World War I
(1914-1918)

AP World History
Chapter 21
“The Collapse and Recovery of Europe”
(1914 – 1970s)
The World in the Early 20th Century

- By 1900 = Europeans, or people with a European ancestry, largely controlled the entire world through their formal empires or informal influence

- This would all change over the next few decades
The World in the Early 20th Century

- Rivalry and competition between European states continued throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries
- Fragile peace was barely being maintained after the defeat of Napoleon and his empire in 1815
  - Congress of Vienna (1815) = international meeting held to redraw European boundaries
  - Attempt to create a peaceful balance of power in Europe
- Rivalries and competition intensified with the unification of Italy and Germany in 1871
Italian Unification

- Italy had been divided up into several independent city-states
- Process of Italian unification began following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815
- Unified in 1871
- 1st King of a united Italy = Victor Emmanuel II
German Unification

- Last major European power to unify
- Was divided up into 39 independent states
  - Largest = Prussia
German Unification

- Otto von Bismarck = prime minister of Prussia
- Wanted strong government & army → unification would come through “blood and iron”
- Embraced **realpolitik** = right of a country to pursue its own advantages by any means, including war
German Unification

- 1864 = War against Denmark
- Denmark ruled Schleswig and Holstein = large German populations there
- Bismarck formed a temporary alliance with Austria
  - They won
  - Prussia got Schleswig
  - Austria got Holstein
German Unification

- 1866 = Austro-Prussian War
- Bismarck formed alliances with Russia, France, and Italy
  - Prevented them from forming alliances with Austria
  - Bismarck’s goal = to create a Germany under Prussian domination that excluded Austria
  - He won
- Austria gave Holstein to Prussia
- Austria gave Venetia to Italy
German Unification

- 1870-1871 = Franco-Prussian War
- France = a threat to a united Germany
- France demanded some territory from Prussia as compensation for their alliance in the last war
- Bismarck refused → eventually led to war between the two nations
  - Bismarck won
- Prussia gained the French territory of Alsace-Lorraine = major industrial site

Napoleon III of France seated next to Prussian Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, holding Napoleon’s surrendered sword
German Unification
German Unification

- Unified in 1871
- 1st Kaiser (emperor) = Wilhelm I
- Bismarck = chancellor = chief minister
MAIN Causes of WWI

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism
Imperialism

- European = imperialist rivalries since the 1800s
- Competed for territory and economic power all over the world
  - Especially in: Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, China, and the Balkans
- Competition turned to hostility and conflict as European’s “got in each other’s way”
Nationalism

- Nationalism had unified Germany and Italy and was becoming more and more popular.
- The French wanted Alsace-Lorraine back from Germany.
- In Austrian Empire = nationalism was creating the most violent tensions in Europe.
  - Pan-Slavism = Slavic nationalism.
  - Desire to unite all of the Slavic people under one empire.
Pan-Slavism

- Many Slavic people = in the Austrian and Russian Empires
- Many Slavic people = in the Balkans = region once controlled by the Ottoman Empire (which was now falling apart)
- Major country in favor of Pan-Slavism = Serbia
Militarism

- Militarism = glorification and expansion of the military
- Countries began to build up their militaries and spend money on military training
- Many countries began conscription = draft of civilians into the military
- Domino effect ➔ when one country enhanced its military, other countries would do the same
Alliances

- **Alliance systems** = defense agreements among nations
- 2 major alliance systems:
  - Triple Alliance = Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
  - Triple Entente = Great Britain, Russia, and France
June 28, 1914 = Archduke Francis Ferdinand (heir to the throne in Austria-Hungary) was assassinated

His wife Sophie was also killed

Both were in Sarajevo = capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina

A territory controlled by Austria-Hungary with a very big Slavic population

 Murdered by Gavrilo Princip = member of the Black Hand = secret Slavic nationalist group
The Assassination
German Support

- Austria-Hungary approached Germany and made sure that Germany would support it if it took action against Serbia
- Germany promised a “blank check” of support
  - Unconditional and full support
Declaration of War

- Austria-Hungary gave Serbia an ultimatum
  - 1) Serbia must let A-H officials into the country to stop all violent, nationalist movements
  - 2) Serbia must let A-H officials into the country to investigate the assassination
- Serbia said: NO
- July 28, 1914 = A-H declared war on Serbia
- Both countries started mobilization = preparing the military for war
A European War

