CHAPTER 24

Woodrow Wilson and the Great War

ANTICIPATION/REACTION

Directions: Before you begin reading this chapter, in the column entitled “Anticipation” place a check mark beside any of the following seven statements with which you now agree. When you have completed your study of this chapter, come back to this section and in the column entitled “Reaction” place a check mark beside any of the statements with which you then agree. Note any variation in the placement of check marks from anticipation to reaction and explain why you changed your mind.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipation</th>
<th>Reaction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. President Wilson criticized the interventionist Latin American policies of his two predecessors, Roosevelt and Taft, and he exercised a more benign and idealistic foreign policy there during his presidency.</td>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>2. Because they were largely ignorant of European politics and did not sense it posed any threat to them or their nation’s interests, most Americans did not sympathize with either belligerent when the Great War broke out in 1914.</td>
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<td>3. War mobilization was a great stimulus to the U.S. in 1917-1919 and expanded the economic prosperity and employment opportunities for most Americans.</td>
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<td>4. After U.S. entry into World War I, domestic opposition to the war nearly ceased as Americans rallied around President Wilson and his wartime policies.</td>
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<td>5. U.S. entry into World War I was critical; without it, Germany may well have won the war as early as 1918.</td>
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<td>6. The United States refused to join the League of Nations because die-hard isolationists in the U.S. Senate refused to compromise with President Wilson.</td>
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<td>7. Although the Communists emerged victorious in the Russian Revolution in 1917, their success had no effect on World War I or its immediate aftermath.</td>
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading Chapter 24 you should be able to:

1. Outline the steps by which the United States became involved in World War I.
2. Explain how war mobilization affected the economy, the status of civil liberties, and the progressive movement in the United States.
3. Describe the critical role American troops played in the war.
4. Explain how the Paris Peace Conference revised the European map and established the League of Nations, and explain why the United States did not sign the Treaty of Versailles.

5. Explain the outbreak of the postwar “Red Scare.”

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Wilson’s “Moral” Diplomacy

President Wilson set out to raise the moral tone of American foreign policy by denouncing “dollar diplomacy” as obnoxious to principles of honor and equality. Yet, due to the strategic importance of the Panama Canal, Wilson ultimately pursued Caribbean and Central American policies similar to those of Roosevelt and Taft.

Wilson refused diplomatic recognition to the Mexican government of Victoriano Huerta, who assumed power after overthrowing Francisco Madero, leader of a coalition that itself had deposed Porfirio Díaz in 1911. Instead Wilson pressured Huerta, who he called a “butcher,” to step down. A tense situation exploded in 1914 when American sailors were arrested in Tampico, and Wilson used the incident as a pretext to dispatch troops into Mexico to overthrow Huerta. Huerta, hard pressed by Mexican opponents, abdicated. In August 1914, General Venustiano Carranza entered Mexico City in triumph, but one of Carranza’s own generals, Francisco “Pancho” Villa, turned against him and seized control of Mexico City.

When Wilson realized the extent of Carranza’s influence in Mexico, he recognized the Carranza government. In 1916, Villa, trying to undermine Carranza by forcing the United States to intervene, killed 16 Americans on a train in northern Mexico and 19 more during a raid on Columbus, New Mexico. Wilson responded by sending troops under General John Pershing to pursue Villa, who drew Pershing deep into Mexico. In early 1917, Wilson recalled Pershing’s force, leaving the Mexicans to work out their own destiny. Wilson’s moral diplomacy bred anti-Americanism in Mexico, but it ultimately permitted the constitutionalists there to consolidate their power.

Europe Explodes into War

World War I erupted in 1914 when a young Serbian nationalist assassinated the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. This rash act precipitated general war because the major European powers had divided into two great coalitions: the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Ottoman Turkey) and the Allied Powers (Great Britain, France, and Russia).

The United States initially professed neutrality and most Americans, failing to understand the significance of the conflict, believed the war did not concern them. In addition, U.S. involvement seemed unwise because it would create internal stresses in this nation of immigrants. In addition, war offended the prevailing progressive spirit and ran contrary to America’s traditional isolation from European affairs. Still, most Americans sympathized with the Allies, whose propaganda skillfully portrayed the Germans as ruthless barbarians. A
minority of Americans, mostly of German and Irish descent (the latter motivated by hatred of the British) sympathized with the Central Powers.

