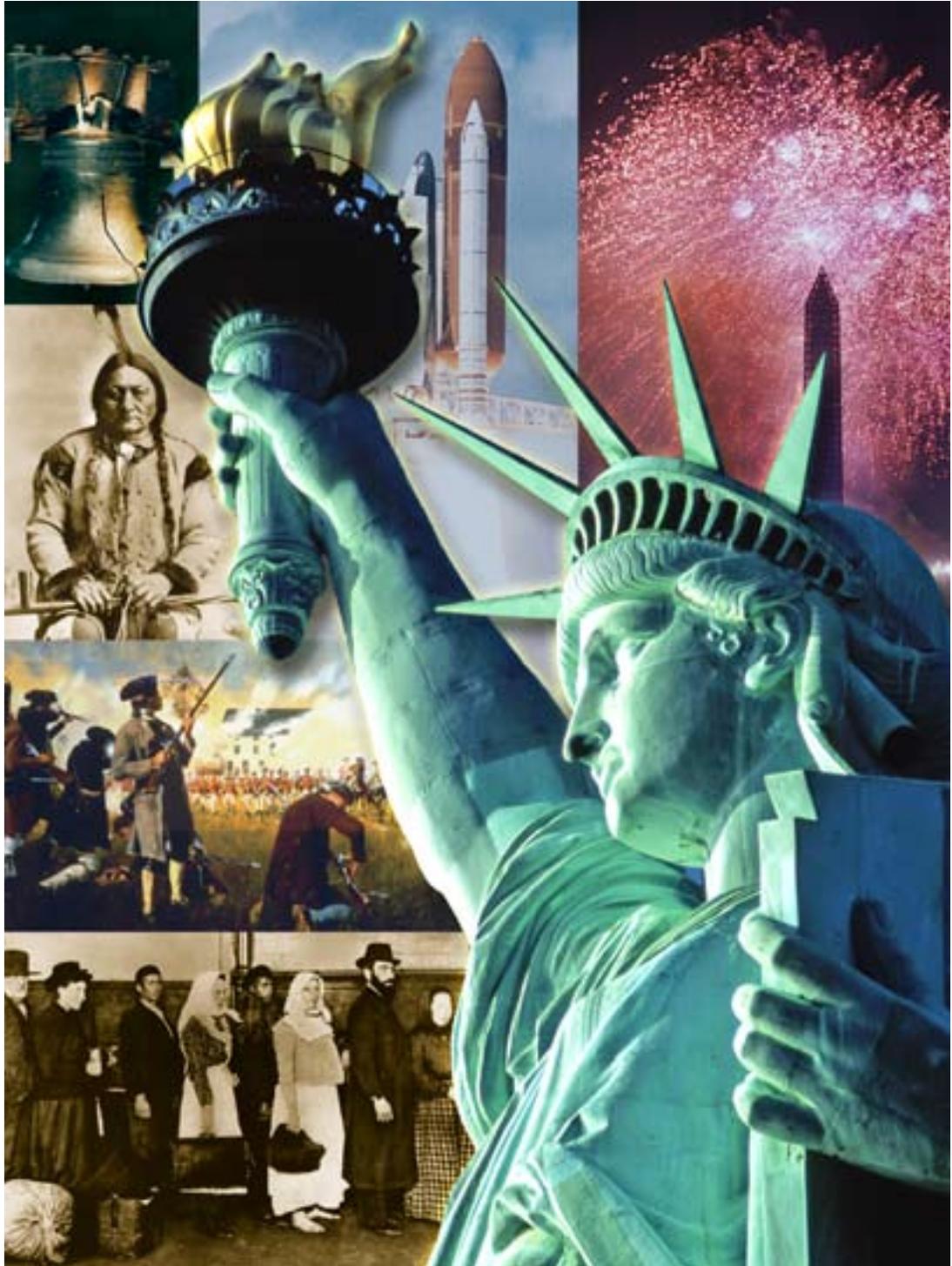
