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**Content Reading Guide: World War I Part 3**

Due to the USA joining WW I, industry had radically changed the economy and mass produced items abounded. The economy was refocused to produce weapons and military supplies. Consumer goods were decreased to produce more war supplies. President Woodrow Wilson used his war time power to fix prices and regulate production to ensure that the economy was primarily focused on the war effort.

Business profited and salaries increase. Yet, families struggled due to inflation. Many unions were angry due to these economic conditions. Stockholders gained immense wealth, while the laborers suffered. 6,000 strikes occurred during the war. **The Food Administration** formed to ration food and encourage others to create **“victory gardens”** for citizens to grow their own food to increase the food supply sent to troops. It was going to cost America to support the war in Europe. Increased taxes and the purchasing of war bonds were needed to finance the effort. **Propaganda,** the use of media to stir emotional responses from individuals, was used to convince the USA to support the war effort. **The Committee on Public Information** was the government entity responsible for producing propaganda. **George Creel** created paintings, posters, cartoons, books, pamphlets, and other forms of persuasion.

Anti-Immigrant Hysteria spread across the USA against Germans. Germans lost job and many faced verbal and physical abuse. Businesses stopped playing Beethoven. German towns changed their names. Violence against Germans manifested nationwide. Restaurants called hamburgers “liberty sandwiches” to avoid using a German name for the food. Congress also passed **the Espionage and Sedition Acts**.Due to these laws, a person could go to jail for 20 years for merely opposing the war. The First Amendment was severely violated by these measures. A political leader, **Eugene V. Debs**, was sentenced to 10 years for critiquing the war effort in Europe.

Some felt African American support of the war would diminish racism. Yet, others felt African Americans should not support a racist government. In **the Great Migration**, many African Americans moved North from 1916-1930. The migration was caused by Southern racism and the increase of industrial jobs, like at Ford, offered to African Americans. Women worked the jobs that men left behind as they were drafted into war. This was a huge influence on **the 19th Amendment** that gave women the right to vote in 1920.

During and after World War I, a deadly disease spread around the world.From 1918 to 1919, the **influenza epidemic** spread killing millions. Many people were afraid to go into public. Around half a million Americans died and 30 million died worldwide.