

# The Legacy of World War I

## MAIN IDEA

After the war, Americans were divided over foreign policy and domestic issues.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The war affected the role the United States played in the world during the rest of the century.

## TERMS & NAMES

League of Nations    reparations  
Fourteen Points    Red Scare  
Treaty of Versailles    Palmer raids

## ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge opposed President Wilson's idea that the United States join the **League of Nations**—an organization set up to settle conflicts through negotiation. Lodge felt that joining such an alliance would require the United States to guarantee the freedom of other nations.

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

If we guarantee any country . . . its independence . . . we must [keep] at any cost . . . our word. . . I wish [the American people] carefully to consider . . . whether they are willing to have the youth of America ordered to war by other nations.

Henry Cabot Lodge, speech to the Senate, February 28, 1919

Lodge's speech helped turn the public against the League. In this section, you will learn how the United States and Europe adjusted to the end of the war.



Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (1850–1924) opposed U.S. entry into the League of Nations.

## Wilson's Fourteen Points

In January 1918, ten months before the war ended, President Wilson told Congress his goals for peace. His speech became known as the **Fourteen Points** (see page 699). It called for smaller military forces, an end to secret treaties, freedom of the seas, free trade, and changes in national boundaries. Most of these changes gave independence to peoples that Austria-Hungary or the Ottoman Empire had ruled.

For Wilson, the fourteenth point mattered most. He called for an association of nations to peacefully settle disputes. This association was to become the League of Nations, which Republicans like Lodge opposed. Wilson firmly believed that acceptance of his Fourteen Points by the warring parties would bring about what he called a “peace without victory.”

### Taking Notes

Use your chart to take notes about the effects of World War I.

EFFECTS ON THE WORLD	EFFECTS ON THE UNITED STATES
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**World War I**

## Treaty of Versailles

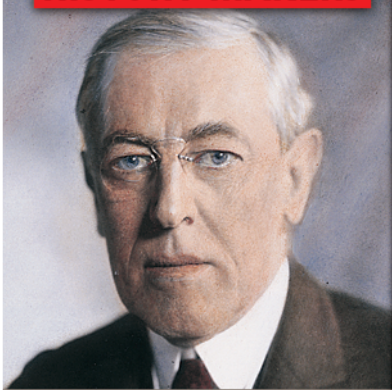
Wilson led the U.S. delegation to the peace conference in France. Though many Europeans considered him a hero, conference leaders did not. The leaders of Britain, France, and Italy did not share Wilson's vision of "peace without victory." They wanted Germany to pay heavily for its part in the war.

The **Treaty of Versailles** (vuhr•SY) forced Germany to accept full blame for the war. Germany was stripped of its colonies and most of its armed forces. It was also burdened with \$33 billion in **reparations**—money that a defeated nation pays for the destruction caused by a war. The treaty divided up the empires of Austria-Hungary and the Ottomans. It created Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia and recognized Poland's independence.

Wilson managed to include the League of Nations in the treaty. He firmly believed the League would help to keep the peace. He returned home to seek Senate approval for the treaty. But the Republican-run Senate was dead set against it. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge kept delaying a vote on the treaty.

After weeks of delay, Wilson decided to make his case to the public. In September of 1919, he began a cross-country speaking trip to build support for the League. In about 21 days, he traveled almost 10,000 miles and gave over 30 speeches.

### AMERICA'S HISTORY MAKERS



#### WOODROW WILSON

1856–1924

A gifted speaker, Woodrow Wilson had a strong sense of duty, and he inspired great loyalty. Yet he could be a harsh judge of others, stiff and unbending in his relations with people. Sculptor Jo Davidson remarked that "He invoked fear and respect . . . but not affection."

Though not America's best-loved president, he still commands respect. When historians list the nation's best presidents, Wilson often ranks in the top ten.

**How might Wilson's character have worked against approval of the Treaty of Versailles?**

#### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

In the covenant [agreement] of the League of Nations, the moral forces of the world are mobilized . . . They consent . . . to submit every matter of difference between them to the judgment of mankind, and just so certainly as they do that, . . . war will be pushed out of the foreground of terror in which it has kept the world.

**Woodrow Wilson**, speech in Pueblo, Colorado, on September 25, 1919

Shortly after giving this speech, Wilson collapsed from strain. Later, he suffered a stroke from which he never fully recovered.

Negotiations to get the treaty through Congress continued, but Americans were not eager for more foreign commitments. Lodge and his supporters offered to accept the treaty if major changes were made in the League. Wilson refused to compromise. As a result, the United States did not ratify the treaty. The League of Nations was formed without the United States.

