

# World War I



## Essential Question

Why did World War I last so long?



**About the Painting:** This painting by François Flameng shows French soldiers crossing a river on pontoon bridges.

In this module you will learn about the factors that led to World War I, a conflict that devastated Europe and had a major impact on the world.

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- Dear Home: Letters From World War I

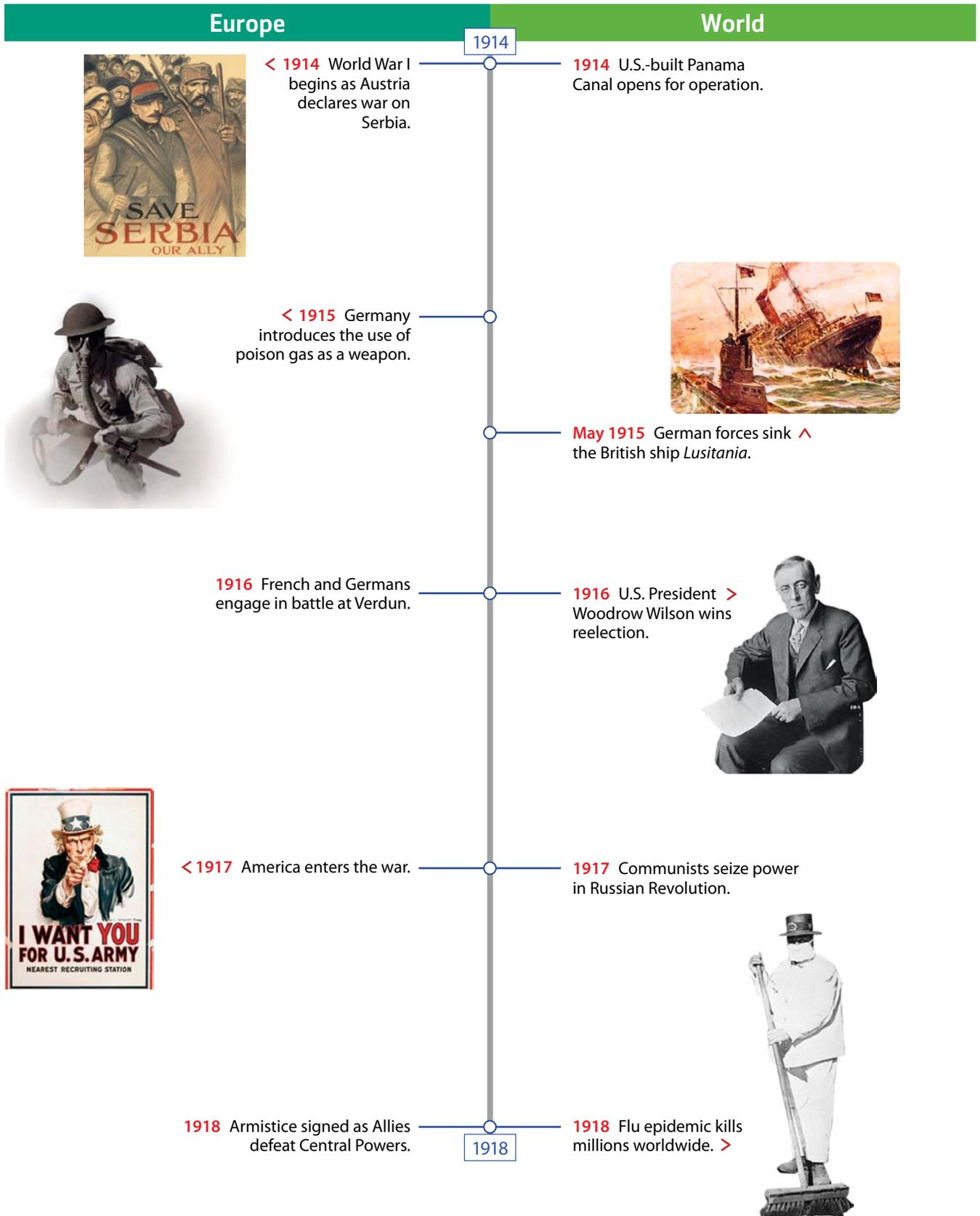
- ✓ Document Based Investigations
- ✓ Graphic Organizers
- ✓ Interactive Games
- ✓ Interactive Map: World War I in Europe, 1914–1918
- ✓ Carousel: The New Weapons of War



**SS.912.W.1.1** Use timelines to establish cause and effect relationships of historical events.

**SS.912.W.1.3** Interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources. **SS.912.W.1.5** Compare conflicting interpretations or schools of thought about world events and individual contributions to history (historiography).

**SS.912.W.7.1** Analyze the causes of World War I including the formation of European alliances and the roles of imperialism, nationalism, and militarism. **SS.912.W.7.2** Describe the changing nature of warfare during World War I. **SS.912.W.9.5** Assess the social and economic impact of pandemics on a global scale, particularly within the developing and under-developed world. **LAFS.910.RH.1.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information. **LAFS.910.RH.1.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text. **LAFS.910.RH.2.6** Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts. **LAFS.910.RH.3.9** Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources. **MAFS.K12.MP.1.1** Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. **MAFS.K12.MP.6.1** Attend to precision.





# Marching Toward War

## The Big Idea

In Europe, nationalistic feelings, ethnic conflicts, territorial disputes, and rival alliances helped set the stage for a continental war.

## Why It Matters Now

Ethnic conflict in the Balkan region, which helped ignite the war, continued to erupt in that area in the 1990s.

## Key Terms and People

militarism  
Triple Alliance  
Kaiser Wilhelm II  
Triple Entente

## Setting the Stage

At the turn of the 20th century, the nations of Europe had been largely at peace with one another for nearly 30 years. This was no accident. Efforts to put an end to war and achieve permanent peace had been gaining momentum in Europe since the middle of the 19th century. By 1900, hundreds of peace organizations were active. In addition, peace congresses convened regularly between 1843 and 1907. Some Europeans believed that progress had made war a thing of the past. Yet in a little more than a decade, a massive war would engulf Europe and spread across the globe.

## Rising Tensions in Europe

On the surface, Europe seemed to be peaceful. But beneath this calm surface, tensions were building, both between and within nations. Several gradual developments would ultimately help propel the continent into war.

**The Rise of Nationalism** One such development was the growth of nationalism, or a sense of devotion to one's national group. The first important examples of nationalism appeared in the American and French revolutions. The idea soon spread through both Latin America and Europe. During the 1800s, nationalism was among the forces that unified the separate states of Germany and Italy, transforming them into cohesive nations with a clear national identity.

In some other European powers, however, nationalism was a dividing force rather than a unifying one. The Ottoman Empire had once controlled most of the lands on the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, as well as the Balkan peninsula, a region in southeast Europe. By the beginning of the 20th century, some of the many ethnic groups within the empire had formed nationalist movements. As Serbs, Albanians, Bulgarians, Romanians, and other ethnic groups all sought independence, other



powers in the region hoped to seize them, thus increasing their territory. Eventually, Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Romania emerged as independent nations. Other Ottoman territories in Europe were annexed by Russia and Austria-Hungary.

**Economic Rivalry** Europe's Great Powers—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, and France—were also rivals in other areas. This increasing rivalry stemmed from several sources. One source was industrialization. Germany and Great Britain led Europe in industrial growth, which gave them economic power, especially compared to less industrialized nations. This caused increased competition for materials and markets. The other nations of Europe struggled to build their own industrial bases in order to catch up economically with Germany and Great Britain.

