In 1918, Americans rejoiced at the Armistice ending the war. Many sought a return to the “normalcy” of the prewar status quo. And many hoped to isolate the nation from the rest of the world.

“We are citizens of the world. The tragedy of our times is that we do not know this.”

–President Woodrow Wilson, 1919

A WORLD TRANSFORMED

Following the war, the federal government severely restricted immigration. It also launched a campaign against labor and political activists perceived to be foreign-influenced Communists or anarchists.

Americans rejected the Treaty of Versailles and membership in a League of Nations as President Wilson’s attempt to entangle the United States in a global tug of war.

In politics, economics, culture, and beyond, the end of the Great War signaled the dawn of a new modern era. And in spite of its isolationist bent, the United States increasingly found itself a global player.

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