

Causes of World War I

Nationalism

Nationalism—devotion to interests, culture of one's nation

Nationalism leads to competition, antagonism between nations

Many fear Germany's growing power in Europe

Various ethnic groups resent domination, want independence

Russia sees self as protector of all Slavic peoples

Imperialism

- Germany industrializes, competes with France, Britain for colonies

Militarism

- Cost of building, defending empires leads to more military spending

- **Militarism**—development of armed forces, their use in diplomacy

By 1890, Germany has strongest army on European continent

competes with Britain for sea power

leads other powers to join naval arms race

Alliance System

Triple Entente or **Allies**—France, Britain, Russia

Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire are **Central Powers**

Alliances give security; nations unwilling to tip balance of power

“THE SPARK”

- **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** of Austria shot by Serbian nationalist
- Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, expects short war
- Alliance system pulls one nation after another into war

The Fighting Starts

Early Battles

Germany's Schlieffen Plan: hold Russia, defeat France, then Russia

German troops sweep through Belgium, cause major refugee crisis

By spring 1915, 2 parallel systems of trenches cross France

“No man's land”—barren expanse of mud between opposing trenches-**trench warfare**

Americans Question Neutrality-Divided Loyalties

- Socialists, pacifists, many ordinary people against U.S. in war
- Naturalized citizens concerned about effect on country of birth
- Many feel ties to British ancestry, language, democracy, legal system
- U.S. has stronger economic ties with Allies than with Central Powers

The War Hits Home-The U.S. Prepares

- By 1917, U.S. has mobilized for war against Central Powers to:
 - ensure Allied repayment of debts
 - prevent Germans threat to U.S. shipping

The British Blockade

- British blockade, mine North Sea, stop war supplies reaching and Germany has difficulty importing

German U-Boat Response

Germany sets up U-boat counter blockade of Britain

U-boat sinks British liner **Lusitania**; 128 Americans among the dead U.S. public opinion turns against Germany.

The United States Declares War

German Provocation

Kaiser announces U-boats will sink all ships in British waters

Zimmerman note—proposes alliance of Germany, Mexico against U.S., German wanted Mexico to attack the U.S. to bring a war close to home for the American

Four unarmed American merchant ships sunk

Russian monarchy replaced with representative government

war of democracies against monarchies

America Acts

Wilson calls for war to...

America Mobilizes

Raising an Army

Selective Service Act—men register, randomly chosen for service

- African Americans in segregated units, excluded from navy, marines

Women in army, navy, marines as nurses secretaries, phone operators

Mass Production

- To expand fleet to transport men, food, equipment to Europe, U.S.:

gives special status to shipyard workers

uses fabrication techniques

takes over commercial, private ships

America Turns the Tide

Convoy system—destroyers escort merchant ships across Atlantic

- Navy helps lay mines across North Sea, keep U- boats out of Atlantic

Fighting in Europe

After 2 1/2 years fighting, Allied forces are exhausted, demoralized

American troops bring numbers, freshness, enthusiasm

New Weapons

By 1917, British learn to use tanks to clear path for infantry

Early planes flimsy, only do scouting; later ones stronger, faster

- carry machine guns, heavy bomb loads

- American ace **Eddie Rickenbacker**, other pilots in dogfights, Observation balloons used extensively, prime target of ace pilots

New Problems of War

- New weapons and tactics lead to horrific injuries, hazards
- Troops amidst filth, pests, polluted water, poison gas, dead bodies, constant bombardment, “shell shock”

Allies Stop German Advance

- Russia pulls out of war 1917(Russian Revolution); Germans shift armies to western front

come within 50 miles of Paris

- Americans help stop German advance, turn tide against Central Powers

The Collapse of Germany

November 3, 1918, Austria-Hungary surrenders to Allies

- German sailors, soldiers rebel; socialists establish German republic, Kaiser gives up throne

Germans exhausted; **armistice**, or truce, signed November 11, 1918, THIS IS WHY YOU HAVE NOV. 11 OFF SO REMEMBER IT THAT DAY.

The Final Toll

World War I bloodiest war in history to date

more than half of 22 million dead are civilians

20 million more are wounded

10 million people become refugees

Congress Gives Power to Wilson

War Industries Board

- Economy shifts from producing consumer goods to war supplies
- Congress gives president direct control of much of the economy
- Railroad Administration, Fuel Administration also control industries

War Economy

- Industrial wages rise; offset by rising costs of food, housing
- Large corporations make enormous profits

- Unions boom from dangerous conditions, child labor, unfair pay

Food Administration

- Food Administration under Herbert Hoover works to produce, save food

Selling the War-War Financing

U.S. spends \$35.5 billion on war effort

- 1/3 paid through taxes, 2/3 borrowed through sale of war bonds

Committee on Public Information

- **Propaganda**—biased communication designed to influence people

Gets volunteers to speak about war, distribute materials

Anti-Immigrant Hysteria

- Attacks against immigrants, especially from Germany, Austria-Hungary
- Suppression of German culture—music, language, literature
- **Espionage and Sedition Acts**—person can be fined, imprisoned for: interfering with war effort, speaking against government

- Violate 1st amendment; prosecute loosely defined antiwar activities
target socialists, labor leaders

The War Encourages Social Change

African Americans and the War

Du Bois urges support for war to strengthen call for racial justice

Most African Americans support war

Some think victims of racism should not support racist government

The Great Migration

Great Migration—large-scale movement of Southern blacks to North

escape racial discrimination

take up new job opportunities

Press of new migrants intensifies racial tensions

At Home

Women in the War

Many women take jobs in heavy industry previously held by men

Many do volunteer work for war effort

Some active in peace movement; Women's Peace Party founded 1915

Women's effort bolsters support for suffrage; 19th Amendment passes

The Flu Epidemic

International flu epidemic of 1918 has devastating effect on economy

As many as 30 million people die worldwide

Wilson Presents His Plan

Fourteen Points

Wilson's plan for world peace known as **Fourteen Points**

Points 1–5 propose measures to prevent another war

6–13 address how ethnic groups can form own nations or join others

14 calls for international organization or **League of Nations**

League to enable nations to discuss, settle problems without war

Allied Leaders angry at 14 points, Wilson gives up most of his points in return for League of Nations

Treaty of Versailles

Treaty of Versailles creates 9 new nations, British, French mandates

Places various conditions on Germany:

cannot have an army

Alsace-Lorraine returned to France

pay **reparations**, or war damages

War-guilt clause—Germany must accept sole responsibility for war

Wilson Refuses to Compromise

Wilson ignores Republicans in Senate when choosing U. S. delegation
Goes on speaking tour to convince nation to support League
has stroke, is temporarily disabled
November 1919, Lodge introduces amendments to treaty
amendments, treaty rejected
Wilson refuses to compromise
March 1920, 2nd vote: neither amendments nor treaty approved
U.S., Germany sign separate treaty; U.S. never joins League

The Legacy of the War

Consequences of the War

- In U.S., war strengthens military, increases power of government
- Accelerates social change for African Americans, women
- Fears, antagonisms provoked by propaganda remain
- In Europe, destruction, loss of life damage social, political systems
- Communist, fascist governments form
- Treaty of Versailles does not settle conflicts in Europe