

World War One



**World War One:
Who's Who**

Alliances in 1917

Pre-war national boundaries shown

0 ————— 600 miles

Key to Alliances in 1917

Central Powers [Red Box]

Allied Powers [Green Box]

Neutral Nations [Yellow Box]

World War One RW Assignment

Create a newspaper from the POV of one country involved in World War One (not America). Suggested countries: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria, Belgium, Italy, France, Great Britain, Russia, Serbia.

Include the following:

1. Color the map provided--Allied countries and Central countries. Add a line for the railroad from Berlin to Baghdad (Iraq).
2. Include 5 important dates from your country's POV (1914-1919).
3. Include 1 ad for a new weapon used in WWI. Include who invented it, year, what did it do, and why was it important?
4. Include 1 political cartoon (that you find or that you create).
5. Include 10 vocabulary terms from this unit in your news stories.

Advertisement for New Weapon: WWI

Sell this to us as the greatest new weapon

- Name of new technology
- 1st country to invent (or use) it
- 1st battle when this was used (if you can find this)
- How was this used in the war? How did it help advance the cause of one side?
- Picture of this technology – (from Internet or hand-drawn)



Your news should be typed or written very neatly. Within your news stories, answer the following questions from your country's POV:

- A. What were the underlying causes (long-term, short-term, and immediate causes) of the war? Which nations entered the conflict and what drew them in? Could World War I have been avoided, and if so, then how?
- B. What were the weaknesses of the Russian military? How did the war lead to the Russian revolution?
- C. How did this war lead to (or cause) the disintegration (ending) of powerful empires (Ottoman, Russian, Austria-Hungary, Germany)? What role did the war play in eroding European dominance in the world?
- D. What was the idea of deterrence and why didn't it work?
- E. Be sure to discuss your country's conflicts around the world—Asia, Africa, Pacific, and the Middle East.
- F. Were there any connections between the causes of the war in 1914 and the reasons the war was still going on in 1918?
- G. Consider if the role of diplomacy in World War One was a positive or a negative influence.
- H. Why was the Schlieffen Plan so unsuccessful?
- I. What was trench warfare, and why was so much of World War I dominated by this method of fighting? How did trench warfare affect the duration of the war?
- J. In what ways did advances in technology affect the nature and outcome of warfare during World War I? Which sides benefited the most from which technologies? Did any technology play a role in either lengthening or shortening the war? Which technology do you think was the most important?

Terms to Know

Alliances ~ Alsace-Lorraine ~ Armistice ~ Blank Check ~ Bolshevik ~ Conscription ~ Contraband ~ Deterrence ~ Espionage ~ Genocide ~ Industrialization ~ July Crisis ~ Kaiser ~ Militarism ~ Mobilization ~ Nationalism ~ Neo-Mercantilism ~ Neutrality ~ Pandemic ~ Propaganda ~ Reparations ~ Reserves ~ Risorgimento ~ Russification ~ Self-Determination ~ Total War ~ Ultimatum ~ War of Attrition ~ Weltpolitik

World War One 1914-1918

"The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall never see them lit in our lifetime."

~ British Foreign Minister, Sir Edward Grey, August 1914

WWI was also known as The War to End All Wars, or The Great War. In France and Belgium it was known as "*La Guerre du Droit*," (The War for Justice) or "*La Guerre Pour la Civilisation*" (The War to Preserve Civilization).



Long & Short Term Causes

1. Industrialization (Competition for Resources, Imperialism)
2. Nationalism (the other side of Imperialism)
3. Arms Race (Militarism, Mobilization)
4. Alliances: Ethnic, Security, Secret, and Political Alliances
5. Assassination (Immediate Cause)

The **July Crisis** (assassination of the Archduke) was an immediate cause--but the management of the crisis is what brought the European powers to war. The other causes (#1-5 listed above) helped to determine the size and scope of the war (the fact that it became a Total War). These causes were interconnected: militarism was dependent on industry, which was dependent on colonial possessions (Imperialism) which required larger militaries (militarism). These background causes increased the suspicion, fear and tension between the European powers and made war more likely.

1. **Industrialization** (Competition for Resources, Imperialism)



The Industrial Revolution (19th century) caused enormous economic and cultural changes in Europe including speedy large-scale production and economic competition between Britain, France, Germany and Russia. These countries needed raw materials for manufacturing and new markets to sell their goods. In order to feed the massive industrial machine, European powers needed access to more cheap resources which created **neo-mercantilism** (imperialism) and the drive for colonies which supplied raw materials and provided new markets for finished goods.

Tensions ran high as Europe's great powers argued over the acquisition of new colonies in Africa and the race to claim new colonies became fiercely competitive. By 1900 the European powers had claimed all of Africa. Now sources of raw materials and new markets had to be wrestled forcibly or diplomatically from another power. Soon there were no new colonies to claim in the world, unless you went to war and grabbed one from another country.

- Britain & France fought over Sudan (1898).
- Germany & France fought over Morocco (1905 & 1911).

By 1900, economic power equated to military power. Europe was far more industrialized in 1914 and had been in 1880 but the increase was not equal among the world powers.

- Iron and steel production increased in the US 242% between 1890-1913 but decreased in the UK.
- German steel production increased by 329% in the same time.
- By 1913, France (Austria-Hungary and Russia) were way behind all of the powers.
- Germany was quickly catching up and beating Britain's industry. By 1913, the total German exports equaled the UK. The Germans significantly outsold to the American market and needed a strong navy to protect and increase this trade.
- This disparity created competitive economic tension between the powers which increased diplomatic and political tension.

2. Nationalism

Nationalism is an emotional attachment to people and the desire for political independence based on a shared concept about shared language, culture, heritage (ancestry), historic development, religion and territory. In Europe, people began to see themselves as members of a common group rather than individuals.

Both Italy and Germany had just experienced nationalism and were still new "babes" among the world players of the early 20th century.

- **Italian Nationalism:** Since the days of Ancient Rome, Italy had been divided into separate city-states ruled by the Kings of Austria and Spain. People were loyal to a city-state—not a nation ("I am Sicilian, Neopolitan, Venetian, etc."). When Napoleon of France was defeated (1819), Italy was divided between Austria, Germany, and France and often used as a battleground for others. 1848-1866, Giuseppe Garibaldi led the "red shirts" to unite all of Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II.
- The Italians call this reuniting of people the **Risorgimento**--a resurgence (revival) of common history (Rome), geography (das boot), economy, religion (the Catholic Pope). By 1870 all of Italy was reunited...and there was much rejoicing (with Verdi's opera, *Nabucco*, which was the rallying cry for the Risorgimento).

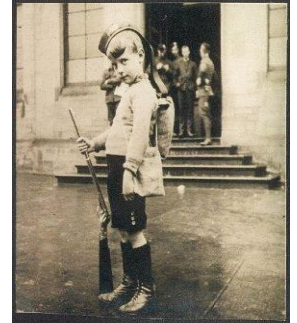


- **German Nationalism:** In 800 CE, Germany was the center of the Holy Roman Empire (under Emperor Charlemagne, the First Reich, or reign). As the church divided in the Protestant Reformation (1517), Germany was divided into many different states controlled by Prussia and Austria for centuries and invaded numerous times by France. With the end of Napoleon's French empire, a loose league of 39 German states formed in 1814.
- In 1862, the King appointed **Otto von Bismarck** as the new Prime Minister (the Second Reich). Bismarck forged Germany "out of blood and iron" by waging war against Denmark, Austria, and France to grab new lands and begin the nationalist idea of one united Germany (1866). After the final French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1871), Bismarck humiliated Napoleon III of France and declared, "*never again will France invade Germany.*" Bismarck took the vital region of Alsace and Lorraine from France.
- The German Empire was officially declared, which included everything except Austria (**Kleindeutschland**, or "Lesser Germany"). North Germany (called Prussia) ruled the new empire through the Hohenzollern family dynasty of Kaisers (King). Berlin became the capital. By 1890, Kaiser Wilhelm II demanded that Germany "*get her place in the sun.*" He developed a brash, provocative, and aggressive world policy (**weltpolitik**) that Germany would assert her influence around the globe.



Imperialism and nationalism are two sides of the same coin. When one group dominates another group in the territory, this oppression aggravates the nationalist feelings of those being dominated. Nationalism ideals (and the idea of self-determination) excited the average citizens (especially ethnic minorities who were repressed).

- The Ottoman Empire that had existed for hundreds of years was slowly decaying (“the sick man of Europe”).
- Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and other southern European nations recently became independent which changed the balance of power in Europe.
- The ethnic groups of Austria-Hungary were inspired by this new independence and began to ask for their own independence.
- Serbia wanted back the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina (which Austria took in a previous war).
- Croats, Czechs, Slovaks, Arabs, Armenians, Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians lived in territory now controlled by Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Russia.
- These nationalist groups wanted independence and self-rule. They resented being suppressed.
- This desire for self-rule will soon spread to India, Asia, and Africa.



Nationalism in the Balkans



The Balkan region had many distinct national groups most of whom had been part of the Ottoman Empire. This region was populated by a number of ethnic groups broadly referred to as Slavs, also Croats, Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Armenians, Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians.

In 1912 the countries formed an alliance called “The Balkan League” in order to gain **self-determination**. This League included: Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Narnia, Montenegro, and Macedonia.

By 1914 the Balkan region was bordered by the major European powers (Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Russia, Italy), and was of strategic interest to them all. Italy and Austria-Hungary both wanted much of the Balkan territory. Serbia was a small, independent nation-state. Both Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire wanted Serbia.

Bismarck had warned, “if there is ever another war in Europe it will come out of the damn silly thing in the Balkans.” The Balkans were a very unstable part of the European political and economic system. It still is today (present-day Greece, Bosnia, Turkey, Eastern/Central Europe).

3. Arms Race (Militarism, Mobilization)

Militarism: militarism is the political, diplomatic and social emphasis on military matters and often includes increased military spending, development of military technology, and general support for the goals and plans of the nation’s military. It also includes the influence of military leaders (generals) on political decisions.

Deterrence: actions or policies designed to discourage an attack by making the consequences of the attack prohibitive. Most statesmen believed that **deterrence** would avoid a war. “I’m too big and too well prepared, so you don’t want to attack me.”



By 1914, the militaries of Europe were immense (the largest in history, 200 army divisions in Europe). Large militaries do not cause wars but they create suspicion and fear in rival states (combined with economic rivalry, imperialism, and nationalism)--this makes a large massive destructive war more likely.

