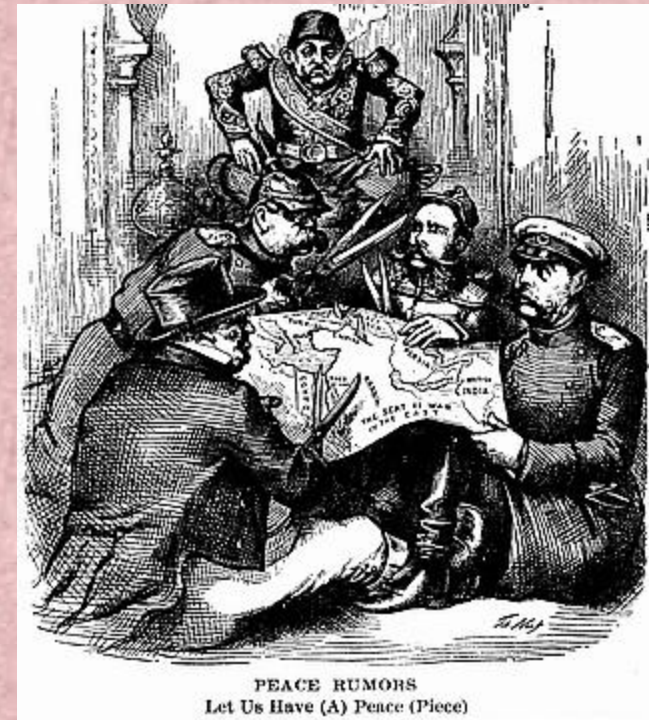


# World War I

TOWARD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – PRESENT)



- Crises in the Middle East & in Europe boiled over in 1914 starting World War I.
- The Ottoman Empire is a “sick man” as it continues to fall behind economically & militarily and provinces break away. (1908 Austria-Hungary takes Bosnia; 1912 Italy takes Libya; 1913 Albania becomes independent)
- As the Ottomans became weaker they were leaving a power vacuum, all within the climate of increased nationalism & imperialism.



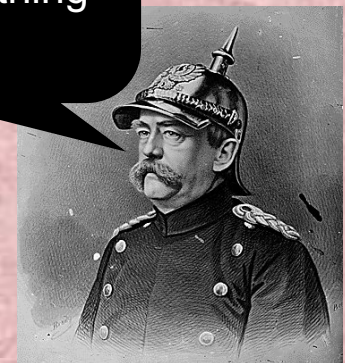
## Causes of WWI – A MAIN

- **Assassination** (the spark that starts the war)
- **Militarism** (European nations had been increasing their military spending & overall army strength to protect their growing empires)
- **Alliance system** (Several nations in Europe had formed alliances with one another to protect themselves from the attack of someone else)
- **Imperialism** (For decades Europeans had been competing around the world for territories)
- **Nationalism** (*uber*-patriotism rallied people around their flag, while for others it meant the yearning of independence)

- In June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, while visiting Sarajevo was assassinated by a member of the Serbian nationalistic group called the Black Hand.
- As a result, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia & the alliance system went into effect . . . Russia enters the conflict to protect Serbia, Germany sided with Austria-Hungary and declared war on Russia, then on Russia's ally France, which caused France and their ally Great Britain to begin fighting as well.



One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans."



Otto Von Bismarck

- Europeans were enthusiastic about the outbreak of war: *Why?*
  - Nationalism was strong
  - Recent wars (Crimean / Franco-Prussian) weren't that deadly and the horrible Napoleonic Wars were a distant memory, in other words they thought – “*War isn't that bad!*”



# Quick Video 1



*First World War – enthusiasm, mobilisation, technology, trenches*

This YouTube video discusses a number of different topics related to WWI. It is fantastic for understanding what the early phases of the war were like. You **MUST** watch this.

