

# Chapter 20

## The Economy, Expansionism, and World War 1

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

New South, diversify, truck farming, service industry, isolationism, World War I, armistice, pandemic

#### PEOPLE

Henry Grady, Charles Herty, John Pemberton, Asa Griggs Candler, Ernest Woodruff, Claude Hatcher, Alonzo Herndon, Morris Rich, Woodrow Wilson

#### PLACES

Macon, Columbus, Camp Hancock, Camp Wheeler, Souther Field, Camp Gordon, Camp Benning



**D**uring this period (1877-1918), industry became the new economic foundation in much of the country. Southerners had two economic choices: to stay with their established economic path or to go in a new direction. After Reconstruction, most had chosen the old ways. In the 1880s and 1890s, calls for a new way grew. This chapter discusses the choices that Georgians and other Southerners made in earning a living in a modernizing world and the effects those choices had on the state.

The changing of the U.S. economy of this era also led to a major change in the country's relationship with other nations in the world. After the Civil War, most Americans, including members of Congress, had wanted to remain isolated from the rest of the world. Industrialization, however, created a need for more customers in other parts of the world, so growing businesses could continue to expand their markets as they continued to produce goods. Georgia's products were involved in this worldwide trade, and what happened in other places affected Georgia's economy.

Even though Georgians at this time preferred to remain out of the affairs of other countries, the nation and the state became involved in World War I. The demand for cotton and textiles boosted Georgia's economy. Georgians became soldiers on battlefields in other parts of the world, and soldiers from other parts of the country trained on military bases built in the state.

**Left:** An abundance of trees in Georgia provided a raw material for export that was important to the state's economic recovery after the Civil War. Here, timber is being loaded onto a schooner at Savannah.

# Section 1

## The Economy

### As you read, look for

- the New South philosophy,
- growing industrialization,
- new businesses in Georgia,
- terms: **New South**, **diversify**, **truck farming**, **service industry**.



**Over the years of Reconstruction and after**, the number of tenant farmers and sharecroppers continued to rise. While the majority of the tenants in the early years were African American, increasing numbers of whites became part of that system over time. Some southern leaders began to call for a change in the economy. They wanted a **New South** that would become more economically progressive and prosperous. They believed that “scientific”

**Figure 40**  
**Timeline:**  
**1885 to 1920**



**1886**  
John Pemberton developed formula for Coca-Cola; Jekyll Island Club organized

**1895**  
Cotton States and International Exposition held in Atlanta

**1898**  
Prince Greene became president of National Union of Textile Workers; Pilgrim Health & Life Insurance Company founded

**1905**  
Claude Hatcher developed Royal Crown Cola; Alonzo Herndon began Atlanta Life Insurance Co.

**1914**  
World War I began

**1917**  
U.S. entered war

**1918**  
World War I ended

1885      1890      1895      1900      1905      1910      1915      1920

**1885**  
Washington Monument dedicated

**1890**  
Battle of Wounded Knee in South Dakota

**1895**  
Sears Roebuck Company opened mail-order business

**1906**  
American Willis Carrier patented air conditioner

**1910**  
Boy Scouts of America incorporated

**1918**  
President Wilson issued his Fourteen Points

farming and more industry would put the South on a new economic path. One of the leading advocates in the South for this path was Atlanta's Henry Grady.

Some areas did embrace ideas for industry, especially industry related to the products Georgia produced. The number of railroad miles increased to move products from farm, forest, or mine to places where they would be transformed for market. Towns and cities grew larger. Some tried to attract visitors and the money they would bring. In spite of these efforts, change was slow to come to Georgia's economy in most areas of the state.

## Agriculture

When Reconstruction ended, Georgia farmers continued to plant cotton. In fact, the production of cotton actually spread, along with railroad lines, into areas that had not produced much cotton before the war. This was especially true in backcountry counties around Atlanta and just below Georgia's mountain area. By the 1880s, that area was producing about one-fourth of the state's cotton. Debt pushed many farmers to grow cotton because cotton could be used to get credit while other crops could not. By the middle of the 1880s, cotton production throughout the state rose by about 50 percent.

In the 1880s and early 1890s, the price of cotton remained about 8-9 cents a pound. When the depression of 1893 hit, the price for cotton dropped to less than 5 cents a pound in 1894 before it went back up to over 7 cents a pound in 1895. The price stabilized at 5-6 cents a pound for the rest of the 1890s. The early twentieth century saw an economic upturn, and cotton prices went up to almost 11 cents a pound in 1903. They went up and down by two or three cents in the years remaining before World War I. The demand for cotton during the war sent prices soaring.

Among those raising cotton were Georgia's farmers who were either cash tenants or sharecroppers. They became an increasingly large percentage of the state's growers. Tenants and sharecroppers overwhelmingly grew cotton rather than other crops. The year's income for tenants depended not only on the success of the cotton crop, but also on the ups and downs of the world cotton market. Bad weather or low prices could mean a year of little to no income, which meant going into debt to plant next year's crop.

One legacy (long-term effect) of this system on the state and the rest of the lower South was long-term poverty. Sharecroppers found it almost impossible to get out of debt. When middle-class farmers got into debt, they often had to sell pieces of their land to pay off the debt. When their land was all



NGE

Sharecropping

NGE

Cotton

**Above:** The construction of a new cotton exchange in Augusta during the 1880s was a testament to the importance of the crop to Augusta's—and Georgia's—economy. Cotton was booming at the time, and Augusta's cotton industry experienced a growth of 580% during that decade.



Importance of Cotton



Augusta Cotton Exchange Building



## Something Extra!

The Elberta peach was named after the wife of Samuel Rumph, who perfected that peach in 1875. Samuel's uncle developed the Belle of Georgia peach.

**Below:** This early-twentieth century Georgia cotton farm looks different from the old plantations. New farming techniques were used to increase production while preserving the soil.

sold, they too became sharecroppers. One-third of Georgia's farmers were tenants by 1880, and that number grew with every census.

