

America in World War One

The Home Front

1. Increasing Presidential Powers

Wilson provided **strong wartime leadership**. He received from Congress **broad powers to direct the economy** and spur the way effort.

Wilson commanded an **array of government agencies representing a tremendous expansion of federal and executive power**.

Mobilizing the Economy

The **War Industries Board** allocated **raw materials** and **expanded war production**.

The **War Labor Board** mediated **labor disputes** to prevent work stoppages.

The **Railroad Administration** took **control of the railroads**, **unifying and improving** their operations.

The **Shipping Board** built a “bridge of ships” **to transport armies and equipment** to the European fighting fronts.

The **Fuel Administration** stepped up the **production of coal, gas and oil**.

The **Food Administration** increased **farm output** and encouraged the public to observe “**wheatless**” and “**meatless**” days.

Punishing Espionage and Sedition

- a. The **Espionage Act (1917)** provided penalties for spying, sabotage and obstructing the war effort, and banned antiwar materials from the mail.
- b. The **Sedition Act (1918)** provided penalties for speaking or writing against the American form of government or the war effort.

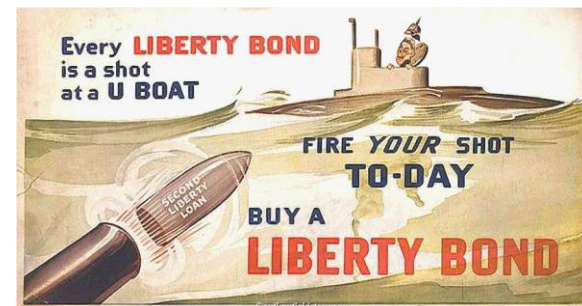
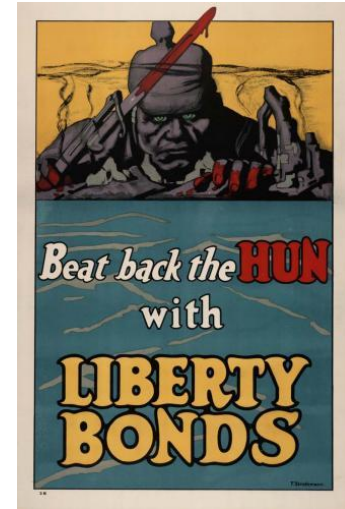
These laws, leading to the **arrest of some 1500 pacifists and pro Germans**, reflected wartime **unwillingness to tolerate dissent**.

Financing the War

The government

- a. **raised income taxes** and levied new and heavier excise taxes, securing \$11 billion, or one-third of the cost of the war, and
- b. **borrowed from the American people** by selling them **Liberty and Victory Bonds**, securing \$21 billion, or two thirds of the war's cost.

The U.S. lent the Allies \$10 billion to purchase war supplies.



Providing Military Forces

Congress passed several **Selective Service Acts**.

Our armed forces consisted of almost **3 million draftees** together with **2 million volunteers**.

The dispatch of army units to Europe was hastened by **desperate Allied appeals** for American troops to **turn the tide** of battle.