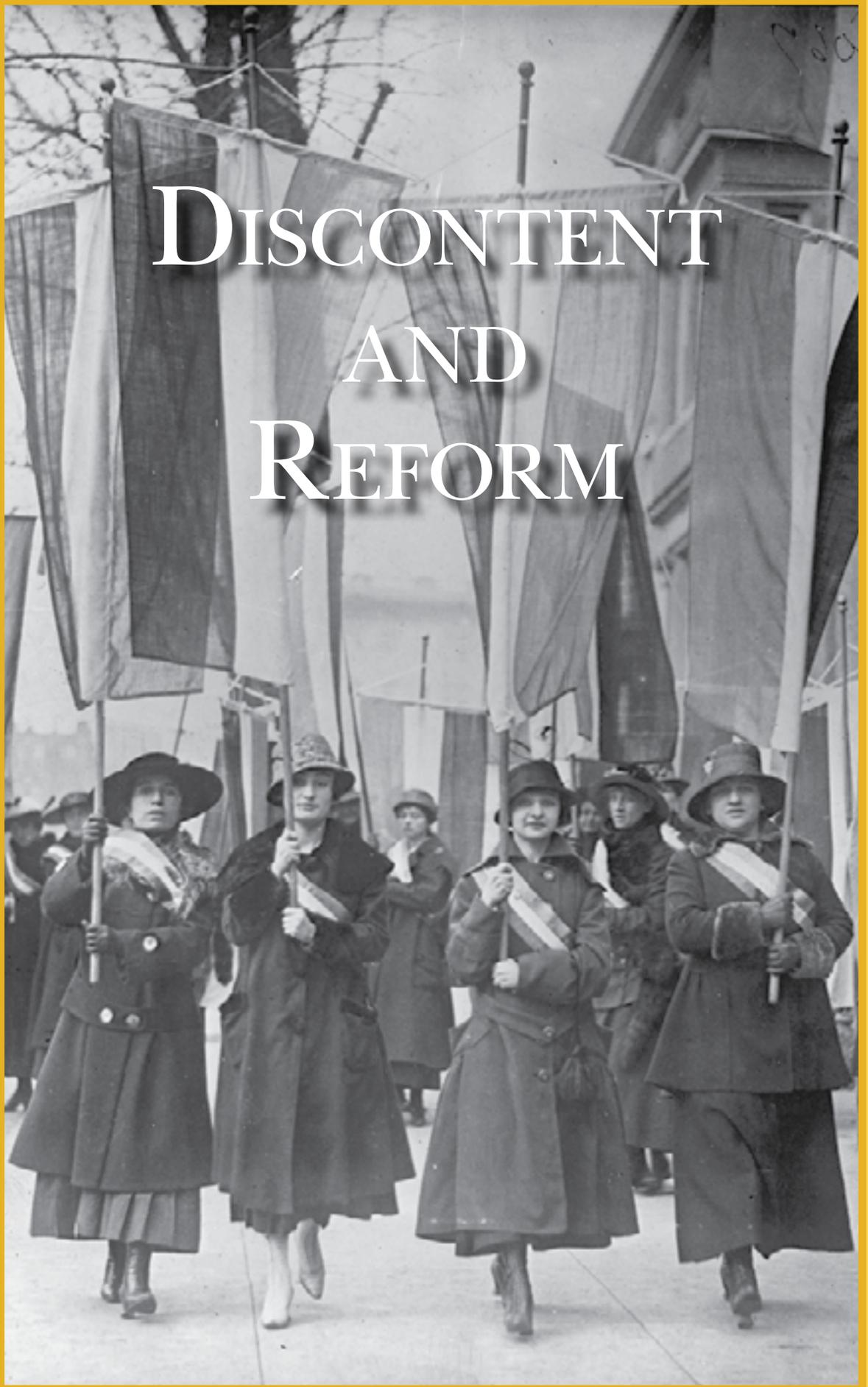