Another legacy of this system was the continued dominance of cotton—the exact opposite of what Henry Grady and other New South spokesmen had hoped. Most tenants planted cotton up to the very houses they lived in. Landowners demanded that land not be wasted planting crops that could not be sold, so few tenants even had gardens. That meant that in an agricultural society, most sharecroppers were malnourished because they did not produce food to feed themselves. In the end, only Mother Nature could force southerners to stop growing so much cotton. That did not happen until the 1920s, when an insect called the boll weevil ate its way from the cotton fields of Texas to Georgia.

As cotton production increased, fewer acres were planted in other crops, especially corn. This was not what those who called for a New South wanted. They believed that farmers should **diversify**, or grow more crops of different kinds. There were some land-owning farmers who did experiment with new crops. For sharecroppers, however, it was too risky. New South believers urged farmers to farm “scientifically” by using fertilizer and methods such as crop rotation (planting a different crop in a particular field from one year to the next).

On a small scale, some farmers tried growing vegetables and fruits for market, a practice that came to be called **truck farming**. At first, the crops were sold in local or regional markets. But railroads made it possible to ship goods faster, before they began to rot. In the twentieth century, refrigerated railroad cars made shipping crops to even far-away markets more possible.

During the 1880s, Georgia began to produce a product for which it would become well known in the mid-twentieth century—peaches. Two new varieties of peaches were actually developed in Georgia—Elbertas and Belles. Pecans also provided income for some Georgians. Georgia farmers also raised livestock, including cows, hogs, and sheep. It would take a long time to replace the animals that had been lost during the war. In spite of these exceptions, the major cash crop of Georgia remained cotton.



NGE

Pecans

NGE

Peaches



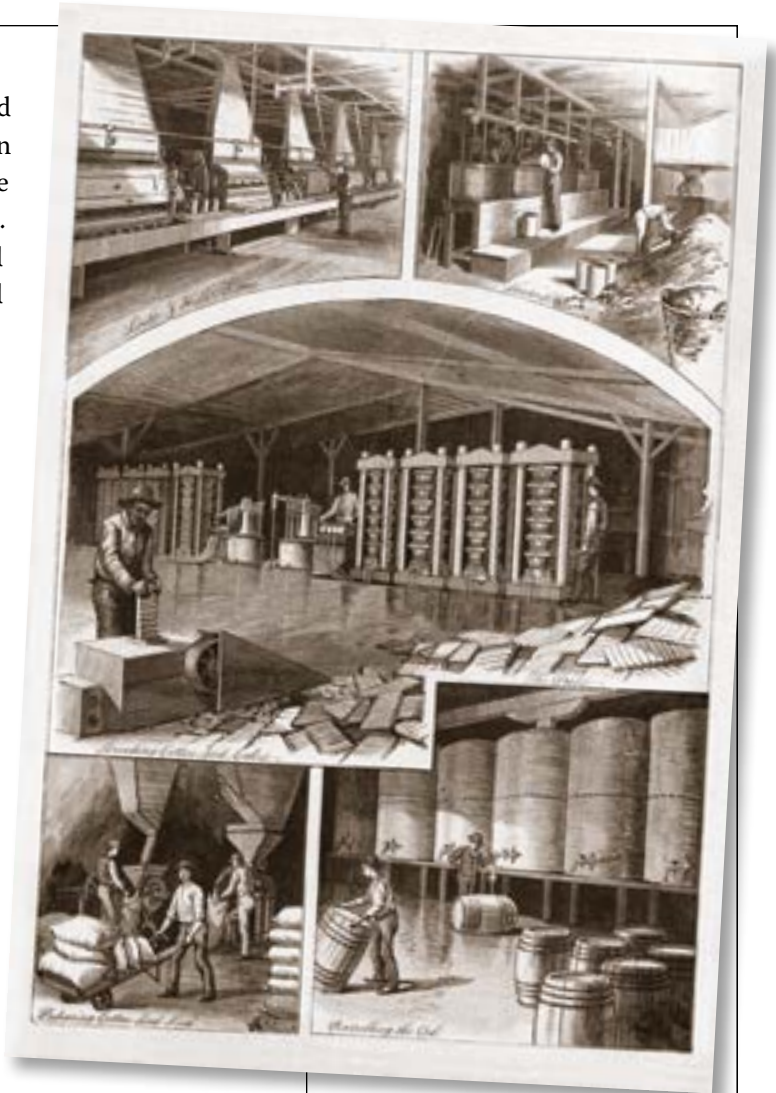
Georgia Peaches

## Industrialization

When the Civil War was over, Georgia had much to rebuild. Some wartime industries began to close as the state reoriented for a peacetime economy. But other industries began to rebuild. The New South supporters, many of whom lived in the state's growing cities, strongly believed in bringing more manufacturing to the South. That would shift some of the South's economy toward industry and have it be less dependent on agriculture.

The most well known of the New South spokesmen was Georgia's Henry Grady, managing editor and partial owner of the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper. He first used the term "New South" in a piece he wrote for another newspaper before coming to work for the *Constitution*. He made a major speech in New York in 1886 trying to convince northerners to invest money in southern industry, especially in Atlanta. Grady was a great promoter of that city, and some its growth is attributable to his efforts.

The industries in Georgia that did emerge and grow in the period before World War I related to the raw materials Georgia produced. By the 1880s, the industries that Georgia had before the Civil War were up and going again. That included sawmills that made board from Georgia trees, especially pine, and gristmills that ground corn or other grains into flour. As they had in the colonial period over one hundred years earlier, Georgians once again began to produce naval stores from pine trees. In 1902, University of Georgia chemist Charles Herty developed a new technique for collecting the sap from the pine trees that helped revive that industry.



**Above:** Many industries in Georgia at this time were based on the state's raw materials. These illustrations show a factory that produces cottonseed oil, used as a cooking oil.





NGE

Bibb Manufacturing Company

**Above:** Textile plants at the turn of the twentieth century employed large numbers of women and children, sometimes whole families. Often, children younger than ten years old worked on dangerous, fast-moving machinery. This photograph of Bibb Manufacturing Company Mill No. 1 in Macon shows children so small they have to climb on the equipment to change the bobbins. Lewis Hine, a photographer and sociologist working for the National Child Labor Committee, traveled the country documenting the working conditions of the children with the aim of getting legislation passed that would prohibit the practice.

