1.2 World History

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**WWI AND THE USA’S RISE FROM REGIONAL TO WORLD POWER**

The First World War affected the Americans economically, politically and socially hence having a great positive impact on USA. Therefore, caused the USA’s moving from regional to world power.

The First World War was important for the USA because it transformed American society and helped shape modern America. It redefined women’s rights, race relations, civil liberties and America’s role in the world. The war was a catalyst for the great migration of African Americans, and those who returned from the war, finding inequality intact, demanded civil rights. It accelerated income tax and urbanization, helped make America the pre-eminent economic and military power in the world. In addition, the conflict heralded the rise of conscription, mass propaganda, the national security state and the FBI.[1]

The First World War had a positive impact on woman because the advocates of female suffrage who successfully linked the patriotic efforts of women in the war with voting rights. This strategy was highly effective, and in 1920, the US Congress ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.[2]

During the war, the homes and factories of the USA were not destroyed unlike other countries which were involved into the war and fewer people lost their lives due to the late entry of the USA during the war. Hence, manufacturing, production and efficiency was increased during the Great War. It enabled America to emerge as a world industrial leader, the USA economy was flourishing, and profits were increasing which led to the period in American history called the Roaring Twenties with a massive rise in consumerism.[3]

Production and efficiency in industries and factories increased drastically. Technology had advanced, and the nation had entered the age of steel and electricity.[3]

A special division within the Justice Department, General Intelligence Division was established and was headed by J. Edgar Hoover. It soon became known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).[3]

During the First World War, there were great technological developments. New weapons, such as tanks, poison gas, the airplane, the submarine, and the machine gun were developed. Electrical technologies such as the radio was developed, which was essential for communication. These weapons were sold during the war, which helped aid the economic growth of America. [4]

When USA joined the First World War in 1916, the industry production boomed. Manufacturers had to keep production up to the pace needed to support the war. In order to produce more material in a short amount of time, new technologies were developed to help manufacturers meet the needs of the government and people.[5]

The First World War benefited America in various ways because a country that just over a hundred years earlier had been a European colony now emerged as a new and powerful imperialist nation. This all caused America to move from regional to world power during the time of the war and even after. America also had a great impact on the allies which include the United Kingdom, France, and Italy because it helped them recover partly of what they lost during the war. For the USA WWI was of great significance because it refined women's rights, race relations, civil liberties, and America’s role in the world.

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