U.S.A. HISTORY I N B R I E F



The Learner English Series
for students of English as a Second Language

DISCONTENT AND REFORM



neg-a-tive / 'nɛgətɪv /
adjective [more **neg*a*tive**;
most **neg*a*tive**]
: harmful or bad : not
wanted • Car exhaust has a
negative effect/impact on the
environment. • the *negative*
effects of the drug

cor-rupt / kə'ɹʌpt / *adjective*
[more **corrupt**; most **corrupt**]
: doing things that are
dishonest or illegal in order
to make money or to gain
or keep power • The country's
justice system is riddled with
corrupt judges who accept
bribes. • *corrupt* politicians/
officials

en-act / ɪ'nækt / *verb*
en-acts; **en-act-ed**; **en-act-ing**
: to make (a bill or other
legislation) officially become
part of the law • Congress
will *enact* legislation related to
that issue. • The law was finally
enacted today.

Opposite: Women seeking the right
to vote march for their cause in 1917.
They won the right in 1920.

Below: A goal of the Progressive
Movement was **enacting** laws to end
child labor, such as these children
working at the Indiana Glass Works
in 1908.

By 1900, the United States had seen growth, civil war, economic prosperity, and economic hard times. Americans still believed in religious freedom. Free public education was mostly accessible. The free press continued.

On the **negative** side, it often seemed that political power belonged to a few **corrupt** officials and their friends in business. In response, the idea of Progressivism was born. Progressives wanted greater democracy and justice. They wanted an honest government to reduce the power of business.

Books by Upton Sinclair, Ida M. Tarbell, and Theodore Dreiser described unfair, unhealthy, and dangerous situations. These writers hoped their books would force the government to make the United States safer and better for its citizens.





President Theodore Roosevelt (1901–1909) believed in Progressivism. He worked with Congress to **regulate** businesses that had established monopolies. He also worked hard to protect the country's **natural** resources.

Changes continued under the next presidents, especially Woodrow Wilson (1913–1921). The Federal Reserve banking system set interest rates and controlled the money supply. The Federal Trade Commission dealt with unfair business practices. New laws improved working conditions for sailors and railway workers. Farmers got better information and easier credit. Taxes on imported goods were lowered or **eliminated**.

reg-u-late / 'regjə,leɪt /
verb **reg-u-lates**;
reg-u-lat-ed; **reg-u-lat-ing**
: to bring (something)
under the control of
authority • We need better
laws to *regulate* the content
of the Internet. • Laws have
been made to *regulate*
working conditions.

nat-u-ral / 'nætʃərəl /
adjective
: existing in nature and not
made or caused by people :
coming from nature
• a country rich in *natural*
resources [=a country that
has many valuable plants,
animals, minerals, etc.]

elim-i-nate / ɪ'lɪmɪ,neɪt /
verb **elim-i-nates**;
elim-i-nat-ed; **elim-i-nat-ing**
: to remove (something
that is not wanted or
needed) : to get rid of
(something) • The company
plans to *eliminate* more than
2,000 jobs in the coming year.

Above: Writer Upton Sinclair (on
right) became known for a style
of journalism called "muckraking."
One of his most famous books,
The Jungle, exposed the terrible
conditions in the meat-packing
industry.

Below: The Federal Commission
on Industrial Relations meets to
hear testimony from John Pierpont
Morgan, regarded as one of the
most powerful businessmen in
the country, in 1915. May reforms
were put in place in the early
1900s to reduce the power of
large businesses.



During the Progressive Era, more immigrants settled in the United States. Almost 19 million people arrived between 1890 and 1921 from Russia, Poland, Greece, Canada, Italy, Mexico, and Japan.

