

## World War I (1914-1920)

### World War I: The War to End All Wars

World War I, once called *the war to end all wars*, broke out in Europe in August 1914. By the time it was over in November 1918, 8.5 million soldiers had been killed. Twenty-one million soldiers had been wounded. More soldiers died in World War I than had died in all the wars since the year A.D. 1100. Millions of civilians were left without homes. Cities and the countryside were destroyed. The war cost over 338 billion dollars. Even the *winners* paid a huge price. Those who won the war lost almost as much as those who had been defeated.



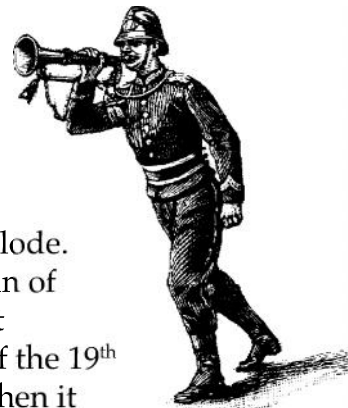
*Germany was no longer ruled by a kaiser (king), and Russia was no longer ruled by a czar following World War I.*

By the war's end, political systems throughout Europe had been changed. The Austria-Hungary Empire and the Ottoman Empire had been completely destroyed. Germany was no longer ruled by a kaiser (king), and Russia was no longer ruled by a czar. In place of those monarchies, Germany developed a democracy, and Russia became a Communist country.

Europe had entered the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the economic and military power of the world. Great Britain and Germany had developed as successful, industrialized nations. Both had powerful navies. France had recovered remarkably from its economic and military defeats in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But as European nations grew stronger,

they developed many disagreements and conflicts. In the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, European leaders were unable to find a peaceful way of solving their problems.

Eventually, Europe became a hot spot ready to explode. One small battle or war could quickly set off a chain of events leading to the *Great War*: World War I. What Europe thought would be a short war (like those of the 19<sup>th</sup> century) turned into a bitter, four-year struggle. When it was over, there were **victors**, but there were no winners.



## Origins of World War I

As you read in Unit 3, the Industrial Revolution encouraged policies of *imperialism* in industrialized nations. As these nations sought to gain colonies and overseas markets, they often developed conflicts with one another. *Nationalism* fueled their desire to show their power and strength by expanding their control of territories and countries. Nationalism often caused nations to compete for valuable land and countries.

Nationalism also increased **militarism**, or the industrial nations' glorification of military strength. This then led to different **alliances**, or agreements, between countries. As you can see, each cause led to many effects. The Industrial Revolution led to imperialism, which led to nationalism, which led to *militarism*, which led to *alliances*. And all of these effects eventually led to World War I. One way to remember this is to use the mnemonic **MAIN**, which stands for the following.



**M**ilitarism  
**A**lliances  
**I**mperialism  
**N**ationalism

## Conflicts Leading to World War I

### Changes in the Balance of Power

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the shape of Germany and Italy had changed. Germany had been composed of a group of states, each state often having different interests. Under Bismarck, Germany unified into a powerful country. Although far less powerful, Italy had also gone from being a collection of small, weak states to a unified nation. These changes created a change in Europe's balance of power. France and Great Britain grew concerned about the strength of Germany. However, having just been defeated by Germany, France was in no condition to stop German industrial and military growth. And France and Austria-Hungary had lost control over Italy after its unification.

In the period before World War I, Great Britain and Germany were the strongest countries. France was next; Russia and Austria-Hungary were

third. Each of these countries had certain goals. Often, the goals of one country were in conflict with the goals of another country. The conflicts discussed below were some of the major causes of World War I.

- Austria-Hungary wanted to stop *nationalist* movements within their multi-national empire, especially in the Balkans (Southeast Europe). The Austria-Hungary Empire included millions of Croats, Bohemians, and other Slavic peoples, many of whom wanted political freedom and self-rule. Austria-Hungary, however, wanted to maintain rule over its **minority** populations in Eastern Europe.
- Working against the political interests of Austria-Hungary was Russia. Russia wanted to gain influence in the Balkans to secure a warm-water port that would be open all year. Russian ships could not operate during the winter because Russian ports in the north were frozen for several months. Russia hoped to gain access to the seaports of the Mediterranean Sea. Russia believed that their aims could only be achieved through war with Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empires.
- Germany in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century began a policy of militarism. Germany wanted to be the dominant military power in Europe. Between 1890 and 1914, the German army and navy had expanded. Germany's chief rivals, France and Russia, had developed a military alliance. Germany also wanted to expand its influence in Africa and Asia.
- France wanted a chance to get back the territories of Alsace and Lorraine—lands lost to Germany in the Franco-Prussian War. To this end, France had strengthened its military ties to Russia and built a larger army to keep up with Germany's growing strength.
- Great Britain did not want Germany to become a threat to its overseas empires in Africa and Asia. Britain wanted to remain the strongest colonial empire in the world. The British were concerned about Germany's growing interest in building a railroad through the Balkans, which might endanger Britain's access to India. Great

Britain continued to devote more and more of its resources to expanding their already powerful navy. This caused strained relations between Germany and Great Britain.

