



**World War I --  
America on the Homefront:  
"The Poster War"**

Thanks History Heart Lady for  
the Inspiration

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**War  
Mobilization**

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**What You Need to Know  
Today:**

- How did the U.S. mobilize for the war?
- What key law was passed to help mobilize the Army?
- In what way did the U.S. Government expand its role in society during the war?
- What was the purpose of the Creel Committees, or the Committee on Public Information?
  - What tactics did they use?
- How did the federal government possibly abuse civil liberties in World War I?

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## The Most Famous Recruitment Poster



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## “Huns Kill Women and Children!”



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## And MUSIC!

**“It’s a Long Way to Tipperary,”**  
 Up to mighty London came an Irishman one day,  
 As the streets are paved with gold, sure ev’ryone was gay;  
 Singing songs of Piccadilly, Strand and Leicester Square,  
 Till Paddy got excited, then he shouted to them there:

It’s a long way to Tipperary  
 It’s a long way to go  
 It’s a long way to Tipperary  
 to the sweetest gal I know  
 farewell to Piccadilly  
 so long Leicester Square  
 It’s a long way to Tipperary  
 but my heart lies there

Paddy wrote a letter to his Irish Molly O,  
 Saying, “Should you not receive it,  
 Write and let me know!  
 If I make mistakes in spelling, Molly dear,” said he  
 “Remember it’s the pen that’s bad,  
 Don’t lay the blame on me.”

Molly wrote a neat reply to Irish Paddy O,  
 Saying, “Mike Mahoney wants to marry me, and so  
 Leave the Strand and Piccadilly, or you’ll be to blame!”  
 For love has fairly drove me silly, hoping you’re the same!”

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## And MORE MUSIC!

**"Over There," by George M. Cohan**

- Cohan wrote the song in 1917, when the United States entered World War I on the side of the Allies and began sending troops to Europe. The song reflected Americans' expectations that the war would be short. Cohan wrote "Over There" on April 7, 1917, just one day after President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany. Cohan wrote the song in under two hours and was inspired by the song "Johnny Get your Gun." The song went unpublished until June 1, 1917 when publisher William Jerome registered it with the Library of Congress...
- The song was introduced to the public in the fall of 1917 when it was sung at a Red Cross benefit in New York City. It would later become the most popular song during the war with over two million copies sold. The sheet music was heavily reprinted and has variant covers. One of those editions was a "Popular edition."
- This song, as well as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary", was a popular patriotic song during the First World War
- It has been revived on various occasions during and after World War II. It was not heavily used during Vietnam, but has been used since September 11. As the specific country "over there" is not named, the words can serve as an exhortation for any sending of American troops to any foreign military intervention.
- The slogan "The Yanks are Coming" is derived from this song.

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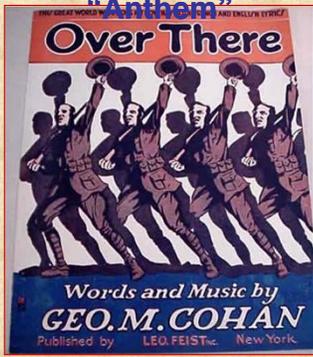
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## World War I American "Anthem" Over There




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**Johnnie get your gun, get your gun,  
get your gun,  
Take it on the run, on the run, on  
the run,  
Hear them calling you and me,  
Every son of liberty.  
Hurry right away, no delay, go  
today,  
Make your daddy glad to have had  
such a lad,  
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,  
To be proud her boy's in line.**

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Over there, over there  
 Send the word, send the word over  
 there  
 That the Yanks are coming, the  
 Yanks are coming,  
 The drums rum-tumming everywhere  
 So prepare, say a prayer  
 Send the word, send the word to  
 beware  
 We'll be over, we're coming over,  
 And we won't come back till it's  
 over, over there!

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Johnnie get your gun, get your gun,  
 get your gun,  
 Johnnie show the Hun you're a son  
 of a gun,  
 Hoist the flag and let her fly,  
 Yankee Doodle do or die.  
 Pack your little kit, show your grit,  
 do your bit,  
 Yankees to the ranks from the towns  
 and the tanks,  
 Make your momma proud of you  
 And the old Red White and Blue.

