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*Bringing Literature, Music, Art, Science
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The Great War and the United States Home Front

Exhibit Guide

Pequot Library Special Collections

10/1/2018



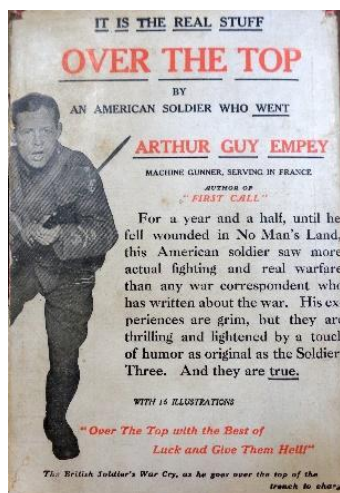
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THOUGHTS

Those who served in the Great War received continuing encouragement and often tender support from the Home Front. Thanks to the collecting trends of a young library (Pequot was a mere 23 years in operation in 1917), patrons today can learn how their families and community answered the call to service at home. Pequot Library proudly presents “The Great War and the U.S. Home Front” – an exhibit commemorating the U.S. entry into World War I in April of 1917 – in the Perkin Gallery and Reading Room from October 12, 2017-December 3, 2017. On view are books, maps, pamphlets, and posters that together demonstrate a sense of civic duty that permeated community life during and after the war years. Educational and inspirational in nature for the most part, the materials on display ask several questions. How did citizens express their civic duty? When, if ever, does information become propaganda? What are some of the striking differences – in life, war, politics, and even poetry – as seen from a distance of 100 years?



The remoteness of these events may resonate in generational waves. Who was Franz Ferdinand? The rock band from Glasgow or the Archduke of Austro-Hungary whose assassination in 1914 led to a chain of events triggering World War I. Looking at the devastation provoked by the Great War, baby boomers may think less of previous wars and more of the 60’s when song lyrics spoke of the “world it is exploding”. For surely the citizens on the U.S. Home Front might have thought that their world was erupting in all too many quarters. The Mexican Revolution was already seven years in motion when the U.S. joined WWI. Ireland’s Easter Rising in 1916 caught the British government off guard as it tried feverously to show its strength in the Great War. Added to troubles in Ireland, the U.K.

faced challenges in India in 1917 when the Indian National Congress demanded self-government.



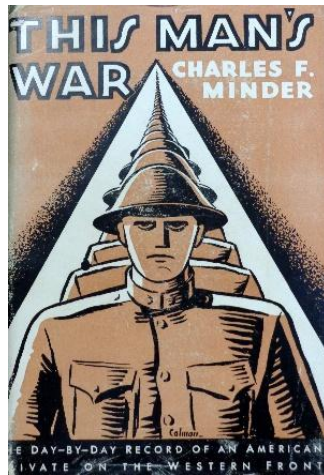
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"Destruction",
1965.

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Two different uprisings in Russia – in February and October of 1917 – took down the Tsarist government, led to civil war, and gave rise to the Soviet Union. While acknowledging this historical context, the materials on display from Pequot Library’s Special Collections look inward at two aspects of the Home Front: what the public was reading and how they supported the war effort, in other words how citizens navigated a turbulent time through information and action.

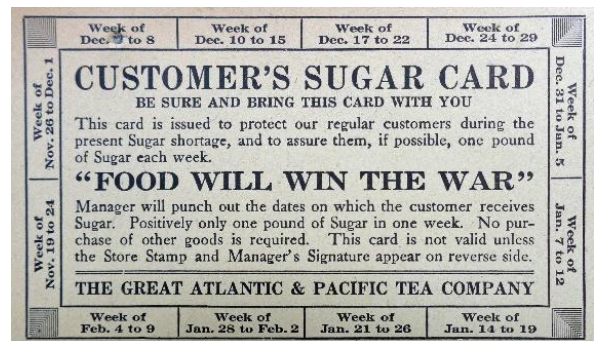
Information took
speeches, books,
even recipes.
newspapers from
that the war
lists. Government
were also
along with
ways to show their
transcribed,
their patrons.



several forms: news, announcements, first-hand accounts, pamphlets, poems, and Pequot Library is fortunate to have original this volatile era on view showing the coverage received including advertisements and casualty announcements appeared in the press but disseminated by way of the public libraries pamphlets providing readers with stimulating civic pride. Speeches – pro and con – were printed, and sent to librarians for the benefit of

Published works offered information in a variety of ways: non-fiction manifestos on economic and political issues, fictional depictions of life’s sacrifices, poems and first-hand accounts on the grim realities that characterized WWI trench warfare.

Action became work, assistance, economizing, deeds, aid, meatless meals, support, and succor. Information was directed to the public overall. And in the same way the action took on countless dimensions. Children and youth helped to save food and work on farms over the summer.





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Farmers
learned how to
maximize crop

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production. Women took on new roles in the work force at the same time as they excelled in economics and management both in the home and outside. Everyone learned about food regulations, on a voluntary basis, which would prepare the public for enforced rationing in the next World War.

Posters both provide information and urge action. Those on display reflect the very rich collection history of Pequot Library, while at the same time they reveal a unity of purpose echoing a shared sense of duty visible in the surge of volunteerism that emerged across the country and overseas. The vibrant posters displayed in public places such as libraries, post offices, and banks surely were the attention-getters of the day. Their message is unwavering and resolute; yet regardless of tone the visual collective – warm in colors and bright in imagery – underscores the unified resolve of supporting the troops “over there”, who were fathers, brothers, husbands and sons of those answering the call on the Home Front.



