

# World War I



# Long Term Causes

- **Militarism**

- Arms race to build up weapons
- Germany ~ best army ; Great Britain ~ best navy
- Conscription

- **Alliances**

- **Industrialization**

- Europe fully modernized & at its peak
- Advanced weaponry, i.e. machine gun, tank, plane

- **Imperialism**

- Competition over colonies led to small conflicts

- **Nationalism**

- Unification of Italy and Germany
- Desire for independence, i.e. the Balkans
- National pride led to desire to dominate Europe

**CARTE**  
**D'EUROPE**  
1870.  
Publiée par  
HAGEL



- System of Alliances ~ web of treaties to protect themselves

- 3 Emperors League (1873) – Germany, A-H, Russia

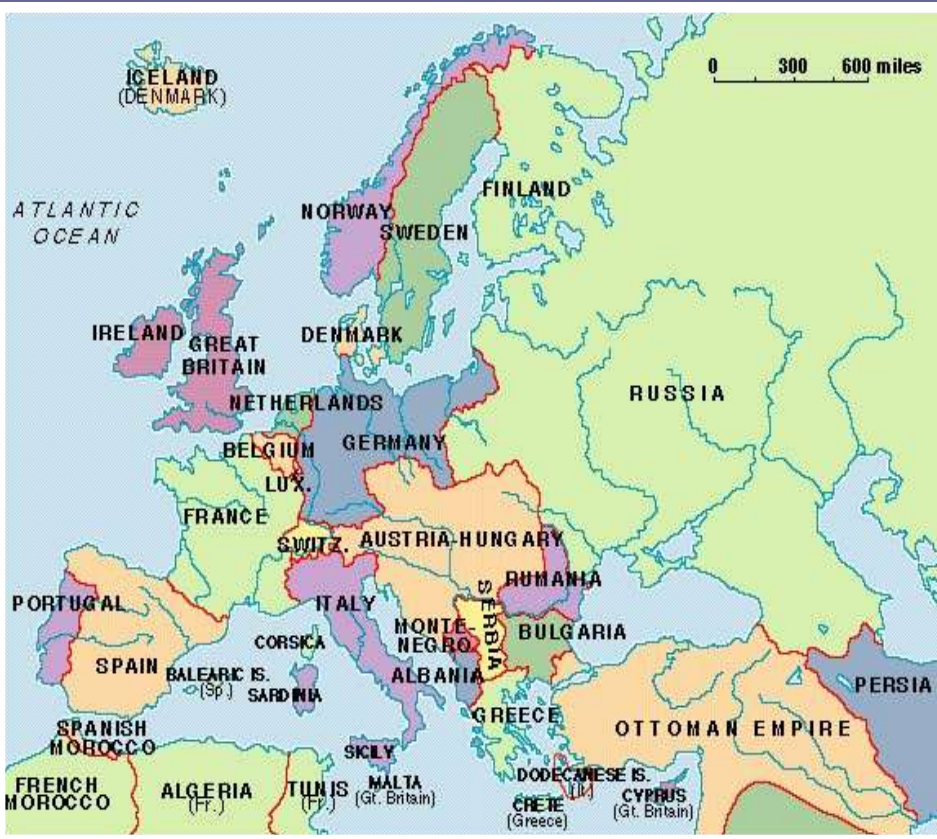
- fell apart over the rivalries

- Triple Alliance (1882) – Germany, A-H, Italy

- Replaced 3 Emperors

- Triple Entente (1907) – Great Britain, France, Russia

- Reaction to T.A.



**1879**  
**The Dual Alliance**



Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance to protect themselves from Russia

**1881**  
**Austro-Serbian Alliance**



Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Serbia to stop Russia gaining control of Serbia

**1882**  
**The Triple Alliance**

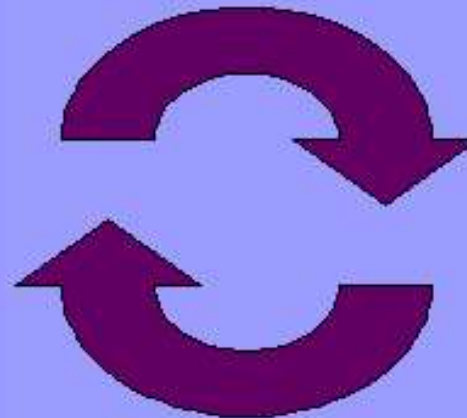


Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Italy to stop Italy from taking sides with Russia

**1914**  
**Triple Entente (no separate peace)**



Britain, Russia and France agreed not to sign for peace separately.



**1894**  
**Franco-Russian Alliance**



Russia formed an alliance with France to protect herself against Germany and Austria-Hungary

**1907**  
**Triple Entente**



This was made between Russia, France and Britain to counter the increasing threat from Germany.

**1907**  
**Anglo-Russian Entente**



This was an agreement between Britain and Russia

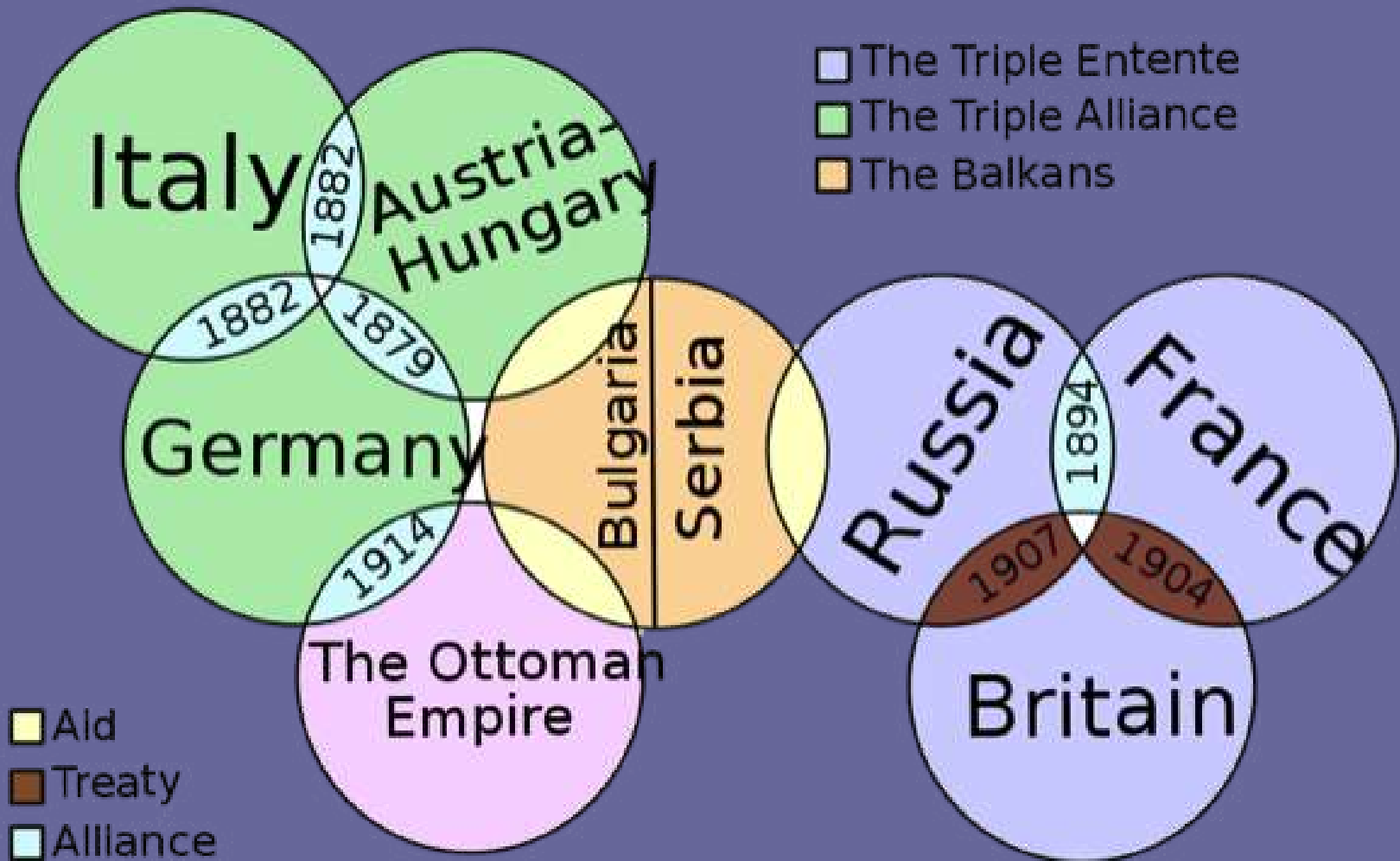
**1904**  
**Entente Cordiale**



This was an agreement, but not a formal alliance, between France and Britain.







