This colorful lithograph, issued by the U.S. Treasury Department in 1918, called upon America’s immigrant populations to remember “The Flag of Liberty” through the purchase of government bonds in support of the First World War. As the articles by Marilyn Gesch and Thomas Rosenblum illustrate, the Wilson administration required “100 percent Americanism,” especially from those of German descent. Compliance with the Selective Draft Act (1917), the Espionage Act (1917), and the Sedition Act (1918), as well as public support of the war through participation in Liberty Loan drives, all served as loyalty tests for “hyphenated Americans.” Gesch and Rosenblum effectively demonstrate how far the government was willing to go in its quest for universal loyalty and patriotism, and the long-term consequences for many German Americans. Courtesy of the National World War I Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri.
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