Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

02/01/21

Chapter 21 Test

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1. Social Cultural Developments for Women, African Americans, and Immigrants

The Great War caused incredible change for marginalized groups. Women, who’s rights have always been ignored and swept aside, greatly contributed to the increasing economy by filling jobs left vacant by conscripts. They played important parts in advancing the war effort with the National American Woman Suffrage Association. After the war, their influence increased to force Congress to pass the 19th Amendment, and ended the Progressive movement with it. Immigrants, especially from Russia, faced increased discrimination, after the war, culminating in the Palmer Raids. During the war however, they, along with many workers, experienced a temporary boost in jobs and worker conditions. Africans Americans, most of which were in the South, also saw these opportunities in the North and moved up in the Great Migration. However, as millions of Africans Americans moved to cities, racial tensions over economic opportunities increased, culminating in race riots in major cities.

1. Economic Developments (Govt Control)

Despite the preaching of the Progressive movement for the past decades, government control over private industries stayed minimal until the Great War. The economy was growing greatly during the boom, and the government was able to finance the war through Liberty Bonds and increased taxes. Using this money, their War Industries boards wielded unprecedented power, deciding which companies and factories would produce war materials. The head of this department, Bernard Baruch, had the power to create centralized control of major industries. Despite support from Progressives to do so, Baruch, a Wall Street financier, instead helped major industries see profits from the war. During this time, there was a severe labor shortage, as men were sent off to war. As the remaining men and women had a lot more control, strikes and bargaining increased greatly, culminating in the Ludlow Massacre, where dozens of strikers were killed. Despite having the power to do so, the federal government didn’t take control of private industries, and many industries were destabilized during the war.

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1. Political Developments

At the start of the war, Woodrow Wilson lead the idealistic Democratic Party against Republicans with a slim majority in the 1916 election. Wilson had created the 14 Points near the end of the war, hoping for progressive ideals to be adopted across the world, and creating a League of Nations for America to lead. However, at the Paris Peace Conference, there was little interest in Wilson’s ideas. Wilson came out of the Conference with only one thing to show: The League of Nations. However, he faced significant challenges back at home. He decided to politicize the joining of the League of Nation, and made it a Democrat Vs Republican issue. This, along with the fact that he brought no Republican with him to the Paris Peace Conference, created a gridlock in the Senate, and his joining proposal into the League failed. The next election was publicized as a “Return to Normalcy” by the Republicans, who won and ended the Progressive era.

1. Military Developments

The first World War was the deadliest conflict so far, caused by incredible destructive new technologies from the Industrial Revolution. Before America joined the war, Germany waged war on American-British trading ships, using horrifying submarines to sink thousands of pounds of goods, and even killed over 1,000 people in the Lusitania. These submarine attacks were countered by a Britain blockade, which starved 750 thousand Germans over the course of the war. After America joined the war, the Selective Service Act created a draft to fulfil army requirement, which along with enlistments, created an American Expeditionary Force of over five million men. These men were sent off to a battlefield unlike any before. New airplanes, battleships, artillery, and more weapons of mass destruction led to extremely high casualty rates, topping over a million for almost every nation involved. These military casualties didn’t affect the United States as much, which got involved much later and was geographically isolated from the action.

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