- In the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878), Russia went to war with Turkey on behalf of the Slavic people in the Balkans. Russia's imperialist ambitions were to use the conflict between the Slavic people and the Turks as an excuse to expand into Balkan territory. Russia forced upon Turkey a peace treaty that gave Russia the most influence in the Balkans. The Treaty of San Stefano (1878) created a large Russian-controlled Bulgarian state. Great Britain, Germany, and Austria-Hungary were afraid of Russian influence in the Balkan area. In 1878 Great Britain and Germany forced Russia to give up most of the territory it won in the Russo-Turkish War the year before. At the Congress of Berlin in 1878, the European powers divided Bulgaria into three parts. One part remained under Turkish rule. Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania won independence. Britain gained control of Cyprus, and Austria-Hungary won the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Russia lost its war gains. The Ottoman empire lost European territory.

### Entangling Alliances

The shift in the balance of power caused all of the European countries to make alliances with each other. Once two countries joined in an alliance, they became a threat to other countries. So other countries joined an alliance to protect themselves. Quite quickly, Europe split into two sides.

Germany and Austria-Hungary joined in the first important military and political alliance. This alliance, or agreement, stated that Germany and Austria-Hungary would come to each other's aid if Russia attacked one of them. Germany then formed a similar alliance with Italy to oppose France in case of attack. Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary were now part of the *Triple Alliance*.



Europe on the Eve of the War, 1914

Similar agreements were made between France, Russia, and Great Britain. They agreed to protect each other in case Germany, Italy, or Austria-Hungary attacked them. The agreement or treaty between France, Russia, and Great Britain was called the *Triple Entente*, or *friendly understanding*.

The period from 1870 to 1914 was a time when European countries formed entangling alliances. These entangling alliances were made so that if one country attacked another, all countries would be forced to declare war on each other. Obviously, this system of alliances caused great tension throughout Europe. A dispute between any two powers could draw the entire continent into war. This period from 1870 to 1914 was a time of too many **diplomats** representing their governments and not enough **statesmen** skilled in carrying out public and national affairs. In other words, too many deals were made, and there were not enough strong and skillful leaders.

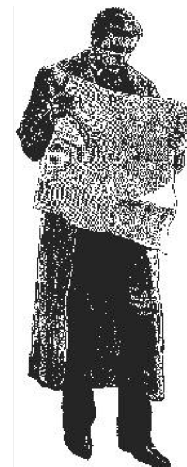
### Arms Race

General feelings of unrest throughout Europe encouraged the desire for **artillery**, or large, heavy firearms. The Industrial Revolution provided

European countries with the technology to build more powerful weapons at a fast pace. Industries developed to produce guns, cannons, and other modern weapons. Each country tried to produce more weapons than another. Along with this **arms race**, nations increased the size of their reserve armies. More men were **drafted** for longer periods of time. In case of an **assault**, or attack, these reserves would be **mobilized**, or called to active duty, to serve in the army. These events did not give Europeans a sense of security; instead it appeared that European countries were headed for war.

### Imperialism and Economics

During the period before World War I, imperialism played an important role in causing competition and conflicts among nations. Nations competed with each other as never before. Competition grew as European nations sought new colonies and spheres of influence for trade. France and Great Britain were very worried about the rapid growth of Germany. They did not want Germany to claim too many colonies overseas.



*Newspapers helped fuel nationalism and fear among its readers.*

### Newspapers Spread Fear and Encourage Nationalism

Newspapers **exaggerated** the problems between nations. For example, British newspapers printed stories saying that the Germans were out to destroy the British Empire. German newspapers printed stories which accused France and Great Britain of being *hungry* for more land. Newspapers helped fuel nationalism and fear among their readers.

## Crises in Morocco and the Balkans Strengthen Alliances between Nations

### The Moroccan Crises of 1905 and 1911

In 1905, Germany challenged France's influence in Morocco. The German Kaiser, visited Morocco and pledged his support for that country's independence. Not ready for war, France agreed to settle the crisis of

Morocco at an international conference. At the conference in 1905, the nations decided that Morocco's independence was secure and that France's special interests in that country would continue.

Hostilities concerning control of Morocco intensified again in 1911 between Triple Entente and Triple Alliance powers. Germany and France *averted*, or avoided, war when both nations agreed to a compromise. Germany withdrew its objections in exchange for a small area of the French Congo. The Moroccan crises of 1905 and 1911 were setbacks for Germany and brought France and Great Britain into closer alliance.

