

The Beginnings of World War I

World War I was fought from 1914-1918.

United States entered World War I in **1917**.

The Origins of Europe's "Great War"

Nationalism

Four most powerful European nations in the early 1900s were **Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia**.

Nationalist leaders thought they had to **make their country stronger and more powerful than neighboring countries**.

Economic competition

Asia, Africa, and the Middle East **had natural resources, and could serve as markets for European nation's manufactured goods**.

The Major European Countries in 1914

Great Britain

Great Britain, before WWI, had the **strongest navy, world's richest country, most industrialized country, large population, largest empire**.

Empire = a dominant country and all territories or countries it controls.

France

France, before WWI, **spent lots of money increasing armed forces, population of 40 million, armed forces of 900,000**.

Russia

Russia, before WWI, had a **huge army of 1,300,000, army had poor equipment and was poorly trained, just defeated by Japanese**.

Germany

Germany, before WWI, had **influence in Africa and China, large steel production, army of 700,000 was well trained and had modern equipment.**

Fear Leads to Alliances

European countries formed alliances because **countries became more scared of each other and wanted to have agreements to cooperate and help each other in case of war.**

The Triple Alliance

Germany feared Russia because **Russia had a much larger population, Russia was expanding manufacturing and mining near Germany.**

Germany feared France because **French leaders wanted to retake German land, France's army was as big as Germany's army.**

Germany feared Great Britain because **Great Britain's large navy could prevent Germany from transporting its natural resources from Africa.**

Triple Alliance was **Germany, Austria-Hungarian Empire, Italy.**

The Triple Entente

The Triple Entente was **Great Britain, France, Russia.**

The Triple Entente was formed to **prevent German expansion in Europe, and to prevent Germany from getting more overseas colonies.**

The Start of the War

Ethnic nationalism

Serbian people hoped that **the part of Austria-Hungary where they lived would become a part of Serbia.**

The triggering event

Start of WWI: **the Crown Prince of the Austria-Hungarian empire, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and his wife was killed by a Serbian nationalist.**

After the assassination **Austria-Hungary gave Serbia a list of demands and declared war on Serbia.**

After Austria-Hungary declared war, **Russia supported Serbia (and opposed Austria-Hungary), and Germany declared war on Russia.**

France and Great Britain declared war on Germany because they **honored the Triple Entente and supported Russia.**

The early days of the war

Allies: **Russia, France, Great Britain.**

Central Powers: **Germany, Austria-Hungary.**

World War I – 1914-1918

A total war effort

Total war effort: Government organized all people in the country to help fight the war.

Rationing is putting a limit on resources or food that people can obtain.

Inventions produce new weapons

New weapons in WWI: **machine guns (small, portable, fired rapidly), tanks, airplanes, submarines, poison gas, flamethrowers.**

New weapons caused problems for generals because **they had made up war plans based on old weapons, they did not know how to fight an enemy that had the new weapons, they did not know how effective new weapons would be.**

The War at Sea

Great Britain used its navy to **put a blockade on Germany to stop the shipment of supplies into Germany**

Germany **used submarines (U-boats) to sink ships carrying supplies to the Allied countries.**

The Land War

2 fronts in WWI were **the Western Front (all fighting west of Germany), and the Eastern Front (all fighting east of Germany).**

The Western Front

Germany's war plan was **quickly capture Paris, defeat the French army before it got organized, then send German troops to Eastern Front to fight Russia.**

The plan wasn't successful because **the Germans never captured Paris because the French and English stopped them at the First Battle of the Marne.**

Trench Warfare

"No man's land": area between the Allied trenches and the Central Power trenches.

Stalemate: two sides are fighting but neither can win.

The Eastern Front

Countries fighting on the Eastern Front: **Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary.**

The German army had success against the Russian Army because **German soldiers were better-trained and better-equipped with weapons.**

In 1917, the Russian army had **little supplies due to Russia's poor transportation system, was getting smaller (suffered 3.6 million casualties, 2 million soldiers were captured).**

The Russian Revolution

3 reasons why there was a revolt in Russian in 1917 were:

- 1) **urban workers had little food**
- 2) **sailors and soldiers were not being paid**
- 3) **soldiers were poorly equipped**

Russian generals and Allies persuaded Kerensky to keep Russia in the war.

Bolsheviks wanted **Russia to stop fighting, Russia to have a communist government and economy.**

Germany helped the Bolsheviks because **Germany thought that Lenin and a Bolshevik government would take Russia out of the war.**

Lenin demanded **the Kerensky government to take Russia out of the war.**

In **November 1917**, the Bolsheviks seized control of the Russian government.

The peace treaty between Russia and Germany **helped Lenin focus on creating a government ruled by the Bolshevik Party.**

The peace treaty between Russia and Germany **helped Germany put most of its troops on the Western Front.**

U.S. Actions from 1914-1917

American neutrality

U.S. policy when the war started: **remained neutral, didn't sign treaty or join alliance.**

American trade favors the Allies

U.S. actions favored the Allies because **U.S. sold them weapons, ammunition, food, supplies.**

American public opinion favors the Allies

America favored the Allies because **Americans had British ancestors, traditions and government of the U.S. came from Britain.**

Events that pushed America to war

The **sinking of the *Lucitania* by German U-boat** caused Americans to want to start war with Germany because 128 American citizens died on the ship.

