

Making Sense of America's Experience in the First World War

Background on *Wilsonianism* (as defined on pg. 707 in text):

1. The end of isolationism.
2. Spreading of American ideals (democracy, rule of law, free trade, self-determination).
3. Using of American influence to steer the world away from rivalry and warfare towards peace and cooperation.

Causes of WWI in Europe (add a brief expl. of each):

1. imperialism:
2. nationalism:
3. militarism:
4. alliance system:
5. assassination of the Archduke:

America and WWI Timeline:

Aug 1914

neutrality

blockade

propaganda

trench warfare

May 1915

Lusitania

Mar 1916

Sussex pledge

Nov 1916

presidential election

Mar 1917

Zimmermann Note

Apr 1917

German declaration

April 6 declaration of war

1918

US troops and the Western Front

Nov 11, 1918

Armistice

Jan – June 1919

Paris Treaty

Four Concepts to Organize the American War Years:

1. Reasons for Joining
2. Experience at Home
3. Experience of Combat
4. The End of the War

WWI Questions:

1. Why did Great Britain have cause to believe the United States would side with the Allies?
2. Why did the Germans and Austrians think the US might remain neutral?
3. Why was the war initially good for American business?
4. What did Germany do to counteract the British blockade?
5. How did Germany justify the sinking of the Lusitania?
6. Why did the US finally declare war?
7. Why were more women brought into the work force?
8. What happened to many working women after the war?
9. How did wartime food restrictions promote prohibition?
10. What other factor promoted prohibition during the war?
11. What was the effect of the Russian withdrawal from the war in 1918?
12. How did the war end in November 1918?
13. What mistakes did Wilson make after the war?
14. Why was the Paris Conference of 1919 held in an atmosphere of crisis?
15. What role did the US Senate play in the Paris Conference?
16. How did domestic politics complicate Wilson's mission in Paris?
17. Why was Germany unhappy with the Treaty of Versailles? Why did they sign it anyway?
18. What was the ultimate fate of the Treaty in the US Senate? How did Wilson contribute to this?

Wilson's Fourteen Points (connect each to a cause or consequence of the war):

1. Open covenants of peace, openly negotiated.
2. Absolute freedom of the seas, in peace and in war.
3. The removal of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade among all the nations.
4. Reduction of national armaments.
5. A free and impartial adjustment of all colonial claims.
6. The evacuation of all Russian territory.
7. The evacuation and restoration of Belgium.
8. The evacuation of French territory and the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France.
9. The readjustment of the frontiers of Italy along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
10. The autonomous development for the peoples of Austria-Hungary.
11. The evacuation of Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro and the assurance of their territorial integrity.
12. The creation of a Turkish nation and the autonomy of nationalities under Turkish rule.
13. The creation of an independent Polish state and international guarantees of its nation's political and economic independence and territorial integrity.
14. The creation of a general association of nations for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small nations alike.