

11B: WORLD WAR I

ESSENTIAL TERMS



KEY CONCEPTS

Trench Warfare: Style of combat common on the Western Front during World War I marked by a distinct advantage for the defense.

Neutrality: Refusing to join sides in a war.

Propaganda: Advertising created by the government to encourage citizens to think and act in ways the government wants.

Armistice: An agreement to stop fighting.

Fourteen Points: President Wilson's reasons for fighting in World War I. These were aspects of his Moral Diplomacy and became the basis of American negotiations at the end of the war. Some of the ideas were included in the Treaty of Versailles.

Reparations: Payment by one nation to another as a form of apology or penalty.



LOCATIONS

Triple Entente: Alliance between the United Kingdom, France and Russia at the start of World War I

Triple Alliance / Central Powers: Alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy at the start of World War I. When the war began, Italy left the alliance.



LAWS & TREATIES

Selective Service Act: 1917 law that established the draft.

Espionage and Sedition Acts: A pair of laws passed during World War I significantly restricting freedom of speech by making anti-war or anti-government speech illegal.

Treaty of Versailles: Peace treaty that concluded World War I and established the League of Nations. The United States Senate never ratified the treaty.

Article X of the League of Nations Covenant: Key component of the League of Nations in which the nations of the world agreed to join together to repulse any aggressive military actions.

Immigration Act of 1924: Law that ended almost all immigration. It put strict quotas on the number of immigrants that could come from any one country in a year. It favored immigrants from Europe and ended immigration from Asia entirely.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Wilhelm II: King or Kaiser of Germany during World War I

Archduke Franz Ferdinand: Son of the king of Austria-Hungary who was assassinated in 1914 along with his wife. Their deaths were the spark that started World War I.

Conscientious Objectors: People who refuse to join the military for personal, moral reasons, such as because of religious beliefs.

Harlem Hellfighters: Nickname for the 369th Infantry, a segregated unit of African-American soldiers during World War I.

John "Blackjack" Pershing: General who led the American army in Europe during World War I.

League of Nations: International organization created at the end of World War I. It was the brainchild of President Wilson and was designed to give nations a forum in which to resolve differences without war. It failed to prevent World War II.

Henry Cabot Lodge: Republican senator who led opposition to the Treaty of Versailles fearing that it would force the United States to join wars that were not central to American interests.

Irreconcilables: Republican senators during the debate over the Treaty of Versailles who refused to vote to approve the treaty no matter what changes were made.

Reservationists: Republican senators during the debate over the Treaty of Versailles who would consider voting to ratify the treaty if changes were made.

Anarchist: A person who believes there should be no government.

A. Mitchell Palmer: Attorney general under President Wilson who conducted raids on suspected communists, anarchists and other foreigners during the First Red Scare.

Sacco and Vanzetti: Italian immigrants and anarchists who were tried and convicted of murder. Some view their case as an example of anti-immigrant fear carried too far since the evidence against them was weak.



COURT CASES

Schenck v. United States: Supreme Court ruling during World War I upholding the Espionage and Sedition Acts. It introduced the "clean and present danger" doctrine but is not widely considered to be a failure of the Court to preserve individual liberties.



EVENTS

Assassination of Franz Ferdinand: Killing of the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary in 1914 that served as the catalyst for World War I.

The Great War: Nickname for World War I.

Russian Revolution: Overthrow of the Czar of Russia during World War I. Communists under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin eventually took control, founded the Soviet Union, and made peace with Germany.

Armistice Day: November 11, 1928 – the day fighting in World War I ended. Today it is remembered in the United States as Veteran's Day.

1918 Influenza Pandemic: Major worldwide outbreak of the flu which killed 3-5% of the global population during World War I.

Paris Peace Conference: The meeting in 1918 and 1919 of world leaders to negotiate a treaty to conclude World War I.

First Red Scare: Period following the Russian Revolution when the fear of communism was especially high. This led to the unjustified persecution of communists, anarchists, and immigrants and eventually to the ending of almost all immigration.

Palmer Raids: Raids by federal authorities on communists, anarchists and other immigrant groups during the First Red Scare.



TEXTS

Zimmermann Telegram: Message from the Germany foreign minister to the German ambassador in Mexico encouraging Mexico to enter World War I on the side of the Central Powers. In return, Germany would help Mexico regain lost territory in the American Southwest. The publication of the message angered many Americans.



SHIPS

U-Boat: German submarine.

Lusitania: British cruise ship that was sunk by Germany U-Boats in 1918. The event pushed many Americans toward support for entering the war on the side of the Allies.