

World War One

Part Three



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



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 made during this time included passing acts giving 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?



War finance



Although it was the nation with the world's biggest defense budget, in 1917, the U.S. was not prepared for war.

However, 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.



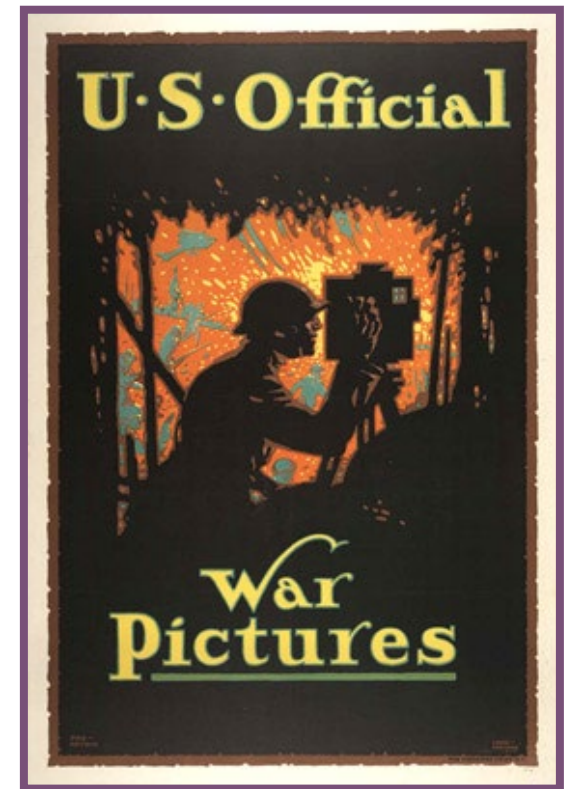
Propaganda



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 and 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?