• <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z7owNBd7W8>

- Technological advancements in warfare would make the “Great War” the world’s deadliest war yet.
  - Mustard gas
  - Machine guns
  - Airplanes, zeppelins, & submarines



- Shortly after the war began, German troops pushed through Belgium and into France. Forces from the Allies (France, Great Britain, Russia) halted their advance in September 1914.
- As a result both sides “dug in” for a long siege, creating parallel trenches along what became known as the Western Front.
- Trench warfare became synonymous with WWI (the land between the trenches was called *no man’s land*, and varied from 25 yds. to 1 mile).





## Trench Warfare

- A** Front line trench
- B** Support trench
- C** Reserve trench
- D** Enemy trench

**Artillery fire** "softened up" resistance before an infantry attack.

**Communication trenches** connected the three kinds of trenches.

**Barbed wire entanglements**

**"No Man's Land"**  
(from 25 yards to a mile wide)

**Dugout**

**Saps** were shallower trenches in "no man's land," allowing access to machine-gun nests, grenade-throwing positions, and observation posts.



- Trench warfare was deadly with little benefits.
- During the **Battle of Somme** 60,000 British soldiers died on the first day alone. After months of fighting, only about 7 miles of ground had changed hands.
- Living conditions in the trenches alone were deadly (rats, mud, “trench foot”).



# Quick Video 2



## *Trench Warfare*

The YouTube video to the right is a clip from the film *War Horse*. Although the video is only a minute or two long it depicts what trench warfare was like rather well.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-pUcty5I0k>

# *Who's fighting who?*

- **ALLIED** (Triple Entente) **Powers:**

- Great Britain
- France
- Russia

*Also:*

- Italy (later on)
- The U.S. (later on, an associate power)

- **CENTRAL POWERS** (Triple Alliance):

- Germany
- Austria Hungary
- Ottoman Empire (later on)

*Also:*

- Italy (at first)



Map 21-2  
*Ways of the World*, First Edition  
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- War propaganda was used extensively throughout WWI by both sides.