This exhibit is made possible in part through a generous gift in memory of Richard M. Carpenter and by the Constance C. Baker Rare Book Fund. We appreciate the loans made by generous patrons. We gratefully acknowledge the work of Annabel Barry, curatorial assistant, and the support and efforts of Pequot Library volunteers and staff.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- How did American citizens express their civic duty during WWI?
- What methods did the government use to mobilize citizens to patriotism and civic duty?
- How did citizens support the war through information and action?
- When, if ever, does information become propaganda?
- Why were posters an effective means of disseminating information and urging action in support of WWI?
- Would posters be an effective method for urging action now? Why or why not?
What other methods might be more successful now?
- What kinds of propaganda are currently used to engage people in patriotic efforts?



VOCABULARY

Alliance System - A formal agreement between two or more nations or powers to cooperate and come to another's defense.

Allies - In World War I, the powers of the Triple Entente (Great Britain, France, Russia), with the nations allied with them (Belgium, Serbia, Japan, Italy, etc., not including the United States), or, loosely, with all the nations (including the United States) allied or associated with them as opposed to the Central Powers.

Canning - the act, process, or business of preserving cooked food by sealing in cans or jars.

Conservation - the careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion.

Doughboys - Nickname for American troops in Europe.

Eastern Front - The name given to the trenches that encompassed the entire frontier between the Russian Empire and Romania on one side and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and the German Empire on the other. It stretched from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south, included most of Eastern Europe and stretched deep into Central Europe as well. The term contrasts with "Western Front", which was being fought in Belgium and France

Home Front - the civilian sector of a nation at war when its armed forces are in combat abroad.



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Liberty Bonds -

U.S bonds sold during WW1 to raise money for loans to support U.S. troops and the Allies.

Patriotism - devoted love, support, and defense of one's country; national loyalty.

Propaganda - Information given to show something or someone in a biased way.

Ration - a fixed allowance of provisions or food, especially for soldiers or sailors or for civilians during a shortage.

Trench Warfare - World War 1 military strategy of defending a position by fighting from the protection of deep ditches.

Triple Entente - The military alliance formed between Russia, Great Britain and France before World War 1.

U-boats - German Submarines.

Victory Garden - a vegetable garden, especially a home garden, cultivated to increase food production during a war or period of shortages.

Western Front - The name given to the line of trenches which stretched from the English Channel across the battlefields of France and Belgium during WW1.



SUGGESTED READING

Children:

Brassey, Richard. *The Story of World War One*. (2014)

Freedman, Russell. *The War to End All Wars*. (2010)

Levine, Beth Siedel. *When Christmas Comes Again: The World War I Diary of Simone Spencer*. (2002)

Montgomery, L.M. *Rilla of Ingleside*. (1921)

Murphy, Jim. *Truce: The Day Soldiers Stopped Fighting*. (2009)

Sered, Kate. *The Singing Tree*. (1939)

Swain, Gwyneth. *World War I: An Interactive History Adventure*. (2012)

Williams, Marcia. *Archie's War*. (2009)

Teens:

Bradman, Tony. *Stories of World War One*. (2014)

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*. (1929)

Lucer, Makiiia. *A Death-Struck Year*. (2014)



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Remarque, Erich
Maria. *All Quiet*

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on the Western Front. (1929)

Rushby, Pamela. *The Horses Didn't Come Home.* (2012)

Sedgwick, Marcus. *The Foreshadowing.* (2005)

Tuchman, Barbara. *The Zimmerman Telegram.* (1957)

Walrath, Dana. *Like Water on Stone.* (2014)

Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan.* (2009)

Winters, Cat. *In the Shadow of Blackbirds.* (2013)

Adults:

Barker, Pat. *Regeneration.* (1991)

Boyne, John. *The Absolutist.* (2011)

Brittain, Vera. *Testament of Youth.* (1933)

Butcher, Tim. *The Trigger: Hunting the Assassin Who Brought the World to War.* (2014)

De Bernieres, Louis. *Birds without Wings.* (2004)

Downing, David. *One Man's Flag.* (2014)

Downing, Taylor. *Secret warriors: the spies, scientists and code breakers of World War I.* (2015)

Farrell, J.G. *The Troubles.* (1970)

Faulks, Sebastian. *Birdsong.* (1993)

Graves, Robert. *Goodbye to All That.* (1929)

Hynes, Samuel. *The unsubstantial air: American fliers in the First World War.* (2014)

Merridale, Catherine. *Lenin on the train.* (2017)

Morris, Michael. *Man in the Blue Moon.* (2012)



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Rappaport,
Helen. *Caught in
the revolution:*

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Petrograd, Russia, 1917--a world on the edge. (2017)

Towles, Amor. *A Gentleman in Moscow.* (2016)

Tuchman, Barbara W. *The Guns of August.* (1962)

Weintraub, Stanley. *Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce.* (2001)

Woods, Hazel. *This is How I'd Love You.* (2014)

INTERNET RESOURCES

1. The United States World War One Centennial Commission:
<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org>
2. Overview of World War One (Causes, Combatants, US Entry, US Home Front)
 - a. WWI Centennial Commission - Interactive Timeline:
<https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/interactive-wwi-timeline>
 - b. CNN: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/09/world/world-war-i-fast-facts/index.html>
 - c. Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-us-history/period-7/apush-us-in-wwi/a/the-united-states-in-world-war-i>
 - d. History.net - <http://www.historynet.com/world-war-i>
3. US Enters WWI
 - a. The National World War I Museum and Memorial: <https://www.theworldwar.org/us-enters-war>
 - b. History.com - <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/america-enters-world-war-i>
4. US Home Front Efforts - Propaganda Posters