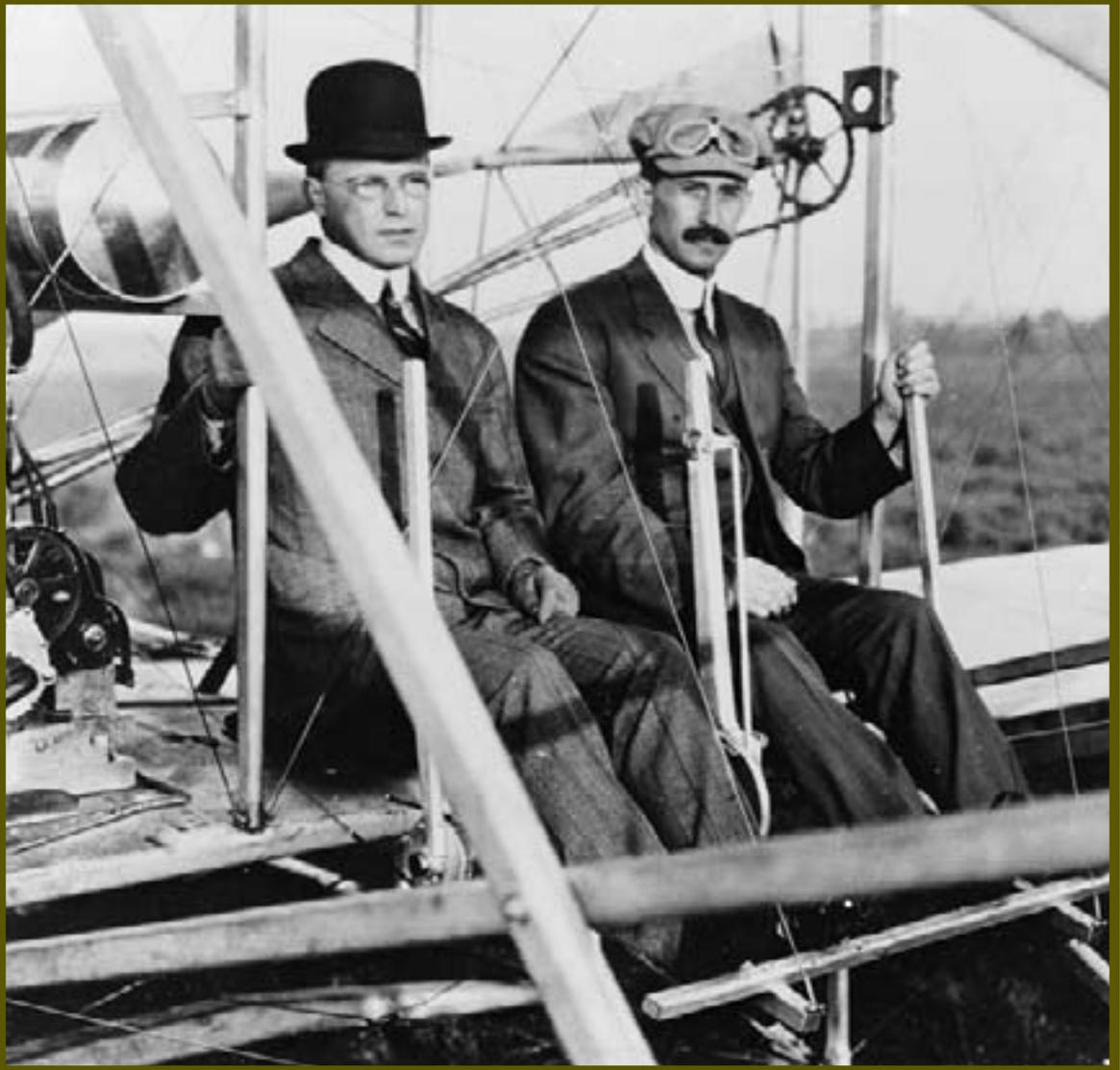
By the 1920s, citizens worried that the immigrants might take their jobs and change the culture of the United States. Although the government created quotas to restrict immigration, it relaxed those restrictions in the 1960s, assuring that the United States would remain a nation in which many different people and cultures could **forge** an identity as Americans.

