treat us with scorn and contempt; our fool, smug conceit of superiority has been exploded in our faces and deservedly. Arguing this battle proved the validity of Mahanian doctrine, the navalists took control in the Senate, broke the House coalition, and authorized a rapid three-year buildup of all classes of warships. The very weakness of American military power encouraged Berlin to start its unrestricted submarine attacks in . It knew this meant war with America, but it could discount the immediate risk because the US Army was negligible and the new warships would not be at sea until by which time the war would be over, Germany thought, with Germany victorious. The notion that armaments led to war was turned on its head: Wilson released the Zimmerman note to the public and Americans saw it as a casus belli "a cause for war. President Wilson before Congress, announcing the break in official relations with the German Empire on February 3, . At first, Wilson tried to maintain neutrality while fighting off the submarines by arming American merchant ships with guns powerful enough to sink German submarines on the surface but useless when the U-boats were under water. After submarines sank seven US merchant ships, Wilson finally went to Congress calling for a declaration of war on Germany, which Congress voted on April 6, .

United States home front during World War I The home front saw a systematic mobilization of the entire population and the entire economy to produce the soldiers, food supplies, munitions, and money needed to win the war. Although the United States entered the war in , there had been very little planning, or even recognition of the problems that the British and other Allies had to solve on their home fronts. As a result, the level of confusion was high in the first 12 months, then efficiency took control. The war came in the midst of the Progressive Era, when efficiency and expertise were highly valued. Therefore, the federal government set up a multitude of temporary agencies with , to 1,, new employees to bring together the expertise necessary to redirect the

economy into the production of munitions and food necessary for the war, as well as for propaganda purposes. Fancher and Henry Reuter dahl , magazine and newspaper articles, and billboards. Bonds" calls on Boy Scouts to serve just like soldiers do; poster by J. Leyendecker , The nation placed a great importance on the role of children, teaching them patriotism and national service and asking them to encourage war support and educate the public about the importance of the war. The Boy Scouts of America helped distribute war pamphlets, helped sell war bonds, and helped to drive nationalism and support for the war. American Expeditionary Forces As late as , the United States maintained only a small army, one which was in fact smaller than thirteen of the nations and empires already active in the war. After the passage of the Selective Service Act in , it drafted 4 million men into military service. Several regiments of Marines were also dispatched to France. The British and French wanted US units used to reinforce their troops already on the battle lines and not to waste scarce shipping on bringing over supplies. The US rejected the first proposition and accepted the second. As an exception, he did allow African-American combat regiments to fight in French divisions. On the battlefields of France in spring , the war-weary Allied armies enthusiastically greeted the fresh American troops. They arrived at the rate of 10, a day, [47] at a time when the Germans were unable to replace their losses. However, many American commanders used the same flawed tactics which the British, French, Germans and others had abandoned early in the war, and so many American offensives were not particularly effective. Pershing continued to commit troops to these full- frontal attacks, resulting in high casualties against experienced veteran German and Austrian-Hungarian units. The Allies achieved victory over Germany on November 11, after German morale had collapsed both at home and on the battlefield. The public demanded a return to "normalcy", and repudiated Wilson with the election of conservative Republican Warren G.

Chapter 2 : America's World War I Foreign Policy

The American entry into World War I came in April , after more than two and a half years of efforts by President Woodrow Wilson to keep the United States out of the war.