### **The Balkan Crisis of 1912–1913**

The second major crisis took place in the Balkans. Russia wanted to control a waterway to the Mediterranean. With Russian approval, four Balkan nations, known as the *Balkan League*—Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Greece—warred against, defeated, and seized territory from the Ottoman Empire. As a result of the war, the Ottomans lost all of their European territory with the exception of Istanbul. Soon after the war, the Balkan states began to fight among themselves over lands they had gained in the war with the Ottomans. The fighting finally ended in 1913 with the Treaty of Bucharest. The disputed land was redistributed. The European powers tried to preserve the existing balance of power to prevent Russia and Austria-Hungary from gaining more influence in the Balkans.

Austria was opposed to Russian influence in the Balkans. Austria feared that a powerful Serbia would cause unrest among Serbians and other Slavic peoples in the Austria-Hungary Empire. Germany supported Austrian ambitions to control the Balkans. The Balkan crisis of 1912–1913 brought Russia and Serbia closer together and intensified Russian and Serbian hatred for Austria-Hungary.

At the beginning of 1914, Europe was on the brink of war. Allies grew closer than ever as tension throughout Europe mounted.

## The Final Straw: War Begins

Taken all together, the situation in Europe from 1870 to 1914 was very unstable. Europe was ready to explode. All it needed was a spark to set it off.

The rival alliances—the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente—had faced each other in a series of diplomatic clashes between 1905 and 1914. One Serbian nationalist finally committed the act that set off the *Great War*.

The government of Austria-Hungary knew that Serbian nationalists in Serbia and in Austria were plotting the breakup of the Austria-Hungary Empire. Austria-Hungary suggested a new plan of government to satisfy the Serbs. The Dual Monarchy would become the Triple Monarchy. Austria-Hungary hoped that giving more self-determination to the national minorities within the empire would keep the minorities from rebelling. This plan, however, was never put into action.

On June 28, 1914, the **heir** to the Austrian throne, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie were visiting Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, in the Balkans. Sarajevo was a Serbian-populated region in the Austrian Empire. Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist who wanted all Serbians to unite in one nation, **assassinated** both Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie as they drove through the streets of Sarajevo.

At first, European diplomats thought they could solve this crisis through diplomacy. After all, the other crises had been solved through diplomacy. What the diplomats did not realize was that this crisis was much more serious than the others.

### Chain of Events

June 28, 1914	A <i>Serbian</i> nationalist assassinates <i>Austria's</i> Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife.
July 23, 1914	<i>Austria-Hungary</i> gives <i>Serbia</i> an <b>ultimatum</b> , a set of final demands that must be accepted to avoid severe consequences.
July 28, 1914	<i>Austria-Hungary</i> declares war on <i>Serbia</i> and attacks.



July 30, 1914	<i>Russia begins to mobilize its army for war against Austria.</i>
July 31, 1914	<i>Germany issues Russia an ultimatum to cancel its mobilization order or face war. Germany also issues an ultimatum to France. Germany demands that Russia stop its war preparation. Germany asks France what it will do if Germany goes to war with Russia. France says that it will act according to its own interests.</i>
August 1, 1914	<i>France prepares for war. Germany declares war on Russia.</i>
August 2, 1914	<i>Germany demands the right to march through <b>neutral</b> Belgium. France says "no."</i>
August 3, 1914	<i>Germany declares war on France. Great Britain promises to help France.</i>
August 4, 1914	<i>Germany invades Belgium, a neutral country. Great Britain declares war on Germany.</i>
August 6, 1914	<i>Austria declares war on Russia.</i>

Diplomacy fails; all of Europe is drawn into war.

## **Responsibility for the War**

Much has been written about which country was responsible for causing World War I. The paragraphs which follow will provide you with some clues. You decide.

### **Serbia**

Serbia wanted to create a large Slavic state that would include land controlled by the Ottoman and Austria-Hungary empires. The Serbian

government encouraged the nationalistic movements within the Austria-Hungary Empire and was aware that Archduke Francis Ferdinand's life was in danger. However, the Serbian government could not have acted so openly and boldly without the knowledge that Russia and France would defend Serbia in case of war.

### **Austria-Hungary**

The Austria-Hungary Empire was falling apart. The government was unable to stop the many nationalistic movements within its empire. When the *heir* to the Austrian throne was killed, Austria-Hungary wanted to punish Serbia. Austria-Hungary, however, could not have acted so boldly without knowledge that Germany would back its demands. The Austrian government believed that this crisis would stay in the Balkans and that the Balkan war would not spread.