- Each country moved towards larger militaries (tonnage, enlisted men, navies, technology, and military expenditure) which required industrial capacity (weapons, foundries, technology), which required empires (colonies).
- Militaries were growing so fast, and each rivaled the other. Each European power now had standing armies in their colonies all around the world.
- The European powers began an arms race and designed lethal weapons (such as long-range artillery, machine guns, and airplanes). *"Machine guns don't kill people...people kill people."* ~ Mrs. E
- The more terrible weapons each country created, the more insecure they each felt.
- By 1914, France produced 200,000 artillery shells a day. Even the backwards Russian factory system was manufacturing 4.5 million artillery shells.
- The new plan was to attack the rival preemptively (first) before they caught up to your military forces. You want to attack when your opponents are weak. Don't wait for them to be prepared...attack early; attack first. Attack (offence) was the best defense.

The Navy: Navies increased 197% by 1914.

- Britain was the world's greatest naval power after creating the *HMS Dreadnought* (Dec. 1906) which made every other battleship obsolete. To have a modern navy you now had to have a Dreadnought.
- Germany also became a major ship-builder and rivaled Britain. Both countries built the largest and most destructive battleships the world had ever seen. Germany then began to produce destructive submarines (u-boats, *unterseeboot*).
 - *How could one ship (the Dreadnought) change the nature of naval warfare so completely? How did the production of the HMS Dreadnought have affected the background causes of the First World War?*
- **Reserves:** part-time soldiers called up for a war.
- **Conscription:** men of military age were required to serve from 2-6 years. France passed the Three-Year Law in 1913 increasing mandatory military service from 2-3 years.



Mobilization: to prepare an army to march into war (to mobilize men). 60 million men were mobilized for World War One.

- Germany had the strongest land-based military force. France and Russia felt vulnerable and strengthened their armies to defend themselves.
- The Russian army was the largest in the world (1.3 million with 5 million more reservists) but Russia had issues that these soldiers would not report for duty (poor infrastructure, massive distance between military depots, poor military organization). The Russian army could only reliably count on 1/5th of the men military age.
- Russia's rivals thought she was strong but Russian military planners knew the deception and knew they had to mobilize before the potential enemy (like Germany) could strike.



4. Alliances: Ethnic, Security, Secret, and Political Alliances

- “Steer clear of alliances with other nations.” George Washington
- “The enemy of my enemy is my friend.” Old proverb

This net of interlocking, secretive, fairly rigid alliances increased the tension and the suspicion of the great powers. Historians Roswell Palmer and Joel Colton called this conflict, “the most Olympian of statesmanship.”



- After Napoleon’s invasion (1814), everyone in Europe felt wary of another invading empire. Overlapping agreements for defense created a complex system of international alliances.
- 100 Years War (1337-1453, England vs. France); 7 Years War/ French & Indian War (1754-1763, Britain vs. France); Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815, all of Europe & Russia vs. France); Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871, France vs. Germany).
- Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany was cousins with Czar Nicholas II of Russia, who was also the nephew of several monarchs in Europe (Greece, Denmark). The Tsar’s wife Alexandra and Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany were all 1st cousins of King George V of Britain. The inter-relations were even more complicated than this but it gets tedious.



Britain and France were NOT BFFs...they were wary of each other. Britain wanted to keep a balance of power in Europe, so that neither Germany nor France would become too powerful. Germany wanted France to be isolated without any friends. France needed an ally, and found Russia to balance the power. Austria felt threatened from Russia, and supported Germany. The more each country prepared for war, the more insecure they each felt. This insecurity led each country to search for allies they could depend on. This pattern will happen again in the Cold War (NATO and the Warsaw Pact).

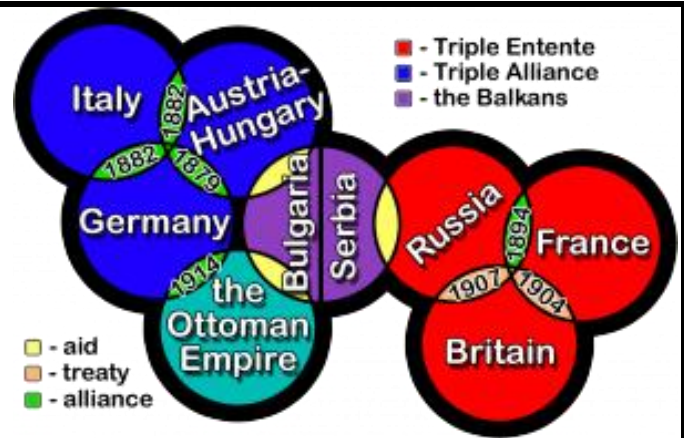
Great Britain enjoyed a “splendid isolation,” only coming out of hiding when she wanted to make a statement and then retreating to silence again. Britain had been battered by the South African wars (The Boer Wars with the Dutch). Even though she won the war, she was now in a naval race (and an industrial race) with Germany which was costing her a lot of money.

- 1905, tensions between France and Germany (over Morocco) nearly erupted into war. Germany tried to drive a wedge between the Anglo-French Entente.
- Britain supported France. Germany’s actions actually strengthened the Allies friendship, and made the rest of Europe suspicious of German motives. Germany became dangerously isolated and victimized.



Triple Alliance: 1882 Italy, Germany, and Austria-Hungary.

- Bismarck created the German Empire out of “blood and iron” in 1871 and now he wanted to preserve Germany by carefully shielding her. He created an intricate set of alliances as part of his policy of deterrence.
- The Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary (1879). In 3 years, Italy joined, creating a **Triple Alliance (1882)**.
- Each state pledged military support if the others were attacked in war (and their colonies must fight as well).
 - Bismarck added the **Reinsurance Treaty** with Russia in 1887 to isolate France but in 1894 Bismarck refused to approve loans so now Russia was also isolated.
 - Rome (Italy) also made a secret pact with France in 1902, in exchange for gaining territory from Austria.



Triple Entente: 1907 agreement between Russia, France, and Great Britain.

- 1890-1894 France nurtured a closer relationship with Russia, offering loans (400 million) and coordinating military planning. This new friendship became the **Franco-Russian Alliance (1894)**. The German nightmare of a two-front war was now possible (France and Russia). Russia pledged to attack Germany if Germany (or Italy) ever attacked France. France agreed to protect Russia from Germany or Austria-Hungary.
- Russia had interest in the Balkans which drew her into an alliance with Serbia. Russia had close ethnic, religious, and political ties to Serbia, and agreed to protect Serbians.
- Britain and France entered into a “friendship agreement” (the **Entente Cordiale** of 1904) and agreed to settle colonial differences (Britain claimed Egypt, France claimed Morocco, gave up fishing rights in Newfoundland, and received territory in Senegal and Nigeria, Britain gave up Madagascar, and both countries defined Thailand). This agreement contained no military commitments and allowed Britain to do whatever she wanted to do in Europe.
- In the 1907 Triple Entente, Britain refused to agree to a binding military action (Britain was scared of commitment...she'd been hurt before).

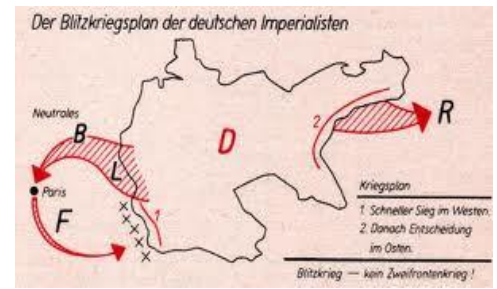
Britain's Other Alliances:

- Britain guaranteed to protect Belgium's neutrality (since 1839).
- Britain created an alliance with Japan in 1902 (The Anglo-Japanese Alliance). The Treaty was later used by Japan to seize German colonies in the Pacific. Despite Japan's successful modernization and growing military power, British banks downgraded investments in Japan and insulted the Japanese by ranking them equal to China, Egypt, and Turkey. The agreement fell apart in 1923 (and was viewed as a conflict of interest by the League of Nations).
- Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were automatically committed to war if the UK should declare war on another country. So once Britain declared war, the result would be a global war.

Everybody's Got to Have a Plan

Germany's **Schlieffen Plan**: 1905, named after Alfred von Schlieffen (chief of the German General 1891-1905).

- How should Germany handle a 2-front war against France and Russia (now that those countries were friends)?
- The plan called for a massive concentration of German arms in the West against France.
- 7 armies would sweep through Luxembourg, Belgium and northern France in a great arc to conquer Paris within 41 days.
 - This assumed that Luxembourg and Belgium would agree.
 - Cripple the French army and stop any French mobilization.
- Meanwhile Russia would require several weeks to mobilize and get ready (this was not true).
- Austria-Hungary could stop Russian forces (which they did not want to do).
- Even if threatened by Russia, Germany's entire strategy required the Kaiser to start a war with France first.



France's **Plan XVII** (*dix-sept*): French armies would rush gallantly eastwards, with rapid movement to a supreme victory, thus reclaiming the honor of the French people.

- France would regain **Alsace-Lorraine**.
- With a quick attack to the **Ruhr Valley** (source of German steel and coal) Germany would be crippled and lose forever.
- The French plan rested on the ideas of **elan vitale**: enthusiasm and vigor (instead of sound planning and technical support).
 - The German plan was a meticulous timetable of organization, but the French believed their strong spirit would prompt Russian and British mobilization to their aid.



Russia's **Plan 19**: to quickly mobilize against Germany, Austria Hungary, and the Ottomans.

- Strike before anyone else was ready (a bluff to cover how disorganized the Russian army really was).
- This plan involved elaborate timetables, diplomatic delays, and poor communication (and vodka) so it never really worked.

Immediate Causes: Assassination

15 political leaders were assassinated (1881-1911) in Russia, France, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria, Italy, Serbia, Finland, Portugal, and Greece. Even America had President William McKinley assassinated in 1901.

- **The July Crisis of 1914** refers to the assassination of Austria's Archduke and his wife Sophie.



June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary) and his wife Sophie (Countess Sophie Chotek), arrived by train at 10 am. They rode through the streets of Sarajevo in an open car, waving to the “little people”. Sarajevo was the capital of Bosnia & Herzegovina under Austrian occupation (Imperialism).

