World War I

1914-1918
Long-Term Causes of WWI

1. Rival alliances: Triple Alliance vs. Triple Entente
2. The Anglo-German arms and naval race
3. Increased tensions among the great powers of Europe due to Imperialism
4. Nationalism, which created a “powder keg” in the Balkans, and twisted Germany into a more ambitious, reckless, and bombastic country
5. The decline of the Ottoman Empire, the “sick man of Europe,” which created a power vacuum
Emergence of the German Empire

● In 1871, the balance of power of Europe was upset by the decisive Prussian victory in the Franco-Prussian War and the creation of the German Empire.
  ○ Possessed a great and growing population, wealth, industrial capacity, and military power
  ○ Austria was severely weakened and nationalism threatened to tear it apart
  ○ The Franco-Prussian War and Germany’s annexation of Alsace-Lorraine damaged French power and prestige while also creating fear about a new and more powerful next-door neighbor who could replace it as the dominant Western power
● Therefore, it revolutionized diplomacy and forced new alliances
New Alliances

- Bismarck, at this point still the Chancellor of Germany, hoped to keep the new German nation safe and avoid war
  - Bismarck thereafter feared French revenge and negotiated treaties to isolate France, specifically from Austria and Russia
  - Russo-Turkish War of 1877
    - With the decline of the Ottoman Empire (the Eastern Question), rising nationalism led to the Balkan countries of Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, and Montenegro to attempt fill the power vacuum by claiming much the Empire for their own
    - Inspired by Pan-Slavism: a nationalist movement to unite all Slavic peoples, encouraged the Serbs, Bosnians, Slovenes, and Croats to seek a single political entity in Southeastern Europe.
Russia wanted to claim Turkish territory (especially after its defeat in the Crimean War) and specifically control Constantinople and the Dardanelles. It also reflected the idea of Pan-Slavism, as it portrayed itself as Holy Mother Russia, protector and uniter of all Slavic peoples.
More Alliances

- In 1879, the Dual Alliance emerged between Germany and Austria
  - Bismarck sought to thwart Russian expansion.
  - The Dual Alliance was based on German support for Austria in its struggle with Russia over expansion in the Balkans.
  - Agreed to neutrality in case of war
  - This became a major feature of European diplomacy until the end of World War I.
Triple Alliance

- **Triple Alliance, 1881**: Italy joined Germany and Austria
  - Italy sought support for its imperialistic ambitions in the Mediterranean and Africa.

- **Russian-German Reinsurance Treaty, 1887**: It promised the neutrality of both Germany and Russia if either country went to war with another country.

- **1888, Kaiser Wilhelm II came to the German throne**
  - He desired a strong Germany on an international scale and so differed from Bismarck’s cautious diplomacy.

- **Kaiser Wilhelm II refused to renew the reinsurance treaty after removing Bismarck in 1890.**
  - Huge diplomatic blunder; Russia wanted to renew it but now had no assurances it was safe from a German invasion.
  - France courted Russia; the two became allies in 1894
  - Germany, now out of necessity, developed closer ties to Austria.
  - Kaiser Wilhelm more or less dismantled all of the alliances Bismarck created.
Kaiser Wilhelm II
Triple Entente

- Germany wanted to ally with Britain but Britain professed "Splendid Isolation"
  - After 1891, Britain was the only non-aligned power and enjoyed relative security with the world’s largest navy and protection by the sea as an island nation.
- The Anglo-German arms race also drove Germany and Britain a part
  - In 1898, Kaiser Wilhelm II began the expansion of the German navy to protect its growing international trade and colonialism. Believed they could make Britain's navy inferior (absurd)
- Entente Cordiale (1904): Due to the Anglo-German naval arms race, Britain and France settled all outstanding colonial disputes in Africa.
  - France accepted British rule of the Sudan.
  - Britain recognized French control of Morocco.
- Triple Entente, 1907: Britain, France and Russia (Like France and Russia, Britain and Russia settled their differences in 1907) formed to check the power of the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, and Italy) [informal association]
Simplify Balkan Crises

- **First Balkan War** (1912)
  - Italy decided it wanted a piece of Africa, particularly Libya. It felt threatened by the possibility of French autonomy over Morocco and so attacked the Ottoman Empire to preempt the French. It was successful.
  - Inspired by Italy’s success, in 1912, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, and Serbia attacked the Ottoman Empire and won easily.