- Russia began to mobilize
  - Supported Serbia and Pan-Slavism
  - France began to mobilize to support Russia
  - Germany gave Russia and France an ultimatum = stop mobilizing or face war
    - They didn’t stop
    - Germany declared war on Russia and France
- Great Britain tried to stay neutral
A European War

- August 1914 = Germany invaded neutral Belgium in order to get to France
- This led Great Britain to declare war on Germany
  - Did not like that Germany was getting so close to them
  - Did not like that Germany was invading neutral countries
Other Nations Join the War

❖ For the Central Powers (formerly the Triple Alliance):

❖ 1914 = Ottoman Empire
❖ 1915 = Bulgaria

❖ For the Allied Powers (formerly the Triple Entente):

❖ 1914 = Serbia, Belgium, Montenegro, Romania, Greece, Portugal
❖ 1914 = Japan → wanted German territories in the Pacific
❖ 1915 = Italy switched alliances → Allies promised Italy territories in A-H when they won
❖ 1917 = U.S.
Response of the People

- People in every country responded with patriotic enthusiasm
  - Cheered for their country
  - Supported their troops
- Nobody knew how devastating the war would actually be to Europe
  - (No country stockpiled more than 6 months worth of ammunition and supplies)
Europe in 1917

European Alliances on the Eve of World War I. Alliance systems divided Europe into two great blocs with few countries remaining neutral.
Military Aspects of WWI

- Worldwide involvement = first time in world history that all major nations were involved in a war
- Every continent provided troops for combat
- Colonial troops and laborers funneled in from Africa, India, China, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa

A Young Australian Recruit
Military Aspects of WWI

- Naval warfare = battles between the British and German navies were very common
- They would also set up blockades to stop each other from receiving food & materials
- Germans used U-Boats = submarines
Military Aspects of WWI

- New Weapons
- Dirigibles (airships)
- Submarines
- Machine guns
- Giant artillery guns
- Tanks
- Airplanes
- Poison gas
- Gas masks
Military Aspects of WWI

✧ Trench Warfare
   ✧ Used on the Western Front
   ✧ Complex system of trenches and tunnels
   ✧ Soldiers would be in them for several weeks at a time
   ✧ Soldiers suffered from boredom, disease, rats, mud, cold, standing water, etc.
   ✧ “Trench foot” = when the feet would begin to rot and decay due to exposure to water and cold
   ✧ Often got infected → could lead to gangrene
Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun.

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

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

Front-line trench.

Reserve trench.

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

Support trench.

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.

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

A deep dug-out. German ones could be 1.5 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS
Military Aspects of WWI

✦ Trench Warfare (cont.)

✦ Trenches were surrounded by barbed wire -- men often got caught in it
✦ Space in between the trenches = “No man’s land”
✦ “No man’s land” = scattered with land mines
✦ WWI became a **war of attrition** = trying to wear down the other side with constant attacks
WWI = “Total War”

- Total War = countries involved used every resource available for the war effort
- On the home front = people mobilized resources for the military front
  - Hole in the workforce because the war took any men old enough to fight
  - Women went to work in the factories
  - Poor people benefited from new work
  - Factories made war products instead of domestic products
- “War socialism” = governments took more control over the economy during the war; needed war supplies
Major Theaters of War

- “Theater” of war = the location
- In WWI = 2 theaters
  - Western Front
  - Eastern Front
Western Front

- Plan XVII = French plan to go on offensive attacks without concern for the opponent’s strategy
- Led to mass casualties in the war
- Schlieffen Plan = Germany’s military plan to avoid war on 2 fronts
The Schlieffen Plan

- Created by German General Alfred von Schlieffen
- Plan = go into France through Belgium and conquer France, THEN turn back around through Germany to get Russia
  - Believed Russia would be slow to mobilize because so large
  - Paris = objective of German push in France after getting through Belgium
Problems with the Schlieffen Plan

1. The Germans met much more resistance in Belgium than they anticipated
   - This slowed the Germans down
   - This depleted German resources, troops, etc.

