Section 4 Notes: The War at Home

Mobilizing the Nation

- mobilization: gathering of resources and preparation for war
- affected almost every part of American life
- National War Labor Board – pressured business to give workers what they had been demanding such as an eight-hour work day, overtime pay, equal pay for women, and the right to form unions. In return for these demands, workers agreed not to go on strike.

Workers During the War

- U.S. government sold war bonds and increased taxes
- labor shortage due to men fighting overseas and decrease in immigrants
- shortage provided opportunities for women
- Great Migration, 1914-1920 -- African Americans left the rural South for jobs in the Northern cities

Producing Supplies

- The U.S. need to produce food for the homefront and the allies
- Food Administration created and asked Americans to eat less and for farmers to produce more
- price controls instituted to encourage voluntary rationing (limiting use)
- War Industries Board – supervised production of war materials and set prices for key consumer products
- Fuel Administration managed the nation’s coal and oil, introduced daylight savings time, and called for “Heatless Mondays”

Mobilizing Support

- antiwar sentiment remained strong even after the U.S. entered the war
- Committee on Public Information – propaganda campaign promoted the war as a battle for democracy and freedom

Public Opinion and the War/Controlling Public Opinion

- socialists opposed the war as they thought it would only benefit business owners and hurt the working people
- pacifists opposed the war due to their anti-violence stance
- Committee on Public Information tried to silence dissent (opposition to the war)
  - Espionage Act – stiff penalties for spying, aiding the enemy, or interfered with army recruitment
  - Sabotage and Sedition Acts – crime to say, print or write any criticism against the government