



Introduction

Russian Revolution

Directions:

Read the following introduction to the Russian Revolution by Paul Burnett¹ and then answer the questions listed below.

Shortly after the end of World War I and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the Red Scare took hold in the United States. A nationwide fear of communists, socialists, anarchists, and other dissidents suddenly grabbed the American psyche in 1919 following a series of anarchist bombings. The nation was gripped in fear. Innocent people were jailed for expressing their views, civil liberties were ignored, and many Americans feared that a Bolshevik-style revolution was at hand. Then, in the early 1920s, the fear seemed to dissipate just as quickly as it had begun, and the Red Scare was over.

During World War I, a fervent patriotism was prevalent in the country, spurred by propagandist George Creel, chairman of the United States Committee on Public Information. While American boys were fighting the "Huns" abroad, many Americans fought them at home. Anyone who wasn't as patriotic as possible--conscientious objectors, draft dodgers, "slackers," German-Americans, immigrants, Communists--was suspect. It was out of this patriotism that the Red Scare took hold.

At the time the World War I Armistice was executed in 1918, approximately nine million people worked in war industries, while another four million were serving in the armed forces. Once the war was over, these people were left without jobs, and war industries were left without contracts. Economic difficulties and worker unrest increased.

Two main Union/Socialist groups stood out at the time--the Industrial Workers of the World (the I.W.W. or Wobblies) centered in the northwest portion of the country and led by "Big" Bill Haywood, and the Socialist party led by Eugene Debs. Both groups were well know objectors to WWI, and to the minds of many Americans therefore, unpatriotic. This led them open to attack. Any activity even loosely associated with them was suspicious.

¹ Burnett, Paul. *The Red Scare*. Famous American Trials: The trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, 1921. Viewed 5/2/2005 (<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/SaccoV/redscare.html>)

1. What was the effect of the Russian Revolution upon the United States? How did it change public feeling toward people who thought differently?

2. Why was the I.W.W. (active in Bisbee in 1917) disliked and feared?

3. Why did the U.S. media refer to the Germans as Huns? What effect would this have upon other Americans?

4. Discuss how fear impacted American support for entering the war? (calling francfurters "hot dogs" and Germans "huns). Why do people react this way?

Think about the American reaction to the Russian Revolution and World War I as you study the events of the Bisbee Deportation.