World War I
1914 - 1920
Terms and People

- **militarism** – the glorification of the military
- **nationalism** – pride in one’s nation or ethnic group
- **stalemate** – deadlock
- **trench warfare** – type of warfare in which soldiers fire at one another from opposing lines of dugout trenches
The **MAIN** Causes of World War I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>EFFECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Militarism</strong></td>
<td>European nations built large military forces.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alliances</strong></td>
<td>A tangled network of competing alliances bound European nations together.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Imperialism</strong></td>
<td>European nations competed for colonies.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nationalism</strong></td>
<td>Europeans had strong feelings of pride and loyalty towards their own countries.</td>
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Nations formed alliances, or partnerships, for protection.

Alliances were formed to maintain peace but would lead directly to war.

Germany formed a military alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy called the **Triple Alliance**.

Fearful of Germany’s growing power, Great Britain, France and Russia to form the **Triple Entente**.

Some European leaders believed that these alliances created a **balance of power**, in which each nation had equal strength, therefore decreasing the chance of war.

### Powder Keg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triple Entente</th>
<th>Triple Alliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Great Britain</td>
<td>4 Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 France</td>
<td>5 Austria-Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Russia</td>
<td>6 Italy</td>
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Colonel Edward House, an advisor to President Woodrow Wilson, compared Europe to an open keg of gunpowder. He said, “It only requires a spark to set the whole thing off.”
The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
The spark that set off the war occurred in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

June 28, 1914

A Serbian nationalist assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary.

July 29, 1914

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
Fighting began in France. Both sides hoped for a quick victory, but neither side could gain an advantage.

By early September, German forces were within 30 miles of Paris. French and British troops halted the German advance.

This deadlock, or stalemate, lasted for over three years.
New Technology of War

Poison Gas

Airplanes

Tanks

Machine Guns
Trench Warfare

- Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.
- Concrete block house for a machine-gun 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.
- Support trench and communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire.
- Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.
- 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.
- 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
**Fighting in the Trenches**

Protected by rows of barbed wire, sandbags, and armed soldiers, trenches were very difficult to capture. Neither side could advance on the Western Front without losing thousands of men in the attack.

- **Highly mobile machine guns** could quickly fill any gap in the defensive line.
- **Medical officers worked in the trenches** during battles and bombardment to help the endless stream of wounded men.
- **Tanks could flatten barbed wire** and enemy trenches, and act as shields for the infantry.
- **Soldiers threw hand grenades** into no-man’s-land at advancing troops.
- **Troops needed to cross no-man’s-land**, the area between opposing lines, to attack the enemy, but they were unprotected from enemy fire.
- **Gas masks protected eyes, noses, and throats from gas attacks**.
- **Airplanes helped** ground units direct artillery fire with great accuracy.

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**Cross-section of a trench**

- Trench
- Barbed wire
- No man’s land
- Trench step
- Shell crater
- Drainage ditch
The Battle of Verdun

Fought between the German and French armies, from February to December 1916, the **Battle of Verdun** resulted in **306,000 battlefield deaths** (163,000 French and 143,000 German) plus at least **half a million wounded**, an average of 30,000 deaths for each of the ten months of the battle.

It was the longest and one of the most devastating battles in the First World War and the history of warfare. Verdun was primarily an **artillery battle**, with the two sides firing more than 100,000 artillery shells a day, every day, for almost a year. Over 40 million artillery shells were exchanged leaving behind millions of overlapping shell craters that are still partly visible today.
The Battle of the Somme took place between July and November 1916. On the opening day of the battle, July 1, 1916, the British Army suffered the worst one-day combat losses in its history, with nearly 60,000 casualties. The battle is also remembered for the first use of the tank.

At the end of the battle, British and French forces had captured a total of 6 miles of German occupied territory. An estimate of casualties on the Somme showed that 419,654 British and 204,253 French were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. German losses in the categories dead, missed, wounded were 237,009. At the Battle of the Somme, every centimeter of ground cost the lives of two men.
Location: What were the results of the major battles fought on the Western Front during this time?
When the war started in 1914, President Wilson announced a policy of neutrality, refusing to take sides in the war. He hoped that the United States would continue to trade with warring nations. Many in the government felt there was no reason for the U.S. to intervene with European affairs. Also, Wilson was aware of the huge immigrant populations that came from the nations at war.

News of the horrors of the war confirmed to the government that they had adopted the right approach. The majority of Americans supported neutrality. A popular song, “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier,” expressed the anti-war sentiment of the nation.
Neutrality

Copyrighted, 1914, by John T. McCutcheon.

BRITANNIA MUST BE MORE CAREFUL HOW SHE WAVES THE RULES.
Jan 16, 1916
—McCutcheon in the Chicago Tribune.