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a. T *Bringing Literature, Music, Art, Science*
he National WWI *& the Humanities to our Community*
Museum and

Memorial: Lessons of Liberty - Patriotism - Analyzing WWI Posters (grades 6-8)

https://theworldwar-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/s3fs-public/LessonofLiberty_Patriotism.pdf

- b. How were propaganda posters used during WWI?
<https://owlcation.com/humanities/How-Were-Propaganda-Posters-Used-In-World-War-1>
- c. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/posters-sold-world-war-i-american-public-180952179/>

6. Victory Gardens:

- a. Hungry History <http://www.history.com/news/hungry-history/americas-patriotic-victory-gardens>
- b. Soldiers of the Soil: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/15/05/soldiers-soil>

- c. The History of War Gardens: http://ext.vt.edu/content/dam/ext_vt_edu/topics/4h-youth/makers/files/ww1-history-behind-it-war-gardens.pdf
- d. Poster: http://ext.vt.edu/content/dam/ext_vt_edu/topics/4h-youth/makers/files/ww1-war-garden-poster.pdf

7. Liberty Bonds:

- a. <https://owlcation.com/humanities/What-Were-Liberty-Bonds-in-World-War>
- b. https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/liberty_bonds
- c. <https://owlcation.com/humanities/What-Were-Liberty-Bonds-in-World-War-1>

7. Libraries:

- a. <http://www.libraryhistorybuff.com/ala-ww1.htm>
- b. <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/1917>

7. Red Cross:

- a. <https://wwionline.org/articles/american-red-cross/>
- b. <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/390925>



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c. [https://blog.oup.com/2014/03/american-](https://blog.oup.com/2014/03/american-red-cross-in-first-world-war/)

[red-cross-in-first-world-war/](https://blog.oup.com/2014/03/american-red-cross-in-first-world-war/)

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VIDEOS

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history/videos/world-war-i-propaganda-posters-the-u-s-joins-the-fight>

World War I Alliances

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history/videos/world-war-i-alliances?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false>

The US in World War I

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history/videos/the-us-in-world-war-i?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false>

The One Thing You Should Know About World War I

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history/videos/the-one-thing-you-should-know-about-wwi?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false>

The Great War on PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/great-war/>

“The Bond” by Charlie Chaplin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNXhmGzBQdo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6hRDS3LvQQ>



TIMELINE

World War I "The Great War" ¹	In the rest of the World
1914	
	January 5 Ford Motor Company announces an eight-hour workday and a daily wage of \$5.
	February 12 In Washington, D.C., the first stone of the Lincoln Memorial is put into place.

¹ C N Trueman "Timeline of World War One", historylearningsite.co.uk. The History Learning Site, accessed 9/13/2017.



World War I “The Great War” ¹	In the rest of the World
	March 17 Green beer is invented by Dr. Thomas H. Curtin and displayed at the Schnorrer Club of Morrisania in the Bronx, New York.
June 28 Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, who was killed in Sarajevo along with his wife Duchess Sophie by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip.	
July 5 Kaiser William II promises German support for Austria against Serbia.	
	July 11 Baseball legend Babe Ruth makes his major league debut with the Boston Red Sox
July 28 Austria declares war on Serbia.	
August 1 Germany declares war on Russia. Germany and the Ottoman Empire sign a secret alliance treaty.	
August 3 Germany declares war on France and invaded Belgium.	
August 4 Britain declares war on Germany.	
August 5 First shots fired by Allied troops.	
	August 15 The Panama Canal is inaugurated with the passage of the SS Ancon.
August 25 Japan declares war on Austria-Hungary.	
October 29 Turkey enters the war on Germany’s side. Trench warfare starts to dominate the Western Front.	
	November 16 A year after being created by passage of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States officially opens for business.
1915	
	January 12 The United States House of Representatives rejects a proposal to give women the right to vote.
January 29 The first Zeppelin raid on Britain takes place.	
	February 1 While working as a cook at New York's Sloane Hospital for Women under an assumed name, "Typhoid Mary" (an asymptomatic carrier of typhoid fever) infects 25 people, and is later placed in quarantine for life on March 27.



World War I “The Great War” ¹	In the rest of the World
May 3 Canadian soldier John McCrae writes the poem "In Flanders Fields".	
May 7 The “Lusitania” is sunk by a German U-boat.	
May 23 Italy declares war on Germany and Austria.	
	November 25 Einstein's theory of general relativity is formulated.
	December 10 The 1 millionth Ford car rolls off the assembly line at the River Rouge Plant in Detroit.
1916	
	January 1 The British Royal Army Medical Corps carries out the first successful blood transfusion using blood that had been stored and cooled.
January 27 Conscription is introduced in Britain.	
	March 15 President Woodrow Wilson sends 12,000 United States troops over the U.S.–Mexico border to pursue Pancho Villa; the 13th Cavalry regiment enters Mexican territory.
	April 24–30 – The Easter Rising occurs in Ireland.
May 16 Signing of the secret Sykes-Picot Agreement between Britain and France defining their proposed spheres in the Middle East.	
	June 5 The Arab Revolt begins against the Ottoman Empire to create a single unified Arab state spanning from Aleppo to Aden.
	June 15 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson signs a bill incorporating the Boy Scouts of America.
September 15 First use <i>en masse</i> of tanks at the Somme.	
	October 16 Margaret Sanger opens the first U.S. birth control clinic – a forerunner of Planned Parenthood.
	November 1 The first 40-hour work week officially begins in the Endicott-Johnson factories of Western New York.
December 7 Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister.	
1917	



