4. American Imperialism and World War I
4.1 The Age of Empire

4.2 Americans in the Great War
4.1 The Age of Empire
4.1.1 The New Imperialism

4.1.2 The Lure of Empire

4.1.3 "A Splendid Little War"
4.1.4 U.S. Imperial Expansion, 1857-1917

4.1.5 The Philippines

4.1.6 Imperialists vs. Anti-Imperialists

4.1.7 Open Door and Big Stick
4.1.1 The New Imperialism
Imperial Dreams

Political & business leaders called for an activist approach to world affairs

• Exceptionalism
• The U.S. was an exceptional nation… different and superior to others
• Other influences
Foreign Policy Elite

- Leaders in politics, journalism, business, agriculture, religion, education, and the military
  - Henry Adams (Historian)
  - John Hay (Writer and Diplomat)
- Encouraged selling, buying, and investing in foreign marketplaces
Growing U.S. Economic Power (1900)

1913 World Manufacturing Production

- U.S.: 35.8%
- Britain: 24.6%
- Germany: 15.7%
- France: 6.4%
- Russia: 3.5%
- Others: 14%
4.1.2 The Lure of Empire
Race Thinking and the Male Ethos

- American supremacy
- Whites superior to blacks
- Manliness stressed
- “People of color were weaklings, unfit to govern themselves…”

- T. Roosevelt
• Reverend Josiah Strong: *Our Country*
  
  • “As America goes, so goes the world”

• Secretary of State Thomas F. Bayard

  • Applauded U.S. in Mexico: “Americanize them”
“Civilizing” Impulse

Empire benefited us and those under our control
  • extending liberty and prosperity

William Howard Taft: “Others will see us as blessed.”
Ambitions and Strategies

• William Seward and his quest for Empire

• Senator & Secretary of State (1861-69)

• Bought Alaska, claimed Midway Islands
• International Communications

• Telegraph lines to Latin America, Japan & China

• Alfred T. Mahan and Navalism

• U.S. required an efficient navy

• Steel -hulled warships
4.1.3 "A Splendid Little War"
Spanish-American War

- Sinking of the Maine
- Journalists blamed Spain
- McKinley’s Ultimatum
- Accept an armistice in Cuba, end reconcentration, and accept U.S.-appointed arbiter
Why war?

Everyone: commerce and property

Imperialists: gain land

Conservatives: war as national unifier
The New Jingoism

Uncle Sam cheers the U.S. Navy in the “splendid little war” of 1898.

• Many Americans, were less than enthused about America’s new “imperial adventure”.
War (cont.)

• Dewey in the Philippines
  • Commodore Dewey led new ship *Olympia* into Manila Bay, easily defeating the Spanish fleet

• Puerto Rico
  • U.S. forces then conquered this Spanish colony
• Treaty of Paris (August 12, 1898)
• Independence for Cuba
• Cession (for $20m) of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam to U.S.
Dewey’s Route in the Philippines, 1898
“A Splendid Little War”
“Cuba Libre”

Confederate and Union officers “reconcile three decades after the Civil War to liberate innocent Cuba from her chains of bondage to Spain…”
4.1.4 U.S. Imperial Expansion, 1857-1917
Crisis in the 1890s

- Annexation of Hawaii
- McKinley Tariff eliminates duty-free Hawaiian sugar
- Subversive Annexation Club
- Troops occupied Honolulu -> Queen Liliuokalani surrenders
  -> U.S. annexes Hawaii
• Venezuelan Boundary Dispute
  • Using Monroe Doctrine, U.S. helps Venezuela by coaxing Britain to sign a border treaty

• Revolution in Cuba
  • Jose Marti launches revolution against Spain from U.S.
Queen Liliuokalani
Liliuokalani was the last reigning queen of Hawaii.

- Her defense of native Hawaiian self-rule led to a revolt by white settlers and to her dethronement.
They Can’t Fight

Britain and America argued fiercely during the Venezuelan boundary dispute, but cooler heads prevailed.

• Rapprochement followed.
• Linked by language, culture, and mutual economic interest.
• Bismarck: “The supreme geopolitical fact of the modern era is that the Americans speak English.”
Cutting Through the Continental Divide in Panama
4.1.5 The Philippines
The Philippines

• Philippines asserted they did not need U.S. help
• Aguinaldo leads independent Philippine Republic in revolt vs. U.S. (1899)
- War
  - Americans: burned crops and villages
  - Filipinos: guerilla ambushes
- Insurrection suppressed in 1902
  - 4,000 Americans dead
  - 20,000 Filipinos (military) dead
• U.S. tries Americanization
• 1916: Jones Act (weak promise of independence)
• 1946: Independence at last!
Captured Filipino Insurrectionists (1899)

• Altogether, 600,000 Filipinos perished.