JOHN BULL USES THE AMERICAN FLAG FOR PROTECTION.
March 1918
From the American (New York)
Submarine

During World War I, German U-boats, or submarines, became the terror of the seas. **What part of the craft guided the submarine up and down?**

1. The **conning tower** is the attack center.
2. The **diving rudders** guide the submarine to different depths.
3. The **rudder** steers the vessel.
4. **Torpedo tubes** were always loaded. About 12 torpedoes could be carried at a time.

The United States began building its own submarine fleet during the war. The fastest American submarines reached a top surface speed of 14 knots (a little more than 16 miles per hour).
German submarines attacked ships bringing supplies from the U.S. to the Allies. More than 11 million tons of Allied shipments were destroyed and nearly 14,000 people were killed.
LUSSITANIA 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

NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 21, 1915.
From Neutrality to War

Remaining Neutral
Below, a German U-boat prowls the seas. President Wilson opposed the use of unrestricted submarine warfare, but he campaigned for re-election in 1916 (right) with promises to keep America out of the war.
In the first years of the war, German U-boat attacks on supply ships were a serious threat to the Allied war effort. In May 1917, a new strategy called the **convoy system** used destroyers to guard and escort groups of merchant ships across the Atlantic. **Allied ship losses fell dramatically.**
U.S. Losses to the German Submarine Campaign, 1916-1918

Tonnage of vessels sunk (thousands)

American Declaration of War (April 1917)
The **Zimmermann telegram** proposed that Mexico join the Germans by attacking the U.S. In return Germany promised to help Mexico regain its “lost” territories of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The British intercepted the telegram and passed it on to the Americans who quickly became furious.
By 1917, Czar Nicholas II poor leadership was being blamed for the huge Russian army being outfought by the smaller German army. Huge casualties and food shortages led to riots, and soaring inflation led to strikes by angry Russian workers. In March 1917, Czar Nicholas II was forced to step down and an unpopular temporary government took over. In November, the Bolsheviks, a communist group led by Vladimir Ilich Lenin, took power.

Lenin began peace talks with Germany and withdrew from the war by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918. This allowed German troops to turn from Russia to the Western Front and made the need for American troops more urgent.
On April 2, 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against the Central Powers.

Wilson’s goal was to fight “...for the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience. The world must be made safe for democracy.”
The Four Events that brought the United States into World War I

1. U-boat sinks HMS *Lusitania*.
2. Zimmermann telegram discovered.
3. Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare.
4. Revolution in Russia makes need for American troops.

United States enters World War I.
Terms and People

• **mobilize** – to prepare for war

• **propaganda** – the spread of information designed to win support for a cause

• **Jeannette Rankin** – Representative of Montana and the first woman elected to Congress

• **illiterate** – unable to read and write

• **Herbert Hoover** – head of the Food Administration during World War I

• **Eugene V. Debs** – labor leader jailed for criticizing the war effort
In 1917, the United States had to mobilize for war. It faced enormous challenges.

- Increasing the size of its army
- Managing agriculture and industry
- Shaping public opinion of the war
Mobilizing for War

The U.S. Army was not ready for war. The government began a draft to meet its need for troops. In May 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act. This act required all males between the ages of 21 and 30 to sign up for military service. By the end of 1918, nearly 3 million men had been drafted.

The war also brought more government control of the economy. President Wilson set up the War Industries Board to produce needed war supplies. The Board managed the buying and distribution of war materials and set prices and factory production goals.
Americans were able to increase production and meet the new demands of the wartime economy.

* In 1916, agricultural output did not increase above the 1914 levels.

SOURCE: *The American Home Front*, James L. Abrahamson
Mobilizing for War

World War I cost the United States $35.5 billion. By comparison, the current War in Iraq has cost the United States an estimated $490 trillion, and the cost is rising everyday.

**Americans helped to pay for World War I by buying government war bonds.** War bonds were low-interest loans meant to be repaid in a number of years. Liberty Loan drives, posters, and Hollywood stars helped to sell bonds.

World War I was a national effort. Children **rolled bandages** and **collected useful scrap**. Women’s groups **knit socks and sweaters** for the troops. People all over the country **saved food** by observing wheatless Mondays and Wednesdays and meatless Tuesdays.
Rationing

Your Sugar Ration is 2 lbs. per month

America's Voluntary Ration
England's Compulsory Ration
France's Compulsory Ration
Italy's Compulsory Ration

We must confine our consumption of Sugar to not more than 2 lbs. per person per month in order to provide a restricted ration to England, France and Italy.
Propaganda posters urged Americans to help defeat Germany.
Patriotic propaganda did much to win support for the war. But its anti-German, anti-foreign message also fueled prejudice. Towns across America with German sounding names changed their names. Sauerkraut became “liberty cabbage,” hamburger became “Salisbury steak,” and German shepherds became “police dogs.”

