

EXPLORE AMERICA

The 20th Century

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UNIT 8: 20TH CENTURY AMERICA (1900-1999)

CHAPTER 1

The Emergence of Modern America

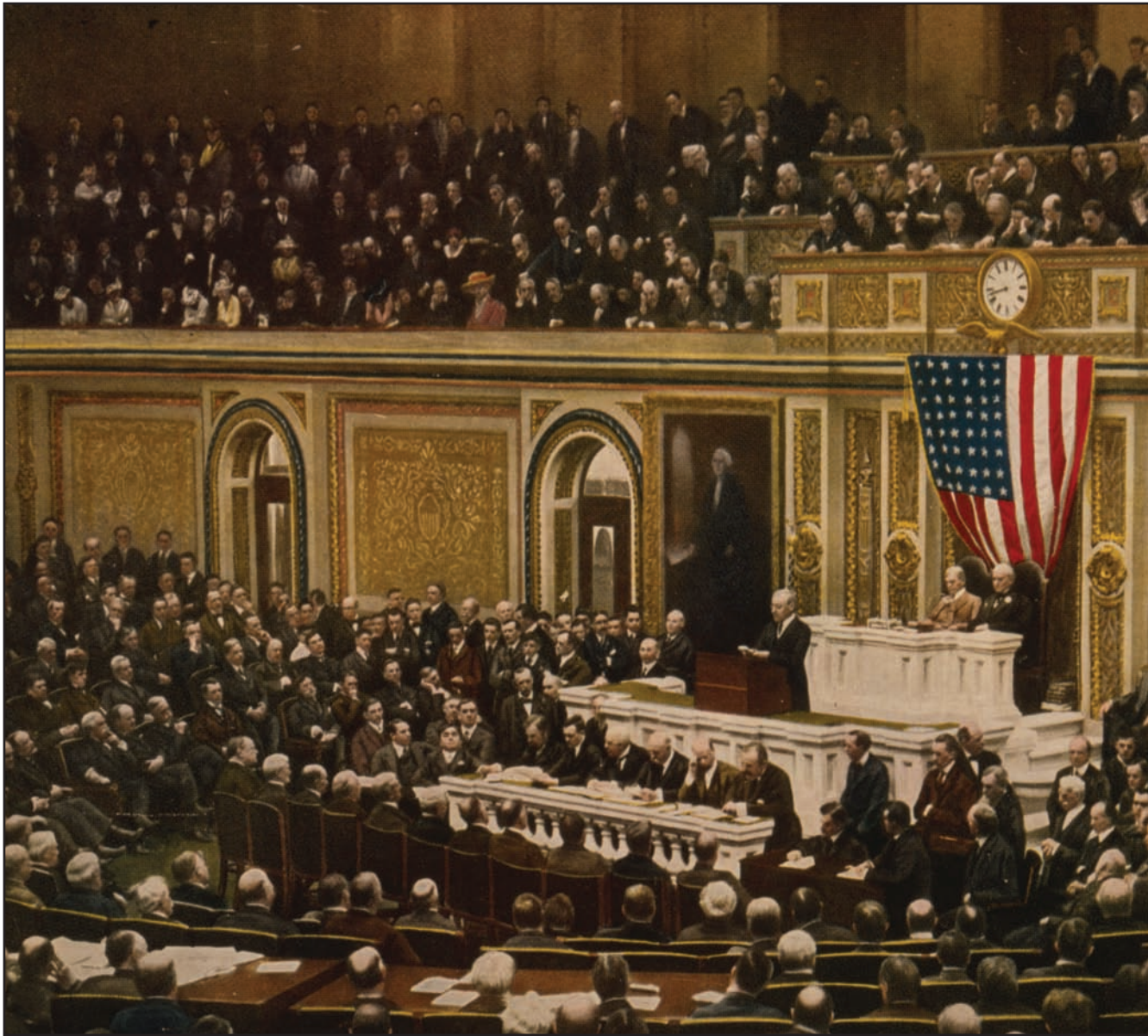
ERA: 20th Century America, 1898-1929

PLACE: The United States, Caribbean, Asia, and Europe

PEOPLE: U.S. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson and the Reformers

THEME: Expansion—increasing in size or scope

CHAPTER FOCUS: America changes at home and increases power abroad.



