



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 8

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 808

## A World In Conflict (1915–1945)

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**LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet.** Please remove before starting the unit.

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# A World In Conflict (1915–1945)

## Introduction

During the years after the Civil War, America became an industrial power and committed itself to progressive reforms to protect its unique form of government. The strength of both industry and government would be tested by fire between 1915 and 1945. Two world wars and the most devastating depression in American history would tear at the soul of the nation during that scant thirty-year period.

World War I was a very traditional war for power between the nations of Europe. The United States of 1860 would not have dreamt of getting involved, but this was America of 1914. In the early twentieth century, America was a powerful industrial nation with trading ties all over the world. America's biggest trading partner and cultural mother, Britain, was allied with America's European friend, France. Germany, the primary enemy, drew America into the war by destroying American ships and taking American lives.

After the "Great War" (the name for World War I before World War II made the name obsolete), America tried to return to its traditional isolation and enjoy the fruits of its now-massive economy. The "Roaring Twenties" were a time of free credit, heavy spending, social change, and speculation in the stock market. In 1929 the stock market crashed (prices fell rapidly), pulling America into a huge depression. A new Democratic president tried to buy the nation out of the depression through massive government spending, but recovery only came with the tremendous industrial demands of World War II.

The Second World War ended American isolation forever. The U.S. again tried to stay out of the war but was drawn in by a surprise attack on a navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. America poured its massive human and industrial resources into the war, enabling an Allied victory. The war left Europe in rubble and the U.S. as the leader of the free world for the next half century.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the policies, personalities, and politics of the U.S. presidents from 1915 to 1945.
2. Describe the course of U.S. policy during the early years of World War I and the reasons behind it.
3. Describe the course of World War I.
4. Describe the Fourteen Points, the Treaty of Versailles, the problems negotiating the treaty, and Wilson's efforts to get it accepted in the U.S.
5. Describe the politics, problems, and pastimes of the Roaring Twenties.
6. Describe the course of the Great Depression and the New Deal.
7. Describe the causes and course of World War II.
8. Describe the policy of appeasement and early American neutrality.
9. Name the major U.S. commanders in World War II and their contributions.
10. Describe American involvement in World War II.
11. Name the major leaders of World War II and their nations.

# 1. WORLD WAR I

Relations between the nations of Europe had long been managed by a policy known as “balance of power.” Under this theory, every nation used alliances to prevent any one nation from getting too powerful. Ideally, power would be evenly balanced among the competing nations and peace would be maintained.

By 1914 the balance of power was being maintained by two major competing alliances. France, Russia, and Britain formed the *Triple Entente*, while Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the *Triple Alliance*. In 1914, rather than maintaining peace, the alliances drew the nations into the bloodiest war in their collective histories. Once the war began, Turkey and Bulgaria joined the Triple Alliance which became known as the Central Powers. The Entente became known as the Allied Powers and were joined by Romania, Serbia, Montenegro,

Greece, Japan, Belgium (once it was invaded), Italy (which changed sides), and eventually the United States.

The U.S. followed its longstanding policy of staying out of European affairs in the early years of the war. America remained neutral between 1914 and 1917. During that time, America grew closer to the Allies and came into increasing conflict with Germany. Trade with the Allies, Germany's violations of international law, Allied propaganda, and German submarine attacks on American vessels moved the U.S. slowly away from neutrality. Eventually, President Woodrow Wilson and the majority of the American people felt they could no longer honorably remain neutral. For the first time, America entered a major European war as a European ally.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the policies, personalities, and politics of the U.S. presidents from 1915 to 1945.
2. Describe the course of U.S. policy during the early years of World War I and the reasons behind it.
3. Describe the course of World War I.
4. Describe the Fourteen Points, the Treaty of Versailles, the problems negotiating the treaty, and Wilson's efforts to get it accepted in the U.S.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**communism** (käm' yə niz əm). A totalitarian system of government in which a single authoritarian party controls the state and industry with the official, but never completed, goal of creating a stateless society in which everyone shares equally in work and profits. In the political spectrum, communism is at the far left.