World War I "The Great War" ¹	In the rest of the World
	The February Revolution begins in Russia: Women calling for bread in Petrograd start riots, which spontaneously spread throughout the city.
February 3 Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign begins.	
April 6 U.S. declares war on Germany.	
	March 4 Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman member of the United States House of Representatives.
May 18 The Selective Service Act passes the U.S. Congress, giving the President the power of conscription.	
June 25 First American troops land in France.	
July 6 Arabs led by Lawrence of Arabia seize the Jordanian port of Aqaba.	
	September 14 Russia is declared a republic by the Provisional Government.
	October 13 Miracle of the Sun at Fátima, Portugal as predicted by 3 peasant children.
November 2 Balfour Declaration: the British government supports plans for a Jewish "national home" in Palestine.	
	November 7 October Revolution in Russia: The workers of the Petrograd Soviet in Russia, led by the Bolshevik Party and leader Vladimir Lenin, storm the Winter Palace and successfully destroy the Kerensky Provisional Government after less than eight months of rule.
	November 26 The National Hockey League is formed in Montreal.
1918	
	January 1918 flu pandemic: "Spanish 'flu" (influenza) first confirmed at Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas, then a military training facility preparing American troops for involvement in World War I. .
	February 6 Women's suffrage in the United Kingdom: Representation of the People Act gives most women over 30 the vote.
March 3 The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed between Russia and Germany.	
	March 12 Moscow becomes the capital of Soviet Russia.



World War I “The Great War” ¹	In the rest of the World
	June -- July Spanish flu is officially declared a pandemic. Over 30 million people die in the following 6 months
October 4 Germany asks the Allies for an armistice.	
October 30 Turkey makes peace.	
November 3 Austria makes peace.	
November 9 Kaiser William II abdicates.	
November 11 Germany signs an armistice with the Allies – the official date of the end of World War I.	
	December 28 Sinn Féin celebrates a landslide victory in Irish seats in the Irish general election.
1919	
	January 6 Former President Theodore Roosevelt dies.
	January 16 The Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, authorizing Prohibition, is ratified.
January 18 Treaty of Versailles between the Allies and Germany: the Peace Conference opens in Paris.	
	April 15 Save the Children Fund is created in the UK to raise money for the relief of German and Austrian children.
	June 4 The U.S. Congress approves the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which would guarantee suffrage to women, and sends it to the U.S. states for ratification.
	August 31 The American Communist Party is established.
	November 9 Felix the Cat appears in <i>Feline Follies</i> , marking the first cartoon character to become popular.
	November 30 Health officials declare the global "Spanish" flu pandemic has ceased.
1920	
January 10 First meeting of the League of Nations is held in London. Official end of World War I.	
	February 14 The League of Women Voters is founded in Chicago.



WORLD WAR I CASUALTIES

Nation	Population (millions)	Total Military deaths (from all causes)	Civilian deaths (military action and crimes against humanity)	Increase in civilian deaths (malnutrition and disease excluding Influenza pandemic)	Total deaths	Military wounded
Allies of World War I						
United States	92	116,708	757		117,465	204,002
United Kingdom (and Colonies)	45	744,000 to 887,858	16,829	107,000	867,829 to 1,011,687	1,675,000
Total (Entente Powers)	806.6	5,186,854 to 6,433,692	626,699	3,420,000 to 3,770,000	8,485,553 to 10,080,026	11,611,271 to 12,812,271
Total (Central Powers)	143.1	3,386,200 to 4,390,544	1,620,720	1,991,000 to 2,330,000	6,997,920 to 8,341,264	8,388,052 to 8,751,805
Sweden	5.6			800	800	—
Sub-total for British Empire	380	949,454 to 1,118,264	18,829	107,000	1,077,283 to 1,244,093	2,101,077
South Africa	6	7,121 to 9,726			7,121 to 9,726	12,029
Serbia	4.5	300,000		450,000	750,000	133,148



Nation	Population (millions)	Total Military deaths (from all causes)	Civilian deaths (military action and crimes against humanity)	Increase in civilian deaths (malnutrition and disease excluding Influenza pandemic)	Total deaths	Military wounded
		to 450,000		to 800,000	to 1,250,000	
Russian Empire	175.1	1,700,000 to 2,254,369	410,000	730,000	2,840,000 to 3,394,369	3,749,000 to 4,950,000
		250,000 to 335,706			130,000	200,000
Romania	7.5	7,222	13	82,000	89,235	13,751
Portugal	6	325,000 to 771,844	1,500,000	1,000,000	2,825,000 to 3,271,844	400,000 to 763,753
Ottoman Empire	21.3					
Norway	2.4			1,180	1,180	—
Newfoundland	0.2	1,204 to 1,570 (included with U.K)			1,204 to 1,570	2,314[18]
		16,711 to 18,060			16,711 to 18,060	41,317
Neutral nations						
Montenegro	0.5	3,000 to 13,325			3,000 to 13,325	10,000
Luxembourg	0.3					
Italy	35.6	460,000 to 651,000	3,400	589,000	1,052,400 to 1,243,400	947,000
		64,449 to 73,905			64,449 to 73,905	69,214
India	315.1	5,000 to 26,000		150,000	155,000 to 176,000	21,000
Greece	4.8					
Grand total	960.7	8,573,054 to 10,824,236	2,250,099	5,411,000 to 6,100,000	15,486,153 to 18,423,970	22,101,100 to 23,665,873
German Empire	64.9	2,037,000	720	424,000 to 763,000	2,198,420 to 2,800,720	4,215,662
		1,357,000 to 1,397,800	40,000	300,000	1,697,000 to 1,737,800	4,266,000
France	39.6	300 to 4,661			300 to 4,661	907
Empire of Japan	53.6					
East-Central Africa				est. 750,000	est. 750,000	
Denmark	2.7			700	700	—
Central Powers						
Canada	7.2	56,639 to 64,996	1,963		58,639 to 66,996	149,732



