

Unit 8 # 4

Liam , Luke, and Bobby

Explain the impact of U.S. involvement in World War I on

THREE of the following:

African Americans

civil liberties

business

women

labor unions

Thesis

- World War One affected women, African-Americans, and labor unions all both negatively and positively. Women had their roles enlarged and gained the right to vote. African-Americans had a mass migration to the North as jobs opened up. Labor unions had their membership and power increase because of government control and regulation of the economy, they needed the support for it. All of these things were affected by World War One.

Women

- Because of their involvement in the support of the war, President Wilson was ready to help pass the nineteenth Amendment.
- With men being drafted into the army women filled the work force. Many of them having never had a job before and welcomed this new found freedom they now had.

African Americans

- When World War I broke out, there were four all-black regiments: the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry. The men in these units were considered heroes in their communities. Within one week of Wilson's declaration of war, the War Department had to stop accepting black volunteers because the quotas for African Americans were filled.
- While still discriminatory, the Army was far more progressive in race relations than the other branches of the military. Blacks could not serve in the Marines, and could only serve limited and menial positions in the Navy and the Coast Guard.
- On 15 October 1917, 639 African-American men received their commissions as either captain or first or second lieutenant, and were assigned to infantry, artillery, and engineer units with the 92d Division. This was to be the first and only class to graduate from Fort Des Moines; the War Department shut it down soon after their departure.

Labor Unions

- Labor unions were needed in World War One, and as such were given concessions they had earlier been denied.
- Labor unions faced many problems throughout their history. The primary issue was that there wasn't a united front against employers. Immigrants that were willing to work anywhere under any conditions were really disrupting what the unions were trying to accomplish. In result, the knights of labor along with other unions pushed for immigration restrictions. But during WWI, unions achieved fixed wages and regulations on working conditions, mostly because labor was essential during the war.