## Textiles

The major revitalized industry was the textile industry, which produced cloth from Georgia's cotton. This was an industry in which northerners were willing to invest their money. Southerners with money joined with northern investors to build mills throughout the state. The Fall Line cities especially benefited. Augusta, mainly with Chinese American labor, enlarged and deepened its canal in the mid-1870s. By the early 1880s, three major new mills had been built on its banks. The mills used the water from the canal to turn the shafts, gears, and pulleys that spun and wove cloth from raw cotton fiber. In 1876, the Bibb Manufacturing Company began in Macon and soon had several mills and mill villages. Columbus got its mills up and operating quickly after the war. The Eagle and Phenix Company owned by William H. Young built several mills during Reconstruction. In 1887, George Parker, Jr. of Columbus built his first textile mill, adding two more in 1904 and 1916. Columbus weaver Prince Greene became president of the National Union of Textile Workers in 1898 and moved its headquarters to Columbus. Columbus became a major center for the textile industry. The west-central area of Georgia also saw textiles as a good economic investment.

To promote this industry, Georgia held major national "expositions" or fairs to advertise its progress. Atlanta held fairs in 1881 and 1887. In 1895, Atlanta was host to 800,000 visitors during the three-month-long Cotton States and International Exposition. This exhibition was a way to showcase the economic recovery of the South (in which cotton played a large role), to highlight the region's natural resources, and to lure northern investors. At the 6,000 exhibits of the Exposition, visitors saw new machinery and learned how cotton was made into marketable products.

NGE

Cotton States and  
International Exposition



The Atlanta Cotton States & International Exposition – Today in Georgia History

31

NGE

John Pemberton

NGE

Asa Griggs Candler



Asa Candler – Today in Georgia History

31

The textile mills put hundreds of Georgians—men, women, and children—to work. Many saw the mills as a good opportunity for Civil War widows who could not manage farms alone. As it became difficult for some farmers to make a living on small plots of land, they too came to the cities to get jobs in the mills. Most mills built housing, which they then rented to the workers. Mill villages or neighborhoods developed their own community life. Churches were built, often mission churches from denominations in the cities. Sometimes elementary schools were built, although many children worked in the mills. Children had little time for school because work was six days a week and eleven to twelve hours a day in most mills.

### New Businesses

In addition to these older industries, a few new business enterprises were founded in this period. In 1886, Atlanta pharmacist John Pemberton was working in one of the drugstores of Jewish businessman Joe Jacobs. Pemberton invented a “health” drink made from the coca leaf and kola nut, which he sold mixed with bubbly water. His partner Frank M. Robinson called it “Coca-Cola.” A few years later, Asa Griggs Candler, another druggist and



**Top:** Mill owners sought to create self-contained communities where workers and their families lived in company houses, shopped at company stores, and attended company schools. **These children, some already working, were photographed by Lewis Hine at the King Mill village in Augusta. Above:** The 1881 International Cotton Exposition was the first of three Atlanta showcases of the New South economy.





John Pemberton –  
Today in Georgia History

## Something Extra!

In its first year,  
John Pemberton sold  
just 9 glasses of  
Coca-Cola a day.



History of Coca Cola

businessman bought the formula for the syrup. He sold it to pharmacies for their soda fountains, where they could mix it with seltzer water. Some business leaders in various communities bought rights to bottle the drink and sell it that way. Families in several Georgia towns became wealthy bottling and selling the popular beverage. In 1914, the Coca-Cola Bottlers Association was founded by the Coca-Cola Company. In 1919, a group of entrepreneurs in Atlanta led by Ernest Woodruff bought the company and eventually took the brand worldwide. That major expansion is a story for another chapter.

Coca-Cola was not the only Georgia soft drink to emerge. In the early 1900s, Columbus pharmacist Claude Hatcher developed a bottled drink to sell in his family's grocery store. It too became popular and developed into a business eventually called Royal Crown Cola. In the 1920s, the company expanded into fruit-flavored drinks called Nehi.

### Tourism

Another industry that was born during the late 1800s and early 1900s was not a manufacturing industry, but what we now call a **service industry** because it provides a service to people. That was the tourism industry. Some



enterprising Georgians realized that the state's mild climate might attract wealthy northerners who wanted to vacation away from the cold and snow of their winters.

One of the most successful of these ventures was in the Golden Isles of Georgia's coast. In 1886, the same year that John Pemberton began selling Coca-Cola, Jekyll Island was purchased as a retreat for a group of northern businessmen including banker J. P. Morgan, department store owners Marshall Field and Everett Macy, railroad owner William Vanderbilt, and newspaper giant Joseph Pulitzer. In addition to a shared clubhouse, members of this Jekyll Island Club built cottages and apartments for themselves on the island. Hunting, bicycling, and other recreation provided relaxing winter getaways for these men and their families during the winter months.

The Jekyll Island Club was exclusive, allowing only a few members. But other wealthy northerners came to other Georgia cities for winter vacations. In Augusta, the chance to play golf on the Bon Air links and enjoy luxury accommodations attracted the owners of Quaker Oats Company, Majestic Stove Company, and politicians such as President William Howard Taft. These tourists created jobs in local hotels, restaurants, and businesses that catered to visitors. They also brought much-needed outside money into the local economies.

Even though these economic enterprises are Georgia success stories, the vast majority of Georgians in this era remained tied to the land. For many, it was not even land they owned. Georgia was not nearly as new as Henry Grady and others had hoped the state would become. Nor was life different for many. The farther away from a city one lived, the more likely one's life was much the same as it had always been.

**Above:** The wealthy members of the Jekyll Island Club built vacation "cottages" to take advantage of Georgia's mild winter climate. Moss Cottage was built by George Henry Macy, president of the Union Pacific Tea Company, in 1896. **Opposite page, above left:** Coca-Cola was invented by Atlanta pharmacist John Pemberton in 1886. **Opposite page, above right:** This Coca-Cola tray dates from 1910. **Opposite page, below left:** The early straight-sided Coca-Cola bottles were replaced by the familiar curved bottles in 1916, two years after the founding of the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association.



