

Factors Leading to World War I

Europe at Its Peak

- Industrial revolution at its peak
- Economic rivalry between Britain and Germany
- Europe had 25% of the world's population – highest percent of any time in history.
- Modernization led to the sense that Europeans were at the peak of world civilizations.
- Under Bismarck the unified German empire grew to dominate Europe as the giant of industry, armament, and diplomacy, replacing France.

Imperial Tensions

- European nations competed overseas for real estate (colonies), raw materials, markets, investment and national prestige

Militarism

- Glorification of war and increased military spending
- Germany competed against England for naval superiority

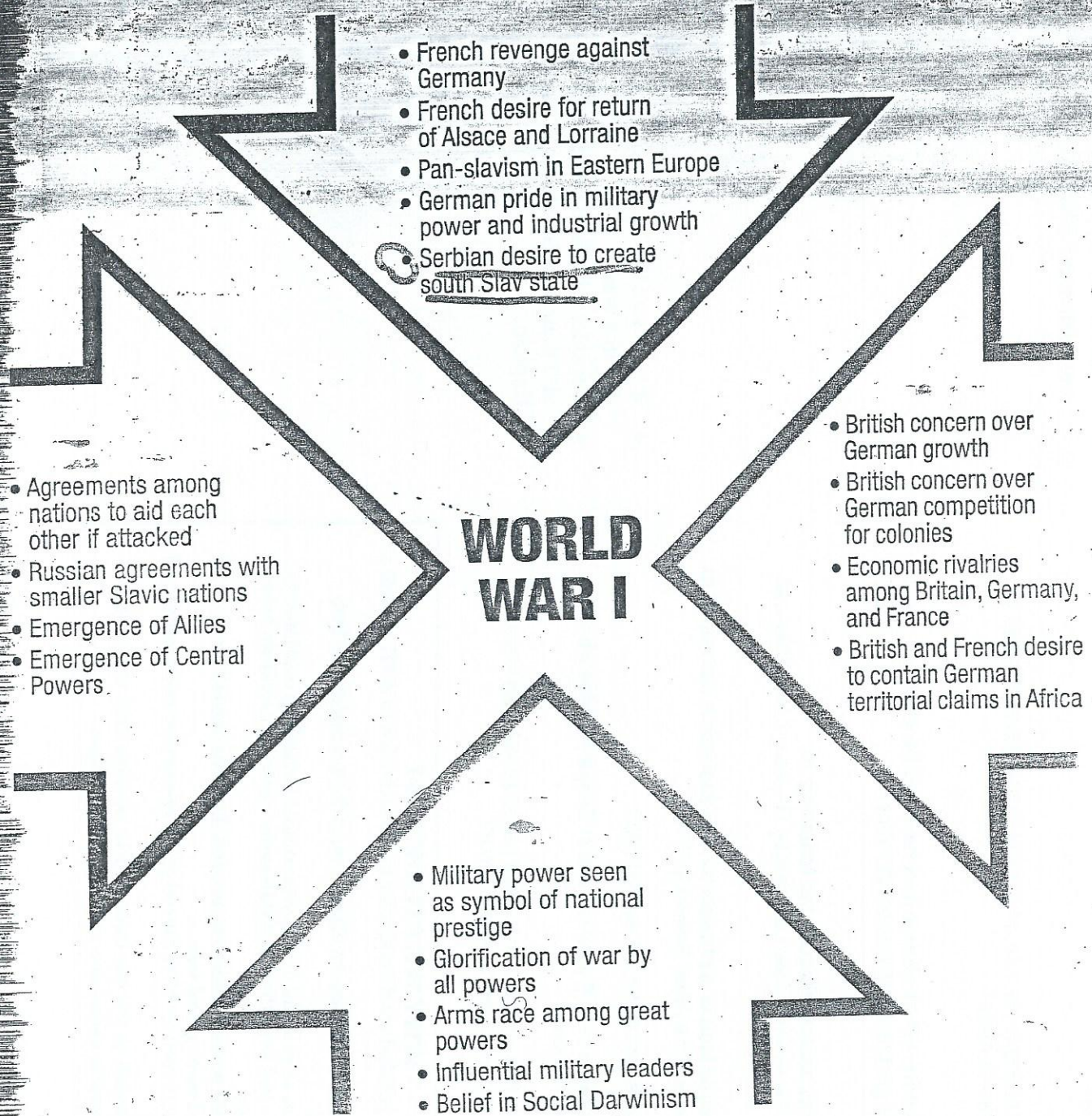
Nationalism

- Great pride in one's country or aspiring to become one's own country
- Germany and Italy had only recently become united, independent countries
- Many countries torn by tensions of different nationalist groups
- Combined with militarism and imperial competition, this increased tensions in Europe

Alliances

- Web of treaties to protect themselves
- **Triple Alliance:** Germany, Austria- Hungary, and Italy
- **Triple Entente:** France, Russia and Great Britain

CAUSES of WWI





WWI - War Breaks Out

Nationalism in the Balkans

- People with diverse religions, ethnic backgrounds and languages
- As Ottoman Empire receded, new nations were born
- Russia and Austria competed for control of new nations
- Austria – Hungary annexes Bosnia in 1908 and Serbia resent this

The Assassination of the Archduke

- **Archduke Francis Ferdinand** of Austria visited the Bosnian capital (**Sarajevo**) on June 28, 1914.
- 7 Assassins from the **Black Hand**, a Serbian nationalist group, plot his death
- 19 year old **Gavrilo Princip** shot the Archduke and his wife.