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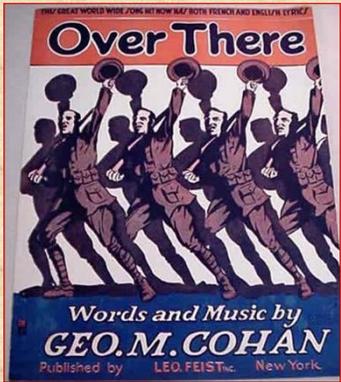
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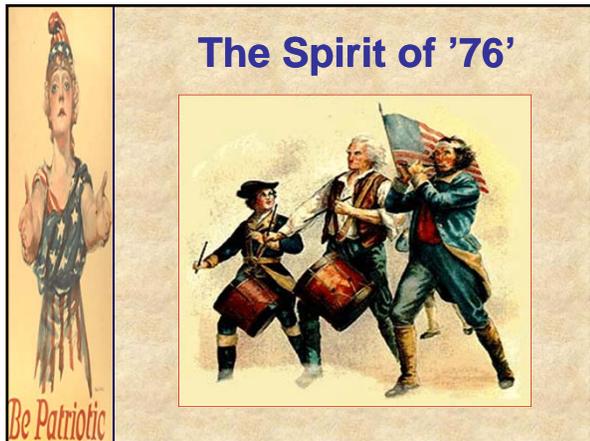
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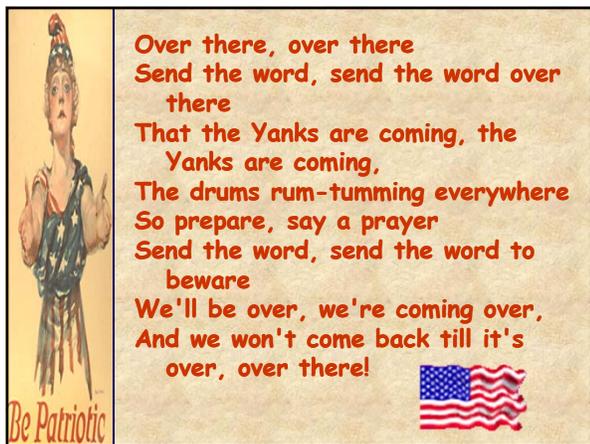
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## 1917 – Selective Service Act

**Selective Service Act or Selective Draft Act (1917)** authorized the federal government/President to raise a national army for the American entry into World War I through the compulsory enlistment of people (forced conscription).

- All men aged 21-31 (later changed to 18-45) were required to register for military service for a service period of 12 months (suspended in 1920).
- Men later chosen for service first based on **lottery** and then later based on classifications.
- **24 million men registered by the end of 1918.**
- **4.8 million men served in WWI; 2 million saw combat**

**Supreme Court Challenge: *Arver v. United States* (1918)**  
**A.K.A: the Selective Draft Law Cases**

The Supreme Court upheld that conscription did not violate the Thirteenth Amendment's prohibition of involuntary servitude, or the First Amendment's protection of freedom of conscience.

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## Exemptions

| Class | Categories (May 1917 – July 1919)                           | Eligible Exemption Conditions  |
|-------|---|--|
| I.    | Eligible and liable for military service.                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unmarried registrants with no dependents</li> <li>• Married registrants with independent spouse and / or one or more dependent children over 16 with sufficient family income if drafted.</li> </ul>  |
| II.   | Temporarily deferred, but available for military service.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Married registrants with dependent spouse and / or dependent children under 16 with sufficient family income if drafted.</li> </ul>   |
| III.  | Temporarily exempted, but available for military service.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local officials.</li> <li>• Those who provide sole family income for dependent parents and/or dependent siblings under 16</li> <li>• Registrants employed in agricultural labor or industrial enterprises essential to the war effort.</li> </ul>   |
| IV.   | Exempted due to extreme hardship.                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Married registrants with dependent spouse and/or dependent children with insufficient family income if drafted</li> <li>• Registrants with deceased spouse who provide sole family income for dependent children under 16</li> <li>• Registrants with deceased parents who provide sole family income for dependent siblings under 16.</li> </ul>   |
| V.    | Exempted or ineligible for induction into military service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State or Federal officials</li> <li>• Already enlisted people.</li> <li>• Licensed and employed pilots</li> <li>• Members of the clergy.</li> <li>• Students in ministry school</li> <li>• Medically disabled (permanently physically/mentally disabled)</li> <li>• Morally unfit</li> <li>• Convicts of any crime designated as treason or felony, or an "infamous" crime</li> <li>• Enemy aliens and resident aliens</li> </ul> |

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# Expansion of the Federal Government

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## Council of National Defense

**War Industries Board**

- Encouraged companies to use mass-production techniques to increase efficiency.
- The WIB set production quotas and allocated raw materials.
- Stopped strikes by fixing wage increases to prevent a shortage of supplies going to the war in Europe.

**Food Administration:**

- Assure the supply, distribution, and conservation of food during the war,
- Facilitate transportation of food and prevent monopolies and hoarding, and
- Maintain governmental power over foods by using voluntary agreements and a licensing system.
- By 1918 the United States was exporting three times as much breadstuffs, meat, and sugar than before the war

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## Council of National Defense--Continued

**Railroad Administration**

- Placed American railroads under national control

**National War Labor Board**

- purpose was to settle disputes between workers and employers

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## U. S. Food Administration

- What does this poster urge Americans to do?