## Something Extra!

Alonzo Herndon, pictured above, owned a block of commercial buildings on "Sweet Auburn" Avenue in Atlanta.



Alonzo Franklin Herndon



Alonzo Herndon –  
Today in Georgia History

Tuesday  
31

## Urbanization and Business

After the Civil War, some Georgians, both blacks and whites, continued to move to Georgia's towns and cities, which all saw growth. Railroads continued to expand after Reconstruction and were a major factor in town growth. Almost two thousand new miles of rail lines were built in the 1880s alone. Towns sprang up along those lines. Points along the rails with depots became hubs for the surrounding countryside. Farmers came to bring their crops to ship and often to buy the supplies they needed. Stores began to locate near the train depots. So did those who provided services, from blacksmiths to lawyers. Places where more than one railroad met grew even more.

No city boomed more quickly than Atlanta. With several railroads, it had been a transportation and supply center during the Civil War. After the destruction of the war, its railroads were rebuilt, keeping it the transportation center of the state. In 1868, it also became the capital of the state, and government offices relocated there.

With its access to transportation in all directions, Atlanta attracted businesses such as banks and insurance companies.

One example is the insurance company now known as Life of Georgia. Chartered in Georgia in 1897, the company sold health and life insurance policies to working-class Georgians. Customers paid on their policies weekly, which made it more affordable. This type of company offered job opportunities that could earn a middle-class lifestyle.

African American entrepreneurs also established insurance companies. Many began as mutual aid societies. These were voluntary organizations of members who paid into a general pool and paid out to a member for a specific purpose, such as an emergency or death. Such societies then incorporated into companies. The first African American-owned company was Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company, founded in 1898 in Augusta by Walter Hornsby and Solomon Walker. Like Life of Georgia, its target customers were working-class people. Agents collected small policy payments on a weekly basis. The company not only wanted to make money but to provide a service to their people.

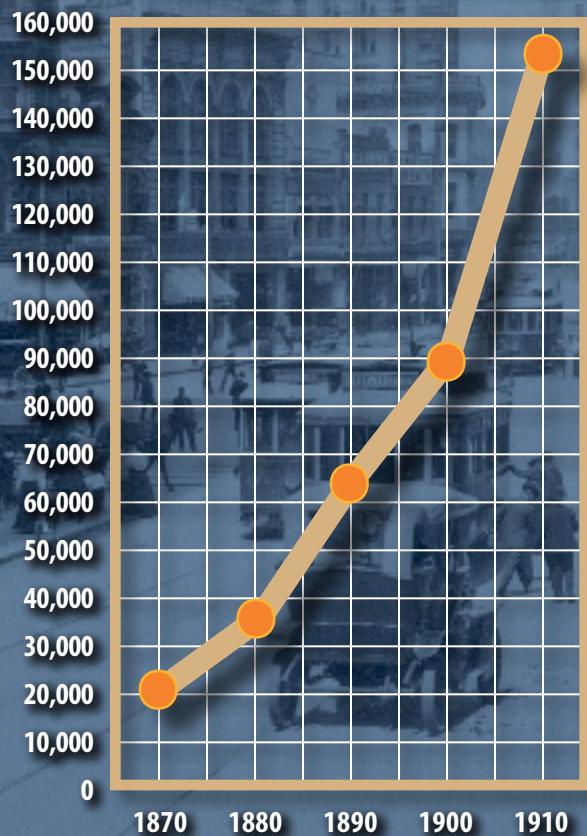
Born the son of his slave owner and a slave mother, Alonzo Herndon worked with his African American family members as a sharecropper for many years after the Civil War. He was an enterprising young man who managed to save enough money to move from the fields to the city. He learned the trade of barbering and eventually moved to Atlanta. After working for another barber for a while, he established his own barber shop. Herndon and the men he hired had excellent reputations for service to their all-white clientele, including some prominent Georgians. The money he made allowed him to invest in real estate. He owned many properties and eventually became the wealthiest African American in Atlanta. In 1905, Herndon bought what later became Atlanta Life Insurance Company.

Herndon was a founding member of the National Negro Business League (which Booker T. Washington began) and one of the founders in 1905 of the Niagara Movement spearheaded by W. E. B. DuBois. His first wife was a professor at Atlanta University. Herndon and his wife became important figures in the life of African Americans in Atlanta, providing leadership and funding for many social service nonprofit organizations and for Atlanta University.

Atlanta's growing population also led to more retail stores. One example was Rich's founded by Morris Rich, a Jewish merchant who came to Atlanta from Cleveland, Ohio. He began operating a dry goods store, which eventually turned into a major department store. Rich's popularity was based on the fine customer service for which the store became known. In 1914, for example, in response to the poor cotton prices that affected many of the store's customers, Rich's allowed customers to use cotton to pay for goods, even though the store would lose money. For decades, Rich's was a major attraction in downtown Atlanta, and people from other parts of the state traveled there to shop. In the mid-1990s, Rich's became part of Macy's.

Other cities grew as well, especially those on the Fall Line, where goods were brought to be shipped down river to the ports. By the late 1800s and early 1900s, cities had access to many of the new inventions of the age. For example, electricity came to Georgia's cities. Electricity not only provided lighting, but ran machines in both factories and homes. It was also used to power street cars, which became important means of transportation that allowed cities to grow outward. City people's lives became much more convenient with indoor plumbing, electricity, and delivery of ice, which was put in "ice boxes" to preserve food. Not everyone who lived in cities, however, could afford all these new ways of living. Away from the cities, the home lives of Georgia's farmers and rural people had few of these new conveniences.

**Figure 41**  
**Atlanta's Postwar Growth**



### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: diversity, truck farming, service industry.
2. What Georgia city was a center for the textile industry at this time?
3. What business did Alonzo Herndon found?