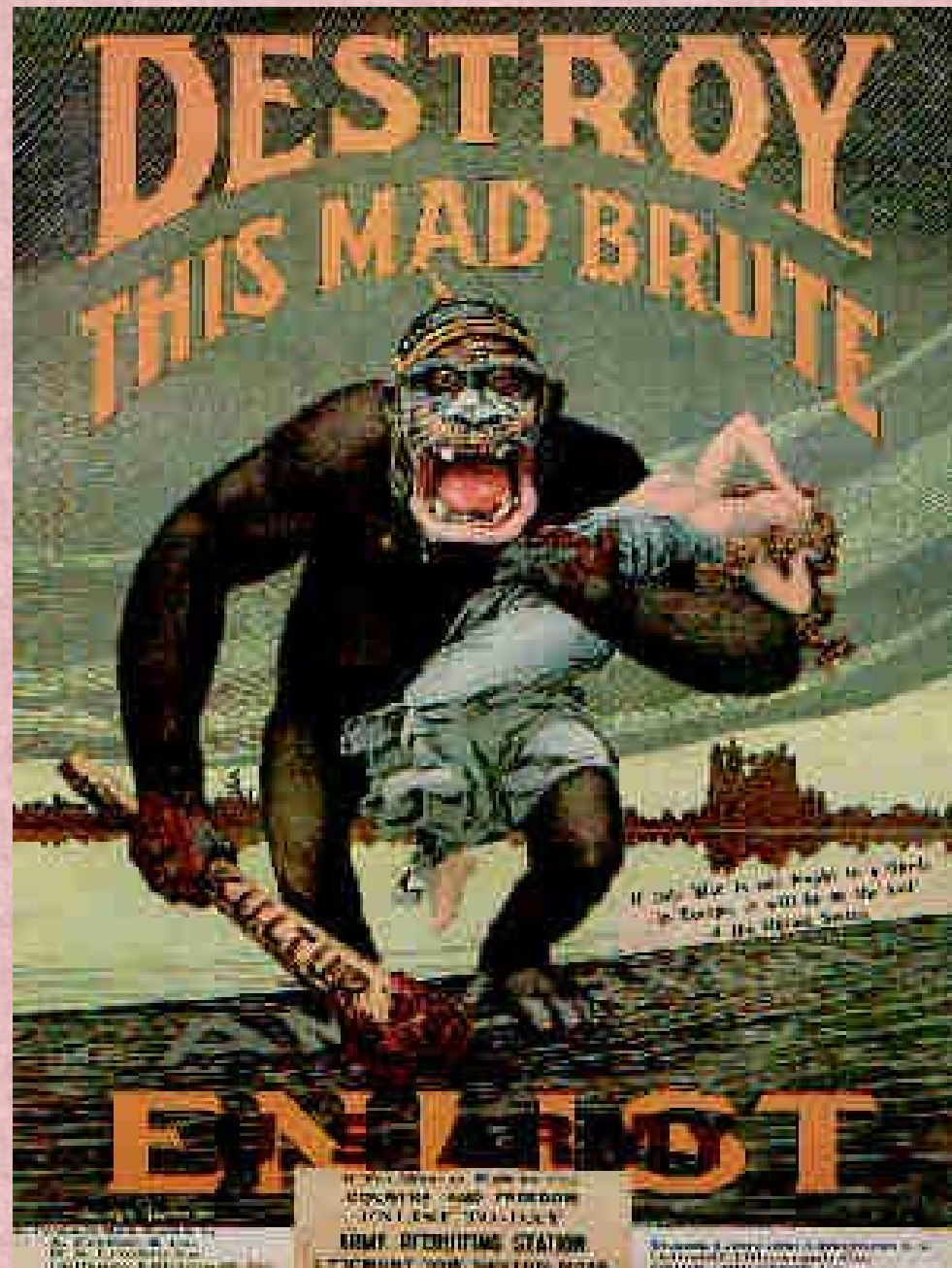


- One German soldier is single handedly beating up Russian, British, and French soldiers.

- Belgium (a relatively small) nation is being depicted here as a line of defense against Germany – who is stereotypically being depicted with sausages.



- US Army recruitment poster.







- In parts of Europe and the U.S. citizens were asked to grow their own vegetables. Many European farm fields had turned into battlefields and governments wanted to make sure there was enough food for the troops.

- Recruitment posters aimed at shaming young men who were not enlisting.



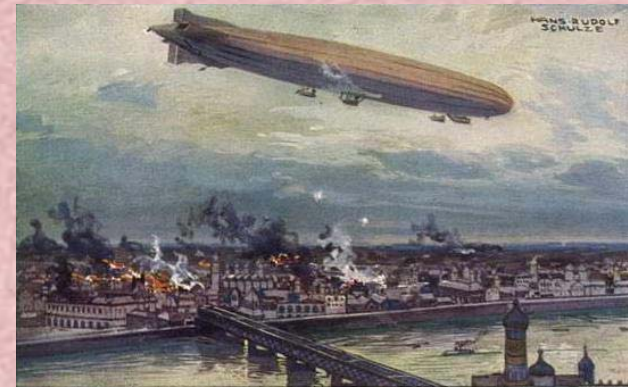
- The war affected the home front (life away from the battlefield back home) and even European colonies abroad:
  - Britain & France enacted strict food rations.
  - Colonies in Africa were forced to export more crops.
  - Germany's economy suffered from Britain's blockade.
  - Women & immigrants found new employment opportunities vacated by fighting men.
  - The U.S. economy benefited from selling Britain & France food and supplies, after they entered the war in 1917 war bonds were sold and "victory gardens" were grown. Women & African Americans also found employment.