- 1st attack: a grenade was thrown at the car, but it hit the hood, and detonated behind the car.
- The couple arrived safely at Town Hall, but Sophie insisted on seeing those injured by the blast.
- While traveling to the hospital, the car took a turn down a side street to a café where Gavrillo Princip approached the car and shot both (with a 1910 Browning pistol). It was approx. 11: 15 am.
- Sophie was shot in the abdomen, and Franz was shot in the jugular.
- When asked if he was hurt, Franz said, “*Es ist nichts.*” (it is nothing) then Franz said: “*Sophie, Sterbe nicht! Bleibe am Leben fur unsere Kinder!*” (*Sophie dear, don’t die. Stay alive for our children.*)
- This is clearly an early example of a DWA (Driving While Austrian) or a DUI (Driving Under Imperialism).

The assassination set up a devastating chain of events in Europe. It was the inability to handle this crisis that caused Europe to crumble into disaster. The July Crisis was an immediate cause but the management of the crisis is what brought the European powers to war. Europe was a powder keg of background causes ignited by a spark from this one immediate cause.



The Black Hand of Serbia

Gavrilo Princip was a Bosnian Serb who was called “weak and small” (he played too many hours of Grand Theft III and Doom). He was a member of a group called **Young Bosnia**. This group was helped by the larger, better organized group called the **Black Hand**. The Black Hand was a secret Serbian group that demanded **unification** of all Serbian territory.

- This was called **Pan-Slavic Nationalism** (all territories with Slavic peoples Serbs, Croatians, Macedonians, Narnians).

The Black Hand provided coordination, training, and supplied weapons. The Black Hand was secretly helped by members of the Serbian army (shhh....it’s a secret). They wanted to retaliate against Austria-Hungary for taking their territory under Imperialism.

There were actually 7 men on the route that day.

- The 1st man chickened out because he had police officers near him and the car passed by him safely.
- The 2nd man (Cabrinovic) threw his hand grenade but forgot the 10 second delay (it bounced off the hood of the Archduke’s car and exploded behind them in the crowd.
- After that hand grenade went off (late) the others along the route lost their opportunity.
- Cabrinovic felt so stupid about botching the mission that he swallowed a cyanide (poison) capsule and jumped into the river. *Well, the pill was really old so he vomited it back up, and the river was only 4 inches deep so he was easily caught.*
- Meanwhile, Gavrilo Princip had given up and gone to a café to have a cup of coffee when the Archduke’s car drove right up to him on the side street.



The July Ultimatum

- **Ultimatum:** A demand which is backed up by a threat to be followed through in case of noncompliance. Ex: “*Clean your room or you can’t go to the game,*” love, Mom.

Austria-Hungary issued an **ultimatum** of 10 unreasonable demands which escalated tensions between the two nations. The ultimatum demanded that Serbia crackdown on anti-Austrian propaganda in the Serbian press, and that Serbia allow Austria to participate directly in judicial proceedings to prosecute the parties guilty of assassinating the Archduke. They suspected the Serbian army had helped with the assassination plot. Serbia must respond or be punished.

The ultimatum was intended to be humiliating. They did not really expect these demands to be met...this was their chance to really hurt Serbia. The terms of the ultimatum were designed to be so impossible that the only answer would be an invasion.

- Germany encouraged Austria-Hungary to fight and offered the **Blank Check**--an agreement to support Austria-Hungary if they went to war with Serbia.

One month later...Serbia accepted most of the demands and tried to meet them all (with a few small conditions). Austria-Hungary claimed Serbia had NOT met their demands and closed its embassy in Serbia within ½ hour.

3 days later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia-- **July 28, 1914**.



The War Begins

World War I began on **July 28, 1914** when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. This small conflict between two countries spread rapidly involving Germany, Russia, Great Britain, and France—all drawn into the war because of the treaties that obligated them to defend other nations.



World War I seems to have begun from a chain of coincidence mixed with unfortunate lapses in judgment from political military leaders. The tangled web of alliances and defense treaties triggered declarations of war between countries that really had no reason to be at war with each other. Most of these country shared strong economic interdependencies, and trade between them was brisk. Many of these countries had hidden motives and mistakenly assumed that others would stay out of the conflict.

For example, Germany had no real interest in Austria’s problem was Serbia but had significant ambitions with its neighbors. Russia was modernizing and expanding its military. German military leaders felt that war with Russia was inevitable at some point. They argued it would be better to fight Russian now while her army was still poorly armed and untrained rather than wait until Russia posed a greater threat. Some historians claim the Germany deliberately encouraged Austria to go to war with Serbia in order to set off a war with Russia. German military leaders believed that Britain would stay neutral and that France would stay away and ignore its treaty with Russia. This wishful thinking helped the German military leaders convince themselves that war would be winnable and sold their plan to the Kaiser.

- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia July 28, 1914. July 29 the first artillery shells fell on Serbia’s capital.
- Austria mobilized her troops to the border.
- Serbia ran to Russia for protection.
- Russia mobilized troops to the border (July 30). Russia thought the Austrian mobilization was a threat to their border and also felt sympathy for the people of the Balkans (Serbia).

- Russia's mobilization created panic in Germany's Kaiser. The Russian Czar and the German Kaiser were communicating by telegraph throughout this time but failed to convince each other that they were only taking cautionary measures.
- Britain made an attempt to intervene diplomatically but it did not work.
- Germany demanded that his cousin (the Tzar) cease all military preparation. When the Russians did not comply, Wilhelm declares war and orders the full mobilization of the German army against Russia (August 1).
- As part of Germany's Schlieffen Plan (a 2-front war), Germany also declared war against France (August 3).
- France also mobilized.
- Germany was clinging to the hope that Britain would stay out of this conflict but when the German army crossed into Belgium, (August 3) Britain's treaty obligations brought her (and her empire) into the war. It was now a world war (and a total war).

By now most of the European powers were involved. This has become the largest European conflict since the Napoleonic Wars. Mobilizing millions of soldiers required a level of coordination never seen before. The railroad system was vital to all major European powers to move millions of men and supplies into position.

French motives: In 1871 France lost the territories of Alsace and Lorraine (important industrial areas for coal and potassium chloride) to Germany. This loss was bitterly humiliating and left France desperate to regain those lands. They were fearful of an all-out German invasion. French leaders thought that if Germany was distracted by a war with Russia, then France could seize back Alsace and Lorraine.

Russian motives: Just before the war was a time of instability in Russia. The Czar's grip of power was fragile. There was support in Russia for the Serbian cause and a military victory would help the Czar politically. The war was risky given the horrible state of the Russian military at the time. Nicholas II flip-flops over whether or not to mobilize but ultimately he caved under pressure.

- *How could this war have been avoided? Could different decisions, stronger leaders, and better communication have yielded a different outcome? This may have solved the immediate crisis but the underlying causes still remained.*

Optimism & Illusion of War

Government propaganda from all sides had been successful. People were genuinely convinced that their nation's point of view was the only correct one to believe in.

This war was only supposed to last for a few weeks. The boys were told "they'd be home by Christmas," as they laughed with their mothers. Soldiers boarded the train with energy, excited for a warrior's adventure as citizens threw flowers at their feet. This was a romantic, wild, manly adventure. Every young person was afraid they might miss the most wonderful and exciting experience of their lives as they hurried to the trains.

"In Austria, the train stations were filled with fresh recruits. Banners were flying, music sounded in Vienna, there was a parade in the streets with flags, ribbons, and music everywhere. Young recruits were marching, their faces lighting up at the cheering. Rapturous and even seductive-- they did not know war. They had hardly given it a thought after half a century of peace. Now going to war seemed romantic and heroic—like the paintings in the museum, soldiers on horses with glittering uniforms."

"They shouted and sang in the trains that carried them to the slaughter—wild, feverish, the red wave of blood coursed through the veins of the entire nation." Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday*.



Germany “Violates” Belgium

At the **London Declaration** of 1909, Britain, Germany, USA (and others), agreed that a country was neutral as long as it did not shelter warships in ports, train troops, or sell weapons/munitions to either side. Belgium was officially neutral.

Germany asked the neutral country of Belgium if they could pass through to invade France. Belgium said “We are a country, not a highway.” Germany pushed through anyway.

- Germany violates Belgium’s neutrality during the night of August 14, 1914 expecting to overtake the little nation quickly then move on to France. The Belgians were more resistant than anticipated. Civilian snipers fired on the Germans.
- In retaliation, the Germans burned towns and villages to the ground. They raped women and children, and executed large numbers of civilians. This was called the “Rape of Belgium”.
- 42,000 people were forced to evacuate.
- This action was condemned by most of Europe and caused Britain to enter the war to defend Belgium.

The World Takes Sides (Largest Dodgeball Game Ever?)

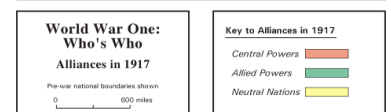
The Allied Powers: Britain (and all her colonies), France, Russia, Serbia, Belgium, Italy (1915), USA (1917)



- ANZAC: Australian and New Zealand Army Corps both fighting for Britain and the Allies. Australia got her independence in 1901, New Zealand in 1907 so they were independent but still fought for the crown of England.
- Canada also began as a British dominion but by 1914 Canadians fought as a single unit in France and Belgium (as in the movie *Paschendaele*).
- Greece, Japan (1914), Italy (1915), and Romania joined later as associate powers.
- The US never officially joined the Allies but fought independently and closely cooperated with the Allied powers.
- The Allies were divided east and west and most supplies had to travel by sea, which was dangerous.
- Japan declared war on Germany (August 23, 1914) to align with Britain. Japan’s intent was to retake some islands in the Pacific Ocean that Germany had seized as colonies.
- Italy was supposed to go with the Central Powers but remains neutral for a year. Italy refused to commit its troops and claimed that Austria-Hungary was really the aggressor. Italy wanted to grab some territory from Austria-Hungary. Italy signed the **London Pact** (April, 1915) and entered the war on the Allied side. Italy was promised large territories from Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire (Trento, Trieste, Istria, Dalmatia). Fighting on the Austrian-Italian border was difficult with a very steep rocky terrain.