NGE  
W.E.B DuBois

NGE  
Rich's Department Store

# Georgia Portraits

## Henry W. Grady, Voice of the New South

**No southerner was better known** as a spokesman for the New South philosophy than Georgia's Henry Woodfin Grady. As a journalist and newspaper editor, he encouraged both industrialization and diversifying agriculture.

Born in 1850 to a prominent Athens family, Grady lost his father during the Civil War. The young Grady went on to graduate from the University of Georgia. He also studied at the University of Virginia before returning to Georgia to work in journalism at the *Rome Courier*. While in Rome, he married his childhood sweetheart, Julia King.

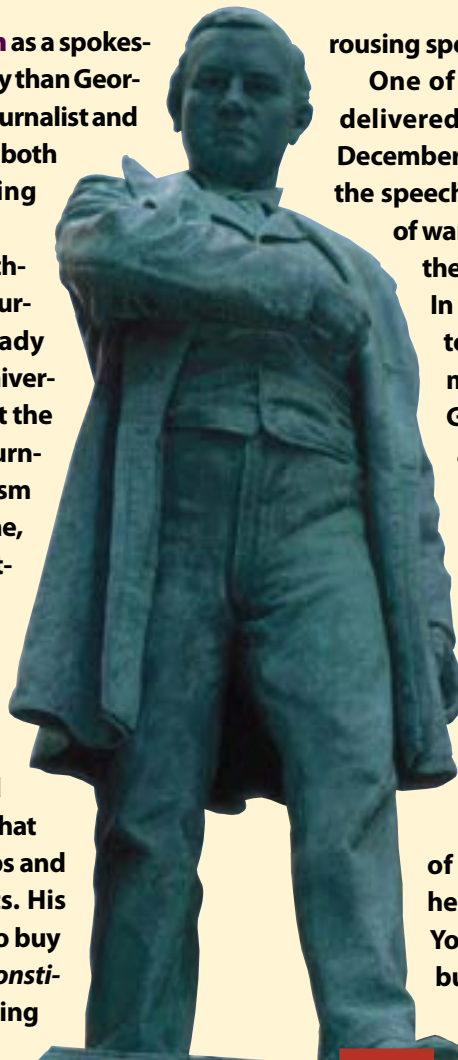
After the *Courier* went out of business, the Gradys moved to Atlanta, where he became a partner in the *Atlanta Daily Herald*. In his writings, he encouraged more industries, especially those that involved turning the South's crops and resources into finished products. His talent as a writer led to an offer to buy part ownership of the *Atlanta Constitution* and to become its managing editor. During those years, from 1880 to 1889, Grady became known for his insightful, timely, and sometimes controversial editorials, as well as his

rousing speeches.

One of his most famous speeches was delivered to the New England Society in December 1886. Entitled "The New South," the speech proclaimed that the "prejudices of war" had died in the South. He saw in the future a united North and South. In this and other speeches, he tried to persuade northerners to invest money in the southern economy. Grady's ability to sell the concept of a "New South" helped bring jobs, recognition, and investments to the recovering Georgia economy.

He backed up his words with actions. Grady was a strong supporter of making Atlanta a model New South city. He was one of the principal planners for Atlanta's 1881 International Cotton Exposition. He worked to establish the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and he helped raise funds to develop the Young Men's Christian Association building in Atlanta.

**Left and opposite page:** Henry Woodfin Grady, whose statue stands in downtown Atlanta, was a leading spokesman for the New South.



NGE

Henry W. Grady



Henry Grady – Today in  
Georgia History

In 1889, Grady traveled to Boston in his continuing efforts to promote southern industry. One of his more famous quotes was in that speech:

*I attended a funeral once in Pickens county in my State. . . . They buried him in the midst of a marble quarry: they cut through solid marble to make his grave; and yet a little tombstone they put above him was from Vermont. They buried him in the heart of a pine forest, and yet the pine coffin was imported from Cincinnati. They buried him within touch of an iron mine, and yet the nails in his coffin and the iron in the shovel that dug his grave were imported from Pittsburg. They buried him by the side of the best sheep-grazing country on the earth, and yet the wool in the coffin bands and the coffin bands themselves*

*were brought from the North. The South didn't furnish a thing on earth for that funeral but the corpse and the hole in the ground. There they put him away and the clods rattled down on his coffin, and they buried him in a New York coat and a Boston pair of shoes and a pair of breeches from Chicago and a shirt from Cincinnati. . . .*

Grady became ill during his time in Boston. By the time he returned to Atlanta, he had developed pneumonia. He died on December 23, 1889, at the age of thirty-nine. Grady County and Grady Memorial Hospital both carry his name. So does the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia, one of the most highly respected journalism programs in the country.

# Section 2

## World War I

First World War



### As you read, look for

- the reasons why the United States entered World War I,
- the ways in which Georgians contributed to the war effort,
- terms: **isolationism**, **World War I**, **armistice**, **pandemic**.



**Above:** These soldiers at Camp Chickamauga are training for action in the Spanish-American War. The establishment of military camps in Georgia at this time prepared the state for the role it would play in World War I.

NGE

Spanish-American War

During this period, the United States became a more important power in the world. The country underwent a change from its long-standing foreign policy of **isolationism** (not getting involved in other areas of the world) to a policy of expansion of trade and territory. The country's growing industrialization led to increased interaction with other countries. The United States needed overseas markets for its goods, raw materials for its factories, and naval bases for the growing U.S. fleet. By the 1880s and 1890s, the United States also entered a period of expansion, acquiring territory in other places.

In the twenty-year period from 1898 to 1918, the United States involved itself in two wars.

In 1898, the United States became involved in the Spanish-American War over Cuba's independence. The United States acquired new territory in the treaty that ended that war. The establishment of military camps in the state set the stage for the role Georgia played in the next war. In 1917, after remaining neutral for three years, the United States entered World War I after continued violations against its shipping. Both of these wars affected Georgia, especially Georgia's economy. The Spanish-American War was brief, but the military bases it brought to Georgia provided a boost to the state's economy. These effects were even stronger when the United States became involved in World War I.