Congress passed the Espionage Act and the Sedition Act. These laws set heavy fines and long prison terms for antiwar activities and resisting the draft. The laws even made it illegal to criticize the war. Hundreds went to jail.

In the 1919 decision in Schenck v. United States, the Supreme Court upheld the Espionage Act. Charles Schenck was convicted of distributing pamphlets against the draft and spent ten years in prison.
German Americans faced discrimination and their loyalty to the U.S. was questioned.
Many Progressives opposed the war. In response, the U.S. made it illegal to criticize the government or to interfere with the war. **Eugene V. Debs**, Socialist candidate for President, was arrested for protesting the draft.
African-American Migration, 1910–1920

This map makes graphic the massive migration of African Americans from the South to the North during the Great War. Most moved to find better jobs, but in the process they changed the dynamics of race relations in the country.
## Reasons for Wartime Shifts in Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shift</th>
<th>Reasons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Americans</strong></td>
<td>Moved from the South to Northern cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To gain employment and to escape the bigotry, poverty, and racial violence of the South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mexicans</strong></td>
<td>Moved to the American Southwest and Northern cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To gain jobs and to escape the chaos and violence of the Mexican Revolution</td>
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Racial Tensions

The Great Migration brought a half million African Americans to Northern cities. Competition for factory jobs and housing lead to tensions between whites and blacks. In dozens of cities like Chicago, St. Louis, and Tulsa race riots flared. Black homes and churches were burned and black people were brutally beaten, murdered, and lynched.
During World War I, recruits and draftees were required to take a series of physical and mental tests. It was found that 31 percent of them were illiterate and 29 percent were physically unfit for service. If you were President Wilson, what would you do about these shocking findings?
Terms and People

• **convoy** – a large group of merchant vessels sailing together

• **John J. Pershing** – Commander of the American Expeditionary Force

• **Vladimir Lenin** – Bolshevik leader who seized control of Russia’s government in 1917

• **communism** – an economic and political system based on the idea that social classes and the right to private property should be eliminated

• **armistice** – a halt in fighting that allows peace talks to begin
In 1917, U.S. forces prepared to go overseas. The U.S. Army chose John J. Pershing to lead American troops in Europe.

He wanted American troops to fight in separate units under U.S. command.

This would show the world that the U.S. could stand on its own.
US Soldiers in France, 1918
By 1918, American troops were in Europe, fighting in World War I.

*Americans in French Tank, U.S. Army Signal Corps (1918)*
Many women helped out in the war effort, both overseas and at home.

Salvation Army Women Bring Sustenance to Soldiers (May 9, 1918)
Fighting in the War

In June 1918, Belleau Wood, France, became the proving grounds for American soldiers (below). Although a U.S. victory, 8,000 American casualties at the Battle of Belleau Wood made it America's bloodiest battle thus far in the war.
The Second Battle of the Marne was the last major German Offensive on the Western Front during the First World War. The German attack failed when an Allied counterattack led by France overwhelmed the Germans, inflicting severe casualties. Fought between July 15 - August 6, 1918, it was the turning point of the war in the western front. The presence of fresh American troops, unbroken by years of war, significantly bolstered Allied resistance to the German offensive. A British Officer, Floyd Gibbons, wrote about the American troops, saying, “I never saw men charge to their death with finer spirit.”
In July, the Allies defeated the Germans in France.

The Allies began an offensive.

By November, they were advancing on Germany.
The Western Front, 1914–1918

- Farthest German advance, 1914
- Armistice line, 1918
- Allied offensive, 1918
- Indecisive battle
- Allied victory

Map showing the Western Front with key locations such as Ypres, Somme, Amiens, Belleau Wood, Rheims, Château-Thierry, Argonne Forest, and Paris.

Legend:
- Red: Armistice line, 1918
- Blue: Allied offensive, 1918
- Green stars: Indecisive battle
- Blue stars: Allied victory
American Groups and Individuals that helped fight World War I

- AEF ground troops helped push back the German line
- U.S. naval forces escorted merchant ships and mined the North Sea
- Sergeant York killed 25 enemy machine gunners and took 132 prisoners
- Women served as nurses, clerks, relief workers, & ambulance drivers
The terms of the armistice were harsh. Germany was forced to:

- Cancel its peace treaty with Russia
- Pull back its troops from the Western Front
- Hand over all of its U-boats

President Wilson also demanded that Germany’s leader, Kaiser Wilhelm II, step down.

The Kaiser fled, and Germany became a republic.
The armistice took effect at 11 A.M. on November 11, 1918.

The war had ended. Soldiers could hardly believe it.

Soldiers returned home. Millions had been severely wounded.
World War I was the most destructive war history had yet seen.

It cost the lives of 10 million military personnel.

Some historians believe just as many civilians died.