• Irony: Americans claimed to be “liberating” the Filipinos from their oppressive Spanish masters
4.1.6 Imperialists vs. Anti-Imperialists
Anti-Imperialist Arguments

Mark Twain, William Jennings Bryan, Jane Addams, Andrew Carnegie, Samuel Gompers
• Argued against annexation of the Philippines
  • Why should a war to free Cuba lead to an empire?
• Conquest of people against their will violated the right of self-determination
• U.S. Constitution violated
• U.S. character being corrupted
• Gompers feared job loss
  • Colonies would undercut American labor
Imperialist Arguments

• Appealed to Patriotism, Destiny, & Commerce
  • Merchant ships sailing for Asian markets
  • Missionaries uplifting inferior peoples
• “White man’s burden” (Rudyard Kipling)
• Treaty of Paris + McKinley re-election
• Imperialists win argument
• McKinley “Imperialism best serves U.S. interests.”
4.1.7 Open Door and Big Stick
China & the Open Door Policy

• Secretary of State John Hay

• Knew U.S. could not force imperial powers out of China

• Asked countries with spheres of influence to accept equal trade opportunity (Open Door)
American Missionary
Grace Roberts
Teaching in China
(1903)

Boxer rebels attacked missionaries in China in 1900 as symbols of foreign encroachment.
Japanese Workers Building a Road  
(California, c. 1910)
4.2 Americans in the Great War
4.2.1 "Over There"

4.2.2 "The Yanks Are Coming"

4.2.3 Winning the War at Home

4.2.4 Winning at What Cost?
4.2.5 Blacks in the Military

4.2.6 Women & the War

4.2.7 Winning the Great War

4.2.8 Losing the Peace
4.2.1 "Over There"
Modern War

- Submarine warfare
- Break blockades
- Overcome surface ship disadvantage
- Rapid fire machine guns
- Led to trench warfare
• Trench warfare
• 500 miles of ditches for protection
• Tanks
• Broke through barbed wire
• Airplanes
• Observe enemy activities
• Limited bombing ability
• Poison gas
• German invention to “move” trenches
Build-up of military forces among nations

Militarism

Strong military competition
Hardening of alliance systems
Triple Alliance—
Triple Entente—
Russia was traditionally
Serbia’s protector
Nations seeking economic growth and expansion

Establish and expand global empires

Imperialism
Deep attachments to one’s own nation helped unify the people and helped create Nationalism competition.
4.2.2 "The Yanks Are Coming"
Wilsonianism

Two main principles: Democracy and Open Door Policy

“America has the great privilege of fulfilling her destiny and saving the world”
U.S. Involvement

• 1914: U.S. declares neutrality
• Money loaned to warring nations
• Zimmerman Telegram
• German unrestricted submarine warfare
• Sinking of *Lusitania*
• Sinking of *Arabic*
• Germany sinks four U.S. merchant ships
• April 2, 1917 Wilson asks Congress for war declaration

• April 6, 1917 US declares war on Germany
Why 1917?

• Unrestricted submarine warfare didn’t start in 1917.

• What role did Wilson’s November, 1916 reelection play?
• Which two ethnic groups were traditional cornerstones of Democratic vote in urban Northeast?

• Irish- & German-Americans

• Why is this significant?
PRESIDENT CALLS FOR WAR DECLARATION, STRONGER NAVY, NEW ARMY OF 500,000 MEN, FULL CO-OPERATION WITH GERMANY’S FOES
1917: Selective Service Act

• 24 million men registered for the draft
• 4.8 million men served in WWI
• 2 million saw active combat
• 400,000 African-Americans served in segregated units.

• 15,000 Native-Americans served as scouts, messengers, and snipers in non-segregated units.
4.2.3 Winning the War at Home
The Home Front

- Selective Service: 2.8 million drafted
- War Industries Board: coordinated production of war materials
- Daylight savings time
- Bonds: Liberty and Victory
• Committee on Public Information (George Creel): sold the war to the public

• Sedition Act of 1918
  • Public expression of war opposition illegal
  • Schenck v. United States: “clear & present danger”
The Committee of Public Information (George Creel)

- America’s “Propaganda Minister”
- Anti-Germanism
- Selling American Culture
The Creel Committee

• Government psychology and propaganda sustained the martial spirit.

• “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier” became “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Slacker.”

• This inspired, “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Sausage.”
ENLIST

On Which Side of the Window are YOU?

LAURA GREY

COPYRIGHT 1917 BY E. V. CHIPP, CHICAGO, ILL.
I WANT YOU FOR U.S. ARMY
NEAREST RECRUITING STATION
DO YOUR DUTY

YOU CAN HELP BIG BROTHER BY BUYING THRIFT STAMPS
FILL YOUR CARD
TELL THAT TO THE MARINES!
Battling Venereal Disease

The American military waged a half-hearted war on rampant venereal disease.
You kept fit and defeated the Hun

Now—set a high standard
A CLEAN AMERICA

STAMP OUT VENERAL DISEASES
Council of National Defense

- War Industries Board: Bernard Baruch
- Food Administration: Herbert Hoover
- Railroad Administration: William McAdoo
- National War Labor Board: W. H. Taft
Save Sugar by Using Pork
FOLLOW THE PIED PIPER
Join the United States School Garden Army.
On The Job For Victory

United States Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation
Help Uncle Sam to Win the War by following these Directions:

1. Fire small amounts of coal often.
2. Keep fuel bed even by putting coal on thin spots. Avoid raking and slicing.
3. Keep fuel bed about six inches thick.
4. Look out for air leaks in brickwork.
5. Increase or decrease steam pressure by opening or closing draft damper in uptakes.
6. Clean fires when the demand for steam is small, and while cleaning have the draft damper partly closed.

