THE HOME FRONT

OBJECTIVE: TO LEARN HOW WORLD WAR I AFFECTED THE UNITED STATES
BUILDING UP THE MILITARY

• Many progressives believed that conscription (forced military service) was a violation of democratic and republican principles.

• Instead, Congress created a new system called selective service, which required all men between 21 and 30 to register for the draft.

• 42,000 African Americans served overseas as combat troops.

• Women served in the armed forces as nurses, clerks, radio operators, etc.
ORGANIZING INDUSTRY

• Congress created special boards to coordinate mobilization of the economy.

• The War Industries Board’s (WIB) job was to coordinate the production of war materials.

• The Food Administration, run by Herbert Hoover was responsible for increasing food production while reducing civilian consumption.

• Hoover also encouraged citizens to plant victory gardens to raise their own vegetables.

• The Fuel Administration tried to conserve energy by introducing daylight savings time and shortened workweeks for factories that didn’t make war materials.
Paying for the War

• To fund the war effort, Congress raised income tax rates and placed new taxes on corporate profits.

• The government also borrowed more than $20 billion from the American people by selling Liberty and Victory Bonds.
MOBILIZING THE WORKFORCE

• The government established the **National War Labor Board** to prevent strikes from disrupting the war effort by mediating labor disputes.

• Women filled industrial jobs vacated by men serving in the military.

• Wartime job openings and high wages drew thousands of African Americans to factories in the North producing war materials. This became known as the “Great Migration”.

• Political turmoil in Mexico convinced over 100,000 Mexicans to migrate into the Southwestern states, providing labor for the farmers and ranchers.
ENSURING PUBLIC SUPPORT

• The Committee of Public Information had the task of swaying public opinion in favor of the war.

• The government passed legislation to fight antiwar activities such as espionage, or spying to acquire secret government information.

• The Sedition Act of 1918 expanded the meaning of the Espionage Act to make illegal any public expression of opposition to the war.
The fear of spies and emphasis on patriotism led to the mistreatment of German Americans.

Mobs attacked labor activists, socialists, and pacifists.

In the landmark case of *Schenck v. the United States* (1919), the Supreme Court ruled that an individual’s freedom of speech could be curbed if the words uttered constitute a “clear and present danger.”