### **Germany**

The German government wanted more territory in Europe and a larger empire around the world. Germany encouraged the Austria-Hungary government to put down nationalistic movements. Germany would have more influence in the Balkans if Austria-Hungary maintained its empire. The German Kaiser William (German: Wilhelm) II, was a cousin of both the Russian Czar Nicholas II and the British King George V. Therefore, William II did not fear Great Britain or Russia. He never expected that his cousin, George V, would go to war against Germany. He also thought that Russia and France would be too weak to fight.

### **Russia**

The Russian government encouraged Serbia to refuse many of the demands made by the Austrian government. When Russia mobilized its army for war, it forced Germany and Austria to do the same. Russia still wanted a water route to the Mediterranean. The Russian government felt that if the Austria-Hungary Empire was divided, Russia would get its water route and gain control over the Balkan countries.



*When Russia mobilized its army for war, it forced Germany and Austria to do the same.*

## **France**

The French government, angry at the Germans and Austrians, did nothing to stop the Russians. France wanted Alsace-Lorraine back, a territory it had lost from Germany in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). France also wanted to prevent Germany from gaining more territory overseas.

## **Great Britain**

Great Britain feared German control of Belgium—with its location across the channel from the British Isles—as a threat to its security. Britain made it clear that it would fight to protect Belgium. Great Britain was also worried about Germany's growing economic and military strength.

## **The Responsible Party?**

Which of the countries' actions described above caused World War I? Some of the countries and empires were more aggressive than others. But it is hard to point to any single country or empire as responsible for World War I.

## Europe Plunges into War

European diplomats made many mistakes in judgment during World War I. They believed that, as with past wars, this war would last only a few months. Each side expected to win a quick victory. They were wrong. The fighting dragged on for four years. This was a war unlike any other in history. Neither side gained a major advantage and both sides suffered terrible losses. During this unprecedented war, the Triple Entente became known as the *Allies* and Germany and Austria as the *Central Powers*.

### Stalemate on the Western Front

The Germans were faced with fighting on two **fronts**. On the Western Front, they would be fighting the British and the French. On the Eastern Front, they would be fighting the Russians. Yet, the Germans had a plan: the *Schlieffen Plan*. The Schlieffen Plan called for a swift attack on France, while Russia slowly mobilized. Almost the entire German army would race west to knock France out of action before the Russian army was ready to fight in the east. The idea was that France would surrender early in the war. Then Germany would turn on Russia in the east.

The Germans followed their plan. At first, it worked. Germany quickly moved through Belgium on the way to France. The Germans attacked the French at the first battle of Marne River. The French successfully counter-attacked the right **flank** of the German army, and drove back the German army. Paris was saved. Then the German generals made a mistake. They changed policy. Instead of making quick moves, they stopped and *dug in*. They dug **trenches** in the ground to protect themselves. *Trench warfare* had begun. This strategy wore the Germans down. At Verdun, France, for