Central Powers: Austria-Hungary, Germany, Ottoman Empire (1914), Bulgaria (1915)

- Germany had offered Austria-Hungary the Blank Check. Kaiser Wilhelm II gave the promise to defend Austria-Hungary if Russia attacked (the guarantee was made on July 5, 1914-- a week after Archduke Ferdinand assassination).
- Germany created a railroad that stretched from Berlin (Germany) to Baghdad (Iraq). This train system could easily carry soldiers, supplies, food, and medicine.
- There were communication issues between Germany and Austria Hungary. Germany promised support, but interpretations of support differed.
 - *Who would cover Russia? Germany wanted to focus on France and thought Austria-Hungary should take Russia. Austria-Hungary disagreed, so their forces became divided.*



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Officially Neutral

The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Spain were officially neutral (although many of these nations secretly provided money and supplies). According to the London Declaration of 1909 (signed by Britain, Germany and the United States), a country was neutral as long as it did not shelter warships in their ports, train troops, or sell weapons and munitions to either side. Private companies or banks could still make loans or sell weapons.

Isolationism, was the idea to take care of your country first, and limit your involvement in foreign affairs. Both Britain and America stayed as isolated as possible in the early 20th century. President Wilson (Aug. 1914) said, “thank God were are not involved in this war--a war that represents everything evil in the world.”

Many countries also had a movement for **pacifism** (opposition to the war). Anti-war groups existed in Great Britain and France (also called **conscientious objectors**). Many people refused to fight for religious reasons. Great Britain had 16,000 people asked for objector status. They suffered years of prison in solitary confinement with only bread and water. After World War I anyone looking for a job would be told “no conscientious objectors need apply”.

The Western Front

In the West, Germany took Luxembourg, then attacked Belgium. At the Battle of the Frontiers (August 1914) in southern Belgium, was the first collision between the French plan and the German plan. The Germans won and pushed on into France.



At the **Battle of the Marne** (September 5-12), the Germans were stopped 20 miles outside of Paris. Both sides became entrenched in France and remained that way for the rest of the war. Hundreds died to move 1 yard.

Both sides dug out 5965 miles of trenches, and 475 miles of fortifications separated by a no-man’s land. The Germans built better, more permanent trenches. The Allied trenches were temporary and would frequently cave in. Barbed wire was used to slow the advancing troops and expose them to the enemy. Most trench warfare became a stalemate or a **war of attrition** (to wear out, or out last, the enemy). Millions of men were slaughtered in the trenches which created unimaginable horrors. The battlefields were hellish landscapes of mud, dead bodies, and barbed wire. To survive, many soldiers hardened against the stench of decomposing bodies and the sight of bodies dismembered.

Both lines of trenches were protected by barbed wire and eventually concrete machine-gun nest. The soldiers of Europe had been trained to fight wars of movement and maneuvers--not trench warfare. This baffled military leaders. The only plan generals could devise was to throw masses of men against the enemy lines to flatten the barbed wire. Then a mass of soldiers climbed out of their trenches with bayonets and hoped to get the opposing trench. The attacks rarely worked as the machine-gun took down hordes of men crossing unprotected open fields. 1916 -1917 was known as the “great slaughter.”

- In 1915 the modified tractor (called tanks) were first introduced, which seemed to be the only weapon against machine guns.
- Over 700,000 sacrificed their lives in the trenches of Verdun (France).
- Poison gas was introduced in 1915 which caused new types of injuries and death.
- Soldiers in the trenches went on for months of combat, living amongst the dead men, the stench of decomposing bodies, and swarms of rats.
- **Battle of the Somme** (July 1, 1916) first hour of the first day was Britain’s bloodiest battle in history (57,000 casualties 19,000 dead). The British Army lost ½ million men.



- Verdun (France) 1915-1917 was Germany's main offensive. The Allies made several attempts to break through the German lines.
- The British and French Empire suffered more casualties than the Germans on the western front.
- 1917 (Champagne, France), the French army (*poilu* means infantry) were exhausted after 2 years of fighting. They were on the brink of collapse.
- 1917 **The Neville Offensive** (France) 187,000 French casualties caused widespread mutiny, low morale, and major misconduct. French soldiers arrived drunk without weapons.
- 1917 **Battle of Passchendaele** (West Flanders, Belgium) British, Canadian, ANZAC and South African troops in a major battle against the German army. The plan was to drive a hole through the German line and advance to the Belgian coast, then capture the German sub base and take the pressure off the French. After months of fighting the Allies had only crawled forward 5 miles and 140,000 men were killed.

Germany's Miscalculations



The German invasion of France failed because of the unexpectedly early Russian attack in the East which forced Germany to divert some of its troops to help fight the Russians. Germany also did not see Britain entering in the war so they did not alter their plans. British forces in France reinforced the French armies and gave them an edge-- especially since Germany was fighting with fewer troops than originally planned. Germany overextended itself by advancing too far with the limited forces that it had. The farther into France that Germany pushed, the longer their supply lines became. Troop rotation became impossible. Armies had to march on foot for more than a month. The German army was diverted to the south east (Italy and Serbia) which also split German forces and increased their vulnerability to be attacked. The allies were able to exploit this division and forced Germany backwards towards the entrenched front.

Fighting Over Serbia

The Austria-Hungarian army invaded Serbia (August 1914). Austria-Hungary suffered heavy losses. This was the first major Allied victory. Austria-Hungary realized she was not going to win quickly, and she had to keep 1/3 of her forces on the Serbian front (which weakened the effort against Russia on the Eastern front).



Austria-Hungary convinced Bulgaria to help attack Serbia (1915). The other Austria-Hungarian provinces (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia) were also forced to fight Serbia, Russia, Italy, and Montenegro. Serbia was divided on 2 fronts and conquered in one month (September 1915) by the Germans, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria. The Serbian army retreated to Albania, then to Greece, and some Serbian rebels continued uprisings in the mountain regions.

The Eastern Front

Russia attacked both Germany (Prussia) and Austria-Hungary, which diverted Germany from the Western front. The eastern front was across huge distances of vast cold plains. The Allies had limited railroad access and attempted to resupply Russia with fresh troops and supplies through the Baltic Sea...but had disastrous results (with u-boats, miscommunication, and poor Russian leadership).

There was also no German railroad in the region so all Central supplies came by horse-drawn transport (which was slow). There was also a Balkan Front and an Italian Eastern front. The Eastern front eventually locked into place just as the Western front did.

At the **Battle of Tannenberg** (Aug 30, 1914) Germany and Russia battled. Russia was defeated and humiliated with huge losses. 92,000 Russians surrendered (1915), 20,000 Russians became POWs. 20% of the POWs died. The Russians were no longer a threat to German territory and were practically knocked out of the war.

Clashes in the Colonies

The 1st clashes between the Europeans (France, GB, and Germany) actually happened in their African colonies. Sporadic, fierce fighting took place in Africa from 1914-1918 and the African men were forced to fight for their European imperialists.

- Aug. 7, 1914 French, British troops invaded Togoland (German colony).
- August 10, Germany forces invaded SW Africa (Belgium and British territory).

Within months, the allies had seized all German territory in Asia and the Pacific.

- ANZAC troops took German Samoa (Asia) Aug 30, 1914, and German New Guinea Sept 11, 1914.
- Japan seized German colonies (Micronesia and the coal port Chinese Shandong Province).
- The Allies took advantage of Germany's preoccupation in Europe and seized most all of the German colonies.

Armenian Genocide

August 2, 1914, the Ottoman-Turks signed a secret alliance with Germany hoping to gain land from Russia. By Nov., 1914, the Ottomans had joined the fighting.



In 1915 the Turkish government began an organized campaign of deportation and annihilation of Christian-Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. The Turks suspected Christian-Armenians of being pro-Russian, so they began rounding up and deporting them. Armenian intellectuals and community leaders were arrested. This was the first modern deliberate systematic destruction of Christian-Armenian populations.

The Armenians were forced to march across the mountains in the harsh winter. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians died of hunger and exposure. Other massacres included rape and sex crimes. Originally the number of dead was at 200,000 but by 1923, 1.5 million Armenians (2/3 of the Armenian population) had been murdered, deported, or forced into the desert where they starved to death.

The international community did not intervene to stop the massacre. The atrocities committed against the Armenian people at the hands of the Turkish government was one of the first genocide of the 20th century. President Woodrow Wilson characterized the situation in the Ottoman Empire as a civil war. He saw the events as sad, but determined to keep America out of the war. He did not see meddling in the sovereign affairs of another country. Most citizens of the US agreed with Pres. Wilson's noninterventionist policy.

- April 24, 1915, *New York Times*, Armenians were rounded up in Constantinople marking the start of the Armenian genocide. They were arrested, deported, executed, and starved. Turkish officials claim that the Armenians plan to revolt and destroy the Ottoman Empire. Ottomans claim they gave Armenians 3 days to pack their belongings and leave before taking the long march to a relocation center in the Syrian desert (which did not really exist). To be sure no Armenians could form a resistance, all able-bodied Armenian men were shot. Women and children took the long march into the desert and were denied food and water. They were raped and left for dead.
- Aug. 3, 1915, *New York Times*, "Turks shot women and children; Turks massacred all males of the population then assembled 9000 women and children and drove them to the banks of the Tigris where they were shot and bodies dumped into the river."
- Aug. 20, 1915, *New York Times*, "1000 Armenians locked in a wooden building and set on fire. Women and children burned to death. Only 36 escaped the massacre. Many tied together by chains and thrown into the lake."
- Sept. 29, 1915, *New York Times*, "Armenian girls put up for auction. Turkish officers took over a mission school and sold the girls. The best looking were given to officers. Those considered not so good-looking were given to the soldiers. Less attractive girls were put up for sale to the highest bidder."
- The Turkish minister said, "by continuing the deportation of orphans to their destination during the intense cold we are insuring their eternal rest." Any Turkish official who resisted the deportation process was "replaced".

After the war, 400 Young Turks involved in the Armenian genocide were arrested. Trials occurred and charges were pressed for crimes. The leaders of the Young Turks were condemned to death for their role in the genocide but they fled to foreign countries and were not pursued by the new Turkish government or the international community. In 1923 the Ottoman Empire was renamed the Republic of Turkey and received international recognition. The Armenian issue was swept aside and forgotten by most of the world. The few Armenian survivors of the genocide migrated around the world seeking refuge in other countries (like the Kardashians).



This tragedy is also known as the Armenian Holocaust, Armenian Genocide, Armenian Massacre, or the Great Calamity. The Ottoman Empire (now modern-day Turkey) still denies that this ever occurred. The “Forgotten Genocide” became an issue with the UN and President George Bush when mass graves were discovered in Turkey. The Turkish government dismisses all charges of genocide and denies that the relocation of Armenians was actually a plan to exterminate the whole Armenian population. Many are outraged that Turkey could be allowed to join the European Union (EU) without admitting to the genocide.

