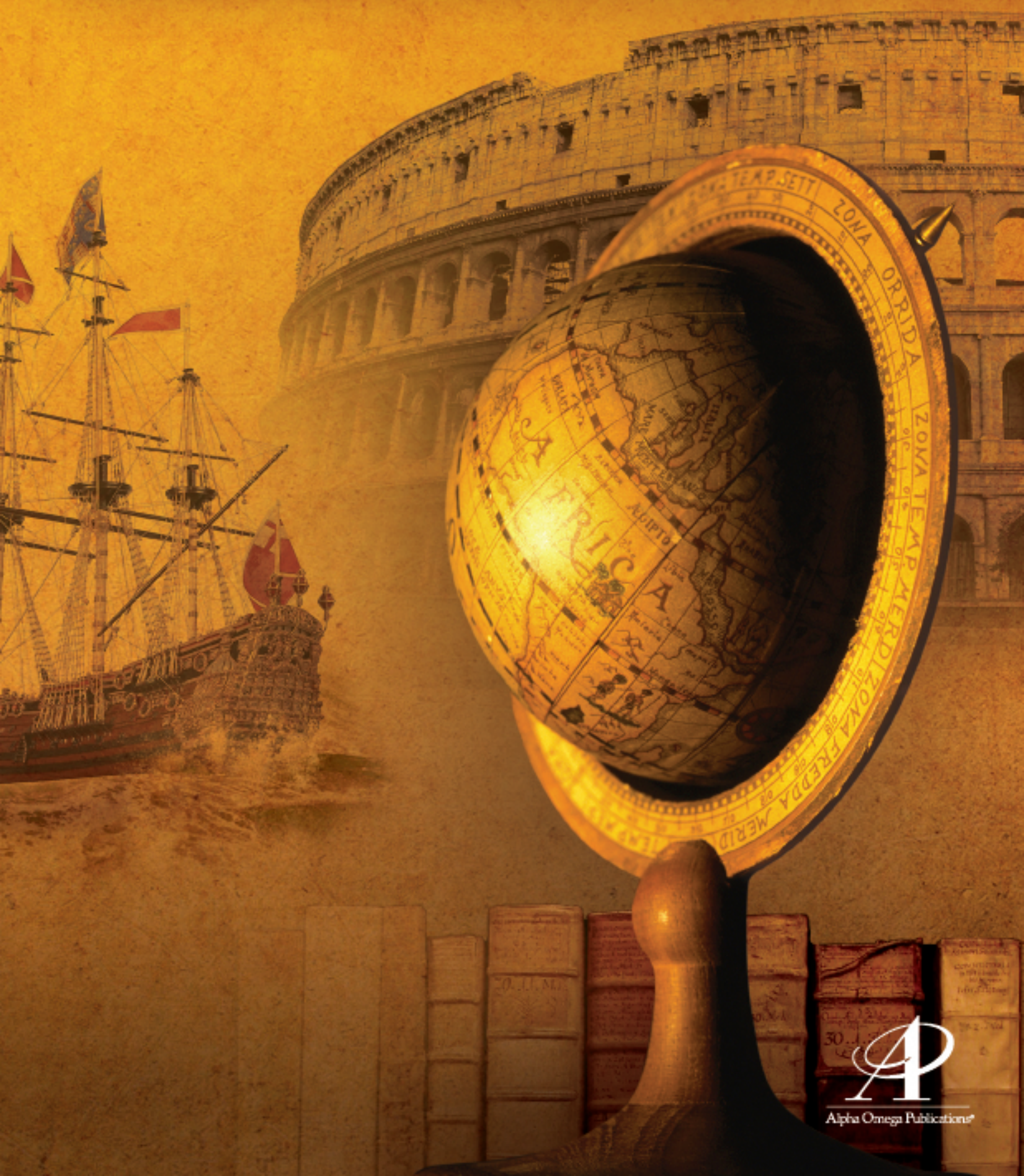




LIFE·PAC®

History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 1107

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

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HISTORY 1107

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

Suspicion and distrust among nations on the European mainland reached the breaking point in 1914 when Serbian-Austrian relations collapsed. This event set off a chain reaction of active and reactive involvement as Europe and the world embarked on the first global conflict. The United States strove to remain neutral, but was drawn into the conflict of World War I, supplying the men and equipment that brought the war to a close and the Allies to victory.

After World War I the United States departed from Wilson's progressivism and entered into Harding's restoration of "normalcy." Although the United States had enhanced its prosperity and its position of respect in the world community, the nation was ill-prepared for the shock of 1929. When the stock market crashed, thousands of people were left destitute; the subsequent years of the Great Depression also took their toll. The administration of Franklin Roosevelt brought practical promises and positive actions, giving hope to the confused and stricken people of the United States.