Austria- Hungary's Ultimatum

- Germany gave a "blank check" of military support to Austria-Hungary
- Austria – Hungary sends a severe **ultimatum** to Serbia
- Serbia refuses to let Austria- Hungary's officials run an investigation in Serbia
- Austria- Hungary declares war on Serbia on July 28, 1914.

The Alliance System Leads to War

- Russian supported Serbia and Germany supported Austria-Hungary
- Within one week, almost all of Europe is plunged into war.
- (Austria hassles Serbia => Russians step in on behalf of Serbs => Germany steps in on behalf Austria => France steps in on behalf of Russia (Germany declares war on Russia (Aug 2) and France (Aug 3) => Germany attacks France via Belgium => Britain steps in on behalf of Belgium (Declares war against Germany on August 4, 1914)

World War I: The War to End All Wars or the Great War

I. The Sides

- A. Allies: France, Great Britain (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, N. Ireland, Scotland and Wales), Belgium, Russia, Japan and Portugal, Italy, Serbia, Greece, Romania and Montenegro. The U.S. joined in April 1917.
- B. Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire (Nov. 1914), and Bulgaria (1915)

II. The Fronts (locations of fighting)

A. Western or Franco/Belgian Front

1. British + Belgian forces vs. Germans in Belgium
2. French vs. Germans in France
3. Confrontation at the First Battle of the Marne (river) Sept 9, 1914
4. Both sides dug into trenches - stretched across almost the whole front
5. Other significant battles in 1916
 - a. **Verdun** (French) - Feb 21 - Dec 18- Position held, 500k casualties
 - b. **Somme** (British) July 1 - Nov 18 -Offensive, 100K killed over 5 months, ended in stalemate.

B. Eastern Front

1. Russians vs. German and Austro-Hungarian forces
2. Took place on open frontier - more mobile
3. Russians victorious at first, but Germans directed forces East
4. Tannenberg Aug. 26, 1914 - Major Russian defeat
5. Russians ran low on food + weapons
6. Dramatic losses =>turmoil in Russia

C. Southern Front

1. British vs. the Ottoman Turks - Dardanelles
2. Gallipoli- April 25, 1915- Secure a British supply route to Russia via the Black Sea
3. Months of losses -> British withdrew in January 1916.

II. Pivotal Year - 1917

- A. Jan. 19th - Zimmerman Telegram intercepted
- B. Feb. 1 - Unrestricted Submarine Warfare Resumes
 1. *Lusitania* sunk in 1915 - 120 Americans aboard)
 2. Germans cease sinking ships without warning
- C. March 15 -Nicholas II Abdicates - Provision govt. under Kerensky
- D. April 6 - Wilson asks for a declaration of War
- E. July 3 - First wave of Americans (AEF) lands in France
- F. Nov 7 - Bolsheviks, under Lenin, overthrow Provisional Govt. in Russia
- G. Dec. 3 - New Govt. (Trotsky) sign armistice with Germany at Brest-Litovsk

III. Last attempts 1918

- A. Jan 8 - Wilson's 14 Points
- B. March - Germans launch major offensives prior to American arrival
- C. May 31 - Germans by the Americans stopped at the Marne River (near Paris) at *Chateau -Thierry*
- D. Sept. 27 - Allied troops break German fortification lines
- E. Oct. 30 - Turks sign armistice (cease fire)
- F. Nov. 9 - Wilhelm Abdicates throne
- G. Nov. 11 - **End of war** - Germans sign armistice with Allies (11/11 at 11:00 am 1918)

European War Becomes a World War

- Late 1914 to early 1915 – battle lines expand to include Italy on the side of the Allies and the Ottoman Empire on the side of Germany/Austria-Hungary.
- 1915 -Both Eastern and Western Fronts deadlocked
- 1916 two costly (many killed) and futile battles – **Verdun** and **Somme**.
- 1915 British passenger liner **Lusitania** was sunk by German submarines
- German navy conducts submarine warfare against ships to and from Britain – provoking the anger of American shipping interests. (America had up until this point stayed out of the war – **Isolationist policy**)

1917 – Crucial Year of the War

- Bolsheviks come to power in Russia (Nov), and Russia surrenders to the Germans (Dec). Germany focuses on the West.
- April 6, 1917 United States enters the war, bringing much needed manpower and war materials to the Allies.
- President **Wilson** states (**14 Points**) that the war has become a fight for democracy, peace and freedom of trade.