**Political Rivalry** Another source was political rivalry and territorial disputes. France, for example, had never gotten over the loss of Alsace-Lorraine to Germany in the Franco-Prussian War (1870). Austria-Hungary and Russia both tried to dominate in the Balkans as the Ottoman Empire crumbled.

**Imperialism and Militarism** Another force that helped set the stage for war in Europe was imperialism. The nations of Europe competed fiercely for colonies in Africa and Asia. The quest for colonies sometimes pushed European nations to the brink of war. As European countries continued to compete for overseas empires, their rivalry and mistrust of one another deepened.

Yet another troubling development throughout the early years of the 20th century was the rise of a dangerous European arms race. The nations of Europe believed that to be truly great, they needed to have a powerful military. By 1914, all the Great Powers except Britain had large standing armies. In addition, military experts stressed the importance of being able to quickly mobilize, or organize and move troops in case of a war. Generals in each country developed highly detailed plans for such a mobilization.

The policy of glorifying military power and keeping an army prepared for war was known as **militarism**. Having a large and strong standing army made citizens feel patriotic. However, it also frightened some people. As early as 1895, Frédéric Passy, a prominent peace activist, expressed the concern that a minor incident could ignite a devastating war throughout Europe.

## Tangled Alliances

Growing rivalries and mutual mistrust had led to the creation of several military alliances among the Great Powers as early as the 1870s. This alliance system had been designed to keep peace in Europe. But it would instead help push the continent into war.

### Reading Check

Draw Conclusions  
How do imperialism  
and militarism  
work together to  
promote war?

**Bismarck Forges Early Pacts** Between 1864 and 1871, Prussia's blood-and-iron chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, freely used war to unify Germany. After 1871, however, Bismarck declared Germany to be a "satisfied power." He then turned his energies to maintaining peace in Europe.

Bismarck saw France as the greatest threat to peace. He believed that France still wanted revenge for its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. Bismarck's first goal, therefore, was to isolate France. "As long as it is without allies," Bismarck stressed, "France poses no danger to us." In 1879, Bismarck formed the Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary. Three years later, Italy joined the two countries, forming the **Triple Alliance**. In 1881, Bismarck took yet another possible ally away from France by making a treaty with Russia.

**Shifting Alliances Threaten Peace** In 1890, Germany's foreign policy changed dramatically. That year, **Kaiser Wilhelm II**—who two years earlier had become ruler of Germany—forced Bismarck to resign. A proud and stubborn man, Wilhelm II did not wish to share power with anyone. Besides wanting to assert his own power, the new kaiser was eager to show the world just how mighty Germany had become. The army was his greatest pride. "I and the army were born for one another," Wilhelm declared shortly after taking power.

Wilhelm let his nation's treaty with Russia lapse in 1890. Russia responded by forming a defensive military alliance with France in 1892 and 1894. Such an alliance had been Bismarck's fear. War with either Russia or France would make Germany the enemy of both. Germany would then be forced to fight a two-front war, or a war on both its eastern and western borders.

Next, Wilhelm began a tremendous shipbuilding program in an effort to make the German navy equal to the mighty British fleet. Alarmed, Great Britain formed an entente, or alliance, with France. In 1907, Britain made another entente, this time with both France and Russia. The **Triple Entente**, as it was called, did not bind Britain to fight with France and Russia. However, it did almost certainly ensure that Britain would not fight against them.

By 1907, two rival camps existed in Europe. On one side was the Triple Alliance—Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. On the other side was the Triple Entente—Great Britain, France, and Russia. A dispute between two rival powers could draw all the nations of Europe into war.

## Crisis in the Balkans

Nowhere was that dispute more likely to occur than on the Balkan Peninsula. This mountainous peninsula in the southeastern corner of Europe was home to an assortment of ethnic groups. With a long history of nationalist uprisings and ethnic clashes, the Balkan region was known as the "powder keg" of Europe.

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Effects

How could a dispute between two European powers involve other nations in the conflict?

## Kaiser Wilhelm II

(1859–1941)

Wilhelm II was related to the leaders of two nations he eventually would engage in war. Wilhelm, George V of Great Britain, and Nicholas II of Russia were all cousins.

The kaiser thought a great deal of himself and his place in history. Once, when a doctor told him he had a small cold, Wilhelm reportedly responded, "No, it is a big cold. Everything about me must be big."

He also could be sly and deceitful. After forcing the popular Bismarck to resign, Wilhelm pretended to be upset. Most people, however, including Bismarck, were not fooled.



**A Restless Region** By the early 1900s, the Ottoman Empire, which included the Balkan region, was in rapid decline. While some Balkan groups struggled to free themselves from the Ottoman Turks, others had already succeeded in breaking away from their Turkish rulers. These peoples had formed new nations, including Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia.

Nationalism was a powerful force in these countries, prompting them to extend their borders. Serbia, for example, had a large Slavic population. It hoped to absorb all the Slavs on the Balkan Peninsula. Russia, itself a mostly Slavic nation, supported Serbian nationalism. However, Serbia's powerful northern neighbor, Austria-Hungary, opposed such an effort. Austria feared that efforts to create a Slavic state would stir rebellion among its Slavic population.

In 1908, Austria annexed, or took over, Bosnia and Herzegovina. These were two Balkan areas with large Slavic populations. Serbian leaders, who had sought to rule these provinces, were outraged. In the years that followed, tensions between Serbia and Austria rose steadily. The Serbs vowed to take Bosnia and Herzegovina away from Austria. In response, Austria-Hungary vowed to crush any Serbian effort to undermine its authority in the Balkans.

## The Balkan Peninsula, 1914



### Interpret Maps

- 1. Place** What region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was located along the Adriatic Sea?
- 2. Location** Based on the map, why might Serbia have staked a claim to Bosnia and Herzegovina?

**A Shot Rings Throughout Europe** Into this poisoned atmosphere of mutual dislike and mistrust stepped the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife, Sophie. On June 28, 1914, the couple paid a state visit to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. It would be their last. The royal pair were shot at point-blank range as they rode through the streets of Sarajevo in an open car. The killer was Gavrilo Princip, a 19-year-old Serbian and a member of the Black Hand. The Black Hand was a secret society committed to ridding Bosnia of Austrian rule.

Because the assassin was a Serbian, Austria decided to use the murders as an excuse to punish Serbia. On July 23, Austria presented Serbia with an ultimatum containing numerous demands. Serbia knew that refusing the ultimatum would lead to war against the more powerful Austria. Therefore, Serbian leaders agreed to most of Austria's demands. They offered to have several others settled by an international conference.

### Vocabulary

**ultimatum** a list of demands that, if not met, will lead to serious consequences

## History in Depth

### The Armenian Genocide

In the 1880s, roughly 2.5 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire, mostly in eastern Anatolia. Predominantly Christian, Armenians had their own language and a strong communal identity. This sometimes led to their being seen as a foreign element, which caused conflict. When some Armenian activists called for an independent state, relations between Armenians and the government grew strained. During the 1890s, Ottoman troops killed tens of thousands of Armenians.