- **Second Balkan War** (1913)
  - Austria was threatened by Serbia’s power and determination, as it saw itself as the central Balkan state to unify all of the Slavs.
  - Austria, with German support against Russia, prevented Serbia (which had just gained Montenegro) from holding onto Albania too.
  - Serbia was frustrated as it still had no access to the Adriatic Sea; **Albania gained independence**.
  - Russia was humiliated as it could not help Serbia acquire Albania.
The Third Balkan War (WWI) 1914

- June 28, 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Austrian heir to throne, was assassinated by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip (member of the ultra-nationalist Serbian "Black Hand") while visiting Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Serbia’s chief of intelligence in their army helped plan the attack.
- The Archduke was unpopular in Austria for giving Slavs more of a say in Austria (so it was not sad when he died) but Austria had to respond to the attack due to the radical nationalism of the Slavs.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II supposedly pledged support to Austria to punish Serbia with the so-called "the blank check," but actually pushed Austria to act swiftly and prove their strength while also gaining support from sympathetic countries.
  - The hope was to keep this a localized war between Austria and Serbia but also, Germany feared the growing power of Russia and was willing to go to war with them [Germany figured it would be better to go to war with Russia now than see them control the Balkans].
  - All depended on British neutrality.
Austria did not act quickly but still made harsh demands on Serbia by requiring Serbia to punish all forms of anti-Austrian sentiment and participate in joint judicial proceedings against anti-Austrian activity.

- Eventually Serbia agreed to most of Austria’s terms

- **On July 28, Austria declared war on Serbia.**
  - Claimed Serbia had not accommodated adequately Austria’s demands
  - On July 29, Austria began bombarding Belgrade (the capital of Serbia).
  - This represented the first military aggression of the war.
  - In response, Russia mobilized its armies against Austria and Germany.
  - France, in response, mobilized on Germany's western border.

- **On August 1, Germany declared war on France.**
  - On August 3, Germany invaded Belgium (on its way through to France).
  - In effect, Germany turned the little localized war in the Balkans into a world war by attacking Belgium and France, which encouraged Britain to join the war
In response, France declared war on Germany. On August 4, Britain declared war on Germany.

Two opposing alliances emerged:

- **Central Powers (Triple Alliance):** Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, (also Bulgaria)
- **Allies (Triple Entente):** Britain, France, and Russia (later, Japan, Italy, Romania, and the U.S.)

Thus, World War I began which would truly change Europe forever:

- Was seen as a release from tension after years of crises and resentments, and few realized how the advancements in technology would affect warfare
- Many expected a short war, but in reality, they experienced the worst war in history hitherto
Haotična scena na ulicama Sarajeva, posle ubistva Ferdinanda
Triple Entente (Allies)

Advantages:
1. Superiority in numbers and financial resources
2. Command of the sea
3. Widespread patriotism

Disadvantages:
1. Expected a short war with a few decisive battles
2. Did not look to the American Civil War to see the horrors of trench warfare

Triple Alliance (Central Powers)

Advantages:
1. Possessed internal lines of communication
2. Development of machine guns and other deadly technology long before the Entente
3. First to attack
4. Nationalism

Disadvantages:
1. Same as Entente
2. Fought more people at one time
New Strategies and Technology

- **Trench warfare** resulted in a stalemate and lasted four bloody years.
- Technological advancements in war increased casualties.
  - World War I represented the industrial revolution applied to warfare.
  - **Machine gun**
    - Perhaps the most important reason for the frightful casualties that occurred compared to previous wars.
    - It was first used effectively by the Germans in mowing down French and British offensives in trench warfare; it was eventually employed by both sides.
    - One machine gun equaled the effectiveness of 40 men with rifles; German guns fired 600 bullets per minute.
  - **Tanks**
    - Artillery was now made mobile (in contrast to cannon used in previous wars).
    - Tanks could navigate treacherous terrain but initially suffered numerous mechanical problems.
    - They were first used at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 to smash down barbed wire fences but had little effect.
    - They were not really effective until the last year of the war, especially for the Entente.
Cont.

