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The prosperity plan; the only way to maintain widespread, well-founded prosperity and free enterprise in any society without war, without debt, without hardship, without inflation, without high taxes, without big government and without communism by: Van Petten, Albert Archer, Published: ().

The Western Front quickly stabilized, with almost no movement of more than a few hundred yards. The greatest single expenditure on both sides was for artillery shells, the chief weapon in the war. Since the front was highly stable, both sides built elaborate railway networks that brought supplies within a mile or two of the front lines, with horse-drawn wagons used for the final deliveries. In the ten-month battle at Verdun, the French and Germans fired some 10 million shells in all, weighing 1. The German counter-blockade with U-Boats was defeated by the convoy system and massive American ship building. Britain paid the war costs of most of its Allies until it ran out of money, then the US took over, funding those Allies and Britain as well. The War saw a decline of civilian consumption, with a major reallocation to munitions. The annual output of artillery grew from 91 guns in to in Warplanes soared from in to 32, in , while the production of machine guns went from to , They expanded by a third during the war, primarily to produce transports of the sort that German U-boats were busy sinking. But after the war, employment tumbled as the yards proved too big, too expensive, and too inefficient; in any case world demand was down. The most skilled craftsmen were especially hard hit, because there were few alternative uses for their specialized skills. In terms of long-run economic trends, the war hardly affected the direction or the speed of change. The trajectory of the main economic factors, the business and financial system, and the technology continued on their way. Women temporarily took war jobs, and at the end of the war there was a great deal of unrest among union members and farmers for a few years. However, Fischer also says it was done by means of exclusion and repression. He says the war turned a peaceful nation into "one that was violent, aggressive, angst- and conflict-ridden, torn apart by invisible front lines of sectarian division, ethnic conflict and socio-economic and political upheaval. The nation depended on the export of wool, mutton, wheat and minerals. London provided assurances that it would underwrite the war risk insurance for shipping in order to allow trade amongst the Commonwealth to continue in the face of the German u-boat threat. London imposed controls so than no exports would wind up in German hands. The British government protected prices by buying Australian products even though the shortage of shipping meant that there was no chance that they would ever receive them. On the whole Australian commerce expanded. Iron mining and steel manufacture grew enormously. As a result the cost of living for many average Australians was increased. Despite the considerable rises in the costs of many basic items, the government sought to stabilize wages, much to the anger of unionists. Not all of these disputes were due to economic factors, and indeed in some part they were the result of violent opposition to the issue of conscription, which many trade unionists were opposed to. Meanwhile, although population growth continued during the war years, it was only half that of the prewar rate. Per capita incomes also declined sharply, failing by 16 percent. Belgium in World War I and Rape of Belgium The Germans invaded Belgium at the start of the war and held the entire country except for a tiny sliver for the entire war. They left Belgium stripped and barren. There was never a violent resistance movement, but there was a large-scale spontaneous passive resistance of refusal to work for the benefit of German victory. Belgium was heavily industrialized; while farms operated and small shops stayed open most large establishments shut down or drastically reduced their output. The faculty closed the universities; many publishers shut down their newspapers. Most Belgians "turned the four war years into a long and extremely dull vacation," says Kiossmann. Germany then stripped the factories of all useful machinery, and used the rest as scrap iron for its steel mills. It shipped in large quantities of food and medical supplies, which it tried to reserve for civilians and keep out of the hands of the Germans. They were treated roughly in a wave of popular violence in November and December The government set up judicial proceedings to punish the collaborators. Hitched to the plough, cultivating the soil. All agriculture rests upon their shoulders. Uncomplaining, with an attitude that amounts almost to religious exultation, the woman of France bears the burden. But thousands of little factories opened up across France,

