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### The Global Crisis

The period following World War I marked a silent period in the foreign policy of the United States. Prior to the First World War, the foreign policy of the United States encouraged foreign investment, and by the end of WWI, the nation produced more services and goods than any other country effectively making the U.S, the world's greatest economic power.

While the rest of the world was involved in the conflict, the United States ushered a period of isolationism, and the policies of the time were concentrated on domestic economic growth rather than relations with other nations. American foreign policy of isolationism was triggered by the witnessing of the extensive costs and destruction that the First World War had caused in many European countries. America held the firm view that European countries were conflict prone and considered relations with these countries a national risk, as any external or internal conflicts were likely to draw the United States into involving itself in matters that did not constitute American national interests.

Opposition within the Senate to President Wilsons' push for the United States to join the League of Nations saw that the nation did not join the international organization. In addition, the nation also declined immigration from Japan, China, and other Asian countries as well as from southern and eastern Europe during this era. The main objective of the anti immigration foreign policy was to reduce the spread of radical political ideologies and movements, such as

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communism, socialism, and anarchism, which were deemed to be potential threats to the political stability in the country.

Thanks to the policy of isolationism, the United States economy prospered between 1922 and 1929. The period was characterized by a consumer boom where there was a marked growth in such personal possessions as cars. Additionally, there was a boom in Wall Street, as many individuals bought shares in order to make a profit. Furthermore and in great contrast to other nations, the United States witnessed a sharp increase in the development of infrastructure, such as highways, skyscrapers, and general urban developments.

However, the policy of isolationism also had weaknesses as evidenced by the decline of some sectors of the nation's economy by the end of the 1920s. Although there were numerous advancements in the production of goods and services, owing to the lack of cooperation with other consumer nations and the enforcement of high tariffs, which worked to drastically reduce their purchasing power, many manufacturers found it hard to export their new productions.

However, it is worth noting that although the foreign policy favored isolationism, the United States could not completely withdraw from world affairs owing to the fact that the effects of WWI had made the nation the world's leading creditor nation. The country cooperated with a number of international agencies on matters that involved drug trafficking and trade throughout the 1920s. Furthermore, the United States also involved itself with the efforts to press forward diplomatic talks on disarmament resolving the war reparations, debts questions, and the maintenance of general international peace.

In conclusion, the United States policy of isolationism in the 1920s was propelled by the objectives of increasing the productivity of domestic affairs discouraging the spread of radical movements and ideologies and decreasing the likelihood of involving itself in unnecessary and

destructive external conflicts. The policy had both weaknesses and strengths, as the concentrated attention to domestic affairs greatly increased national productivity and consequently led to a spurt in the economy, but the lack of international trade led to difficulties in exports of products.