Quiz

1. How many immigrants arrived between 1890 and 1921?
 - A. 3 million
 - B. 14 million
 - C. 19 million
2. What is the U.S. government office that regulates money and banking?
 - A. The Commerce Department
 - B. The Federal Reserve
 - C. The Federal Trade Commission
3. What did Progressive Era President Theodore Roosevelt not do?
 - A. He wrote a book about the unhealthy situations for children in the workplace.
 - B. He worked with Congress to end the practice of monopolies.
 - C. He advocated laws to protect the country's natural resources.

forge /'foʊɑːdʒ/ *verb*
forg-es; forged; forg-ing
: to form or create (something, such as an agreement or relationship) through great effort • The two countries have *forged* a strong alliance. • They were able to *forge* a peaceful relationship.

Answers: 1. C; 2. B; 3. A



WORLD WAR I,
1920s PROSPERITY,
AND THE
GREAT DEPRESSION

In 1914, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey fought Britain, France, Italy, and Russia. Other nations joined the conflict, and the war reached across the Atlantic Ocean to affect the United States. The British and German navies blocked American shipping. In 1915, almost 130 Americans died when a German submarine sank the British ocean liner *Lusitania*. President Woodrow Wilson demanded an end to the German attacks. They stopped but started again in 1917. The United States declared war.

More than 1,750,000 U.S. soldiers helped to defeat Germany and Austria-Hungary. The war officially ended on November 11, 1918, when a **truce** was signed at Versailles in France.

truce / 'tru:ɪs / *noun plural truces*

: an agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting, arguing, etc., for a certain period of time

- They called/proposed a *truce*.
- They broke the *truce*. [=they began fighting when there was an agreement not to fight]

Opposite: Orville Wright is shown here at the controls of a later model plane with Albert Lambert at Simms Station in Dayton, Ohio in 1910. The Wright brothers built and flew the first heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in 1903.

Below: More than 1,750,000 U.S. Army soldiers helped defeat Germany and Austria-Hungary in World War I through battles like this one against German forces in 1918.



guar-an-tee / ,gerən'ti: / *verb*
guarantees; guaranteed;
guarantee-ing
: to make (something) certain
• We can't *guarantee* your safety.
= We can't *guarantee* (you) that you'll be safe.

vic-tor / 'vɪktə: / *noun plural*
vic-tors
: a person who defeats an enemy or opponent
: winner • the *victors* in the battle/game • Who will emerge the *victor* [=be the winner] in this contest?

ten-sion / 'tɛnʃən / *noun*
plural ten-sions
: a state in which people, groups, countries, etc., disagree with and feel anger toward each other • Political *tensions* in the region make it unstable. • The book describes the *tension*-filled days before the war.

un-rest / ,ʌn'rest / *noun*
: a situation in which many of the people in a country are angry and hold protests or act violently • The country has experienced years of civil/social/political *unrest*.

Above: The "Big Four" attended the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, following the end of World War I. Despite strenuous efforts, President Wilson (far right) was unable to persuade the U.S. Senate to agree to American participation in the new League of Nations established in the aftermath of the war.

Right: Fashionable and daring young women, called "flappers," were seen at parties in the 1920s.



President Wilson had a 14-point peace plan, including the creation of a League of Nations. He hoped the League would **guarantee** the peace, but in the final Treaty of Versailles, the **victors** of the war insisted on harsh punishment. Even the United States did not support the League of Nations. Today, most Americans accept the United States taking an active role in the world, but at that time they believed otherwise.

After the war, the United States had problems with racial **tension**, struggling farms, and labor **unrest**. After Russia's revolution in 1917, Americans feared the spread of communism. This period is often known as the Red Scare.



Yet, the United States enjoyed a period of prosperity. Many families purchased their first automobile, radio, and refrigerator. They went to the movies. Women finally won the right to vote in 1920.

In October 1929 the good times ended with the collapse of the stock market and an economic depression. Businesses and factories shut down. Banks failed. Farms suffered. By November 1932, 20 percent of Americans did not have jobs.

That year the candidates for president debated over how to reverse the Great Depression. Herbert Hoover, the president during the collapse, lost to Franklin Roosevelt.