hiring older men, women, youth, disabled veterans, and even some soldiers. Algerian and Vietnamese laborers were brought in. By standardizing on basic but effective models early on, the French produced enough artillery, tanks and airplanes to equip not only their own army but the United States as well. The network of small plants produced , 75mm shells a day. The economy was supported after by American government loans which were used to purchase foods and manufactured goods that allowed a decent standard of living. The arrival of over a million American soldiers in brought heavy spending for food and construction materials. Labor shortages were in part alleviated by the use of volunteer workers from the colonies. The northeast was occupied and exploited by the Germans during the entire war, and was left in ruins. The heavy loss of men into the army manpower was partly restored on the farms and in the construction industry by using prisoners of war, migratory workers, women, and older children. War contracts made some firms prosperous but on the whole did not compensate for the loss of foreign markets. There was a permanent loss of population caused by battle deaths and emigration. Internal lines of communication and transportation were disrupted, and shipments of the main export, cheap wine, had to be cut back. Crime soared as French forces were transferred to the Western Front, and there was rioting in the province of Batna. Shortages mounted, inflation soared, banks cut off credit, and the provincial government was ineffective. These bonds were denominated in francs instead of pounds or gold, and were not guaranteed against exchange rate fluctuations. After the war franc lost value and the British bondholders tried, and failed, to get restitution. However its dealings became strained because of growing misunderstandings between the Wall Street bankers and French bankers and diplomats. By late there was a severe shortage of artillery shells. The very large but poorly equipped Russian army fought tenaciously and desperately despite its poor organization and lacks of munitions. By , many soldiers were sent to the front unarmed, and told to pick up whatever weapons they could from the battlefield. Loans from Britain paid for nearly all its war expenses. The Italian army of , men was poorly led and lacked heavy artillery and machine guns. The industrial base was too small to provide adequate amounts of modern equipment, and the old-fashioned rural base did not produce much of a food surplus. With the main working-class Socialist party reluctant to support the war effort, strikes were frequent and cooperation was minimal, especially in the Socialist strongholds of Piedmont and Lombardy. The government imposed high wage scales, as well as collective bargaining and insurance schemes. The workforce at the Ansaldo munitions company grew from 6, to , as it manufactured 10, artillery pieces, 3, warplanes, 95 warships and 10 million artillery shells. At Fiat the workforce grew from 4, to 40, Inflation doubled the cost of living. Industrial wages kept pace but not wages for farm workers. Discontent was high in rural areas since so many men were taken for service, industrial jobs were unavailable, wages grew slowly and inflation was just as bad.

2: Prosperity decade; from war to depression: by George Henry Soule | LibraryThing

Prosperity Decade: From War to Depression, By George Soule. [The Economic History of the United States, Volume VIII.] (New York: Rinehart and Company.