When World War I erupted in 1914, the Ottoman government joined on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Claiming that Armenian revolutionaries planned to support the Triple Entente powers, the government deported nearly 2 million Armenians and confiscated their land. On their trek through the desert to camps in the south, more than 600,000 Armenians were killed or died of starvation. By 1920, fewer than 400,000 Armenians remained in the former Ottoman Empire.



#### Reading Check

##### Analyze Issues

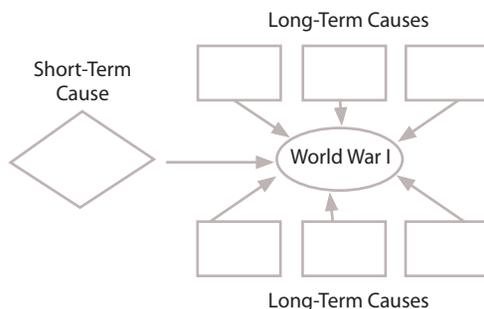
What were the reasons for the hostility between Austria-Hungary and Serbia?

Austria, however, was in no mood to negotiate. The nation's leaders, it seemed, had already settled on war. On July 28, Austria rejected Serbia's offer and declared war. That same day, Russia, an ally of Serbia with its largely Slavic population, took action. Russian leaders ordered the mobilization of troops toward the Austrian border.

Leaders all over Europe suddenly took notice. The fragile European stability seemed ready to collapse into armed conflict. The British foreign minister, the Italian government, and even Kaiser Wilhelm himself urged Austria and Russia to negotiate. But it was too late. The machinery of war had been set in motion.

### Lesson 1 Assessment

- Organize Information** Create a graphic organizer like the one below to show the short-term and long-term causes of World War I.



To what extent did each factor lead to the outbreak of war? Explain.

- Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
- Analyze Issues** In the period leading up to World War I, how did nationalism unite or divide citizens?
- Analyze Events** What ideas and beliefs led to the Armenian genocide?
- Form Opinions** Do you think World War I was avoidable? Use information from the text to support your answer.



# Europe Plunges into War

## The Big Idea

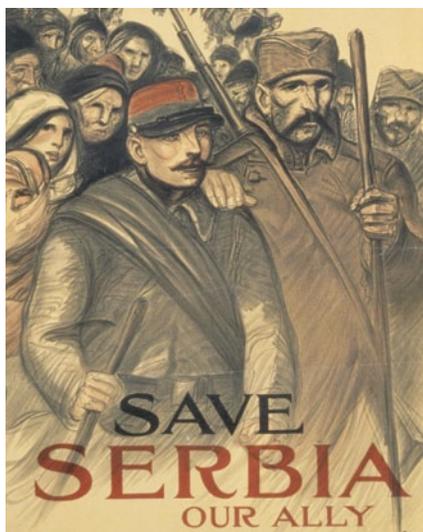
One European nation after another was drawn into a large and industrialized war that resulted in many casualties.

## Why It Matters Now

Much of the technology of modern warfare, such as fighter planes and tanks, was introduced in World War I.

## Key Terms and People

Central Powers  
Allies  
Western Front  
Schlieffen Plan  
trench warfare  
Eastern Front



World War I began with Austria declaring war on Serbia.



SS.912.W.1.1; SS.912.W.1.3; SS.912.W.7.2;  
LAFS.910.RH.1.1; LAFS.910.RH.2.6; LAFS.910.RH.3.7;  
LAFS.910.RH.3.9

## Setting the Stage

By 1914, Europe was divided into two rival camps. One alliance, the Triple Entente, included Great Britain, France, and Russia. The other, known as the Triple Alliance, included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. Austria-Hungary's declaration of war against Serbia set off a chain reaction within the alliance system. The countries of Europe followed through on their pledges to support one another. As a result, nearly all of Europe soon joined what would be the largest, most destructive war the world had yet seen.

## The Great War Begins

In response to Austria's declaration of war, Russia, Serbia's ally, began moving its army toward the Russian-Austrian border. Expecting Germany to join Austria, Russia also mobilized along the German border. To Germany, Russia's mobilization amounted to a declaration of war. On August 1, the German government declared war on Russia.

Russia looked to its ally France for help. Germany, however, did not even wait for France to react. Two days after declaring war on Russia, Germany also declared war on France. Soon afterward, Great Britain declared war on Germany. Much of Europe was now locked in battle.

**Nations Take Sides** By mid-August 1914, the battle lines were clearly drawn. On one side were Germany and Austria-Hungary. They were known as the **Central Powers** because of their location in the heart of Europe. Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire would later join the Central Powers in the hopes of regaining lost territories. On the other side were Great Britain, France, and Russia. Together, they were known as the Allied Powers or the **Allies**. Japan joined the Allies within weeks. Italy joined later. Italy had been a member of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary. However, the Italians joined the other side after accusing their former partners of unjustly starting the war.

## World War I in Europe, 1914–1918



### Interpret Maps

- 1. Location** In which country was most of the war in the West fought?
- 2. Location** What geographic disadvantage did Germany and Austria-Hungary face in fighting the war? How might this have affected their war strategy?

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Issues

Was the system of alliances the only reason other nations entered the war?

In the late summer of 1914, millions of soldiers marched happily off to battle, convinced that the war would be short. Only a few people foresaw the horror ahead. One of them was Britain’s foreign minister, Sir Edward Grey. Staring out over London at nightfall, Grey said sadly to a friend, “The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

## A Bloody Stalemate

It did not take long for Sir Edward Grey’s prediction to ring true. As the summer of 1914 turned to fall, the war turned into a long and bloody stalemate, or deadlock, along the battlefields of France. This deadlocked region in northern France became known as the **Western Front**.

**The Conflict Grinds Along** Facing a war on two fronts, Germany had developed a battle strategy known as the **Schlieffen Plan**, named after its designer, General Alfred Graf von Schlieffen (SHLEE•fuhn). The plan called for attacking and defeating France in the west and then rushing east to fight Russia. The Germans felt they could carry out such a plan because Russia lagged behind the rest of Europe in its railroad system and thus

would take longer to supply its front lines. Nonetheless, speed was vital to the Schlieffen Plan. German leaders knew they needed to win a quick victory over France.

Early on, it appeared that Germany would do just that. By early September, German forces had swept into France and reached the outskirts of Paris. A major German victory appeared just days away. On September 5, however, the Allies regrouped and attacked the Germans northeast of Paris, in the valley of the Marne River. Every available soldier was hurled into the struggle. When reinforcements were needed, more than 600 taxis rushed soldiers from Paris to the front. After four days of fighting, the German generals gave the order to retreat.

Although it was only the first major clash on the Western Front, the First Battle of the Marne was perhaps the single most important event of the war. The defeat of the Germans left the Schlieffen Plan in ruins. A quick victory in the west no longer seemed possible. In the east, Russian forces had already invaded Germany. Germany was going to have to fight a long war on two fronts. Realizing this, the German high command sent thousands of troops from France to aid its forces in the east. Meanwhile, the war on the Western Front settled into a stalemate.

This soldier wears a gas mask during training exercises.



### Vocabulary

**casualty** in war, anyone killed, injured, captured, or considered missing in action

**Technological Innovations** On both sides of the conflict, governments called on academic and industrial scientists to further the war effort. Even before the war began, German scientists began work on finding replacements for some key resources, such as rubber for car and truck tires. Synthetic rubber now supplies most of the world's rubber needs.

German chemists also developed chemical weapons such as poison gas, which military strategists hoped could help them quickly win the war. In response, scientists in France and Great Britain developed their own chemical weapons and worked on ways to protect soldiers from these weapons.

Other new weapons included guns that could fire multiple rounds or that could shoot across a great distance. By 1915, the war took to the skies when fighter planes were developed. All of these innovations increased the number of casualties at the front. Soon, research and field experience combined to improve care for the wounded. Injured soldiers could be given initial treatment on the field, then moved by ambulance for further treatment. Mobile X-ray units made it possible to find bullets and shrapnel in wounds. A safe way of storing blood was developed, leading to the creation of the first rudimentary blood banks. As a result, many soldiers survived, even with serious injuries. The number of disfiguring head injuries led doctors to develop reconstructive surgery techniques. There was also an increased focus on rehabilitation and new approaches to prosthetic limbs.

**War in the Trenches** By early 1915, opposing armies on the Western Front had dug miles of parallel trenches to protect themselves from enemy fire. This set the stage for what became known as **trench warfare**. In this type of warfare, soldiers fought each other from trenches, and armies traded huge losses of human life for pitifully small gains in territory.



German soldiers manning a machine gun from an entrenched position.

Life in the trenches was pure misery. “The men slept in mud, washed in mud, ate mud, and dreamed mud,” wrote one soldier. The trenches swarmed with rats. Fresh food was nonexistent. Sleep was nearly impossible.

The space between the opposing trenches won the grim name “no man’s land.” When the officers ordered an attack, their men went over the top of their trenches into this bombed-out landscape. There they usually met murderous rounds of machine-gun fire. Staying put, however, did not ensure one’s safety. Artillery fire brought death right into the trenches. “Shells of all calibers kept raining on our sector,” wrote one French soldier. “The trenches disappeared, filled with earth . . . the air was unbreathable. Our blinded, wounded, crawling, and shouting soldiers kept falling on top of us and died splashing us with blood. It was living hell.”

The Western Front had become a “terrain of death.” It stretched nearly 500 miles from the North Sea to the Swiss border. A British officer described it in a letter:

*“Imagine a broad belt, ten miles or so in width, stretching from the Channel to the German frontier near Basle, which is positively littered with the bodies of men and scarified with their rude graves; in which farms, villages and cottages are shapeless heaps of blackened masonry; in which fields, roads and trees are pitted and torn and twisted by shells and disfigured by dead horses, cattle, sheep and goats, scattered in every attitude of repulsive distortion and dismemberment.”*

—Valentine Fleming, quoted in *The First World War*

Military strategists were at a loss. New tools of war—machine guns, poison gas, armored tanks, larger artillery—had not delivered the fast-moving war they had expected. All this new technology did was kill greater numbers of people more effectively.

The slaughter reached a peak in 1916. In February, the Germans launched a massive attack against the French near Verdun. Each side lost more than 300,000 men. In July, the British army tried to relieve the pressure on the French. British forces attacked the Germans northwest of Verdun, in the valley of the Somme River. In the first day of battle alone, more than 20,000 British soldiers were killed. By the time the Battle of the Somme ended in November, each side had suffered more than half a million casualties.

What did the warring sides gain? Near Verdun, the Germans advanced about four miles. In the Somme valley, the British gained about five miles. Meanwhile, the network of trenches had long-term consequences for the environment.

### Reading Check

Analyze Effects  
Why was the First Battle of the Marne so significant?

## Views of War

When World War I broke out, Europe had not experienced a war involving all the major powers for nearly a century, since Napoleon's defeat in 1815. As a result, people had an unrealistic view of warfare. Many expected the war to be short and romantic. Many men enlisted in the army because of patriotism or out of a desire to defend certain institutions. What the soldiers experienced changed their view of war forever.

### Fritz Kreisler

In his autobiography, Austrian Fritz Kreisler drew upon his own battle experience.

*“Suddenly I saw the face of the colonel riding next to me, light up with excitement . . . ‘The regiment of my son is fighting on the hill. It is one of their men they have brought by.’ . . . Suddenly another stretcher was brought past. The colonel at my side jumped from his horse, crying out, ‘My boy,’ and a feeble voice answered, ‘Father.’ . . . The old colonel stood like a statue of bronze. His face had become suddenly ashen gray. He looked at the doctor and tried to catch his expression. The doctor seemed grave. But the young man urged us on . . . The colonel mounted his horse, sternly commanding us to march forward, but the light had died out of his eyes.”*

—Fritz Kreisler, *Four Weeks in the Trenches: The War Story of a Violinist*



Allied troops crawl through a trench along the Western Front.

### Wilfred Owen

The English poet Wilfred Owen was killed in the trenches just one week before World War I ended. This excerpt from one of his poems describes a gas attack.

*“Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And flound’ring like a man in fire or lime.—  
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.*

*In all my dreams before my helpless sight  
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.”*

—Wilfred Owen, from “Dulce et Decorum Est”

### Analyze Historical Sources

Judging from these sources, what was life in the trenches like for the average soldier? Explain how you think such experiences affected the average soldier's view of war.

## History in Depth

### The New Weapons of War



#### Poison Gas

Soldiers wore masks to protect themselves from poison gas. Gas was introduced by the Germans but used by both sides. Some gases caused blindness or severe blisters, others death by choking.

#### Machine Gun

The machine gun, which fires ammunition automatically, was much improved by the time of World War I. The gun could wipe out waves of attackers and thus made it difficult for forces to advance.

#### Tank

The tank was an armored combat vehicle that moved on chain tracks and thus could cross many types of terrain. It was introduced by the British in 1916 at the Battle of the Somme.

#### Submarine

In 1914, the Germans introduced the submarine as an effective warship. The submarine's primary weapon against ships was the torpedo, an underwater missile.

## The Battle on the Eastern Front

Even as the war on the Western Front claimed thousands of lives, both sides were sending millions more men to fight on the **Eastern Front**. This area was a stretch of battlefield along the German and Russian border. Here, Russians and Serbs battled Germans and Austro-Hungarians. The war in the east was a more mobile war than that in the west. Here too, however, slaughter and stalemate were common.

**Early Fighting** At the beginning of the war, Russian forces had launched an attack into both Austria and Germany. At the end of August, Germany counterattacked near the town of Tannenberg. During the four-day battle, the Germans crushed the invading Russian army and drove it into full retreat. More than 30,000 Russian soldiers were killed.

Russia fared somewhat better against the Austrians. Russian forces defeated the Austrians twice in September 1914, driving deep into their country. Not until December of that year did the Austrian army manage to turn the tide. Austria defeated the Russians and eventually pushed them out of Austria-Hungary.

**Russia Struggles** By 1916, Russia's war effort was near collapse. Unlike the nations of western Europe, Russia had yet to become industrialized. As a result, the Russian army was continually short of food, guns,

## The Frozen Front

For soldiers on the Eastern Front, the overall misery of warfare was compounded by deadly winters. “Every day hundreds froze to death,” noted one Austro-Hungarian officer during a particularly brutal spell.

Russian troops suffered too, mainly due to their lack of food and clothing. “I am at my post all the time—frozen [and] soaked . . .,” lamented one soldier. “We walk barefoot or in rope-soled shoes. It’s incredible that soldiers of the Russian army are in rope-soled shoes!”



ammunition, clothes, boots, and blankets. Moreover, the Allied supply shipments to Russia were sharply limited by German control of the Baltic Sea, combined with Germany’s relentless submarine campaign in the North Sea and beyond. In the south, the Ottomans still controlled the straits leading from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

The Russian army had only one asset—its numbers. Throughout the war the Russian army suffered a staggering number of battlefield losses. Yet the army continually rebuilt its ranks from the country’s enormous population. For more than three years, the battered Russian army managed to tie up hundreds of thousands of German troops in the east. As a result, Germany could not hurl its full fighting force at the west.

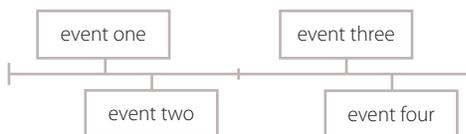
Germany and her allies, however, were concerned with more than just the Eastern or Western Front. As the war raged on, fighting spread beyond Europe to Africa, as well as to Southwest and Southeast Asia. In the years after it began, the massive European conflict indeed became a world war.

### Reading Check

**Synthesize** Why was Russia’s involvement in the war so important to the other Allies?

## Lesson 2 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** Create a timeline like the one below to organize key events in the outbreak of World War I.



2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.

3. **Summarize** What were the characteristics of trench warfare?
4. **Compare and Contrast** How was war on the Western and Eastern Fronts the same? How was it different?
5. **Analyze Causes** Why did the Schlieffen Plan ultimately collapse? Cite specific details from the text.

## Military Aviation

World War I introduced airplane warfare—and by doing so, ushered in an era of tremendous progress in the field of military aviation. Although the plane itself was relatively new and untested by 1914, the warring nations quickly recognized its potential as a powerful weapon. Throughout the conflict, countries on both sides built faster and stronger aircraft, and designed them to drop bombs and shoot at one another in the sky. Between the beginning and end of the war, the total number of planes in use by the major combatants soared from around 850 to nearly 10,000. After the war, countries continued to maintain a strong and advanced air force, as they realized that supremacy of the air was a key to military victory.



A World War I pilot shows off an early air-to-ground communication device.



1. Designers kept nearly all weight in the center, giving the planes tremendous maneuverability.
2. A timing device enabled machine guns to fire through the propeller.
3. Engines were continuously strengthened for greater speed and carrying capability.

### Two Top Fighter Planes: A Comparison

	Fokker D VII (German)	Sopwith F1 Camel (British)
Length	23 feet	18 feet 8 inches
Wingspan	29 feet 3 inches	28 feet
Maximum Speed	116 mph	122 mph
Maximum Height	22,900 feet	24,000 feet
Maximum Flight Time	1.5 hours	2.5 hours

#### Critical Thinking

1. **Draw Conclusions** Why would communication with someone outside the plane be important for pilots in World War I and today?
2. **Compare** Using the Internet and other resources, find out more about a recent innovation with regard to fighter planes and explain its significance.



# A Global Conflict

## The Big Idea

World War I spread to several continents and required the full resources of many governments.

## Why It Matters Now

The war propelled the United States to a new position of international power, which it still holds today.

## Key Terms and People

unrestricted submarine warfare  
total war  
rationing  
propaganda  
armistice

## Setting the Stage

World War I was much more than a European conflict. Australia and Japan, for example, entered the war on the Allies' side, while India supplied troops to fight alongside their British rulers. Meanwhile, the Ottoman Turks and later Bulgaria allied themselves with Germany and the Central Powers. As the war promised to be a grim, drawn-out affair, all the Great Powers looked for other allies around the globe to tip the balance. They also sought new war fronts where they might achieve victory.

## War Affects the World

As the war dragged on, the main combatants looked beyond Europe for a way to end the stalemate. However, none of the alliances they formed or new battlefronts they opened did much to end the slow and grinding conflict.

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**The Gallipoli Campaign** A promising strategy for the Allies seemed to be to attack a region in the Ottoman Empire known as the Dardanelles. This narrow sea strait was the gateway to the Ottoman capital, Constantinople. By securing the Dardanelles, the Allies believed that they could take Constantinople, defeat the Turks, and establish a supply line to Russia.

The effort to take the Dardanelles strait began in February 1915. It was known as the Gallipoli campaign. British, Australian, New Zealand, and French troops made repeated assaults on the Gallipoli Peninsula on the western side of the strait. Turkish troops, some commanded by German officers, vigorously defended the region. By May, Gallipoli had turned into another bloody stalemate.

Both sides dug trenches, from which they battled for the rest of the year. In December, the Allies gave up the campaign and began to evacuate. They had suffered about 250,000 casualties.



SS.912.W.1.1; SS.912.W.1.3; SS.912.W.1.5;  
SS.912.W.7.2; SS.912.W.7.3; SS.912.W.9.5;  
LAFS.910.RH.1.1; LAFS.910.RH.1.2; LAFS.910.RH.2.6;  
LAFS.910.RH.3.9; MAFS.K12.MP.1.1; MAFS.K12.MP.6.1

**Battles in Africa and Asia** In various parts of Asia and Africa, Germany's colonial possessions came under assault. The Japanese quickly overran German outposts in China. They also captured Germany's Pacific island colonies. English and French troops attacked Germany's four African possessions. They seized control of three.

Elsewhere in Asia and Africa, the British and French recruited subjects in their colonies for the struggle. Fighting troops as well as laborers came from India, South Africa, Senegal, Egypt, Algeria, and Indochina. Many fought and died on the battlefield. Others worked to keep the front lines supplied. To be sure, some colonial subjects wanted nothing to do with their European rulers' conflicts. Others volunteered in the hope that service would lead to their independence. This was the view of Indian political leader Mohandas Gandhi, who supported Indian participation in the war. "If we would improve our status through the help and cooperation of the British," he wrote, "it was our duty to win their help by standing by them in their hour of need."

**America Joins the Fight** In 1917, the focus of the war shifted to the high seas. That year, the Germans intensified the submarine warfare that had raged in the Atlantic Ocean since shortly after the war began. In January 1917, the Germans announced that their submarines would sink without warning any ship in the waters around Britain. This policy was called **unrestricted submarine warfare**.

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## The World at War, 1914–1918



The Germans had tried this policy before. On May 7, 1915, a German submarine, or U-boat, had sunk the British passenger ship *Lusitania*. The attack left 1,198 people dead, including 128 U.S. citizens. Germany claimed that the ship had been carrying ammunition, which turned out to be true. Nevertheless, the American public was outraged. President Woodrow Wilson sent a strong protest to Germany. After two further attacks, the Germans finally agreed to stop attacking neutral and passenger ships.

Desperate for an advantage over the Allies, however, the Germans returned to unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917. They knew it might lead to war with the United States. They gambled that their naval blockade would starve Britain into defeat before the United States could mobilize. Ignoring warnings by President Wilson, German U-boats sank three American ships.

In February 1917, another German action pushed the United States closer to war. Officials intercepted a telegram written by Germany's foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmermann, stating that Germany would help Mexico "reconquer" the land it had lost to the United States if Mexico would ally itself with Germany.

The Zimmermann note simply proved to be the last straw. A large part of the American population already favored the Allies. In particular, America felt a bond with England. The two nations shared a common ancestry and language, as well as similar democratic institutions and legal systems. More important, America's economic ties with the Allies were far stronger than those with the Central Powers. On April 2, 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war so that the United States could enter World War I. This excerpt from his speech gives some of his reasons.

*"The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifice we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them."*

-Woodrow Wilson, Speech to Congress, April 2, 1917

Days later, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies.

## War Affects the Home Front

By the time the United States joined the Allies, the war had been raging for nearly three years. In those three years, Europe had lost more men in battle than in all the wars of the previous three centuries. The war had claimed the lives of millions and had changed countless lives forever. The Great War, as the conflict came to be known, affected everyone. It touched not only the soldiers in the trenches but civilians as well.

### Reading Check

**Contrast** How was the experience of war different for the subjects of European colonies in Africa and India?

**Governments Wage Total War** World War I soon became a **total war**. This meant that countries devoted all their resources to the war effort. In Britain, Germany, Austria, Russia, and France, the entire force of government was dedicated to winning the conflict. In each country, the wartime government took control of the economy. Governments told factories what to produce and how much.

Numerous facilities were converted to munitions factories. Nearly every able-bodied civilian was put to work. Unemployment in many European countries all but disappeared.

So many goods were in short supply that governments turned to **rationing**. Under this system, people could buy only small amounts of those items that were also needed for the war effort. Eventually, rationing covered a wide range of goods, from butter to shoe leather.

Governments also suppressed antiwar activity, sometimes forcibly. In addition, they censored news about the war. Many leaders feared that honest reporting of the war would turn people against it. Governments also used **propaganda**, one-sided information designed to persuade, to keep up morale and support for the war.

**Women and the War** Total war meant that governments turned to help from women as never before. Thousands of women replaced men in factories, offices, and shops. Women built tanks and munitions, plowed fields, paved streets, and ran hospitals. They also kept troops supplied with food, clothing, and weapons. Although most women left the work force when the war ended, they changed many people's views of what women were capable of doing.

Women also saw the horrors of war firsthand, working on or near the front lines as nurses. Here, American nurse Shirley Millard describes her experience with a soldier who had lost his eyes and feet:



A woman relief worker writes a letter home for a wounded soldier.

**Reading Check**  
Summarize How did the governments of the warring nations fight a total war?

*“He moaned through the bandages that his head was splitting with pain. I gave him morphine. Suddenly aware of the fact that he had [numerous] wounds, he asked: ‘Sa-ay! What’s the matter with my legs?’ Reaching down to feel his legs before I could stop him, he uttered a heartbreaking scream. I held his hands firmly until the drug I had given him took effect.”*

Shirley Millard, *I Saw Them Die*

## The Allies Win the War

With the United States finally in the war, it seemed that the balance was about to tip in the Allies' favor. Before that happened, however, events in Russia gave Germany a victory on the Eastern Front and new hope for winning the conflict.

### The Influenza Epidemic

In the spring of 1918, a powerful new enemy emerged, threatening nations on each side of World War I. This “enemy” was a deadly strain of influenza. The Spanish flu, as it was popularly known, hit England and India in May. By the fall, it had spread through Europe, Russia, Asia, and to the United States.

The influenza epidemic killed soldiers and civilians alike. In India, at least 12 million people died of influenza. In Berlin, on a single day in October, 1,500 people died. In the end, this global epidemic was more destructive than the war itself, killing 20 million people worldwide.



City officials and street cleaners in Chicago guard against the Spanish flu.

**Russia Withdraws** In March 1917, civil unrest in Russia—due in large part to war-related shortages of food and fuel—forced Czar Nicholas to step down. In his place a provisional government was established. The new government pledged to continue fighting the war. However, by 1917, nearly 5.5 million Russian soldiers had been wounded, killed, or taken prisoner. As a result, the war-weary Russian army refused to fight any longer.

Eight months after the new government took over, a revolution shook Russia. In November 1917, Communist leader Vladimir Ilyich Lenin seized power. Lenin insisted on ending his country’s involvement in the war. One of his first acts was to offer Germany a truce. In March 1918, Germany and Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended the war between them.

**The Central Powers Collapse** Russia’s withdrawal from the war at last allowed Germany to send nearly all its forces to the Western Front. In March 1918, the Germans mounted one final, massive attack on the Allies in France. As in the opening weeks of the war, the German forces crushed everything in their path. By late May 1918, the Germans had again reached the Marne River. Paris was less than 40 miles away. Victory seemed within reach.

By this time, however, the German military had been weakened. The effort to reach the Marne had exhausted men and supplies alike. Sensing this weakness, the Allies—with the aid of nearly 140,000 fresh U.S. troops—launched a counterattack. In July 1918, the Allies and Germans clashed at the Second Battle of the Marne. Leading the Allied attack were some 350 tanks that rumbled slowly forward, smashing through the German lines. With the arrival of 2 million more American troops, the Allied forces began to advance steadily toward Germany.

Soon, the Central Powers began to crumble. First the Bulgarians and then the Ottoman Turks surrendered. In October, revolution swept through Austria-Hungary. In Germany, soldiers mutinied, and the public turned on the kaiser.

### Allied View of Armistice

News of the armistice affected the Allied and Central powers differently. Here, a U.S. soldier named Harry Truman, who would go on to become president, recalls the day the fighting stopped.

*“Every single one of them [the French soldiers] had to march by my bed and salute and yell, ‘Vive President Wilson, Vive le capitaine d’artillerie américaine!’ No sleep all night. The infantry fired Very pistols, sent up all the flares they could lay their hands on, fired rifles, pistols, whatever else would make noise, all night long.”*

—Harry Truman, quoted in *The First World War*

### German Reaction to Armistice

On the other side of the fighting line, German officer Herbert Sulzbach struggled to inform his troops of the war’s end.

*“‘Hostilities will cease as from 12 noon today.’ This was the order which I had to read out to my men. The war is over. . . . How we looked forward to this moment; how we used to picture it as the most splendid event of our lives; and here we are now, humbled, our souls torn and bleeding, and know that we’ve surrendered. Germany has surrendered to the Entente!”*

—Herbert Sulzbach, *With the German Guns*

#### Analyze Historical Sources

1. What is the main difference between these two excerpts?
2. How did Herbert Sulzbach’s vision of the armistice differ from what actually occurred?

**Reading Check**  
**Compare** How was the Second Battle of the Marne similar to the first?

On November 9, 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm II stepped down. Germany declared itself a republic. A representative of the new German government met with French Commander Marshal Foch in a railway car near Paris. The two signed an **armistice**, or an agreement to stop fighting. On November 11, World War I came to an end.

## The Legacy of the War

World War I was, in many ways, a new kind of war. It involved the use of new technologies. It ushered in the notion of war on a grand and global scale. It also left behind a landscape of death and destruction such as was never before seen.

Both sides in World War I paid a tremendous price in terms of human life. About 8.5 million soldiers died as a result of the war. Another 21 million were wounded. In addition, the war led to the death of countless civilians by way of starvation, disease, and slaughter. Taken together, these figures spelled tragedy—an entire generation of Europeans wiped out. The war also had a devastating economic impact on Europe. The great conflict drained the treasuries of European countries. One account put the total

## World War I Statistics

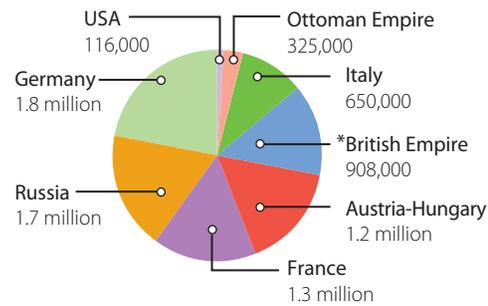
### Total Number of Troops Mobilized

Allied Powers:  
42 million

Central Powers:  
23 million

Source:  
*Encyclopaedia Britannica*

### Battlefield Deaths of Major Combatants



\* Includes troops from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, and South Africa

### Interpret Graphs

- 1. Compare** Which Allied nation suffered the greatest number of battlefield deaths?
- 2. Analyze Issues** Which four nations accounted for about 75 percent of all battlefield deaths?

cost of the war at \$338 billion, a staggering amount for that time. The war also destroyed acres of farmland as well as homes, villages, and towns.

The enormous suffering that resulted from the Great War left a deep mark on Western society as well. A sense of disillusionment settled over the survivors. The insecurity and despair that many people experienced are reflected in the art and literature of the time.

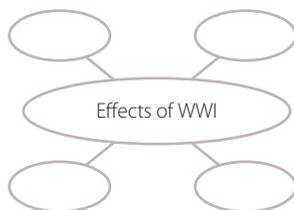
Another significant legacy of the war lay in its peace agreement. The treaties to end World War I were forged after great debate and compromise. And while they sought to bring a new sense of security and peace to the world, they prompted mainly anger and resentment.

### Reading Check

**Analyze Effects**  
How did total war affect the warring nations' economies?

### Lesson 3 Assessment

- 1. Organize Information** Use a web like the one below to show the effects of World War I.



Which effect do you think was most significant? Why?

- 2. Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
- 3. Analyze Causes** What factors helped prompt the United States to join the war on the Allies' side?
- 4. Analyze Issues** In what ways was World War I truly a global conflict?
- 5. Draw Conclusions** Which of the non-European countries had the greatest impact on the war effort? Explain.



# A Flawed Peace

## The Big Idea

After winning the war, the Allies dictated a harsh peace settlement that left many nations feeling betrayed.

## Why It Matters Now

Hard feelings left by the peace settlement helped cause World War II.

## Key Terms and People

Woodrow Wilson  
Georges Clemenceau  
Fourteen Points  
self-determination  
Treaty of Versailles  
League of Nations

## Setting the Stage

World War I was over. The killing had stopped. The terms of peace, however, still had to be worked out. On January 18, 1919, a conference to establish those terms began at the Palace of Versailles, outside Paris. Attending the talks, known as the Paris Peace Conference, were delegates representing 32 countries. For one year, this conference would be the scene of vigorous, often bitter debate. The Allied powers struggled to solve their conflicting aims in various peace treaties.

## The Allies Meet and Debate

Although the conference included representatives from many countries, the major decisions were hammered out by a group known as the Big Four: **Woodrow Wilson** of the United States, **Georges Clemenceau** of France, David Lloyd George of Great Britain, and Vittorio Orlando of Italy. Russia, in the grip of civil war, was not represented. Neither were Germany and its allies.

**Wilson's Plan for Peace** In January 1918, while the war was still raging, President Wilson had drawn up a series of peace proposals. Known as the **Fourteen Points**, they outlined a plan for achieving a just and lasting peace.

The first four points included an end to secret treaties, freedom of the seas, free trade, and reduced national armies and navies. The fifth goal was the adjustment of colonial claims with fairness toward colonial peoples. The sixth through thirteenth points were specific suggestions for changing borders and creating new nations. The guiding idea behind these points was **self-determination**. This meant allowing people to decide for themselves under what government they wished to live.

Finally, the fourteenth point proposed a “general association of nations” that would protect “great and small states alike.” This reflected Wilson’s hope for an organization that could peacefully negotiate solutions to world conflicts.



### Vocabulary

**reparations**  
payments made by a defeated nation to compensate for damage or injury during a war

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Causes

How did the different goals of the negotiators affect the treaty?

**The Versailles Treaty** As the Paris Peace Conference opened, Britain and France showed little sign of agreeing to Wilson's vision of peace. Both nations were concerned with national security. They also wanted to strip Germany of its war-making power.

The differences in French, British, and U.S. aims led to heated arguments among the nations' leaders. Finally a compromise was reached. **The Treaty of Versailles** between Germany and the Allied powers was signed on June 28, 1919, five years to the day after Franz Ferdinand's assassination in Sarajevo. Adopting Wilson's fourteenth point, the treaty created a **League of Nations**. The league was to be an international association whose goal would be to keep peace among nations.

The treaty also punished Germany. The defeated nation lost substantial territory and had severe restrictions placed on its military operations. As tough as these provisions were, the harshest was Article 231. It was also known as the "war guilt" clause. It placed sole responsibility for the war on Germany's shoulders. As a result, Germany had to pay reparations to the Allies.

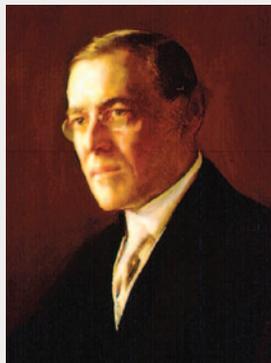
All of Germany's territories in Africa and the Pacific were declared mandates, or territories to be administered by the League of Nations. Under the peace agreement, the Allies would govern the mandates until they were judged ready for independence.

## BIOGRAPHY

### Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924)

Wilson was tall and thin and often in poor health. He suffered from terrible indigestion and sometimes had to use a stomach pump on himself. A scholarly man, Wilson once served as president of Princeton University in New Jersey.

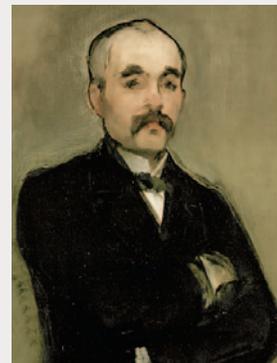
Passionate about international peace, he took on the U.S. Senate after it vowed to reject the Treaty of Versailles. During the political battle, he suffered a stroke that disabled him for the rest of his term.



### Georges Clemenceau (1841–1929)

The near opposite of Wilson, Clemenceau had a compact physique and a combative style that earned him the nickname "Tiger." He had worked as a physician and journalist before entering the political arena.

Determined to punish Germany, Clemenceau rarely agreed with Wilson and his larger quest for world peace. He once remarked of Wilson, "He thinks he is another Jesus Christ come upon earth to reform men."



## A Troubled Treaty

The Versailles treaty was just one of five treaties negotiated by the Allies. In the end, these agreements created feelings of bitterness and betrayal among both the victors and the defeated.

**New Nations and Mandates** The Western powers signed separate peace treaties in 1919 and 1920 with each of the other defeated nations: Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. These treaties, too, led to huge land losses for the Central Powers. Several new countries were created out of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia were all recognized as independent nations.

The Ottoman Turks were forced to give up almost all of their former empire. They retained only the territory that is today the country of Turkey. The Allies carved up the lands that the Ottomans lost in Southwest Asia into mandates rather than independent nations. Britain received the mandates for Palestine (including Transjordan) and Iraq; France was assigned the mandates for Syria and Lebanon.

Russia, which had left the war early, suffered land losses as well. Romania and Poland both gained Russian territory. Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, formerly part of Russia, became independent nations.

**Initial Successes of the Peace Agreement** The League of Nations held its first meeting in January 1920. Some agencies under the League's supervision were able to successfully introduce important changes. For example, the International Labour Organization (ILO) introduced restrictions on lead in paint and convinced several nations to adopt standards for work days and weeks. The League made progress in ending legal slavery around the world and set up a Commission for Refugees to help some of the millions displaced by the war.

**"A Peace Built on Quicksand"** In the end, the Treaty of Versailles did little to build a lasting peace. For one thing, the United States—considered after the war to be the dominant nation in the world—ultimately rejected the treaty. Many Americans objected to the settlement and especially to President Wilson's League of Nations. Americans believed that the United States' best hope for peace was to stay out of European affairs. The United States worked out a separate treaty with Germany and its allies several years later.

In addition, the treaty with Germany, in particular the war-guilt clause, left a legacy of bitterness and hatred in the hearts of the German people. Other countries also felt cheated and betrayed by the peace settlements. Throughout Africa and Asia, people in the mandated territories were angry at the way the Allies disregarded their desire for independence. The European powers, it seemed to them, merely talked about the principle of national self-determination. European colonialism, disguised as the mandate system, continued in Asia and Africa.

## Europe Pre-World War I



## Europe Post-World War I



**Interpret Maps**

- 1. Region** Which Central Powers nation appears to have lost the most territory?
- 2. Location** On which nation's former lands were most of the new countries created?

## The Treaty of Versailles: Major Provisions

League of Nations	Territorial Losses	Military Restrictions	War Guilt
International peace organization; enemy and neutral nations initially excluded	Germany returns Alsace-Lorraine to France; French border extended to west bank of Rhine River	Limits set on the size of the German army	Sole responsibility for the war placed on Germany's shoulders
Germany and Russia excluded	Germany surrenders all of its overseas colonies in Africa and the Pacific	Germany prohibited from importing or manufacturing weapons or war material	Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 billion in reparations over 30 years
		Germany forbidden to build or buy submarines or have an air force	

### Interpreting Charts

**1. Analyze Issues** In what ways did the treaty punish Germany?

**2. Analyze Effects** What region was returned to France as a result of the treaty?

### Reading Check

#### Analyze Issues

What complaints did various mandated countries voice about the Treaty of Versailles?

Some Allied powers, too, were embittered by the outcome. Both Japan and Italy, which had entered the war to gain territory, had gained less than they wanted. Lacking the support of the United States, and later other world powers, the League of Nations was in no position to take action on these and other complaints. The settlements at Versailles represented, as one observer noted, “a peace built on quicksand.” Indeed, that quicksand eventually would give way. In a little more than two decades, the treaties’ legacy of bitterness would help plunge the world into another catastrophic war.

## Lesson 4 Assessment

**1. Organize Information** Create a chart like the one below to show how different groups reacted to the Treaty of Versailles.

Reaction to Treaty	
Germany	
Africans & Asians	
Italy & Japan	

Which group was most justified in its reaction to the treaty? Why?

- 2. Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
- 3. Summarize** What was the goal of Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points?
- 4. Analyze causes** Why did the United States reject the Treaty of Versailles?
- 5. Form opinions** Were the Versailles treaties fair? Consider all the nations affected.

# Module 19 Assessment

## Key Terms and People

For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its connection to World War I.

1. Triple Alliance
  2. Triple Entente
  3. Central Powers
  4. Allies
  5. total war
  6. armistice
  7. Fourteen Points
  8. Treaty of Versailles
- 

## Main Ideas

### Marching Toward War

1. How did nationalism, imperialism, and militarism help set the stage for World War I?
2. Why was the Balkan Peninsula known as “the powder keg of Europe”?

### Europe Plunges into War

3. Why was the First Battle of the Marne considered so significant?
4. Where was the Western Front? the Eastern Front?

### A Global Conflict

5. What factors prompted the United States to enter the war?
6. In what ways was World War I a total war?

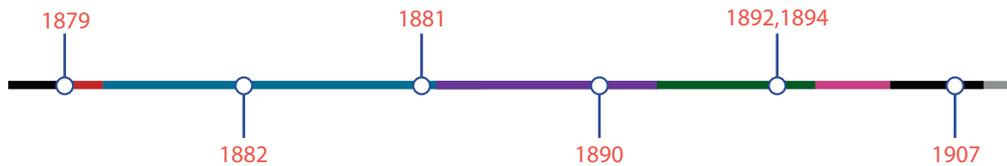
### A Flawed Peace

7. What was the purpose of the League of Nations?
8. What was the mandate system, and why did it leave many groups feeling betrayed?

# Module 19 Assessment, continued

## Critical Thinking

1. **Organize Information** Trace the formation of the two major alliance systems that dominated Europe on the eve of World War I by providing the event that corresponds with each date on the chart.



2. **Evaluate Decisions** How did the Treaty of Versailles reflect the different personalities and agendas of the men in power at the end of World War I?
3. **Synthesize** How did the war have both a positive and negative impact on the economies of Europe?
4. **Analyze issues** One British official commented that the Allied victory in World War I had been “bought so dear [high in price] as to be indistinguishable from defeat.” What did he mean by this statement? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
5. **Draw Conclusions** What was the social and cultural impact of World War I?

## Engage with History

In the feature “The Armenian Genocide,” you read about the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. One hundred years later this is still a controversial issue. Members of the Armenian community say the killings were a deliberate attempt to destroy the Armenian people and should be considered genocide. The Turkish government says the deaths were an unfortunate part of the war but do not constitute genocide. Think about human rights violations and genocide. Were the Armenian massacres genocide? Discuss your opinions with a small group.

## Focus on Writing

Write a paragraph explaining how the concept of total war affected the warring nations’ economies.

## Multimedia Activity

In many countries, nationalism was used in propaganda designed to show the enemy in a negative light, to encourage support from other countries, and to increase civilian support for the war. Work with a group to create an electronic presentation about propaganda during World War I. Have each member choose one of the six members of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente to research in terms of the propaganda produced before and during the war. Next, create an electronic presentation about propaganda, including the agencies responsible, the focus of the propaganda effort, and examples of different materials.

You may want to include the following types of media:

- posters
- newspaper articles
- leaflets
- movies



*Dear home:*  
**LETTERS FROM  
WWI**

**When U.S. troops arrived in Europe in 1917 to fight in World War I, the war had been dragging on for nearly three years.** The American soldiers suddenly found themselves in the midst of chaos. Each day, they faced the threats of machine-gun fire, poison gas, and aerial attacks. Still, the arrival of American reinforcements had sparked a new zeal among the Allies, who believed the new forces could finally turn the tide in their favor. The letters soldiers wrote to their families back home reveal

the many emotions they felt on the battlefield: confusion about their surroundings, fear for their own safety, concern for friends and loved ones, and hope that the war would soon be over.

Explore World War I online through the eyes of the soldiers who fought in it. You can find a wealth of information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more through your online textbook.



Go online to view these and other **HISTORY**® resources.

*“I have been on every front in France. You can’t imagine how torn up this country really is. Every where there are wire entanglements and trenches and dugouts. Even out of the war zone there are entanglements and dugouts to protect the civilians from air raids.”*

—Corp. Albert Smith, U.S. soldier



### Letter from France

Read the document to learn about one soldier’s observations of wartime life.



### Over There

Watch the video to learn about the experiences of American soldiers on the way to Europe and upon their arrival.



### War on the Western Front

Watch the video to hear one soldier’s vivid account of battle and its aftermath.



### Surrender!

Watch the video to experience soldiers’ reactions to the news that the war was finally over.