

# World War I and the Twenties – The Great Transformation and the Great Illusions

## World War I

1. What was and is still haunting us today
  - The Maps – before and after
  - The nations of empire and the nationalist movements
2. What was and continues
  - Age of racism
  - Anti-black and Latino patterns but movement by both
  - Women and the push for suffrage and participation
  - Wilson traits
3. Rules of war and the traits
  - At sea, submarine war and convoys
  - On land, varieties of new technology from tanks to flame throwers to poison gas
  - Mining of the seas and land and war against civilians
  - Liberty bonds, liberty cabbage, and 4-minute men
  - Massive growth of big government at federal level
4. Selective war events and the ending of the war
  - Allied Powers (initially Great Britain, France, Russia)
  - Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire)
  - US Involvement

[Key war events and the peace](#)

## **The Great Transformation and the Great Illusions**

The consequences are greater because the changes are interconnected.

1. Results of the World War I (unnumbered at that time)
  - Rejection of the view of war from the Spanish-American War
  - Distrust of government, especially large government
  
2. General economic changes (and illusions)
  - Consumerism increases
    - Buying on credit
    - Buying as a virtue
  - Decline in farmers' income and power
  - Decline in unionism
  - High profits for employers and businesses
  - Pay for workers higher but not proportional to their productivity
  
3. Changes in mass production, mass marketing, mass advertising, and common, vicarious experiences
  - Automobiles
    - Henry Ford as initial example but GM and others follow
    - Federal standards for states to follow for highways
  - Movies (silent in the 1910s and "talkies" in 1929)
  - Phonographs
  - Radio (ABC, NBC, CBS) and "soap" operas as example
  
4. Changes in society
  - Enthusiasm for urban and rejection of rural
  - Movement to the cities
  - The flapper
  - Harlem Renaissance
  - The new symbols of Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud
  - New laws prohibiting immigration

For a comparison, click on [this comparison of the end of the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, and the Jazz Age](#). (Not required, but it may help some of you to see the transformation.)

## 5. Government and the Economy and Great Illusions

### [Key events and the future](#)

Examples:

- Reparations/debt cycle
- Veterans
- Farmers
- Tax policy and the Revenue Acts