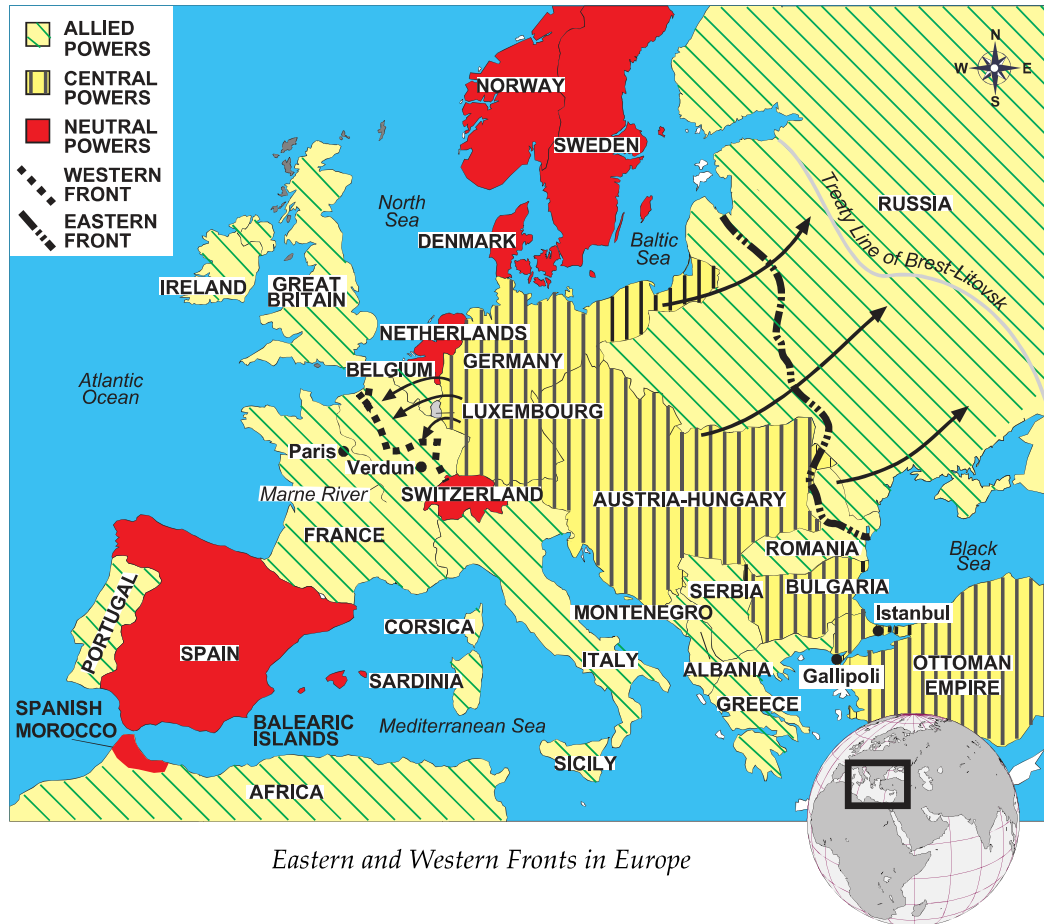


*trench warfare*

example, the Germans fought a long and costly battle with the French. Both sides lost over 300,000 soldiers in this dug-in warfare.

By Christmas 1914, the two sides formed a battle line that became known as the *Western Front*. The opposing armies used trench warfare. Now the

war became economic. That is, the side with the ability to supply their soldiers with food, clothing, weapons, and **ammunition** over the longest period of time would win.



*Eastern and Western Fronts in Europe*

### The Eastern Front

On the Eastern Front, the Russian army suffered heavy losses at the hands of the German army. Austria suffered heavy losses, as well. Neither Russia nor Austria were as industrialized as France, Great Britain, and Germany. Their weapons were second-rate. Their ability to supply their soldiers with proper clothing, food, and weapons was poor. By the end of 1914, the Eastern Front looked similar to the Western Front. That is, all sides were dug in. Germany entered the war with the strongest and best-supplied army. However, it faced one problem which it was unable to overcome: its geography. Germany's only way of getting supplies by sea was through the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. But Great Britain's navy was stronger

than the German navy. Britain controlled the seas. Therefore, Germany and Austria-Hungary had to rely mostly on their own supplies.

Germany was helped somewhat when the Ottoman Empire entered the war as an ally. This meant that Russia would lose the use of warm-water ports into the Mediterranean Sea. This hurt Russia, since it needed these ports to get supplies. The British government decided to attack the Turks in an attempt to open the ports. In 1915 the British army and navy attacked at Gallipoli. The battle lasted 18 months. Great Britain was soundly defeated.

In the meantime, Bulgaria joined Germany. Italy, Germany's unreliable partner, switched sides and joined the Allies. Italy did this because it was promised territory if Germany and Austria were defeated. Although the Italian army was poorly equipped for war, Italy attacked Austria-Hungary. Only with help from Great Britain and France was Italy able to hold its own.



*The Russian army suffered heavy losses at the hands of the German army on the Eastern Front.*

Throughout 1915 and 1916, the Russian army suffered heavy losses. The Russian government was losing the support of its people, and they asked for an end to the war. In 1917, the Russian government was overthrown by a revolutionary group known as the *Bolsheviks*. The new Russian government signed a separate peace treaty with Germany in March 1918. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk gave Germany much Russian territory. The Russians gave up the Baltic provinces, the Ukraine, and Poland. The war on the Eastern Front was over. Now, Germany could bring all of its resources to the Western Front.

### **European Governments Wage Total War**

All European citizens were totally involved in the war effort. The governments of Britain, Germany, Austria, Poland, and France took control of the economy. Factories were told what and how much to produce. All able-bodied civilians were put to work. Thousands of women replaced men in factories and other jobs. Their efforts kept the troops supplied with food, clothing, and war supplies. Because of the war, many goods were in short supply. European governments had to turn to rationing. Citizens could only buy small quantities of those goods that were also needed for the war effort.

### Edith Cavell (1865-1915)



Edith Cavell was an Englishwoman whose quiet courage made her a heroine of World War I. A nurse, she was running a teaching hospital in Brussels, Belgium, when the war broke out. Nurse Cavell took wounded soldiers who had been captured by the Germans and had escaped to her hospital. She also became involved in an underground movement to help captured soldiers escape to freedom in England.