- *System of a Down* wrote a song about the Armenian Genocide.

In the Middle East

The Central Powers had a secret **Ottoman-German Alliance** (1914) which threatened Russia’s territory (Caucasia) as well as Britain’s ties to India and the Suez Canal (Egypt). Late in 1914, Germany tricked Russia into thinking that Turkey had attacked. So the Allies attacked the Ottomans in the Mediterranean, which brought the Ottoman Empire in the war.

The war at sea is what brought the Ottoman Empire into the conflict. They tried to remain neutral at the start of the war. The Ottoman Empire was known as “the sick man of Europe”, and believed that an alliance with Germany would help the faltering empire.

In a secret treaty (Aug. 2, 1914), Turkey promised to aid Germany. Later that month, 2 German warships docked in Constantinople avoiding pursuit by the British Navy. The Ottomans renamed the ships and incorporated them into the Ottoman Navy. The German crews were allowed to remain on board and in control of the vessels. On October 27, the two German ships (now sailing under Ottoman flags) entered the Black Sea and fired off the Russian coast. They sank a Russian gunboat and six merchant ships and set fire to a Russian oil depot. The Russians believed the attack came from Turkey and invaded Turkey from the East. Britain and France also responded by attacking Turkish forts. Turkey responded by declaring war on all three. So Germany had manipulated the Turks into entering the war the side of Germany.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, a dashing and eccentric British adventurer **TE Lawrence** (Lawrence of Arabia, 1888-1935) incited the Arab princes to revolt against the Ottoman Empire. This was the beginning of **Arab Nationalism**.



With the help of the Arab peoples, and years of horrible fighting from all Allies (and their colonies), the Ottoman Empire was eventually destroyed. This was known as the **Arab Revolt** (1916-1918) Arab Nationalism helped bring down the Ottoman Empire and allowed the Allies to win. In exchange the Arab people thought they’d get to rule themselves freely.

- Some of the famous fights include: Gallipoli (1915) Mesopotamia, Siege of Kut (1915-1916), Baghdad (1917), Sinai and Palestine, Jerusalem (1917).
- Many of the sepoy from India were taken as POWs and starved in the Ottoman/Turkish prisons.

From Russia, With Love (P.S. I'm leaving you...)

Karl Marx, a German economist (and founder of the theory of communism) declared that *"this was not Russia's war. Banking interests and capitalist imperialist powers had orchestrated the war."*

Vladimir Lenin, studied Marxism and claimed that *"imperialism was responsible for the war"*, and since Russia did not have any claim to colonies, she should not be fighting in the European war.

Even the English economist John Hobson agreed with this theory, claiming that *"unlimited competition for expanding markets would lead to a global conflict."* The dominant economic position of Great Britain threatened by the rapid rise of Germany's industry meant that the two industrial giants (Germany and Britain) would eventually have to fight for economic space.



The people of Russia were unprepared for the war. Russia had experienced heavy defeats against Germany but significant successes against Austria-Hungary. Russia had sympathy for Serbia—but at what cost? Russia was not industrialized like the rest of Europe. The countless dead and tremendous loss and humiliation made the war unpopular. Russia was

losing territory and there were labor strikes and food shortages throughout the country. The Russians felt like they had little to gain and much to lose. The Russian people begged Tzar Nicholas II to get out of the war.

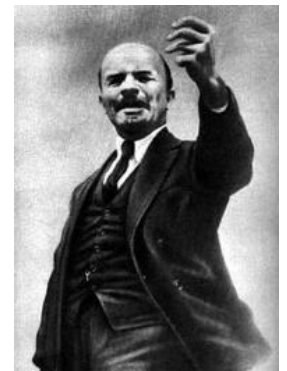
Confidence in the Tzar was also at an all-time low. He was out of touch with his people, and had become a puppet of his German born wife (Alexandria). Rasputin (a holy man) was taking advantage of the royal family and their sick boy Alexei (who was a hemophiliac). Russia was hardly a democracy but public opinion was still a powerful factor. The Tzar had fired the **Duma** (Congress) 5 times in recent years when he did not like their suggestions (imagine if the president could do that?). Numerous underground organizations had sprung up to oppose the Tzar and his policies.

- **February Revolution:** In early March 1917 (late February by the Julian calendar still used in Russia) the Tzar's entire regime unexpectedly collapsed after a series of large demonstrations in the Russian capital of Petrograd.
- Under pressure from the military, Nicholas II abdicated (gave up) the throne. He and his family were moved to another location outside the city.
- Parts of the military continued to fight the war but others quit fighting altogether and others began fighting each other in a civil war (white army versus red army).
- Germany quickly recognized an opportunity to create chaos and end the war. Germany helped Russian revolutionaries in Europe (Vladimir Lenin) to get back to Russia (by German train). Lenin arrived in Petrograd on April 16, 1917.

Participants on all sides watched Russia closely to see what the country would do without Czar. European countries worried about their own revolutions. A new provisional government was officially in charge of Russia but remained highly unstable (especially the military). Huge antiwar rallies clogged the streets. Soldiers deserted their fighting and there was general disorder throughout the Russian military.

There was an intense disagreement in the country over whether or not Russia should remain at war. Under what conditions should Russia leave the conflict?

- The **Provisional Government**, under the leadership of **Alexander Kerensky**, wanted to remain in the war until Germany and Austria Hungary were defeated.
- The more radical **Petrograd Soviets** (labor unions, socialists/communists) felt that Russia should get out of the war as soon as possible even if that would mean a loss of territory and heavy **reparations**.
- The 3rd group--the **Bolsheviks** (Vladimir Lenin) had even more radical leanings (communist, Marxist) and wanted Russia to exit the war immediately--no matter what the cost.



The Russian Revolution

November 6, 1917 (October 24 by the Russian calendar) the Bolsheviks seized control of the country, with the help of the military. The Bolshevik's pronounced themselves Russia's new leader but their practical control had no power beyond Petrograd (Moscow). The country was left in chaos. Many people in Russia opposed the Bolsheviks. Some wanted to bring back the Czar, while others favored democracy.



- The Bolshevik leader Lenin issued his first decree declaring Russia would be at peace.
- He ordered the Russian military to cease all hostilities.
- Nov. 26, 1917, the Bolsheviks issued a call to halt hostilities on all fronts and requested that all sides immediately make arrangements to sign an armistice. This idea was not well received by France and Britain.
- When Russia received no response, Russia warned that if no one responded, Russia would make a separate peace.
- When there was still no response the Bolsheviks published a series of secret treaties that Russia had made with the Allies (to embarrass the Allies).
- A cease-fire (on the eastern front) was declared on December 15, 1917. The formal treaty took months to negotiate.

Russia leaves WWI with the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**, between the Central Powers and Russia (signed March 1918)

- This treaty had harsh peace terms: Russia gave up Finland, Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, and the Caucasus region along with coal mining in southern Russia (the exact areas Stalin will reclaim in World War II).
- The exit from the war cost most of the territorial gains the country had made since Peter the Great (1700s).

This agreement posed serious problems for the Allies. It effectively closed the Eastern front and meant the Allies now faced 900,000 additional German troops on the Western front. The Germans captured large quantities of Russian equipment which they now used against the Allies. Many argue that Russia pulling out early did not bring the world closer to peace but extended the conflict by enabling Germany and Austria Hungary to focus their entire attention on the West. The United States provided the only possible hope to counter this sudden turn of the tables.

Technology

Technological and industrial developments in Europe were advancing with unprecedented speed. Military technology was at the forefront as World War I became a showcase for new technology that changed the nature, speed, and efficiency of warfare. In WWI the rules of engagement changed. War used to mean major armies met head-to-head; millions of men on the battlefield. This war was modernized with the telephone, wireless communication, radio, armored cars, tanks, and aircraft. New smaller infantry formations were reorganized into squads of 10 not 100.



Tanks, airplanes, zeppelins (dirigible airships filled with gas), and submarines changed the way wars were fought. Motorized vehicles such as trucks, cars, and trains improved the speed for troops and supplies to be deployed and the distance to which they could be transported. Guns of all categories now ranged from pistols to major artillery with greatly improved accuracy and range of fire. This enabled armies to fire at each other across long distances, in some cases without even having to see each other. The machine gun made it possible for a single soldier to effectively take out multiple opponents at once.

- Vickers machine gun, flamethrowers, Big Bertha (*Dicke Berthe*), Paris Gun (*Paris-Geschutz*).
- Helmets were used to protect from head wounds caused by exploding shells and fragmentation. The French created a steel helmet (Adrian helmet 1915), the British created the Brodie helmet (1916), the Germans created the *Stahlhelm* (1916)

In 1914, the airplane was only 11 years old. Airpower was just beginning to find its place. The airplanes were slow, flimsy contraptions with barely enough power to lift a single pilot and maybe a passenger. The first propeller planes were used for photo reconnaissance missions. Some pilots tried throwing hand grenades, bricks, or even long ropes with grappling hooks at other planes below them.



The romance of the flying aces engaged in individual combat (called dogfights) with the Germans (the Red Baron, Baron Manfred von Richthofen) was different from the reality. The reality was newly recruited pilots sent to the skies who barely understood how to fly (less than five hours of training). It was unusual for a new pilot to survive the first few weeks of his duty. Pilots fell victim to the enemy, bad weather, mechanical problems, loss of control due to pilot error, pilots became lost, ran out of fuel over enemy lines, many were shot down. British pilots were not allowed to carry parachutes because their military leaders believed it was cowardly.

Airplanes were a psychological weapon more than a practical one, but by the end of the war planes had a rapid improvement in design, speed, safety, maneuverability, and stability, and they were now equipped with machine guns.

Chemical warfare was seen on a large scale for the first time with results so gruesome that most countries vowed never to use these weapons again. Poison gases (mustard gas, chlorine gas, phosgene) made the eyes water, blistered the skin, and clogged the lungs. This was the first widespread use of chemical warfare which caused a brutal, slow, painful death and was feared. Eventually the soldiers were issued gas masks.

The Haber-Bosch process of nitrogen fixation was a reaction of hydrogen plus nitrogen over an iron substrate which produced ammonia. Ammonia is difficult to produce on an industrial scale but is used for explosives and gunpowder. By 1910, the German chemical company BASF created a way to make this right on the battlefield. The Allies had to buy all of their supply from Chile.