The History Learning Site, 6 Mar America entered World War One on April 6th, Up to that date, America had tried to keep out of World War One though she had traded with nations involved in the war but unrestricted submarine warfare, introduced by the Germans on January 9th, , was the primary issue that caused Woodrow Wilson to ask Congress to declare war on Germany on April 2nd. In , when war was declared in Europe, America adopted a policy of neutrality and isolation. When news of trench warfare and the horrors associated with it reached the shores of America, it confirmed to the government that they had adopted the right approach. Their approach had the full support of the majority of Americans many of whom could not believe that a civilised entity called Europe could descend into such depths as were depicted by trench warfare and the futility associated with such a strategy. Woodrow Wilson took full control of foreign policy issues within the limits of the Constitution. Though he delegated work to members of his cabinet and others, he maintained full control over what America did in terms of foreign policy. As a student of modern history, Wilson was very aware that the causes of war were rarely black and white and that the modern European scenario was a complicated one. Overseas trade was more complicated. Trade with both sides was permitted and merchant ships crossed the Atlantic to trade. However, a British naval blockade of the German coastline made it all but impossible for America to trade with Germany through no fault of her own. The British policy of blockading Germany was the primary reason for Germany ultimately introducing unrestricted submarine warfare. Germany would have claimed that Britain had forced her into taking this action. On February 4th, , Germany announced that merchant shipping in a specified zone around Britain would be legitimate targets. They added that this would include neutral ships because many Allied ships had taken to flying the flag of a neutral nation to assist its safety. Wilson warned the Germans that he would hold them to account if any American ships were sunk. In late December , Wilson sent one of his closest advisors to London, Colonel House, to see if a peace initiative could be thrashed out between Britain and Germany with America acting as an intermediary. House returned to America in good spirits and immediately set about with Wilson putting some substance into the Memorandum. The same was not true with regards to Britain. Then Britain increased its maritime activities with regards to stopping ships trading with Germany and other members of the Central Powers. To many, Britain had lost the moral high ground and to some it seemed as if Britain did not want peace at all. On November 7th, , Wilson won the presidential election. To many Americans he was still seen as a man of peace whereas his opponent, Charles Evans Hughes, was seen as a warmonger. Wilson spent the next few months trying to set up a way in which America could lead peace negotiations that would end the war. He sent out a simple question to both sides what would it take for them to be willing to end the war? Britain and France sent back replies that stated their terms terms that could only be met with a decisive military victory. Regardless of this, Wilson continued to fight for peace based around the idea of a League of Nations. Wilson had a very clear idea of what he wanted:

Chapter 3 : The U.S. Home Front During World War II - HISTORY

*America's Part In The World War: A History Of The Full Greatness Of Our Country's Achievements () [Richard Joseph Beamish, Francis Andrew March, John J. Pershing] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

It killed more people, cost more money, damaged more property, affected more people, and caused more far-reaching changes in nearly every country than any other war in history. The number of people killed, wounded, or missing between September and September can never be calculated, but it is estimated that more than 55 million people perished. More than 50 countries took part in the war, and the whole world felt its effects. Men fought in almost every part of the world, on every continent except Antarctica. The United States hoped to stay out. Drawing on its experience from World War I, Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts between and , which were intended to prevent Americans becoming entangled with belligerents. Americans in general, however, while not wanting to fight the war, were definitely not neutral in their sympathies and the acts were manipulated, to the frustration of genuine isolationists, to lend more support to the Allies than the Axis. Historians do not agree on the exact date when World War II began. Most consider the German invasion of Poland on September 1, , to be the beginning of the war. Others say it started when the Japanese invaded Manchuria on September 18, . War officially began on September 1, , when Germany attacked Poland. Germany then crushed six countries in three months – Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and France – and proceeded to conquer Yugoslavia and Greece. By early , all major countries of the world were involved in the most destructive war in history. World War II would go down in the history books as bringing about the downfall of Western Europe as the center of world power, leading to the rise of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics U. That, combined with the outcome of World War I , led to major repositioning of world power and influence. That was fertile ground for the emergence of various forms of totalitarian governments in the Soviet Union, Japan, Italy, and Germany, as well as other countries. Many countries had liberal democratic governments following World War I, but dictatorship developed during the s and s, which destroyed democratic rights. The Germans found it easy to blame the harsh Treaty of Versailles for their troubles. Germany set up a republican form of government in . Many Germans blamed the new government for accepting the hated treaty. People who could not find jobs began to drift into the Communist and National Socialist parties. Prior to , Britain, France, and Germany were the industrial and financial centers of the world. Following World War I, those countries lost their positions and the United States filled their place. America dominated the world market of food, minerals, and industry. When the stock market crashed on October 29, , the financial crisis had worldwide consequences and the reaction of nations to the dire financial straits of the Depression had a huge impact. After World War I, Germany, Italy, and Japan – anxious to regain or increase their power – adopted forms of dictatorship. The League of Nations was unable to promote disarmament. When Adolf Hitler came into power, he promised to end the humiliating conditions caused by German defeat in World War I. Economic problems were among the fundamental causes of World War II. Germany, Italy, and Japan considered themselves unjustly handicapped in trying to compete with other nations for markets, raw materials, and colonies. The Depression destroyed the market for imported silk from Japan, which had provided the country with two-fifths of its export income. Military leaders took control of the government, and in , Japan invaded China, looking for more raw materials and bigger markets for her factories. The League of Nations called a conference of 60 nations in Geneva, Switzerland, in . The conference was one in a long line of disarmament conferences that had been occurring since the end of World War I. Germany, whose military power had been severely limited by the Treaty of Versailles , announced that world disarmament had to be accomplished, or Germany would rearm and achieve military equality. France refused to disarm until an international police system could be established. The conference adjourned temporarily and by the time it was back in session, Hitler had become chancellor of Germany and was already preparing to rearm. Germany withdrew from the conference, which ended in failure, without any hope for disarmament. America prepares for war After the war began in Europe in , people in the Americas were divided on whether their countries should take part or stay out. Most Americans hoped the Allies would win,