2. The slowdown in Belgium gave British troops a chance to come over and join the French troops for support

3. Russia mobilized a lot faster than Germany thought it would
   - This forced Germany to end up fighting on 2 fronts
A Multi-Front War

Map of Europe during World War I, highlighting front lines, major battles, and key locations.
Stalemate on the Western Front

- Both sides continued to fight with neither side making any real progress
- Both sides were losing troops, ammunition, supplies, food, medicine, etc.
- Both sides had to change their war strategy:
  1) Recruitment of Civilians
  2) Propaganda = used by the government to make the enemy look beastly and inhuman
Recruitment Posters

London Opinion

1st London Opinion 1st

Your country needs YOU

I want you for U.S. Army

Nearest recruiting station
New French Recruits
Recruits of the Central Powers

Austro-Hungarians

A German Soldier Says Farewell to His Mother
A German Boy Pretends to be a Soldier
Soldiers Mobilized

- France: 8 million
- Germany: 12 million
- Russia: 14 million
- Britain: 9 million
War Propaganda

Australian Poster
War Propaganda

American Poster
War Propaganda

Beat back the HUN with LIBERTY BONDS

Financing the War
War Propaganda

German Poster

Denkt an Eure Kinder!

Think of your children!
Major Battles on the Western Front

1. Battle of the Marne
2. Battle at Verdun
3. Battle of the Somme
4. Second Battle of the Marne
Battle of the Marne
September 1914

- French vs. German troops
- French stopped German advances
- Not strong enough to push them all the way back to Germany
- Pushed the Germans back 50 miles away from Paris
- Saved Paris
- Boosted morale for the French
Verdun - February 1916

- German offensive
  - Sneak attack
  - Broke out of trenches and attacked French city of Verdun
- Longest battle in the war
  - 6 months
  - Germans finally abandoned attack
  - Result = stalemate
- Each side had 500,000 casualties
The Somme - July 1916

- British forces attacked the Germans to take the pressure off French troops in Verdun
- No advancement or gain for either side
- 1.1 million dead
  - 500,000 German troops dead
  - 400,000 British troops dead
  - 200,000 French troops dead
Second Battle of the Marne
July 1918

- Germans tried one more time to get Paris
- Within a month, the U.S. sent 2 million American troops to help the French there
- Fresh Americans = deciding factor in the war
- They helped the Allies push the Germans back to Germany & forced them to surrender
Sacrifices in War
Sacrifices in War
The Eastern Front

- Didn’t use trench warfare
- War here = mobile and involved constant changes in battlefield positions
- Neither side ever achieved a complete victory here either
The Russian Disaster
August 1914

- Russians invaded eastern Germany
- Diverted German troops from the Western Front
- But Russia ended up suffering a disastrous defeat
  - 30,000 Russians killed
  - 92,000 Russians taken prisoner
Continuous Russian Defeats

- 1914 - 1917 = Russia continued to suffer harsh defeats by German armies
  - Lost millions of men, supplies, ammunition, guns, etc.
  - Morale in Russia = VERY LOW
- Although the Russians suffered, their efforts helped the Allies over on the Western Front
The U.S. Enters the War

- President Woodrow Wilson had issued the **Proclamation of Neutrality**
  - Said that U.S. would stay neutral in WWI
  - But world events led the U.S. to get involved in the war
  - In 1917 = the U.S. declared war on Germany
The U.S. Enters the War

- **U-Boats**
  - Germans used unrestricted submarine warfare = subs attacked without warning & attacked commercial ships also
  - Subs = called “U-Boats”
  - Subs used to blockade England and weaken its navy
  - Germans torpedoed ships of neutral nations
  - 1915 = a U-Boat sank an American passenger liner = the *Lusitania*
  - 1200 people killed -- 128 Americans
The Lusitania
The U.S. Enters the War

- Allied Propaganda
  - Americans felt receptive to it
  - We felt connected to England -- common language and culture
  - We had a friendship with France since way back when they helped us in the Revolutionary War
The U.S. Enters the War

✦ The Zimmerman Telegram
✦ Intercepted by the British & given to U.S.
✦ Sent from Germany to Mexico
✦ Said that if Mexico supported Germany in WWI, then Germany would help Mexico get land it lost to U.S. in Mexican-American War
The U.S. Enters the War

- American Economic Interests
  - Americans sold food and manufactured goods to the Allies
  - Made loans to the Allies → afraid that if Germany won, their loans would never get repaid
The U.S. Enters the War