1920: 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote

1900

1925

1950

1975

1999

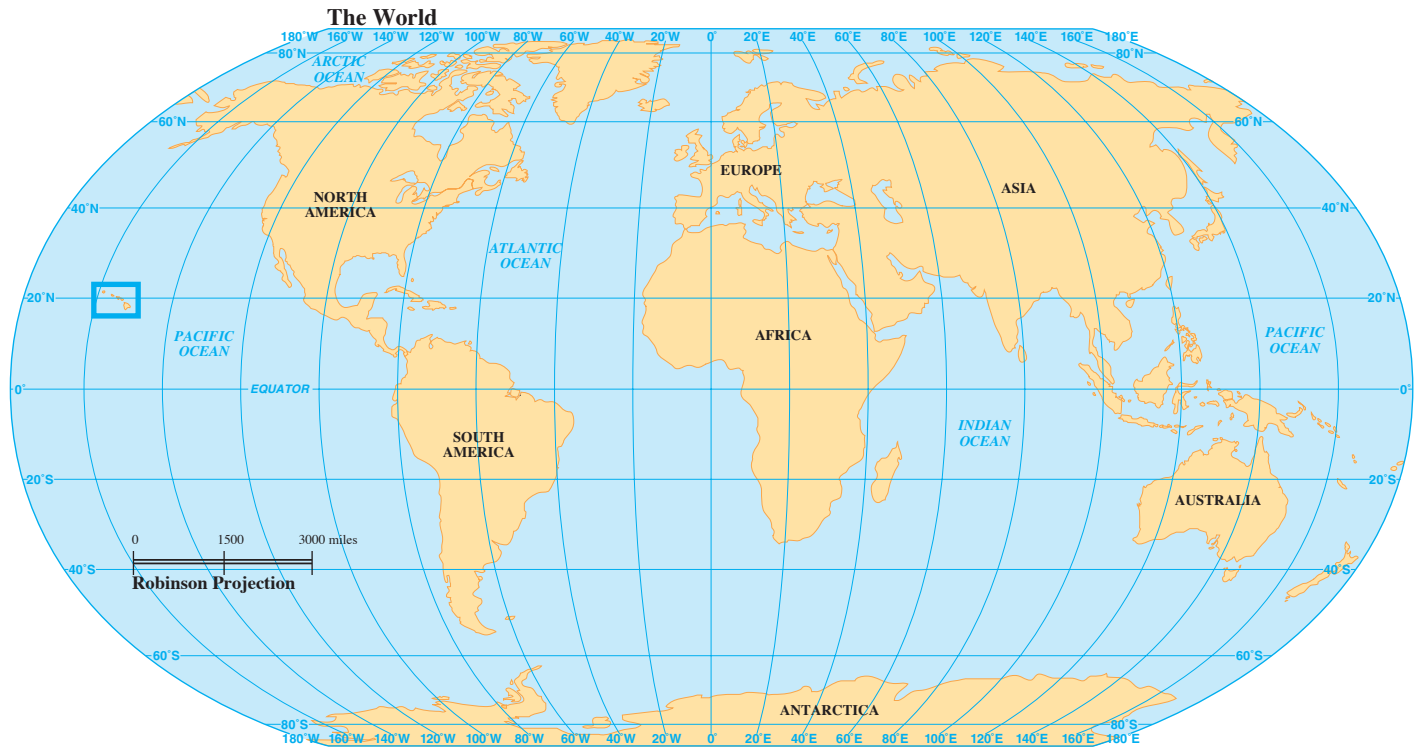
1917: U.S. enters World War I

▼ *America's size and power expanded after victories in World War I. This picture shows President Woodrow Wilson asking Congress to declare war with Germany on April 2, 1917.*



LINK

The United States was in a constant state of growing and changing after it became independent from Great Britain in 1783. During the 1800s, more and more immigrants from around the world came to America in search of freedom and opportunity. Settlers moved to the western part of the United States as the government acquired more land. Growth and change in the United States was particularly fast at the turn of the century—during the late 1800s and the early 1900s. During this time, more people started living in cities and working in factories instead of on farms. American businesses grew and the country became richer. Groups of Americans fought for equality and justice at home, and the country entered wars abroad. In this chapter, you will see how these changes helped America expand both in power and size. As you read, look for ways that America expanded and changed at the turn of the century.

