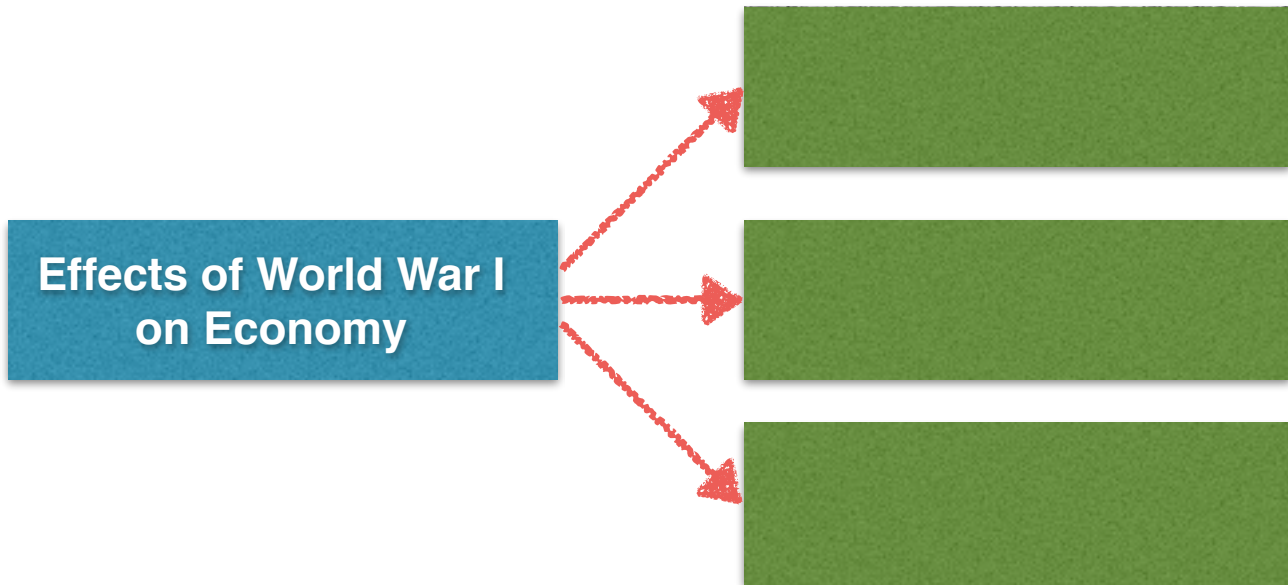


A Bloody Conflict

Big Idea

As you read through these passages, complete this graphic organizer by listing some effects of the end of World War I on the American economy.



An Economy in Turmoil

Making Generalizations

Highlight One:

The labor strikes of 1919 were

- very
- somewhat
- not at all

effective for the strikers.

After the war, the government removed economic controls. The result was inflation, which raised the **cost of living**—the cost of food, clothing, shelter, and other items people need to survive. Workers wanted higher wages, but business owners wanted to hold down operating costs. Unions were larger and more organized than before. As a result, there were many strikes in 1919.

Shipyard workers in Seattle organized the first big strike. Soon it became a **general strike**, or a strike that involves all workers in a location, not just workers in one industry. Although the strikers made no gains, the general strike worried many people because it was a technique used by radicals in Europe. When police officers in Boston went on strike, riots broke out in the city. The police commissioner fired the strikers and hired a new police force. A strike by workers at U.S. Steel was one of the largest strikes. The company hired replacement workers and the strike failed.

Many soldiers returned home looking for work. Many African Americans had moved to the North during the war to take factory jobs. Racism and frustration erupted into riots.

The Red Scare

Predicting & Synthesizing Information

Before you read, complete this sentence.

I think the term “Red Scare” will mean:

Explain why the Palmer raids targeted immigrants.

1.

2.

The strikes in 1919 led many people to believe that Communists were trying to start a revolution in the United States. Many Americans felt betrayed when Russia withdrew from the war. Since the late 1800s, many Americans blamed immigrants for bringing Communist ideas into the United States. They also blamed immigrants for labor problems and violence. When Communists took control of Russia, Americans feared they would try to start revolutions in other places. Americans became especially fearful when the Soviet Union formed the Communist International. This was an organization that coordinated the activities of Communist parties in other countries.

As strikes started across the United States in 1919, the fear of Americans that Communists, or “reds,” would seize power led to a panic known as the Red Scare. Several incidents contributed to the panic, including one in June of 1919 when eight bombs in eight cities exploded within minutes of one another. One of these bombs damaged the home of U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Most people believed the bombings were the work of radicals trying to destroy the American way of life.

Palmer set up a special division within the Justice Department. The General Intelligence Division was headed by J. Edgar Hoover, and it later became the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Although evidence pointed to no one group as the bombers, Palmer organized raids on the foreign-born and on radicals. Palmer rounded up many immigrants and had them deported, or expelled from the country.

The Palmer raids were carried out without concern for people’s civil rights. Homes were entered without search warrants. People were jailed indefinitely and not allowed to talk to their attorneys. Palmer was first praised for his work. However, when he failed to find any real evidence of a revolutionary conspiracy, his popularity faded. The Red Scare led to anti-immigrant feelings and a call for Congress to limit immigration.

By 1920, most Americans wanted an end to the unrest within the country. In the 1920 election, the Democrats ran James M. Cox and Franklin D. Roosevelt. They ran on the ideals of progressivism. The Republicans ran Warren G. Harding. He called for a return to “normalcy.” He wanted the United States to return to the simpler days before the Progressive Era reforms. Many voters agreed with Harding, and he won by a landslide.

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What were the main causes of the wave of strikes after World War I?

2. What were the causes of and reaction to the Red Scare?

World War I Begins

World War I Begins

Making Inferences

Reforming Government

Distinguishing Fact from Opinion

Suffrage

Comparing and Contrasting

Reforming Society

Problems and Solutions

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.