Quiz

1. What did most Americans desire after World War I?
 - A. The creation of the League of Nations
 - B. Allowing more immigrants into the country
 - C. Isolationism
2. What event signaled the Great Depression?
 - A. Women getting the right to vote
 - B. The stock market collapse of 1929
 - C. Herbert Hoover losing the presidency to Franklin Roosevelt

Above: Henry Ford and his son stand with one of his early automobiles and the 10 millionth Ford Model-T. The Model-T was the first car whose price and availability made car ownership possible for large numbers of people.

Answers: 1. C; 2. B



THE NEW DEAL AND WORLD WAR II

President Roosevelt believed that democracy had failed in other countries because of unemployment and insecurity. In the early 1930s, he proposed a “New Deal” to end the Great Depression.

The New Deal included many programs. Bank accounts were insured. New rules applied to the stock market. Workers could form **unions** to protect their rights. Farmers received financial aid for certain crops. The government hired people to plant trees, clean up waterways, and fix national parks. Skilled workers helped build dams and bridges. The government provided flood control and electric power for poor areas. The Social Security system helped the poor, disabled, and elderly.

Opposite: During the Great Depression, many banks failed, and depositors stood in long lines in hopes of getting their money out. Many did not.

Below: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act of 1935. This is one of the government’s largest programs.



un-easy /ˌʌn'i:zi/ *adjective* [more **un*easy**; most **un*easy**]

: worried or unhappy about something • Rain made the crew *uneasy*. • I'm (feeling) *uneasy* about/with the change.

draft /'dræft/ *verb*
drafts; draft-ed; draft-ing

: to officially order (someone) to join the armed forces • The legislature debated *drafting* more soldiers. —often used as (be/get) *drafted* • He was *drafted* for the war. • He got *drafted* into the army.

Above: People stand in line for free food during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Below: World War II demanded heavy production of fighter planes.



Many Americans were **uneasy** with big government, but they also wanted the government to help ordinary people. These programs helped, but they didn't solve the economic problems. The next world war would do that.

The United States remained neutral while Germany, Italy, and Japan attacked other countries. Although many people wished to stay out of these conflicts, Congress voted to **draft** soldiers and began to strengthen the military.

As Japan conquered territories in China and elsewhere in Asia, it threatened to seize raw materials used by Western industries. In response, the United States refused to sell oil to Japan. Japan received 80



percent of its oil from the United States. When the United States demanded that Japan withdraw from its conquered territories, Japan refused. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States declared war on Japan. Because Germany and Italy were allies of Japan, they declared war on America.

American industry focused on the war effort. Women built many of the 300,000 aircraft, 5,000 cargo ships, and 86,000 tanks while the men became soldiers.



Left: A Japanese plane falls in flames during an attack on a U.S. fleet in 1944. Mostly air and naval battles were fought in the Pacific.



The United States fought with Britain and the Soviet Union against the German Nazi threat in Europe. From the time that Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939 (Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941) until the German surrender in 1945, millions of people died. Millions more were killed in the Holocaust, the Nazi **regime's** mass murder of Jews and other groups.

Fighting continued in Asia and the Pacific Ocean even after the war ended in Europe. These battles were among the bloodiest for American forces.

re-gime / reɪ'zi:m / *noun*
plural re-gimes
: a form of government
• a socialist / Communist / military *regime* : a particular government • The new *regime* is sure to fall.

Above: Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the supreme commander in Europe, talks with soldiers before the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944.

Right: U.S. marines climb Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima island in Japan. Capture of the island was an important U.S. victory in World War II.



Japan refused to surrender even as U.S. forces approached the Japanese home islands. Some Americans thought invading Japan would cause larger numbers of U.S. and Japanese deaths. When the atomic bomb was ready, President Harry S. Truman decided to use it on two Japanese cities—Hiroshima and Nagasaki—to bring the war to an end without an invasion.

World War II was finally over in August 1945. Soon the world would fear nuclear weapons far more powerful than the bombs used against Japan.