### Causes of World War I

In 1912, Woodrow Wilson, who had lived much of his boyhood in Augusta during the Civil War and Reconstruction, was elected president of the United States. As a very young boy, he had seen the horrors of war when wounded

Confederate soldiers were brought to Augusta after battles in other parts of the state. Wilson's father, the Reverend Joseph Ruggles Wilson, allowed his church and churchyard to be used as a hospital. From his house across the street, Wilson could see these wounded and dying men. It left a permanent impression on him.

During his presidency, Wilson had a number of foreign policy (international relations) problems. On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, rivalries between major European powers resulted in a world war. The European powers had a complicated set of alliances that would bring several countries into any conflict that might begin. One incident began such a conflict.

On June 28, 1914, a Bosnian Serb terrorist assassinated the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The terrorist belonged to a group that wanted to break away from Austria and become part of Serbia. The group was supported by Serbia, which was allied to Russia, which was allied to France and Great Britain. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was allied to Germany. When Austria declared war on Serbia in late July, Russia prepared to fight Austria. Germany then declared war on Russia and France. The fighting started when Germany launched a surprise attack on the neutral country of Belgium on its way to invading France. That action led Great Britain to declare war on Germany. Some other countries joined either the Allies—Great Britain, France, and Russia—or the Central Powers—Germany and the Austrian Empire. Thus began **World War I**, or the “Great War.”

One of the first actions on the part of Great Britain and Germany was to try to cut off trade with the enemy. With its larger navy, Great Britain had the most effective blockade. American goods could not make it to Germany, but they could make it to Great Britain. The United States asked both sides to respect its neutrality. Even though the British blockade violated the neutral right to trade, the United States tolerated its action.

Although Germany did not have as large a navy as Great Britain, Germany had an important asset—the submarine or U-boat. The U-boat changed naval strategy because it could sneak up on ships to attack them. The Germans began a policy of submarine warfare, warning other countries to stay clear of the waters near their enemies or risk attacks on their ships.

## The United States Enters the War

Within days of the start of the war, President Woodrow Wilson made a major speech declaring that the United States would remain neutral. Almost all Americans supported that position. In fact, Wilson tried to get the warring sides to sit down with him and try to find a peaceful solution. They refused.



**Above:** The experiences of President Woodrow Wilson growing up in Augusta during the Civil War had a profound affect on him. When World War I began in Europe, he kept the United States neutral, and attempted the role of peacemaker.



Woodrow Wilson Biography



Woodrow Wilson –  
Today in Georgia History





Coded and  
decoded versions  
of Zimmermann Telegram

## Something Extra!

International law required warships to provide for the safety of the passengers and crews of trading ships they sank.

**Above:** The sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania* by a German U-boat, costing 128 American lives among the 1,198 killed, was one of a series of events that turned public opinion in favor of the United States entering World War I. **Opposite page, above and below:** As had been the case in the Civil War, new weaponry, in this case machine guns, tanks, and poison gas, made traditional strategies of war obsolete, and created previously unimaginable casualty levels.

In May 1915, a German U-boat sank the British passenger ship *Lusitania* believing it was also carrying weapons. Among its dead were 128 Americans. Wilson protested vigorously to Germany but still held out for neutrality. Georgians supported that continued neutrality. In 1916, the Germans attacked the French ship *Sussex*, which had Americans aboard. Wilson threatened to break off ties with Germany. In the Sussex Pledge that followed, Germany agreed not to attack merchant ships without warning. Meanwhile in the ground war in Europe, both sides had dug into hundreds of miles of trenches, fighting battles that sometimes lasted for months. The numbers of casualties on both sides were horrific. Poison gas and machine guns made their appearance in this war and contributed to the high death toll. By the time the war was over, an estimated 20 million people had died. The world questioned just how civilized human beings had become.

As fighting continued in Europe, some American politicians urged the president to prepare just in case the United States needed to fight. Wilson opposed this at first, but in 1916 he supported legislation to strengthen the army and navy. In 1916, as he ran for reelection, he continued to stress peace. He won by a narrow margin. In January 1917, Wilson called for the countries at war to make “peace without victory.” But victory was the goal of both sides, because each hoped to gain territory and to weaken the other side.

Germany decided to resume submarine attacks on all ships in January 1917. In response, President Wilson broke off relations with Germany and ordered that American merchant ships be armed. Peace demonstrations and rallies occurred throughout the country. Many American citizens still did not want to become involved in a foreign war.

Much of the anti-war opinion changed in March. At that time, President Wilson gave the press a telegram that had been captured from the German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann. It was addressed to the German

ambassador to Mexico. The note proposed that Mexico become Germany's ally if the United States entered the war. Mexico could then get back the territory it had lost in its war with the United States in the 1840s. This possible threat to the United States convinced many people that Germany had to be stopped. In that same month, German U-boats also sank several American ships. On April 4, 1917, Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war. He hoped it would be a "war to end all wars" and "make the world safe for democracy." Some still opposed the United States becoming involved, but many people thought it had become necessary.

## Georgia and World War I

Most Georgians became patriotic war supporters, although many opposed the draft that required young men to register and fight. They believed it was unconstitutional to require military service. Some landowners were particularly opposed to having their sharecroppers taken from them when cotton prices were finally increasing due to wartime demand. Some landowners did not tell African Americans about draft notices, hoping to keep them on the farms. Some African Americans were arrested for draft violations they did not even know they had committed! In their trial, two of the African Americans charged had Tom Watson as their defense attorney.

The state benefited greatly from the many military camps established in the state, more than any other state. Men came from all over the country to train at the state's military posts. Georgia already had a few military installations, such as the arsenal in Augusta, which was almost one hundred years old by then. Camp Hancock in Augusta and Camp Wheeler in Macon trained National Guard units. Others trained medical personnel, transportation units, and engineers. Souther Field near Americus trained pilots in biplanes called Jennys made by Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co. Fort McPherson below Atlanta had become a permanent post in 1885. During the war, it served in many capacities including holding prisoners of war and treating thousands of soldiers in its hospital. Another significant training camp was Camp Gordon in Chamblee, which opened in July 1917. Camp Benning near Columbus also opened in 1917 to train infantry troops.