Source: R.E. Dupay and T.N. Dupay, *The Encyclopedia of Military History*
Total Mobilized Forces

Allies: 42 million
Central Powers: 23 million

Military Deaths

Allies: 5.1 million
Central Powers: 3.4 million
Terms and People

• **self-determination** – the right of a group to decide its own form of government

• **reparations** – payments to cover damages

• **Henry Cabot Lodge** – a powerful Republican Senator who opposed U.S. membership in the League of Nations

• **deport** – to forcibly return an immigrant to his or her home country
Some—but not all—of President Wilson’s Fourteen Points were reflected in the Treaty of Versailles.

### The Fourteen Points

1. Public diplomatic negotiations and an end to secret treaties
2. Freedom of navigation on the seas
3. Free trade among nations
4. Reduction of armaments to the level needed for domestic safety
5. Fair resolution of colonial claims that arose because of the war
6. Evacuation of Russia and restoration of its conquered territories
7. Preservation of Belgium’s sovereignty
8. Restoration of France’s territory, including Alsace-Lorraine
9. Redrawing Italy’s borders according to nationalities
10. Divide up Austria-Hungary according to nationalities
11. Redraw the borders of the Balkan states according to nationalities
12. Self-determination for Turks and the other nationalities under Turkish rule
13. Creation of an independent Polish nation
14. Creation of a League of Nations

### Major Provisions of the Treaty of Versailles

**Military Changes**
- Limited the German army to 100,000 men, with no tanks or heavy artillery.
- Limited the German navy to 15,000 men.
- Banned Germany from having an air force.

**Territory Changes**
- Required Germany to cede land to France, Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium.
- Required Germany to surrender all colonies to the control of the League of Nations.
- Germany and Austria were prohibited from uniting.

**War-Guilt Provisions**
- Held Germany solely responsible for all losses and damages suffered by the Allies during the war.
- Required Germany to pay reparations of 269 billion gold marks, later reduced to 132 billion.

**Establishment of the League of Nations**
- Did not initially permit Germany to join the League.
After much debate, the Big Four drafted the **Treaty of Versailles**.

**Treaty Terms**

- German’s military would be limited.
- The Germans accepted **full responsibility for the war**.
- The Germans had to pay **full reparations** to the Allies.
- Germany lost some territory and colonies.
1. **Regions**  List the new nations and mandates created after World War I.

2. **Place**  Were the Allied Powers or the Central Powers more affected by the changes in national boundaries?
Wilson’s idea for the League of Nations sparked heated debate in America.

The U.S. must accept its “destiny” to lead the world on a new path.

Membership in the League will restrict the U.S. from acting in its own interest.

President Wilson

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge

In November 1919, the Senate voted to reject the treaty.
The absence of the U.S. crippled the League’s ability to solve worldwide crises in the 1930s.

Cartoons like this one criticized America’s decision.

U.S. participation is key to building the League of Nations.

The keystone is not in place.
In September of 1918, soldiers at an army base near Boston suddenly began to die. The cause of death was identified as influenza, but it was unlike any strain ever seen. As the killer virus spread across the country, hospitals overfilled, death carts roamed the streets and helpless city officials dug mass graves. It was the worst epidemic in American history, killing over 600,000—until it disappeared as mysteriously as it had begun.

World War I claimed an estimated 16 million lives. The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people. One fifth of the world's population was attacked by this deadly virus. Within months, it had killed more people than any other illness in recorded history.
The Red Scare

Shortly after World War I ended, the United States experienced a series of crippling labor strikes. Workers who legally could not strike during the war were fighting for fair pay and better working conditions.

Some saw the efforts of the labor movement as the work of foreign radicals. The strikes also sparked fears of a communist revolution like the one in Russia. The discovery of mail bombs sent to government officials by anarchists added to the growing atmosphere of fear. Soon these fears created a reactionary wave of panic called the Red Scare.

In 1920, the government launched the Palmer Raids and arrested 6,000 suspected radicals without due process.
Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti enter a Massachusetts courtroom, while immigrant protesters in New York City demand the freedom of the two men. **What did the Sacco and Vanzetti case reveal about the feelings of many Americans?**
Effects of World War I

Human Costs
- 8.5 million soldiers died.
- 13 million civilians died.
- 21.2 million soldiers were wounded.

Economic Costs
- The war cost the world’s nations an estimated $332 billion.

Political Changes
- Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were broken apart.
- Germany was greatly weakened.
- The Russian monarchy was overthrown.
- New countries and colonies formed in Europe and the Middle East.
- European colonies in Africa and Asia changed hands.

The war destroyed large areas of Europe.
Woodrow Wilson is the only person ever to serve as President of the United States who also had a Ph.D. Is a candidate’s education an important consideration when deciding who to vote for president or are other factors more important? Explain.