Temporary agencies[edit] Congress authorized President Woodrow Wilson to create a bureaucracy of , to 1 million new jobs in five thousand new federal agencies. Employing talented writers and scholars, it issued anti-German pamphlets and films. It organized thousands of "Four-Minute Men" to deliver brief speeches at movie theaters, schools and churches to promote patriotism and participation in the war effort. In the administration decided to rely primarily on conscription, rather than voluntary enlistment, to raise military manpower for World War I. The Selective Service Act of was carefully drawn to remedy the defects in the Civil War system and"by allowing exemptions for dependency, essential occupations, and religious scruples"to place each man in his proper niche in a national war effort. The act established a "liability for military service of all male citizens"; authorized a selective draft of all those between twenty-one and thirty-one years of age later from eighteen to forty-five ; and prohibited all forms of bounties, substitutions, or purchase of exemptions. Administration was entrusted to local boards composed of leading civilians in each community. These boards issued draft calls in order of numbers drawn in a national lottery and determined exemptions. In and some 24 million men were registered and nearly 3 million inducted into the military services, with little of the resistance that characterized the Civil War. They fought "for honor, manhood, comrades, and adventure, but especially for duty. The Sedition Act criminalized any expression of opinion that used "disloyal, profane, scurrilous or abusive language" about the U. The most successful was The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin , a "sensational creation" designed to rouse the audience against the German ruler. Comedies included Mutt and Jeff at the Front. Economics[edit] Munitions production before U. United States Cartridge Company expanded its work force ten-fold in response to September contracts with British purchasing agents; and ultimately manufactured over two billion rifle and machine gun cartridges. Production rate of explosives by the United States was similarly 40 percent higher than Britain and nearly twice that of France. The financing was generally successful. The United States Cartridge Company Lowell, Massachusetts , factory which manufactured nearly two-thirds of the small arms cartridges produced in the United States during the war, closed eight years later. The US declared war on Germany on 6 April with only a small munitions industry, very few medium and heavy artillery pieces, and few machine guns. By June the US had decided that their forces would primarily operate alongside the French, and would acquire their artillery and machine guns by purchasing mostly French weapons in theater, along with some British weapons in the case of heavy artillery. Shipments from the US to France would primarily be of soldiers and ammunition; artillery equipment in particular occupied too much space and weight to be economical. These priorities combined with the short month US participation in the war meant that few US-made weapons arrived in France, and the need for extensive training of artillery units once in France meant that fewer still saw action before the Armistice. A comparison with World War II would be that the US started preparing for that war in earnest shortly after the Germans invaded Poland in September ; by the time the US entered the war following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December there had already been 27 months of mobilization. However, major production snarls occurred with most of the artillery programs, and as mentioned artillery shipments had a lower priority than many other types of shipments overseas. Food and Fuel Control Act Food Administration poster The food program was a major success, as output expanded, waste was reduced, and both the home front and the Allies received more food. Food Administration under Herbert Hoover launched a massive campaign to teach Americans to economize on their food budgets and grow victory gardens in their backyards. Americans were willing enough, but they did not know their proper role. Washington was unable to figure out what to do when, or even to decide who was in charge. Typical of the confusion was the coal shortage that hit in December Because coal was by far the major source of energy and heat a grave crisis ensued. There was in fact plenty of coal being mined, but 44, loaded freight and coal cars were tied up in horrendous traffic jams in the rail yards of the East Coast. Two hundred ships were waiting in New York harbor for cargo that was

