War Beyond Battle

Trace how World War I changed U.S. policy and daily life.

USH.C.3.2 "Evaluate the long-term impact of the United States' entry into World War I on national politics, the economy, and society. Examine the justification for the United States of America's movement from neutrality to engagement in World War I..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons the United States entered the war. Circle three ways Americans supported the war, then number two effects that continued after the fighting ended.

A War That Reached Home

1. In 1917, a ship carrying American goods could cross the Atlantic only at serious risk. Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare sank ships without warning, threatening American lives and trade. In the Zimmermann Telegram, Germany proposed that Mexico join a war against the United States and promised support for recovering lost territory. These threats helped President Wilson justify leaving neutrality. Congress declared war, and the Selective Service Act drafted men into an army that would fight alongside Britain and France.

2. The American Expeditionary Forces brought fresh troops to exhausted Allied armies in 1918. American loans, supplies, and mass-produced weapons also strengthened the Allies and helped secure victory. At home, government posters urged citizens to buy war bonds, while factories redirected production toward weapons. Women took more industrial jobs, and many Black Southerners moved north in the Great Migration, seeking work and escape from segregation. Wartime demand opened opportunities, but racial discrimination and violence continued.

3. The wartime Espionage and Sedition Acts sought to protect the war effort but imprisoned antiwar critics for speech. After the war, fear of radicals fueled the First Red Scare and Palmer Raids against suspected radicals. The disputed murder trial of Italian immigrants Sacco and Vanzetti raised concerns about prejudice and fair trials. Wilson's Fourteen Points proposed a League of Nations to prevent future wars. Fearing obligations to defend other countries, the Senate rejected the Versailles treaty and League membership, signaling a retreat from international commitments.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did submarine warfare and the Zimmermann Telegram each strengthen the case for leaving neutrality?

2. How did American troops and economic support work together to help the Allies win?

3. What connection does the passage show between wartime limits on speech and the First Red Scare?

4. How did the Senate's decision conflict with Wilson's plan for preventing another war?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence editorial from 1919 arguing whether the United States should join the League of Nations. Use two different wartime developments from the passage, acknowledge one counterargument, and predict one long-term effect of your choice.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons the United States entered the war. Circle three ways Americans supported the war, then number two effects that continued after the fighting ended. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did submarine warfare and the Zimmermann Telegram each strengthen the case for leaving neutrality?	**Submarine warfare threatened American lives and trade. The telegram proposed that Mexico join a war against the United States, making Germany appear to threaten U.S. security.**
2	How did American troops and economic support work together to help the Allies win?	**Fresh American troops reinforced Allied armies, while U.S. loans, supplies, and weapons strengthened their ability to fight.**
3	What connection does the passage show between wartime limits on speech and the First Red Scare?	**Wartime laws imprisoned some antiwar critics for speech. After the war, fear of radicals continued to threaten liberties through the Palmer Raids and concerns about fair trials.**
4	How did the Senate's decision conflict with Wilson's plan for preventing another war?	**Wilson proposed a League of Nations, but the Senate rejected the treaty and League membership because senators feared obligations to defend other countries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States should join the League of Nations to help prevent another war. German submarine attacks threatened American trade, and American troops helped the Allies win, showing that events overseas can affect us. Some senators fear that joining could pull us into conflicts we did not choose. Yet working with other nations could make future wars less likely.

Accept either position in the editorial if it uses two distinct developments accurately, addresses a counterargument, and predicts a plausible long-term effect. For the marking job, valid lasting effects include the Great Migration, the First Red Scare, and the retreat from international commitments.