

# US History – Ms. Crain

Review and extension materials for:

- World War 1
- Treaty of Versailles
- World War 2 (start)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ pd: \_\_\_\_\_

## World War I Analytic Overview

World War I was a watershed moment for America, a time when an isolationist nation involved itself in world affairs and began the rise to the economic and military power that America is today. After keeping out of the conflict that had been ravaging Europe for nearly three years, President Woodrow Wilson took America to war only months after winning an election on the slogan "He Kept us Out of War." Claiming that American intervention was needed to "make the world safe for democracy," Wilson sent over two million men to Europe, of whom over 100,000 would never return. World War I marked the end of the old order in Europe, and the beginning of what has been called the "American Century."

The United States was not a nation ready for war in 1914. With a small army and a pitiful navy, the U.S. was no match for either side in the great conflagration in Flanders' Fields. As the war continued, however, German use of submarines to sink neutral shipping—including, most famously, the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 with the death of almost 1,200 people, 128 of them Americans—brought American public opinion to the Allied side. Constant British propaganda efforts, culminating in the Zimmermann Telegram of February 1917, coupled with the German resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare and drew America into the war. Wilson quickly developed an ideological goal of freedom and democracy, and committed the people of the United States to fight for these principles.

When America entered the war in April 1917, nearly three years of horrific slaughter had bled white the nations of Europe. Daily life in miserable trenches drove men insane; constant artillery bombardment killed without warning; massive infantry assaults through No Man's Land into barbed wire and machine guns caused the death of millions. New technologies including the machine gun, tank, airplanes, and barbed wire helped make the war the bloodiest the world had ever seen. As American soldiers landed in French ports by the thousands, the exhausted Allies screamed for the American units to be broken up and fed into the French and British lines under the command of French and British officers. General John Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, refused, insisting that the Americans fight together in their own section of the trench line under American commanders. This rift within the Allied high command almost cost the Allies the war during the German Spring Offensive of 1918, but Pershing's insistence that American soldiers fight under American commanders sent an important message of American independence to the world.

American soldiers fought bravely and well in battles at Cantigny, Belleau Wood, St. Mihiel and in the Argonne Forest from May to November 1918. With nearly one million troops in the line by the end of the war, the American presence finally convinced the Germans that the war could not be won; they had managed to win a war of attrition with France and Britain, but the influx of an endless supply of American troops meant that there was no way Germany could win. By November 1918, the writing was on the wall and on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent along the entire line as an armistice was signed, signaling the end of the war.

While white American soldiers fought in their own units in their own part of the line, black troops were relegated to support duty, or sent to the French army to fight under French

commanders. Despite the fact that American officers ordered the French not to treat the African-American soldiers with respect—lest they become "uppity" and learn what a non-prejudicial society was like—the French treated the black soldiers with the respect they deserved; the 395th Infantry, a black unit fighting with the French, won 171 commendations for valor. Upon returning home, Jim Crow racism was as rampant as ever in America, and more than 70 returning veterans were lynched in the first year after the end of the war. Still, the experience of black soldiers and the effects of the wartime Great Migration of southern blacks to northern cities had a lasting impact on American society, and sowed the seeds of the Civil Rights Movement.

World War I was a turning point for America economically. With war orders flooding in from Europe, American manufacturers grew rich, and American industrial might began to lead the world. The international financial system set up its capital in New York during this period, and the war catapulted America into a leading role in economic and military affairs.

When President Wilson traveled to Paris for the peace conference that would lead to the Treaty of Versailles, he came armed with his Fourteen Points, an idealistic plan to reorder Europe with the United States as a model for the rest of the world. He failed to gain most of what he wanted as the French and British were more inclined towards a vengeful peace, requiring reparations from Germany, than to any idealistic requests of the United States. The League of Nations, the one victory Wilson managed at the conference, was never ratified by the United States Senate, and, without the United States, it failed as a toothless organization that collapsed in the face of German and Japanese aggression in the 1930s.

1. Why did President Wilson take America into a European war?

2. What was the impact of US troops on World War I?

3. How did WWI affect African-Americans?

4. How did WWI impact the American economy?

Using the information below and the images themselves, analyze the political cartoons to help you better understand World War 1.