- **Airplane**
  - Initial air fights consisted of pistols and rifles fired from planes.
  - Germany developed the first fighter plane (the Fokker) that synchronized machine guns and propellers.
  - In response, Britain and France developed their own fighter squadrons.
  - Britain used planes to bomb Zeppelin bases in Germany.

- **Poison gas**
  - Chlorine gas was used by the Germans early in the war.
  - The impact of mustard gas was largely negated by the use of gas masks by the Allies.
  - Germans later used phosgene gas and tear gas in concert for its offensives.

- **Submarines (U-boats)**
  - Submarines, initially used by Germany, had devastating effects on Allied shipping throughout the war.
  - Britain and France also used submarines.
  - The German use of U-boats was the most important reason for why the U.S. eventually entered the war.

- **Zeppelins (blimps)**
  - They were used by Germany to bomb London and other civilian targets as a weapon of terror. Eventually, exploding shells were able to destroy Zeppelins in the air.
Radio

Wireless technology made communication more effective on the battlefield.

The Germans took advantage of Russia’s lack of radio capability and tapped into their phone lines to discover battle plans.
Unsplinterable eyepieces with gelatine film on the inside to prevent dimming.

Adjustable elastic straps.

Filter unit.

Activated charcoal which absorbs and retains the gas and fumes.

Poison gas drawn in at air intake valve through gauze-covered hole in haversack.

Face piece of moulded rubber.

Outlet valve through which speech is audible.

Air, now free of poison drawn into mouth through flexible tube.

Cotton and wire gauze filters to further retain poisonous element in the air.
Total War

- "Total war": involved mass civilian populations in the war effort
- Massive conscription drafted most able-bodied men in their youth.
- In some cases, civilian populations became targets.
  - Early in the war, Germany used Zeppelins to bomb London.
  - The British blockade resulted in significant starvation in Germany.
- News was censored; propaganda lionized men at the front and dehumanized the enemy.
  - Intense nationalism demanded support from the entire population.
  - Was used to suppress criticism and strikes during shortages and inflation
  - British propaganda effectively demonized Germany as the “Hun.”
BRITONS

“WANTS YOU”

JOIN YOUR COUNTRY’S ARMY!

GOD SAVE THE KING

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Dein Vaterland ist in Gefahr

Melde Dich!

G. Kav. Schützen Div.

Freiwilligenannahme, Berlin, Nürnbergerstr 70-71
Bedingungen: Mobiler Gehalt 5 Mk tägl. Zulage, Feldpension
freie Bekleidung u. Quartier, kurze Kündigungsfrist, Entlassungsgeld
Defend your island from the grimmest menace that ever threatened it.

Every man from 18 to 61 should ENROL TODAY.

Forms for offer of Services may be had at all Post Offices, National Service Offices and Employment Exchanges.
DESTROY THIS MAD BRUTE

Beat back the HUN with LIBERTY BONDS
GEE!!
I WISH I WERE A MAN

Id JOIN THE NAVY,
NAVAL RESERVE OR COAST GUARD
• Economic production focused on the war effort.
  ○ Free-market capitalism was abandoned in favor of strong central planning of the economy.
  ○ Women replaced male factory workers who were now fighting the war.
    ○ Changing attitudes about women resulted in increased rights after the war (Britain, Germany, Austria and the U.S.)
    ○ Labor unions supported the war effort and saw increased influence and prestige due to increased demand for labor.

• The **rationing of food** and **scarce commodities** was instituted due to shortages

• Civilians financed the war by buying **war bonds**.

• Each side aimed at “starving out” the enemy by cutting off vital supplies to the civilian population.

• Increase in centralized control by warring regimes
  ○ In France, Georges Clemenceau created a dictatorship during the war.
  ○ Germany became the world's first totalitarian regime in order to control the war effort.
  ○ In large part, the impact of the British blockade resulted in an increasingly repressive gov’t in Germany.
  ○ The British economy was largely planned and regulated.

