



US Economy 1919 - 29: Chapter 2: Isolationism



Learning Gain:

To be able explain the term "Isolationism" and how it effected US policies, in particular policies connected to the economy.



Learning Steps:



- Review our current understanding of the USA.
- Explore the formation of the USA.
- Investigate its political system in order to better
- understand the "separation of powers".



Europe 1918

Why will the USA
have an advantage
at the end of the war?



America 1918





The USA in 1919:

By 1919 the USA was one of the world's greatest powers.

Throughout the 19th century the USA was seen as "*the land of opportunity*".



Between 1850 and 1914 over 40 million people left Europe and emigrated to the USA.

It was estimated that over 100 nationalities were living in the USA.

The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



Main



The First World War:

In the war American forces played a key part in the campaigns of 1918. The extra resources they brought helped in the final defeat Germany.

Unlike the other powers involved the USA was strengthened by war:

- countries had paid the USA for supplies - raw materials and weapons.
- the USA also gained overseas markets from warring European nations.



The end of the war:

President Woodrow Wilson played a hugely important part in the peace process at the end of the *Great War*. His 14 Points were the basis of the whole peace settlement.



Wilson saw it as the USA's duty to preserve world peace and planned an international organisation to achieve this.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

all nations who signed the Versailles Peace Treaty were committed to joining this group.

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white horizontal stripes on the right. The text is overlaid on this background in green font.

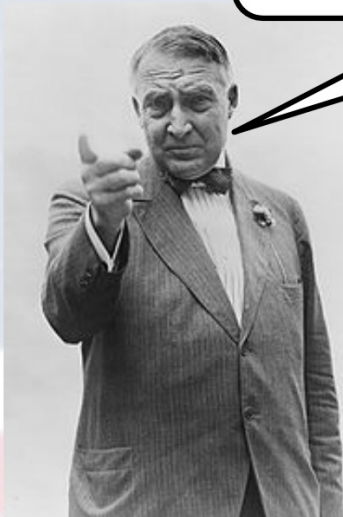
However the mood in the USA was very different.

To many Americans the war seemed remote, 1000s of miles away and fought over issues that did not concern them.

They did not want more US soldiers killed trying to keep the peace.

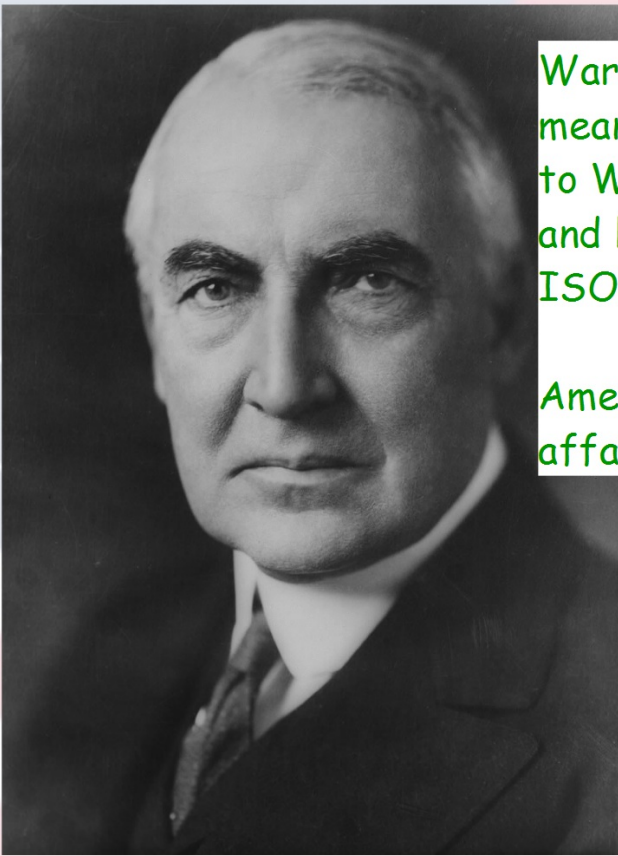
They feared joining the League of Nations would mean that the USA as the richest country in the world would end up paying to be the world's policeman.

"America First"
"Return to normalcy"



In the Presidential election of 1920 Wilson did not run, but the Democrat James Cox ran campaigning on Wilson's ideas.

The Republican Warren Harding campaigned against the League of Nation's and Wilson's ideas - demanding that the USA return to its pre-war status.



Warren Harding's victory in 1920 meant a final rejection of the USA to Wilson's ideals, the League of Nations and led to the USA following a policy of ISOLATIONISM.

America withdrew from wider international affairs.

Plenary



What was the impact of the First World War on the USA?

Explain why some in America wanted the USA to be isolated?