Image 1:

- Placing blame

Image 2:

- Total War
- At home and abroad

Image 3:

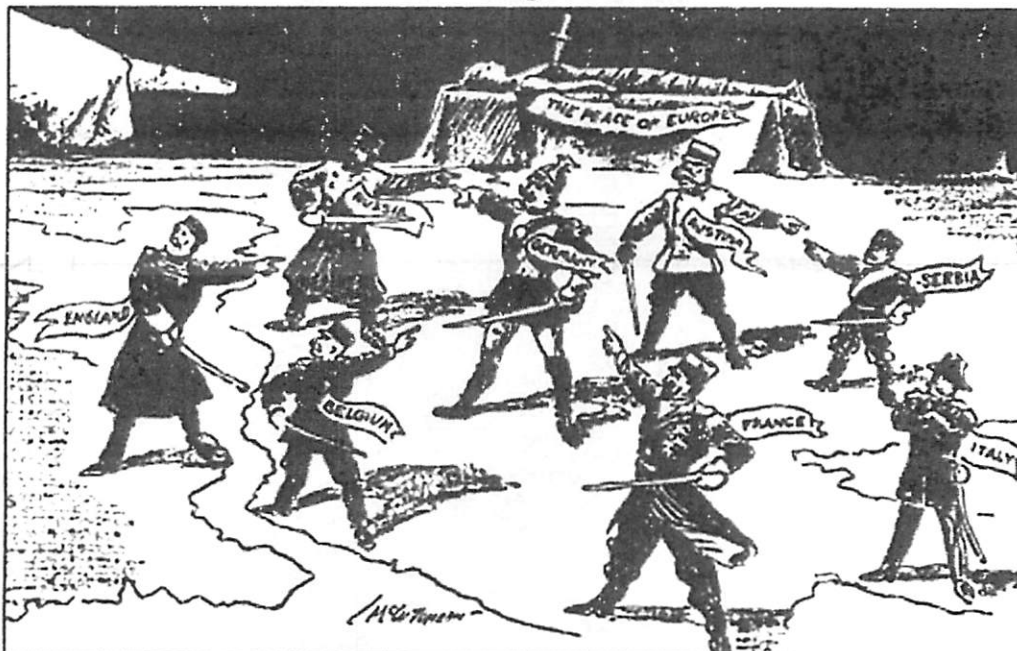
- "pilgrims" (Republican hostiles) against W.W. (President Woodrow Wilson)
- US government did not all agree with the President's plan for the league of Nations

Image 4:

- Marriage between Uncle Same and Foreign entanglements (getting involved with other nations problems)
- Senate breaking in to "crash the wedding"

# WWI - Political Cartoons

## The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?



Source: John McCutcheon, *The Chicago Tribune*; H. H. Windsor, *Cartoons Magazine* (adapted)

2



3

"Pilgrim Landing in America, 1919" (Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle, 1919.)



4

Interrupting the Ceremony



John T. McCutcheon. *The Tribune* (Chicago), 1918.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd: \_\_\_\_\_

### Political Cartoons

Use the political cartoons to answer the questions below

#### Cartoon: 1

What do you see in this image? (images, text, people) explain:

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What is the point of view in this cartoon?

---

---

Are there symbols? Explain them.

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---

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Do you agree with the cartoons point of view? Explain.

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Do you think this was a persuasive cartoon? Why or why not?

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#### Cartoon: 2

What do you see in this image? (images, text, people) explain.

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What is the point of view in this cartoon?

---

---

Are there symbols? Explain them.

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Do you agree with the cartoons point of view? Explain.

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Do you think this was a persuasive cartoon? Why or why not?

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**Cartoon: 3**

What do you see in this image? (images, text, people) explain.

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What is the point of view in this cartoon?

---

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Are there symbols? Explain them.

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Do you agree with the cartoons point of view? Explain.

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Do you think this was a persuasive cartoon? Why or why not?

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**Cartoon: 4**

What do you see in this image? (images, text, people) explain.

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What is the point of view in this cartoon?

---

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Are there symbols? Explain them.

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Do you agree with the cartoons point of view? Explain.

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Do you think this was a persuasive cartoon? Why or why not?

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# EPILOGUE OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

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Whether it was a result of his stroke, feelings of moral and intellectual superiority, or an unwavering belief in his own convictions, President Wilson was uncompromising(not willing to change his mind) after his return from Paris.

