

Summary: The Home Front

Life on the Home Front

Soldiers needed many things to fight World War I. The U.S. government created more supplies for soldiers by putting rations on civilian goods, such as meat. The things people did not use were given to soldiers. The government used propaganda to remind people to help with the war.

Many men were fighting in Europe. The factories needed new workers. Thousands of African Americans left the South to take factory jobs in the North. Women also took new jobs. Women worked in jobs that men had normally done, such as making weapons and repairing cars. Their efforts convinced many people that women should have their right to vote recognized. In 1920, women could finally vote.

The War Ends

In 1917, the United States joined World War I. About one million American soldiers went to France. After losing many battles, the Central Powers realized they could not win. They signed an armistice. The war ended in 1918.

In 1919, Allied leaders met in France to write a treaty. Some European leaders blamed Germany for the fighting in western Europe. These leaders used the Treaty of Versailles to punish Germany. The treaty forced Germany to give up its overseas colonies, give land to France, and pay money to Allied nations.

The treaty also created the League of Nations. President Wilson thought the League would help prevent war by solving problems peacefully. The United States Senate refused to approve the Treaty of Versailles. The Senate worried that the United States might get pulled into more wars if they joined the League of Nations.

Americans were upset by the deaths and destruction of World War I. They wanted the United States to stay out of world conflicts. Some began to believe in isolationism.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

rations *noun*, limits on the amounts of goods civilians could have

propaganda *noun*, information that is used to shape people's thinking

armistice *noun*, an agreement to stop fighting

isolationism *noun*, a desire to stay out of world events



After You Read

REVIEW Which two groups of Americans took new jobs during World War I? Underline two sentences that tell the answer.

REVIEW What effect did the Treaty of Versailles have on Germany? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.