World War I
The Great War
The War to End All Wars
Ch 29
1914-1918
1. Militarism

- (Policy of glorifying military power + keeping an army prepared for war)
- European countries believed that to be truly great, they needed a powerful military
  - Made citizens feel patriotic
- Led to an arms race in Europe (stockpiling + developing bigger + better weapons)
- Generals had developed plans for mobilization of military
- **Kaiser Wilhelm II** of Germany takes power in 1890 + rapidly builds up army + navy
  - “I and the army were born for one another.”
2. Alliances

- Mutual distrust + rivalries led to the formation of military **alliances** (treaties of support)
  - Usually, if one member was attacked, the others would be obligated to fight w/ them
- 2 major alliances form:
  1. **Triple Alliance**: Germany, Austro-Hungary, + Italy
  2. **Triple Entente**: Britain, France, + Russia
3. Imperialism

- (Policy in which a strong nations seek to dominate other countries politically, economically or socially)
- European nations competed for colonies in Africa + Asia
- Sense of rivalry + mistrust
Nationalism

- Belief that people should be loyal mainly to the people with whom they share a culture and history rather than a king or empire.

- Can serve as a unifying force within a country or can cause intense competition among nations with each trying to overpower the others.

- By the 1900s, rivalries had developed among Europe's great powers (Germany, Austro-Hungary, Britain, Russia, Italy, + France).

Sources of Conflict:
1. Competition for materials + markets
2. Territorial disputes
3. Indep. movements (in the Balkan Peninsula) spurred by nationalism

Can serve as a unifying force within a country or can cause intense competition among nations with each trying to overpower the others.
Put it together and what do you get?

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism

M.A.I.N.
The Balkan Peninsula

The Balkans is a peninsula in SE Europe with a long history of nationalist uprisings
- “powder keg” of Europe

Many small nations of different ethnic groups, religions, and languages

Serbia was mostly made up of Slavs. It wanted to create a Slavic state for the Slavs in the Balkans. Russia (also mostly Slavic) supported Serbia

Austro-Hungary annexed Bosnia – an area Serbia had its eye on

Serbians are outraged
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The Archduke (heir to the throne) of Austro-Hungary Franz Ferdinand + his wife Sophia were visiting Bosnia when they were assassinated while riding in an open car on 6/28/1914.

Assassin was Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist member of the Black Hand (a secret society committed to ridding Bosnia of Austro-Hungarian rule).

Austro-Hungary (w/ Germany’s “blank check” support) decided to use the incident as an excuse to punish Serbia.

- Issue an ultimatum to Serbia w/ many demands
- Serbians agree to some

Austro-Hungary wouldn’t negotiate + declared war

Russia mobilized its military to assist the Serbians.
- War Begins

- Germany lines up w/ Austro-Hungary – joined later by Bulgaria + Ottoman Empire. They are the Central Powers

- Russia is backed up by France + Britain. They will be joined later by Japan + Italy (broke alliance w/ Germany + Austro-Hungary). They are known as the Allies.

- Many believe war will be quickly over
The Western Front: Stretch of battlefield in the region in northern France that was quickly stuck in a deadlock during WWI.

Germany hoped for a quick victory w/ the Schlieffen Plan: it called for a quick defeat of France before turning its forces towards Russia (this is to avoid a 2-front war).

The 1st major battle is the 1st Battle of the Marne. The Germans had marched into France + almost got to Paris before the Allies stopped them + made them retreat.

Ruins the Schlieffen Plan – Germany now fights a 2-front war.
- **Trench Warfare**
- Soldiers fought each other from trenches
- Type of warfare used on Western Front
- Both sides would suffer huge loss of life while making pitifully small territorial gains
- Space b/w the opposing trenches was known as “no man’s land”
Trench Warfare

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

Artillery fire “softened up” resistance before an infantry attack.

Communication trenches connected the three kinds of trenches.

