World War I
• Started on 28 July 1914
• Ended 11 November 1918
• Almost 8 million died
  – Russia totaling the highest casualties: 1.7 million
• 22,000,000 wounded
Causes of WWI: MANIA

Militarism – building up a strong military to prepare for war (arms race)

Alliances – agreements between nations to provide aid and military intervention

Nationalism – intense pride for nation (nation over self, nation over other nations)

Imperialism

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
WWI was the first war with advanced weaponry and tactics:

- Due to a race for creating more weapons of mass destruction among nations
- European powers had desires for strong armies and naval power
Alliances

-Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy
-Triple Entente of France, Russia, and Great Britain
-By 1907, Europe is divided
Nationalism

The French Revolution had sparked intense nationalism throughout most of Europe:

The concept began to build of “Self Determination” - people with the same ethnic origins, language, and political ideals had the right to form sovereign states.
-The various ethnic groups living on the **Balkan Peninsula** desired to have countries of their own led directly to WWI

- The Ottoman Empire had ruled the Balkan area for 400 years
- Balkans:
  - Albanians, Greeks, Romanians, and Slav
  - Each group was struggling for their own independence

-Bosnia was an area of great hostility
-Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia as one of its territories in 1908
-Serbia was newly independent and thought that Bosnia should be one of their territories
Imperialism

-Virtually all the major powers were engaged in a scramble for empire to bolster their economies.

-Fiercest competition was between GB and Germany and between France and Germany.
- GB, Germany, and France need foreign markets after the Industrial Revolution

-In the Middle East, the crumbling Ottoman Empire was alluring to Austria-Hungary, the Balkans, and Russia
THE BLACK HAND

-Serbian nationalist group

-The main objective was the creation (by means of violence) of a “Greater Serbia”
Assassination

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Duchess Sophie assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on 28 June 1914
Domino Effect

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for Ferdinand’s death and declared war on Serbia

Germany pledged their support for Austria-Hungary

Russia pledged their support for Serbia
Domino Effect

Germany declares war on Russia

France pledges their support for Russia

Germany declares war on France

Germany invades Belgium on the way to France

GB supports Belgium and declares war on Germany
COMBATANTS

Central Powers
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Ottoman Empire
- Bulgaria

Allied Powers
- Russia
- France
- GB
- Italy
- Japan
- U.S. (1917)
1915
-Germany begins **unrestricted submarine warfare** to sink merchant ships trading with GB
-German U-boat sinks British passenger ship, the **RMS Lusitania**
-128 Americans killed
Wilson runs for re-election, campaigning on a peace platform, supporting neutrality

-Slogan: "He Kept Us Out of War"

-Sussex Pledge between U.S. and Germany:

-Germans sink the HMS Sussex

-Germans support Wilson’s re-election and promise to end unrestricted submarine warfare of merchant ships without warning or securing safety of passengers

-Wilson re-elected and trade with GB increases

*In the U.S., General John Pershing leads expedition in Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa
THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

1911: Francisco Madero overthrows Dictator Diaz and begins democratic reforms

1913: Madero murdered by General Huerta
    - Wilson had opposed Huerta
    - “I’m going to teach the South American republics to elect good men!” - Wilson
    - Wilson embargoes weapons to Huerta

1914: U.S. military occupation of Vera Cruz
    - Lasted 6 months
    - Purpose was to prevent a shipment of weapons from Germany to Huerta
    - American forces were attacked
    - Peace was negotiated and the U.S. left
1914: Carranza overthrew Huerta  
- Carranza refused any of Wilson’s advice  
- Wilson gave support to Pancho Villa, who opposed Huerta and Carranza  

1916: Wilson switched his support to Carranza  
- Villa felt betrayed by Wilson and murdered 17 Americans on a train  
- Villa invaded the U.S. and killed 18 more Americans in New Mexico  
- Wilson sent General John Pershing and 11,000 U.S. soldiers into Mexico to capture Pancho Villa  
- Pershing’s expedition alienated the Mexican people and its government  
- Villa was never apprehended
1917

- Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare despite Sussex Pledge
- Zimmerman Telegram
  - German proposal to Mexico to get Mexico to declare war on the U.S.
  - British intercepts the telegram
- Congress declares war on Germany on 2 April 1917
- Wilson’s moral reason for war: “The world must be made safe for democracy”

Mexican territory in 1917 (dark green), territory promised to Mexico in the Zimmerman telegram (light green), and original Mexican territory (red line)
WILSON AND “MORAL DIPLOMACY”
-Belief that foreign diplomacy should not be guided by “gunboats or dollars”
-Diplomacy should be based on democratic values and moral progress
(however, Wilson ended up using gunboats and military occupation of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua)
U.S. Economic Involvement in WWI

- If GB & F were to lose, they would not be able to pay the U.S. debt back (amounting to about $2 billion - Germany owed 27 million)
  → If the Allied Powers could not pay back loans made by U.S. bankers, the U.S. economy would collapse
- GB & F were buying massive amounts of arms from the U.S. on credit
- The U.S. wanted to make sure they were paid back
The Czar is overthrown and family eventually murdered during the Bolshevik Revolution (October Revolution)

- 1917: Vladimir Lenin rises to power
- Russia will withdraw from WWI (German see this as a betrayal)
- Beginning of communism and the USSR

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

- Signed with Central Powers

Russia lost around 1 mil. square miles of territory; a 1/3 of its pop. (around 55 mil.); a majority of its coal, oil and iron stores; and much of its industrial power
Why was WWI a Stalemate?