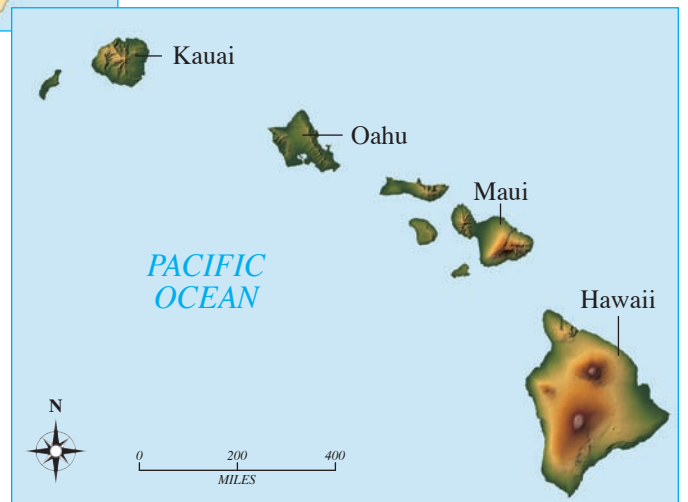


◀ *The United States took control of Hawaii in 1898. Hawaii became a state in 1959. Hawaii is the widest state in the U.S. It stretches approximately 1,600 miles from Kure Island in the north to the island of Hawaii in the south.*

► **GEOGRAPHY IN FOCUS**

archipelago: a large group of islands

Hawaii is an archipelago made up of over 130 points of land.



War with Spain and the Open Door Policy

At the end of the 19th century, the world began to see the United States as a powerful country. Two events helped the world recognize the **global** influence of the U.S.

In 1898, the United States went to war with Spain. The U.S. wanted to help the people of Cuba gain independence from Spain. The U.S. Navy proved to be very strong. It won major battles against Spain in Cuba and other areas Spain controlled. The war lasted only four months. Spain granted independence to Cuba. Spain also gave control of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico to the United States. At the same time, the U.S. took control of Hawaii. The United States was expanding.

During this time period, European countries controlled trade in China. China had a large population and the U.S. wanted to be able to sell American goods there. In 1899, the U.S. announced the Open Door **Policy** to the European countries trading in China. The policy stated that all nations should be able to trade freely in China. This was another major victory for the U.S. Other countries began to see the U.S. as a powerful nation.



▲ America declared war with Spain on April 25, 1898. This picture shows U.S. soldiers raising the American flag in Cuba during the war.

century: 100 years; the 19th century is the time between 1800 and 1899

global: across the entire world

policy: a rule making a plan

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why did the U.S. want to sell goods to China?

The Philippines and Guam



Puerto Rico and Cuba



▲ During the Spanish-American War, Spain lost control of the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.



▲ *President Roosevelt helped bring reform to America and expand its power abroad.*

conservationist: a person who wants to conserve nature

Nobel Peace Prize: an award given to a person who helped bring more peace to the world

reformer: someone who wants to bring improvements to society

trust: a group of companies that controls an entire industry

Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States in 1901. Roosevelt became popular after the Spanish-American War. During the war, he led a group of soldiers known as the “Rough Riders” in several important battles. His popularity as a war hero helped him in his political career.

As president, Roosevelt helped increase American power in the world. During his time as president, the U.S. built the Panama Canal. This made it possible for ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans more easily. This greatly improved trade in the world. Roosevelt helped end a war between Russia and Japan. He helped France and Germany settle a disagreement about who controlled the country of Morocco. Roosevelt also was the first U.S. president to win the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

Roosevelt was a **reformer**. He wanted to reduce the power of big companies and help workers and other ordinary Americans. He helped pass a law outlawing **trusts**. Roosevelt also was a strong **conservationist**. As president, he added more land to the national park system than all previous presidents combined.