but they also hoped to keep the United States out of war. The isolationists, wanted the country to stay out of the war at almost any cost. Another group, the interventionists, wanted the United States to do all in its power to aid the Allies. Canada declared war on Germany almost at once, while the United States shifted its policy from neutrality to preparedness. It began to expand its armed forces, build defense plants, and give the Allies all-out aid short of war. Roosevelt called upon the United States to be "the great arsenal of democracy," and supply war materials to the Allies through sale, lease, or loan. The Lend-Lease bill became law on March 11, 1941. During the next four years, the U. S. At the height of its strength in 1945, the United States had six million in the Army; 3.5 million in the Navy; 2.5 million in the Army air forces; 1 million in the Marine Corps; and 1 million in the Coast Guard. In 1945, the United States had about 2,000 airplanes and warships. By 1945, it had about 80,000 airplanes and 2,000 warships. The United States used draft laws to build their armed forces. Factories in the United States converted from civilian to war production with amazing speed. Firms that had made vacuum cleaners before the war began to produce machine guns. As men went into the armed forces, women took their places in war plants. By 1945, more than two million women were working in American war industries. In shipyards and aircraft plants, Rosie the riveter became a common sight. Officials discovered that women could perform the duties of eight of every 10 jobs normally done by men. Most governments, both Allied and Axis, had to ration the amount of consumer goods each person could use. In the United States, rationed items included meats, butter, sugar, fats, oil, coffee, canned foods, shoes, and gasoline. Congress gave the president power to freeze prices, salaries, and wages at their levels of September 15, 1941. The United States imposed a special excise tax on such luxury items as jewelry and cosmetics. The government also set up a civil-defense system to protect the country from attack. Many cities practiced "blackouts" in which cities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts dimmed their lights. Ordinarily, the glare from their lights made ships near the shore easy targets for submarines. Every country in the Americas eventually declared war on the Axis, but only Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United States actually provided military forces. Great Britain and the United States worked out the broad strategic outlines of the war. They considered Germany the greater and closer enemy. The Allies fought to preserve their countries and stabilize Europe, as well as destroy Nazism and establish democracy. The Soviet aim was to drive out the Nazis and emerge strong enough to continue communization of the world. Germany and its six allies were known as the Axis. The Allies mobilized about 62 million men and women, while the Axis mobilized about half that number. The goal of the Axis powers was simple. Germany intended to build up a powerful empire by occupying territory to the east and south. Then, after overrunning France, it would use air assaults to force Britain to make peace. Hitler had two aims: His ally, Benito Mussolini, had his own aims: Italy hoped to take advantage of German successes to grab territory for itself. Japan had no plans for invading the United States mainland. That was followed by moves into Austria and Czechoslovakia, and finally, on September 1, 1939, German forces invaded Poland. That brought a declaration of war from France and Britain. Some historians believe that the Soviet Union leadership knew in the spring or early summer of 1939 that Germany planned to invade Poland in September. Thus, the Soviet Union signed a nonaggression pact with Germany just two weeks before the attack. They also made a secret agreement to divide Poland with the Germans after the conquest. Also, despite having signed a non-aggression treaty with Joseph Stalin, Hitler turned on his ally and prepared to become the master of Europe. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941. It was quite important in strategic terms, with the Mediterranean and the British African Empire at stake. It was the only theater in which the Western Allies engaged both German and Italian ground forces. Hitler did not want British planes within striking distance of his one major oil source, the Ploiesti fields in Romania, and in November 1941, he prepared his soldiers to join in the fight. More than 1 million German and Italian prisoners of war were taken. Following seesawing control of Libya and parts of Egypt, British Commonwealth forces succeeded in pushing the Axis back. The dispersion of the Axis forces throughout Europe during this time was an important reason why the Allies were able to gain the upper hand in North Africa. Hitler was preoccupied with the Russian front and many divisions of the German army were already committed to it. North Africa was essentially used as a springboard for the Allied invasion of Sicily in July and Italy in September of the same year. Along with worldwide domination, Hitler also aimed to rid the world of various ethnic, religious, national, and secular groups. The Holocaust began in 1941 and continued until 1945. The goal of the

Nazis was to attempt, on an industrial scale, to assemble and exterminate as many people as possible. Concentration camps were established and mass executions carried out. The Jews of Europe were the main targets, but Hitler also targeted Poles, Slavs, gypsies, the disabled, and gay men. By the end of the war, approximately six million people had been killed by the German Gestapo or the SS.