Aftermath of the war

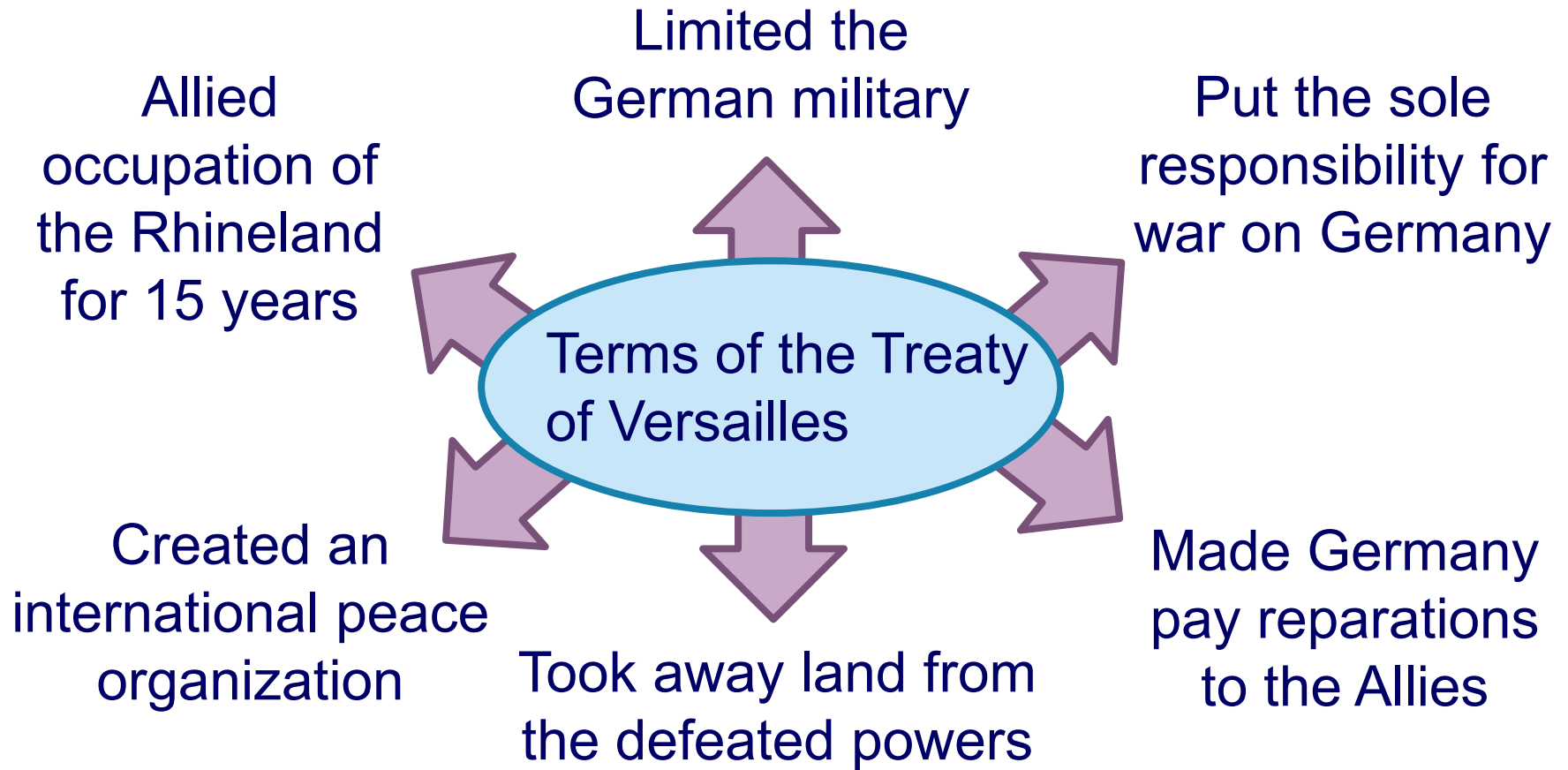




Treaty of Versailles



After long arguments, the Great Powers finally came to an agreement. The **Treaty of Versailles** forced the following:



Do you think these terms were fair?





German territorial changes





The **League of Nations** was Wilson's idea, laid out in his Fourteen Points delivered to **Congress** in 1918. He wanted nations of the world to have self-determination, to have guarantees concerning their territory and to be able to choose for themselves the type of government they wanted.

Wilson wanted to ensure world peace and prevent future conflicts.

He felt this would be best achieved via cooperation between countries in the League of Nations.


ORIGIN OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

January 8th, 1918. Fourteen Points laid down by President Wilson as the basis of world peace. (*)

January 25th, 1919. League accepted in principle.

April 28th, 1919. Covenant adopted.

January 10th, 1920. League came into being; Secretariat established in London.



January 16th, 1920. First meeting of Council at Paris.

November 1st, 1920. League Headquarters moved from London to Geneva.

November 15th, 1920. First Meeting of Assembly at Geneva.

Woodrow WILSON

(*) THE FOURTEENTH POINT :

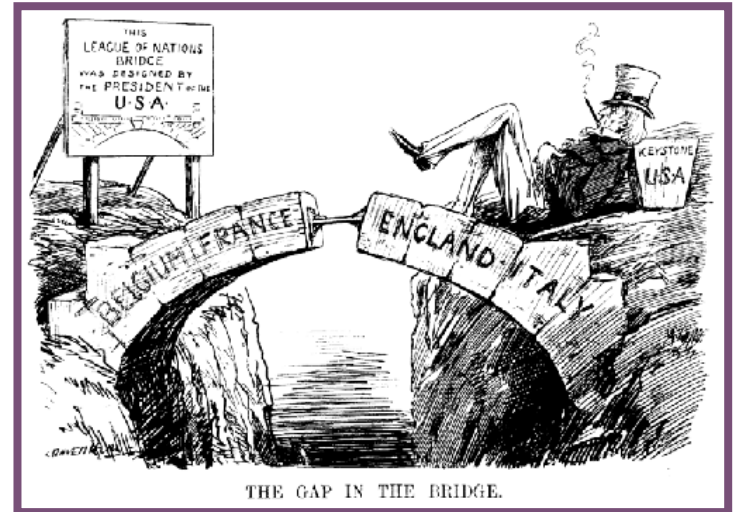
" A General Association of Nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike."

Reactions to Versailles



Wilson's next task was to get Congress to agree to the League of Nations, but there was a lot of opposition:

- **isolationists** did not want to be part of European politics
- progressives felt Wilson compromised too many ideals to get the other powers to join
- immigrants were angry at how their homelands had fared in the deal.



Wilson fought tirelessly for his vision, but in 1919 he suffered a stroke that disabled him for life. The Senate never reached the two-thirds vote needed for the U.S. to join the League.

What do you think the cartoon is trying to say?

The failure of the League

Despite the U.S. deciding not to join, the League of Nations was formed. However, it proved to be weak and indecisive.



Membership of the League fluctuated. Germany and Russia were initially excluded. Britain and France were the only constant members.

It also had no armed force and was reluctant to intervene. Some countries capitalized on this indecision.



Was world peace a realistic aim?

Review