**convoy** (kän' voi). A protective escort, especially for ships.



# AMERICA from 1915 to 1945



**Woodrow Wilson**  
1913-1921  
Democratic



**Warren G. Harding\***  
1921-1923  
Republican



**Calvin Coolidge**  
1923-1929  
Republican



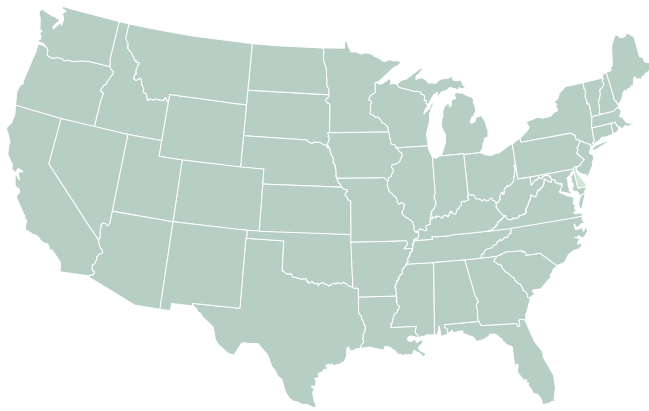
**Herbert Hoover**  
1929-1933  
Republican



**Franklin D. Roosevelt\***  
1933-1945  
Democratic



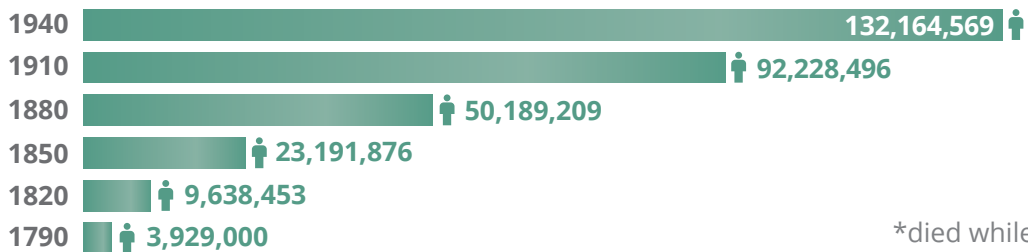
**Harry S. Truman**  
1945-1953  
Democratic



## STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

None

## POPULATION of the United States of America



\*died while in office

**mobilize** (mə' bə līz). To assemble and make ready for war duty; to prepare for action.

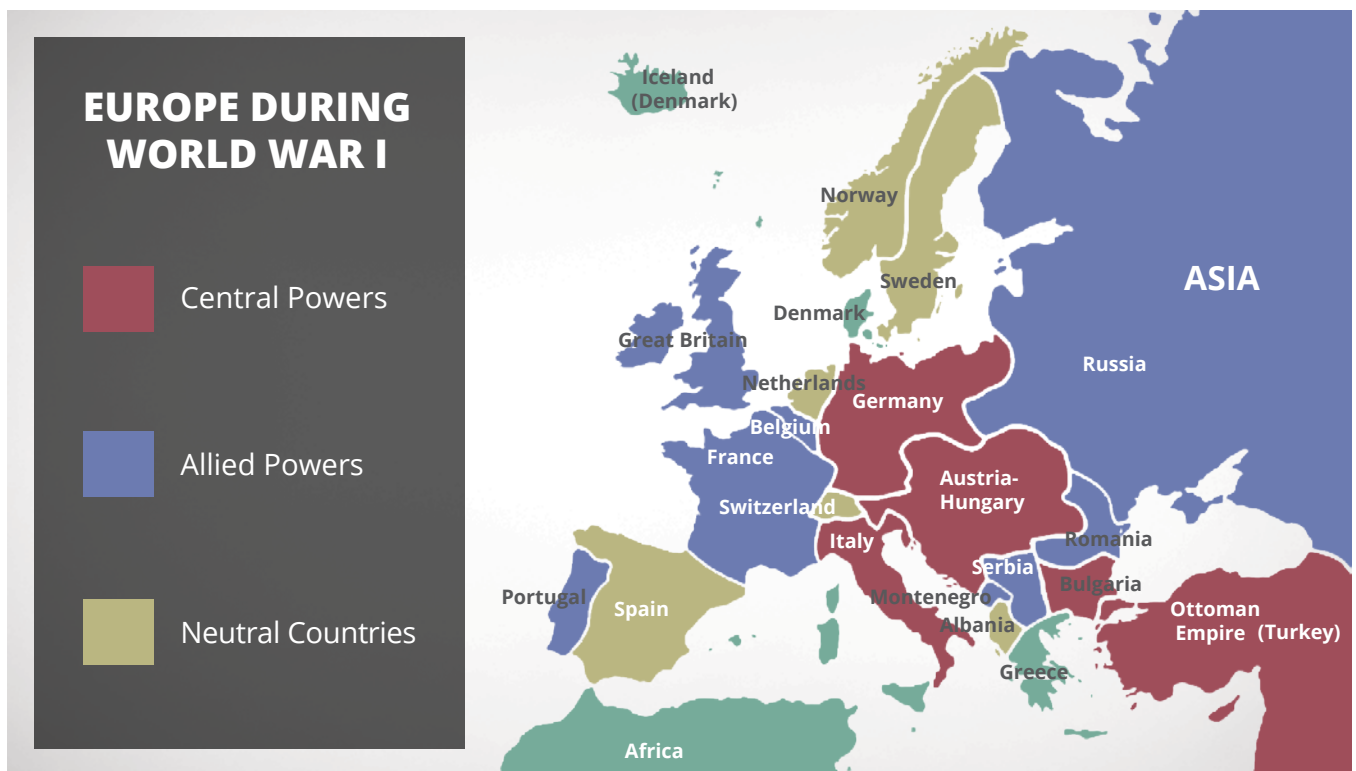
**offensive** (ə fen' sīv). Making attack; of, relating to, or designed for attack.

**pandemic** (pan dem' ik). An outbreak of disease occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population.

**ultimatum** (əl tə mā t' əm). A final demand; one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to force or other direct action.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



| World War I Europe



## Neutral America

**Background.** In 1914 Europe was a keg of gunpowder waiting for a match. France had been defeated by Germany in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. She had paid a huge indemnity and gave Germany the border regions of Alsace and Lorraine. The French army had been rebuilt and was eager for revenge.

Germany had been created by the cagey Prussian leader, Otto von Bismarck, from the many small German states after the war with France. Bismarck had defeated France and carefully worked to keep the other nations of Europe from uniting against Germany. In 1890 a new German ruler, Kaiser (Emperor) Wilhelm II threw out Bismarck and his careful policies. Wilhelm II was an unstable man who wanted to make Germany the greatest nation in the world. He began a massive arms buildup, including a huge, modern navy. Their navy threatened the master of the sea. She had to improve her own navy to keep ahead of Germany. These factors led to an arms race in Europe. To add to the tension, the nations were competing for colonies all over the world.

In 1914 the most dangerous place to be in Europe was the Balkan Peninsula north of Greece. Here, many different nationalities were living under the same government, all the while hating each other. Slavs, Croats, and Muslims fought each other in two brief wars in 1912 and 1913 which shifted the borders and encouraged more hatred. The slavic nation of Serbia in the Balkans was closely allied with Russia, the largest slavic power in Europe. Serbia was encouraging terrorism in the neighboring slavic regions of Austria-Hungary, hoping to bring them under Serbian control. It was there that the spark was struck that would cause the explosion in Europe.