Chapter 4 : American entry into World War I - Wikipedia

Excerpt from America's Part in the World War: A History of the Full Greatness of Our Country's Achievements; The Record of the Mobilization and Triumph of the Military, Naval, Industrial and Civilian Resources of the United States.

Toggle display of website navigation Analysis: November 9, , 4: Darrell Carver of the 6th Marine Regiment walks among the graves of U. Harding, who never brought up the League again. Trump, joined by his fiercely unilateralist national security advisor, John Bolton, appears eager to follow a path today that is unsettlingly similar to what occurred a century ago. And bit by bit, Trump has sought to detach the United States from the world in a very Lodge-ian way. In less than two years in office, Trump has withdrawn from several multilateral pacts, including the nuclear deal with Iran and the Paris climate agreement; announced his withdrawal from the most significant nuclear arms control accord in four decades, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty; begun a multifront trade war with China and U. According to its website , the forum is intended to reinforce the lessons of the last century and the dangers of nationalism. Like Lodge, who declared that the League of Nations in particular, its Article X would force the United States to be pulled into the conflicts of other nations, Trump and Bolton are passionate sovereigntists who reject being tied down by international organizations. The President is going to be participating in a Veterans Day ceremony that is taking place at the same time. It is unclear how much of the international system Trump can tear down in the next two yearsâ€”or the coming six if he wins another term in . But as the leader of the nation that mainly created this systemâ€”the nation that finally realized, after U. As Susan Eisenhower, a scholar and the granddaughter of Dwight D. And both movements were tinged with anti-Semitism. The president is tapping into an old nativist tradition when, for example, he attacks other NATO members for not carrying their weight militarily in the alliance even former U. Harking back to the warnings of the Founding Fathers against too many entanglements abroad, Wilson sought to reassure the U. Wilson had warned of this outcome, as did John Maynard Keynes. And so did prescient generals such as Fox Conner, who was mentor to both a young Dwight D. Eisenhower and George C. According to Susan Eisenhower, her grandfather recalled: When we go into that war it will be in company with allies. He and his successor, Harry Truman, created more geopolitically astute, workable structures than the League of Nations to secure them. And when he named his first U. Seventy years on, the U. The Roosevelt and Truman administration also imposed a global system of regulated open markets at Bretton Woods, a conscious corrective to the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. All these lessons about international cooperation are at risk of being unlearned now, especially as the memories of the 20th century appear to fade, some scholars say. The stark lines of the world order were set down by a deeply traumatized generation and passionately enforced and sustained by the generations that followed. This has been in most areas a win-win for the United States, said Ikenberryâ€”a vast tradeoff in which, until now, much of the rest of the world has come to accept U. For now, Donald Trump appears to want just that.

Chapter 5 : United States in World War I - Wikipedia

The USA then declared war on Japan, and, Japan's allies - Germany, and Italy. The war brought the USA out of its isolationism, and it began to take a major role on the world stage - something that is still going on.