# Nationalism in the Balkans

- Powder keg of Europe
- Ottoman Empire collapsed by mid 1800s
- Region fought over by A-H and Russia
- Congress of Berlin (1878)
  - Divided Bulgaria into 3 parts
  - Gave Bosnia & Herzegovina to A-H
  - Cyprus given to Britain
  - Independence given to Serbia, Montenegro, & Romania
- Major short-term cause of the war





# The Spark



- Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, visited Sarajevo, Bosnia on June 28, 1914
- Serbian Nationalist Group, the Black Hand plotted an assassination
- He survived the first attempt, but his driver took a wrong turn & Gavrilo Princip killed the Archduke and his wife
- A-H issued an ultimatum to Serbia
  - Serbia should put down subversive movements
  - A-H can conduct their own murder investigation
- Serbia agreed to the first part, but not the second
- July 28, 1914 – A-H declared war on Serbia

# Gavrilo Princip



# System of Alliances begin to kick in

- Germany gives A-H a “blank check” of support
- Russia mobilized against A-H and Germany
- Germany delivers an ultimatum to Russia to stop, and one to France to not back Russia
- Ultimatums are ignored and Germany declared war on Russia and France
- Germany invades France through neutral Belgium
- G.B. tells Germany to leave Belgium or face war
- Germany refuses, G.B. declares war on August 4, 1914







# WORLD WAR I ENTANGLING ALLIANCES

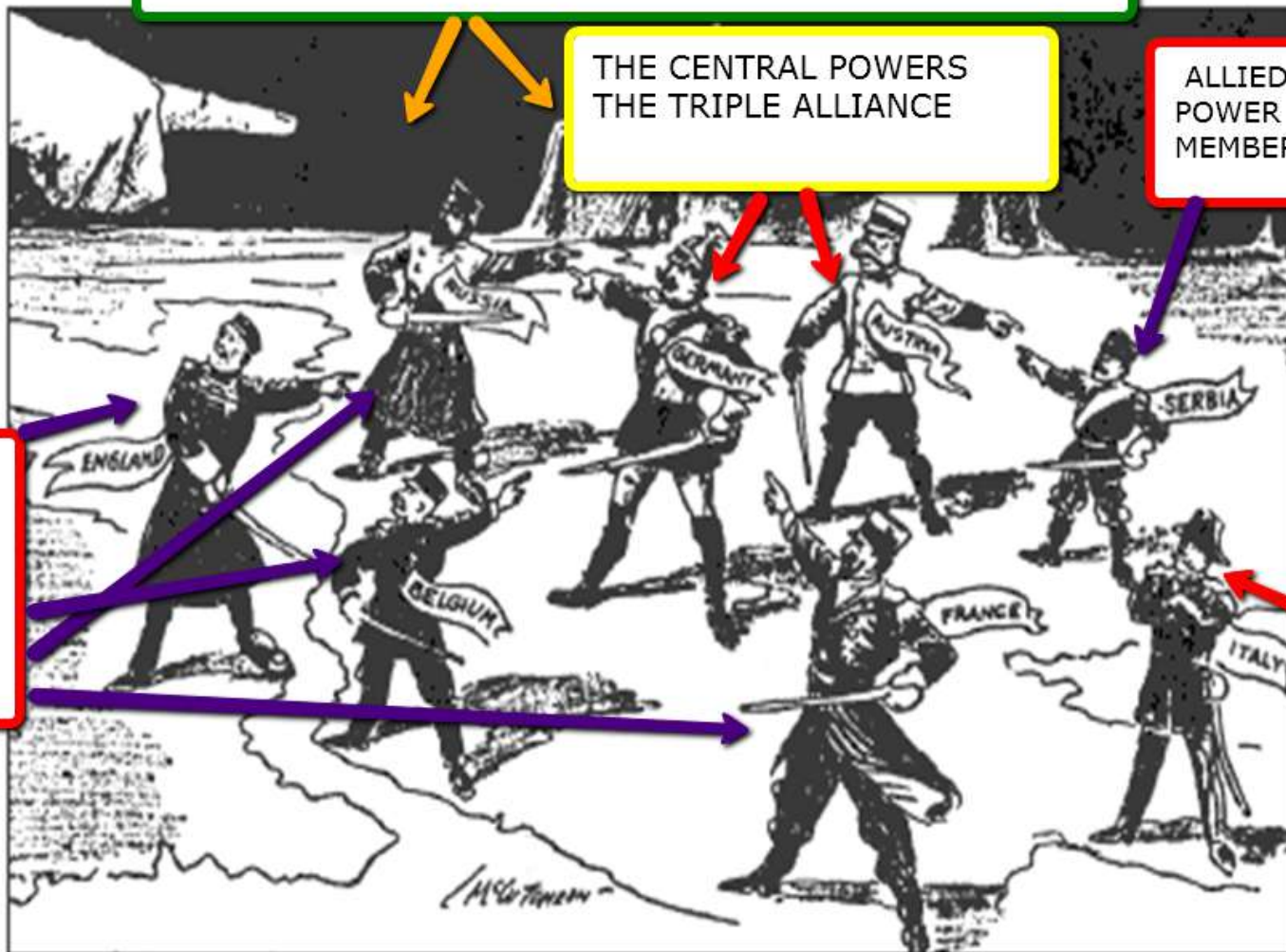
THE CENTRAL POWERS  
THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

ALLIED  
POWER  
MEMBER

WHY IS  
ITALY NOT  
POINTING  
AT  
SOMEONE?

THE  
ALLIED  
POWERS  
THE  
TRIPLE  
ENTENTE

ITALY WAS  
AN EARLY  
MEMBER  
OF THE  
TRIPLE  
ALLIANCE.



Source: John McCutcheon, *The Chicago Tribune*; H. H. Windsor, *Cartoons Magazine* (adapted)



# WARM UP

**1. Identify the cause of WWI illustrated in the cartoon. Explain this cause using two details from the cartoon.**



When the war began in August 1914, Europeans were enthusiastic about fighting



French Recruits



German Recruits

Most people anticipated that the war would be over by Christmas 1914....they were wrong





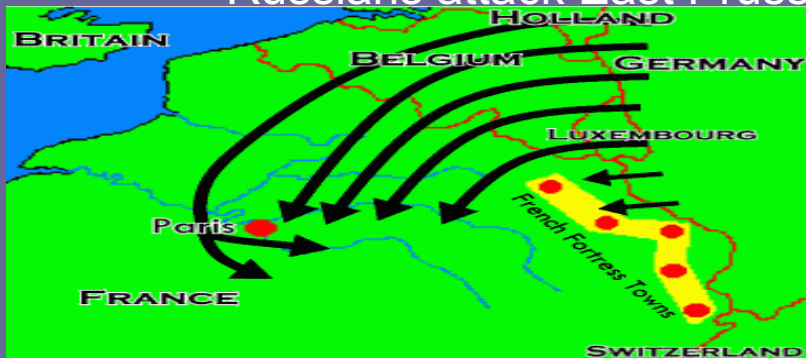
# The World Divides

## The Allied Powers

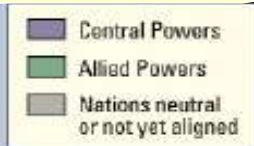
- Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, later the U.S.
- Advantages
  - G.B.'s naval superiority
  - Manpower: 40 million vs. 21 million
- Strategy
  - Force Germany to fight on 2 fronts simultaneously
    - French attack at Alsace-Lorraine
    - Russians attack East Prussia

## The Central Powers

- Germany, A-H, Ottoman Empire
- Advantages
  - Germany's superior army
  - Greater mobility
- Strategy
  - Schlieffen Plan: defeat France first, then fight Russia
    - French army not near Belgium, Russia unindustrialized
  - Failed: France and Russia mobilized quicker than expected
  - Germany was forced to split their army & fight a two front war




When the war began, Germany's biggest problem was the potential of fighting on two fronts



Germany's solution was the Schlieffen Plan which involved quickly defeating France in the West...

...then sending troops to the East before Russia was fully mobilized for war



A map of Europe during World War I. The Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary) are shaded in purple. Allied Powers (France, Great Britain, Russia) are shaded in green. Neutral nations (Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal) are shaded in tan. Callouts include: 1. An orange callout pointing to the German advance into Belgium and France, stating: "The Schlieffen Plan seemed to be working when the German army marched through Belgium & France, within miles of Paris". 2. A blue callout pointing to the Battle of the Marne, stating: "But, English & French troops saved Paris at the Battle of the Marne...". 3. A pink callout pointing to Russia, stating: "...Meanwhile, Russia mobilized faster than expected, so Germany had to divert troops from France". A legend in the top left identifies the color coding. A compass rose and a small globe are also present.

