

PPT: Supporting the War

American Power Tips the Balance



- America was not ready for war. Only 200,000 men were in service when war was declared, so Congress passed the **Selective Service Act** in May of 1917.
- By the end of 1918, 24 million had signed up and almost 3 million were called to duty. About **2 million American troops** reached Europe.

Should the federal government be allowed
to enforce a draft?

Should there be any exceptions?

Fresh U.S. Soldiers Join Fight



- After 2 ½ years of fighting, the Allied forces were exhausted. One of the main contributions of the Americans was **fresh and enthusiastic troops**.
- American infantry were **nicknamed “doughboys”** because of their white belts. Most doughboys had never ventured far from the farms or small towns they lived in

American Troops Go On the Offensive



Men of the 42nd Division during the Second Marne. These men were killed by artillery fire just 5 minutes after this photo was taken

- When **Russia surrendered** to the Germans in 1917, the Central Powers were able to focus on the **Western Front** . By May, the Germans were within 50 miles of Paris. The Americans arrived and immediately played a major role in pushing the Germans back. In July and August the **Americans helped the Allies win the Second Battle of the Marne.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHxkldkmL2E>

World War I: U.S. Army Battles in France (Britannica.com)



britannica.com

3:01 / 4:49

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Germany Collapses, War Ends



War ends 11/11/18

- On November 3, 1918, Germany's partner, Austria-Hungary, surrendered to the Allies. That same day, German sailors mutinied against their government.
- Other revolts followed, and **Germany was too exhausted to continue.**
- So at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month of 1918, **Germany signed a truce ending the Great War.**

The War At Home

- The Entire U.S. Economy Was Focused On The War Effort. The **Shift From A Consumer Economy To War Economy** Required A **Collaboration Between Business And Government.**
- In The Process, The **Power Of The U.S. Government Expanded.** Congress Gave President Wilson Direct Control Over The Economy.



War Industries Board



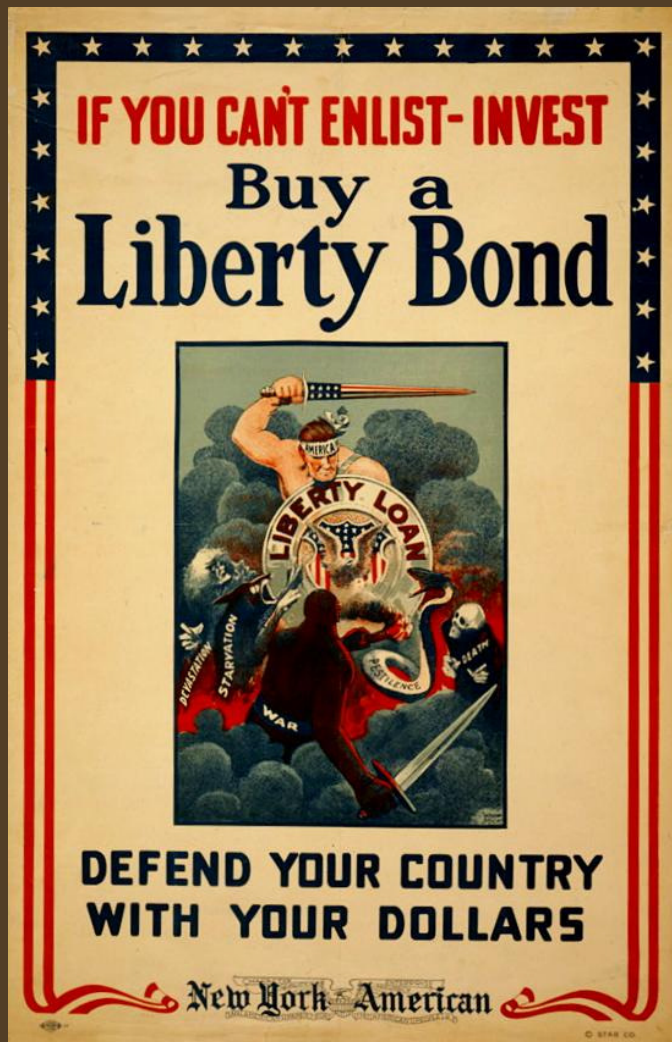
- The War Industries Board (WIB) encouraged companies to use mass-production techniques. Under the WIB industrial production and wages increased 20% and union membership increased from 2.5 million to 4 million.
- To deal with disputes between management and labor, President Wilson set up the National War Labor Board in 1918.