## The United States Enters the War

As the war dragged on, bitterness among nations increased. Offers of a peace treaty from Germany were rejected by Great Britain and France. In 1917, however, the tide of the war changed. The United States entered the war on the side of Great Britain and France, or the *Allies*. Until American troops (called *Doughboys*) arrived, Germany was winning the war. The United States entered the war for many reasons. The main reason was that Germany refused to stop submarine attacks against American ships bringing supplies to Great Britain. As a neutral country, the United States claimed the right to sell supplies to any country it chose. Germany replied that, as a country at war with Great Britain, it had a right to stop any country from supplying Britain.

### Doughboys

The expression “doughboys,” which was in wide circulation a century before the first World War in both Britain and America, came from fried flour dumplings called doughboys, the predecessor of the modern doughnut. History is not completely clear on why our American soldiers were called *doughboys*, but there are several *theories*.

- American soldiers came to love eating the doughboys or doughnuts.
- United States infantrymen wore coats with unique brass buttons that resembled the doughboy dumplings.
- The method of cooking rations was shaping a flour and rice concoction in the shape of a doughnut around a bayonet and cooking over the flames.

In 1915 the Germans sank the *Lusitania*, a British liner carrying munitions and passengers. Twelve hundred people, mostly civilians, were drowned, including 128 Americans. This attack on civilians made many Americans sympathetic towards the Allies.

Another reason for the entry of the United States into the war was the *Zimmermann note*. The British had intercepted a telegram message from the German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmermann to his ambassador in Mexico. It offered the Mexican government money, a secret alliance, and former Mexican territory in the United States in return for declaring war on the United States. When this note became public, Americans demanded action against Germany. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on the Central Powers.

## The War Ends

During the early part of 1918, Germany began an **offensive** on the Western Front. The *offensive* was successful for a while. The German army was closing in on Paris once again. In July of 1918, the second battle of the Marne took place. There, the German army was soundly defeated. In



August, the British army defeated the Germans at Amiens, France. With sinking morale and many **desertions**, the German army and its plans for victory looked dismal. In October 1918, the governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary asked President Woodrow Wilson of the United States to arrange an **armistice**. Germany signed the *armistice* which ended the hostilities on November 11, 1918.

Germany at the end of the war was torn by revolution. On November 9, Kaiser William II **abdicated** and fled from Germany to the Netherlands. Germany then declared itself a republic. The Austria-Hungary Empire had completely collapsed and the Ottoman Empire was on the verge of collapse. Economically, politically, and socially, Europe was destroyed. Europe, once a tower of strength in world affairs, was now a shattered ruin. Against this troubling series of events, allied leaders prepared to debate the terms of peace. Neither Russia nor any of the defeated nations of the Central Powers were to have a voice in the discussions. Instead, the task fell to the *Big Four*—Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States.





*Europe after World War I, 1919*

## Technology and World War I

During World War I, many nations used new military weapons that caused a tremendous destruction of lives and property. The Industrial Revolution had enabled these countries to produce these new weapons and materials.

You have already read about trench warfare. *Trench warfare* meant that the opposing armies dug *trenches* in the ground to protect themselves. (See picture on page 126.) Every so often, a group of soldiers would charge from their trenches to attack the opposing soldiers. Casualties were high when this tactic was used and ground gained was measured in yards. Trenches were protected with barbed wire. Often, soldiers would use poison gases and smoke bombs to force opposing soldiers out of their trenches.

### The Technology of World War I

- smokeless gunpowder
- machine guns
- barbed wire
- improved artillery fire
- land and sea mines
- armored tanks  
*(beginning in 1917)*
- trucks for convoys  
*(toward the end of the war)*
- amphibious assault vehicles
- submarine warfare
- airplanes  
*(for observational purposes; later for small-scale bombing and attacks on ground forces)*
- dirigibles  
*(steerable self-propelled airships; called blimps)*
- poison gas

## The Treaty of Versailles: A Difficult Peace

On November 11, 1918, Germany signed the armistice which ended the fighting in World War I. Now the victorious countries met to work out a treaty, or the peace terms, that all the warring countries would obey. This treaty would explain, for instance, all the penalties that the losing countries would have to pay to those they fought. The treaty would also outline any new geographical borders to be drawn. In charge of writing the treaty were the Big Four—the most powerful allies—Great Britain, the United States, France, and Italy.

Representatives of the new German government were forced to sign this peace treaty. They did so on June 28, 1919, in Versailles, a city near Paris, France, five years to the day after Francis Ferdinand's assassination in Sarajevo. Thus the treaty was called the *Treaty of Versailles*.

Below is an outline of the Versailles treaty. It notes the most important statesmen involved in the treaty, what problems the treaty needed to resolve, and what the results of the treaty were. This outline also describes how the United States responded to the treaty, as well as the problems the treaty created in the following years.