• War promoted **greater social equality**, thus blurring class distinctions and lessening the gap between rich and poor.
The Western Front

- **The Schlieffen Plan**
  - German 42-day military plan to invade France through Belgium, defeat France quickly by sweeping around Paris, and then redeploy to the east to defeat Russia before she fully mobilized.
    - When Russia began to mobilize on July 28 after Austria declared war on Serbia, the 42-day timetable had begun. Germany believed she had to attack lest she be saddled with a two-front war against Russia and France.
  - **Battle of the Marne (September 1914)**
    - After the Germans came within sight of Paris, French and British forces pushed the German forces back.
    - The battle represented the end of mobility on the Western Front.

- Why did the Schlieffen Plan fail?
  - Belgium’s surprising resistance to Germany’s invasion slowed down the German offensive into France.
  - The left of the German line failed to lure the French army into Alsace and Lorraine and destroy it.
  - Russia mobilized quickly in the east requiring German divisions to be sent there instead.
  - The French and British counterattack at the Battle of the Marne was decisive in halting the German invasion.
Cont.

- After the Battle of the Marne, both sides turned to trench warfare in which massive attacks across the “no-man’s land” were preceded by artillery bombardments for hours at a time→ deep psychological damage ("shell-shock")
  - Only the tank could withstand the machine gun as they would later learn
- A long line of trenches stretched from the North Sea to the Swiss border in the south (about 440 miles—25,000 miles of trenches were built overall).
  - Despite massive casualties on both sides, few gains were made in terms of gaining ground.
- 1916: Massive casualties but neither side could break through, even with poison gas
- **Battle of Verdun** (February-December)
  - Germany sought a battle of attrition that would “bleed France white” and force it to sue for peace.
  - France’s motto was “They shall not pass”; Petain became a national hero
  - France lost 540,000 men; Germany lost 430,000; it was the war’s second bloodiest battle, but France held the line (even though they had fewer men)
• **Battle of the Somme** (July-November)
  • British and French offensive aimed to break through the German lines.
  • Bloodiest battle of the war; no result
  • Losses of men: Britain 420,000; France 200,000; Germany 650,000

• **Erich Remarque's** *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929) later illustrated the horrors trench warfare.

• **British and Allied Naval Blockade**
  ○ Britain’s goal was to strangle the Central Powers.
  ○ Starting in 1914, the Allies used its superior fleet and sea mines to cut the Central Powers off from overseas trade and caused Germany to lose control of its colonial empire.
  ○ Germany responded by sinking Allied vessels with U-boats.
  ○ **Lusitania**, 1915: U-boats sank a British passenger liner killing 1,200 (including 128 Americans)
  ○ This turned American public opinion squarely against Germany.
  ○ Germany in 1917 began **unrestricted submarine warfare**, sinking all ships with its U-boats.
  ○ This was the most important reason for U.S. entry into the war. Another reason was the **Zimmerman Note** in which Germany proposed an alliance with Mexico against the U.S. with Mexico receiving much of the southwestern U.S. (Texas, Arizona, New Mexico) if the Central Powers won. Mexico refused.
  ○ By war’s end, the blockade succeeded in strangling Germany, resulting in thousands of German deaths due to starvation; also led to a repressive gov’t in Germany
Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it.

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun.

Support trench.

Reserve trench.

Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire.

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops.

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.

A deep dug-out. German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS
LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND.
Russian Revolution, 1917

- Least expected event in Europe but the one with the most long-term results in the 20th century
- Changed the course of the war and of Europe by making one of the major European states a Communist regime
- The February Revolution, 1917
  - Causes for the overthrow of Nicholas II
    - Russia’s poor showing in the Russo-Japanese War (1905) had damaged the regime’s credibility and had led to some reforms in 1905.
    - After 1905, widespread discontent with the regime continued due to the lack of significant reforms after the Revolution of 1905.
    - Most important cause: the tremendous human and economic toll on Russia during World War I
    - Massive military casualties and food shortages
    - The tsar’s leadership during the war was increasingly seen as incompetent.
      - While the tsar was off fighting the war, the tsar’s widely hated wife—Tsarina Alexandra—and court was unduly influenced by the notorious mystic, Rasputin.
      - The tsarina believed Rasputin had mystically saved her son (and heir to the throne), Alexei, from death due to hemophilia.
      - Russia’s gov’t ministers were increasingly frustrated by Rasputin’s hold on the royal family
      - Aristocratic conspirators eventually killed him.
The Revolution was centered in St. Petersburg (Petrograd).