The war and the Treaty of Versailles failed to make Europe "safe for democracy." In the next decades, Germany's resentment of the treaty grew. The treaty planted the seeds of World War II, an even more deadly conflict to come.


#### ReadingHistory

**A. Recognizing Effects** How were the Central Powers punished by the Treaty of Versailles?

#### ReadingHistory

**B. Analyzing Causes** Why didn't the United States ratify the Treaty of Versailles?

## Postwar Europe, 1919

 New nations

0 400 Miles  
0 800 Kilometers



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Maps

- Region** What new nations were created after the war?
- Region** In what part of Europe were most of the new nations located?

## EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I ON EUROPE



### IMMEDIATE EFFECTS

- Revolution in Russia
- Allied victory
- Destruction in Europe

### LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- Breakup of empires
- Formation of League of Nations
- Resentments leading to World War II

### Background

In 1919, police, steelworkers, and coal miners also went on strike.

## Strikes and the Red Scare

The Treaty of Versailles was not the only issue that divided Americans after the war. Shortly after the war ended, the United States experienced a number of labor strikes. For example, in Seattle, Washington, in February 1919, more than 55,000 workers took part in a peaceful general strike. The shutdown paralyzed the city.

Some Americans saw efforts to organize labor unions as the work of radicals, people who favor extreme measures to bring about change. The strikes sparked fears of a communist revolution like the one that toppled the Russian czar. In 1919–1920, this fear created a wave of panic called the **Red Scare** (communists were called *reds*). Public fear was heightened by the discovery of mail bombs sent to government officials. Many believed the bombs were the work of anarchists. Anarchists are radicals who do not believe in any form of government.

In January 1920, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer took action. He ordered federal agents and local police to raid the homes and headquarters of suspected radicals. His agents arrested at least 6,000 people in the **Palmer raids**. Without search warrants, agents burst into homes and offices and dragged citizens off to jail.

The Red Scare was not only antiradical but also antforeign. During the Red Scare, two Italian-born anarchists, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, were arrested for killing two men in an armed robbery in

### ReadingHistory

**C. Recognizing Effects** What resulted from the Red Scare?

Massachusetts. They claimed they were innocent, but both were found guilty and executed. Their trial attracted worldwide attention.

## Racial Tensions Increase

Americans also saw a rise in racial tensions after the war. Between 1910 and 1920, the Great Migration brought a half million African Americans to Northern cities. In the cities where African Americans had settled in large numbers, whites and blacks competed for factory jobs and housing.

On July 2, 1917, tensions erupted into a race riot in East St. Louis, Illinois. The trouble began when blacks were brought in to take the jobs of white union members who had gone on strike. A shooting incident touched off a full-scale riot.

Two years later, African-American soldiers returning from the war found their social plight unchanged. They had fought to make the world “safe for democracy.” At home, though, they were still second-class citizens.

Simmering resentments over housing, job competition, and segregation exploded during the summer of 1919. In 25 cities around the country, race riots flared. In Chicago, a black man swimming in Lake Michigan drifted into the white section of a beach. Whites stoned him until he drowned. Thirteen days of rioting followed. Before it ended, 38 people were dead.

### ReadingHistory

**D. Analyzing Causes** How did the war contribute to racial tensions?

## Longing for “Normalcy”

By the time campaigning began for the 1920 election, Americans felt drained. Labor strikes, race riots, the Red Scare, and the fight over the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations had worn them out. Voters were ready for a break. Republican candidate Warren G. Harding of Ohio offered them one. His promise to “return to normalcy” appealed to voters. Harding won a landslide victory. In the next chapter, you will learn about American life after his election.

### Section 4 Assessment

#### 1. Terms & Names

**Explain the significance of:**

- League of Nations
- Fourteen Points
- Treaty of Versailles
- reparations
- Red Scare
- Palmer raids

#### 2. Using Graphics

Create a diagram to examine the war’s effects on Europe and America.

Effects of World War I	
Europe	United States

Which effects were positive and which were negative?

#### 3. Main Ideas

- Why did Germany resent the Treaty of Versailles?
- Why did Lodge and other Republicans oppose joining the League of Nations?
- What caused the Red Scare? Who was most affected by it?

#### 4. Critical Thinking

##### Analyzing Points of View

Why was Wilson unable to get other powers to accept his goals for the peace conference?

##### THINK ABOUT

- conflicting goals
- practicality of Wilson’s aims
- attitudes of other nations toward U.S. contributions during the war

#### ACTIVITY OPTIONS

#### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### ART

Imagine that you work for a newspaper. Write an **editorial** about the Palmer raids, or draw a political **cartoon** about the raids.