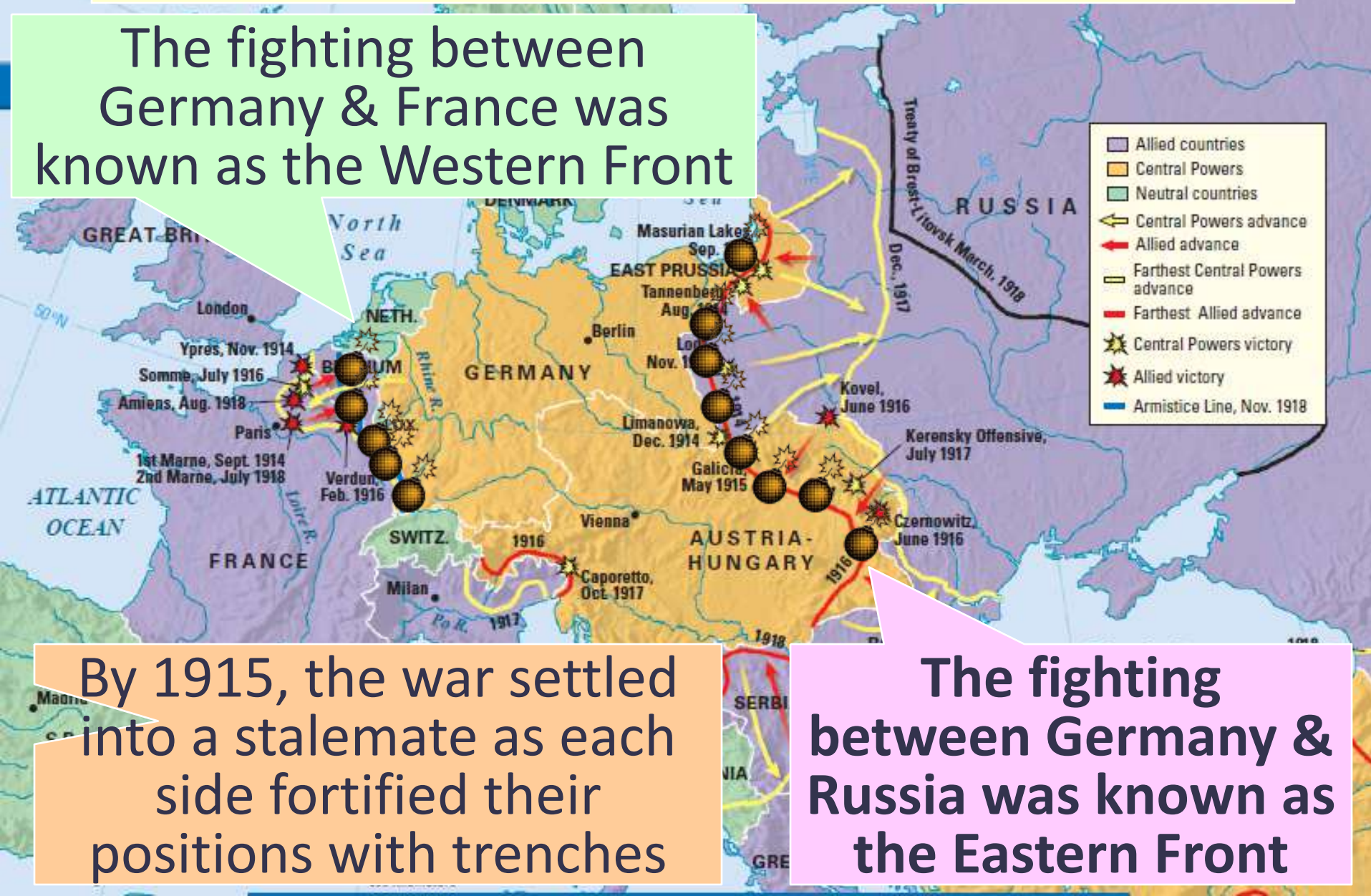
The Schlieffen Plan seemed to be working when the German army marched through Belgium & France, within miles of Paris

But, English & French troops saved Paris at the Battle of the Marne...

...Meanwhile, Russia mobilized faster than expected, so Germany had to divert troops from France

Because the Schlieffen Plan failed, the Central Powers were forced to fight a two-front war

The fighting between Germany & France was known as the Western Front



By 1915, the war settled into a stalemate as each side fortified their positions with trenches

The fighting between Germany & Russia was known as the Eastern Front



# The War Begins: 1914

- First Battle of the Marne
  - Western front
  - French mobilization forced Germany to abandon the Schlieffen Plan
  - Trench warfare emerges
    - First 4 months: 1.6 million casualties
    - Eventually spread 200 miles
    - German trenches had a tactical advantage
    - The front did not move more than 10 miles in either direction for the next 3 years



- Battle of Tannenberg
  - Eastern front
  - Russians defeated and ended any serious threat to Germany's eastern border
  - 1 million Russian dead, 900k taken as POWs
  - Russia technologically inferior
  - Russians were successful against A-H



# Trench Warfare

- A** Front line trench
- B** Support trench
- C** Reserve trench
- D** Enemy trench

Artillery fire "softened up" resistance before an infantry attack.

Communication trenches connected the three kinds of trenches.

Barbed wire entanglements

"No Man's Land"  
(from 25 yards to a mile wide)

Saps were shallower trenches in "no man's land," allowing access to machine-gun nests, grenade-throwing positions, and observation posts.

Dugout





Soldiers going “over the top”





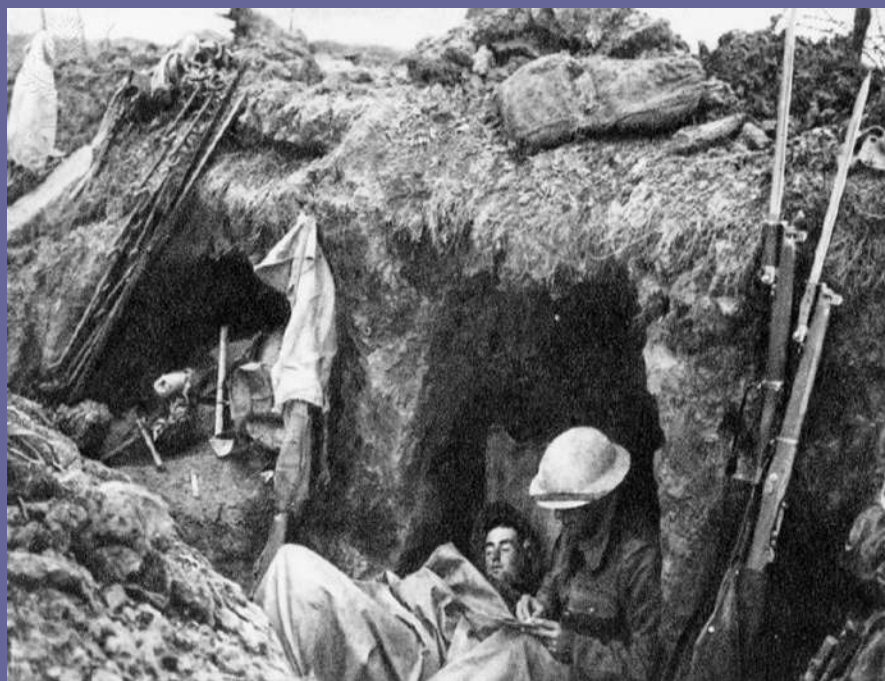






The soldiers had very little decent food, and what food they had was often attacked by rats.

These rats were the size of small rabbits and badgers because they had fed on the decomposing bodies of dead soldiers.





# Trench Warfare

- Introduced at Battle of the Marne
  - Miserable conditions, muddy
  - Rats, lack of fresh food, difficult to sleep





# 1915



- Emergence of poison gas
  - First used by the Germans at the Second Battle of Ypres
  - 1 million casualties during the war
- Germany's **submarine warfare**
  - U-boats
  - Began blockade of England in February to prevent supplies for war
  - *Lusitania* sunk in May will anger the U.S.
    - To prevent U.S. from entering the war Germany restricted the U-boats
- **Gallipoli Campaign**
  - British attempt to knock the Ottomans out of the war
  - Mostly fought by Aussies & New Zealanders
  - Failed w/ 50k dead
  - Turks led by Kemal (founder of Turkey) and a German general