United States Fuel Administration
Save Gasoline

It's a WAR necessity

Don't spill any
- permit leaks
- use for washing
- run engine while standing
- leave tanks or cans open
- waste lubricating oils

Stop the leaks and save the drops

UNITED STATES FUEL ADMINISTRATION
THE NAVY IS CALLING
ENLIST NOW
U.S. NAVY RECRUITING STATION
P. O. Building • 615 Superior Ave, N. W.
Cleveland
4.2.4 Winning at What Cost?
Threats to Civil Liberties

Espionage Act (1917)
• Forbade actions that obstructed recruitment or efforts to promote insubordination in the military.
• Ordered the Postmaster General to remove Leftist materials from the mail.

• Fines of up to $10,000 and/or up to 20 years in prison.
• Sedition Act (1918)
  A crime to speak against the purchase of war bonds or *willfully utter, print, write or publish* any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about this form of government, the US Constitution, or the US armed forces or to *willfully urge, incite, or advocate* any curtailment of production of things necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war...
Post-war labor unrest:

• Coal Miners Strike of 1919.

• Steel Strike of 1919.

• Boston Police Strike of 1919.
—AND JUST WHEN I HAD SUCH AN ADVANTAGE IN THE START OF THE RACE FOR THE WORLD MARKETS!

U.S. CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF STRIKES

Copyrighted, 1919, by John T. McCutcheon.

IF CAPITAL AND LABOR DON'T PULL TOGETHER.

—McCutcheon in the Chicago Tribune.
I'm sick
and tired
of this
nonsense!!
COMING OUT OF THE SMOKE.

—Kirby In the New York World.
WHAT A YEAR HAS BROUGHT FORTH.

---Kirby in the New York World.
HE GIVES AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMIES OF SOCIETY.

—McCutecheon in the Chicago Tribune.
STRIKING BACK!
Threats to Civil Liberties IV

“The Red Scare”

• 1919: 3rd International goal: promote worldwide communism.

• Attorney General, A. Mitchell Palmer (The Case against the Reds)

• Palmer Raids - 1920
4.2.5 Blacks in the Military
African Americans

- Served in segregated units in military
- “Great Migration”
- Movement from South to North to fill factory jobs
COLORED MEN
The First Americans
Who Planted
Our Flag
on the
Firing Line

“Liberty And Freedom
Shall Not Perish”
A. Lincoln
Home from the War: 1919

- Most black troops were denied combat duty and served as laborers and stevedores.

- This wounded veteran fought in a segregated unit, the 369th Colored Infantry Regiment, the “Hell fighters of Harlem.”
4.2.6 Women and the War
Women’s Roles

- Filled jobs in factories
- Military service
  - Allowed to enlist in Navy
  - Filled temporary jobs in Army
- Army nurses were only military women allowed overseas
1918: U.S. Army nurses on the frontlines in France
Suffragists Picket the White House, 1917

Militant feminists handcuffed themselves to the White House fence to dramatize their demand for the vote.
Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?

Mr. President, what will you do for woman suffrage?
4.2.7 Winning the Great War
Gassed
- John Singer Sargent

• This painting captures the horror of trench warfare in World War I. The enemy was often distant and unseen, and death came impersonally from gas or artillery fire.
Turning Points

• 1917: Russia drops out of the war
  • Eastern front closed
  • American troops arrive
• 1918
  • Allies push Germans back to border of Germany
  • Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates
  • Germany surrenders
  • War ends 11\textsuperscript{th} hour, 11\textsuperscript{th} day, 11\textsuperscript{th} month
## Comparative Losses in World War I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN KILLED IN BATTLE</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,385,000</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>British Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>462,000</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.8 Losing the Peace
Treaty of Versailles

• Wilson’s Fourteen Points
• Plan for “peace without victory”
• League of Nations
• General association of nations
• Help preserve peace / prevent future wars
• Senate never signed Treaty of Versailles
• U.S. never joined League of Nations
• Germany’s punishment
  • Accept blame for causing war
  • Reduce military
  • Pay war reparations
14 Points

1-5: diplomacy (tariffs, seas, arms)

6-13: removal of troops

14: League of Nations
1919: Wilson in Dover, England

• Hailed by Europeans in early 1919 as the savior of the Western world

• Wilson was a broken man months later when Americans rejected the peace treaty.
Draft of League of Nations
“Stop the Wedding!”

• Traditional isolationists, especially U.S. Senators, refused to ratify the Versailles Treaty, shattering Wilson’s dream of making the United States a more engaged international power.
If any man can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak.