Chapter 19
World War I,
the Russian Revolution,
and the aftermath
(1914-1919)

Many forces, including nationalism, militarism, and imperialist rivalries propelled Europe into **World War I** (world conflict from 1914-1918 that included all of the world's major nations). This massive conflict engulfed much of the world for four years and ushered in a new age of modern warfare and death.

In the early 1900s the world seemed at peace. People joined anti-war groups. Leaders met to talk. At the same time, however, other forces pushed Europe toward war. One of these forces was **nationalism** (to love your country; sometimes to where what you think is best for your country is ok even if it is bad for others). Pride of country and fierce racial bonds divided much of Europe.



Nations also wanted economic power. Britain had been a leader of industry. Now it had to keep up with modern German factories. Industrialized countries needed raw materials. France, Britain, and Germany all competed for lands in **Africa** (continent south of Europe and east of the Atlantic Ocean).



Fearful of losing their colonies, nations built up military power. This **militarism**, or glorification of the military, led to an **arms race** (a weapons race). No one wanted war, but everyone was getting ready to fight just in case.



Fear and distrust grew. Nations formed alliances, promising to protect each other against attack. By 1914, there were two big alliances. One was the **Central Powers**, including **Germany**, (the most powerful country in Europe in 1914) **Austria-Hungary**, (country southeast of Germany), and, for a short time, **Italy** (peninsula country southeast of France).

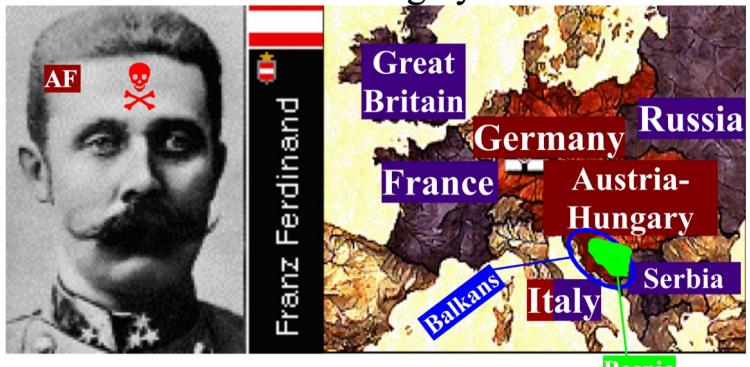


The other group was the **Allies**, consisting of **Britain**, **France**, and **Russia**. More nations soon joined the alliances. Each country promised to help its friends if war broke out in Europe. The stage was set so that a small conflict could easily become a huge war.



By June of 1914, Europe was tense. In an area east of Italy known as the **Balkans**, things were about to explode.

Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary (future king of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire) was going to visit the province of Bosnia. Many Serbs lived there. Some thought Bosnia should belong to Serbia (country in the Balkans in southeastern Europe) rather than to Austria-Hungary.



As the archduke planned his trip, Serb terrorists made plans too. **Gavrilo Princip** (one of over 20 terrorists in the attack to assassinate Archduke Ferdinand) was part of a terrorist group known as the Black Hand. Their goal was to join all South Slavic people in one nation. Now they plotted to kill the archduke.

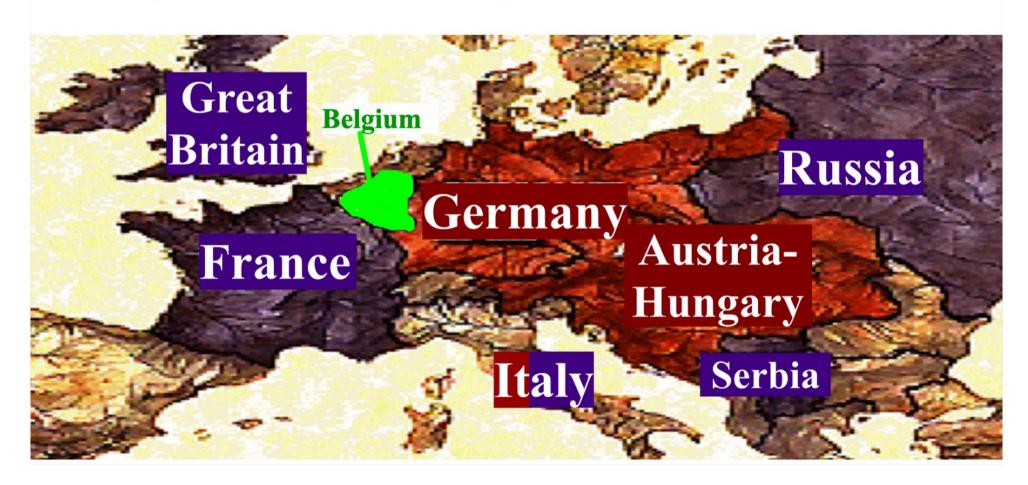


On June 28, the archduke and his wife drove through the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. Acting on a Black Hand plan, Gavrilo Princip **assassinated** (to kill) them.

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for the murders and gave Serbia an **ultimatum** (a set of final demands). When Serbia didn't give in to the demands, Austria-Hungary declared war on July 28, 1914.



Alliances came into play. Germany stood by Austria-Hungary. Russia, a Slavic nation, backed Serbia. France came to the aid of Russia. On August 3, 1914, Germany attacked Belgium as a path to France. An angry Britain declared war on Germany. World War I had begun.



The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand sparked trouble. However, most historians agree that all the nations involved must share the blame for the war no one wanted.



Some have called World War I "**The Great War** (name given to World War I because of the incredible amount of death and destruction)." More troops fought and died than ever

before in history.

The Human and Financial Costs of World War I

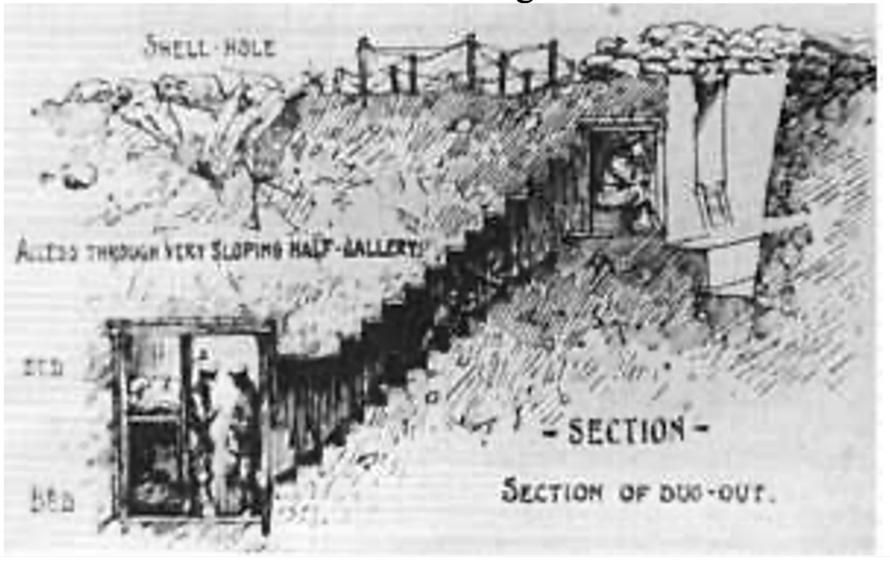




Heavy fighting took place on the **Western Front**, a 600-mile stretch from the English Channel to Switzerland. The Germans hoped for an early victory there. However, French and British troops stopped them. For four years, neither side advanced.



Troops dug **trenches** (holes in the ground that are connected) along the front. When they came out to fight, many were killed. Neither side won much ground.





There was also an **Eastern Front** in Europe. One part ran from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. The other part ran between Italy (which joined the Allies in 1915) and Austria-Hungary.



Much of World War I was fought using **trenches** (attached holes in the ground that were dug to provide each side protection because of the deadly firepower both sides had). This was the first war to make use of modern technology and machinery. **Warplanes** flew the skies. **Submarines** sailed under the sea. Machine guns, tanks, and **poison gas** made battles deadly. World War I became a global conflict. Its

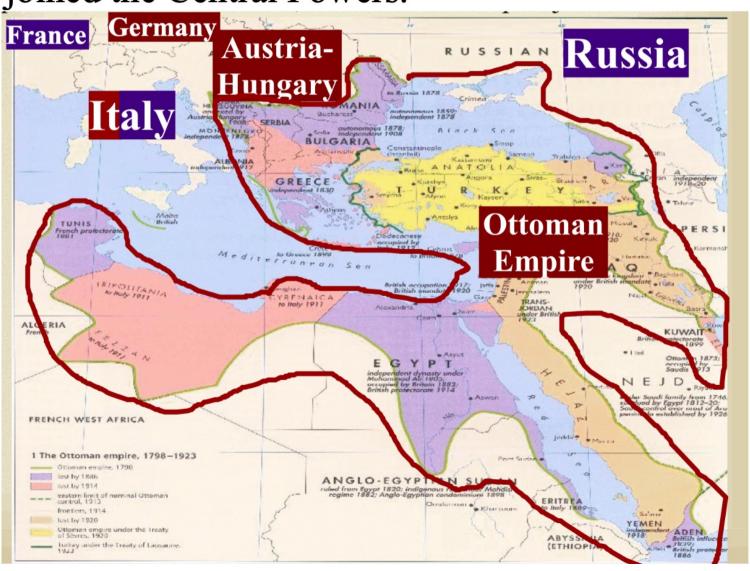
effects were felt worldwide.



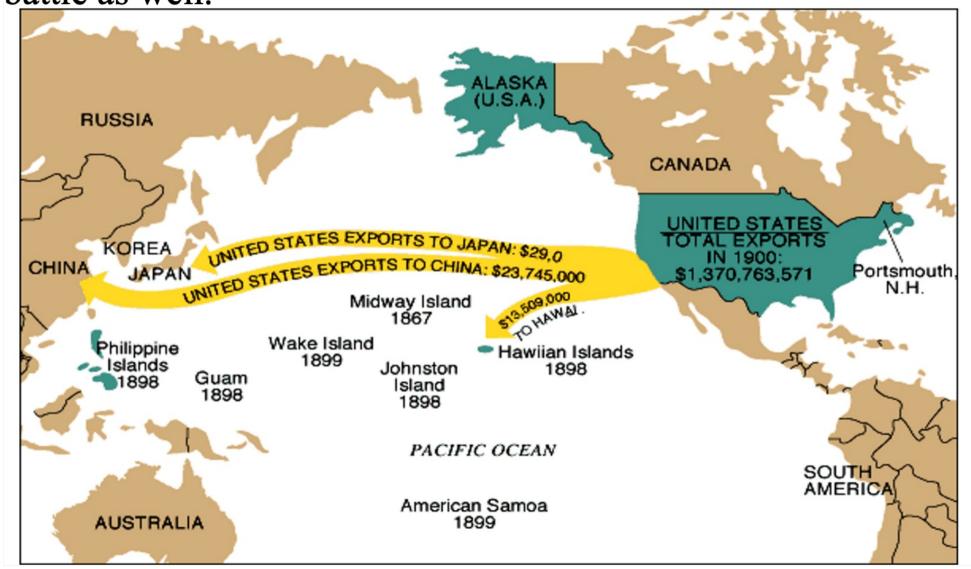




The powers of Europe looked to their colonies for soldiers, workers, and supplies. In the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers.



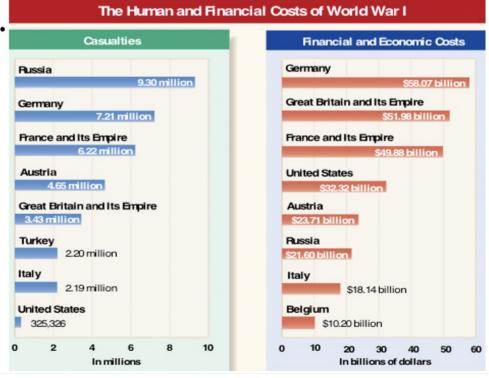
Japan, allied to Britain, took German colonies in China and islands in the Pacific. The United States would soon join the battle as well.