**The Lamps Go Out.** Austria-Hungary had annexed two Balkan provinces, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1908. In June of 1914, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, Archduke Franz

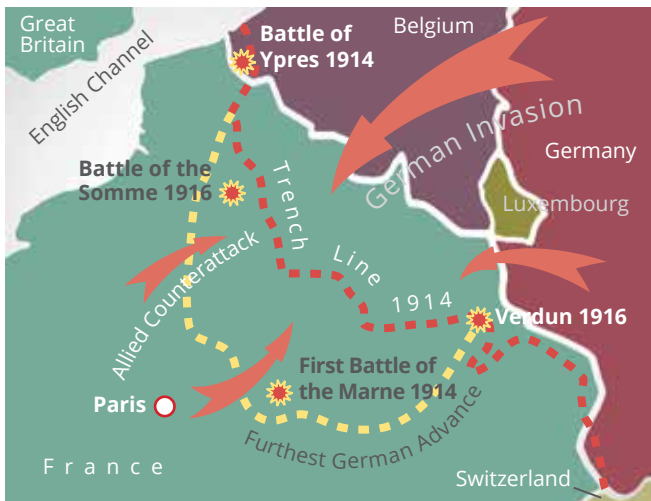


| Austria-Hungary's Archduke, Franz Ferdinand

Ferdinand, and his wife were touring the city of Sarajevo in Bosnia. They were assassinated by a Bosnian terrorist who had ties to Serbia. Austria, with the assurance of support from Germany, sent Serbia an **ultimatum** demanding the suppression of Serbian terrorism in a way that seriously violated Serbian national rights and pride.

Realizing this was a serious threat, Serbia sent a conciliatory note that fell short of the Austrian demands. On July 28th, exactly one month after the assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia **mobilized** its army to be ready to support Serbia. Germany saw this as a threat and demanded Russia cease at once. Russia refused. Germany declared war on Russia on August 1st and on its ally, France, two days later. On August 4th, Germany invaded the neutral Belgium and as a result, Britain declared war on Germany. Each nation was obligated by treaty to fight with their allies, bringing on a general war all over Europe.





| The Western Front (1914-1916)

National pride, alliances, and an arms race drew Europe into a horrific war. Very few people had the slightest idea how awful the war would be. Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary of Britain, was one exception. “The lamps are going out all over Europe,” he said when Britain declared war. “We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

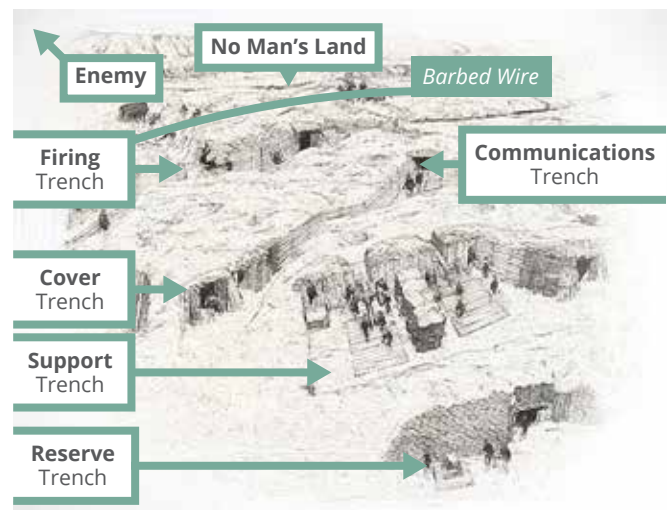
**Stalemate.** Germany was faced with a two-front war. Its battle plan called for the swift invasion and conquest of France before the huge, but slow, Russian army could be brought into battle. To insure speed on the western front, Germany attacked, not along the protected French-German border, but through neutral Belgium. This was a major mistake. It cast Germany as the aggressor and was a major factor in turning the U.S. toward the Allies.