Nation	Population (millions)	Total Military deaths (from all causes)	Civilian deaths (military action and crimes against humanity)	Increase in civilian deaths (malnutrition and disease excluding Influenza pandemic)	Total deaths	Military wounded
Bulgaria	5.5	87,500		100,000	187,500	152,390
Belgium	7.4	38,170	23,700	62,000	123,870	44,686
		to 58,637			to 144,337	
Austria-Hungary	51.4	1,200,000	120,000	467,000	1,787,000	3,620,000
		to 1,494,200			to 2,081,200	
Australia	5	59,330			59,330	152,171
		to 62,149			to 62,149	

WWI BACKGROUND

Dates: July 28, 1914 – November 11, 1918

Location: Europe, Mideast, Africa, Pacific, Atlantic, Mediterranean, North Sea, Baltic Sea

- Western Front -the trenches stretching from the English Channel





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across the
battlefields of
France and

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Belgium.

- Eastern Front - the trenches that spanned the entire frontier between the Russian Empire and Romania on one side and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and the German Empire on the other. It stretched from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south, included most of Eastern Europe, and stretched deep into Central Europe as well.

Causes: Numerous and complex.

- **Alliance system** - intended to promote peace by nations pledging to support each other in times of war. Triple Entente (UK, France, Russia); Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy). Led to **militarism** (arms race) and **nationalism** (desire among countries for more land). Growing imperialism resulted in desire for **self-determination** or self-government among minority ethnic groups.
- On June 28, 1914, Bosnian-Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire,

and his wife, in Sarajevo. Austria-Hungary blamed the assassination on the Serbian government and declared war on Serbia. Because of the European alliance system, all major European powers were drawn into the war, which spread around the globe and became the first world war in human history.

(source: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-us-history/period-7/apush-us-in-wwi/a/the-united-states-in-world-war-i>)

Combatants: Allied Powers/Entente vs Central Powers

- Under The Alliance System, which had been set up prior to the war, allies were committed to protecting each other in case of war.
- The war pitted two groups against each other: the **Allies** - Russia, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, and the U.S.- against the **Central Powers**, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire.

Outcome: Allied Victory



Casualties:

Allied

Powers casualties: 22 million; Central Powers casualties: 37.5 million

Results: End of Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman & Russian empires; harsh surrender terms forced on Germany major cause of WWII; redrawing of borders in Europe & Mideast

(source: <http://www.historynet.com/world-war-i>)

US ENTRY

US President Woodrow Wilson maintained US neutrality in the war until 1917, when the US entered the war on the side of the Allied Powers. The publication of the Zimmermann Telegram and the escalation of German submarine attacks on US merchant vessels led the US Congress to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

- **Lusitania/unrestricted sub warfare.** On May 7, 1915, the Germans sunk the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania, which had over a hundred Americans on board. Wilson warned that the United States would not permit unrestricted submarine warfare or any further violations of international law.

- **Zimmerman Telegram.** In January 1917, the Germans resumed submarine warfare. A few days after this announcement, the Wilson administration obtained a copy of the Zimmermann Telegram, which urged Mexico to join the war effort on the side of Germany and pledged that in the event of a German victory, the territories of Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico would be stripped from the United States and returned to Mexico. (

Source: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-us-history/period-7/apush-us-in-wwi/a/the-united-states-in-world-war-i>)

US HOME FRONT EFFORTS – MOBILIZATION THROUGH PROPAGANDA



million men and twenty thousand women enlisted in the armed forces. US government propaganda sought to mobilize American citizens through appeals to patriotism and civic duty, and by linking US democracy with support for the democracies of Western Europe.

Public support was considered crucial to wartime efforts. On April 13, 1917, President Wilson created the Committee on Public Information (CPI) to promote the war at home while publicizing war goals overseas. CPI was led by George Creel, a journalist from Kansas City.

Creel recruited from business, media, academia and the art world. CPI combined advertising techniques with an understanding of human psychology. Their efforts represent the first time a modern government distributed propaganda on a large scale.

The war coincided with the “Golden Age of American Illustration”, a time when book and magazine illustration flourished and was accompanied by advances in technology permitting low cost reproductions.

Several projects encouraged artists to create posters. One was the Division of Pictorial Publicity, under the CPI. It was headed by Charles Dana Gibson and included some of the most famous artists of the time, who volunteered to create posters. A well-known product of this project was James Montgomery Flagg’s famous Uncle Sam poster.

Illustrators and cartoonists worked closely with experts in the Advertising Division. Newspapers and

magazines donated advertising space, making it almost impossible to miss seeing CPI materials. Vibrant, patriotic posters were plastered on billboards. It was the biggest advertising campaign to date and was critical to communication of wartime needs. The U.S. produced ~2,500 poster designs and ~20 million posters (about 1 for every 4 citizens) - in just over 2 years.