In this unit you will study the triumph, confusion, and desperation in the history of our nation between 1914 and 1940. The major focal points of your study will include the role of the United States in World War I, the aftermath of that conflict, the return to normal times, the prosperous living of the twenties, the dark days of the Great Depression, and America's struggle under the Roosevelt administration to overcome the economic stagnation.

United States history can be seen as a drama of our nation's will to triumph over seemingly insurmountable obstacles in a struggle for independence, unity, stability, and respect. The segment of that history from 1914 to 1940 included the vital learning experiences of global warfare, postwar difficulties, and economic depths, each contributing to the present stature of the United States.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC®.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the opposing forces and their engagements on the European front in World War I.
2. Describe the United States' war effort at home and abroad.
3. Outline the plans for world peace at the close of World War I.
4. Describe the changing postwar attitudes as the United States returned to normalcy.
5. Explain the effects of urbanization and prohibition on United States' society.
6. Outline the philosophy and policies of Coolidge.
7. Describe the prosperity and disaster of the Hoover years.
8. Describe the effects of the Great Depression on the United States' wealthy and poor.
9. Explain the effects of Franklin D. Roosevelt's leadership on recovery in the United States during the depression years.

Survey the LIFEPAAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. THE GREAT WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH

Although hostilities eventually extended around the world, most of the decisive action in the Great War—World War I—took place on the European continent. Europe is also the place where the subsequent peace talks were negotiated. Therefore, the focus of your study in this section will be on the European continent, noting the rising tension and hostilities among those nations, the unavoidable involvement of the United States, and the proposals and terms for a hopeful world peace.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the opposing forces and their engagements on the European front in World War I:
 - 1.1 List the Allied and Central Powers, telling how each became involved in the war.
 - 1.2 Outline the war strategies on the European front.
2. Describe the United States' war effort at home and abroad:
 - 2.1 Describe the measures taken on the home front in support of the war effort.
 - 2.2 Tell the advantages the United States supplied to the Allied cause.
3. Outline the plans for world peace at the close of World War I:
 - 3.1 List the terms and effects of Wilson's Fourteen Points.
 - 3.2 List the terms and effects of the Treaty of Versailles.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

armistice	A temporary end of hostilities by mutual agreement; a truce
reparations	Money paid by the defeated countries for acts of war
stalemate	A deadlock or tie
vengeance	An act of revenge for a wrong or injury

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFLICT



World War I was called the Great War before World War II reduced its claim to that title. It was the first world-wide war using modern weapons. Airplanes were used for the first time, mainly for reconnaissance. Tanks were introduced, although they were not highly effective. Poison gas was also used, killing and blinding many. Moreover, this was a war that destroyed civilian lives. War was no longer a disagreement between armies, it was a contest for survival among nations, in this case, mainly the nations of Europe.

The antagonists of Europe. The first global conflict began as a result of the assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and his wife by a member of a Serbian secret society on June 18, 1914. Furious at the brazen actions of this small Balkan nation, Austria was determined to punish Serbia (a Russian ally) severely for the assassination. Being assured of German backing if Russia should support Serbia, the Austrians issued an ultimatum to Serbia—meet Austrian demands concerning the anti-Austrian movement in Serbia or face war. When the Serbs agreed to only partially meet the Austrian demands, Austria declared war on Serbia.



Austria's declaration of war initiated a chain reaction among European nations because of the previously negotiated alliances throughout the continent. Russia, pledging to aid the Serbian government, refused to stop her mobilization in defense of the Serbs when Germany ordered her to halt. Thus, Germany declared war on Russia and its ally, France. Determined to defeat France before Russia was prepared to fight, Germany ignored the neutrality of Belgium and boldly marched across the Belgian border enroute to France.

The conquest of Belgium caused an international uproar toward Germany and hastened Great Britain's decision to join forces with France and Russia. Realizing that the only possible gains in war would come from Austrian-controlled territories, Italy joined the war in 1915 as an ally of Russia, France, and England. Italy's new alignment was a shocking blow to her former partners in the Triple Alliance.

Nation by nation, battle lines were drawn. Turkey joined the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary), giving Germany and Austria control of Constantinople and blockading the Russian fleet stationed in the Black Sea. In 1914 Japan entered the war on the side of Great Britain in accordance with their previous treaty, the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902. Countries throughout the world were soon armed for the global confrontation, World War I. Few European nations remained uninvolved; only Switzerland, Spain, Holland, and the Scandinavian countries declared their neutrality.



In their move to take France, the Germans did not consider the bravery and genius of the French. In a desperate move, French soldiers were driven in taxi cabs from Paris to the front line to stop the German advance. This heroic action halted the surprised German troops and was soon followed by a stiff French counterattack, saving Paris and stalling German hopes for a quick victory.