Victory Gardens



- To conserve food, Wilson set up the **Food Administration** (FA) which declared one day a week “**meatless**,” another “**sweetless**,” and two days “**wheatless**.” Homeowners planted “**victory gardens**” in their yards and school children worked after school growing **tomatoes and cucumbers** in public parks.
- **Farmers increased production** by almost 30% by adding 40 million acres of farmland

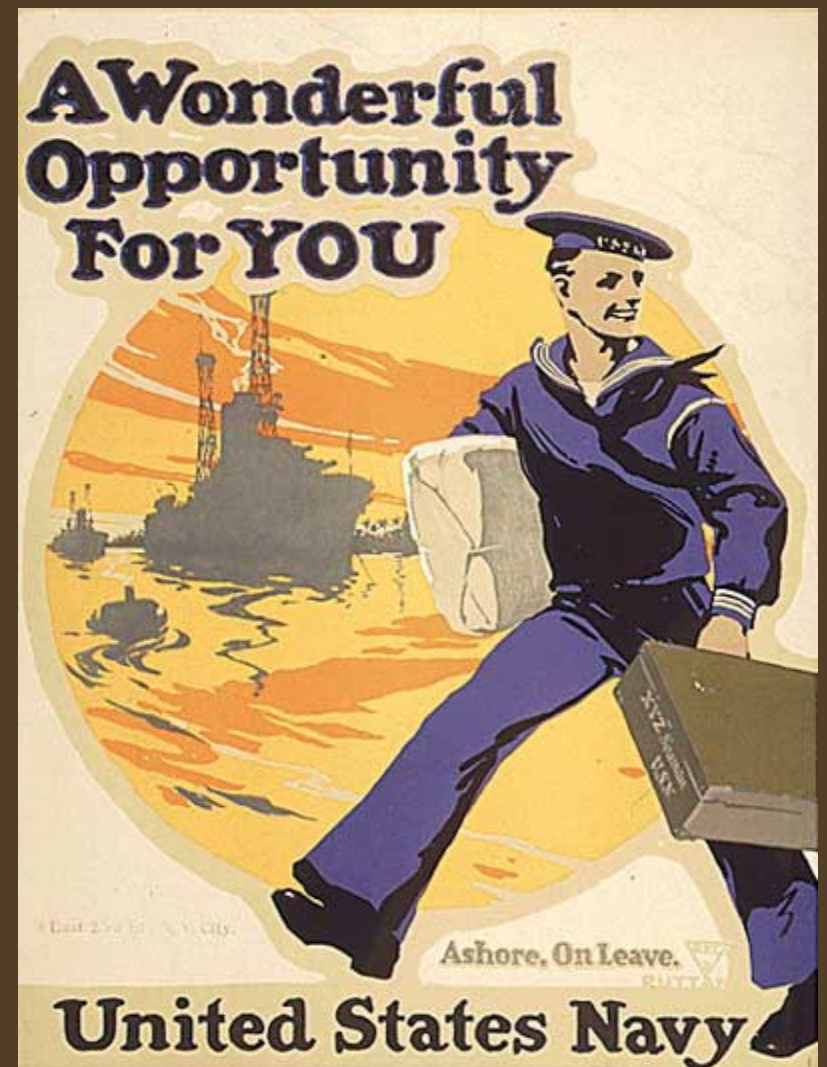
Selling The War



- The U.S. had two major tasks: **raising money** and convincing the public to **support the war**.
- The U.S. spent **\$35.5 billion** on the war effort.
- The government raised about 1/3 of that through an **income tax** and “**sin**” taxes.
- The rest was raised through war bonds sold to the public (Liberty Loans & Victory Loans)

Propaganda

- To popularize the war, the government set up the nation's first propaganda agency called the **Committee on Public Information (CPI)**
- George Creel led the agency and persuaded many of the nation's artists to create thousands of paintings, posters, cartoons and sculptures to promote the war





Help Uncle Sam
Stamp Out
The Kaiser!



WALTON & BATES

BUY U.S. GOV'T BONDS





Paul Strick

Be Patriotic
sign your country's
pledge to save the food

U.S. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

NO. 41 FOODS 10-1941



Little
AMERICANS
Do your bit

Eat Oatmeal-Corn meal mush-
Hominy - other corn cereals -
and Rice with milk.

Save the wheat for our soldiers.

Leave nothing on your plate



UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Save your Child
FROM AUTOCRACY
AND POVERTY



BUY
War Savings
Stamps



UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT



Beat back the **HUN**

with

**LIBERTY
BONDS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBIwLnfzRus>



Attack on Civil Liberties

- As the war progressed, Civil Liberties were compromised.
 - **Anti-Immigrant feelings** were openly expressed especially anti-German and Austrian-Hungarian.
 - **Espionage and Sedition Acts** were passed by Congress. These acts were designed to prevent anti-war protests but went against the spirit of the First Amendment (free speech) and made any obstruction to war illegal.
 - **Socialists and labor leaders** were targeted for disloyalty.



Any anti-American sentiments were targeted during wartime