

Chapter 14-Day 5

- League of Nations was formed without U.S. involvement

Section 4—The War's Impact

- When war ended gov't agencies removed controls and we had run away inflation
- Workers wanted raises to keep up with inflation, business leaders refused
- Enormous wave of labor strikes. 1st major strike was Seattle shipyards. 35,000 shipyard workers walked off job
- A general strike in Seattle soon followed (general strike is when workers in a general geographic area not necessarily same industry go on strike) 60,000 strikers paralyzed the city for 5 days
- The general strike was a tactic of the Communists in Europe. This worried American people
- Boston Police Strike—Gov. Calvin Coolidge sends in national guard, fires strikers, to protect the public.
- Returning soldiers needed employment. They were competing with African Americans who moved north for jobs and housing. These frustrations and racism led to race riots.
- Summer of 1919 over 20 race riots occurred. The worst in Chicago, 39 died over 500 injured
- Tulsa Race Riot occurred in 1921, officially 35 died but they suspect many more were buried in mass graves
- The Red Scare—strikes fueled fear of a “Communist takeover”
- Many Americans blamed immigrants and Communists for labor unrest and violence. This nationwide panic became known as the “Red Scare”
- April 1919 post office intercepted more than 30 bomb packages addressed to leading businessmen and politicians
- June 8, 1919 bombs in 8 cities exploded within minutes of each other suggesting a conspiracy. One damaged the home of Attorney General Mitchell Palmer.
- Palmer established General Intelligence Division which became the FBI headed by J. Edgar Hoover
- Palmer organized raids on headquarters of radical organization focusing on foreign residents and immigrants. They disregarded civil liberties of suspects and failed to turn up any evidence of a revolution conspiracy
- Election of 1920 Americans elected Republican Warren G. Harding, President. With the promise to return to “normalcy”