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APUSH

Period 4

01/29/2021

Viewpoints 18, 19, 20, 21

**Viewpoint 18: America Should Enter World War 1**

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In the second decade of the twentieth century, America had an important debate to settle, whether to join the fighting in Europe during the Great War or not. The few reasons that were touted by opponents of war were both naïve and fearful. They believed George Washington’s sentiments that the United States should not get involved with Europe’s wars. They used words from a completely different context, when the world was much larger, and America’s influence was much smaller. They also argue that Britain has also done much harm to the United States with their blockade of Germany and the Central Powers. (18B, p 151) However, this is a completely unreasonable argument, as the horrific actions of Germany more than outweigh the British blockade, who’s effects were largely unknown at the time. However, Germany’s outrageous submarine warfare was clear and visible from its start. They destroyed American and British ships without warning and reason, killing Americans in brutal attacks like the Lusitania, and destroying medic and refugee ships of the United States without even declaring war. This unprovoked and disgusting act by the German military is enough to justify a declaration of war, however, their boldness did not stop there. When they realized America was, not without reason, supporting the Allied Powers, they sent an invitation to Mexico to attack the United States in the Zimmerman Telegraph (18A, p 148). How many clear provocations can they send before the United States finally declare wall? America has more to gain from this war than just self-defense, however. For the past two centuries, the world has bathed in fire as European scoundrels conquered the earth and battled each other, all the while we have improved our peoples and become the greatest economic power on earth. It is time that the United States take their place as the dominant global power, and this war is a chance to do so. America can not only take revenge for Germany’s provocations, but we can also create a League of Nations and sit at its head, forging a new era for peace and American wealth.

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**Viewpoint 19: World War 1 Protesters should not be guaranteed Freedom of Speech**

America was founded and built on the ideas of Freedom of Speech, however, it is clear that in this new age of total warfare that these rights must be temporarily suspended against those who wish to speak out against their nation. At the start of the war, the government committed unprecedented control over public information with the CPI and passed the Espionage and Sedition Acts with the mandate of the public, giving themselves power to prosecute those who spoke out against the war. Proponents for free speech say that the pamphlets distributed that encourage disobeying the draft, and even to fight back against the government, provides no clear and present danger towards the United States (19A, p 153).This is clearly false, as the repercussions of disobeying the draft not only disrespects the veterans and those who went off to fight America’s battles, but harms all of America by dividing the country and decreasing army numbers during the world’s largest war. It is clear that these are well meaning citizens who want to express their rights; however, this modern world does not have time for their values during war. During peace, their wishes would very well be allowed, but this war is far from normal. This war requires not only unity, but it requires every citizen and person in the United States to be 100 Percent American to succeed (19B, p 157). There is also doubt that these people that discourage people from joining the army are not citizens, but foreign citizens and spies. The possibility of Germans masquerading as Americans to promote these causes is significant, especially with the rise of Eastern European Immigration from these Central Powers in recent years. Many are questioning whether it is wise to temporarily suspend these rights in case they never come back. However, habius corpus was suspended during the Civil War, and it dutifully came back directly after, and is proof that these American fundamental rights are more resilient and longer lasting than this Great War.

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**Viewpoint 20: The United States should join the League of Nations**

America’s most important decision at the end of the Great War was whether to join Woodrow Wilson’s newly created League of Nations. One of the clearest reason’s to join the League of Nations was because it was created to prevent future conflicts between Nations, and to stop any further Great Wars from occurring. America went into the war in order to settle the world’s conflicts, and to create a new world order with itself at the center (20A, p 160). However, Wilson’s influence over the Big Four was overstated, and the deals he came out with hardly resembled his original plans. His plans for free and open trade and freedom of the seas, along with many of his Fourteen Points were scrapped, with only the League of Nations remaining. This League would create peace of the world, a clear sacrifice to make for some government power. Opponents argue that this is why the US should not join: because the Constitution never allows for giving power to another entity (20B, p 165). However, no international organization of this type was discussed at all or even imagined almost 150 years ago. Today, peace and prosperity, values at the heart of America would be represented in the League of Nations. Those who oppose it on personal grounds, such as Henry Cabot Lodge, are doing an injustice to their people, and setting up the world for more violence and chaos down the line. We can already see the results of a disunited world today, with the Communists, inspired by the Russians, and the Palmer Raids destabilizing society. The League of Nations would now greatly decrease tensions between the United States and Russia. Some say that after becoming the decisive power in ending the greatest war in mankind, America should go back to its old habits: isolationism. However, the era of American isolationism is over, and it is time for America to come out of the curtains to lead this world into a new world order.

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**Viewpoint 21: The Department of Justice is violating Constitutional Freedoms**

The United States was significantly unstable after victory in the Great War. After the success of the Russian Revolution and the Communist Party there, the Red Scare spread across America, spreading fear and hatred of those with communist ideals. These tensions, furthered by bombings by suspected communists, and the popular antiradicalism of the time gave a mandate to Attorney General Palmer to raid thousands of homes across the United States and to arrest over 6,000 people. Supporters of Palmer say that he has protected the Government from the violence and lies of growing Bolshevik presence in the United States (21A, p 175). However, the actions he had taken to do so were clearly unconstitutional and should not be rewarded. The information on how they government received the names of the 60,000 people they raided is confidential, and the reason behind these raids is also. This is clearly a violation of the fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable search and seizure. (21B,p 180) This Red Scare and the clear disregard of the laws of the United States are absolutely unacceptable, especially after the end of the excuse that it is necessary for war. Most of the people who were arrested were not committing any other crimes, other than supporting radical ideologies, which is definitely not a crime in this country. The only other times that this disobedience of the Constitution has previously happened before is during the Civil War and the Great War, however, these Palmer Raids were surprising in the time that they took place, during a postwar peace. The acts taken by Palmer were, ironically, more authoritarian and anti-American than the ideas of the radicals harmed by his actions. There was little chance that the 60000 suspected Bolsheviks in the would be able to pull of a successful revolution, due to being a fraction of a fraction of the populace, not to mention that the evidence that resulting them being raided becoming confidential and not released to the public. These raids by Palmer were not only unnecessary, but detrimental to American ideals.

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