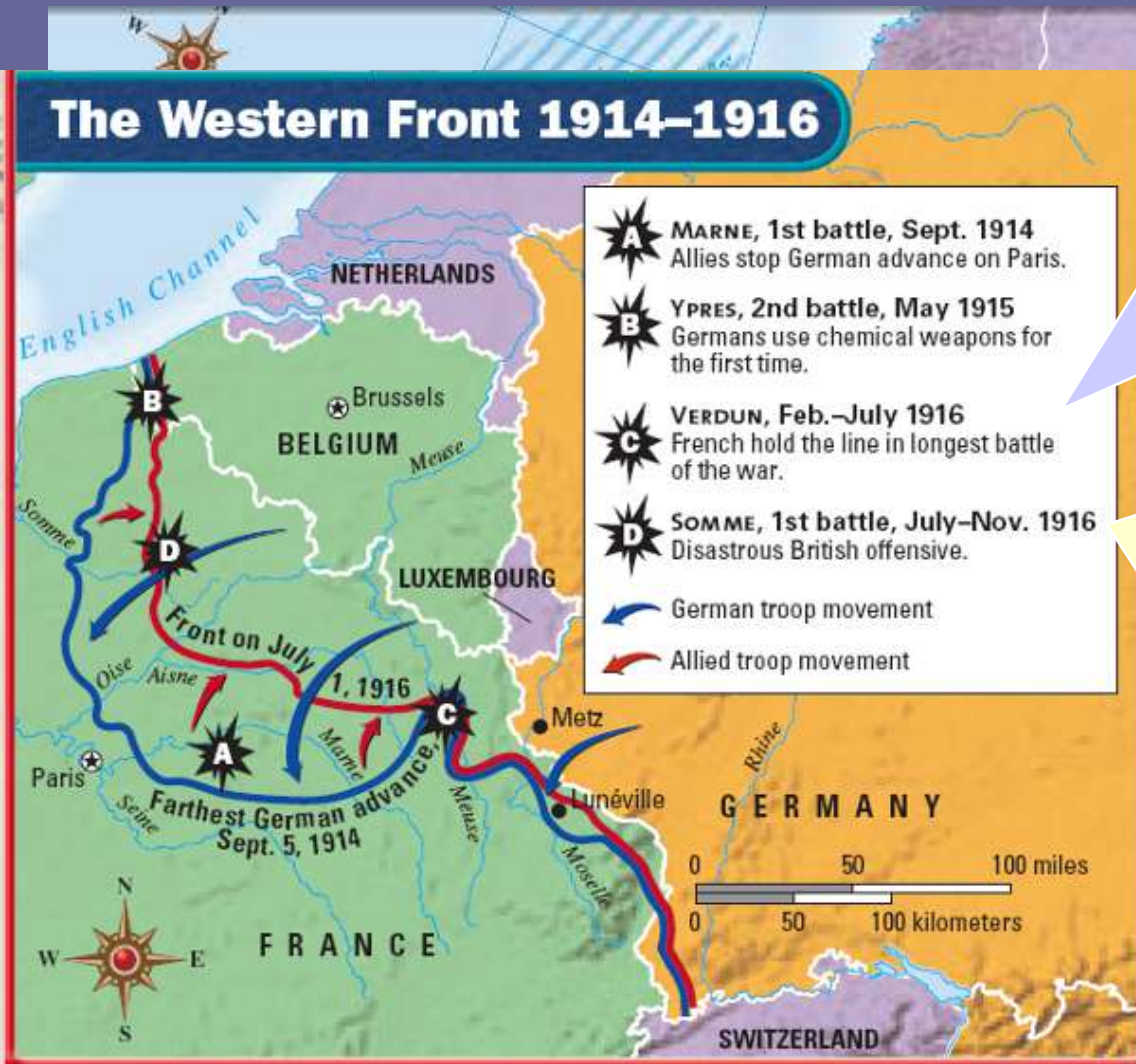
# 1916



- Italy switched to the Allied side in 1915
  - Fought A-H in 4 battles, but gained little ground
- Battle of Jutland: only major naval battle of the war w/ a German victory
- Battle of Verdun
  - Longest, bloodiest battle of the war
  - German attempt to break the stalemate
  - 1 million men killed
- Battle of the Somme
  - Allied attempt to break the stalemate
  - British had a 6:1 advantage
  - Over 1 million dead, 60k British killed on the first day
  - First use of tanks; line advanced only 7 miles

Fighting on the Western Front slowed to a stalemate as neither side could gain an advantage

## The Western Front 1914–1916



During the 10 month Battle of Verdun in 1916, 1 million soldiers were killed or wounded

Another 1 million soldiers were killed or wounded at the Battle of Somme

Despite the deaths, neither the Allies or Central Powers gained an advantage after these battles

is assassinated.



# 1917



- Germany adopted unrestricted submarine warfare
  - Sinking of ships by U-boats, along with the **Zimmerman Telegram** caused U.S. to enter the war on the side of the allies (April 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Allies had many failures in 1917
  - Heavy casualties & few advancements
  - War weariness sets in w/ mass desertion, mutinies, & protests at home
- **Bolshevik Revolution** in Nov. causes Russia to pull out of the war
  - Germany agrees to an armistice
  - Germany now fighting a 1 front war
- Birth of Total War

On the Eastern Front, the Russian army was struggling to hold on against the German military

Russian women training for combat

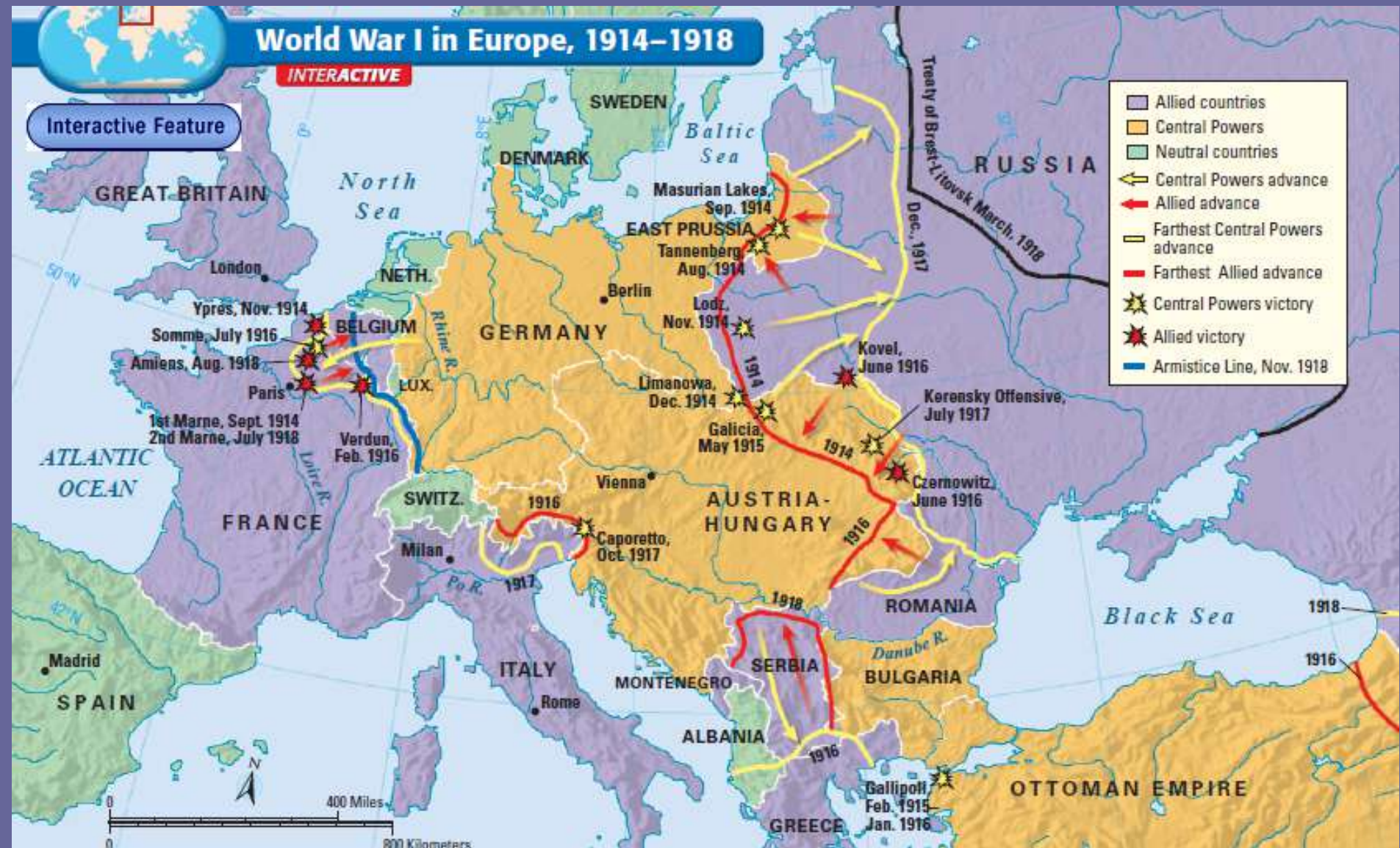


Russia was not as industrialized as the rest of Europe & failed to produce enough weapons or food

Millions of Russian soldiers & civilians died during the war  
By 1917, Russia was on the brink of collapse



The stalemate on the Western & Eastern Fronts turned World War I into a war of attrition where each side tried to out-produce & outlast the enemy





