

Study Guide



Chapter 19, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 584–589

THE HOME FRONT

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

conscription forced military service (page 585)

War Industries Board a government agency created to coordinate the production of war materials (page 586)

Bernard Baruch the head of the War Industries Board (page 586)

victory garden garden planted by Americans to raise their own vegetables (page 586)

Liberty Bonds bonds bought by Americans as a loan to the government to finance World War I (page 586)

Victory Bonds bonds bought by Americans as a loan to the government to finance World War I (page 586)

Committee on Public Information a government agency created to sell the war to the American people (page 588)

espionage spying to acquire secret government information (page 588)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What do you think freedom of speech means? Do you think people should be allowed to say whatever they want whenever they want to? Explain your opinion.

The last section explained the reasons the United States entered World War I. This section describes the war effort at home.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. The United States government had to prepare for war in several areas. Identify the ways it prepared in each of the areas listed.

	How the Government Prepared
Building Up the Military	1.
Organizing the Economy	2.
Setting Up a Workforce	3.
Getting Public Support	4.

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READ TO LEARN

- **Building Up the Military** (page 584)

When the United States entered the war, it did not have enough soldiers. Although many people volunteered, most officials believed that they would have to turn to **conscription**, or forced military service. Many progressives believed that conscription was against democratic principles.

Congress, however, believed conscription was necessary. It set up a new system of conscription called selective service. It required all men between 21 and 30 to register for the draft. A lottery then randomly decided the order they were called to military service. Eventually about 2.8 million men were drafted. About 42,000 of the 400,000 African Americans who were drafted served in the war overseas. African American soldiers faced discrimination and prejudice in the army. They served in racially segregated units that were almost always under the control of white officers. Despite this, many African Americans fought with distinction in the war. Two African American divisions fought in battles along the Western Front.

Women officially served in the armed forces for the first time in World War I. They served in non-combat positions. Women nurses served in both the army and the navy. With men serving in combat, the armed forces faced a shortage of clerical workers. The navy enlisted women to serve as clerical workers, radio operators, electricians, torpedo assemblers, and other occupations. The army, however, refused to enlist women. It hired women as temporary employees to fill clerical jobs. The only women to actually serve in the army were the army nurses.

5. Why did the United States use conscription during World War I?

- **Organizing Industry** (page 585)

To get the economy ready for the war, Congress created special agencies. One of the first agencies was the **War Industries Board** (WIB). Its job was to coordinate the production of war materials. **Bernard Baruch** was in charge of the board. The WIB worked with business leaders. It told industries what they could and could not make.

The Food Administration was responsible for increasing the amount of food available for the armed forces, while decreasing the amount of food available for civilians. The government encouraged Americans to save food on their own such as by having Wheatless Mondays or Meatless Tuesdays. The government

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encouraged people to plant **victory gardens** to raise their own vegetables. This would leave more food for the troops. The government set high prices on wheat and other grains to increase farm production.

The Fuel Administration managed the use of coal and oil. To conserve energy, the government introduced daylight savings time. It also shortened workweeks for factories that did not make war materials.

To raise money to pay for the war, Congress raised income tax rates. It placed new taxes on company profits and on the profits of arms factories. The government also borrowed money from the American people through **Liberty Bonds** and **Victory Bonds**. The government agreed to pay back the money with interest in a certain number of years.

6. How did the government attempt to get the money to pay for World War I?

• Mobilizing the Workforce (page 587)

To prevent workers from striking, the government set up the National War Labor Board (NWLB). This agency mediated labor disputes that might otherwise lead to strikes. The NWLB pushed industry to give workers wage increases, an 8-hour workday, and the right to organize unions. In return, labor leaders agreed not to disrupt war production through strikes. Union membership increased.

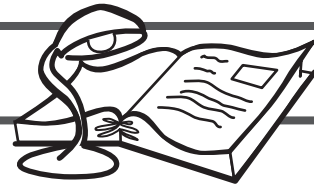
Women's opportunities in the workforce increased during the war. Women took over jobs in industries that the men who were serving in the military had left. After the war, however, most women returned to their previous jobs or stopped working.

Many African Americans started working in factories that produced war materials. Many left the South and moved to factories in the North. This movement became known as the "Great Migration." It changed the racial makeup of cities such as Chicago, New York, Cleveland, and Detroit.

Many Mexicans left Mexico and headed north. Some worked for farmers and ranchers in the Southwest. Others moved north to get wartime factory jobs. Mexican Americans often faced discrimination. They often settled in their own separate neighborhoods, where they could support each other.

7. Why did the government set up the National War Labor Board?

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- **Ensuring Public Support** (page 587)

The government wanted to make sure that the public supported the war. It set up an agency called the **Committee on Public Information** (CPI) to do so. George Creel was the head of the agency. He hired advertisers, artists, authors, songwriters, entertainers, and others to sway public opinion in favor of the war. The CPI arranged for short patriotic talks at movie theaters and public gatherings. It hired thousands of “Four-Minute Men” to urge audiences to support the war in various ways.