World War I was what we call a total war. In a total war, all of a nation's resources go into the war effort. Governments drafted men to fight the war. They raised taxes to pay the costs of fighting. They rationed, or limited the supply of goods, so that they could supply the military. They used the press to publish propaganda that made the enemy look bad.

**Propaganda** is the spreading of ideas to promote a cause or

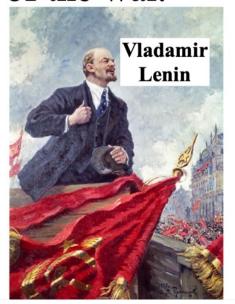
damage an opposing cause.



Women played a major part in total war. Many took jobs that soldiers left behind. Some joined the armed services. Others went to the fronts as nurses.

By 1917, Europe had seen too much death and ruin. In Russia, low morale, or spirits, led to the **Russian Revolution** (a revolution in Russia in 1917 led by unhappy common people) which made the democracy a **communist** (a country where the government owns everything for the good of its people and where classes of society do not exist) country. Russia changed its name to the **Soviet Union**. Early in 1918, the new leader signed a treaty with Germany that took Russia

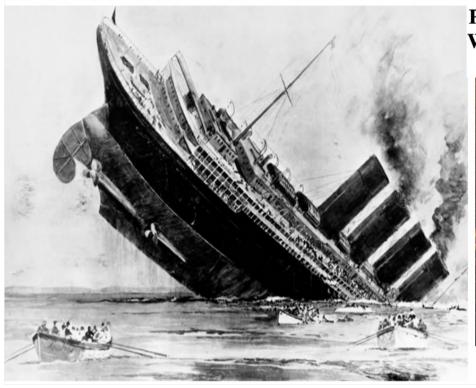
out of the war.

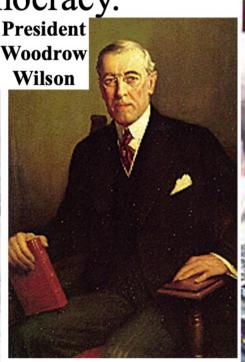




Russia's withdrawal was good news for the Central Powers. However, there was good news for the Allies too. From 1914-1917 America remained **neutral** (to not take sides), at least on paper. But in 1917, the United States entered the war, mainly due to attacks on American shipping by German **U-boats** (submarines) and President Woodrow Wilson's desire

to make the world safe for democracy.











GERMANY UNDER ALL.

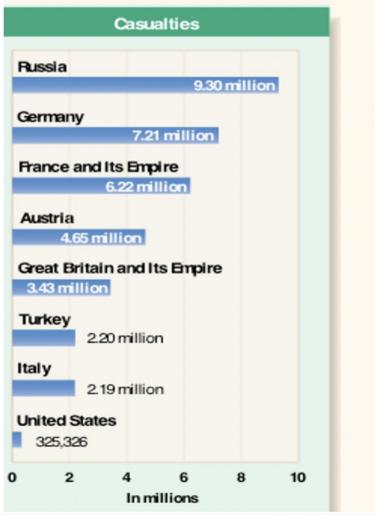
-Morgan in the Philadelphia Inquirer.



By 1917 the war had become a stalemate (when no one is winning or losing). With new soldiers and supplies from the United States, the Allies gained control. American ships were only able to cross the Atlantic Ocean (body of water between America and Europe) safely after the introduction of the convoy (ships that travel together for protection). By 1918, America's industrial strength, fresh manpower, and financial aid allowed the Allies to win the war. The other Central Powers had given up, and the Germans stood alone. They asked for an end to the fighting. On November 11, 1918, an armistice (an agreement to end fighting) was declared and the "war to end all wars" (name given to World War I because if was so terrible everyone believed there would never be a war again) was over.

As World War I ended, Europe faced huge losses. Millions had died. More had been wounded. Hunger threatened many lands. In addition, a deadly epidemic of influenza swept the

world in 1918. The Human and Financial Costs of World War I

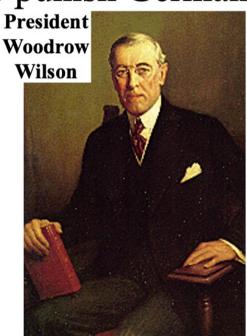


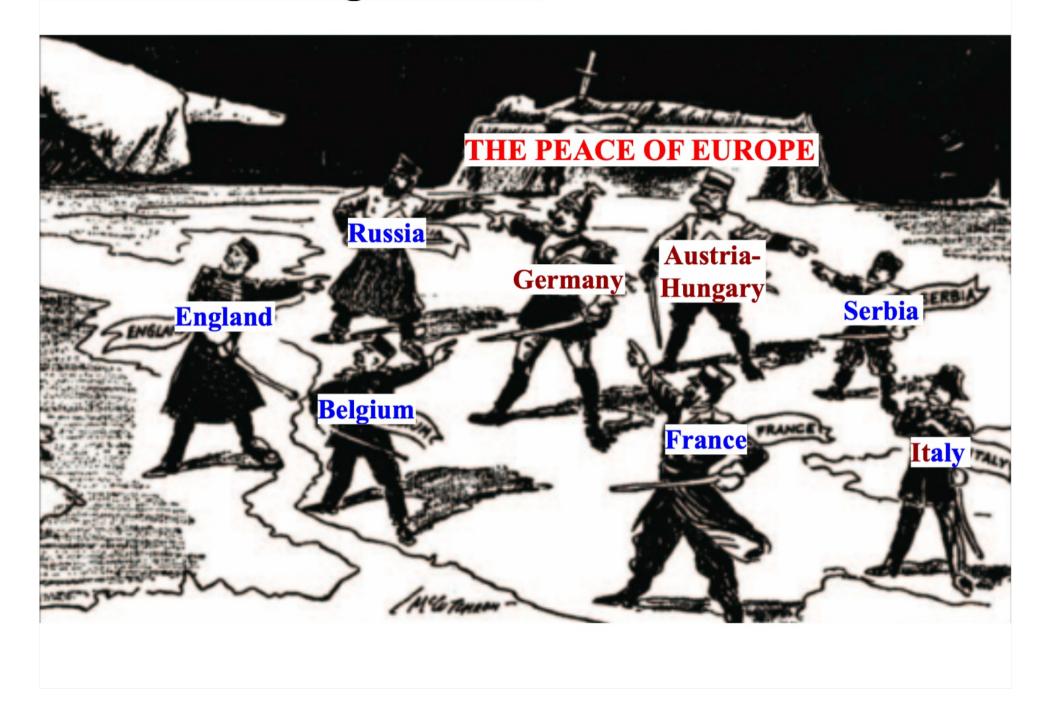


Much of the European continent was in ruins. Cities had to be rebuilt. Governments had fallen in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire and most European governments were in massive debt.

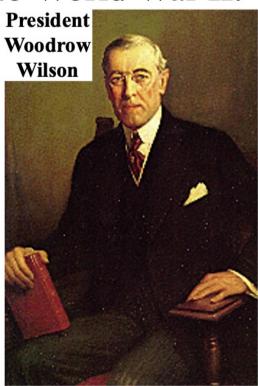


United States President Wilson and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George joined French leader Georges Clemenceau in Paris. They were the "Big Three" of the peace conference in Paris, France. Each had his own goals. Wilson stressed **self-determination**, by which people choose their own government. Wilson also proposed the **Fourteen Points**, his ideas that he thought would prevent future wars. Britain and France wanted to punish Germany.





By June 1919, the conference had drawn up the **Treaty of Versailles** (peace treaty that officially ended World War I). The document blamed the Germans for the war. They had to pay over \$30 billion in **reparations** (payment for war damages), give up colonies and some European lands, and cut back their military. The treaty also redrew the map of Eastern Europe, all which led to World War II.



There were other changes as well. New nations formed on land that had belonged to Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Germany. The treaty also set up the **League of Nations**. This group of over 40 countries hoped to settle problems between countries without war. Though the league was Wilson's plan,

the United States never joined