# Nations committed to total war to win World War I

Factories were converted to make war equipment

Industrial resources were rationed in order to prioritize military needs

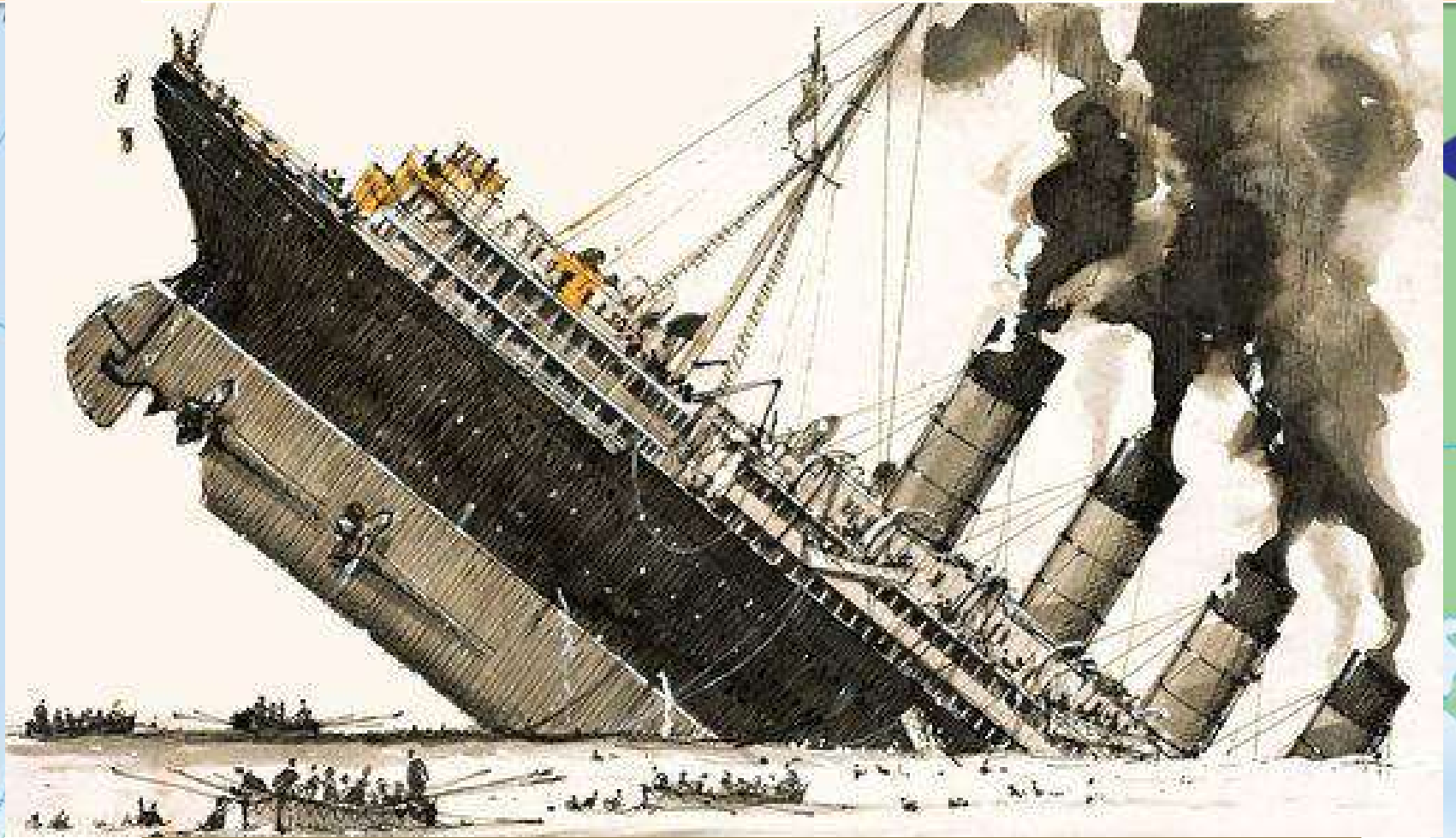
Governments used conscription to draft civilians into the military

Propaganda was used to maintain civilian support for the war

Overseas colonies were used to gain resources or additional soldiers



To keep German u-boat attacks played a role in bringing the USA into World War I



Germany responded by using unrestricted submarine warfare to attack the British navy & any merchant ships supplying the Allies

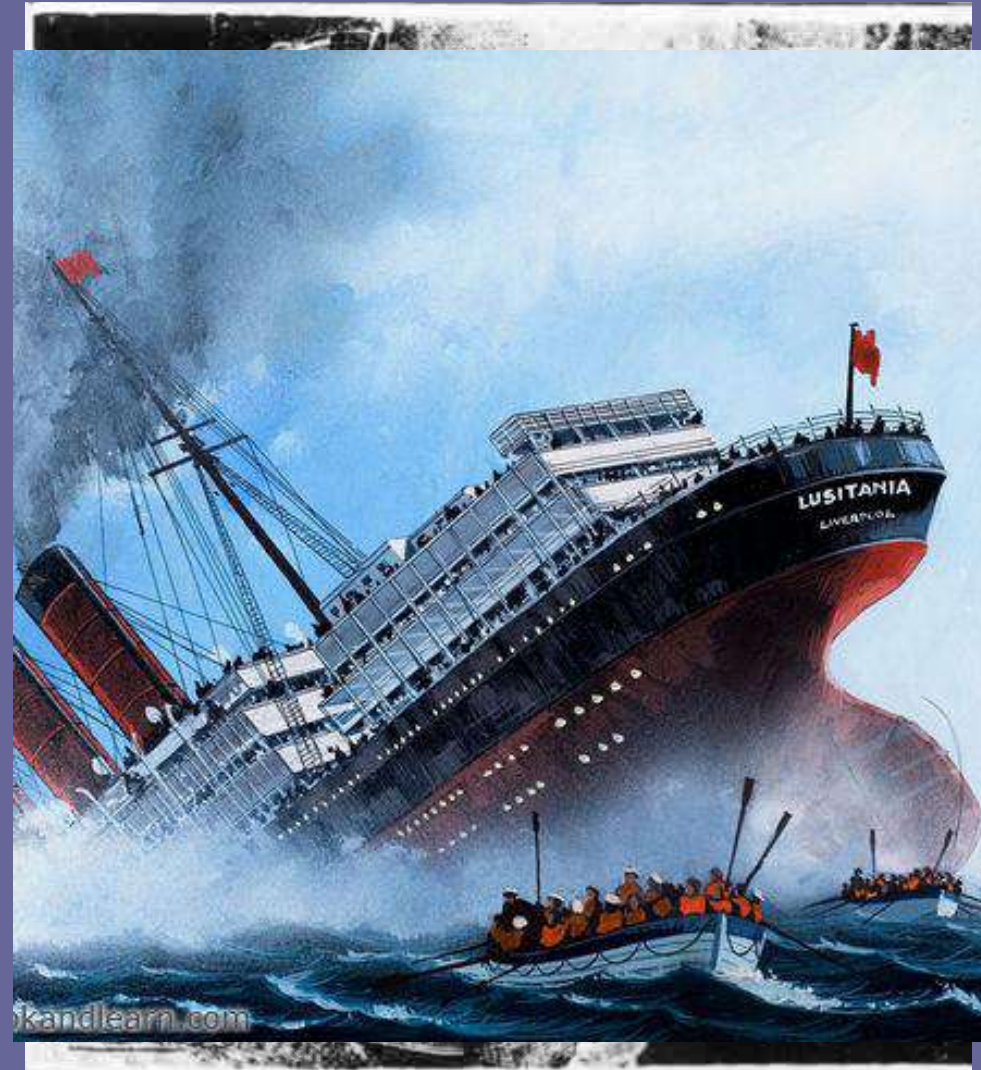
When World War I began in 1914,  
the United States remained neutral...

... But, the USA was pulled into the war by 1917

As a neutral nation, the  
USA was trading with the  
Allies during the war

Germany's policy of  
unrestricted submarine  
warfare led to attacks on  
U.S. merchant ships &  
British passenger ships

President Woodrow  
Wilson demanded  
"freedom of the seas"  
but Germany refused





"All the News That's  
Fit to Print"

# The New York Times.

EXTRA  
6:30 A. M.

**LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD;  
TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES;  
CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING;  
WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND**

STOCKS UP. PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Sorrowed by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLDOG STRENGTH IN IRISH

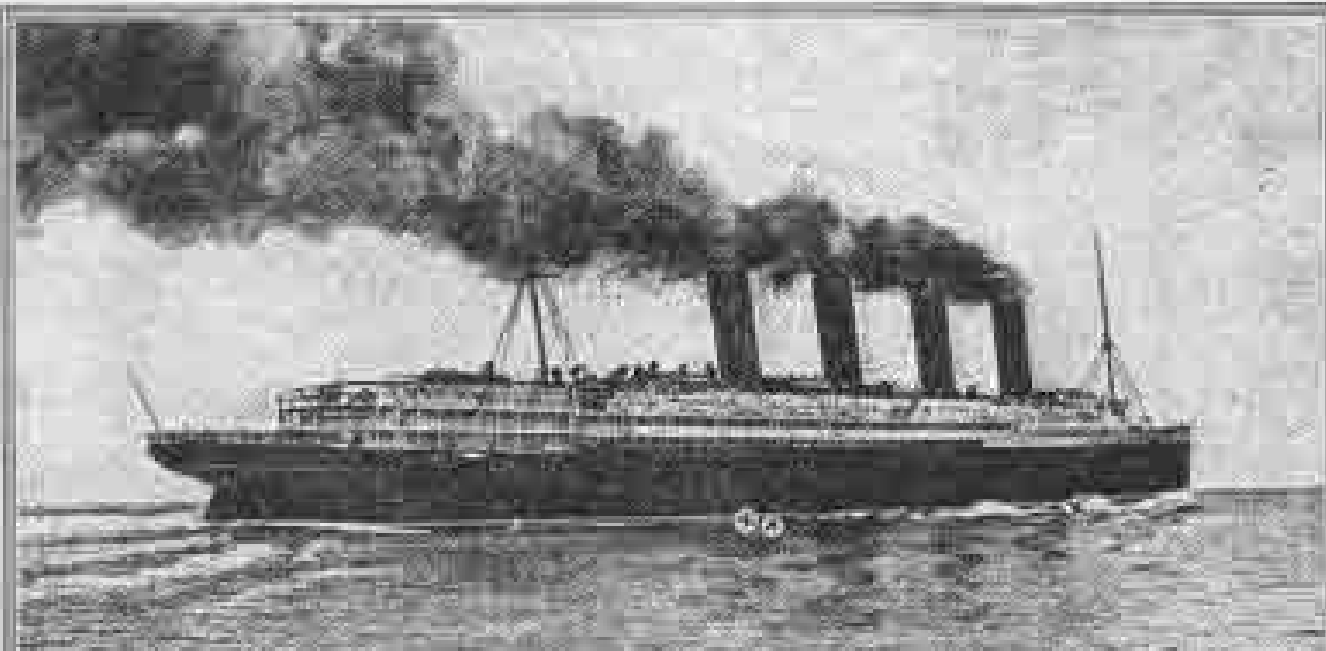
Winds Blowing from the East of the Atlantic Coast.