**Freedom of the Seas**

Propaganda did not basically alter American attitudes; far more important were questions arising out of trade and commerce. The British used their navy’s control of the North Atlantic to prevent neutrals from trading with belligerents, although this was against international law. The United States did not try to force Britain’s hand, although an embargo might have succeeded in 1914 because the Allies were so dependent on American supplies. But Wilson’s pro-British sentiments and the expansion of trade with the Allies after 1914 made an embargo unthinkable. Whereas commerce with the Central Powers fell to a trickle, that with the Allies soared, much of it financed by American loans to the British and French.

With the land war a bloody stalemate on the Western Front in France, the Germans challenged Allied control of the seas with their use of submarines. But because these vessels depended on surprise attack, their commanders could not operate under the ordinary international rules of war and give the crew and passengers of neutral ships time to disembark onto lifeboats before sinking the vessels.

Germany declared the waters surrounding Britain a war zone and announced that it would sink without warning all enemy merchant ships in the area; neutral ships that entered the area did so at their own risk. Wilson warned the Germans he would hold them to “strict accountability” for any loss of American life or property resulting from such attacks. On May 7, 1915, a German U-boat sank the British passenger liner *Lusitania*, causing the death of nearly 1,200 persons, including 128 Americans. The attack sorely tested American diplomacy, but Wilson kept open the lines of communication. When the French steamer *Sussex* was attacked in 1916, the United States issued another protest, and the Germans, in the *Sussex* Pledge, agreed to stop sinking merchant ships without warning.

**The Election of 1916**

Because Wilson’s 1912 victory resulted from a split in the Republican ranks, to shore up his political base among progressives Wilson named progressive attorney Louis D. Brandeis to the Supreme Court and approved a spate of progressive legislation: the Farm Loan Act, the Keating-Owen Child Labor Act, the Adamson Act establishing the eight-hour day for railroad workers, and a worker’s compensation act for federal employees. All were sharp reversals of the “class legislation” Wilson had refused to approve in 1913 and 1914.

The Republicans nominated Associate Justice Charles Evans Hughes, a former New York governor. In his campaign, Wilson stressed progressivism and peace, and Democratic speakers reminded voters of Wilson that “He Kept Us Out of War.” Hughes appeared to have won on election night despite his ineffective personal style and equivocating campaign; however, late returns gave Wilson California and a slim victory.
The Road to War

In 1915 and 1916, Wilson sent his aide, Colonel Edward M. House, on unsuccessful secret missions to Europe to try to mediate among the belligerents. Moreover, in early 1917, Wilson delivered a speech calling for “peace without victory,” meaning that any settlement imposed by a victor could only bring hatred and more war. Each nation should be treated equally, and national groups must exercise self-determination, Wilson contended.

Wilson’s appeal fell on deaf ears. Even as he delivered it, Germany renounced the Sussex Pledge and announced the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare against vessels headed for Allied ports. Germany hoped to starve the British into submission and to halt the flow of American supplies to Allied armies. Wilson responded by severing diplomatic relations with Germany. Within a month, Walter Hines Page, United States ambassador to Britain, released the infamous Zimmermann telegram, revealing that Germany had sought a secret alliance with Mexico. Wilson ordered the arming of merchant vessels, and after several sinkings, Congress declared war on the Central Powers. After his agonizing search for an honorable alternative to war proved fruitless, Wilson, forsaking vengeance, led the American people into battle in the spirit of justice and humanity to make the world safe for democracy.

Mobilizing the Economy

Without the entry of the United States in 1917, the Great War would likely have ended in 1918 on terms dictated by Germany. Just as revolutionary Russia was leaving the war, the entry of American men and supplies helped contain Germany’s last offensive and ensure its final defeat.

American industry was converted to war production with confusion and waste. Airplane, tank, and artillery construction proceeded too slowly to affect the war. Moreover, Congress took six long weeks to decide on drafting an army.

Conversion of the economy to a wartime footing was directed by the War Industries Board, which allocated scarce materials, standardized production processes, fixed prices at levels that allowed large profits for manufacturers, and coordinated purchasing. In early 1918, Wilson appointed Treasury Secretary William G. McAdoo director-general of the railroads. McAdoo’s Railroad Administration ran the nation’s trains as a single system, pooled equipment, centralized purchasing, and raised wages and passenger rates. Meanwhile, Herbert Hoover, a mining engineer who had headed the Belgian Relief Commission earlier in the war, directed the mobilization of agricultural resources. To avoid rationing, Hoover organized a successful campaign to persuade consumers to conserve food voluntarily. During the war, the United States increased food exports and farmers profited greatly.

