

War Changes America

Trace how World War I increased U.S. power and influence abroad.

USII.4.e “explaining how the war was a catalyst for the United States gaining international power and expanding its sphere of international influence; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show U.S. power or influence grew because of World War I. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence.

A Larger Role in the World

- ① When World War I began in Europe in 1914, the United States declared neutrality. Even so, American farms and factories sold food, steel, and other goods to countries fighting Germany. American banks also lent large sums to Britain and France. These sales and loans tied the United States more closely to events across the Atlantic. By 1917, Germany’s submarine attacks and the Zimmermann Telegram helped lead the United States into the war. U.S. soldiers then fought beside the Allied powers in Europe.
- ② The war changed the nation’s position in the world. Before the conflict, the United States had borrowed money from European lenders. Afterward, European governments owed money to U.S. banks, making the United States a major creditor nation. Its factories had expanded, and its products reached markets around the world. The United States also helped shape the peace settlement. President Woodrow Wilson proposed the Fourteen Points, a plan for a more stable peace. His ideas influenced the talks that led to the Treaty of Versailles, even though the Senate did not approve that treaty.
- ③ U.S. leaders did not control every decision after the war. The Senate rejected membership in the League of Nations, the new international organization Wilson supported. Still, the war had shown that the United States could send troops across an ocean, supply allies, lend money, and influence peace discussions. Other nations had to consider U.S. military strength and economic power. The war therefore acted as a catalyst, or a force that speeds change. It moved the United States from a nation focused mainly on its own region toward a larger role in world affairs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did American sales and bank loans during the war connect the United States more closely to Europe?

2 What change made the United States a major creditor nation after the war?

3 Give one economic example and one military or political example that show the United States had greater international power after World War I.

4 How does the Senate's rejection of the League of Nations show that U.S. influence had limits?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining why World War I was a catalyst for greater U.S. international power. State a claim, then use two different details from the passage and explain how each detail increased U.S. influence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show U.S. power or influence grew because of World War I. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did American sales and bank loans during the war connect the United States more closely to Europe?	American businesses sold goods to nations fighting Germany, and U.S. banks lent money to Britain and France. These actions created economic ties to events in Europe.
2	What change made the United States a major creditor nation after the war?	Before the war, the United States borrowed from European lenders. After the war, European governments owed money to U.S. banks.
3	Give one economic example and one military or political example that show the United States had greater international power after World War I.	Economic examples include becoming a creditor nation or selling products in world markets. Military or political examples include sending troops to Europe or Wilson's Fourteen Points influencing peace talks.
4	How does the Senate's rejection of the League of Nations show that U.S. influence had limits?	The United States did not join the League of Nations, so it did not take part in that organization. However, the nation still had increased military, economic, and political influence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

World War I was a catalyst because it gave the United States a stronger role in world affairs. During and after the war, U.S. banks became lenders to European governments, which increased American economic influence. U.S. troops and Wilson's peace ideas also showed that other nations had to consider American military and political power.

Accept clear cause-and-effect explanations supported by accurate passage details. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, a claim, two distinct details, and an explanation of how each detail increased influence.