Victory

- End of 1917, British control the seas
- Final German offensive March – July 1918, ends in retreat.
- Sept. 1917 Turkey surrenders
- Nov. 3, Austria surrenders and on Nov. 9, 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicates (resigns).
- November 11, 1918 armistice (peace) agreement is signed.

Costs of the War

- 10 –13 million dead, 20 million wounded.
- Costs (direct) \$180,500,000,000.
- Four empires disintegrated: the Russian, the Ottoman, the Austro – Hungarian, and the German.

Why Was WWI A "Different" War?

I. Industrialization and Technology

A. Machines and mass production

1. WWI was a war of machines from sewing machines to machine guns
2. Countries industrial output focused on the war

B. Weapons and strategy

1. War was anticipated to be short by both sides (be home by Xmas)
2. Weapons Introduced: Machine guns, poisonous gas, large artillery, tanks, airplanes
3. Initial battle strategy = **Napoleonic** (speed and mobility of forces) but that didn't work with the development of trenches (fixed position)
4. **Trench warfare** - new system of fighting based on frontal assault on the enemies position (over "*no man's land*") - Response to machine gun use
5. War was mostly confined to the Front (a mobile war, but tanks weren't used extensively yet)
6. Result: **Stalemates**- War became defensive; carnage and greater number of casualties

II. Rules Changed

A. Blockades were used to stop contraband (munitions, and things to make munitions) but the rule was to leave ships carrying non contraband items (food and raw cotton) alone.
- *Freedom of the seas*

B. Britain stopped all ships headed for Germany (affected mostly neutral countries like the US, Netherlands and Denmark)

C. Line between combatants and Non-Combatants less clear

III. Social Impact of the War

A. Total War - Entire population mobilizes for war

1. Non- Combatant contribution
2. Women in factories
3. Children collect raw and scrap materials
4. Govt. Actions
 - a. Price controls and rationing of resources
(war- planned economy)
 - b. **Propaganda**
5. dominated movies, mass press, etc.
6. Universal literacy helped the government spread ideas
7. c. Censorship of information

IV. Post War Impact- Role of United States

- A. US not a debtor nation but a creditor nation
- B. War debt accumulated in Europe => Increased taxes for years to come
- C. Europe fell behind in industrialization and industrial production (end of European economic supremacy)

Notes on the Peace of Paris

1919 - Peace of Paris (5 Treaties named after Paris suburbs)

1. Austria - St. Germaine
2. Hungary - Trianon
3. Bulgaria- Neuilly
4. Turkey - Sevres
5. Germany - Versailles

Present:

27 nations - but only the "Big Four" mattered

- Wilson - *United States*
- Lloyd George - *Great Britain*
- Clemenceau - *France*
- Orlando - *Italy*

Excluded:

- Russia
- Germany

Fourteen Points => Wilson's Plan for Peace

1. End to secret treaties and diplomacy
2. Freedom of the Seas
3. Open International Trade
4. Reduction in Armaments
5. Out of Occupied Territory
6. Readjust colonial holdings
7. Self- Determination
8. International Peace Organization (League of Nations)
9. *No victors*

Problems/Objections

France - Germany must pay war damages

British - Vetoed the idea of open seas

Germany - Hoped that since the Kaiser was gone, armistice was signed and Germany was now "democratic" there would be no punishment.

European powers doubted that the League of Nations would work, but wanted to show a sign of support for Wilson

France's Concern - Security vs. Germany

Held out for the following assurances:

1. Britain and the United States would join France if Germany attacked
2. Saar coalfields to France until 1935
3. Return of Alsace and Lorraine (Lost in Franco- Prussian war)
4. French troops in the Rhineland for 15 years

Outcome -

- "Creation" of Poland, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Latvia and Yugoslavia
- Austria = dwarfed - lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of its territory and $\frac{3}{5}$ of its population
- Ottoman lost territory to France and GB
- Germany lost colonies; Reduction in navy, loss of artillery, aviation and submarines
- Payment of war damages "beyond all reason" - Wilson remarked that it would be absolutely impossible for Germany to pay debt.

Evaluation of the Treaty

Pro:

- European people did have greater self determination minus the empires
- League of Nations established

Con:

- General disarmament failed
- Land problems - Polish corridor cut Germany in half, Western Czech was mostly ethnic Germans
- France thought that the treaty was not strong enough
- US did not carry through on its commitments; did not join the League of Nations
- England felt guilty about Germany's treatment
- Germany was resentful and bankrupt
- Italy thought it was gypped out of territory

League of Nations

Goals: Prevent War, Disarmament and Social Welfare

Results: only prevented small wars, limited disarmament occurred, Children were helped

Problem with the League:

- lacked executive power over other nations
- did not have the force or the authority to back up its policies.