The war was good for Georgia's economy. Cotton prices went up, helping Georgia's farmers and sharecroppers. Food crops were also in demand. Processing food became important, leading to the creation of businesses that canned foods. Georgians supported the war effort by buying Liberty bonds to help finance the war. Many wanted to show their patriotism.




### Something Extra!

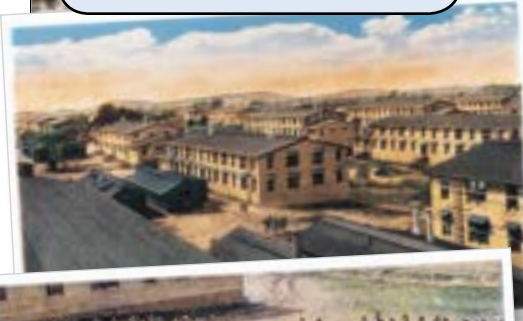
In May 1917, President Wilson signed the Selective Service Act, requiring all eligible men between the ages of 21 and 30 to register for the draft.



Impact of  
World War I on Georgia



**Woodrow Wilson:  
Speech on the Fourteen  
Points Jan 8, 1918**



**Top:** Camp Wheeler in Macon was a training camp for National Guard units during World War I. **Above:** Camp Gordon, near Chamblee, was the home of the 82nd Infantry Division, known as the All American Division because it had conscripts from all 48 states.

## Something Extra!

Today, November 11 is celebrated in the United States as Veterans' Day, which honors veterans from all wars.

For example, the African American business Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company bought Liberty bonds. Its board minutes reflected their hope that helping fight for democracy abroad would help bring democracy at home. The Chinese American community of Augusta also bought bonds saying, "We, too, are Americans."

Textile mills made cloth for uniforms and bandages. Railroads carried arms, ammunition, and soldiers to ports where ships waited to take them to Europe. Many town residents planted "liberty gardens" to raise their own food so there would be more food for the military. Women volunteered for the Red Cross. To conserve fuel, businesses closed on Mondays during the winter of 1917-1918. Citizens tried to do their part.

## The End of the War

The input of American soldiers and materials helped break the war's stalemate (deadlock) in Europe and brought victory to the Allies. By the time the United States entered the war, there was one less ally. Russia had pulled out of the war. Two revolutions occurred in that country in 1917; the second one was the Bolshevik, or communist, Revolution. That change would be very important to U.S. history, especially after World War II.

In January 1918, President Wilson issued his Fourteen Points on which he hoped the treaty ending the war would be based. His goal was to create a more peaceful world by making changes that he thought would make future wars less likely. His fourteenth point called for the founding of an organization that included the world's nations, called the League of Nations. There, issues could be discussed and resolved, and collective action could be taken against those who became aggressive against others.

On November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m., both sides signed an **armistice**, an agreement to stop fighting while coming to terms for a peace treaty. Negotiations for the treaty began at the palace of Versailles outside Paris, France. Unfortunately for Wilson's plan, the Allies were more concerned about weakening Germany and making it pay for war damages than in creating a new world. In the end, the Treaty of Versailles was a punishing treaty that made Germany admit guilt for causing the war and pay the Allies for damages. Germany also lost some of its former land, as did the Austrian Empire. The treaty created great resentment in Germany. The seeds of World War II were planted at the end of World War I.



World War I Poster



Internet Activity -  
World War I



World War I in Georgia –  
Today in Georgia History



Impact of  
World War I on Georgia

President Wilson did manage to save his fourteenth point, and the League of Nations was founded in 1919. However, there was opposition to the treaty in the United States, and the Senate refused to ratify it. Thus, the United States did not participate in the new League of Nations. Without U.S. support, the organization did not have the strength it needed to prevent future problems.

As the war ended with major devastation and loss of life in Europe, disease added to the problems the world already faced. In the winter of 1918, a deadly form of influenza called the Spanish flu broke out. In Georgia, the first cases were at Fort Screven near Savannah in September. It moved to Camp Hancock in Augusta and to Camp Gordon in Chamblee by early October. At the time, there were no vaccines or treatments. The disease hit quickly, with many of its victims dying within hours. This horrible illness became a worldwide epidemic, or **pandemic**. No area was safe, rural or urban. Especially hard hit were people from twenty to forty years of age. The disease killed more people worldwide—some scholars think as many as 40 million—than did World War I. While Georgia had many victims, it was not as hard hit as some states. In the United States, over 650,000 Americans died before the epidemic ended, leaving the living to wonder when it might return.

Like other Americans, Georgians wanted to return to a period of stability after the Great War. They mourned for their dead and built monuments to Georgia's "doughboys" (a nickname for soldiers in the war). Many returning soldiers, some who had never been far away from their farms before, had been changed by their experiences abroad. But they returned to the farms, factories, towns, and countryside to take up life as it had been before the war. African Americans and other minorities who hoped that their service and patriotism would be rewarded by more fairness at home were disappointed. They returned to their segregated lives. All Georgians wondered what the future would bring.



**Above:** This poster, entitled "True Sons of Liberty," illustrates the contributions of African American soldiers in World War I. African Americans served in segregated units during the war, as they did in all American conflicts from the Civil War through the end of World War II.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: isolationism, armistice, pandemic.
2. What event started World War I?
3. Describe at least three ways Georgians contributed to the Allied victory in World War I.

# Georgia Portraits

## Juliette Gordon Low

NGE

Juliette Gordon Low

**Born on Halloween in 1860**, Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon, “Daisy” to her family and friends, grew up a privileged Georgia girl in Savannah. Her grandfather Gordon was one of the founders of the Central of Georgia Railroad, and her mother’s family had been early and prominent settlers of Chicago. Daisy was an adventurous child who rarely held back her opinions. When she was four, she met Union General O. O. Howard during Sherman’s occupation of Savannah and commented on how he lost his arm,

“Well, I shouldn’t wonder if my papa did it. He has shot lots of Yankees.”