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_during_World_War_I
- <http://techcenter.davidson.k12.nc.us/group9/tech.htm>
- http://www.ieeeahn.org/wiki/index.php/World_War_I_Technology
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/>



The War At Sea

Controlling the sea lanes was crucial to battles and Great Britain needed her colonies to transport food, munitions, raw materials, or soldiers. The navy could form a blockade and starve out the other side.

U-boats: Germans made 13,000 submarines, or u-boats (unterseebooten). These ships had to submerge to attack. They could fire torpedoes and sink ships from miles away. Germany conducted *guerre de course* (commerce raiding) against Britain with u-boats below and Zeppelins above. The u-boats completely destroyed everything--all life, all supplies, all cargo. Rather than engage the enemy and take prisoners, the enemy was now completely destroyed. The British Naval leaders considered submarines to be cowardly weapons.

U-boats in the North Atlantic threatened the Black Sea and the British Isles. Many British died carrying vital supplies for the war as the u-boats nearly crippled the British navy. The u-boats seemed unstoppable, but by 1916 Great Britain had developed depth charges, hydrophones, and passive sonar.

Under an international naval treaty signed in 1907, mining the North Sea was limited to areas within 3 miles of an enemy's coastlines to not endanger neutral ships. However both Britain and Germany ignored this agreement and the North Sea became a place of great danger to all ships that dared enter. The situation was problematic for the neutral countries of Norway and Sweden who needed the North Sea for commerce.

By 1917, blimps were used to see the u-boats. Britain then developed hunter-killer submarines like the HMS R-1 (1917). Towards the end of the conflict, aircraft carriers were used for the first time (Britain's *HMS Furious* launched Sopwith Camel airplanes).

- All of these new technologies and naval vessels ran on electric. In fact, the whole world ran on electric (cars, trucks, buses, trains, submarines, and aircraft carriers). By World War Two the entire world will run on gasoline.



Contraband: war materials being smuggled and supplied to the enemy; smuggling illegal goods (like weapons). Rather than face the enemy, both sides now smuggled contraband on the open sea.

Where Were the Americans?

Pres. Woodrow Wilson (Aug. 1914) stated that the United States must be neutral *"in fact as well as in name; impartial in thought as well as in action."* Woodrow Wilson was a minister son and wanted to remain at peace. Americans wanted to stay out of the war for a number of reasons. Many felt that European affairs were far away from the United States. It was also not clear which side the United States should support as large number of immigrants came from Germany. Most Americans felt a vague allegiance to Great Britain. Wilson was also adamant that the US government follow the terms of neutrality set by the **London Declaration** but he could not keep private companies from pursuing business with both sides.



The war was a highly profitable enterprise. During wartime (1914-1916) American companies trade in munitions increased from 40,000 to 1.3 billion. Private banks issued loans of 27 million to the Central Powers and 2.2 billion to the Allies. This trend helped the United States out of an economic slump. Wilson's desire for America to steer clear of the conflict and to remain neutral was unsuccessful.

Both the Allies and Central Powers had envisioned a short offensive war. Neither side was prepared for the stalemate that developed. Both faced financial and economic collapse. Trade between Germany and neutral nations became nearly impossible since the British Navy had enforced a strict blockade of German ports using minefields and patrols. The German Navy began to depend on new submarine forces to fight the British blockade and to keep the Allies from trading with neutral nations. The London Declaration allowed both sides to stop neutral ships in order to search for **contraband** (anything used exclusively for military). During the early days of the war both Central and Allied powers try to abide by the rules and not harass any ship flying a neutral flag (to keep American favor).

Britain did not want to cause any complaint or dispute with the United States government. *"Such a dispute would indeed be a crowning calamity and probably fatal to our chances of success,"* said British Foreign Minister Sir Edward Grey (Dec. 1916).

As the fighting nations became desperate, both sides began to violate the terms of neutrality and seize materials from neutral ships. Anything taken was classified as contraband. In response, Wilson sent notes of protest to both sides and reminded both of America's right as a neutral nation. Both sides continued to use extreme measures to halt US trade with the other. The British Navy began to fly American flags illegally from their merchant vessels in order to avoid attack. This enabled the British to fire on German ships with a surprise attack. German submarines were vulnerable once they had surfaced. After British ships flying US flags sunk a series of submarines, the German u-boats started to sink merchant vessels regardless of what flags that flew. Wilson condemned both sides of this development and remained determined to keep the US neutral.

The Lusitania

US Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan had pleaded with Wilson to restrict the travel of Americans on ships. Wilson insisted that international law provided Americans with the rights to travel and refused Bryan's request. *Do you think that was the best decision?*



- In May, 1915, the Germans posted a warning in the New York newspapers to potential travelers that they would attack.
- Some travelers decided to stay home but others refused to listen. *Think about how people behaved about flying after 9-11.*
- German u-boats sank the passenger liner *RMS Oceanic* but the story was covered up.

The *RMS Lusitania* was a British luxury liner off the coast of Ireland. Many wealthy people received a secret warning not to travel because of the u-boat threat. Germany warned all Europeans that any vessel in the area was a target. The allies used passenger ships as a scheme to bring weapons (contraband) through enemy blockades. On May 7, 1915, German submarines sank the *Lusitania*. The passengers had no idea the attack was coming. 1200 civilian passengers died--100 were Americans.

- The *Lusitania* did have rifle cartridges, shrapnel shells, and dynamite fuses hidden on board which added to the explosion. Later evidence showed that Admiral Winston Churchill knew u-boats were in the area and "coldly sacrifice the vessel to get the US into the war."

The sinking of the *Lusitania* outraged the American public and many well-known public figures (including former Pres. Theodore Roosevelt) pressured Wilson to declare war on Germany. Wilson did not go to Congress. Instead, he sent a strong note of protest to Germany and warned that any further attacks would cause the US to enter the war. Wilson's actions led to the resignation of Secretary of State Bryan.

- Wilson narrowly won the re-election for president (Nov. 1916) campaigning under the slogan "He kept us out of war."
- Once re-elected for a 2nd term, President Wilson asked both sides to end the hostilities (Jan. 1917).
- He even offered to have peace talks but both sides refused.

Instead, Germany announced it would lift all restrictions on submarine warfare (Jan. 1917). Wilhelm was impatient with the European stalemate and wanted the war over before the Americans could get involved. The German u-boat commanders were authorized to sink all ships they believed were providing aid to the Allies. The primary goal was to starve Britain into surrendering. The new German effort focused on ships crossing the Atlantic from the US and Canada.

- The 1st victim of this new policy was the American cargo ship the *Housatonic* which a German u-boat sank Feb. 3, 1917.
- In response, Pres. Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany the same day.
- This escalation was a major step towards the US entering the war.

The Zimmerman Note (*Zimmermann-Depesche*)

German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann came up with a clever plan to keep America out of the war. Jan. 16, 1917, he cabled the German ambassador in Mexico and urged them to join the war. This was an attempt to divert the United States and keep them busy fighting Mexico so they would stay out of Europe. In return Mexico would win back New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona.

- The telegram was intercepted by code breakers from Great Britain (called Room 40).
- It was decrypted but they broke enough of the code to get the basics of the message. This was very incriminating for everyone. Britain wanted to draw America further into the war. The anti-German feelings in the United States were strong but how would Britain explain how they got the telegram? British intelligence was secretly monitoring all diplomatic traffic including America. How would they explain they broke the German codes so that Germany didn't know?



The Zimmerman Note was sent in late January, and was intercepted and fully translated by February. Great Britain did not reveal the code to America until March 1, 1917. America was outraged at the Zimmerman Note and declared war against Germany-April 6, 1917. An important note is that America joined the war against Germany, not the Central Powers, and America never officially joined the Allies. The fact that American soldiers would not join ranks with Europeans in the trenches was a large issue for the Allies.

So where was Mexico in this debacle? Most historians agree that if Mexico had joined the war, then today's world superpowers would be: Germany, Mexico, and Japan.

The Mexican Pres. Carranza actually declined the offer April 14, 1917.

- Retaking former territory meant war with the United States and Mexico did not want a war.
- Germany's financial support was worthless to Mexico. Mexico couldn't acquire arms, ammunition, or war supplies since Great Britain was the only arms manufacturer America was allowing through. The British Royal Navy controlled the Atlantic sea lanes so Germany could not have supplied what they promised.
- Mexico would have had severe difficulty "accommodating and deporting" the large English-speaking population (Mexico would have needed to build a wall to keep American immigrants out).

The Yankee's Arrive

Wilson had tried to keep the United States neutral but by the spring of 1917 the situation had changed so drastically that neutrality was no longer an option. Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare was taking its toll. American ships both cargo and passenger were sunk one after the other. The Zimmerman telegram and other German subterfuge further convinced the American public that the war was threatening American interests. April 2, 1917 Wilson appeared before Congress and requested a declaration of war. Congress responded within days officially declaring war on Germany April 6, 1917.



This gave the Allies a much-needed psychological boost. Allies on the western front had been through disastrous defeats. Italian armies were smashed, French troops had mutinied, and Russia left the war. By the time the US entered the war, German submarines were causing catastrophic damage to the supply of food and other resources coming to Britain.

May 24, 1917 the British Admiral gave in to the idea of establishing a system of convoys. Under the plan, British warships provided heavily armed escorts for all ships coming to Britain from the United States, Canada, and other countries. The plan was important from the US perspective as American soldiers would soon begin heading to Britain by ship in large numbers. More than half a dozen convoy gathering points were soon established along the North American coast. Convoys had an immediate and dramatic impact on the

Song: *The Yanks Are Coming* (Johnny Get Your Gun, Over There)

Johnny get your gun, get your gun, get your gun. Take it on the run,
Hear them calling you and me, every son of liberty. Hurry right
away, no delay, go today. Make your daddy glad to have had such
a lad. Tell your sweetheart not to pine, to be proud her boys in line.

Over there, over there, send the word, send the word, to beware.
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming, the drums tum-
tuming everywhere. So prepare, say a prayer, send the word, send
the word, to beware. We'll soon be over, we're coming over, and
we won't come back till it's over, over there.

Johnny get your gun, get your gun, get your gun. Johnny show the
Hun, who's a son of a gun. Hoist the flag, and let it fly, Yankee
doodle do or die. Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit.
Yankee to the ranks, from your towns, and the tanks. Make your
mother proud of you, and the old red, white, and blue.

number of ships, supplies, and men lost. The convoys nullified the German effort to force Britain's surrender. The downside was that Britain now had fewer naval assets available to protect its coast (or to engage the German Navy at sea).

