

**WORLD WAR I WAS A WAR INVOLVING NEARLY ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ALSO ENDED THE AGE OF EMPIRES**

**M. Militarism – glorification of war and the military**

- Competition for military power and strength
- Arms race – competition to build up armed forces and weapons
- Standing armies – soldiers trained and ready to fight
- Conscription – mandatory participation of civilians in the military
- Increase in military spending
- Increasing influence of military in the government
- Example: Germany expanded its navy, Britain soon followed with a bigger and better navy

**A. Alliances – Partnership agreement to go to war in the event one country in the partnership is attacked. Aim was to discourage other countries from attacking members of the alliance**

- Triple Alliance
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy
- Triple Entente
- Russia
- France
- Great Britain

**N. Nationalism –**

- Extreme love and devotion for one's country
- determination of European nations to show power and strength
- Freedom from foreign rule

**I. Imperialism – One country's domination of the economic, political and social life of another country**

- Competition for colonies – countries had some and wanted more, others had none and wanted some
- Economic growth – countries wanted to new markets to sell products
- Power and prestige of expanding global empires

## **A. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria**

**Spark** – immediate cause that creates a chain of diplomatic failures setting WWI in motion

- **Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria assassinated**
- Heir to the Austrian throne in Bosnia-
- **Black Hand** – secret Serbian nationalists group with ties to the Serbian government

## **C. Conflict in the Balkan Peninsula**

- Large number of different religions, nationalities
- Russia and Austria-Hungary wanted to colonize the Balkan Peninsula

## **S. Series of Alliances declaring war on each other**

- **Domino effect** - chain or series of diplomatic failures resulting in war
- **U.** Ultimatum from A-H to Serbia fails. A-H declares war on Serbia
- **R.** Russia, Protector of the Slavs, and France mobilize against Germany,
- **G.** Germany declares war on France using the Schlieffen plan, going through neutral Belgium
- **E.** England, declares war on Germany for attacking neutral Belgium

## **The War**

### Central Powers

- Austria-Hungary
- Germany
- Ottoman Empire (Turks)

### Allied Powers

- Great Britain
- Russia
- France
- Belgium
- **US joins (April 2, 1917)**

## **Key Leaders during WWI**

### **William II - Germany**

- Emperor of Germany in World War I.

### **Czar Nicholas II – Russia**

- last czar of Russia, Absolute Monarch

### **Woodrow Wilson – US**

- President of the United States
- At the outbreak of the WWI, he tried to maintain American neutrality as long as possible

### **Schlieffen Plan –**

- Germany had to fight a war on two fronts (east with France/Great Britain and west with Russia)

## **Western Front:**

**1. Stalemate** – a state of deadlock where neither side gains an advantage

**2. Trench warfare** - a type of armed combat in which the two opposing sides fight from trenches that face each other to protect soldiers from the onslaught of machine gun fire and other weaponry

- A series of trenches stretched from the North Sea to Switzerland
- No man's land – the desolate area that separated the two sides of trenches
- Barbed wire and landmines protected the area in front of each trench
- Attacks – soldiers charged “over the top” of their own trenches, through no man's land to enemy trenches, facing heavily artillery, machine guns, barbed wire, and landmines
- Soldiers lived in the trenches for several weeks
- Disease, cold, mud, rats, rain

## **New Weapons**

- Machine guns – allowed one man to kill hundreds of men in seconds
- Poisonous gas – German army was first ever to use
- Chlorine gas – caused blindness, choking, vomiting, torn lungs, and death
- Mustard gas – most deadly, caused skin blisters, sore eyes, vomiting, internal and external bleeding, a long slow death
- Tanks – allowed for movement across rugged terrain, eventually designed to cross trenches
- Airplanes – first used for reconnaissance work (spying), later in war to deliver bombs and fight enemy aircraft in the air
- Submarines – German u-boats destroyed warships, supply ships, and commercial and passenger ships

## **U.S. Entry into the War**

### **Reasons did not enter in 1914**

- Policy of neutrality – policy of not choosing sides
- U.S. late entry – believed war was a European conflict and had nothing to do with the US
- Economic Reasons – keep trade open with both sides

### **Reasons U.S. Enters – April 2, 1917**

- **Lusitania** – British passenger ship torpedoed by German u-boats; 1,200 die including 128 Americans
- **Zimmerman note** – message from Arthur Zimmerman (German Foreign Minister) to his ambassador in Mexico. Info. Intended for Mexican President:
  - Germany to reinstate unrestricted submarine warfare
  - Germany wanted alliance with Mexico
  - Mexico promised money
  - German U-boats continue to sink American merchant ships

## **Russian Revolution:**

**Poor leadership caused the Bolshevik R.E.V.O.L.T. in 1917**

**R.** Rasputin's influence over the Czar

**E.** Every landless peasant demanded land

**V.** Violence broke out over bread shortages and military  
**defeats**

**O.** Overthrow of provisional government was led by the Bolsheviks

**L.** Lenin promises "Peace, Land, Bread"

**T. Czar's Incompetence**

### **Fall of the Czar**

- Food and Fuel Shortages
- Mounting defeats in WWI
- 1917 Czar Nicholas abdicates (steps down)

### **Provisional Government**

- **Temporary Central Government**
- **Big Mistake: Didn't withdraw from the war**

### **Bolshevik Revolution – Nov. 1917**

**BOLSHEVIK MEANS MAJORITY**

**Leader** – Vladimir **Lenin**

**Slogan** – "**Peace (end war), Land (give more land to the peasants), Bread (food)**"

**Coup d'état** – sudden overthrow of the government by people from within the country

**Socialist state** – No private property, economic equality for all citizens (distribution of land to peasants, worker control of factories)

### **End of war**

- Austria-Hungary quits (Oct 1918)
- Nov. 11 – Armistice day – Germans agree to end fighting

### **Effects of WWI**

- 9 Million soldiers dead
- 21 Million soldiers wounded
- 13 Million civilians were dead of disease or starvation

### **WWI different from other wars:**

- Number of casualties
- Use of new technologies- first time tanks were used
- Scope of war – number of countries involved
- Colonies participated in hopes of gaining their independence
  - Asian and African colonies expected citizenship or independence
  - Arabs wanting freedom from Ottoman Turks helped the British
  - Amount of destruction

### **Woodrow Wilson's (US President) 14 points – peace plan**

- Freedom of the seas and trade
- Arms limitations
- End to secret alliances
- Self-rule for all nations
- No punishments to Germany
- League of Nations – an organization of world nations to settle future problems peacefully

### **Paris Peace Conference** – delegates from 27 nations signed the Treaty of Versailles

- “Big Four” - FRANCE, BRITAIN, ITALY, UNITED STATES- WOODROW WILSON
- Central Powers not invited
- **Most Important – Treaty of Versailles with Germany**

### **Treaty of Versailles** – the treaty was a **R.A.W.** deal for Germany

#### **R. Reparations** were forced on Germany

- German war reparations – \$33 B

#### **A. Allies Punish Germany** - took German land/limit German military

- German army reduced,
- German weapons - can't manufacture or buy weapons, no airforce
- German to return Alsace-Lorraine to France
- France gets control of Saar Basin (rich in coal deposits)
- Occupation of the Rhineland
- Germany stripped of Colonies

#### **W. War Guilt** was forced on Germany

- Germany must sign “war blame” clause

### **New nations established**

Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland

Yugoslavia created a united Slavic country on the Balkan Peninsula