WANTS OF SUBMARINE SAIL

Loss of Lusitania Means the Third Day of the Fight in Germany.

SAVING TOLL OF HUNDREDS

Number of Survivors of the Lusitania Disaster.



COME DEAD WITH LIFE

Several Hundred Survivors of Lusitania and Missing.

STRENGTHENING IRISH

Winds Blowing from the East of the Atlantic Coast.

WANTS OF SUBMARINE SAIL

Loss of Lusitania Means the Third Day of the Fight in Germany.

SAVING TOLL OF HUNDREDS

Number of Survivors of the Lusitania Disaster.

Only 850 Were Saved. Five Cases of Poisoning.

STRENGTHENING IRISH

Winds Blowing from the East of the Atlantic Coast.

WANTS OF SUBMARINE SAIL

Americans were outraged in May 1915 when a German u-boat sank the British ship Lusitania killing 1,200 people including 128 Americans

America's anger with Germany increased in 1917 after the discovery of the Zimmerman Telegram

Germany knew that u-boat attacks would eventually bring the USA into war

Germany proposed that Mexico attack the USA in exchange for the return of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona

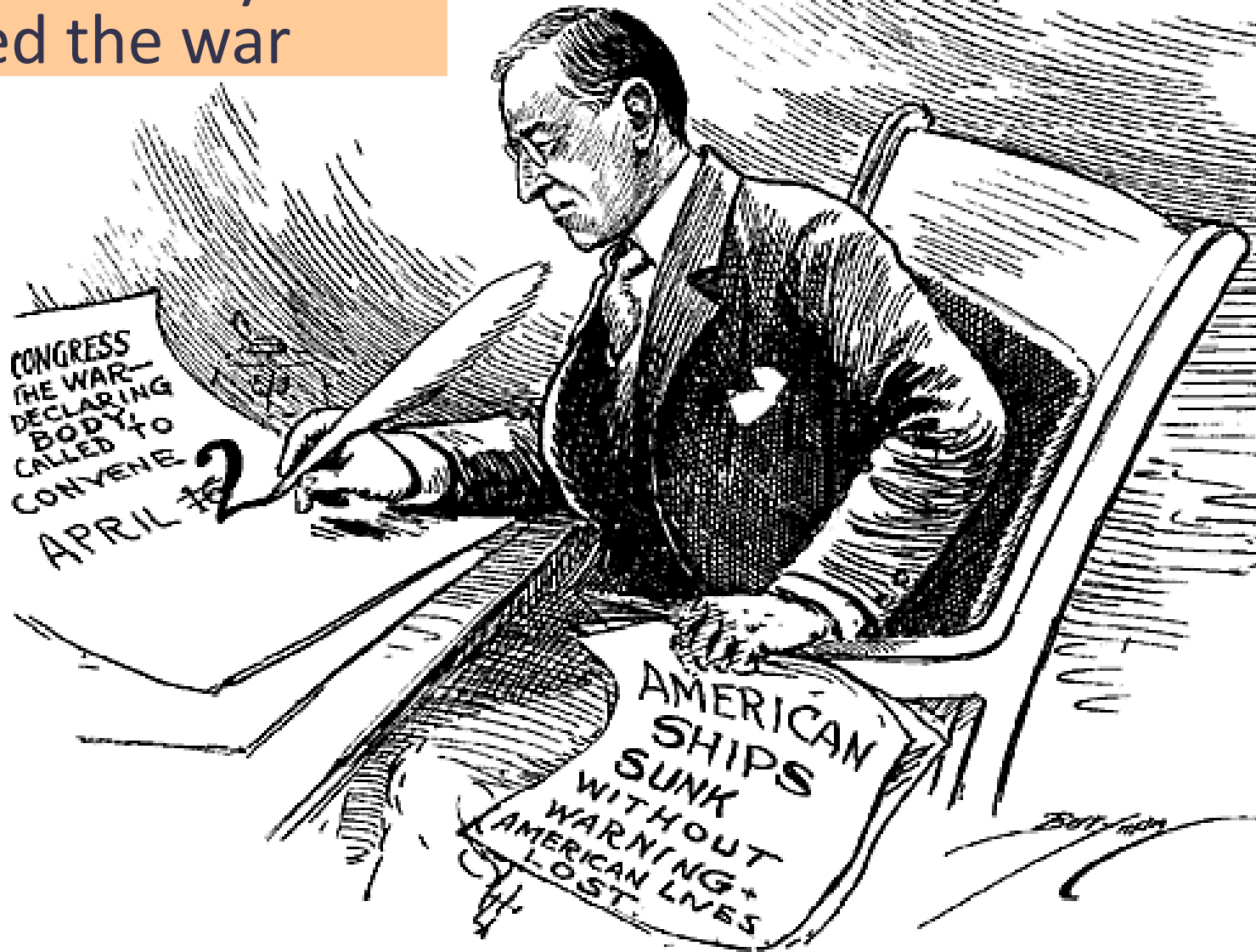
Americans were outraged

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the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, ~~invite~~ ~~request~~ Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMAN.

On April 2, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany & entered the war







# Chinese Soldiers

## Alliances During WWI

### Allies

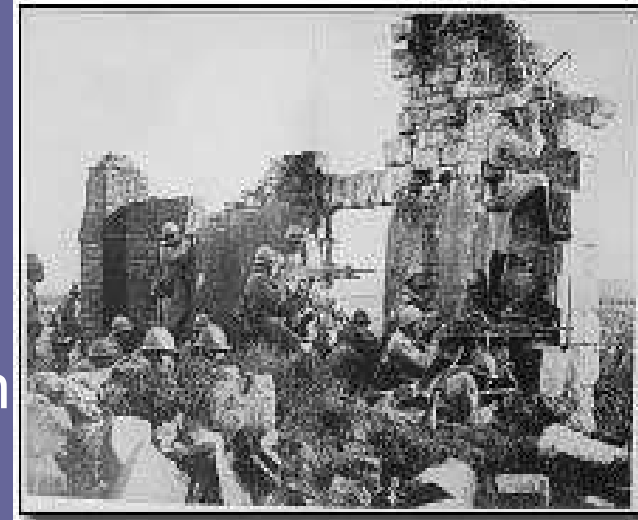
Australia	India
Belgium	Italy
British Colonies	Japan
Canada & Newfoundland	Montenegro
France	New Zealand
French North Africa & French Colonies	Portugal
Great Britain	Romania
Greece	Russia
	Serbia
	South Africa
	United States

### Central Powers

Austria-Hungary  
Bulgaria  
Germany  
Ottoman Empire

# 1918

- March – 1 million fresh, well-supplied American troops arrive in France
- **Second Battle of the Marne**
  - Germans were within 40 miles of Paris
  - Allies finally broke through the German line, forcing a retreat
  - Americans played a vital role
  - Considered the turning point of the war
- Armistice
  - Ottomans: October 30
  - A-H: November 3
  - Germans: **November 11 at 11 am**
    - Kaiser forced to abdicate
    - Ended the war, called Armistice Day





# GREAT WAR ENDS

Washington, D. C., Nov. 11, 3 A. M. (By Associated Press.)—Armistice terms have been signed by Germany, the State department announced at 2:45 o'clock this morning.

The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight.