Quiz

1. What was Roosevelt's plan called to help the country recover from the Great Depression?
 - A. New Way
 - B. Real Deal
 - C. New Deal
2. Why did the United States enter War World II?
 - A. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
 - B. The sinking of the *Lusitania*
 - C. The attack on isolationism
3. What did Harry Truman do to end the war against Japan?
 - A. Organized the building of fighter planes
 - B. Dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
 - C. Accepted the League of Nations



THE COLD WAR, KOREAN CONFLICT, AND VIETNAM

After World War II, the United States and Great Britain had long-term disagreements with the Soviet Union over the future of Europe, most of which had been freed from Nazi rule by their joint effort. Each wanted to establish governments friendly to its own interests there.

Russia had been invaded twice in the past 40 years, and the United States twice had been dragged into European wars not of its making. Each believed that its system could best ensure its security, and each believed its ideas produced the most liberty, equality, and prosperity. This period of disagreement between the United States and Russia often is called the Cold War.

Opposite: U.S. troops witness a nuclear test in the Nevada desert in 1951. The threat of nuclear weapons remained a constant and ominous fact of life throughout the Cold War era.

Below: President Harry Truman holds a newspaper wrongly announcing his defeat by Republican nominee Thomas Dewey in the 1948 presidential election.



After World War II, many empires fell, and many civil wars occurred. The United States wanted stability, democracy, and open trade. Because it feared that postwar economic weakness would increase the popularity of communism, the U.S. offered European nations including the Soviet Union large **sums** of money to repair the war damage and help their economies. The Soviet Union and the communist nations of Eastern Europe turned down the offer. By 1952, through a program to rebuild Western Europe (called the Marshall Plan), the United States had invested \$13.3 billion.

The Soviet military forced communist governments on nations in Central and Eastern Europe. The United States wanted to limit Soviet expansion. It demanded Soviet withdrawal from northern Iran. America supported Turkey and helped Greece fight against communist revolts. When the Soviets blockaded West Berlin, a U.S. airlift brought millions of tons of supplies to the divided city.

In 1949, the communist forces of Mao Zedong took control of China. Communist North Korea invaded South Korea with the support of China and the Soviet Union in 1950. The United States got support from the United Nations, formerly the League

sum / 'sʌm / *noun* **plural sums**
: an amount of money • They spent large/considerable *sums* (of money) repairing the house. • We donated a small *sum* (of money) to the charity.

Right: U.S. infantry fire against North Korean forces invading South Korea in 1951 in a conflict that lasted three painful years.



of Nations, for military **intervention**, and a bloody war continued into 1953. Although an **armistice** eventually was signed, U.S. troops remain in South Korea to this day.

In the 1960s, the United States helped South Vietnam defend itself against communist North Vietnam. All American troops withdrew by 1973. In 1975, North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam. The war cost hundreds of thousands of lives, and many Vietnamese “boat people” fled their nation’s new communist rulers. Americans were divided over the war and not eager to get into other foreign conflicts.

Quiz

1. What was the Cold War?
 - A. A short-lived war against Canada
 - B. The melting of icebergs
 - C. The disagreement between the United States and the Soviet Union about their systems of government
2. The Marshall Plan
 - A. Gave \$13.3 billion to rebuild Western Europe
 - B. Gave \$13.3 billion to rebuild Japan
 - C. Gave \$13.3 billion to rebuild Vietnam

in-ter-vene / ,ɪntəˈviːn / *verb*
in-ter-venes; in-ter-vened;
in-ter-ven-ing
: to become involved in something (such as a conflict) in order to have an influence on what happens
• The military had to *intervene* to restore order. —often + in • We need the courts to *intervene* in this dispute.
—**in-ter-ven-tion** / ,ɪntəˈvɛnʃən /
noun plural in-ter-ven-tions
• This situation called for military *intervention*. • military *interventions*

ar-mi-stice / ˈɑːməstɪs / *noun plural ar-mi-stic-es*
: an agreement to stop fighting a war : truce

Answers: 1. C; 2. A