- American Security
  - If Germany won, it would become the dominant power in Europe
  - Germany could take over Great Britain and be closer to the U.S.
    - Threatened U.S. security
- American Idealism
  - U.S. believed the world would be a better place if the Allies won
Significance of the U.S. in WWI

1. Turned the tide of WWI in favor of the Allies
2. Broke sharply with America’s traditional avoidance of foreign conflicts
3. Marked America’s emergence as a world power → eventually led to world leadership
Turning the Tide

❖ When the U.S. joined WWI, the Allies got:

❖ More resources
❖ More troops
❖ Boosted morale

❖ American involvement changed WWI

❖ No more stalemate
❖ Allies now had the advantage
❖ The U.S. helped the Allies push the Germans back to the German border
Germany Surrenders

- September 1918 = German generals von Hindenburg & Ludendorff told Kaiser Wilhelm II that the war could not be won
- Collapse of Central Powers followed
Germany Surrenders

- November 9, 1918 = Kaiser abdicated and a German republic was proclaimed
- November 11, 1918 = Germans signed an armistice = agreement to end the fighting
Wilson’s 14 Points: Trying to Restore the Peace

- Freedom of the seas
- Removal of international trade barriers
- Reduction in arms
- End to secret alliances
- Adjustment of European boundaries according to nationality

League of Nations = “general association of nations”

14 Points = guiding framework for peace settlement
Paris Peace Conference

- January 1919
- Representatives from 27 nations met
- No one from Central Powers or Russia invited
- 5 separate peace treaties signed
  - Biggest one = Treaty of Versailles
  - Most decisions made by the “Big Four”
The “Big Four”

President Woodrow Wilson (U.S.)

Prime Minister David Lloyd George (Britain)

Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando (Italy)

Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau (France)
Treaty of Versailles
Signed June 28, 1919

1) Territorial Provisions

- Germany gave Alsace-Lorraine to France
- Germany gave Saar coal mines to France
- Germany gave small areas on its border to Denmark and Belgium
- Other border changes were made based on nationality
Treaty of Versailles

2) Colonial Provisions

- Germany had to give up all of its overseas colonies to the Allies
- Great Britain & France split Germany’s colonies in Africa
- Australia took German Pacific islands south of the Equator
- Japan took German Pacific islands north of the Equator
League of Nations Mandates in Africa
German Pacific Colonies
Lost After WWI
3) Disarmament

- German army limited to 100,000 volunteers
- Submarines & aircrafts banned in Germany
- Draft banned in Germany
- German navy reduced to a few small ships
- Demilitarization of the Rhineland in Germany
Treaty of Versailles

4) War Guilt Clause and Reparations

- Germany had to accept SOLE responsibility for the war

- Germany had to pay **reparations** = **payments for all war damages**
5) Creation of the League of Nations

- Ended up being very weak
- U.S. Senate refused to join
- Not enforced well
- Not strong enough to stop WWII
- Collapsed in 1940
Other Settlements

- Austria-Hungary broke up
- New nations emerged in Europe out of the old German, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian Empires
- In the Middle East, the Allies divided up what was left of the Ottoman Empire
New Nations: 1923
League of Nations Mandates in the Middle East

*Mandate =* a territory administered by another country
Results of WWI

- WWI destroyed the lives and homes of millions of people
- Many people found themselves to be minorities in newly formed nations
- Many people who thought they would become citizens of independent nations saw their dreams dashed
- Losing side = bitter about the outcome
- Most bitter country after WWI = Germany
  - Left weak and humiliated as a result of the Treaty of Versailles
Results of WWI

- **Social Results**
  - 10 million soldiers killed
  - 20 million soldiers wounded
  - 13 million civilians died = from getting caught up in the war, disease, starvation, etc.
  - World left with hatred, intolerance, and extreme nationalism
Results of WWI

דירוג

Political Results

- U.S. emerged as a leading world power
- Breakdown of empires & monarchies
- New countries emerged in Europe
- Many European countries would eventually turn to dictatorship
  - Italy, Germany, and Russia
Results of WWI

- Economic Results
  - Total cost of WWI = $350 billion
  - Taxes increased in Europe to pay for the war
  - International trade declined
  - Economic issues eventually led to the Great Depression
    - Worldwide – not just in the U.S.