

Home Front Timeline

1914 -- Federal Trade commission established

April 21, 1914 -- U.S. invade Mexico

August 1914 – The United States declares its neutrality

August 7, 1914 – President Woodrow Wilson issued an Executive Order instructing the Navy Department to censor international telegraph messages sent and received by radio firms

August 15, 1914 -- Panama canal opens

May 7, 1915 -- *Lusitania* is torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat off the coast of Ireland

December 1915 -- Henry Ford builds Ford Peace Ship to hold a peace conference in Europe

1916 – Woodrow Wilson reelected as President

1916 -- National Defense Act establishes Preparedness Program

March 9, 1916 -- Pancho Villa raids New Mexico, is pursued by General Pershing

August 24, 1916 -- President Woodrow Wilson established a Council of National Defense

August 25, 1916 -- National park service established

December 20, 1916 – President Wilson drafts and announces his Peace Note, a precursor to the 14 Points

1917 -- Espionage Act passed (amended in 1918) – meant to target potential spies and other enemies of the government

1917 -- General Pershing calls for bilingual women to work switchboards for the Army Signal Corps

1917 -- The American Civil Liberties Union formed

January 19, 1917-- Zimmerman Telegram, meant to be sent from Germany to Mexico, is intercepted by the United States

February 3, 1917 -- U.S. severs diplomatic ties with Germany

February 4, 1917 -- Immigration Act of 1917 passed, act is suspended later in the year

February 26, 1917 -- US President Woodrow Wilson requests permission from Congress to arm US merchantmen

April 6, 1917 – Congress declares war on Germany

April 13, 1917 – Committee on Public Information created to create propaganda and inform the public about the war

May 18, 1917 -- Selective Service Act passed

July 1917 -- Congress created the War Industries Board (WIB)

August 1917 – Lever Food and Fuel Act

August 20, 1917 – President Wilson writes a note to the Pope

December 7, 1917 -- US declares war on Austria-Hungary

December 1917 -- the 18th Amendment banned production, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages

1917 – 1918 -- Wisconsin Loyalty Legion is founded and acts as an anti-treason organization in the state

Winter of 1917 – 1918 -- the federal government temporarily takes control of the railroad lines

1918 -- Sedition Act passed which stated that no person in the U.S. could state false statements against the U.S. during a time of war

1918 -- The speaking of German language in public was banned in half the States

1918 -- Spanish Flu

January 8, 1918 -- Pres Wilson declares 14 Points for world peace

April 1918 -- The National War Labor Board (NWLB) created.

Summer 1918 – The federal government takes control of the telegraph lines

November 11, 1918 -- Armistice Day

January 12, 1919 – The Allies meet in Paris to discuss the peace

June 10, 1919 -- The enactment of women suffrage in Wisconsin, making it the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment

Throughout the United States' involvement in the war, people were encouraged to buy war bonds, grow victory gardens, and ration food