Daisy was educated in private boarding schools in New Jersey, Virginia, and New York. As a young woman, she traveled throughout the United States

**Below:** Juliette Gordon Low’s birthplace, built in 1818 by her great uncle, was Savannah’s first National Historic Landmark. **Opposite page:** Juliette Gordon Low, standing on the right, poses with members of Girl Scout Troop 1 in 1917.





Juliette Gordon Low –  
Today in Georgia History

Juliette Gordon  
Low Birthplace  
A National Center of Girl  
Scouts of the USA

and Europe where she loved introducing her European friends to such southern favorites as grits, sweet potatoes, and cucumber pickles. Throughout her young life, she had suffered from frequent ear infections. In 1885, her insistence on an untried treatment led to partial hearing loss in one ear. In 1886, Daisy married a British cotton heir, William “Willie” MacKay Low. At the wedding festivities, a grain of rice lodged in her other ear, causing an infection that resulted in deafness in that ear. She was sometimes frustrated, but she never allowed her hearing loss to limit her in any way.

Although the couple settled at the family home in Lafayette Square, they spent most of their time in England, where she made many friends in British society. Although she enjoyed her life of travel and leisure, all was not well in her marriage. In 1904, Willie left Daisy, much to the horror of Savannah society. Before the divorce was final, Willie died.

During the next few years, Daisy traveled. She wrote, “I am just an idle woman of the world with no real work or duties.” That, however, was about to change. In 1911, she met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who had founded the British Boy Scouts. She began working with the Girl Guides, which was led by Baden-Powell’s sister Agnes. Low set up a group

at her Scotland estate and two troops in England. Daisy, who had been somewhat of a tomboy in her youth, enjoyed working with the girls. She found a new sense of direction and meaning in her life. She wanted the girls not only to learn new skills, but to acquire self-reliance and confidence.

When she returned to Savannah, she phoned a friend and said, “Come right over. I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah and all America and all the world and we’re going to start it tonight!” On March 12, 1912, the first Girl Guide Patrol, or troop, was founded with her namesake and niece as its first member.

The following year, the Guides became the Girl Scouts. Low committed herself and her resources of time and money to helping young girls realize their potential. Through her efforts, the organization gained national and international recognition. She helped develop the Girl Scout Handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country*, and was instrumental in organizing the first World Girl Scout Camp in the United States in 1926. In 1927, Juliette Gordon Low died from cancer. She was buried in the scouting uniform of which she was so proud. In her pocket was a telegram from the head of Girl Scouts that said, “You are not only the first Girl Scout, you are the best Girl Scout of them all!”

# Chapter Review



Self-check Quiz

## Chapter Summary

### Section 1 The Economy

- Some southern leaders, including Atlanta's Henry Grady, wanted a "New South" that included more business and industry.
- In spite of the New South ideas, Georgia's economy relied heavily on agriculture, and on cotton in particular.
- During this period, prewar industries rebuilt and became an important part of the economy. The textile industry brought in northern investors and offered job opportunities to many Georgians.
- Columbus and other fall line cities became centers for the textile industry.
- New business developed, including Coca-Cola in Atlanta.
- Tourism grew during this period as Georgia's mild climate appealed to northerners. The Jekyll Island Club was one example.
- The expansion of the railroads was a major factor in the growth of towns. Atlanta, in particular, benefited from being a railroad hub.
- A number of insurance companies were based in Atlanta, including Life of Georgia and Atlanta Life Insurance Company founded by Alonzo Herndon.

### Section 2 World War I

- In 1914, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was assassinated by a Bosnian Serb. This set off what came to be called World War I.
- The Allied Powers were Great Britain, France, and Russia; the Central Powers were Germany and the Austrian Empire.
- After several years of neutrality, the United States entered the war in 1917 on the side of the Allies.
- The war helped Georgia's economy. There were many training camps in the state, including the new Camp Gordon and Camp Benning. Cotton prices increased, and the demand for food crops also rose.
- World War I ended with the signing of an armistice on November 11, 1918. The resulting peace treaty sought to punish Germany for the damages caused by the war.
- President Woodrow Wilson issued his Fourteen Points, which he hoped would make the world a more peaceful place. His Fourteenth Point did result in the establishment of the League of Nations, but the United States did not ratify the treaty.
- In the winter of 1918, a deadly influenza epidemic broke out, killing millions of people around the world.



## Understanding the Facts

1. Explain the idea of the “New South.”
2. Describe the business ventures of Alonzo Herndon.
3. Define *isolationism*, and explain the reasons why the United States tried to avoid direct involvement in World War I.
4. What event signaled the end of World War I?



## Developing Critical Thinking

Consider the issue of the *Lusitania* from the perspective of the Germans. If you were certain that a civilian vessel was transporting war supplies to your enemy, would you sink the vessel? Make a list of arguments for and against carrying out the attack on the *Lusitania*.



## Writing Across the Curriculum

During this era, mechanization began to transform the agricultural foundation of Georgia. Imagine you lived in a rural area and just received a tractor (or some other piece of equipment) for your farm. Write a letter to a relative in the city and describe how this technology is changing your life.



Word Jumble - PDF  
version



## Extending Reading Skills

Read pages 514-515, which focus on the end of World War I. The reading ends by saying the Allies were more interested in punishing Germany for the damages caused by the war. Predict what impact the Treaty of Versailles will have on international relations. Write down your prediction and, after you complete Chapter 23, cite evidence to support or refute your prediction.



## Exploring Technology

Go to the National Public Radio website, [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org). Enter “Lusitania” in the search box and find the broadcast “New Clues in Lusitania Sinking,” dated November 2008. Listen to the broadcast and view the accompanying pictures. Discuss the issues described in the article with your classmates.



## Practicing Your Skills

List some of the major companies that call Georgia home: Home Depot, Coca-Cola, and Delta Airlines, for example. Consider how the Georgia economy has gradually shifted to greater dependence on service and manufacturing industries. List the reasons why a diverse economy is important to our state. Discuss your ideas with your classmates.



Word Jumble - Flash  
version