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## U. S. Food Administration





- What does this poster urge Americans to do?
- What emotional appeals are made here?

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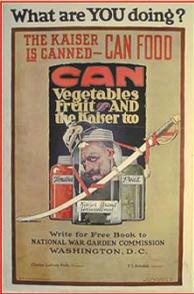
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## National War Garden Commission



- What does this poster urge Americans to do?



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## U. S. Fuel Administration





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Determine

- EQ: In what way does World War I affect the “national identity” of the United States?

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**Results of This New Organization of the Economy?**

1. Unemployment virtually disappeared.
2. Expansion of “big government.”
3. Excessive govt. regulations in eco.
4. Close cooperation between public and private sectors.
5. Unprecedented opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

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**New Social/Economic Opportunities**

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# 1. Women

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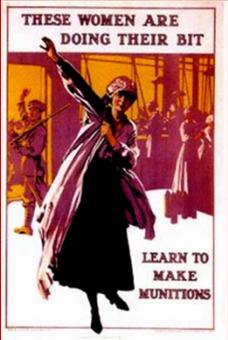
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## Munitions Work



THESE WOMEN ARE DOING THEIR BIT

LEARN TO MAKE MUNITIONS

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## Women Used In Recruitment



GEE!!  
I WISH I WERE  
A MAN

JOIN  
The NAVY,  
NAVAL RESERVE  
OR  
COAST GUARD

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**Even Grandma Buys Liberty Bonds**



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**The Red Cross - Greatest Mother in the World**



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**2. African-Americans**



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## Opportunities for African-Americans in WW1

- ✍️ "Great Migration."
  - ✍️ The movement of over 1 million Blacks out of the rural Southern United States from 1914 to 1950.
  - ✍️ moved to escape the problems of racism
  - ✍️ to seek out better jobs and an overall better life.
  - ✍️ 1916 - 1919 → 70,000

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## Wartime Propaganda

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## The Committee of Public Information (George Creel)

- ✍️ America's "Propaganda Minister?"
- ✍️ Anti-Germanism.
- ✍️ Selling American Culture.

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The "Mad Brute"

Be Patriotic

DESTROY THIS MAD BRUTE

ENLIST

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Beat Back the "Hun"

Be Patriotic

Beat back the HUN with LIBERTY BONDS

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The "Menace of the Seas"

Be Patriotic

HELP CRUSH the MENACE of the SEAS

BUY LIBERTY BONDS

Buy Quickly Buy Freely

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# Attacks on Civil Liberties

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## Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

- **DO NOT COPY THIS!**
- **Espionage Act - 1917**
  - forbade actions that obstructed recruitment or efforts to promote insubordination in the military.
  - ordered the Postmaster General to remove Leftist materials from the mail.
  - fines of up to \$10,000 and/or up to 20 years in prison.
- Summarize the meaning of this act in your own words for your notes.
- Are there any Constitutional issues?

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## Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

- **DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING UNTIL I TELL YOU!**
- **Sedition Act - 1918**
  - it was a crime to
    - speak against the purchase of war bonds
    - willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about this form of U.S. government, the U.S. Constitution, or the U.S. armed forces
    - willfully urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment of production of things necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war...with intent of such curtailment to cripple or hinder, the US in the prosecution of the war.
- Summarize the meaning of this act in your own words for your notes.
- Are there any Constitutional issues?

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### Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

- **DON'T WRITE UNTIL I TELL YOU!**
- **Schenck v. US - 1919**
  - Accused of attempting to mail leaflets that urged a refusal to comply with draft.
    - What Amendment would normally allow this?
  - The court ruled:
    - The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic.
    - If an act of speech posed a clear and present danger, then Congress had the power to restrain such speech.
  - How can you summarize this idea?

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### Let's Summarize:

- How did the U.S. mobilize for the war?
- What key law was passed to help mobilize the Army?
- In what way did the U.S. Government expand its role in society during the war?
- What was the purpose of the Creel Committees, or the Committee on Public Information?
  - What tactics did they use?
- How did the federal government possibly abuse civil liberties in World War I?

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### Determine

- EQ: In what way does World War I affect the "national identity" of the United States?

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Topic:

- Assess the validity of this statement:
  - It was the strength of the opposition forces, both liberal and conservative, rather than the ineptitude and stubbornness of President Wilson that led to the Senate defeat of the Treaty of Versailles.
  - Need Help? See [DHT](#) or [Norris](#) vids.

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