- Revolution was started by massive strikes in January and February, largely caused by food shortages.
  - Notably, women rioted for bread in Petrograd and were supported by workers and soldiers.
  - Demonstrators demanded the overthrow of the tsar and the creation of a provisional government.
  - Thousands of soldiers, who had been ordered to suppress the strikes, now gave the support to the revolution.
  - Nicholas II abdicated his throne on March 2.
  - The royal family was placed under house arrest.
  - Only about 1,000 Russians had died in the revolution.
- The Duma responded by declaring a provisional gov’t on March 12, 1917.
The Provisional Government

- A dual government, in effect, ruled Russia.
  - The Provisional Gov't consisted of Constitutional Democrats and liberals, many of whom wanted to continue the war.
  - The Petrograd Soviet consisted of workers and soldiers who had overthrown the tsar (soldiers now controlled the army). The Mensheviks led its organization.
  - The Soviet accepted the authority of the Provisional Government seeing it as the best chance for maintaining control of the country.
  - The Soviet soon brought together representatives from other soviets and emerged as a national body.
  - Popular pressure demanded more radical reforms.
  - Alexander Kerensky became leader of the Provisional Government (while remaining a member of the Soviet).
- The participation of Kerensky and other socialists in the new coalition government gave the Provisional Government more legitimacy.
  - No longer was the gov’t an exclusively bourgeois institution.
  - He sought peace in the war without losing land to the Central Powers.
○ Implemented a liberal program
  ■ Equality before the law
  ■ Freedom of religion, speech, and assembly
  ■ Right of unions to organize and strike
  ■ Amnesty for political prisoners
  ■ Election of local officials
  ■ 8-hr work day
○ Kerensky rejected outright social revolution.
  ■ He didn't want to immediately confiscate large landholdings and give them to peasants.
● The Allies recognized the Provisional Government hoping it would continue the war on the Eastern Front.
  ○ Anarchy plagued Russia by the summer of 1917.
  ○ Numerous nationalities and local governments took matters into their own hands.
  ○ Russian peasants began to take lands from the lords, often violently (similar to what had occurred in France during the Great Fear of 1789).
    ■ By 1920, the number of landless peasants had decreased by half.
October Revolution resulted in a communist dictatorship

Rise of Vladimir I. Lenin
- Germany arranged for Lenin to be transported back to Russia in a sealed railroad car in April 1917.
- They hoped to get Russia out of the war by fomenting a more radical revolution that demanded peace.

"April Theses" (1917)
- Lenin rejected all cooperation with the “bourgeois” Provisional Government.
- He called for a "Socialist revolution" and the establishment of a Soviet republic.
- He sought nationalization of banks and landed estates.
- Slogans: “All Power to the Soviets”; “All Land to the Peasants”; “Stop the War Now”
- Lenin believed that a communist revolution could occur, even in an industrially backward country such as Russia.
- However, breaking with Marx, Lenin believed that a small professional revolutionary elite would have to force the issue.
- The Provisional Gov’t sought to repress the Bolsheviks but were largely ineffective.
- Lenin was forced to flee to Finland but continued issuing directives to the Bolsheviks while in exile.
- The Bolsheviks gained a slim majority in the Petrograd Soviet by the summer of 1917.
Fall of the Provisional Government

- Kornilov Affair (August 1917)
  - Conservatives, including General Lavr Kornilov, plotted an overthrow of Kerensky’s government.
    - They were dissatisfied with Kerensky’s handling of the war, his inability to suppress the Bolsheviks, and peasant seizures of land.
  - The plot eventually failed without bloodshed and Kornilov and others were arrested.
  - However, Kerensky lost all credit with the army
  - Fear of a right-wing counter-revolution played into the Bolsheviks’ hands as they were able to cast themselves as the defenders of the revolution.
  - Kerensky’s refusal to end the war and prevent anarchy led to the fall of Provisional Gov’t.

- The Politburo was formed to organize the revolution: included Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin

- On November 7, Leon Trotsky, leader of the Petrograd Soviet (the Red Army), led the Soviet overthrow and arrest of the Provisional Government.
  - Trotsky was the second most important figure in the October Revolution.
  - The Provisional Government collapsed with relatively little bloodshed (compared to the February Revolution).
  - On November 8, the Bolsheviks, who controlled the Central Committee of the Congress of Soviets, officially took control of the government.
Opponents of the Bolsheviks were arrested, including many Mensheviks.