Workers in Wartime

With the army taking men from the labor force and with immigration reduced to a trickle, unemployment disappeared and wages rose. And though the cost of living soared, the wartime economic boom created unprecedented opportunities. Disadvantaged groups, particularly southern blacks, migrated to factory jobs in northern cities. Wilson created the National War
Labor Board, headed by former President Taft and Frank P. Walsh, a prominent lawyer, to settle labor disputes and prevent strikes. Union membership rose significantly during the war.

**Paying for the War**

World War I cost the United States about $33.5 billion, excluding pensions and other postwar expenses. About $7 billion was lent to the Allies but spent in the United States, thereby contributing to national prosperity. Two-thirds of the cost of the war was met by borrowing; five Liberty and Victory Loan drives appealed to the patriotism of Americans to support the war.

In addition to borrowing, the government collected about $10.5 billion in taxes, including a sharply graduated income tax that took more than 75 percent of the income of the wealthiest citizens, a 65 percent excess-profits tax, and a 25 percent inheritance tax. Americans also contributed generously to philanthropic agencies engaged in war work.

**Propaganda and Civil Liberties**

Wilson tried to mobilize public opinion and to inspire Americans to work for the better world that he expected to emerge from the war. His Committee on Public Information, headed by journalist George Creel, depicted the war as a crusade for freedom and democracy. Most Americans supported the war without reservation, but a minority of those of German and Irish ancestry as well as pacifists and some Socialists opposed it.

To control dissidents, Congress passed the Espionage Act, which imposed heavy fines and jail sentences on persons convicted of aiding the enemy or obstructing recruiting. The Supreme Court later upheld the Espionage Act in *Schenck v. United States* (1919), a case involving a Socialist who had mailed circulars to draftees urging them to refuse induction. The Court fashioned a “clear and present danger” rule as a yardstick for validating such restrictions on free speech.

The Sedition Act, also approved by Wilson, made “saying anything” to discourage the purchase of war bonds a crime and made it illegal to “utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language” about the government, the Constitution, or the military. Under it, Socialist Eugene V. Debs was sentenced to 10 years for making an antiwar speech. The wartime repression in the United States exceeded anything that occurred in Britain or France.

**Wartime Reforms**

The American war mobilization was an outgrowth of the Progressive Era drive to solve economic and social problems by expanding government functions. Many progressives believed the war was at last creating a sense of common purpose needed to eradicate social evils which reformers tried to capitalize on as they worked on many issues largely unrelated to the war: women’s suffrage, prohibition, health insurance, and the curtailment of prostitution and venereal disease.
Women and Blacks in Wartime

Most feminists supported the war with the expectation that it would create new job opportunities for women. Moreover, opposition to the war would have endangered the chances of obtaining national women’s suffrage. Most unions were unsympathetic to enrolling women as members, and the government urged women to concentrate on such tasks as preparing bandages, knitting clothing, and food conservation. Women who did gain employment were paid less than their male counterparts, had less chance for promotion, and lost their jobs when the war ended.

There was a “great migration” of southern blacks to the northern cities between 1914 and 1919. Many felt unwelcome and were resented in their new surroundings, but the newcomers fared better economically than those who remained in the South, and they had the vote and decent schools. All blacks drafted into the army fought in segregated units, and only a handful were commissioned officers. Despite this, W. E. B. Du Bois, in *The Crisis*, backed the war and commended Wilson for denouncing lynchings, and most blacks seemed to view the war as a way to demonstrate their patriotism and prove their worth.

Americans: To the Trenches and Over the Top

The ultimate aim of the war was the military defeat of the Central Powers. The navy reduced the threat of German submarines and provided convoys to escort merchant ships across the Atlantic. The American Expeditionary Force (AEF) commanded by General Pershing reached Paris on July 4, 1917; but not until the spring of 1918 did the “doughboys” play a vital role in the war.

In March 1918, Germany launched an offensive aided by soldiers previously committed to the Russian front. By late May the Germans had reached the Marne River, 50 miles from Paris. In its first major engagement, the AEF drove the Germans from Château-Thierry and Belleau Wood. In September, some 1.2 million doughboys fought west of Verdun in the Argonne Forest, one of the bloodiest battles ever waged. On November 11, the Allied armies forced Germany to sign an armistice.