How WWI ended up in the trenches:

1. War erupts →
2. Germany declares war on France and implements the Schleiffen Plan →
3. Germany invades Belgium →
4. Belgians delay Germans at Liege →
5. British slow Germans at Mons →
6. Germans change plans & go south rather than encircle Paris →
7. French push Germans back to the Marne →
8. Schleiffen Plan fails →
9. British and Germans try to cut each other off from supplies →
10. Both sides try to beat each other to the English Channel (“Race to the Sea”) →
11. French Plan 17 fails, retreat back to original positions; dig into trenches →
12. Stalemated “War of Attrition”
1918
-January: Wilson issues his peace plan, The 14 Points
-First American troops, led by General John Pershing, arrive in France
  -American “Doughboys” push back German troops
-Armistice: 11 November 1918
  -Germans surrender under Wilson’s peace plan
  -The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month
  -Germany falls apart into anarchy, riots, and rebellions
American Expeditionary Force

U.S. Armed Forces sent to Europe in WWI

- During the U.S.’ campaigns in WWI the AEF fought in France alongside British and French Allied forces in the last year of the war, against Germany.
- The AEF helped the French Army on the Western front.
MYTH
REALITY
**Trench Warfare** – type of fighting during WWI in which both sides dug trenches protected by mines and barbed wire

- Dug from English Channel to Switzerland
- 6,250 miles
- 6 to 8 feet deep
“Death is Everywhere”

“We all had on us the stench of dead bodies.”

“Shellshock” →

“Never such innocence again”

-Bitterness towards officers whose lives were never in danger
The "Lost Generation" was the generation that came of age during World War I. The term was popularized by Ernest Hemingway, who used it as one of two contrasting epigraphs for his novel, *The Sun Also Rises*. In that volume Hemingway credits the phrase to Gertrude Stein, who was then his mentor and patron. Authors William Strauss and Neil Howe, well known for their generational theory, define the *Lost Generation* as the cohorts born from 1883 to 1900, who came of age during World War I and the roaring twenties. (Source: Wikipedia)

*The Sun Also Rises* is a 1926 novel written by American author Ernest Hemingway about a group of American and British expatriates who travel from Paris to the Festival of San Fermín in Pamplona to watch the running of the bulls and the bullfights.
Wilson and the 14 Points

-Wilson’s peace plan
-“No winners and no losers”
  -As Germany began to lose the war, it surrendered on the basis of the 14 Points

Point One: no secret treaties
Point Two: freedom of the seas
Point Three: free trade among all nations
Point Four: disarmament
Point Five: all colonies in Africa & Asia become independent

Points 6-12: new boundaries and elections for new countries in Europe
Point 13: the creation of Poland, between Germany & Russia
Point 14: creation of the League of Nations
The League of Nations

- World peace organization created by Wilson
  - Purpose: prevent wars and promote cooperation between all nations
- Its inception was included in the Treaty of Versailles

-Senator Henry Cabot Lodge:
  - Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
  - Opposed U.S. membership in the League of Nations
  - Opposed U.S. ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
  - Promoted America’s return to isolation
- Wilson refused to negotiate any modifications of the League of Nations
- Wilson suffered a stroke on a nation-wide speaking tour for the League of Nations
Treaty of Versailles
- Officially ended the war
- Signed by Germany on 28 June 1919
- Germany made to accept full responsibility for the war (Article 231: aka the “War Guilt Clause”)
- Forced Germany to demilitarize drastically
- No air force or soldiers in the Rhineland
- Germany must pay reparations (totaling around $55 billion to Allies)
- Purpose: keep German economy weak and powerless
- Treaty fueled German hatred towards the rest of Europe and would eventually lead to WWII
Treaty of Versailles

Blame goes to Germany

Reparations paid by Germany to the Allied powers

Army/Navy drastically reduced & demilitarized in the Rhineland

Territorial losses
Germany lost all her colonies.

North Schleswig given to Denmark.

Danzig - a free city run by the League of Nations.

Eupen and Malmedy given to Belgium.

Poland was given a 'corridor' to the Baltic Sea, cutting off East Prussia from Germany.

Posen - rich farmland given to Poland.

New government met here - so Germany was called the Weimar Republic.

Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years.

Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.

To France (which had lost this land to Germany in 1871).