▲ *Theodore Roosevelt is one of the four U.S. presidents shown on Mount Rushmore, a National Monument in South Dakota.*

The Progressive Era

President Roosevelt began a period of **reform** in the United States. This period is known as the Progressive Era because of the push for progress toward greater equality and justice. Several laws passed during the early 20th century helped the American people. In 1906, it became **illegal** to sell **impure** foods and dangerous medicines. In 1913, the 17th Amendment made senators elected directly by the voters. Before this, senators were appointed by state legislatures. The 17th Amendment helped prevent **corruption** by making senators more responsible to citizens. Other new laws made cities cleaner and improved the lives of people working in factories and mines.

The 18th Amendment, known as **Prohibition**, outlawed the sale and use of alcohol. The people who supported this amendment thought alcohol was bad for society. However, many Americans did not like this law. The amendment was later changed and alcohol was again legal.

The women's movement also achieved one of its important goals during the Progressive Era. The passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 gave women the right to vote.

corruption: lack of honesty

illegal: against the law

impure: unclean; not pure

prohibition: a rule that forbids something

reform: change to make something better

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why did it take so long for women in the U.S. to win the right to vote?

▼ *Several amendments to the U.S. Constitution were passed in the early 1900s.*

Amendment	Law
17 th Amendment (1913)	direct election of senators
18 th Amendment (1919)	Prohibition
19 th Amendment (1920)	women's right to vote



◀ *This photograph shows women gathered around the governor of Colorado as he approves the 19th Amendment in 1919. Before the amendment passed, women in 34 states did not have the same rights to vote as men. Nearly 150 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, women were finally included in the document's promise of a voice for all citizens.*

► The Committee for Public Information created this famous poster of Uncle Sam during World War I. President Wilson formed this committee to convince the public that entering the war on the side of Britain was the right thing to do.

▼ This chart shows the two sides in World War I before the United States joined the Allies.

Allies	Central Powers
Britain	Germany
France	Austria-Hungary
Russia	Ottoman Empire
Italy	Bulgaria
Japan	

neutral: not taking a side

propaganda: information spread to support a cause

sweep: to move quickly through

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think many Americans wanted to stay out of World War I? Do some Americans today want to stay out of wars? Why or why not?



World War I

In 1914, war broke out in Europe between two groups of countries—the Allies and the Central Powers. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson promised that American soldiers would not fight in Europe. For nearly three years the U.S. stayed out of the war, but it became difficult to remain **neutral**. American companies wanted to sell food and ammunition to the countries at war in Europe. When Germany attacked passenger ships sailing in the Atlantic Ocean, American lives were lost. The United States finally entered the war on April 2, 1917.

The U.S. government worked with businesses to organize war-time production of goods. Americans were asked to support the war effort. Many Americans, particularly German and Irish immigrants, still did not want the U.S. to take sides in the war. The government used **propaganda** to get people to support the war. Strong anti-German feelings **swept** the nation.

The addition of two million American soldiers gave the Allies an advantage. Less than a year after America entered the war, the Allies won. This victory expanded American power into Europe.

Woodrow Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles

President Wilson wanted the United States to use its new power in Europe to change how countries solved their problems. In a speech to Congress, President Wilson said:

What we demand ... is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world.

President Wilson had a 14-**point** plan to bring about world peace. Part of this plan was to create a League of Nations made up of all the countries of the world. The League would **resolve** conflict peacefully and prevent future wars.

The peace treaty that officially ended World War I was called the Treaty of Versailles. This treaty created the League of Nations and contained some of Wilson's other 14 points. However, not all Americans shared President Wilson's desire to reform the world. These people wanted America to focus on problems at home. They were able to keep the United States from joining the League of Nations. For the next **decade**, America stayed out of European politics.

decade: 10 years

point: an idea

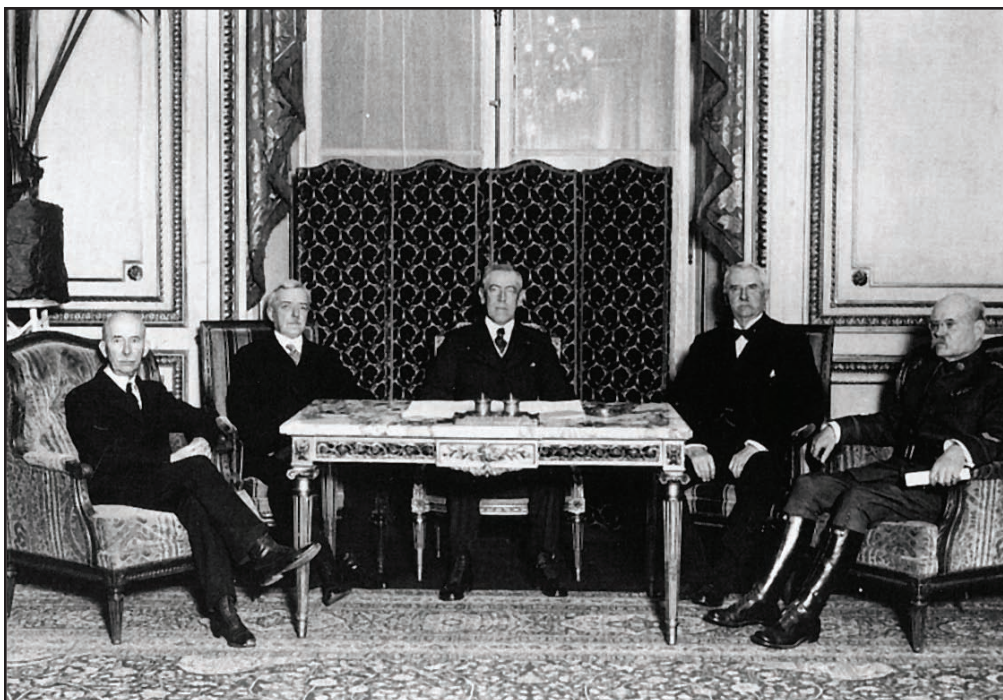
resolve: to end

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Can the United States use its power to bring peace to the world today? Why or why not?



▲ At the end of World War I, President Wilson traveled to Paris, France to attend the Peace Conference.



◀ This photograph shows President Wilson and other American leaders at the Paris Peace Conference.

Prosperity in the 1920s

assembly line: a way of putting together a product in a factory so that each worker does a small task

innovation: a new idea

prosperity: success; wealth

tension: conflict or hostility

? THINK ABOUT IT:

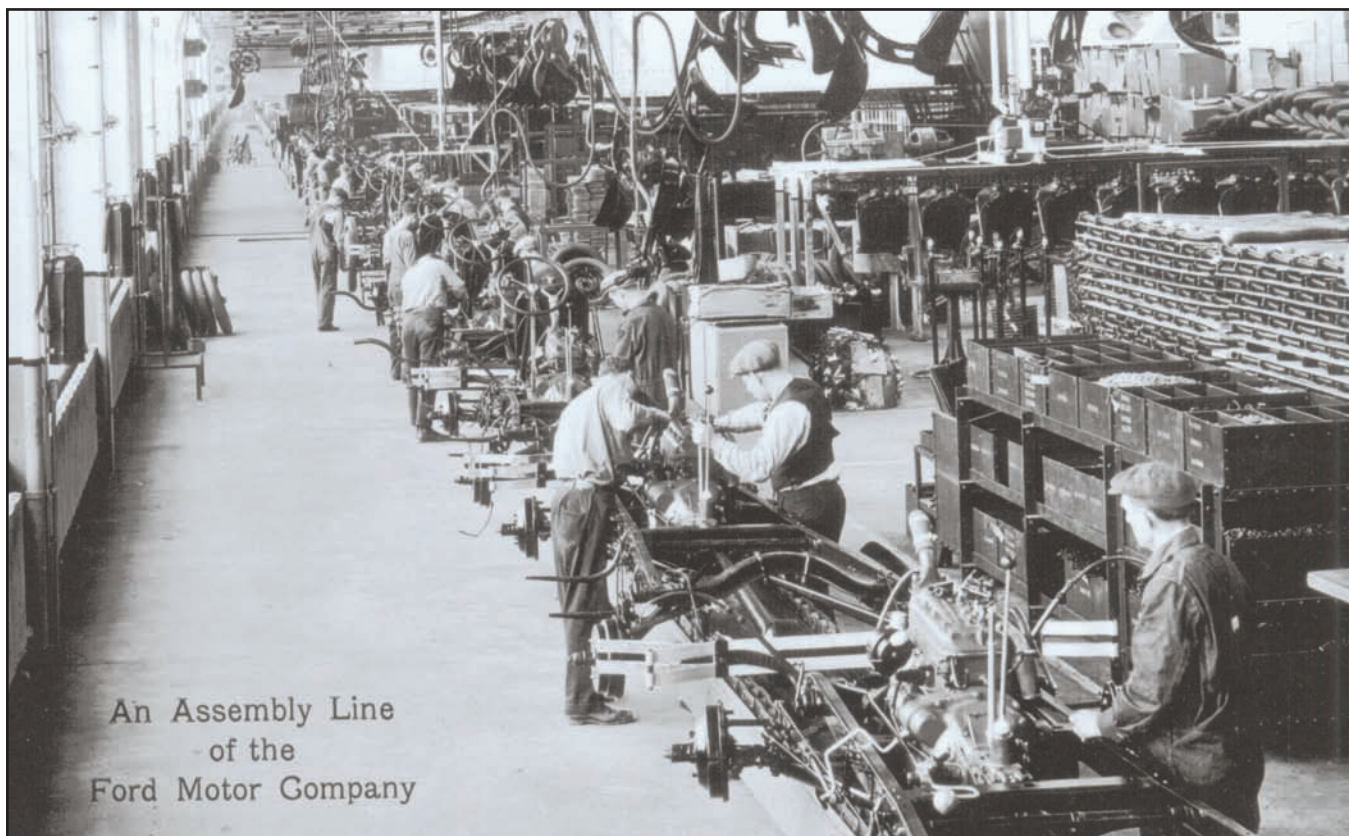
Why do you think farmers made less money when America was getting richer?

▼ *This photograph shows an assembly line of the Ford Motor Company. By 1914, the Ford factory could finish a new Model T car every 93 minutes.*

American businesses grew strong during World War I because of the high demand for war-time goods. After the war, businesses continued producing and selling a large amount of goods. This brought a decade of **prosperity**. The American economy expanded, and America grew richer.

Innovations in factory production helped the average American buy more. For example, Henry Ford used an **assembly line** to improve the production of cars. The success of the assembly line allowed Ford to sell cars cheaply, making it possible for more and more Americans to own a car. Assembly lines were soon making other items such as refrigerators and washing machines. With more Americans buying goods, businesses built new factories and hired new workers.

Even with new jobs and increasing prosperity, workers began making less money. The large number of new immigrants meant that there were more workers than jobs. Prices for farm goods were also going down, and many farmers lost their farms because they could not pay the money they owed to banks. Even though America was growing richer, not everyone was benefiting equally. This caused **tension** in American society.





Chapter Summary—Expansion

In this chapter, you read how America’s size and power expanded after victories in the war with Spain and World War I. You also learned how Progressive Era reformers helped improve equality and justice for women and workers in the United States. Innovations after World War I brought increased opportunity and prosperity to many Americans. During this time, the United States became an **industrialized** nation.

The new prosperity of the 1920s brought an end to the Progressive Era. Reforms did not die out completely, though. Women’s groups continued to push for more rights. Workers continued to fight for better pay and safer conditions. And reformers continued to battle corruption. However, with so much new wealth, concerns for equality and justice were no longer as important.

Power and prosperity rarely come without problems. As you will read in the next chapter, the new prosperity would soon **collapse** into an economic **depression**, and America would face a world war yet again.

▲ During the Progressive Era, many people pushed for progress toward greater equality and justice. This photograph from 1913 shows the first national parade supporting women’s right to vote.

collapse: to break down

depression: a period with very slow business activity and a lot of workers without jobs

industrialized: having an economy based on factory