# Quick Video 3



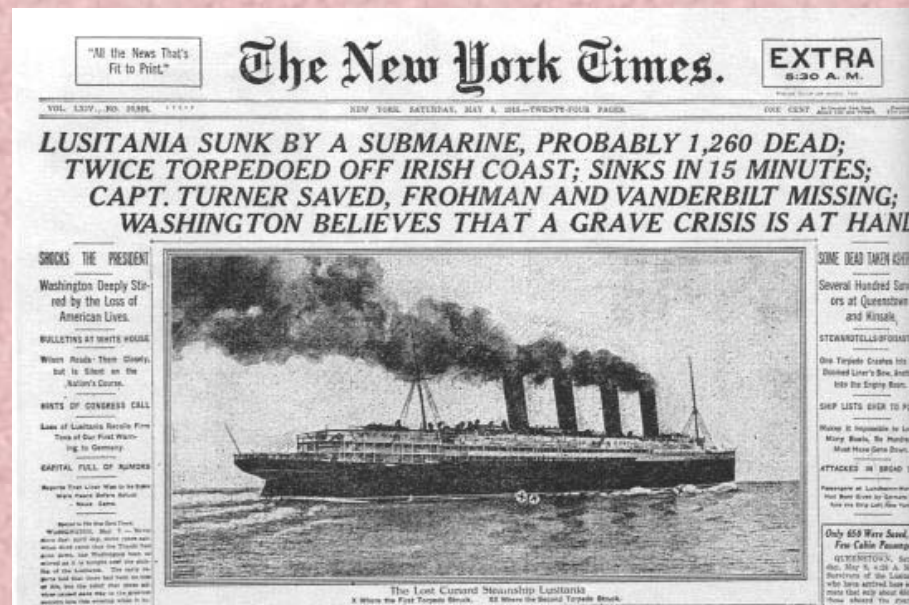
## *World War One – Terror in the Skies*

Although the targeting of civilians and combat in the air is much more synonymous with the Second World War and not WWI – there are incidents of civilians being targeted during *The Great War* (WWI). Watch this video on zeppelin attacks to get a better understanding of what went on.



• <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6-BZ2MzKMI>

- In retaliation for Britain's blockade against Germany, the Germans implemented a blockade against Britain and used submarines (U-boats) to attack ships.
- The sinking of the passenger ship the *Lusitania* brought the deaths of 139 Americans. Germany suspended their submarine campaign because they feared American protests would overturn American policy of neutrality.



- The United States entered the conflict in 1917.

- WHY?

- The sinking of U.S. merchant ships by German submarines
- Russia was becoming somewhat democratic (?!)
- Zimmerman Note (A telegram sent from the German foreign minister to their Ambassador in Mexico proposing an alliance with Mexico if the U.S. got involved in the war. The Germans were prepared to help Mexico reclaim territory (Texas, New Mexico, Arizona) lost in the Mexican American War.)





- Many young American men were excited about going to Europe to fight (the excitement had long disappeared for the average European soldier).
- After two years of fighting, European Allied forces were demoralized and tired, the influx of American soldiers (nicknamed doughboys) provided a sense of freshness and enthusiasm to the war front.

## *What's going on with the Ottomans?*

- The Ottomans had formed an alliance with Germany, with the hopes of taking land away from Russia. They even pushed back the British invasion near the Gallipoli Peninsula.
- However, the British instigated problems for the Ottomans from within, ultimately leading to their collapse. For instance, the emir of Mecca (Saudi Arabia) was promised his own kingdom if he revolted against the Turks.





- The British also made promises to Jews. The Balfour Declaration was a policy statement made by the British government in favor of a future Jewish state.
- **Zionism** (led by Theodore Herzl) was a nationalistic movement based on the concept of establishing a Jewish homeland in the ancestral area of Palestine. *Both Arabs & Jews are promised land in the Promise Land. What could go wrong?!*

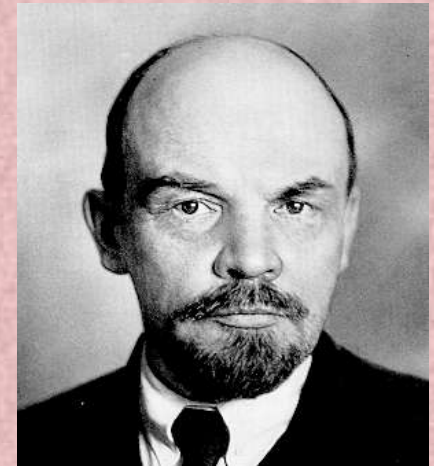


## ***What's going on with Russia?***

- Despite the large army Russian soldiers were ill-equipped and were led by incompetent generals.
- In 1916, after several defeats to the Germans, the Russians were simply running out of ammunition (soldiers were told to fight unarmed and to pick up rifles off of fallen soldiers).
- Meanwhile on the home front food & fuel was scarce, even though Tsar Nicholas II was able to continue living a life of luxury (*similar to the French Revolution?*)



