

## Building the Military

### The Selective Service Act

law required all young men between 21 and 30 to register for the military draft.

**Women's Contributions to the Military** Not subject to the draft. More than 30,000 served as volunteers in the U.S. Army & U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. Performed clerical work - filing papers, sending & receiving telegraph messages as members of the U.S. Navy & U.S. Marine Corps.

**A Diverse Military Force**  
1 in 5 recruits were immigrants or children of immigrants. Native Americans were not citizens so they were not subject to the draft.

**African Americans in the Service**  
380,000 African Americans served during the war. Opportunities were restricted by segregation & widespread racism. W.E.B. Du Bois urged African American support of the war.

Only 10% saw combat, most confined to non-combat units - unloading ships, working in kitchens, or constructing barracks.

## Shaping Public Opinion

The Committee on Public Information effective propaganda tool. Recruited 75,000 "Four-Minute Men" to deliver brief patriotic speeches at places like movie theaters & ball parks. Also, enlisted artists to produce pro-war cartoons & posters.

**Liberty Bonds** issued by the gov't to help finance the war.

**Suppressing Criticism** Espionage Act of 1917 & Sedition Act of 1918 authorities closed newspaper & jailed individuals for expressing antiwar views.

**Anti-German Hysteria** U.S. citizens shunned, harassed and even assaulted German Americans who might have once been their friends. Many schools stopped teaching German.

## Supporting the War Effort

How did the U.S. prepare for a war with Europe?

Mobilize

## Managing the War Effort

**Managing Food Supplies** Herbert Hoover chosen to head the new Food Administration. Job was to assure adequate food supplies for both civilians & troops. Urged Americans to conserve valuable food resources → "Wheatless Mondays", "Meatless Tuesday" & started "victory gardens."

**The War Industries Board** War increased demands on American industries. War Industries Board was set up to oversee the shift to war production. Told industries what to produce, how much to charge, & how to use scarce resources.

**Finding Workers** labor shortages millions of men joined the war & a steep drop in immigration → women took roles previously denied to them & 500,000 African Americans left the rural south to work in factories in the Midwest & Northeast.