Preparing for Peace

Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for world peace in a speech to Congress in January 1918, calling for open diplomacy, freedom of the seas in war and peace, free trade, and a worldwide reduction in armaments. Wilson further called for the redrawing of European boundaries and self-determination for Europe’s many nationalities. Wilson hoped to maintain peace through a League of Nations, on which he felt that the fate of humanity rested. The vagueness and inconsistencies in Wilson’s peace aims soon became apparent and he eventually had to concede or compromise most of his Fourteen Points.

The epitome of self-confidence, Wilson decided to personally head the American delegation to the peace conference in Paris, becoming the first president to leave American territory while in office. As Wilson departed, he had been weakened by Republican victories in the 1918 elections and by dissatisfaction among western farmers who felt wartime price controls on wheat discriminated against them. No partisan Republican was included on the peace commission, a
strategic error in that the treaty would need to be ratified by the Senate, where Republicans were in the majority.

The Paris Peace Conference and Versailles Treaty

The “Big Four” at Paris included Wilson, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, French Premier Georges Clemenceau, and Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando. Clemenceau, whose concern lay with French security, had little interest in the Fourteen Points. Lloyd George agreed with many of Wilson’s proposals but found them politically impractical. Orlando left the conference in a huff when his demands were unmet.

Those who had hoped for a peace based on Wilson’s Fourteen Points found the Versailles Treaty disappointing. The victors forced Germany to admit responsibility for the war and to agree to pay $33 billion in reparations to the Allies. The treaty said nothing of freedom of the seas, free trade, or disarmament. On the other hand, the new map of Europe left fewer people on “foreign” soil than in any earlier period of history. Except for the war guilt clause and heavy reparations, Wilson had achieved a moderate peace. He expected the new League of Nations to make up for all the inadequacies of the treaty.

The Senate Rejects the League of Nations

A majority of the public and senators favored the treaty and the League of Nations, but 37 Republicans signed a manifesto devised by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, opposing the League as part of the treaty with Germany. Wilson refused to compromise despite the Republican Senate majority.

Led by Lodge, the reservationist senators agreed to ratify the treaty if 14 modifications were met. Reservationists feared that Article 10 of the League Covenant, which committed signatories to protect the political independence and territorial integrity of all member nations, could lead to American troop commitments to resolve European disputes. Meanwhile, the irreconcilables, led by William Borah of Idaho, refused to support an international organization under any circumstances.

Influenced by the view that he knew more about the issue than any of his opponents, his hatred of Lodge, and his deteriorating health, Wilson rejected Lodge’s reservations outright. Rather than making concessions to ensure passage, Wilson embarked on a national speaking tour by train. The mighty effort failed to sway the wavering senators; instead, it drained Wilson physically. In September, while speaking in Pueblo, Colorado, he collapsed. A few days later in Washington, he suffered a severe stroke.

While Wilson was incapacitated, Lodge steered his reservations through the Senate. Popular sentiment swung Lodge’s way, and although a bipartisan coalition of moderates could have passed the amended treaty, Wilson urged Democrats to reject it. When Lodge allowed the original draft to come up for a vote, reservationists and irreconcilables joined to block it. In a subsequent vote, enough Democrats joined the irreconcilables to defeat the treaty with the Lodge reservations. Wilson’s refusal to accept compromise, together with Lodge’s intense partisanship, doomed the treaty and American participation in the League.
Demobilization

With the end of the war, the army and the economy were quickly demobilized. Business boomed in 1919, but only briefly. Temporary shortages caused inflation, and the cost of living by 1920 doubled that of 1913. Inflation in turn produced labor trouble, as over four million workers went on strike during 1919. Between July 1920 and March 1922, farm prices dropped sharply, and unemployment soared.

The Red Scare

Radical labor activities led millions of Americans to associate unions and strikes with the threat of communist world revolution. Though there were few communists in the United States, the Russian experience convinced many that even a small cadre of revolutionaries could seize power.

Organized labor in America had seldom been radical, but some labor leaders were attracted to socialism. Americans failed to distinguish between the common ends sought by communists and socialists and the entirely different methods by which they sought to achieve those ends. A general strike paralyzed Seattle in 1919. About the same time, steelworkers walked off their jobs, and the Boston police called a strike. The police strike led to looting and fighting that ended only when Governor Calvin Coolidge called out the National Guard. Anarchists meanwhile attempted to murder several prominent citizens.

