

Chapter 14, Section 1: The Great War

Objectives

Describe how international rivalries and nationalism pushed Europe toward war.

Explain how the assassination in Sarajevo led to the start of World War I.

Analyze the causes and effects of the European alliance system.

Terms, People, and Places

entente

militarism

Alsace and Lorraine

ultimatum

mobilize

neutrality

CHECKPOINT Questions:

What two large alliances took shape before the beginning of World War I?

How did international competition and nationalism increase tensions in Europe?

What happened because of the assassination of Francis Ferdinand and his wife?

How did the alliance system deepen the original conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a general war?

Why were young men on both sides eager to fight when World War I started?

Section Summary

Although powerful forces were pushing Europe towards war, the great powers had formed alliances signing non-binding agreements, called **ententes**, to try to keep the peace. The Triple Alliance included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. Russia and France, and later Britain, formed the Triple Entente. During World War I, Germany and Austria fought together as the Central Powers. At that time, Russia, France, and Britain became known as the Allies.

In the decades before 1914, European powers competed to protect their status. Overseas rivalries divided them, as they fought for new colonies in Africa and elsewhere. They began to build up their armies and navies. The rise of **militarism** helped to feed this arms race. At the same time, sensational journalism stirred the public against rival nations.

Nationalism also increased tensions. Germans were proud of their military and economic might. The French yearned for the return of **Alsace and Lorraine**. Russia supported a powerful form of nationalism called Pan-Slavism. This led Russia to support nationalists in Serbia. Austria-Hungary worried that nationalism might lead to rebellions within its empire, while Ottoman Turkey felt threatened by nearby new nations in the Balkans, such as Serbia and Greece. Serbia's dreams of a South Slav state could take land away from both Austria-Hungary and Turkey. Soon, unrest made the Balkans a "powder keg." Then, in 1914, a Serbian nationalist assassinated the heir to the Austrian throne at Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Some Austrian leaders saw this as an opportunity to crush Serbian nationalism. They sent Serbia an **ultimatum**, which Serbia refused to meet completely. Austria, with the full support of Germany, declared war on Serbia in July 1914.

Soon, the network of alliances drew other great powers into the conflict. Russia, in support of Serbia, began to **mobilize** its army. Germany declared war on Russia. France claimed it would honor its treaty with Russia, so Germany declared war on France, too. When the Germans violated Belgian **neutrality** to reach France, Britain declared war on Germany. World War I had begun.

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Chapter 14, Section 2: A New Kind of War

Objectives

Understand why a stalemate developed on the Western Front.

Describe how technology made World War I different from earlier wars.

Outline the course of the war on the Eastern Front, in other parts of Europe, in Turkey, and in the Middle East.

Summarize how colonies fought in the war.

Terms, People, and Places

stalemate

zeppelin

U-boat

convoy

Dardanelles

T. E. Lawrence

CHECKPOINT Questions:

How did the Allies stop the Germans from executing the Schlieffen Plan?

What made World War I much more deadly than previous wars?

In what way was the Eastern Front different from the Western Front?

How did World War I affect the Ottoman empire and European colonies and dominions?

Section Summary

The Great War was the largest conflict in history up to that time. Millions of French, British, Russian, and German soldiers mobilized for battle. German forces fought their way toward France, but Belgian resistance foiled Germany's plans for a quick victory. Both sides dug deep trenches along the battlefield to protect their armies from enemy fire. The fighting on this Western Front turned into a long, deadly **stalemate**, a deadlock that neither side could break.

Technology made World War I different from earlier wars. Modern weapons caused high casualties. In 1915, first Germany then the Allies began using poison gas. Advances in technology brought about the introduction of tanks, airplanes, and modern submarines. Germany used **zeppelins** to bomb the English coast. Both sides equipped airplanes with machine guns. Pilots known as "flying aces" confronted each other in the skies, but these "dog fights" had little effect on the ground war. German submarines, called **U-boats**, did tremendous damage to the Allied shipping. To defend against them, the Allies organized **convoys**, or groups of merchant ships protected by warships.

On Europe's Eastern Front, battle lines shifted back and forth, sometimes over large areas. Casualties rose higher than on the Western Front. Russia was ill-prepared and suffered a disastrous defeat when pushing into eastern Germany. In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary and Germany. In 1917, the Austrians and Germans launched a major offensive against the Italians.