delayed by the mess. The solution included nationalizing the coal mines and the railroads for the duration, shutting down factories one day a week to save fuel, and enforcing a strict system of priorities. Only in March, 1918, did Washington finally take control of the crisis [24] The transportation system then worked smoothly. Convoys were slow but effective in stopping u-boat attacks. Archbold" between May and September. The solution was expanded oil shipments from America in convoys. The close working relationship that evolved was in marked contrast to the feud between the government and Standard Oil years earlier. In and 1918, there was increased domestic demand for oil partly due to the cold winter that created a shortage of coal. Inventories and imported oil from Mexico were used to close the gap. In January 1918, the U. Fuel Administrator ordered industrial plants east of Mississippi to close for a week to free up oil for Europe. While Standard Oil was agreeable, the independent oil companies were not. Demand continued to outpace supply because of the war and the growth in automobiles in America. Fear of disruptions to war production by labor radicals provided the AFL political leverage to gain recognition and mediation of labor disputes, often in favor of improvements for workers. The AFL unions strongly encouraged young men to enlist in the military, and fiercely opposed efforts to reduce recruiting and slow war production by pacifists, the anti-war Industrial Workers of the World IWW and radical socialists. To keep factories running smoothly, Wilson established the National War Labor Board in 1918, which forced management to negotiate with existing unions. After initially resisting taking a stance, the IWW became actively anti-war, engaging in strikes and speeches and suffering both legal and illegal suppression by federal and local governments as well as pro-war vigilantes. The IWW was branded as anarchic, socialist, unpatriotic, alien and funded by German gold, and violent attacks on members and offices would continue into the 1920s. In 1919, the AFL tried to make their gains permanent and called a series of major strikes in meat, steel and other industries. The strikes ultimately failed, forcing unions back to membership and power similar to those around American women in World War I During WWI, large numbers of women were recruited into jobs that had either been vacated by men who had gone to fight in the war, or had been created as part of the war effort. The high demand for weapons and the overall wartime situation resulted in munitions factories collectively becoming the largest employer of American women by 1918. While there was initial resistance to hiring women for jobs traditionally held by men, the war made the need for labor so urgent that women were hired in large numbers and the government even actively promoted the employment of women in war-related industries through recruitment drives. As a result, women not only began working in heavy industry, but also took other jobs traditionally reserved solely for men, such as railway guards, ticket collectors, bus and tram conductors, postal workers, police officers, firefighters, and clerks. Many women worked on the assembly lines of factories, producing trucks and munitions, while department stores employed African American women as elevator operators and cafeteria waitresses for the first time. The Food Administration helped housewives prepare more nutritious meals with less waste and with optimum use of the foods available. Most important, the morale of the women remained high, as millions joined the Red Cross as volunteers to help soldiers and their families, and with rare exceptions, the women did not protest the draft. Effect of World War I on children in the United States World War I affected children in the United States through several social and economic changes in the school curriculum and through shifts in parental relationships. For example, a number of fathers and brothers entered the war, and many were subsequently maimed in action or killed, causing many children to be brought up by single mothers. Similarly, Woodrow Wilson called on children involved in youth organizations to help collect money for war bonds and stamps in order to raise money for the war effort. As children were collecting large amounts of money outside of school, within the classroom, curriculum also began to change as a result of the war. Woodrow Wilson again became involved with these children as he implemented government pamphlets and programs to encourage war support through things like mandatory patriotism and nationalism classes multiple times a week. Victory gardeners, Americanization of ethnics[edit] The outbreak of war in increased concern about the millions of foreign born in the United States. The short-term concern was their loyalty to their native countries and the long-term was their assimilation into American society. Numerous agencies became active in promoting " Americanization " so that the ethnics would be psychologically and politically loyal to the U. The states set up programs through their Councils of National Defense; numerous federal agencies were involved, including the Bureau of

Education, the United States Department of the Interior and the Food Administration. Second in importance was the Committee for Immigrants in America, which helped fund the Division of Immigrant Education in the federal Bureau of Education. The great majority decided to stay in America. Foreign language use declined dramatically. They welcomed Americanization, often signing up for English classes and using their savings to buy homes and bring over other family members. It would be more efficient, she argued, once the factory workers could all understand English and therefore better understand orders and avoid accidents. Once Americanized, they would grasp American industrial ideals and be open to American influences and not subject only to strike agitators or foreign propagandists. The result, she argued would transform indifferent and ignorant residents into understanding voters, to make their homes into American homes, and to establish American standards of living throughout the ethnic communities. Ultimately, she argued it would "unite foreign-born and native alike in enthusiastic loyalty to our national ideals of liberty and justice. Allegations against them included spying for Germany or endorsing the German war effort. They ranged from immigrants suspected of sympathy for their native land, civilian German sailors on merchant ships in U. They were increasingly marginalized, however, and by had been excluded almost entirely from national discourse on the subject. Many churches cut back or ended their German language services. German parochial schools switched to the use of English in the classroom. Courses in German were dropped from public high school curricula. Some street names were changed. One person was killed by a mob at a tavern in a southern Illinois mining town. In ethnic centers, ethnic groups were pitted against each other so that groups were encouraged to purchase more bonds compared to their historic rivals in order to demonstrate superior patriotism.

3: Prosperity Decade: From War to Depression: - George Henry Soule - Google Books

Prosperity decade; from war to depression: Prosperity decade; from war to depression: by Soule, Digitizing sponsor Internet Archive.