If the Japanese military could successfully attack Hawaii and inflict damage on the naval fleet and casualties among innocent civilians, many people wondered what was to prevent a similar assault on the U. Visit Website This fear of attack translated into a ready acceptance by a majority of Americans of the need to sacrifice in order to achieve victory. During the spring of , a rationing program was established that set limits on the amount of gas, food and clothing consumers could purchase. Families were issued ration stamps that were used to buy their allotment of everything from meat, sugar, fat, butter, vegetables and fruit to gas, tires, clothing and fuel oil. Meanwhile, individuals and communities conducted drives for the collection of scrap metal, aluminum cans and rubber, all of which were recycled and used to produce armaments. Many of these workers were women. Indeed, with tens of thousands of American men joining the armed forces and heading into training and into battle, women began securing jobs as welders, electricians and riveters in defense plants. Until that time, such positions had been strictly for men only. Soon afterward, Walter Pidgeon , a Hollywood leading man, traveled to the Willow Run aircraft plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan , to make a promotional film encouraging the sale of war bonds. One of the women employed at the factory, Rose Will Monroe , was a riveter involved in the construction of B and B bombers. During the war years, the decrease in the availability of men in the work force also led to an upsurge in the number of women holding non-war-related factory jobs. By the mids, the percentage of women in the American work force had expanded from 25 percent to 36 percent. Just over two months after Pearl Harbor, U. President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law Executive Order , which resulted in the removal from their communities and the subsequent imprisonment of all Americans of Japanese descent who resided on the West Coast. Executive Order was the offshoot of a combination of wartime panic and the belief on the part of some that anyone of Japanese ancestry, even those who were born in the U. Despite the internment of their family members, young Japanese-American men fought bravely in Italy, France and Germany between and as members of the U. By the end of the war, the th had become the most decorated combat unit of its size in Army history. Baseball and the Battlefield In January , Kenesaw Mountain Landis , the national commissioner of baseball, wrote a letter to President Roosevelt in which he asked if professional baseball should shut down for the duration of the war. During the war, 95 percent of all professional baseball players who donned major league uniforms during the season were directly involved in the conflict. Feller, in fact, enlisted in the U. Navy one day after Pearl Harbor. Because baseball was depleted of so many able bodies, athletes who otherwise likely never would have made the big leagues won spots on rosters. One of the more notable was Pete Gray , a one-armed outfielder who appeared in 77 games for the St. Louis Browns in Not all those who served in the military were superstars. Over minor leaguers also were killed. Other players overcame debilitating wartime injuries. One was Bert Shepard , a minor league pitcher turned air force fighter pilot. The following year, he pitched three innings for the Washington Senators in a major league game. The movie-going experience included a newsreel, which lasted approximately 10 minutes and was loaded with images and accounts of recent battles, followed by an animated cartoon. While many of these cartoons were entertainingly escapist, some comically caricatured the enemy. As for the main program, movie theaters showed non-war-related dramas, comedies, mysteries and Westerns; however, a significant segment of feature films dealt directly with the war. Scores of features spotlighted the trials of men in combat while demonizing the Nazis and Japanese who perpetuated the conflict. Many appeared in government-produced training films and morale-boosting short subjects. Others participated directly in the fighting. Clark Gable , the beloved, Academy Award-winning actor, served as a tail-gunner with the U. Army Air Corps and flew combat missions over Germany. James Stewart , another equally adored Oscar winner, had enlisted in the corps even before Pearl Harbor. He eventually became a B combat pilot and commander and also flew missions over Germany. They were riveted by the frontline reports from such legendary journalists as Edward R. Meanwhile, big bands, most famously the orchestra headed by Glenn

Miller , and entertainers such as Bob Hope performed before thousands at military bases. These programs were aired directly on the radio to listeners from Maine to California. Dramatic radio programming increasingly featured war-related storylines. Citation Information The U.

Chapter 6 : America and World War One - History Learning Site

World War II was fought over differences left unresolved after World War I. Over , Americans perished in the four years of involvement, an American death rate second only to the Civil War. Twelve million victims perished from Nazi atrocities in the Holocaust.

Naval blockade[edit] Britain used its large navy to prevent cargo vessels entering German ports, mainly by intercepting them in the North Sea between the coasts of Scotland and Norway. The wider sea approaches to Britain and France, their distance from German harbours and the smaller size of the German surface fleet all made it harder for Germany to reciprocate. Instead, Germany used submarines to lie in wait for, and then sink, merchant ships heading for enemy ports. The United States insisted on maintaining the traditional rights of ships registered in neutral countries and protested strongly against American ships being intercepted or sunk: After several violations, Germany stopped this practice but in early she decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare, in the hope that this would starve out the British before the Americans could make any effective military retaliation. The strategy behind the blockade[edit] The British Royal Navy successfully stopped the shipment of most war supplies and food to Germany. The strangulation came about very slowly, because Germany and its allies controlled extensive farmlands and raw materials. It was eventually successful because Germany and Austria-Hungary had decimated their agricultural production by taking so many farmers into their armies. By , German cities were on the verge of starvation; the front-line soldiers were on short rations and were running out of essential supplies. We can bottle her up and destroy every ship that endeavors to break the blockade". He reasoned that since the island of Britain depended on imports of food, raw materials, and manufactured goods, scaring off a substantial number of the ships would effectively undercut its long-term ability to maintain an army on the Western Front. While Germany had only nine long-range U-boats at the start of the war, it had ample shipyard capacity to build the hundreds needed. However, the United States demanded that Germany respect the international agreements upon " freedom of the seas ", which protected neutral American ships on the high seas from seizure or sinking by either belligerent. Furthermore, Americans insisted that the drowning of innocent civilians was barbaric and grounds for a declaration of war. House commented that, "The British have gone as far as they possibly could in violating neutral rights, though they have done it in the most courteous way". German submarines torpedoed ships without warning, causing sailors and passengers to drown. Berlin explained that submarines were so vulnerable that they dared not surface near merchant ships that might be carrying guns and which were too small to rescue submarine crews. Britain armed most of its merchant ships with medium calibre guns that could sink a submarine, making above-water attacks too risky. In February , the United States warned Germany about misuse of submarines. This act of aggression caused the loss of 1, civilian lives, including Americans. The sinking of a large, unarmed passenger ship, combined with the previous stories of atrocities in Belgium, shocked Americans and turned public opinion hostile to Germany, although not yet to the point of war. Wilson issued a warning to Germany that it would face "strict accountability" if it sank more neutral U. By January , however, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg and General Erich Ludendorff decided that an unrestricted submarine blockade was the only way to achieve a decisive victory. They demanded that Kaiser Wilhelm order unrestricted submarine warfare be resumed. Finally, they did not foresee that convoys could and would be used to defeat their efforts. They believed that the United States was so weak militarily that it could not be a factor on the Western Front for more than a year. The civilian government in Berlin objected, but the Kaiser sided with his military. The capital build-up that had allowed American companies to supply belligerents and the American army resulted in a greater long-run rate of production even after the war had ended in After the war, in , J. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan strictly opposed financial support of warring nations and wanted to ban loans to the belligerents in August Bethlehem Steel took particular advantage of the increased demand for armaments abroad. Prior to American entrance into the War, these companies benefitted from unrestricted commerce with sovereign customers abroad. After President Wilson issued his declaration of war, the companies were subjected to price controls created by the U. Trade Commission in order to insure that the U.