The well-disciplined, well-equipped Germans made rapid progress, and by September 1914 they were threatening the French capital of Paris. The French and a small British army succeeded in throwing them back at the first Battle of the Marne (September 6-9). Then both sides “raced to the sea” in an effort to go around the enemy army. By November of 1914, a battle line had been established that ran from Switzerland to the North Sea. Both sides dug in and set up defensive positions. Thus began the horrific “trench warfare” of World War I.

Trench warfare was brutal. Each side set up several parallel rows of trenches facing the enemy. These would be 6-8 feet deep and wide enough for two men to pass each other. In between the two armies was “no man’s land,” bombed-out, open land protected on each side by barbed wire, machine guns, and artillery fire.

Attacks were wholesale slaughters. They began with artillery barrages followed by men “going over the top,” out of the trenches into the open across no man’s land. They ran unprotected into the machine gun and artillery fire of the enemy who was firing from fortified trenches. Losses were huge and gains were small. For example, close to a million men were wounded, killed, or captured in the battles of Verdun and the Somme in 1916, neither of which accomplished much. Moreover, the generals never learned from the failures. They continued to order attacks in spite of the losses, even when the western front barely moved for three and a half years! The suffering of the men intensified when both sides began to use poison gas that killed and blinded many.

On the eastern front, Germany pushed back the Russian armies that had attacked at the beginning of the war, but Austria-Hungary was less successful. Russia occupied part of their territory until 1915, when a combined German-Austrian army recovered it. Russia



| The Trench Warfare System

and Austria-Hungary battled each other to exhaustion in the years that followed. However, Austria succeeded in its initial goal when it finally occupied Serbia in late 1915.

Because so many nations were involved, battles were fought in many places other than central Europe. There were several clashes between colonial armies in Africa and Asia. Sea battles were fought in all the major oceans. Italy entered the war on the Allied side in the hopes of gaining territory. It fought a bloody but ineffective war against Austria-Hungary along their mountain border. The Allies unsuccessfully tried to capture the Turkish Dardanelles, the straits leading to the Black Sea and Russia’s southern ports. This failure meant that the

more industrial western Allies could not easily resupply stumbling Russia.

World War I was the first war to see the extensive use of aircraft. Flimsy airplanes were used mainly to observe enemy troops and movements. The Germans used balloon-like airships called *zeppelins* to bomb enemy troops, including targets like London itself. Airplanes would shoot down the zeppelins and enemy observation planes. The often complicated plane-to-plane battles were called *dogfights*. Pilots who shot down five or more enemy ships earned the title of “ace.” Eddie Rickenbacker, a professional race car driver before the war, eventually became America’s greatest ace with twenty-two airplane and four balloon kills.



**Name the correct person or item.**

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ German Kaiser, World War I
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Most dangerous area of 1914 Europe
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Nation that wanted revenge for a war in 1870
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Weapon that blinded and killed in the trenches
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Austria-Hungarian heir, assassinated to begin the war
- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Battle which stopped the first German advance on Paris
- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot with five or more “kills”
- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ “The lamps are going out all over Europe; ... ”
- 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_ French provinces lost to Germany in 1870s
- 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_ Prussian leader, united Germany
- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral nation invaded by Germany
- 1.12 \_\_\_\_\_ Straits to the Black Sea not taken by Allies
- 1.13 \_\_\_\_\_ German airships used for bombing
- 1.14 \_\_\_\_\_ Land between enemy trenches
- 1.15 \_\_\_\_\_ America’s greatest ace
- 1.16 \_\_\_\_\_ European policy of using alliance to prevent any nation from becoming too powerful



**Complete the following.**

**1.17** Give the sequence of events that began the general war in Europe.

- a. Archduke assassinated in \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ sent an ultimatum to \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ declared war on \_\_\_\_\_, July 28th
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ mobilized in support of Serbia
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ declared war on \_\_\_\_\_ on Aug. 1st and  
then on \_\_\_\_\_ on Aug. 3rd
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ invaded \_\_\_\_\_, Aug. 4th
- g. As a result, \_\_\_\_\_ declared war on \_\_\_\_\_.

