



Front (1930) ▲

### Interpreting Visual Sources

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**R HANDBOOK, PAGE R23.**

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## The Legacy of the War

When World War I ended, many Americans looked forward to a return of what Warren G. Harding called “normalcy.” However, both the United States and the rest of the world had been utterly transformed by the war. At home, World War I had strengthened both the U.S. military and the power of government. It had also accelerated social change, especially for African Americans and women. In addition, the propaganda campaign had provoked powerful fears and antagonisms that were left unchanneled when the war finally came to an end.

In Europe the destruction and massive loss of life severely damaged social and political systems. In many countries the war created political instability and violence that persisted for decades. During the war years, the first Communist state was established in Russia, while after the war, militant fascist organizations seized control in Italy, Spain, and Germany.

Appalled by the scale of destruction, Americans began to call World War I “the war to end all wars,” in the hope that humanity would never again be willing to fight such a war. However, unresolved issues in Europe would eventually drag America into an even wider war. The Treaty of Versailles had settled nothing. In fact, some Europeans longed to resume the fight. The ominous shape of things to come emerged in the writings of an Austrian named Adolf Hitler, an angry veteran of World War I: “It cannot be that two million [Germans] should have fallen in vain. . . . No, we do not pardon, we demand—“vengeance!” Two decades after the end of the Great War, Adolf Hitler’s desire for vengeance would plunge the world into an even greater war, in which the United States would play a leading role.

### Domestic Consequences of World War I

- accelerated America’s emergence as the world’s greatest industrial power
- contributed to the movement of African Americans to Northern cities
- intensified anti-immigrant and anti-radical sentiments among mainstream Americans
- brought over one million women into the work force

## 4

### ASSESSMENT

**1. TERMS & NAMES** For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Fourteen Points
- League of Nations

- Georges Clemenceau
- David Lloyd George

- Treaty of Versailles
- reparations

- war-guilt clause
- Henry Cabot Lodge

### MAIN IDEA

#### 2. TAKING NOTES

Re-create the spider diagram shown below. Fill in the web with information about the provisions and weaknesses of the Treaty of Versailles and

### CRITICAL THINKING

#### 3. DEVELOPING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Why didn’t the Treaty of Versailles lay the foundations for a lasting peace?

#### 5. HYPOTHESIZING

Predict Germany’s reaction to the Treaty of Versailles. Give reasons for your predictions.

**Think About:**

- what German thoughts of the

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