- **The Cheka, the secret police, was created in December to eliminate opponents.**
  - It became a much feared organization with virtually absolute power.
  - New elections for the Constituent Assembly were held in January, 1918.
    - Lenin’s campaign: "Peace, Land, Bread"
  - The Bolsheviks lost (only 29% of vote) but overthrew the new gov’t in January 1918 with the Red Army.
  - Bolsheviks soon thereafter were renamed the Communist Party.
  - The surprising result of the revolution was not that the Bolsheviks took power but maintained power, even though they were a small minority.

- **Lenin’s reforms**
  - **Decree on Land:** Lenin gave land to peasants (although peasants already had taken it, much like the “Great Fear” of the French Revolution).
  - This move was shrewd in that Lenin had no real control over lands in the countryside but was now perceived as a friend of the peasantry.
  - Lenin gave direct control of individual factories by local workers’ committees.
  - **Decree on Peace:** Lenin carried through on his promise to take Russia out of the war.
  - It was clear to Lenin that Russia had lost the war to Germany.
    - Prolonging the war would continue adding to Russia’s misery.
    - He was willing to achieve peace at any price.
    - Many Bolsheviks disagreed with Lenin initially but Russia’s poor showing in early 1918 convinced them to support peace.
The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918 took Russia out of WWI.

- Russia lost 1/3 of its population and 25% of its European lands to Germany.
- Lost territories included the Baltic states, Poland, Ukraine and Finland.
- Germany’s defeat by the Allies in November nullified the treaty.

- Lenin moved the gov’t from Petrograd to Moscow.
- Trotsky reorganized the army.
- These actions resulted in much opposition to the Bolsheviks and ultimately the Russian Civil War.
Ленин живет, Ленин будет жить!
End of the War

- Wilsonian Idealism: the **Fourteen Points** (January 1918)
  - U.S. plan to end the war along liberal, democratic lines
  - Transformed the war into a moral crusade to achieve a peace that would be just and secure and for human liberty
- Provisions:
  - Abolish secret treaties
  - Freedom of the seas
  - Remove economic barriers (e.g. tariffs)
  - Reduce armament burdens
  - “Peace without victors”
  - “Self-determination”: Promise of independence to oppressed minority groups (e.g. Poles and Czechs), millions of which lived in Germany and Austria-Hungary.
  - Adjustment of colonial claims in interests of both native peoples and colonizers
  - German evacuation of Russia; restoration of Belgium; return of Alsace-Lorraine to France; evacuation and restoration of the Balkans; return of Schleswig to Denmark
  - Adjustment of Italy’s borders along ethnic lines
  - Autonomy for non-Turkish parts of the Turkish Empire
  - 14th point: creation of an international organization to provide collective security
    - Foreshadowed the **League of Nations** that was created after the war
Cont.

- Meuse-Argonne offensive (spring 1918)
  - Germany transferred divisions from the east (after defeating Russia and the subsequent Brest-Litovsk Treaty) to the Western Front and mounted a massive offensive.
  - The U.S. entered the war in time to assist Britain and France in stopping the German offensive.
- The Central Powers sought peace based on the Fourteen Points (believing they would get fair treatment).
  - Germany and Austria-Hungary were wracked with revolution.
  - Austria-Hungary surrendered on November 3, 1918.
  - Germany agreed to an armistice which began on November 11.
  - Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate and fled to Holland.
• **Paris Peace Conference, 1919** (Very unlike the Congress of Vienna)
  • **Big Four:** David Lloyd George (Br.), Georges Clemenceau (Fr.), Woodrow Wilson (U.S.), Vittorio Orlando (It.)
    - Wilson’s idealism was difficult to put into practice
    - The Central Powers were excluded from negotiations as France was concerned with its future security, which left them bitter. (Treaty dictated, not negotiated)
    - Italy left the conference, angry it would not get some Austrian and Balkans territories it had been promised in 1915.