The summer of 1917, US troops were ferried across the Atlantic—first to Britain, then to France, under the leadership of Gen. John J. Pershing. In July, the large American troop had a symbolic march through Paris (where they were greeted with flowers, kisses, and items of clothing).

- America drafted 4 million men by 1918. 10,000 fresh soldiers were sent to France every day.
- 1917 the US Congress passed the Jones Act. This gave US citizenship to people in Puerto Rico, so now all citizens of Puerto Rico could be drafted to World War I.

Espionage

Espionage refers to the method of stealing, spying and obtaining secrets from the enemy.

The best known spy of World War One was **Mata Hari** (Margaretha Zelle) codename H21. She was an exotic dancer (courtesan) and a double-agent who used her sensuality to coerce men. She gained counterintelligence for France and Germany. She excelled at learning codes and ciphers, and frequently used chemical explosives. She was arrested and interrogated in 1917 by the French (she was 41). They executed her (by firing squad) as she was still blowing kisses and flirting.



American Backlash against Spies (Homeland Security)

April 1917, Wilson created the “**Committee on Public Information**” (CPI). The CPI told Americans to “watch out for German spies” in America. Many people falsely accuse their neighbors. The CPI shaped the information America received about the war, and encouraged support for the war through propaganda. The CPI hired 75,000 volunteers called **Four Minute Men** to give short speeches in theaters, churches, labor unions, and synagogues. American were encouraged to increase war bonds, for the good of the war effort.

- **Espionage Act of 1917:** free speech was gone in America. This act made free speech illegal with long prison sentences for statements that were deemed “unpatriotic.”
- **Division of Civic and Educational Cooperation:** Taught messages for students to bring home to adults. Also included “war study courses” that told teachers how to teach the war (anti-German).
- **The Sedition Act of 1918:** any statements deemed disloyal became a federal crime. Any publishing that was critical of the government would be removed from circulation by postal censors.

Wilson wanted American immigrants not to begin “nationalism”, so he encouraged “**Americanization**” of all immigrant populations. This included public school, learning the English language, and mandatory citizenship classes (War Americanization Plan). All Americans lost their freedoms during the war. Loyalty oaths were required, students and teachers were required to salute the flag, journalists were threatened with imprisonment if disloyal, and left-wing newspapers (or ethnic German papers) were shut down. Police arrested anyone performing anti-war activities or protesting the draft. The Supreme Court supported this violation to free speech saying that war required extreme measures.



Will Schmidt?

Anyone who was German-American, or deemed an “enemy sympathizer” was acted upon with violence (beating, taunting, killing). No anti-war sentiments or pro-German views were allowed. German institutions, and organizations were closed down. Orchestras were prohibited from playing Brahms or Beethoven. 14 states banned teaching German, and German language teachers were called traitors (sorry, Dr. PQ). School textbooks were reviewed, and pro-German sections were removed.

- German names on buildings, parks, streets, and cities were changed. Most German-Americans changed their last names: Muellers became Millers; Schmidts became Smiths.

- Sauerkraut = “liberty cabbage”; hamburger = “liberty sandwich”; dachshunds = “liberty pups”; German measles = “liberty measles”; Freedom Fries anyone? Mobs lynched German Americans as a “patriotic murder”



Propaganda

Propaganda: any information, images, or artwork, aimed at influencing the attitude of a community towards a cause or position. Either this makes your country the hero or makes another country the enemy.



In order to rally public support for the war, movies, news-clips, political cartoons, and posters were made to spread rumors and promote the cause. People were told of enemy atrocities, and acts of great cruelty and brutality. Many of these were lies to cause emotions to run high. All of these lies will make peace more difficult. *Ex: the Germans were called the Huns (as in Attila the Hun) or Krauts (as in sauerkraut).*

All governments used propaganda to arouse enthusiasm for the war, Britain and France exaggerated the German atrocities in Belgium. Citizens were willing to believe anything. As the war dragged on, and morale sagged, the government had to devise new techniques to stimulate the declining enthusiasm. Posters with adorable children asked, “Daddy what did you do in the Great War?”

The Final Push for Paris

There was a large time gap between the US declaration of war and the actual entrance of US troops in combat. The U.S. Army was not the vast and flexible force that is today. Time was needed for large numbers of US soldiers to be drafted, trained, moved into place, and organized. Even after the troops were finally in combat, the US never formally joined the Allied forces. They remained an independent participant at war only with Germany and not with Austria-Hungary.



Only the US held the power to shift the balance--but more than a year had passed since the US declared war with no results. Hundreds of thousands of American troops had been transported to Europe but very few have actually participated in battle. The French and British were still fighting the brunt of the war. Britain and France wanted the US troops to be integrated into their own armies and sent to the front to fight-- but the US government insisted that its troops would fight only as an independent Army under US commanders, which was taking a long time to organize overseas. France and Britain feared they would lose the war before the American troops ever fired a shot.

Germany miscalculated and believed it would be many more months before America arrived. Now that the Russian front was done, Germany had its entire numbers on the Western front for the first time. All sides including Germany were exhausted. Their strength was limited. Fresh troops from the US would soon be ready to join the fight. If Germany was going to win the war, now was the time.

Both sides launched renewed offenses in 1918 in an "all or nothing effort." Germany poured all of its resources into a massive offensive (March 21, 1918). The goal was to push into Paris and capture bridges before the French could destroy them. It began with 5 hours of prolonged artillery barrage, with a heavy concentration of poison gas shells. The German troops moved forward into a combination of heavy fog and poison gas clouds. Visibility was near zero and soldiers on both sides could not tell friendly from enemy forces. By midday the fog lifted and a furious air battle took place over the soldiers' heads. The Germans pounded the Allies with the Paris Gun that could fire from 75 miles away. The shells killed more than 250 unsuspecting Parisians who were baffled. They thought the blasts were coming from the ground.

Exhausted, demoralized troops continue to plod along until the Germans lost a number of battles and very gradually begin to fall back. The deadly outbreak of influenza took a heavy toll on the soldiers on both sides. Eventually the governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary began to lose control as both countries experienced mutinies from within the military.

The Reality of the War

"We wake up in the middle of the night. The earth booms. Heavy fire is falling on us. We crouch into corners. Every man is aware of the heavy shells tearing down, rooting up the embankment, demolishing the upper layers of concrete. By morning a few of the recruits are green and vomiting. No one would believe that in this howling waste there could still be men, but steel helmets now appear on all sides out of the trench and 50 yards from us a machine gun is already in position and barking. The wire entanglements are torn to pieces. At least they offer some obstacle. We see the storm troops coming. We recognize the distorted faces; the helmets tell us they are French. They have already suffered heavily when they reached the remnants of the barbed wire entanglements. I see one of them. His face upturned, fall into a wire cradle. His body collapses, his hands remain suspended as though he were praying. His body drops clear away. Only his hands with the stumps of his arms, shot off, now hang in the wire."



From: *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque

The result of this war was psychological trauma-- a deep scar on European psyche. The romance of war had died. War was terror, horror—a futile orgy of mud and blood which resolved nothing. The rules of warfare had changed. New, terrible weapons of mass destruction, and the bombardment of civilians, created a more destructive vision of the future. Armageddon-like future visions now terrified Europeans. People wrote about cataclysmic events for western society--a descent into brutality and insanity. People lost faith in their pre-war values, institutions, and philosophies. Now all they had left was pessimism and insecurity, which caused massive political, social, and economic upheavals, a deep scar on European psyche.

- *“The horrors of the trench—rotting horseflesh, mud, poor food, weapons that would not fire, poison gas, and the sheer terror of waiting for death—the Great War was a big lie. There was no tangible enemy. The insanity of it all!”*
- *“We see men living with their skulls blown open; we see soldiers run with their two feet cut off...still the little piece of convulsed earth in which we lie is held. We have yielded no more than a few hundred yards of it as a prize to the enemy. On every yard lies a dead man.”*

Total War

Wilson said, *“Those who remain to till the soil and man the factories are no less a part of the army as the men beneath the battle flags.”*

Everyone felt the strain at home-- Allies and Central Powers suffered shortages of food, ration books, limited amounts of gas, bacon, sugar, and paper. There were meatless Mondays and wheatless Wednesdays. Germany saved all of its precious white flour for the troops and had only dark (pumpernickel) bread for civilians. This dark bread was called victory bread throughout Europe. Austria-Hungary had no more pigs (for pork) and by the end of the war the civilians were suffering from starvation.



There was a labor shortage, and family life was altered as the men (18-40) had gone to a war of attrition. If these men came back at all, they came back physically injured or emotionally damaged (shell shocked). **Conscription** (the draft) had put a uniform on every able-bodied man. Great Britain started with volunteers (1 million between 1914-1915) but they were forced to resort to conscription. They needed to keep skilled workers in the factories (making munitions), so thousands of laborers were shipped in from the colonies (India, China, Africa) to work on farm and in heavy factory labor. The colonies thought if they performed well, they would get their freedom after the war.

- 6 million served from Great Britain (and her colonies). 750,000 men died, 1.7 million were wounded.
- Many were young and unmarried. 160,000 had wives who lost their husbands. 300,000 children lost fathers.

During the war, women went to work and production soared. In Britain, 1,345,000 women were employed in jobs considered “beyond the capacity of women,” such as chimney sweeps, truck drivers, farm labor, steel mills, streetcar driver’s, mail carriers, police officers, munitions plants, and factory workers for heavy industry. French women made 35,000 aircraft, 5000 tanks, and 300,000 artillery shells per day. 38% of workers in the German Krupp armaments factories were women (1918). Many women served as nurses close to the front lines (movie: *The English Patient*).

Male workers were concerned that lower female wages would depress their own wages. Women might demand equal pay. Women’s place in the workforce was not secure. At the end of the war, governments removed women from the jobs they had encouraged them to take. When the war ended (1919) 650,000 women became unemployed in Great Britain and wages for women were lowered again.

The role of women in the wartime economy had a positive impact on the women’s movement for social and political emancipation. Britain, Germany, and Austria gave women the right to vote by 1918. America was one of the last countries (1920). Upper middle-class women were now allowed to take some jobs, have their own apartments, and show independence by smoking in public, wearing shorter dresses and hair, and makeup. This will eventually lead to the flapper movement of the 1920s.