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, a progressive who feared the communist menace, launched raids on the meeting places of anarchist and communist groups. Six thousand people were taken into custody, but only a few hundred were liable for deportation for unlawful activity. When a May Day 1920 demonstration supposedly planned by communists did not materialize, Palmer’s raids were discredited, and the Red Scare subsided.

The Election of 1920

When Wilson’s health prevented his seeking a third term, the Democrats nominated Ohio Governor James M. Cox for president. Though Cox favored joining the League of Nations, the question was not seriously debated because the Republican nominee, Ohio Senator Warren G. Harding, equivocated on the issue. The election instead turned on other issues, largely emotional. Harding, who pledged a return to what he called “normalcy” in an a postwar era in which many were weary of Wilsonian idealism, defeated Cox handily. In July 1921, Congress formally ended the war with the Central Powers by passing a joint resolution.

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

Define the following:

“moral” diplomacy ________________________________________________________

__________________________________________
U-boat _________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
“strict accountability”______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
doughboys ______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
reservationists ___________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
“irreconcilables” _________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
war-guilt clause __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
reparations ______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
demobilization ___________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Describe the following:

Bryan-Chamorro Treaty _______________________________________________________ 
______________________________________________________________________________

Sussex Pledge _______________________________________________________________ 
______________________________________________________________________________

Adamson Act _______________________________________________________________ 
______________________________________________________________________________
Zimmermann telegram

Committee on Public Information

American Expeditionary Force

Fourteen Points

Article 10 of the League Covenant

Palmer raids

Identify the following:

Victoriano Huerta

Venustiano Carranza

Pancho Villa

Edward M. House

Louis D. Brandeis

Herbert Hoover
Refer to the European map below. Place the correct letter beside each country that corresponds with its location.

1. Austria-Hungary  2. Belgium  3. Czechoslovakia
4. France  5. Germany  6. Great Britain
7. Italy  8. Lithuania  9. Latvia
SELF-TEST

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. When he used the phrase, “I will not recognize a government of butchers,” President Wilson was referring to
   A. Germany’s government, whose troops had just invaded neutral Belgium.
   B. the Mexican government of strong-man Victoriano Huerta.
   C. Japan’s government when it issued the 21 Demands to China.
   D. the Russian government that had just been taken over by Bolsheviks.

2. On the eve of the Great War (World War I), the Allied powers included all of the following EXCEPT
   A. Great Britain.
   B. France.
   C. Russia.
   D. Austria-Hungary.

3. When war began in Europe in 1914, the United States sought to remain neutral because of all of the following reasons EXCEPT
   A. most Americans did not understand the significance of the struggle.
   B. most Americans were impartial toward the two warring sides.
   C. U.S. involvement would create new internal stress in a nation of immigrants.
   D. the war was an affront to the prevailing progressive spirit of optimism.

4. As the Great War progressed in Europe, the United States became more sympathetic to the Allies for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
   A. President Wilson personally admired British institutions and culture.
   B. American trade with the Allies grew immensely, but very little with the Central Powers.
   C. unlike the Allies, the Central Powers were guilty of violating international laws of war.
   D. the Allies borrowed billions of dollars from the United States.

5. President Wilson warned that he would hold the Germans to “strict accountability”
   A. after the sinking of the Lusitania.
   B. in the Sussex Pledge.
   C. for its bloody surprise invasion of a neutral country—Belgium.
   D. for any loss of American lives resulting from violations of neutral rights.

6. President Wilson’s support for a flurry of progressive reform measures included all of the following EXCEPT
   A. low-cost loans to farmers.
   B. banning goods manufactured by child labor from interstate trade.
   C. support for a federal health insurance program.
   D. an eight-hour day for railroad workers.
7. The March 1917 publication of the Zimmermann telegram revealed a proposed
   A. German decision to abandon the Sussex Pledge.
   B. German invasion of Russia.
   C. German break of diplomatic relations with the United States.
   D. German alliance with Mexico.

8. On the eve of U.S. entry into the Great War, President Wilson denounced “a little group of willful men” for
   A. blocking legislation to arm American merchantmen.
   B. opposing his reelection.
   C. voting against the League of Nations.
   D. their decision in Schenck v. United States.