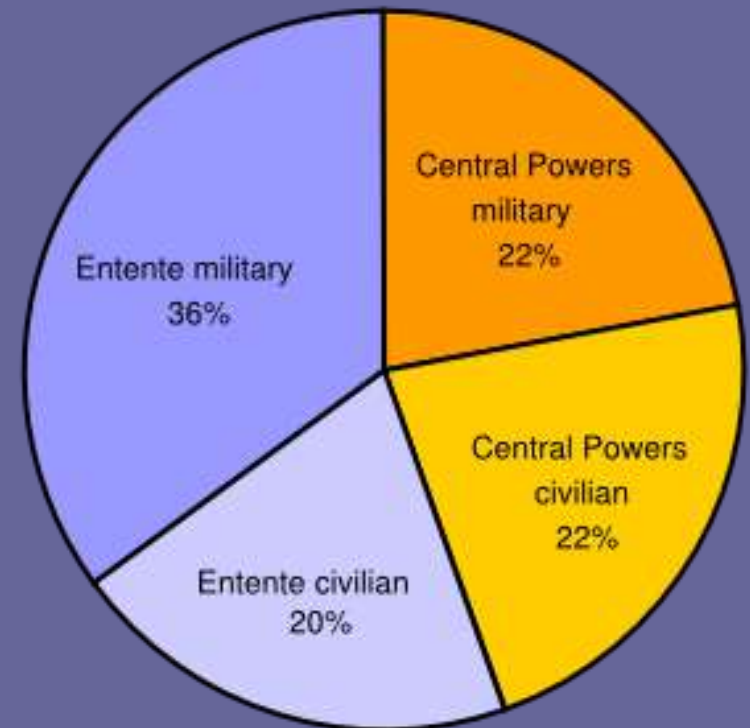


On November 11, 1918 Germany agreed to an armistice (ceasefire) & World War I finally came to an end

# The Cost of WWI

- 10 million dead, 20 million wounded
- Russia suffered the greatest casualties: 7 million
- \$180 billion in direct cost
- \$270 billion in real economic losses
- Men actually killed in battle:
  - Russia 1,700,000
  - Germany 1,600,000
  - France 1,385,000
  - British Empire 900,000
  - Austria-Hungary 800,000
  - Italy 460,000
  - Ottoman Empire 325,000
  - United States 49,000

## World War I Deaths



- New Weapons

- Machine Gun: deadliest weapon of the war
- Improved rifle
- Larger artillery: caused Shell Shock
- Poison gas: 75 different kinds
- Tanks
- Airplanes
- Flame throwers
- Improved mortar and grenades allowed for in-trench heavy weapons

- Home Front

- Changing role for women
  - Working outside the home for the first time
  - Demand extended rights after the war
- Europe forced to rebuild
- U.S. entered a period of prosperity



New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

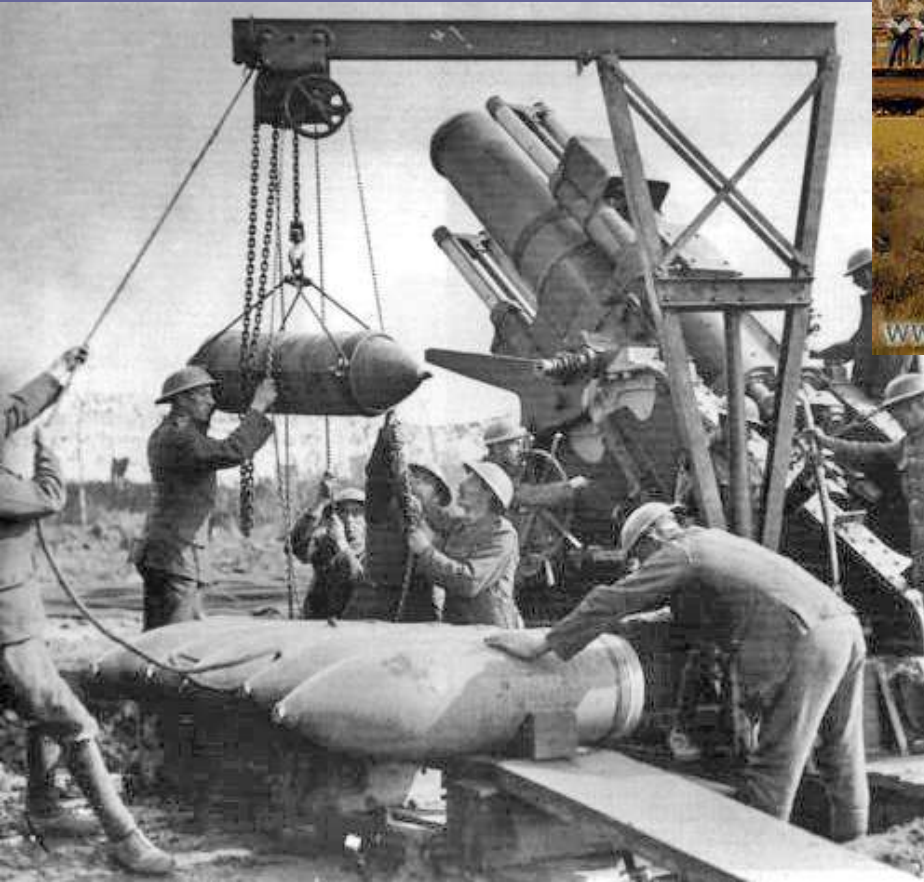
Machine guns



Machine guns, such as the one shown here, slaughtered attacking soldiers and prevented significant movement on the Western Front for three years.

New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

Long-range artillery



New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

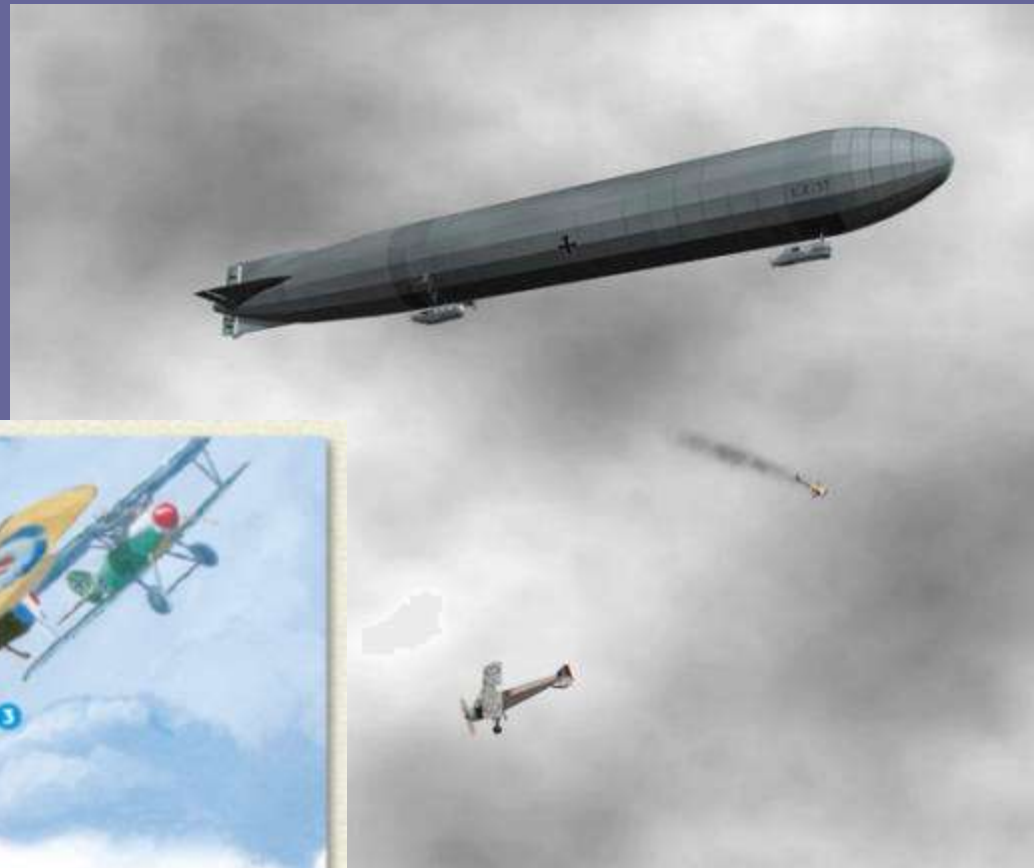
Tanks





New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

Airplanes & zeppelins



- 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.

Connect to To

New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

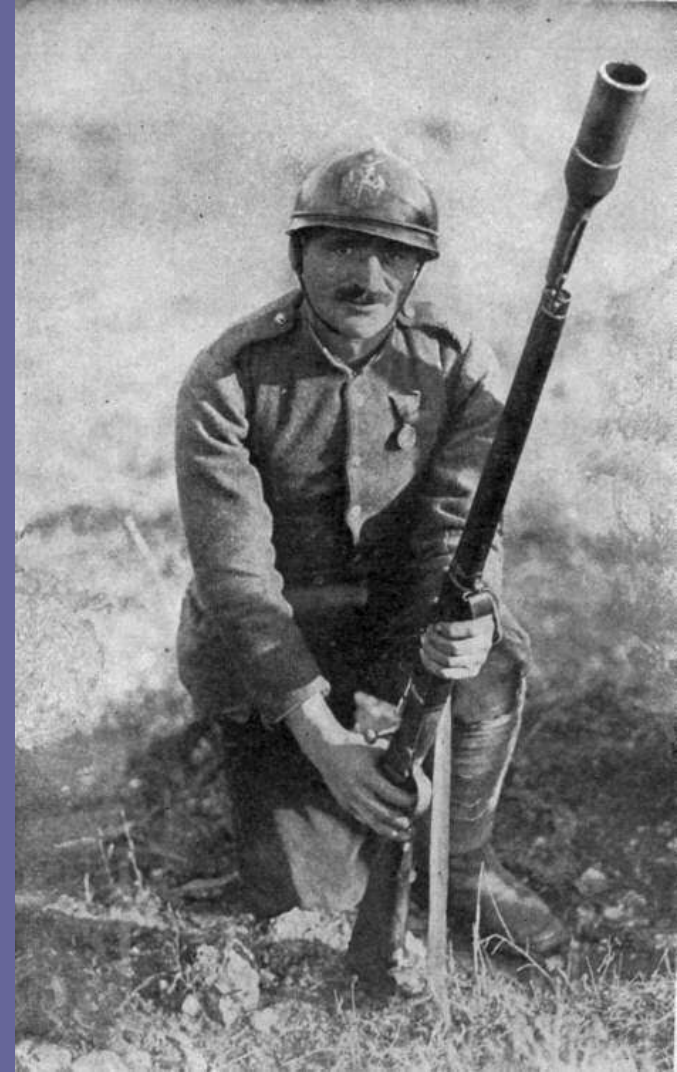
Poison gas



**B** Both sides used poison gases that burned eyes, skin, and lungs, and killed thousands of troops. After the war, most countries agreed to ban chemical warfare.