Bethlehem Steel became the primary arms supplier for the United States and other allied powers again in The first of these were the Non-Interventionists , a loosely affiliated and politically diverse anti-war movement which sought to keep the United States out of the war altogether. Members of this group tended to view the war as a clash between British imperialism and German militarism , both of which they regarded as equally corrupt. Others were pacifists , who objected on moral grounds. At the far-left end of the political spectrum the Socialists , led by their perennial candidate for President Eugene V. Debs and movement veterans like Victor L. Berger and Morris Hillquit , were staunch anti-militarists and opposed to any US intervention, branding the conflict as a "capitalist war" that American workers should avoid. However, after the US did join the war in April, a schism developed between the anti-war Party majority and a pro-war faction of Socialist writers, journalists and intellectuals led by John Spargo , William English Walling and E. This group founded the rival Social Democratic League of America to promote the war effort among their fellow Socialists. This bipartisan group reluctantly supported a declaration of war against Germany with the postwar goal of establishing collective international security institutions designed to peacefully resolve future conflicts between nations and to promote liberal democratic values more broadly. Ardently pro- Entente , they had strongly championed American intervention in the war since Their primary political motivation was to both prepare the US for war with Germany and to forge an enduring military alliance with Great Britain. Many public figures hated warâ€”Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan was the most prominent, and he resigned when he thought Wilson had become too bellicose. Wilson and the Democrats in campaigned on the slogan "He kept us out of war! His position probably was critical in winning the Western states. Socialist rhetoric declared the European conflict to be "an imperialist war". Debs , blamed the war on capitalism and pledged total opposition. The rest, led by Debs, remained ideological and die-hard opponents. At the beginning of the war, neither working men nor farmers took a large interest in the debates on war preparation. In the labor unions supported Wilson on domestic issues and ignored the war question. By , however, the British decided to bolster the price to 10 cents to avoid losing Southern support. The cotton growers seem to have moved from neutrality to intervention at about the same pace as the rest of the nation. The Midwest became the stronghold of isolationism; other remote rural areas also saw no need for war. A month after congress declared war, W. Du Bois called on African-Americans to "fight shoulder to shoulder with the world to gain a world where war shall be no more". When such civil liberties were still not granted, many African-Americans grew tired of waiting for recognition of their rights as American citizens. In rural Missouri for example, distrust of powerful Eastern influences focused on the risk that Wall Street would lead America into war. He repeatedly blocked prewar efforts to modernize and enlarge the army. Preparedness was not needed because Americans were already safe, he insisted in January Isolated as we are, safe in our vastness, protected by a great navy, and possessed of an army sufficient for any emergency that may arise, we may disregard the lamentations and predictions of the militarists. By this point, they had been excluded almost entirely from national discourse on the subject. The Methodists and Quakers among others were vocal opponents of the war. The themeâ€”an aspect of American exceptionalism â€”was that God had chosen America as his tool to bring redemption to the world. Millions of Catholics lived in both warring camps, and Catholic Americans tended to split on ethnic lines in their opinions toward American involvement in the war. At the time, heavily Catholic towns and cities in the East and Midwest often contained multiple parishes, each serving a single ethnic group, such as Irish, German, Italian, Polish, or English. American Catholics of Irish and German descent opposed intervention most strongly. Pope Benedict XV made several attempts to negotiate a peace. All of his efforts were rebuffed by both the Allies and the Germans, and throughout the war the Vatican maintained a policy of strict neutrality. Jewish Americans[edit] Jewish American sympathies likewise broke along ethnic lines, with recently arrived Yiddish speaking Jews inclined to Zionism , and the established German-American Jewish community largely opposed to it. In â€”, there were few Jewish forces in favor of American entry into the war. Many regarded Britain as hostile to Jewish interests. New York City, with its well-organized element numbering 1. They had little interest in the continent, but were neutral about helping the United Kingdom because it had recently enacted the Government of Ireland Act , allowing Irish Home Rule. However, the Act was suspended until the war ended. Yet rather than proposing intervention on behalf of the Germans, Irish American leaders and