**1.18** What was Germany's basic battle plan?

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**1.19** What three things drew Europe into this war?

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**1.20** Why were casualties so heavy during offensives under trench warfare?

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**Review the material in this section to prepare for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

## SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each item, 2 points).

- |             |                                    |                             |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.01 _____  | Wilson’s Secretary of State        | a. Woodrow Wilson           |
| 1.02 _____  | Commander of the A.E.F.            | b. Wilhelm II               |
| 1.03 _____  | Russian Bolshevik leader           | c. Otto von Bismarck        |
| 1.04 _____  | Republican Senate Majority Leader  | d. Archduke Franz Ferdinand |
| 1.05 _____  | Kaiser of Germany                  | e. William Jennings Bryan   |
| 1.06 _____  | “He Kept Us Out of War”            | f. John J. Pershing         |
| 1.07 _____  | Prime Minister of Britain          | g. Lenin                    |
| 1.08 _____  | Prussian leader who united Germany | h. Lloyd George             |
| 1.09 _____  | Heir to the throne of Austria      | i. Georges Clemenceau       |
| 1.010 _____ | Premier of France                  | j. Henry Cabot Lodge        |

**Complete the following** (each numbered answer, 3 points).

- 1.011 What were the three major factors that drew Europe into World War I? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.012 What event triggered the war? (place, event, person) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.013 Describe why trench warfare offensive was ineffective and devastating. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.014 What actions by Germany were primarily responsible for drawing America into the war?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.015 What action by Germany early in the war cast her as the aggressor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 1.016** What event in Russia allowed Germany to move troops away from the eastern front?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.017** What disease killed more Americans than the war in 1918-19? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.018** What was the name of Wilson’s liberal peace framework? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.019** What did France primarily want at the Paris Conference? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.020** Name three nations created by the Treaty of Versailles. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.021** What was the name of the association of countries created by the Treaty of Versailles?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.022** What did Wilson do when the Senate stalled over approving the treaty? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.023** The Great War was the beginning of a change in the leadership of the western world. The leadership began to switch over to whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.024** What were airplanes used for during World War I? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.025** What did Americans want to do about the war when it began? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.026** Why did America wind up trading mainly with the Allies? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.027** Name the first two nations who were officially at war. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.028** How did submarine blockades differ from previous war blockades? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.029 What was the Zimmermann note? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1.030 What was the Allies' greatest need by the time America entered the war? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Choose the correct answer (each answer, 2 points).

Alvin York  
*Lusitania*  
 Herbert Hoover

Eddie Rickenbacker  
 zeppelins  
 Château-Thierry

Meuse-Argonne  
 Dardanelles

St. Mihiel  
 War Industries Board

- 1.031 \_\_\_\_\_ Set prices, improved production, and eliminated waste
- 1.032 \_\_\_\_\_ American troops defended Paris against a German offensive
- 1.033 \_\_\_\_\_ Airships used for observations and to drop bombs
- 1.034 \_\_\_\_\_ America's greatest ace
- 1.035 \_\_\_\_\_ Food Administration and Belgium famine relief effort
- 1.036 \_\_\_\_\_ Greatest American offensive of the war
- 1.037 \_\_\_\_\_ Salient on the western front, pushed back by the Americans
- 1.038 \_\_\_\_\_ Straits into the Black Seas, supply route to Russia
- 1.039 \_\_\_\_\_ American sharpshooter hero, captured 132 Germans
- 1.040 \_\_\_\_\_ British passenger liner sunk by German U-boat with the loss of 128 Americans

	<p><b>SCORE</b> _____</p>	<p><b>TEACHER</b> _____</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">initials                      date</p>
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