

World War I

*The Emergence of Modern
America (1890–1930)*



Origins and causes

The Great War

The home front

An imperfect peace

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know about the changes to the home front in the U.S. during World War I:

- War economy and finance
- Attacks on civil liberties
- Propaganda
- Social change.



During times of war, ordinary civilians had to actively support the military domestically in order for the country to participate effectively. This is known as the **home front**.



Decisions during this time included acts that gave the federal government control over farms, commodity prices, rationing, railroads and labor disputes.

People felt that well-ordered systems would create a healthy and prosperous nation and therefore the kind of mobilization needed for the war. However, not everybody supported this.

Do you think the federal government should have these powers during war? What about during peace?



The U.S. government needed to raise money to fight the war. To do this, it employed two main methods: it imposed taxes and issued **liberty bonds**.

Can you match each method of finance to the correct image and description?

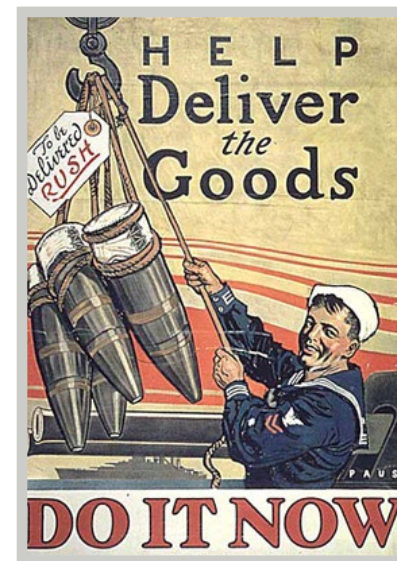
Press **start** to begin.

start



Although it was the nation that had the world's biggest defense budget, in 1917 the U.S. was not prepared for war. There were not enough weapons for all the troops and military technology was not up to date. Industrialists quickly transformed their factories to produce munitions.

As the U.S. was far away from any fighting, factories and farms were able to keep producing goods and sell them to European countries in need of supplies, as well as to other countries who formerly traded with Europe.



By the war's end, the U.S. had the world's largest economy.



During World War I, certain civil liberties to do with freedom of speech were restricted by the U.S. government to help the war effort. Each of the statements in the activity refers to a prohibited action. Drag each statement to one of the categories, depending on whether you think it should be protected by law or should be a crime.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Should freedom of speech have limits?



Propaganda posters were used by the U.S. government throughout World War I in order to build up public support for the war effort. The posters are all trying to put across different messages for different reasons. Drag each poster to the correct place, depending on what message it is trying to convey.

Press **start** to begin.

start

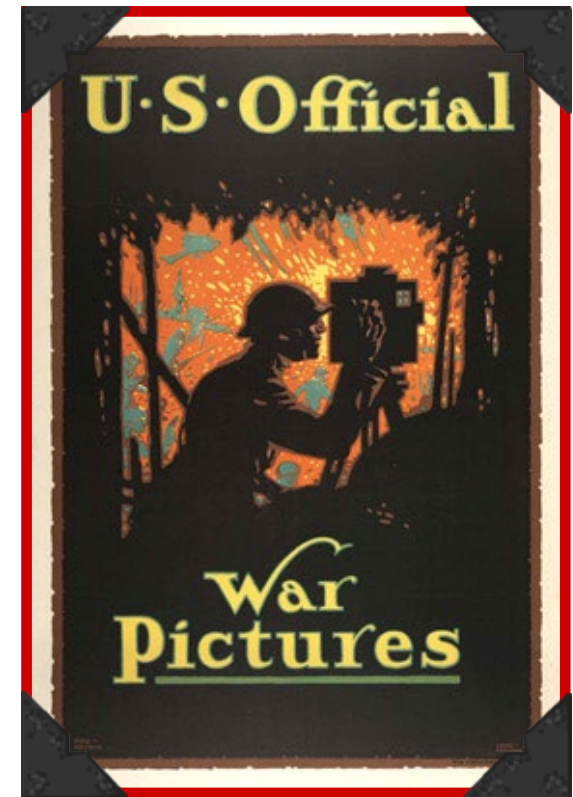




The propaganda campaigns of the **Committee of Public Information** encouraged people to enlist, buy liberty bonds, grow victory gardens to produce food for the troops and avoid anything German.

Anything with a German name was changed: frankfurters became hot dogs, hamburgers became liberty steaks. Town names also changed. For example, Berlin, Iowa, became Lincoln, Iowa.

Public opinion was influenced by all kinds of media, including film, radio, newspapers, posters and music.



How did Prohibition fit into the war effort?



During World War I, everybody had to do their duty and help with the war effort. It provided new opportunities for women and black people.

Read this passage about the changing status of women and black people and select the correct word to fill each blank.

Press **start** to begin.

start