The three Republican presidents who served during that time were: Harding , Calvin Coolidge , and Herbert C. Hoover. Harding was incompetent and his administration was corrupt. He died in office August 2, and was succeeded by Calvin Coolidge who served for nearly six years. Coolidge came into office with a reputation for honesty that he maintained throughout his administration. Very popular, he was re-elected to his own term of office in 1925; he could probably have run again successfully in 1928, however, he chose to step down. At first Hoover was very popular but the financial collapse of 1929 destroyed his reputation. Businessmen wanted lower taxes and higher tariffs and the Republicans tried to accommodate them. In the new Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, recommended a tax plan that included repeal of the wartime excess profits tax and an income tax reduction of nearly 40 percent. However, he had to compromise with Congress; the bill that finally passed reduced the maximum tax rate by 17 percent and raised corporate taxes by 2. Mellon served all three administrations. By the end of the decade he had reduced the income tax rate by approximately 30 percent. On May 11, 1917, Congress enacted a law known as the Emergency Tariff. It raised rates on meat and farm products. This measure again raised tariff rates on farm products and also protected chemicals, silk and rayon textiles, toys, china, cutlery, and guns. This law remained in effect until when it was replaced by the Smoot-Hawley Tariff which, again, raised rates substantially. By then the average on all imports was 40 percent. The years following World War I were marked by a declining birthrate in America. The number of children born fell from 2.5 in 1917 to 2.0 in 1929. Declining birthrates coupled with immigrant restriction led to an overall decline in population growth. However, this was not the only significant demographic feature of the period. Rural population declined and cities grew. Between 1917 and 1929 some six million people migrated from the farm to the city. By the end of the decade only 44 percent of Americans lived in rural areas farms and small towns. Among those who moved to the cities were large numbers of African Americans. Eighty-nine percent of all African Americans lived in the South in 1917 but by 1929 the number had been reduced by 10 percent. The overall economy during this period featured erratic shifts in profits and employment. During the World War I and immediately after it there was a production boom triggered by accelerated demand. Beginning in 1920, however, inflation gave way to a decline driven by the collapse of farm prices. Farmers had indulged in significant production increases during the war and now their markets were melting away. By the spring of 1929 the nation was in the throes of a full-fledged depression. Foreign trade was cut nearly in half, wholesale prices fell 24 percent, and unemployment neared 25%. However recovery began in 1930 for most sectors of the economy except agriculture; economic improvement continued with few reversals until 1933. It is mainly in comparison to the subsequent Great Depression that this decade is called the "Prosperity Decade. This trend was driven by large expansion in the construction industry and manufacturing; widespread confidence about the period seemed justified. However there were other indicators that suggested general trends were deceiving. These indicators revealed, among other things, a significant maldistribution of wealth. Despite perceptions about the "Prosperity Decade," many people were not prosperous at all. Several industries which were barely in their infancy at the end of the war grew dramatically during the next decade. These included automobile, electric power, machinery and appliances, radio, aviation, and motion pictures industries. Measured by its social and economic impact, the automobile industry was easily the most important industry of the era. Automobile industry magnate Henry Ford was the dominant leader of the industry. He perfected the Model T, a vehicle that practically anybody could afford. More importantly, he developed the moving assembly line which made production cheap and fast. During the 1920s automobile production expanded dramatically from 1.5 million in 1917 to 5 million in 1929. By 1929 the industry utilized 15 percent of all the steel and 80 percent of all the rubber production in the United States. Car manufacturers employed 7 million workers. Electric power became the second most important economic interest in the country during the Era of Prosperity. By 1929 seventy percent of all homes had electric power. Widespread availability of electricity spurred the invention of new appliances such as irons, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and refrigerators. Closely related to electric