- As conditions worsened striking workers were joined by mutinying soldiers whose will to fight was gone.
- A revolutionary socialist group called the **Bolsheviks** began to capitalize on the chaos. Led by **Vladimir Lenin** they took over the Russian government in 1917.
- Lenin shared Marx's ideas of class conflict & socialism. However, even though he announced a program of transferring land to peasants & factory workers – he ended up nationalizing factories, forming compulsory labor brigades, taking peasant crops without compensation, and creating a secret police to hunt down his opponents.
- The Bolsheviks made peace with Germany & Austria-Hungary in 1918, thus taking themselves out of the war. Consequently Russia lost the areas of Poland, Finland, and land around the Baltic Sea. However, for the average Russian they were simply glad the war was over – for them.



- Although both sides were demoralized, the addition of U.S. soldiers tipped the scale of war in favor of the Allies. The Germans began their retreat in August of 1918.
- On November 11, 1918, at 11:00 am, Germany agreed to a cease-fire and signed the armistice or truce to end the war.



## The Impact of *The Great War*

- Nearly 10 million men died, twice as many returned home wounded. The dramatic loss of young life caused their to be less babies in the next European generation.
- Millions of refugees were without a home (some immigrated to the U.S.).
- The war was truly global in that combatants came from all corners of the globe (i.e. Canada, Australia, Brazil, India).
- Environmentally forests were ravaged, craters & trenches peppered the landscape along with littered ammunition.





- In 1919 delegates from the victorious nations – U.S. (President Woodrow Wilson), Great Britain (Prime Minister David Lloyd George) & France (Georges Clemenceau) met in Paris to discuss a treaty to formally end the war.
- However, the opinions of Italy, Russia, the defeated nations, or the suggestions of other groups like Arabs, Jews, & Africans were never taken into consideration.
- Furthermore, the delegates each had their personal agenda for the conference.
  - Wilson’s plan known as the **Fourteen Points** proposed a League of Nations & outlined the idea that new countries should be formed through self-determination - democracy. He wanted free trade and no more secret alliances.
  - France & Britain wanted to severely punish Germany.

- The Treaty of Versailles became a series of compromises that satisfied no one:
  - A **League of Nations** was formed, but to Wilson's dismay the U.S. did not join it because of an "isolationist" spirit at home that wanted to avoid foreign entanglements.
  - Areas of the Ottoman Empire were carved up to become French & British colonies.
  - The "war guilt clause," Germany was forced to take full responsibility for the loss and damage caused in the war.
  - Germany had to pay **reparations** to the victorious countries.
  - Germany was no longer allowed to have a "real" military.
- As a result, very little was done to prevent a future war. More importantly, Germany was humiliated.
- In a separate treaty new countries (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia) were formed out of Russia & the old Austria-Hungary Empire – which was now divided in two.



Map 21-3  
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# Quick Video 4



## *World War I - Treaty of Versailles*

- Use this short video clip to help you better understand what the Treaty of Versailles did, and also to understand why some historians considered the peace treaty a failure before the ink was even dry on the paper it was written on.

• <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKzZ1OwPXgk>

# World War I

TOWARD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – PRESENT)



*in a . . .*



- Combined with the collapsing Ottoman Empire, an assassination, militarism, alliance system, imperialism, and nationalism are the causes of WWI.
- The conflict was global in scale (Europeans, Americas, Arabs, Africans, etc. are involved and affected).
- Trench warfare is synonymous with WWI (Battle of Somme); the conflict saw 10 million deaths.
- The war helped instigate a revolution in Russia (arrival of Lenin & Communism); the end of the Ottoman Empire, millions of refugees, the formation of new nations (Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia), European mandates in the Middle East, problems in Palestine, & humiliation in Germany.
- The Treaty of Versailles that ended the war is viewed as a failure in part because Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points are not fully carried out.