

What Was The Main Function Of George Creels Four-minute Men? A. They Could Be Prepared For Military Action

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During World War I, a unique and influential propaganda campaign was launched to rally public support for the war effort in the United States. Central to this initiative was the group known as the Four-minute Men, organized under the leadership of George Creel. While their name might suggest a focus on brief speeches, their main function extended far beyond that—serving as a powerful tool to galvanize patriotism, educate the public, and mobilize resources. This article explores the core purpose of the Four-minute Men and how they contributed to the national war effort, with a particular focus on their potential to be prepared for military action.

Understanding the Four-minute Men

Who Were the Four-minute Men?

The Four-minute Men were a group of volunteers enlisted during World War I to deliver short, impactful speeches to audiences across the United States. Their name derived from their typical speech length—about four minutes—designed to fit seamlessly into community events, movie theaters, and public gatherings. These men were carefully selected for their oratorical skills, patriotism, and ability to connect with diverse audiences.

The Organization's Creation and Leadership

The Four-minute Men program was established in 1917 by the Committee on Public Information (CPI), a government agency tasked with shaping public opinion and promoting national unity during wartime. George Creel, a journalist and former political campaign manager, played a pivotal role as the head of the CPI and was instrumental in organizing and motivating the Four-minute Men to achieve their strategic goals.

The Main Function of the Four-minute Men

1. To Mobilize Public Support for the War

One of the primary objectives of the Four-minute Men was to foster a patriotic environment conducive to supporting the war effort. They delivered speeches that emphasized themes such as national unity, the importance of supporting troops, and the necessity of conserving resources.

- Encouraged enlistment in the military