(source: https://theworldwar-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/s3fs-public/LessonofLiberty_Patriotism.pdf)

PEQUOT LIBRARY’S POSTER COLLECTION



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*Disseminating Literature, Music, Art, Science
& the Humanities to our Community*

Pequot Library is fortunate to hold a vibrant collection of posters from the Great War. Those displayed reflect the rich collection history of Pequot Library, while also echoing a sense of shared sense of duty to country through a surge in volunteerism at home and abroad.

Many of the artists whose works are displayed in the current exhibit were second generation immigrants. Additionally, several of these artists painted women, or painted for women's magazines, before creating war posters. All are of a similar age, born in the 1870s and 1880s.

Messages are unwavering and resolute, but images warm and bright - in support of the fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons of those answering the call on the Home Front.

THE RED CROSS

The Red Cross provided women with the opportunity to show their patriotism and change preconceived notions of women and the public sphere. (See: <https://wwionline.org/articles/american-red-cross/>)



**For Every Fighter
a Woman
Worker**

*Bringing Literature, Music, Art, Science
& the Humanities to our Community*

Adolph Treidler (1886-1981)

An American by birth, with a German surname, **Treidler** was one of the most influential illustrators and poster designers of the 20th century. He drew advertisements and covers for McClure's, Harper's, and the Saturday Evening Post. Treidler produced posters for the United War Work Campaign, advocating for women workers to join munitions plants. Later, in World War II, he served as Chairman of the Pictorial Committee for the Society of Illustrators, and continued to advocate that women should hold industrial jobs during wartime.



Have you answered the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call?

Harrison Fisher (1875-1934)



I summon you to Comradeship with the Red Cross.

Harrison Fisher (1875-1934)

This "Fisher Girl" quotes Woodrow Wilson's call to service.



Harrison Fisher's parents were both artists who emigrated from Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic). He liked to draw women and competed with Christy to be the successor of Charles Dana Gibson. Fisher was well-known for the "Fisher Girl" (also called "The American Girl"), who was elegant and beautiful but also intelligent and athletic. His work appeared regularly on the cover of *Cosmopolitan* until his death. Like many of the best-known illustrators of the day, including Gibson and Christy, Fisher designed posters for the government during WWI, primarily promoting the efforts of the Red Cross.

US FOOD ADMINISTRATION

During World War I, a severe food crisis emerged in Europe as agricultural workers were recruited into military service and farms were transformed into battlefields. As a result, the burden of feeding millions of starving people fell to the United States. In March of 1917, Charles Lathrop Pack organized the National War Garden Commission to encourage Americans to contribute to the war effort by planting, fertilizing, harvesting and storing their own fruits and vegetables so that more food could be exported to the allies. Citizens were urged to utilize all idle land that was not already engaged in agricultural production—including school and company grounds, parks, backyards or any available vacant lots.

(Source: <http://www.history.com/news/hungry-history/americas-patriotic-victory-gardens>)



Victory is a Question of Stamina

Harvey Dunn (1884-1952)



Harvey Dunn was born on a homestead in South Dakota. His talent was recognized early, allowing him to attend college. Dunn later pursued his artistic studies in Wilmington, Delaware, under Howard Pyle. Pyle's best students, Dunn among them, revolutionized the illustration world and are known as the Brandywine School. Dunn and seven other artists were commissioned as captains in the Corps of Engineers and were sent to Europe to record the activities of the American Expeditionary Forces there.



Be Patriotic

Paul Stahr (1883-1953)

An appeal from the U.S. Food Administration, headed by Herbert Hoover.

Son of German immigrants, **Paul Stahr** grew up in the Yorkville district of New York City that was crowded with German-American families. He produced show posters for Broadway theaters. Stahr also published in Collier's, Munsey, Saturday Evening Post, and People's Home Journal. He painted posters for the Liberty

Loans program, the Red Cross, the National Defense, and the Hoover Food Administration during WWI. Later, Stahl produced book covers.

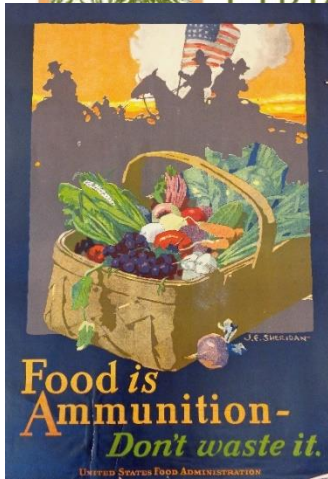


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**Food is
Ammunition**

J.E. Sheridan (1880-1948)

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& the Humanities to our Community*



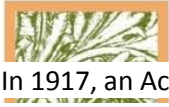
As a Georgetown student, **J.E. Sheridan** supplemented his tuition costs by designing posters for the university's sports teams and is credited with the idea of advertising sports through posters. Sheridan became a magazine cover artist for The Saturday Evening Post, the Ladies Home Journal, and Collier's. He created posters to help the war effort during WWI and continued to paint athletic and military themes after the war.



"Here Sir" at your Service

An encouraging poster from the State of Connecticut for farmers and everyone to use potatoes in place of wheat.