9. All the following resulted from U.S. involvement in the Great War EXCEPT
   A. farmers real income soared.
   B. wages rose.
   C. union membership declined.
   D. unemployment disappeared.

10. To mobilize the economy for war, the Wilson administration
    A. suspended the antitrust laws.
    B. abandoned laissez-faire.
    C. encouraged close cooperation between business and the military.
    D. performed all the above.

11. To finance World War I, the United States relied primarily on
    A. higher income taxes.
    B. a temporary national sales taxes.
    C. excess profits and inheritance taxes.
    D. the sale of war bonds.

12. A person in which one of the following groups would be LEAST likely to oppose American involvement in the Great War?
    A. progressives
    B. Irish-Americans
    C. German-Americans
    D. socialists

13. Which one of the following was NOT used to suppress wartime dissent?
    A. Sedition Act
    B. General Intelligence Division
    C. Committee on Public Information
    D. Espionage Act
14. All of the following progressive reform efforts gained from U.S. participation in the Great War EXCEPT the
   A. prohibitionist campaign.
   B. women’s suffrage movement.
   C. feminist campaign for equal pay.
   D. campaign against prostitution.

15. The “great migration” of 1917-1918 refers to
   A. antiwar dissidents voluntarily moving to Canada.
   B. displaced immigrants arriving from war-torn Europe.
   C. southern blacks moving to northern cities seeking wartime employment.
   D. housewives leaving home to take jobs in defense industries.

16. President Wilson’s Fourteen Points peace program proposed all of the following EXCEPT
   A. removal of barriers to international trade.
   B. general arms reduction.
   C. decolonization of European empires.
   D. a general association of nations to keep the peace.

17. The “Big Four” at the Paris Peace Conference included all of the following EXCEPT
   A. Georges Clemenceau.
   B. Woodrow Wilson.
   C. Vladimir Lenin.
   D. David Lloyd George.

18. The Versailles Treaty said nothing of
   A. war guilt.
   B. reparations.
   C. disarmament.
   D. self-determination.

19. President Wilson’s intransigent unwillingness to compromise with the Senate on the League of Nations was due to all of the following EXCEPT his
   A. hatred of Henry Cabot Lodge.
   B. lack of support among Democratic senators.
   C. ill health.
   D. blind faith in the League’s potential as a peacemaker.

20. The 1919 Red Scare was originally provoked by
   A. labor strikes.
   B. anarchist bombings.
   C. communist espionage.
   D. immigrant deportations.

**Essay Questions**

1. Explain how the idealism of Wilson’s “moral” diplomacy was often at odds with the reality the president faced in dealing with Mexico between 1913 and 1916.
2. Compare and contrast the elections of 1916, 1918, and 1920 in reference to parties, nominees, issues, outcome, and long-range significance.

3. Explain how the United States mobilized for war in Europe, with emphasis on preparedness, control over the economy, and the political impact fueled by the progressive movement.

4. Discuss the American mission to Paris in 1919 in reference to goals, diplomatic achievement, and ultimate outcome.

5. Explain why the United States did not join the League of Nations.

Critical Thinking Exercise

The following statements refer to the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations. List each statement as fact (F), inference (I), or opinion (O). An inference is a conclusion that can reasonably be drawn from the facts, though the evidence may not be overwhelming.

___1. Wilson was convinced that his Fourteen Points would make the world “fit and safe to live in.”

___2. The Fourteen Points, if fully implemented, would have made the world “fit and safe to live in.”

___3. Wilson found that self-determination for European nationalities was difficult to achieve because there were too many regions of mixed population for every group to be satisfied.

___4. Self-determination for nationality groups after World War I would have prevented Adolf Hitler from later taking the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia.

___5. Wilson once told a colleague that there are two sides to every question—a right side and a wrong side.

___6. Wilson’s decision to attend the Paris peace conference was a precedent-shattering step.

___7. Germany should not have been forced to sign the “war guilt” clause at the Paris peace conference because Austria technically started the war.

___8. The new European map that was drawn at Versailles in 1919 left fewer people on “foreign” soil than in any earlier period of history.

___9. The imposition of reparations on Germany was at odds with Wilson’s “peace without victory” speech.

___10. Wilson’s partisanship and vanity played decisive roles in keeping the United States from joining the League of Nations.