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In the interests of preserving our no-alliance tradition, the United States became “associated” with the Allies, rather than allied to them. Allied or associated, the country soon was deeply involved in the war. Over two million Americans saw overseas service. In fact, our fresh manpower helped tip the scales. A year and a half after America’s entry, the war ended. The Kaiser was forced to abdicate. An armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

Nothing Left but the Howl



J. H. Donahey. *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland), c. 1919.

Return to “Normalcy”

On a blustery, cold morning in December, 1918, President Wilson set sail on the *George Washington* to attend the Paris Peace Conference. It was the first visit by an American President to Europe. Wilson’s prestige on the Continent had never been greater, but at home his reputation had suffered. In the recent congressional elections, Republicans had captured both houses. Partisan Republicans disapproved of Wilson. They disapproved of his trip. And they disapproved of his Fourteen Points, particularly the fourteenth, calling for a League of Nations. Wilson had outlined Allied war aims in a fourteen-point statement to Congress in January. The address had been widely acclaimed at home and abroad.

Wilson’s chief critics in Congress, Senators Borah, Lodge, Reed, and Knox, were convinced that the less truck the United States had with the squabbling European powers, the better off the country would be.