

### **Topic 3: Benchmark Key Terms (Group 3) – American Expansion and World War I**

**Nationalism** is a strong sense of pride and loyalty to one's nation, often leading to the desire for independence or self-governance. In American history, nationalism surged during events like the War of 1812 and the late 19th century.

**Imperialism** is the policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization or military force. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the U.S. expanded its territory and influence, particularly in Latin America and the Pacific.

**Home Front** refers to the civilian sector of a nation at war, where people contribute to the war effort through various means, such as rationing and working in war industries. During World War I and World War II, the American home front was crucial for supplying troops and maintaining morale.

**Militarism** is the belief that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively. This idea contributed to the tensions leading up to World War I, as nations built up their armed forces.

**Zimmermann Telegram** was a secret diplomatic communication sent by Germany to Mexico in 1917, proposing a military alliance against the United States. Its interception by British intelligence helped sway American public opinion toward entering World War I.

**Lusitania** was a British passenger liner sunk by a German U-boat in 1915, resulting in the deaths of 128 Americans. This event contributed to growing anti-German sentiment in the U.S. and was one of the factors leading to America's entry into World War I.

**Selective Service Act**, passed in 1917, authorized the U.S. federal government to draft soldiers into military service for World War I. This act marked a significant expansion of government power during wartime and affected millions of American men.

**American Expeditionary Force (AEF)** was the name given to the U.S. military forces sent to Europe during World War I. Led by General John J. Pershing, the AEF played a crucial role in turning the tide of the war.

**Fourteen Points** were a set of principles outlined by President Woodrow Wilson in 1918 aimed at ensuring peace after World War I. These points emphasized self-determination, free trade, and the establishment of the League of Nations.

**Treaty of Versailles** was the peace agreement that officially ended World War I in 1919. It imposed heavy reparations and territorial losses on Germany, setting the stage for future conflict.