The **Zimmerman telegram** proposed a Mexican-German alliance if the U.S. entered the war. Germany would help Mexico gain back lost land.

Germans resumed unrestricted submarine warfare. The **Germans thought this would stop all supplies from reaching the Allies. The Allies would then be defeated before the U.S. entered the war.**

The German announcement to resume unrestricted submarine warfare and the German sinking of 3 U.S. merchant ships resulted in pushing the U.S. to declare war on Germany.

Unanimous: everybody votes the same way.

U.S. military needed more soldiers and sailors, so the government began a draft.

The United States Tilts the Balance

The **U.S. production of arms, ammunition, supplies, and food** helped the Allies.

A **convoy** is a large group of ships carrying supplies.

The **U.S. Navy and British navy protected ships from U-boats**, which resulted in more supplies reaching the Allies.

Resources

Almost 2 million American soldiers were sent to Europe. The U.S. entry into the war helped the Allies.

Motivation

Propaganda: information given to convince people to believe in certain ideas.

Steady supply of troops and weapons from the U.S. motivated the Allies.

Leadership

General John J. Pershing: commander of the American Army.

Pershing insisted that **American troops be commanded by American generals.**

Ending the War

In **March of 1918**, Germany attacked hoping that it could win the war before the U.S. sent lots of troops over.

U.S. soldiers and supplies had already arrived and the German attack failed.

Armistice: agreement to stop fighting.

The Effects of the War

The Cost of the War

WWI helped U.S. economy be more productive = **U.S. was the world's banker.**

The Peace Agreement

Wilson's treaty objectives were to reach **a peaceful resolution of problems between the countries.**

French and British treaty objectives were **to build-up their armed forces and punish Germany for starting the war.**

Wilson's 14 Points

Wilson's most important point was his idea for an association of nations to protect political independence of all nations.

Reparations: payments; the loser must pay the winner.

Great Britain and France wanted to rebuild their economies and pay-off their loans to the U.S., while Great Britain and France wanted payment (reparations) from Germany.

The French and British **wanted control of German and Ottoman Empire colonies for their natural resources.**

Wilson **wanted colonies to become free countries.**

The Treaty of Versailles

Germany had to:

- 1.) Return Alsace and Lorraine to France**
- 2.) Pay \$33 billion to Britain, France, and Belgium**
- 3.) Give up all of its captured land.**

Yugoslavia was new country formed from the Austria-Hungarian Empire.

Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were new countries formed from Russian territory that Germany had conquered.

Americans wanted nothing to do with Europe because they opposed the Treaty.

Senate thought that if the U.S. joined the League of Nations it would loose control over the American military. The U.S. Senate opposed the Treaty.

Wilson went on a long speaking tour to get support for the Treaty, which resulted in Senate opposition.

U.S. absence from the League of Nations **reduced the League's ability to deal with problems after WWI.**

The War's Effect on the U.S. Economy

War Industries Board organized railroads into one system and ordered more ships built, which resulted in an increase in industrial production.

Standardize: make all products with the same dimensions.

Business owners increased price of their products, gave small increase to workers, owner's profits went up.

Labor

Workers' wages and conditions improved very little: labor strikes while the U.S. was neutral.

Mission of the National War Labor Board: responsible for working out agreements to prevent strikes.

Farmers

Farmers bought more machinery and farmed more land during WWI.

Financing the war

The U.S. raised money to pay for the war by placing an income tax on people and raising the taxes on business profits.

Increased demand

To rebuild Europe, and to meet needs of purchases of American public = great demand for U.S. items after war.

The War's Effect on People's Rights

Freedom of Speech

When **U.S. government gets permission from courts** is the only time when freedom of speech can be limited.

U.S. Supreme Court decides if government is justified in limiting free speech.

Opposition to the war

Espionage Act (1917) and Sedition Act (1918) used to silence war critics.

Pro-war propaganda

Committee on Public Information: mission was to win the support of the American people for the war.

Committee on Public Information: created propaganda to justify American involvement on the Allied side of the war, sponsored speakers to give speeches in American cities, released cartoons and stories against Germany.

Racism

To escape discrimination and to find jobs African Americans moved to northern cities in 1915-1920.

Women

Women worked in blue collar jobs: role of women changed during the war.

Anti-immigrant movement

People feared immigrants would bring diseases and would work for lower wages: labor unions opposed new immigrants.

Government limited immigration by creating a **law that required all new immigrants to be able to read and write and to be able to pay a tax.**

Fear of radical revolutionaries

Communism: extreme form of socialism. All industry, services, and economic planning is controlled by the Communist Party (led by a dictator). War and revolution are ways to seize control of a country.

Socialism: some industries, services, and economic planning are controlled by farmers, workers, and government officials. Does not advocate violence.

The Soviet Union

Union of Soviet socialist Republics (USSR) was the new country created by Lenin.