organizations focused on demanding American neutrality. But the increased contact between militant Irish nationalists and German agents in the United States only fueled concerns of where the primary loyalties of Irish Americans lay. The mainstream American press treated the uprising as foolish and misguided, and theorized it was largely inspired by the Germans. Overall public opinion remained faithfully pro-British. They did not prevent him from being hostile to Germany, but they did force him to keep his distance from Britain. Pro-Allied immigrants[edit] Some British immigrants worked actively for intervention. Spokesmen for Slavic immigrants hoped that an Allied victory would bring independence for their homelands. This community was largely pro-British and anti-German in sentiment. Its expression of popular pacifist sentiment "helped make the pacifist movement a hard, quantifiable political reality to be reckoned with. Ford chartered the ship in and invited prominent peace activists to join him to meet with leaders on both sides in Europe. He hoped to create enough publicity to prompt the belligerent nations to convene a peace conference and mediate an end to the war. The mission was widely mocked by the press, which wrote about the "Ship of Fools. Four days after the ship arrived in neutral Norway, a beleaguered and physically ill Ford abandoned the mission and returned to the United States; he had demonstrated that independent small efforts accomplished nothing. The British were engaged in propaganda too, though not illegal espionage, but they did not get caught. Indeed, one of the main fears Americans of all stations had in 1914 was that spies and saboteurs were everywhere. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Main article: Preparedness Movement By , Americans were paying much more attention to the war. The sinking of the Lusitania had a strong effect on public opinion because of the deaths of American civilians. That year, a strong "Preparedness" movement emerged.

Chapter 7 : What was America's role in World War Two? | Yahoo Answers

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Isolation was a long American tradition. Since the days of George Washington, Americans struggled to remain protected by the mighty oceans on its border. When European conflicts erupted, as they frequently did, many in the United States claimed exceptionalism. When the Archduke of Austria-Hungary was killed in cold blood, igniting the most destructive war in human history, the initial reaction in the United States was the expected will for neutrality. As a nation of immigrants, The United States would have difficulty picking a side. Despite the obvious ties to Britain based on history and language, there were many United States citizens who claimed Germany and Austria-Hungary as their parent lands. Support of either the Allies or the Central Powers might prove divisive. In the early days of the war, as Britain and France struggled against Germany, American leaders decided it was in the national interest to continue trade with all sides as before. A neutral nation cannot impose an embargo on one side and continue trade with the other and retain its neutral status. In addition, United States merchants and manufacturers feared that a boycott would cripple the American economy. Great Britain, with its powerful navy, had different ideas. A major part of the British strategy was to impose a blockade on Germany. American trade with the Central Powers simply could not be permitted. The results of the blockade were astonishing. Trade with England and France more than tripled between and , while trade with Germany was cut by over ninety percent. It was this situation that prompted submarine warfare by the Germans against Americans at sea. After two and a half years of isolationism, America entered the Great War. Since the Russians decided to quit the war, the Germans were able to move many of their troops from the eastern front to the stalemate in the West. The seemingly infinite supply of fresh American soldiers countered this potential advantage and was demoralizing to the Germans. American soldiers entered the bloody trenches and by November , the war was over. Contributions to the war effort were not confined to the battlefield. The entire American economy was mobilized to win the war. From planting extra vegetables to keeping the furnace turned off, American civilians provided extra food and fuel to the war effort. The United States government engaged in a massive propaganda campaign to raise troops and money. Where dissent was apparent, it was stifled, prompting many to question whether American civil liberties were in jeopardy. In the end, the war was won, but the peace was lost. Two dangerous decades of political isolationism followed, only to end in an ever more cataclysmic war. This megasite boasts several essays in these categories and many more, all illustrated, all outstanding. If you visit only one site, make this the one.