LIBERTY BONDS

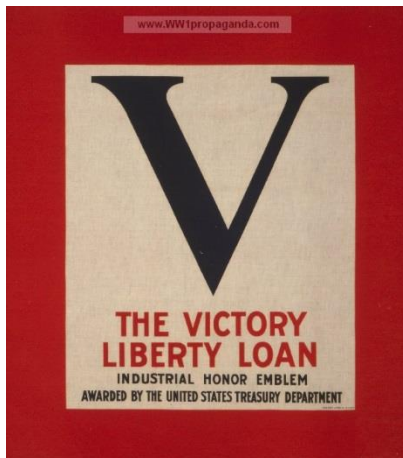


In 1917, an Act of Congress authorized the issue of "Liberty Bonds" in an attempt to appeal to people's patriotic duty; buying a war bond was helping to secure the country's liberty. While their purpose was primarily to raise money to finance the war, they also gave civilians the opportunity to contribute to the war effort. Liberty Bonds had limited success, despite a massive publicity campaign. (Source: <https://owlcation.com/humanities/What-Were-Liberty-Bonds-in-World-War>)

The Act is still used today as the authority under which all U.S. Treasury bonds are issued; Securities, also known as Liberty Bonds, were issued in the aftermath of 9/11 to finance the rebuilding of the areas affected by the attack.

Honor Button

Buttons and badges were given to participants of many initiatives, such as the Boys' Work Force, the girls' Junior U.S. Food Army, and this Liberty Loan program.



Victory Liberty Loan industrial honor emblem

A cloth banner showing a large blue "V" within a wide red border, awarded by the United States Treasury Department.

In 1919, the Grinnell Lithographic Company produced a flag which the United States Treasury awarded to institutions and corporations as an "Industrial Honor Emblem," a symbol of contributions to the Victory Liberty Loan. Victory Liberty Loans were the 5th in the series of bonds issued. With a 4.75% interest and maturing after 4 years, these bonds were also exempt from all income taxes.



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**Weapons for
Liberty**

Joseph Christian Leyendecker (1874-1951)

Leyendecker's posters show an idealized America, here emphasizing support for the Boy Scouts of America.



Born in Germany, **Leyendecker** emigrated with his family to Chicago. Between 1896 and 1950, he painted more than 400 magazine covers, most of them of an idealized America. If Gibson and Christy defined standards of female beauty, Leyendecker defined standards of masculinity with his "Arrow Collar Man". Leyendecker's student, Norman Rockwell, is remembered more today than his mentor. A gay artist, Leyendecker based many of his illustrations on his lifelong partner, Charles Beach. It is curious to note that Leyendecker designed this poster to support the Boy Scouts of America.



Fight or Buy Bonds

Howard Chandler Christy (1873-1952)

Citizens who cannot go to the battlefield can buy bonds to support the troops.

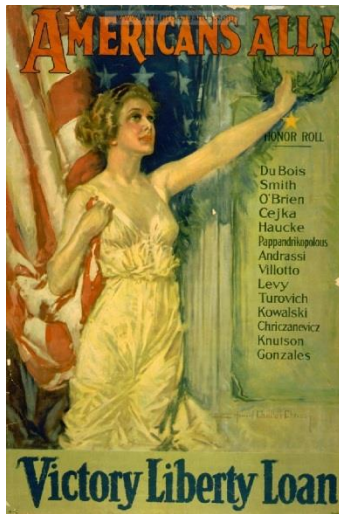


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Howard Christy was a combat artist during the

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Spanish-American War, when his ink drawings were published in the biggest American magazines such as Scribner's, Harper's, Century, and Leslie's Weekly. He became famous for the "Christy Girl", a romantic and elegant society girl, who was a redefinition of the modern American woman and the successor to the "Gibson Girl". In between wars, Christy became known for exploring "women's themes". He was considered a trendsetter in fashion and was asked to judge the inaugural Miss America Pageant in 1921. Christy produced patriotic posters for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, the Red Cross, and the civilian government, as well as illustrations of the works of the war correspondent Richard Harding Davis. His interest in drawing women is even evident in his war drawings; his most famous poster was entitled "Gee I Wish I Were a Man!"



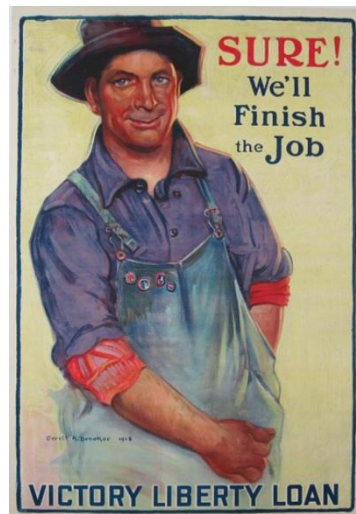
Americans All!

Howard Chandler Christy (1873-1952)

Surnames from various ethnic groups underscore the strength that unity brings.

Sure. We'll finish the
Gerrit A. Beneker (1882-

U.S. workers contributed effort.



job.
1934)

essential skills and labor to help the war



Clear the Way!

Howard Chandler Christy (1873-1952)

Funding from Liberty Loans clears the way to purchase the ordnance needed by the troops.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The ALA Executive Board appointed the Committee on Mobilization and War Service Plans (later the War Service Committee). ALA undertook to supply books and periodicals to military personnel, at home and overseas. The initial campaign raised \$1M for camp libraries, as well as including a book drive.

ALA's wartime programs, known as the Library War Service, was directed by Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, and later by Carl H. Milam. Between 1917 and 1920, ALA, whose membership was just over 3,300 in 1917, accomplished the following:

- mounted two financial campaigns and raised \$5 million from public donations
- erected thirty-six camp libraries with \$320,000 in Carnegie Corporation funds
- distributed approximately 7-10,000,000 books and magazines; and
- provided library collections to over 500 locations, including in military hospitals.