New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

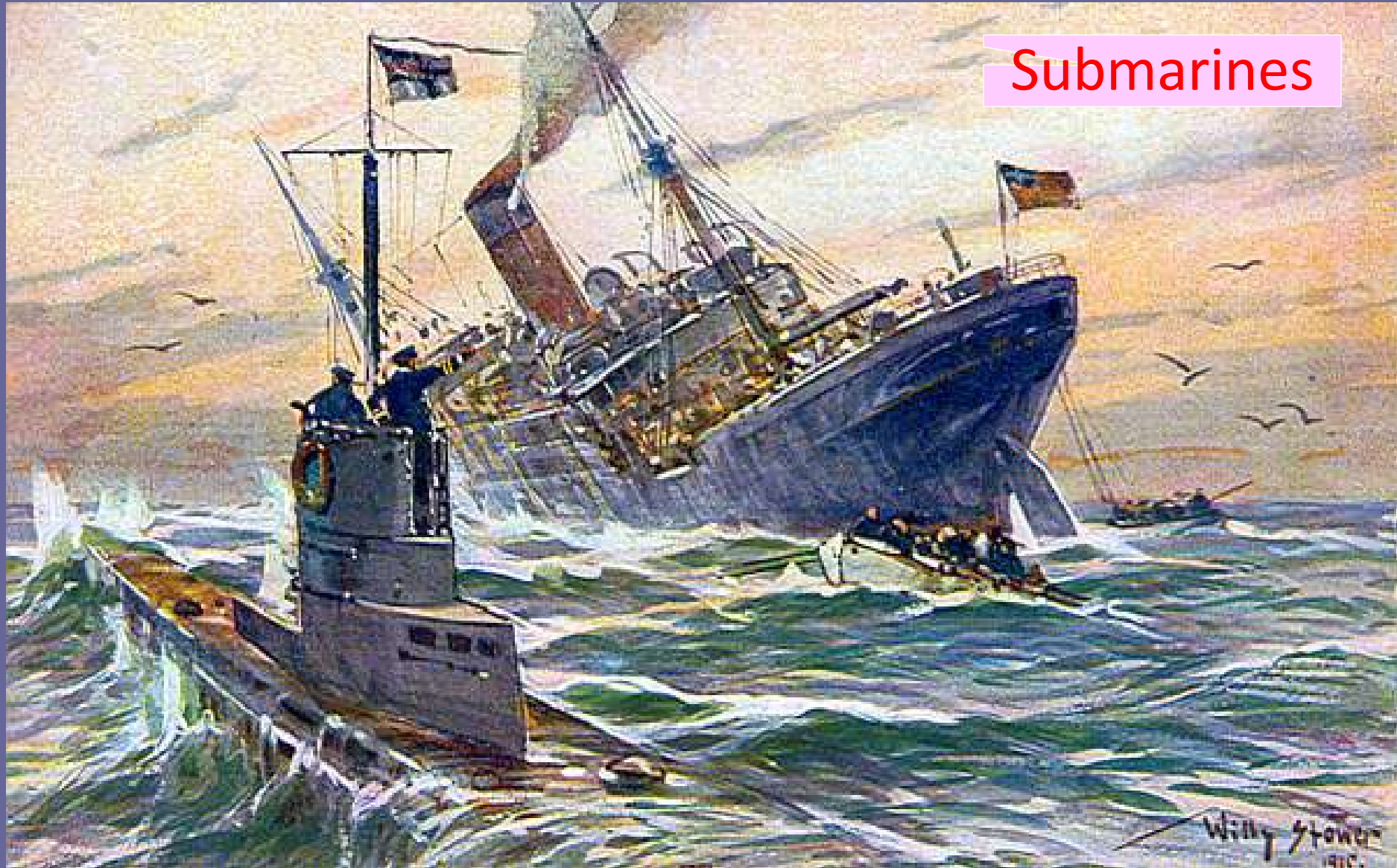
Flamethrowers & grenade launchers

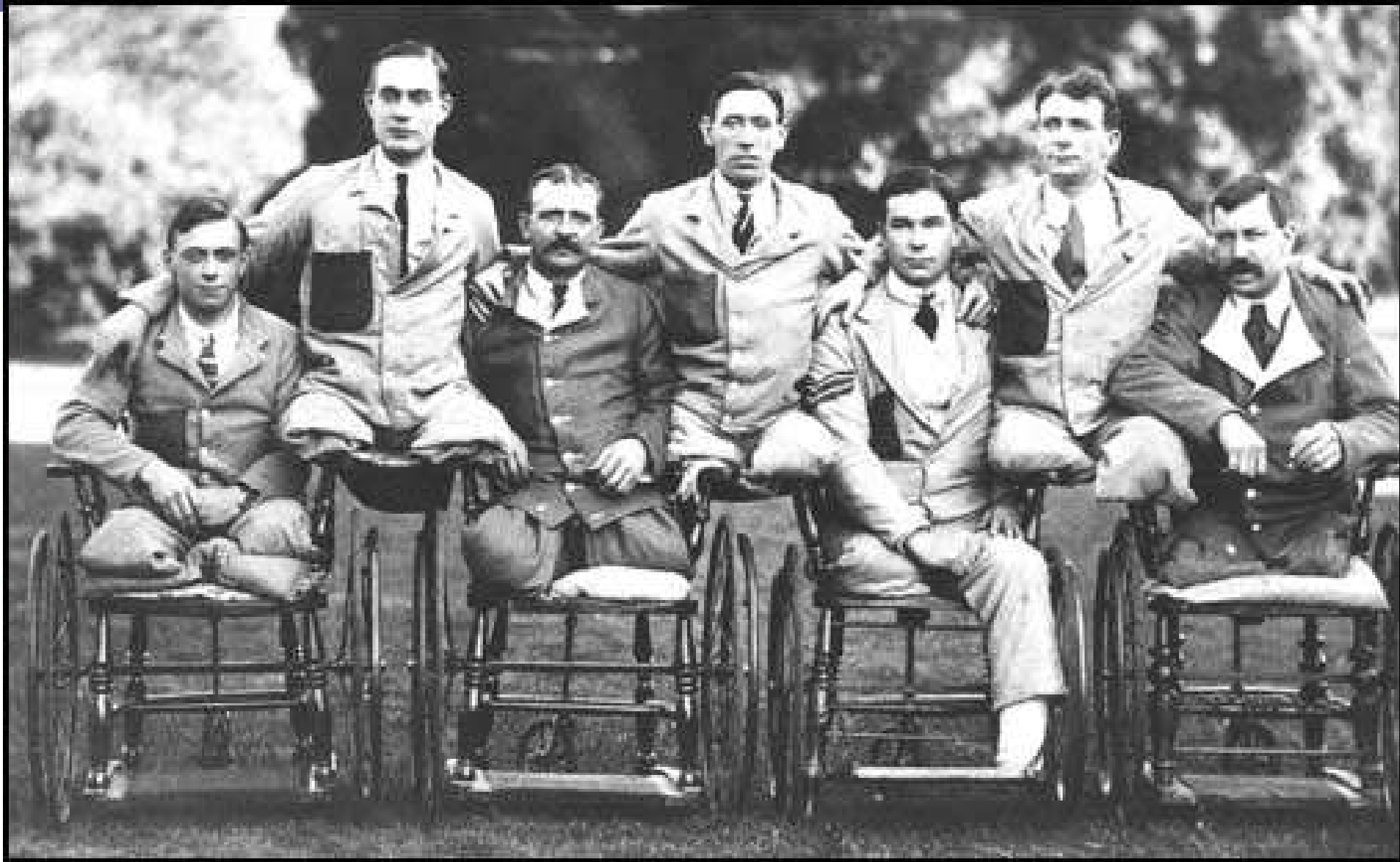




New weapons were invented to try to gain an advantage & win the war

Submarines





New weapons killed soldiers more effectively;  
During World War I, 8.5 million soldiers died  
& 21 million were wounded