### The Treaty of Versailles

#### I. People: The Big Four

##### A. Woodrow Wilson

1. President of the United States
2. Wanted to create a better world through the formation of the League of Nations
3. Wanted a proposal known as the Fourteen Points, which would ensure *a just and lasting peace*
4. Supported self-determination—allowing people to decide for themselves under what government they wished to live

##### B. Georges Clemenceau (Klemon-so)

1. Premier of France
2. Sought to ensure France's security against future German invasions and wanted a treaty that would make Germany suffer, to make sure it would never wage war again

3. Wanted to impose military limitations, **reparation** payments, and territorial losses on Germany
- C. David Lloyd George
1. Prime Minister of Great Britain
  2. Won reelection in 1916 with the slogan “Hang the Kaiser”
  3. Sought to expand Britain’s colonial empire, preserve its naval and industrial supremacy, and make Germany *pay for the war*
- D. Vittorio Orlando
1. Prime Minister of Italy
  2. Wanted to make sure that pre-war agreements which promised more land for Italy were honored
  3. Wanted to expand Italy’s empire overseas
- II. Major issues to resolve
- A. Protection for the national and international security of European nations
- B. Polish territories
- C. Italy’s claim for more territory
- D. German territory
1. What the boundaries of Germany should be
  2. What to do with German colonies overseas
- E. Satisfaction of France
1. How to make France’s borders more safe and secure
  2. Whether to give France back land taken by Germany during Franco-Prussian War of 1871—Alsace-Lorraine
- F. Amount of *reparations* should Germany pay
- G. Care for the millions of desperate people in Europe

### III. Results of treaty

#### A. Italy

1. Received some Austrian territory in the north
2. Received little economic aid
3. Did very poorly at the peace conference
4. Orlando left early, angry

#### B. France

1. To receive money (reparations) from Germany
2. To get back provinces lost during Franco-Prussian War—  
Alsace-Lorraine

#### C. Japan

1. Became a major power in world affairs
2. Received all German colonies north of the equator in the  
Far East

#### D. Russia

1. Absence from peace conference
2. Involved in civil war
3. Distrusted by the other European nations due to rise of  
communism
4. Loss of much territory
  - a. Finland
  - b. Baltic states: Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania

#### E. Great Britain

1. To receive reparations from Germany
2. To receive most of Germany's colonies in Africa

#### F. Germany

1. Lost most of its colonies
2. Gave up about 13 percent of its territory in Europe to France,  
Belgium, Denmark, and Poland
3. Reduced to a weakened state
  - a. Small army
  - b. Small navy

4. Kaiser and military advisors accused of war crimes
  5. Forced to pay huge reparations of about 32 billion dollars
  6. Had to accept Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles
    - a. Germany blamed for starting the war
    - b. Germany forced to sign treaty under the threat of invasion
  7. New German democratic government formed
- G. Austria-Hungary
1. Empire split apart into new countries of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary
  2. Could never unite with Germany again
- H. United States
1. President Wilson seen as a peacemaker
  2. President Wilson presented a plan for a *League of Nations*
    - a. European countries joined
    - b. United States refused to join
  3. People in United States wanted to become *isolationists* again
  4. Congress *did not* approve the Treaty of Versailles
- IV. Problems created by the Treaty of Versailles
- A. Too many Germans left outside of German borders
  - B. Many minorities left in different countries
    1. Germans left in France
    2. Germans left in Poland
    3. Austrians left in Italy
  - C. Continued hatred between French and German people
  - D. Lack of cooperation among Great Britain, France, and the United States after the war allowed Germany to rise again

- E. German reparations (payments)
  - 1. Unreasonable
  - 2. Germany lost its ability to pay
    - a. Lost rich coal-producing areas
    - b. Lost rich iron-producing areas
    - c. Lost overseas markets
    - d. Economic collapse after war
- V. The 1920 World Organization—League of Nations:  
Woodrow Wilson’s idea and dream
  - A. Purpose
    - 1. To promote international cooperation
    - 2. To help keep the peace
  - B. Problems
    - 1. Member nations unwilling to give up any power
    - 2. United States refused to join
    - 3. Lacked power to enforce its decisions
- VI. Evaluation of the Treaty
  - A. Weakness of Treaty
    - 1. Countries sought own self-interest
    - 2. Victors did not cooperate
    - 3. Did not prevent Germany from becoming a major power again
  - B. Effect on United States
    - 1. President Wilson encouraged the United States to play its role as a world power
    - 2. Congress refused to accept its responsibility as a world power
    - 3. United States became isolationist

### C. Effect on Germany

1. German people angry with the harsh treatment they received
2. Germans insulted and angry that they were blamed in total for causing the war
3. Hitler's rise to power was a direct result of the anger of Germans towards the other nations of Europe

