

# Unit 3 - A New Role in the World

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies**  
Time Period: **Marking Period 3**  
Length: **approx 6 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## **NCS 8th grade Social Studies Curriculum**

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BOE Adopted & Approved October 2017

### **Big Idea**

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Chapter 20: Overseas (1853-1915)

Chapter 21: World War I (1914-1919)

Chapter 22: The Roaring 20s (1919-1929)

People often cite the assassination of the Austrian archduke, Franz Ferdinand, as the cause of World War I. This is true as an immediate, short-range cause, but his murder alone could not have triggered a global war. Rather, World War I was the product of two of the most powerful forces driving European civilization in the 1800's: nationalism and industrialization. Together and separately, they would create three factors that led to war: German unification, territorial rivalries, and economic competition. (<http://bit.ly/g2BZD2>).

In this unit we investigate the causes of America's renewed involvement in foreign affairs after nearly a century of isolation. We examine the origins of the Spanish-American War and its effects on American foreign and domestic affairs. Finally, we analyze President McKinley's approach to relations with Asia and the Caribbean nations, and compare them with the policies of his successor, Theodore Roosevelt. Turning our attention to domestic policy, we examine the social and political reform movements known as Progressivism, plus the social, legal, and constitutional changes the Progressives made, including the role of individual reformers. We look critically at America's reaction to the outbreak of the Great War, we trace the events that led the U.S. into that war, and we analyze the political, social, and economic ramifications of WWI for the nation. We review Woman Suffrage and the 19th Amendment. We look at the social changes in the 1920s.

### **Enduring Understanding**

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United States involvement in World War I effected politics, the economy and geopolitical relations following the war.

The 1920s is characterized as a time of social, economic, technological and political change, as well as a time of emerging isolationism, racial and social tensions, and economic problems

## **Essential Questions**

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How did a more powerful United States expand its role in the world?

What were the causes and effects of the Spanish-American War?

What were the causes and effects of World War I?

Was World War I a "Just war?"

How did a more powerful United States expand its role in the world?

What was the "Roar?"

How did American life change during the 1920s?

How did the nation react to change in the 1920s?

Did everyone prosper during the '20s?

What was prohibition?

What was the importance of the Harlem Renaissance?

To what extent did tensions in social values, both real and imagined, bring about changes in American politics and society in the 1920s?

To what extent were the laissez-faire policies of the US government in the 1920s responsible for the Great Depression of the 1930s?

## **Skills**

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Discuss the opening of Japan for trade and explain how the United States acquired Alaska

Identify why the United States changed its foreign policy in the late nineteenth century

Describe how the United States gained control of Samoa and Hawaii

Discuss the Open Door Policy and the Boxer Rebellion

Identify how Cuba dissatisfaction with Spanish rule led the United States into war with Spain

Describe some of the major battles of the Spanish-American War

Explain how the United States treated the territories acquired as a result of the Spanish-American War

Explain why the Panama Canal was built

Identify the obstacles that the builders of the canal overcame

Discuss the use of locks in building the Panama Canal

Describe the policies of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft regarding Latin American intervention

Discuss the relationship between the United States and Mexico under President Wilson

Discuss the causes of WWI; what were the events that led to the start of the war?

Discuss how advanced technology contributed to a long, deadly stalemate in Europe

Discuss the initial efforts of the US to stay out of the war in Europe

Discuss the factors that led the US to join the war in Europe

Discuss how the US increased the size of its military as it prepared for war

Discuss how the government ensured that it has the necessary materials to fight the war

Discuss how the arrival of American troops eventually helped turn the war in favor of the Allies

Discuss the end of the war in November 1918

Discuss Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points proposal

Discuss the peace conference in Paris

Discuss the League of Nations

Discuss the period of unrest in US after WWI

Discuss the election of Warren Harding

Analyze the policies of Calvin Coolidge

Explain how fear of communism spread through the US after WWI

Explore the causes and effects of Prohibition

Describe the ways the 19th amendment affected women's lives

Analyze changes in popular culture

Identify the development and significance of jazz

Explore the ways that literature responded to changes during the 1920s

Analyze how the industrial boom began and how it affected the economy

Examine the situation of farmers and workers

Explore the election of Herbert Hoover

Learning Targets include but not limited to:

How the United States acquired new territory and expanded trade in the Asia-Pacific region

Causes and effects of the Spanish-American War

How the United States used the Monroe Doctrine to justify intervention in Latin America

Causes and effects of WWI

Steps the United States government took to prepare the nation for WWI

Turning points of WWI

How the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations disappointed President Wilson

How the arrival of American troops in Europe effected the outcome of WWI

The problems at home and abroad challenging the nation after WWI

How the social change and social conflict marked the 1920s

Economic problems that threatened the economic boom of the 1920s

Arts and culture symbolizing the Jazz Age

Performance Tasks include but not limited to:

WWI

Timeline of WWI

5 technologies used during the Great War

Treaty of Versailles Simulation

Europe's Historical Influence

Roaring 20s

DBQs: The Great War in Europe: Were We Right to Fight?

What caused the Great Depression?

## **Standards**

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Includes but not limited to:

## **Assessments**

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Performance Tasks

Quizzes & Tests

DBQs

Projects & Presentations

Student Participation/Class Discussions

Homework

## **Resources/Instructional Materials**

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Pearson History of Our Nation textbook

Smartboard

Primary Source documents

National Archives

Civil War Blog

Daily Current Events

CNN 10 Student News

Upfront Magazine

Internet Sites & Videos

Online Outline of Civil War

NJ Commission of Holocaust

## **Modifications**

Modifications for Special Education Students	Note IEP, audio recordings, digital media, screen casts, visual presentation, study guides, outlines, teacher's notes, graphic organizers, essay template
Modifications for English Language Learners	Extended time, assign preferential seating, positive reinforcement, peer tutoring, study guides, lower reading level, read directions aloud, alternative assignments, study guides, outlines, teacher's notes, graphic organizers, essay template
Modifications for Students Who Lack Support for School	Extended time, assign preferential seating, positive reinforcement, peer tutoring, study guides, lower reading level, read directions aloud, alternative assignments, study guides, outlines, teacher's notes, graphic organizers, essay template
Modifications for Gifted Students	Integrate, abstract, complex and varied assignments, freedom of choice when applicable, variable pacing levels

## **Integration of 21st Century Skills/Career Education**

Focus on the development of 21st Century Content Skills:

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health and wellness awareness
- Environmental literacy

Focus on the Development of Learning and Thinking Skills:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Communication Skills
- Creativity and Innovation Skills
- Collaboration Skills
- Information and Media Literacy Skills
- Contextual Learning Skills

Focus on the Development of Life Skills:

- Leadership
- Ethics
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Personal Productivity
- Personal Responsibility
- People Skills

- Self Direction
- Social Responsibility

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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- Academic and Technical Rigor - Projects are designed to address key learning standards identified by the school or district.
- Authenticity - Projects use a real world context (e.g., community and workplace problems) and address issues that matter to the students.
- Applied Learning - Projects engage students in solving problems calling for competencies expected in high-performance work organizations (e.g., teamwork, problem-solving, communication, etc.).
- Active Exploration - Projects extend beyond the classroom by connecting to internships, fieldbased investigations, and community explorations.
- Adult Connections - Projects connect students with adult mentors and coaches from the wider community.
- Assessment Practices - Projects involve students in regular, performance-based exhibitions and assessments of their work; evaluation criteria reflect personal, school, and real-world standards of performance.