• **Versailles Treaty, 1919**
  - **Mandates** were created for former colonies and territories of the defeated Central Powers (basically still colonies; used for military support)
  - Much of the **Middle East** was now controlled by Britain and France since the Ottoman Empire was destroyed
  - **Article 231 (war guilt clause)** placed sole blame for the war on Germany that resulted in its severe punishment.
  - Germany’s army and navy were severely reduced; Germany lost all its colonies.
  - German territory was given to Poland (the Polish Corridor separated Germany from East Prussia), Denmark (Schleswig), France (Alsace and Lorraine), and other smaller lands to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Lithuania.
  - Germany was forced to pay huge reparations to Britain and France (responsible for all of their war expenses + guilt of war + had to give up lands with natural resources + had to accept the treaty w/o negotiation
● **League of Nations** created
  ○ Germany and Russia were not included which weakened the League from the outset.
  ○ The U.S. Senate failed to ratify the Versailles Treaty resulting in U.S. isolationism for two decades.
  ○ The League thus was born as a mere shadow of what it had originally been intended to achieve
THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE

“BIG FOUR”

BRITAIN
David Lloyd George

ITALY
Vittorio Orlando

FRANCE
Georges Clemenceau

UNITED STATES
Woodrow Wilson
You've got to swallow it whether you like it or not!

Peace Terms

British Empire

France

America

Italy

Japan

Big Four Pills
Worth Millions
A Box

DER TAG!
Europe 1914

The old empires...

Europe 1923

...became new countries
Effects of World War I

- Massive casualties: 10 million soldiers dead; 10 million civilians dead, many also died from the 1918 influenza epidemic; perhaps 15 million died in the Russian Revolution and subsequent Russian Civil War.
  - Thus, the birthrate fell significantly after the war (although illegitimate births increased).
- The war promoted greater social equality, thus blurring class distinctions and lessening the gap between rich and poor.
  - The Russian Revolution abolished the nobility and gave women more rights than any other country in Europe.
  - Women received the right to vote in Britain the same year that the war ended; Germany soon followed.
  - The nobility in Germany, Austria and Russia lost much of its influence and prestige.
  - During the war, women took over the jobs of men who were fighting the war (but were paid lower wages).
- Dissent increased as the war continued.
  - Tsar Nicholas II was overthrown by the Provisional gov’t in February 1917, who was then overthrown by the Bolsheviks in November due to mounting war casualties.
    - They were inspired by British conscription of soldiers that began in 1916.
In Germany, militant socialists and anti-war activists Rosa Luxembourg and Clara Zetkin were imprisoned for trying to convince fellow socialists not to support the war effort. Large crowds of women in France, Austria and Italy protested working conditions or high prices.

- Government censorship existed in virtually every country and people increasingly grew dissatisfied with the integrity of their governments.

- End to long-standing royal dynasties
  - Habsburg dynasty removed in Austria (had lasted 500 years)
  - Romanov dynasty removed in Russia (had lasted 300 years)
  - Hohenzollern dynasty removed in Germany (had lasted 300 years)
  - Ottoman Empire destroyed (had lasted 500 years) → led to many problems in the Middle East

- The political map of Europe was redrawn.
  - Creation of the new states of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Yugoslavia (which often mixed unfriendly ethnicities)
    - Albania regained its sovereignty
  - Germany was split in two by the Polish corridor (East Prussia was separated from rest of Germany).

- The Russian Revolution resulted in the creation of the world's first communist country.
- German nationalist resentment of the harsh Versailles Treaty doomed the new Weimar Republic in Germany.
John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919): Predicted the harsh terms of the treaty would hurt Germany’s economy, and thus the economy of the rest of Europe, and lead to significant future political unrest.

German anger with the treaty was partially responsible for the rise of Hitler and the Nazis in the early 1930s (although the Great Depression was the immediate reason).

When Hitler took control of Germany in 1933 and began his aggressive policies, Keynes’ predictions seemed prophetic.

Europe lost its preeminent position economically that it had enjoyed for 500 years.

- The U.S. became the world’s leading creditor and greatest producer due to the drain of Europe’s resources during the war.

- The comfortable 19th C. assumptions of inevitable progress based on reason, science and technology, individual freedom, democracy, and free enterprise gave way in many places to cynicism, existentialism, nihilism, absurdism, statism, official racism, and class warfare.