power was the radio industry. Until the federal government banned the private use of radio sets, but once the ban was lifted, the radio industry began its rapid growth. By forty percent of all American families had radio sets in their homes. The aviation industry grew slowly in the first, few post-war years. Congress passed the Air Commerce Act in 1926, which gave control of commercial aviation to the Commerce Department; thus, the age of the aviation industry began. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover did all he could to promote the industry. Scheduled air service began in 1914 and by 1926 there were airline companies in operation. In the motion picture machine was invented by Thomas A. Edison; only seven years elapsed before production of the first "movie" with a story, *The Great Train Robbery*. However, the motion picture industry really began in 1909 when admission to a projection house 5 cents was first charged in Pittsburgh. The first theaters, called nickelodeons, were very popular. By 1914 there were 5,000 of them in all parts of the country. Over the next few years the technology improved dramatically and by World War I the large, ornate movie theater appeared. Sound and color were added by the end of the 1920s. The industry employed 100,000 people with a capital inventory of two billion dollars. This is true not only because of the rapid expansion of industry but also because of numerous mergers which produced very large business entities. By 1929 two hundred corporations controlled 49 percent of all corporate wealth in the country and received 43 percent of all corporate income. There were only two monopolies by 1929 in the sulfur and aluminum industries but there were many near monopolies or oligopolies an oligopoly is an industry controlled by a very small number of participants. When Congress passed the Clayton Anti-Trust Act in 1914 and simultaneously created the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), they had sought to end destructive competitive practices that had characterized business since the late nineteenth century. These practices had been largely abandoned by business in the 1910s; the rise of oligopolies had actually enhanced competition. Hence the goal of the government during this period was to encourage healthy competition. If that meant competition among a few, very large businesses which provided high quality goods and services to the people, so much the better. Critics, of course, charged that government had become the handmaid of business, but this was true only in a limited sense. The American farmer suffered most from the depression of 1929, and never fully recovered as did most other sectors of the economy. In 1929 farmers received 16 percent of the total national income. In 1932 they received only 8 percent. Between 1929 and 1932 a non-partisan group in Congress known as the Farm Bloc worked aggressively on behalf of the farmers. They passed laws regulating the meat packers, the stockyards, and the grain exchanges, and they also created a system of government-backed credit for farmers. However, they did not address the real problem—overproduction. Congress tried to deal with this problem, but their efforts failed. Farmers would then pay a tax on the part of the surplus they produced in order to finance the program. Although complicated, the plan might have worked, but it never became law because it was vetoed by President Coolidge. The Board of Agricultural Resources was also authorized to stabilize prices through direct intervention in the market. The program was the most important effort yet attempted by the American government to stabilize and support agriculture. However, the Agricultural Marketing Act proved ineffective in the wake of the catastrophic economic collapse which began in 1929. The country experienced a period of inflation just before the depression of 1929. This was the key factor in setting off a wave of strikes by means of which the American Federation of Labor (AFL) hoped to preserve wartime gains and expand the union movement. Some of these strikes succeeded, but there were others that failed and caused long-term damage to the labor movement. Among these were the great steel strike and the Boston Police Strike of 1929. In cases such as these, strike leaders were branded as radicals and public opinion turned against them. Organized labor, contrary to the hopes of its leaders, did not grow during the 1920s—membership declined. The reasons for this include the absence of aggressive leadership in many of the unions coupled with the rise of a new concept called "welfare capitalism," which became popular in some industries. First promoted by Henry Ford, the idea was to seek cooperation rather than conflict between labor and management. That this plan worked is reflected in the fact that AFL membership declined nearly 30 percent between 1929 and 1932. The banking business and the stock market were practically unregulated during the 1920s and this led to considerable fluctuation in the world of finance. Many banks failed, particularly in rural areas dependent upon agriculture; conversely, numerous mergers occurred. The way banks did business also changed. But during the twenties most businesses were so profitable that they relied upon their own resources for expansion and current operating expenses.

4: United States home front during World War I - Wikipedia

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5: The Prosperity Decade, " (Overview) | www.enganchecubano.com

Prosperity Decade: from War to Depression: and Depression Decade: from New Era Through New Deal, By George Soule and Broadus Mitchell Rinehart and Rinehart,

6: G.I. Generation - Wikipedia

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