The government passed laws to fight antiwar activities. The Espionage Act of 1917 provided for penalties and prison terms for anyone convicted of **espionage**, or spying to acquire secret government information. The law also provided for penalties for interfering with the war effort. The Sedition Act of 1918 made illegal any public expression of opposition to the war. In reality, it let officials prosecute anyone who criticized the government.

The fear of spies led to the mistreatment and persecution of German Americans. Things that were German came under suspicion. Some schools dropped the German language from its curriculums. Orchestras stopped playing music by German composers.

Other people also came under suspicion. They included radical labor activists and socialists. Newspaper ads urged people to report on any people who might be harming the war effort. Many people became concerned about the intolerance that was occurring in the country.

The courts, however, generally upheld the government’s tactics. In *Schenck v. the United States*, the Supreme Court ruled that a person’s freedom of speech could be curbed if the speech presented a danger. The Court said that many things that could be said in peace time could be considered dangerous during war.

8. How did the Sedition Act of 1918 affect freedom of speech?

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Chapter 19, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 592–597

A BLOODY CONFLICT

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

“no man’s land” the space between opposing trenches (page 593)

convoys groups of merchant ships and troop transports (page 594)

Vladimir Lenin leader of the Bolshevik Party (page 595)

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk treaty between Germany and Russia that ended Russia’s involvement in World War I (page 595)

armistice a cease-fire (page 596)

Fourteen Points President Wilson’s plan for peace after World War I (page 596)

League of Nations an association of nations organized to help keep peace and prevent future wars (page 596)

Treaty of Versailles treaty that ended World War I (page 596)

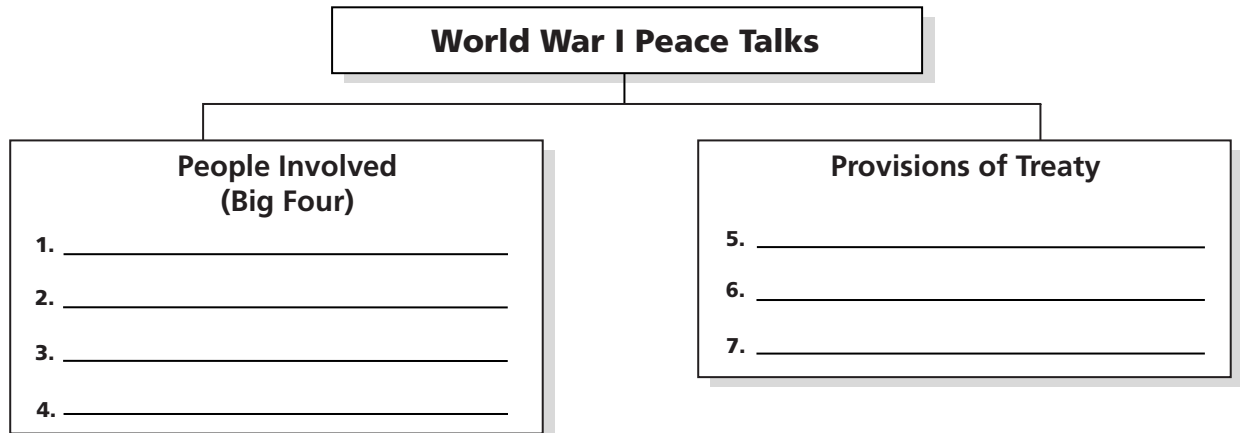
reparations payments for war damages (page 596)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

You have probably heard of the United Nations. Do you know what it does? Its forerunner was the League of Nations set up after World War I. The last section discussed the war effort at home during World War I. This section discusses the new technology used during the war and the treaty that ended the war.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

The treaty ending World War I involved the Big Four. In the diagram, describe the major people involved and the major provisions of the treaty.



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READ TO LEARN

- **Combat in World War I** (page 592)

The ways used to fight wars changed during World War I. Troops began using the rapid-fire machine gun. They dug trenches to defend their lines against enemy attacks. On the Western Front, troops dug a network of trenches that stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss border. The space between the opposing trenches became known as **"no man's land."** Soldiers from either side would race across no man's land and throw grenades into the opposing trenches. As they ran across, many were shot. In major battles, both sides sometimes lost hundreds of thousands of men.

Both sides developed new technologies. The Germans began using poison gas. The fumes caused vomiting, blindness, and suffocation. The Allies also began using poison gas, and gas masks became necessary equipment. The British introduced the tank, which could roll over barbed wire and trenches. Airplanes were first used in World War I. They were used at first to observe enemy activities. Then they were used to drop bombs. Later, machine guns were attached to airplanes, which took part in air battles.

8. What technology did the British introduce in World War I?

- **The Americans and Victory** (page 594)

About 2 million American soldiers fought in World War I. Although they were mostly inexperienced, they boosted the morale of the Allied forces. The commander of the U.S. army was General John J. Pershing.

To avoid having troop ships sunk on their way to Europe, the admiral of the U.S. navy suggested that merchant ships and troop transports be gathered in groups, called **convoys**. Warships escorted the convoys. This system reduced the number of ships that were lost and made sure that American troops reached Europe safely.

In February 1917, riots broke out in Russia over the government's involvement in the war. Food and fuel was scarce. Russia's leader, Czar Nicholas II,

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