The war dramatically expanded government powers, created new government ministries and powers, new taxes, and new laws were enacted. As the war dragged on, conditions worsened throughout Europe, with more government centralization (control), economic regimentation, and manipulation of public opinion (propaganda). Wartime governments expanded their economies. Free market capitalism was put aside as the government stepped in to control price, wage, rent, rationing of food supplies and materials, regulation of imports/exports, and the nationalization of transport systems and industries. In total war, it became hard to tell the difference between life for a soldier and a civilian.

As the war dragged on and conditions worsened, patriotic enthusiasm was replaced with dissatisfaction. Civilian morale was beginning to crack under the pressure of total war. As the powers of the government expanded, the police also gained more power to stifle internal dissent. Britain passed the **Defense of the Realm Act (DORA)** which allowed dissenters to be arrested as traitors. DORA censored newspapers, deleted objectionable material, and suspend the newspaper publication.

France originally allowed public opposition to the war but by 1917 also cracked down, as the dissent weakened the French will to fight. **Georges Clemenceau** (1872-1929) became Prime Minister near the end of 1917 and cracked down. Basic civil liberties were suppressed for the rest of the war. Asking for peace could get you imprisoned for 2 years as treason.

The War Ends!

Bulgaria was the first of the Central Powers to surrender. They signed an armistice Sept. 29, 1918.

The Allied forces refused to negotiate with the German Kaiser and insisted on dealing with representatives of the German people instead. Sept. 29, 1918 Germany's top two generals **Paul von Hindenburg** and **Erich Ludendorff** pressured Kaiser Wilhelm II to establish a constitutional monarchy. The Kaiser went into hiding in a Belgian resort but would not officially step down.

His cousin **Prince Max von Baden** was named Chancellor and assumed leadership of the country. Max replaced the authoritarian system of Bismarck with a parliamentary system. Prince Max immediately began to ask the Allies about an armistice--but he was not ready to surrender unconditionally. He believed that he could negotiate favorable terms for Germany even though they had suffered continuous losses on the battlefield. Germany had surrendered but had not been defeated. Germany was winning in much of France and Belgium when peace was established, and Germany won against Russia. Germany expected the terms of peace to be acceptable to everyone and to follow Wilson's 14 Points.

Wilson stated he would not begin to discuss an armistice until all German and Austrian soldiers left France, Belgium, and Serbia. The German government agreed and withdrew its forces from France and Belgium, yet fighting on the Western front continued until Germany announced it would cease all submarine warfare.

Nov. 1918, the situation in Germany deteriorated from unstable to chaotic. German military leaders realized their attempt to break through the Western front and capture Paris would not succeed. Germany was exhausted. Hunger, economic shortages, and frustration at the policies of the German Kaiser led to riots in the streets and mutinies in the military-- especially in the Navy. Germany broke out in revolution from Nov. 1918-August 1919.



Meanwhile, Prince Max was ineffective in negotiating favorable terms. Wilhelm (still in hiding) would not officially abdicate the throne so Max went public and announced the Kaiser was abdicating the throne. Then Prince Max resigned.

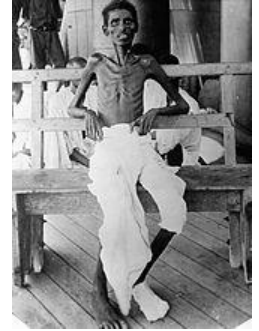
Germany had a Bolshevik party (like Russia) and a left-wing political group--the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) but neither one of these groups could get along. All of this disagreement weakened the left wing socialist-communists parties so a democratic government took power--the Weimar Republic (Nov. 1918). This government was a republic (like America) with a new constitution and parliament (like our Congress).

A group of Weimar German delegates (including Ferdinand Foch) arrived in France by train and were brought to a secluded location in the woods of Compiègne, France. The delegates met in an old railway car to negotiate an **armistice** (which will be important again in World War Two). Hostilities officially ended at 11 am on November 11th (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month) of 1918.

It took seven more months before the formal peace treaties and all the arrangements were finalized. During that time, Germany was surrounded by a naval blockade. Germany had to withdraw all troops from all borders, all sides had to preserve infrastructure, prisoners were exchanged, and the issue of war reparations had to be decided. All the Allied powers agreed that Germany must not be able to make war again.

POWs: Let My People Go

The most dangerous moment in a war, is often the surrender, when helpless soldiers are sometimes gunned down as they give up.



- Germans had 260,000 men wounded, missing, or dead.
- The British Empire had 300,000 (36,500 Australians, 3600 New Zealand, 16,000 Canadians, 90,000 British subjects never identified, 42,000 never recovered).
- 1.4 million Allies were taken as prisoners of war (POWs). Austria 32%, Italy 26%, France 12%, Germany 9%, Britain 7%
- Russia had 2.5 - 3.5 million taken as prisoners of war.
- Central Powers had 3.3 million taken as POWs.
- Germany held 2.5 million prisoners. Russia held 2.9 million. Great Britain and France held 720,000. America held 48,000.
- The Ottoman Empire treated the POWs the worst. 12,000 Indian sepoy's representing Great Britain were held after the Siege of Kut (April 1916). 4000 died in captivity from starvation. *"We were driven along like beasts to drop out and to die."*

Results of the War

- 9 million soldiers, 10 million civilians died. 7 million soldiers were permanently disabled.
- Europe was no longer the center of the world. It was a scarred battleground. Physical devastation in Italy, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Russia, and Serbia.
 - France: vineyards and wheat fields were destroyed, trenches scarred the land, stray landmines and grenades.
 - Europe: piles of rubble that used to be churches, schools, hospitals ruined, famous art, libraries, and museums destroyed, piles of dead, wounded, mass graves
- Economic collapse in Europe. Europe had not planned for a long war. No one had the finances for a long, 4 year stalemate. The war costs totaled: \$337 billion (more than 4.5 trillion today). Economic conditions were horrible. The major world powers were financially devastated and faced bankruptcy. The nations were financially exhausted and produced more paper money to pay back the war debt which caused **inflation**.
- Monarchies collapsed: Germany, Ottoman, Austria-Hungary, and Russia (Hohenzollern, Habsburg, Romanov, Ottoman). This also created a power vacuum in the Middle East.
- Influenced the outbreak of WW2: dissatisfaction of Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan
- New countries established: Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (Oct 14, 1918).
- Austria, Hungary (divorced) became separate countries (Oct 25, 1918).
- America was now a global economic power—and the center of international finance. America invested in European loans (\$3.7 billion invested in Europe).

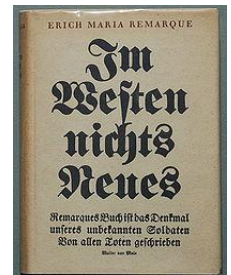


- Women were fired as soon as the men returned & lower pay returned.
 - 1919 Britain removed **650,000** women from their jobs
 - Led to the **Women's Suffrage Movement** (1919-1920), a global movement: Britain 1918, Germany and Austria
 - Women showed their independence by cutting their hair shorter, smoking in public, and wearing shorter dresses (the flappers).
- **Wilson's 14 Points**: free trade, freedom of seas, self-determination, no secret treaties
- **League of Nations**: established to keep peace and prevent future wars.
- **Treaty of Versailles**: Germany was now the democratic Weimar Republic, and was forced to accept the sole responsibility for WWI. Germany lost colonies and land. Could not pay war debts (reparations). This humiliation led to the rise of Hitler.

Worldwide Pandemic

The influenza outbreak during the summer of 1918 was an unusually severe strain of influenza (related to the recent outbreak of the Avian flu H1N1). It spread rapidly across the world (called a **pandemic**). The strain would eventually kill 20 million people (2x the war deaths). The war had encouraged large-scale movements of people back and forth across the globe which accelerated the spread of the virus. The numerous war-ravaged regions of the world experienced poor nutrition and less sanitary conditions, leaving their populations especially susceptible. Germany and Austria Hungary were hit especially hard as their armies became severely weakened by the flu.

"This is the way the world ends. Not with a bang but a whimper." *The Hollow Men* (1925) poem by T.S. Eliot



Books/Films/Art of World War One

- Book/Movies: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929, movie 1979) Erich Maria Remarque (POV of the German soldiers)
- Movies: *The War Horse* (2011); *Passchendaele* (2008); *The Blue Max* (1966); *Gallipoli* (1981); *Shoulder Arms* (1918, Charlie Chaplin, actor, war propaganda).
- Novels: *Paths of Glory* (1957) Humphrey Cobb, Movie by Stanley Kubrick; *Johnny Got His Gun* (1938), Dalton Trumbo (anti-war novel, made into a movie, 1979); *The Guns of August*, Barbara Tuchman (1963)
- Rudyard Kipling, British Author, "Ricki-Ticki-Tavi", "Just-So Stories," his only son (John) died on the western front, Sept. 1915 (age 18), *"If any question why we died, tell them, because our fathers lied."*
- British poet, Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) *"War is hell and those who initiate it are criminals."*
- George Orwell, author, describes how the soldiers began to despise the people back home. *"The little fat men" they knitted socks and sang patriotic songs.*
- Art: Otto Dix (German) painted black and white etchings, *"Lice, rats, barbed wire, fleas, shells, bombs, underground caves, corpses, blood, liquor, mice, cats, artillery, filth, bullets, mortars, fire, steel: that is what war is. It is the work of the devil."*
- The Dada Movement (Paris, 1919) A group of writers and artists launched a protest against everything as nonsense (literature, art, morality, civilization).
- John Singer Sargent, American, *Gassed* (1918), Poison gas blinding, asphyxiation, burning lungs, came to symbolize the horrors of modern war
- *What does art, film, and literature tell you about WWI and how it affected people not only physically but in the view of the world (their optimism and their faith in the future)?*



Sample IB Essay Questions

- Under what circumstances could a war be considered a total war by one of the combatants, but not by other combatants in the same war? Can you give an example?
- World War I has often been described as an unnecessary war. Do you agree and why?
- Were there any connections between the causes of the war in 1914 and the reasons the war was still going on in 1918?
- Consider if the role of diplomacy in World War One was a positive or a negative influence.
- In what ways did advances in technology affect the nature and outcome of warfare during World War I?
- Discuss the US policy of American troops serving in Europe during World War I. Why do think American commanders were hesitant to allow US soldiers to serve in British and French regiments? What effect would this policy have in America's relations with the other allied countries?