Wilson's opponent, Senator Lodge, also refused to budge(change his mind). The Senate voted to join the League of Nations or not, on three separate occasions. In the first vote the Senators rejected the treaty, with the reservations Lodge had written. In the second, the Senate rejected the treaty all together. When the final vote came up in March 1920, the Senate rejected it again. The Senate fight over the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles was over. The United States then had to sign separate treaties later with Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Wilson's personality may have contributed to the rejection of the treaty. His refusal to include any significant Republicans in his delegation to Paris annoyed Senators. Many found President Wilson arrogant, and some criticized his tone of voice, which they said was preaching and moralizing. Additionally, the longstanding bitterness and political differences with Lodge ensured that his ideas would be severely scrutinized even before they reached the table.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did President Wilson want the Treaty of Versailles to be accepted or rejected?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many times did the Senate vote on the decision to join the league of nations?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the final outcome of the vote, from the Senate?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did President Wilson's personality impact the vote regarding the Treaty of Versailles?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why would the Senate vote on something multiple times?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you think the government today would've voted on this situation and why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Between the wars, 1918-1939

Read and  
define

The Treaty of Versailles was between Germany and Allied countries that established Germany's role and punishment for their part in World War I. Germany was angry for being forced to accept the total blame for the war and lost land, Italy was angered by not getting as much land as they thought they deserved, Japan was insulted because the treaty would not accept their proposed "equality of races" belief. In short, the fighting stopped but the anger still existed.

The United States in the 1920's was a period where most Americans were optimistic (felt positive, good) about the country's future. Business was good in American factories and most people had money to spend on household conveniences and entertainment. Many Americans invested in the stock market and became wealthy. The 1920's were also a period of Prohibition (a time when alcohol was illegal) so speakeasies became popular. Famous gangsters made money selling illegal alcohol gained power.

But by the end of the 1920 everything changed. Millions of people lost everything when the Great Depression started in October of 1929. Banks failed, people were homeless, and families were torn apart.

The rest of the world also suffered from a worldwide depression and people in most countries did not see a good future for themselves and for their country. Because of this fear of the future, people were willing to listen and be convinced by radical (wanting change at any cost) groups or individuals calling for change. It also helped make it possible for governments to be "over-thrown" by groups or individuals who promised to create jobs for the people to end the depression, build their military to become a world power again, and promised a bright future for their country. People demanded change and these people promised to give them change by taking control of the government.

These new world leaders were dictators that controlled not only the government but also the people. They created their own "rules" and began taking land from smaller countries to get natural resources to help support their countries. Because the world had recently finished a destructive world war (World War I) and the world wide depression, most countries were not able to stop dictators from invading neighboring countries and taking control.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Read and define

<b>Anti-Semitism</b>	
<b>Blitzkrieg</b>	
<b>Theatre of War</b>	
<b>Containment</b>	
<b>Fascism</b>	
<b>Appeasement</b>	
<b>Aryan Supremacy</b>	
<b>Ration</b>	
<b>Holocaust</b>	

## Axis Powers WANTED Poster

### Adolf Hitler

#### Page one – the Poster

- Name
- Image
- Last seen at...
- Crimes / why are they wanted for arrest
- Reward

#### Page Two – the Explanation

- 3 paragraphs total:
- Paragraph 1 – Who are they (personal information)
- Paragraph 2 – Elaborate on their crimes and why they should be arrested
- Paragraph 3 – Overall summary of the war and their part in it

## Axis Powers WANTED Poster

### Benito Mussolini

#### Page one – the Poster

- Name
- Image
- Last seen at...
- Crimes / why are they wanted for arrest
- Reward

#### Page Two – the Explanation

- 3 paragraphs total:
- Paragraph 1 – Who are they (personal information)
- Paragraph 2 – Elaborate on their crimes and why they should be arrested
- Paragraph 3 – Overall summary of the war and their part in it

## Axis Powers WANTED Poster

### Hideki Tojo

#### Page one – the Poster

- Name
- Image
- Last seen at...
- Crimes / why are they wanted for arrest
- Reward

#### Page Two – the Explanation

- 3 paragraphs total:
- Paragraph 1 – Who are they (personal information)
- Paragraph 2 – Elaborate on their crimes and why they should be arrested
- Paragraph 3 – Overall summary of the war and their part in it

Detailed Instructions:

- Create on a Word Document.
- First Page will be just the Wanted Poster
- The Second Page will be the Explanation
  - o The Explanation does not need to be incredibly long, just long enough to get all the important information stated.
- DO **NOT** USE WIKIPEDIA! – You may use google but you must search for reliable sources!

This is DUE at the end of the period.

Detailed Instructions:

- Create on a Word Document.
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# Analyzing the Axis' Leaders

Walk around the room looking at and reading about the three main axis leaders and complete the chart below. Please write in complete sentences.

	Biography	Explain their crimes
Hitler		
Tojo		
Mussolini		
Based on their biography and the crimes they have committed. Who do you think should be arrested first and why.		