Barbed wire entanglements

“**No Man’s Land**” (from 25 yards to a mile wide)

Saps were shallower trenches in “no man’s land,” allowing access to machine-gun nests, grenade-throwing positions, and observation posts.
New Weapons of War

Military strategists expected a quick victory b/c of new technology:

1. Poison Gas (1st used by Germans)
   - soldiers wore masks for protection
   - could cause blindness, blisters, or death by choking

2. Machine Guns
   - improved + could wipe out waves of attackers

3. Tanks (1st used by British)
   - armored vehicle that moved on chain tracks
   - could cross many types of terrain

4. Submarines (1st used by Germans)
   - primary weapon was torpedoes aimed at enemy ships

5. Airplanes
   - 1st planes were very flimsy

All this technology did was kill greater numbers of people more effectively
The Eastern Front
(The Frozen Front)

- Stretch of battlefield along the German + Russian border.
- More mobile than the Western Front, but there slaughter + stalemate were common as well.
- Although initially the Russians beat the Austrians, they are eventually pushed back towards Russia.
- Russian army constantly short on food, arms, ammunition, clothes, + blankets.
- Russian army did have greater number of soldiers (huge population) which prevented the Central Powers from devoting all of their resources to the West for 3 yrs.

End Section 2
The Gallipoli Campaign

Attempt by the Allies to end the stalemate of WWI

Feb 1915, Allies decided to attack the Ottoman Empire by gaining control of the strait which cuts through the Ottoman capital of Constantinople (Istanbul)

- They believed they could defeat the Ottomans + establish a supply line to the Russians
  - Ended in a stalemate + eventually the Allies withdrew
- Others Join the Fighting
- Colonies in Africa + Asia (particularly India) supply troops to Allies
- Australia + New Zealand join Allies also
- Brazil supplied Allies w/ ships + personnel
In 1917 fighting shifted to the seas

In Jan 1917, Germany announced that its **U-boats** (German subs) would sink any ships in British waters w/o warning (**unrestricted submarine warfare**)

- Germans had tried this 2 yrs earlier, after sinking the **Lusitania** – which carried 128 Americans – America protested + Germany stopped attacking neutral + passenger ships

- Germany knew returning to unrestricted submarine warfare might push US into the war but thought the blockade would starve the British into defeat before US could mobilize
The Zimmerman Telegram

Feb. 1917, Germany sends a telegram to Mexico stating that Germany would help Mexico “re-conquer” the land it lost to the US if Mexico would join Germany

Intercepted by the British + given to the US

- April 1917, US joins the Allies in war
"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMAN.
On the Home Front

WWI was a **total war**, (when countries devote all of their resources to the war effort)

- **Gov.’ts controlled the economies** – told factories what + how much to produce
- **Rationing** (limiting the amounts of certain goods people can buy) was enforced as some goods were needed for the war effort
- **Gov.’ts suppressed antiwar activity + censored the news**
  - Used **propaganda** (one-sided information used to further a cause or damage an opponent’s cause)
- **Thousands of women replaced men in factories + some worked on frontlines as nurses**
  - Women would mostly leave their jobs after the war, but it changed many people’s views about what women were capable of
End of WWI

- After a revolution in Russia overthrew the Czar, a provisional gov.’t took power + Russia signed a peace agreement w/ Germany
  - Germany could then devote all of its resources to the Western Front
- Germany makes a final push + get w/in 10mi of Paris but are severely weakened
- Allies (w/ the US) launch a counterattack at the 2nd Battle of the Marne. Germans pushed back + Central Powers begin to collapse
- Kaiser Wilhelm II stepped down + new gov.’t signs an armistice (agreement to stop fighting) w/ Allies
  - Fighting ends on 11/11/1918
Aftermath in Europe:

- 8.5 mil soldiers died + 21 mil wounded
- Countless civilians died from starvation, diseases, + slaughter
- Destroyed countless homes, towns, + acres of farmland
- Massive debt for European countries

**WWI CASUALTIES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>761,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>460,000</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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**World War I Casualties**
ARMISTICE IS SIGNED
GERMANY SURRENDERS

Washington, Nov. 11, 2:30 a. m.---Government at Washington officially announced the signing of the armistice by Germany, which occurred at 5:00 a.m. Paris time. Hostilities ceased at 11 a.m. News from Washington flashed to St. Paul 30 seconds after announcement was made.

