

Ch 19 Section 3 The War at Home

Congress Gives Power to Wilson

War Industries Board

- Economy shifts from producing consumer goods to war supplies
- Congress gives president direct control of much of the economy
- **War Industries Board** is main regulatory body
 - urges mass-production, standardizing products
- **Bernard M. Baruch**, prosperous businessman, is head of board
- Railroad Administration, Fuel Administration also control industries
- Conservation measures adopted by public, nation

War Economy

- Industrial wages rise; offset by rising costs of food, housing
- Large corporations make enormous profits
- Unions boom from dangerous conditions, child labor, unfair pay
- Wilson creates National War Labor Board to settle disputes

Food Administration

- Food Administration under Herbert Hoover works to produce, save food
- Encourages public conservation, increase of farm production

Selling the War

War Financing

- U.S. spends \$35.5 billion on war effort
- 1/3 paid through taxes, 2/3 borrowed through sale of war bonds

Committee on Public Information

- **Propaganda**—biased communication designed to influence people
- Former muckraker **George Creel** heads Committee on Public Information
- Creel produces visual works, printed matter to promote war
- Gets volunteers to speak about war, distribute materials

Attacks on Civil Liberties Increase

Anti-Immigrant Hysteria

- Attacks against immigrants, especially from Germany, Austria-Hungary
- Suppression of German culture—music, language, literature

Espionage and Sedition Acts

- **Espionage and Sedition Acts**—person can be fined, imprisoned for:
 - interfering with war effort, speaking against government
- Violate 1st amendment; allowed the government to silence ideas that challenged its authority; prosecute loosely defined antiwar activities
- Labor leaders were targeted by the Espionage and Sedition Acts because they demanded better conditions for workers, even during a war crisis

The War Encourages Social Change

African Americans and the War

- Du Bois urges support for war to strengthen call for racial justice
- Most African Americans support war
- Some think victims of racism should not support racist government

The Great Migration

- **Great Migration**—large-scale movement of Southern blacks to North
 - escape racial discrimination

- take up new job opportunities
- Press of new migrants intensifies racial tensions in North

Women in the War

- Many women take jobs in heavy industry previously held by men
- Many do volunteer work for war effort
- Some active in peace movement; Women's Peace Party founded 1915
- Women's effort in war bolsters support for suffrage; 19th Amendment passes

The Flu Epidemic

- International flu epidemic of 1918 has devastating effect on economy
- As many as 30 million people die worldwide