THE HOMEFRONT

WAKE UP, AMERICA!

CIVILIZATION CALLS EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD!

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE 50 EAST 42ND ST
Financing the War

- $35B
- **Liberty Bonds** – Sold during war
- **Victory Bonds** – Sold after war
- Increased taxes on business & rich
  - Nonetheless, corporate profits rose to 3x prewar levels
  - 42K new millionaires from war
Bureaucracy in Action

• **Food Administration (1917)** – Headed by Hoover
  – Oversaw production of scarce goods, rationing

• **War Industry Board (1917)** – Bernard Baruch
  – Regulate industry & labor
  – Dominated by industry leaders/price fixing
  – But did help speedy conversion to war goods

• **Fuel Administration (1917)** – Henry Garfield
  – Conserve coal → weakness in RR exposed/improved
Labor

- War Labor Board (1918) – Taft
  - Mediated labor disputes → didn’t have jurisdiction or information, so →

- War Labor Policies Board → Felix Frankfurter
  - Placed 4M workers in “essential war jobs”

- Women – 40K worked in factories (against union wishes) + 20K nurses/admin → 19th Amendment

- Blacks – Army segregated; migrated north for work
Propaganda

- Committee on Public Info. (CPI) – George Creel
  - Keep public informed while protecting sensitive info
  - Voluntary censorship by papers
  - Hired artists/writers for propaganda
- US fighting for democracy vs. GER Huns!
  - Sold a lot of bonds, anti-union, “war madness”, spy scares, witch hunts, kangaroo courts
  - No GER music, “Liberty Cabbage”, NO PRETZELS!
Sedition & Espionage?

• Various acts made it a crime to publish or speak disloyal information including draft opposition
  – 1500 arrests for sedition & lots of vigilantism
  – **BLUM**: Blemished Wilson’s war record (618)

• *Schenk v. US* (1919) – Oliver Wendell Holmes leads SCOTUS in ruling that acts are constitutional if “clear and present danger”