“America Gains All She Fought For.”

WASHINGTON--President Wilson today issued the following proclamation: My fellow countrymen—the armistice was signed this morning. Everything for which America fought has been accomplished. It will now be our fortunate duty to assist by example, by sober friendly counsel and by material aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world. Signed, WOODROW WILSON. President.

PRES. CANCELS OUTSTANDING DRAFT CALLS

Regular Edition!

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By United Press

President Reads Armistice Terms

Washington, Nov. 11—President Wilson today addressed the joint session of Congress at one o'clock regarding the armistice terms which brought Germany to surrender ending the war. The armistice terms accepted by Germany as read by President Wilson to the joint session of Congress at one o'clock this afternoon include: Cessation of hostilities, evacuation of invaded territory, including Alsace Lorene and Luxembourg, surrender of a vast amount of guns and equipment, evacuation of the Rhine, surrender of the vast amount of rolling stock in the occupied territories, abandonment of the Rhineland and East Frisia unconditional surrender of all German forces in East Africa, the demobilization of all draft and charity enlistments, the evacuation of all Black Sea ports, the evacuation of all Allied and United States merchant vessels, duration of the armistice to 30 days, payment for all damaged done, and the surrender of armed submarines and larger vessels.
The Spanish Flu

Spring of 1918, a **pandemic** (an epidemic of infectious disease that spreads through human populations across a large region) struck.

This strain of influenza killed more than 20 mil people worldwide

Twice as many people died from the Spanish Flu than in WWI
Paris Peace Conference

Jan 1919, members of 32 countries meet at the Palace of Versailles to decide peace terms.

Meeting’s major decisions were made by the Big 4:

1. Woodrow Wilson (President of US)
2. Georges Clemenceau (Prime Minister of France)
3. David Lloyd George (PM of Britain)
4. PM of Italy

- Russia was not allowed to participate, nor were Germany or her allies.
Before the war was over, Wilson drew up a series of peace proposals to achieve a just and lasting peace called the 14 Points.

#1-4: end of secret treaties, freedom of the seas, free trade, + reduction of navies + armies

#5: adjusting colonial claims w/ fairness to colonial peoples

#6-13: specific suggestions for changing borders + creating new nations

Goal was self-determination (allowing people to decide for themselves what gov.’t they wished to live under)

#14: Proposed a “general association of nations” to protect big + small nations (League of Nations)

Goal to prevent another WWI
The Treaty of Versailles

- Britain + France oppose most of the 14 points
  - Wanted to keep their colonies
  - Concerned w/ national security
  - Wanted to strip Germany of war-making powers

- The Treaty of Versailles (official peace b/w Germany + the Allies) ignored most of Wilson’s 14 points

- But it did create the League of Nations (international association created to keep peace among nations)

- Punished Germany harshly
  - Lost a lot of territory
  - Severe military restrictions
  - “War-guilt” clause placed entire blame for WWI on Germany + as such, required Germany to pay reparations
Other Peace Treaties

Separate treaties were signed b/w the Allies + all other Central Powers

- Created many new countries (Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary + Yugoslavia)
- Ottoman Empire lost all territory except for what is modern day Turkey
- Russia lost land
- Romania + Poland gain land
- Former colonies of Germans + Ottomans go under the control of the League of Nations or became mandates (colonies) of Britain or France
Failures of the Treaty of Versailles

- US never signed it - signed separate treaties later
  - Wanted to stay out of European affairs
  - Never joined League of Nations
- War-guilt clause left Germans w/ a massive debt + very bitter
- Some Allies bitter about not gaining enough territory
- Colonies that fought for Allies angry about not gaining indep.

Mass demonstration in front of the Reichstag against the Treaty of Versailles

German losses after WWI