The work of the Library War Service lives on in numerous ways:

- the creation of permanent library departments in the army, navy, and Veteran's Bureau;
- founding of the American Merchant Marine Library Association American,



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created in 1921

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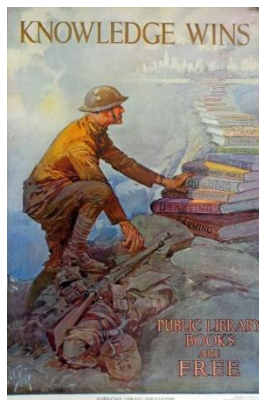
- establishment of the American Library in Paris, initially established in 1918, but continued at the end of the war, in 1920,officially, with community support and 30,000 books left from the Library War Service as a permanent memorial of the work done in France and as an example of American library methodology; and
- stimulation of the Association's activities in the fields of international relations and adult education

(Source: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/1917>)

Knowledge

Dan Smith

The American soldier moving



Wins

(1865-1934)

Library Association sponsored this poster, which showing a from trenches to a city over a bridge of books.

A Philadelphia-area graphic designer, **Dan Smith** collaborated with the American Library Association in 1918 as part of its "Books for Sammies" campaign. His compelling poster depicts a soldier moving from trenches to a city over a bridge of books, emphasizing that "Public Library Books are Free."



Hey Fellows!

J.E. Sheridan (1880-1948)

In this American Library Association poster, money and books are linked.

Books Wanted

Pequot Library's choice for this exhibit's postcard. C. B. Hall's image captures the need for and importance of service at home in support of the





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troops.

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POSTER ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

(Source: The National World War I Museum and Memorial, *Lessons of Liberty: Patriotism*: https://theworldwar-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/s3fs-public/LessonofLiberty_Patriotism.pdf)

- What colors are used in the poster?
- What symbols are used in the poster?
- How are the symbols used memorable? Are they easy to understand?
- Are the messages mostly verbal, visual, or both?
- Who do you think the intended audience is?
- What does the government hope the audience will do?
- What government purpose is served by the poster?
- The most effective posters use symbols that are unusual, simple, and direct. Why or why not is this an effective poster?
- List two things the poster tells you about life in the United States at the time it was created.
- Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the poster.
- What propaganda techniques are used by this poster?



BOOK CHECKLIST

Materials are listed in chronological order by publication date.

Makers of Madness

by Hermann Hagedorn
New York: MacMillan Company, 1914.

Is War Civilization?

by Nyrop Christophe
London: William Heinemann, 1917.

A Treasury of War Poetry

by George Herbert Clarke, Ed.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1917.

Over the Top

by Arthur Guy Empey
New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1917.

Modern Carpentry: A Practical Manual

by Fred T. Hodgson
Chicago: Frederick J. Drake & Co., 1917.

Tower of Ivory

by Archibald MacLeish
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1917.

The Red Flower

by Henry Van Dyke
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917.

Civic Association of Southport Minutes

Southport: Unpublished, July 27, 1917.

For Remembrance: Soldier Poets Who Have Fallen in the War

by A. St. John Adcock
London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1918.



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**Poems, Essays and
Letters in Two
Volumes, Vol. I:**

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Memoir and Poems

by Joyce Kilmer

New York: George H. Doran Company, 1918.

Woman in the War: A Bibliography

by Marion R. Nims

Washington, D.C.: News Department of the Woman's Committee, Council of National Defense,
Government Printing Office, 1918.

Trench Pictures from France

by Major William Redmond

New York: George H. Doran Company, 1918.

Towards the Goal

by Mrs. Humphry Ward

New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1918.

Map: American St. Mihiel Offensive

September 12-16, 1918 and November 9-11, 1918.

Map: American Meuse-Argonne Offensive

September 26-November 11, 1918.

Frenzied Liberty: The Myth of "A Rich Man's War"

by Otto H. Kahn

Address given at the University of Wisconsin, Undated, c1918.

Welcome Home

Boston: Committee of Welcome Appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts and the Mayor of Boston,
1919.

The United States and The Great War

by Willis J. Abbot

New York: Leslie-Judge Co., 1919.

The Story of the Liberty Loans

by Labert St. Clair

Washington, D.C.: James William Bryan Press, 1919.

Heroes All!

by Harry R. Stringer, Ed.

Washington, D.C.: Fassett Publishing Company, 1919.



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**Golden Stars and
Other Verses**

by Henry

Van Dyke

New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1919.

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War Patriotism Peace

by Leo Tolstoy

New York: Vanguard Press, 1926.

A Guide to the American Battle Fields in Europe

by American Battle Monuments Commission

Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1927.

History and Rhymes of the Lost Battalion

by "Buck Private" McCollum

U.S.A.: L.C. McCollum, 1929.

All Quiet on the Western Front

by Eric Maria Remarque

Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1929.

This Man's War

by Charles F. Minder

New York: J.J. Little & Ives Company, 1931.

The Complete Poems of Rupert Brooke

by Rupert Brooke

London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1932.

The West Point Atlas of American Wars, Vol. II: 1900-1953

by Colonel Vincent J. Esposito

New York: Frederick A. Praeger Publishers, 1959.

One of Ours

by Willa Cather

New York: Random House, 1971.

The Chronicle of Youth: The War Diary, 1913-1917

by Vera Brittain

New York: William Morrow and Company, 1982.

The World War I Album

by Ross Burns, ed.

New York: Smithmark Publishers, 1991.



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**World War I in
Photographs**
by Adrian
Gilbert

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New York: Barnes & Noble, 2000.