Chapter 8 : Emmett J. Scott. The American Negro in World War I. Table of Contents

One of the worst tragedies of World War II was the Holocaust in which between and it is estimated that from million Jews were killed. Only with the defeat of the Nazis were the concentration camps closed down, and the remaining survivors freed.

To help motivate American workers the U. Government commissioned posters such as this. For the second time in the 20th century, the United States became involved in a devastating world conflict. With major operations in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, American industries literally fueled two wars simultaneously. The social and economic consequences were profound. New opportunities opened for women. Americans finally enjoyed a standard of living higher than the pre-Depression years. But the war effort also had a darker side. Civil liberties were compromised, particularly for the , Japanese Americans who were forcibly uprooted from their West Coast homes to be sent to remote relocation camps. An atomic blast produces a distinctive "mushroom cloud. In both Europe and Asia, the Axis powers had established a firm foothold prior to American entry into the conflict. Once Italy quit the Axis and the Allies landed successfully at Normandy, it was only a matter of time before the Nazi machine was smashed. Similar failures marked the early war in the Pacific, as the Japanese captured the Philippines. But once Japanese offensive capabilities were damaged at Midway, the United States "island hopped" its way to the Japanese mainland. Radar helped the British locate incoming German planes, and sonar made submarine detection much more feasible. German V-1 and V-2 rockets ushered in a new age of long-range warfare. But no weapon compared in destructive capacity to the atomic bomb, developed after a massive, secret research project spearheaded by the United States government. Over , Americans perished in the four years of involvement, an American death rate second only to the Civil War. Twelve million victims perished from Nazi atrocities in the Holocaust. The deaths of twenty million Russians created a defensive Soviet mindset that spilled into the postwar era. After all the blood and sacrifice, the Axis powers were defeated, but the Grand Alliance that emerged victorious did not last long. Soon the world was involved in a year struggle that claimed millions of additional lives – the Cold War.

Chapter 9 : American Women in World War II - HISTORY

The American entry into World War I came on April 6, , after more than two and a half years of efforts by President Woodrow Wilson to keep the United States out of the war.

In April , the American Army numbered only , including all the National Guard units that could be federalized for national service. He proposed an even-handed approach towards all the belligerents that was to be maintained in both "thought A woman worker in a munitions plant, and deed. In , Wilson campaigned for reelection on a peace platform with the slogan "He kept us out of war. Things were not going well for the Allies at the time. Russia erupted in revolution in March and would soon be out of the war altogether. Italy suffered a major defeat when the Austrians captured over , soldiers in the Battle of Caporetto forcing the British and French to divert troops from the Western Front to keep Italy in the war. The situation remained stagnate on the Western Front - and worse. Mutiny spread throughout the French Army raising the fear that her armed forces may collapse from within. The Allies looked to America for salvation with the expectation that the industrial strength of the United States would replenish the supply of war material necessary for victory. In most cases these expectations were unrealistic. For example, the US built no more than airplanes prior to , and yet the French premier called on the US to immediately produce 2, airplanes per General "Black Jack" Pershing month. Additionally, the Allies expected the United States to provide an unlimited supply of manpower they could absorb into their beleaguered divisions. Wilson selected General John J. Pershing called "Black Jack" after he commanded the famous 10th cavalry in he s to head the American Expeditionary Force. Pershing left for Europe with a mandate from Wilson to cooperate with Allied forces under the following proviso - "that the forces of the United States are a separate and distinct component of the combined forces the identity of which must be preserved. The United States would fight under its own flag and its own leadership. This proved to be a bone of contention among the Allies for the rest of the war. The anticipated cornucopia of military supplies from America never materilaized. For the most part the doughboys fought with equipment supplied by the Allies including the distinctive helmet provided by the British. American troops saw their first action in May in fighting alone the Marne River. Casualties were high but the attack forced a German retreat that combined with other Allied offensives along the Western Front put the entire German army on the run. In early October, the Americans pushed through the Argonne Forest. The German High Command began to crack in the face of the persistent Allied onslaught. On November 11, Germany signed an armistice ending the war. Pershing had thrown almost 1. The nation turned inward again. How To Cite This Article: