

CHAPTER
26
SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide
WINNING THE WAR

READING CHECK

Why did women take on new jobs during the war?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *eroded* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues or examples can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences that hint at its meaning? Circle the words in the paragraph that could help you learn what *eroded* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize Describe what made World War I a total war.

World War I was a **total war**, in which the participants channeled all their resources into the war effort. Both sides set up systems to recruit, arm, transport, and supply their armies. Nations imposed universal military **conscription**, or "the draft," requiring all young men to be ready to fight. Women also played a critical role. As millions of men left to fight, women took over their jobs and kept national economies going.

International law allowed wartime blockades to confiscate **contraband**, but British blockades kept ships from carrying other supplies, such as food, in and out of Germany. In retaliation, German U-boats torpedoed the British passenger liner *Lusitania*. Both sides used **propaganda** to control public opinion, circulating tales of **atrocities**, some true and others completely made up.

As time passed, war fatigue set in. Long casualty lists, food shortages, and the failure to win led to calls for peace. The morale of both troops and civilians plunged. In Russia, stories of incompetent generals and corruption eroded public confidence and led to revolution.

Until 1917, the United States had been neutral, but in that year it declared war on Germany. Many factors contributed to this decision, including Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare. Also, many Americans supported the Allies because of cultural ties with Britain and sympathy for its fellow democracy, France. By 1918, about two million fresh American soldiers had joined the war-weary Allied troops on the Western Front. In that year, President Wilson also issued his **Fourteen Points**, his terms for resolving this and future wars. Among the most important was **self-determination** for peoples in Eastern Europe.

A final showdown on the Western Front began in March 1918. With American troops, the Allies drove back German forces. In September, German generals told the kaiser that the war could not be won. The kaiser stepped down and the new German government sought an **armistice** with the Allies. At 11 A.M. on November 11, 1918, the Great War at last came to an end.

Review Questions

1. What caused the morale of troops and civilians to plunge?

2. What are two factors that caused the United States to enter the war?