## VII. Outcome of Treaty

### A. Led to worldwide economic depression

### B. Failure of European leaders to understand that 19<sup>th</sup> century solutions would *not* work in 20<sup>th</sup> century

### C. Decline of Imperialism

1. President Wilson spoke out in favor of self-determination
2. Nationalism spread throughout the world as natives in colonies sought independence



## The Legacy of the War

### Results of the War

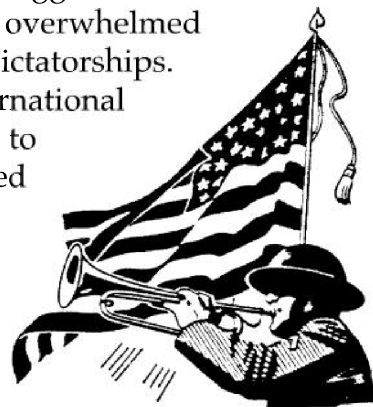
Both sides in World War I paid a heavy price measured in the loss of human life. About 8.5 million soldiers died during the war, and over 21 million were wounded. Millions of civilians died as a result of disease, starvation, and slaughter.



*About 8.5 million soldiers died during the war and over 21 million were wounded.*

The war's cost had an economic impact that lasted many years after the war. Its total cost was estimated to be \$338 billion. Farmland, homes, villages, and towns were destroyed by the war. Paying for the war burdened Europeans with high taxes and a lower standard of living. Economic problems caused by the war helped bring on the 1929 depression. Although the United States became a leading world power, it was unwilling to take an active part in international affairs.

Three major European dynasties, or ruling families, collapsed: the *Hohenzollerns* of Germany, the *Hapsburgs* of Austria-Hungary, and the *Romanovs* of Russia. The new nation-states that arose in central Europe struggled to survive in post-war Europe. Russia, Italy, and Germany, overwhelmed by economic and political problems, turned to dictatorships. The League of Nations, established to solve international problems and advance world peace, was unable to achieve success without the support of the United States. Many came to believe that the peace settlement at Versailles was a *peace built on quicksand*. It would eventually give way two decades later, and the world would again experience the ravages of war.



## Review

The origins of World War I, or the Great War, began long before any European actually declared war. *Imperialism* in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century led to hostile competition among European nation to colonize and control overseas territories. *Nationalism*, or extreme pride in one's country, fueled this race for territory. Nationalism also increased *militarism*, or the build-up of large militaries.

Added to these factors was a shift in the *balance of power* in Europe. A unified Germany grew in economic and military strength. France and Great Britain feared Germany's strength and saw it as a threat to their own international success and survival. In addition, a unified Italy had broken free of France and the Austria-Hungary Empire. The political face of Europe had been redrawn.



Many European countries had different interests that created conflict. Austria-Hungary attempted to keep the many nationalist movements in its empire from rebelling. Russia, on the other hand, supported these groups against Austria-Hungary. Russia wanted a warm-water port in the Balkans and saw a war with Austria-Hungary as a way to gain this.

France wanted to regain territories it had lost to Germany in the Franco-Prussian War. And Great Britain believed that Germany's rise to power would threaten its holdings in Africa and Asia. All across Europe, regions of tension had developed.



*The United States turned the German success into defeat.*

In order to protect themselves, countries began to develop alliances. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the *Triple Alliance*. France, Russia, and Great Britain responded by forming the *Triple Entente*. Between 1870 and 1914, Europe divided into two sides, with a few nations remaining *neutral*. The Triple Entente eventually became known as the *Allies*, and Germany and Italy as the *Central Powers*.

World War I began when a Serbian nationalist assassinated Austria's Archduke Ferdinand and his wife. Within months, Germany and Austria were at war with Russia, France, and Great Britain. Russia eventually withdrew from the war after its government was overthrown. Austria suffered heavy losses, and Germany was left to fight on its Western Front against France, Great Britain, and Italy. After early success, Germany found itself facing the United States. The United States turned the German success into defeat. In 1918 Germany signed an *armistice* that ended the fighting.

In the *Treaty of Versailles*, the Big Four—France, Great Britain, the United States, and Italy—forced Germany to pay heavily, both in money and in land. The treaty turned out to have mixed results. In the end, the United States did not support the treaty. Nor did the United States support President Woodrow Wilson's plan for an international peace organization called the *League of Nations*.

The legacy of World War I was one of death and destruction. Both the Allies and the Central Powers had a staggering number of deaths resulting from the war. The human and material costs were overwhelming. About 8.5 million soldiers died, and 21 million more were wounded. The nations of Europe also suffered political and economic hardships. In less than 20 years, conditions created by World War I and the Versailles Peace Treaty would lead to renewed fighting and another world war.