Although most of the fighting took place in Europe, World War I was a global conflict. Japan used the war to seize German outposts in China and islands in the Pacific. The Ottoman empire joined the Central Powers. Its strategic location enabled it to cut off Allied supply lines to Russia through the **Dardanelles**, a vital strait.. The Ottoman Turks were hard hit in the Middle East, however. Arab nationalists revolted against Ottoman rule. The British sent **T.E. Lawrence**, or Lawrence of Arabia, to aid the Arabs. European colonies in Africa and Asia were also drawn into the war.

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Chapter 14, Section 3: Winning the War

Objectives

[Describe how World War I became a total war.](#)

[Explain the effect that years of warfare had on morale.](#)

[Analyze the causes and effects of American entry into the war.](#)

[Summarize events that led to the end of the war.](#)

Terms, People, and Places

[total war](#)
[conscription](#)

[contraband](#)
[the Lusitania](#)
[propaganda](#)

[atrocity](#)
[Fourteen Points](#)
[self-determination](#)
[armistice](#)

CHECKPOINT Questions:

Why was it important for both sides to keep civilian morale high during the war?

How did Russia's loss of morale affect the strategic position of the Allies in World War I?

What are three factors that led the United States to enter the war?

Why did Germany ask the Allies for an armistice in November 1918? Why did Germany ask the Allies for an armistice in November 1918?

Section Summary

World War I was a **total war**, in which the participants channeled all their resources into the war effort. Both sides set up systems to recruit, arm, transport, and supply their armies. Nations imposed universal military **conscription**, or "the draft," requiring all young men to be ready to fight. Women also played a critical role. As millions of men left to fight, women took over their jobs and kept national economies going.

International law allowed wartime blockades to confiscate **contraband**, but British blockades kept ships from carrying other supplies, such as food, in and out of Germany. In retaliation, German U-boats torpedoed the British passenger liner **Lusitania**. Both sides used **propaganda** to control public opinion, circulating tales of **atrocities**, some true and others completely made up.

As time passed, war fatigue set in. Long casualty lists, food shortages, and the failure to win led to calls for peace. The morale of both troops and civilians plunged. In Russia, stories of incompetent generals and corruption eroded public confidence and led to revolution.

Until 1917, the United States had been neutral, but in that year it declared war on Germany. Many factors contributed to this decision, including Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare. Also, many Americans supported the Allies because of cultural ties with Britain and sympathy for its fellow democracy, France. By 1918, about two million fresh American soldiers had joined the war-weary Allied troops on the Western Front. In that year, President Wilson also issued his **Fourteen Points**, his terms for resolving this and future wars. Among the most important was **self-determination** for peoples in Eastern Europe.

A final showdown on the Western Front began in March 1918. With American troops, the Allies drove back German forces. In September, German generals told the kaiser that the war could not be won. The kaiser stepped down and the new German government sought an **armistice** with the Allies. At 11 A.M. on November 11, 1918, the Great War at last came to an end.

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Chapter 14, Section 4: Making the Peace

Objectives

[Analyze the costs of World War I.](#)

[Describe the issues faced by the delegates to the Paris Peace Conference.](#)

[Explain why many people were dissatisfied with the Treaty of Versailles and other peace settlements.](#)

Terms, People, and Places

[pandemic](#)

[reparations](#)

[radicals](#)

[collective security](#)

[mandate](#)

CHECKPOINT Questions:

What were some of the human, economic, and political costs of the war?

How did the goals of the Big Three leaders conflict at the Paris Peace Conference?

Why were the German delegates surprised when they read the treaty?

Why did the League of Nations fail to accomplish Wilson's dreams?

Section Summary

The human, material, and political costs of World War I were staggering. The huge loss of life was made even worse in 1918 by a deadly **pandemic** of influenza. From France to Russia, homes, farms, factories, and roads had been bombed into rubble. Reconstruction costs and war debts would burden an already battered world. The Allies blamed the war on their defeated foes and insisted that they make **reparations**. Governments had collapsed in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman empire. Out of the chaos, political **radicals** dreamed of building a new social order.

The victorious Allies met at the Paris Peace Conference to discuss the fate of Europe, the former Ottoman empire, and various colonies around the world. The Central Powers and Russia were not allowed to participate. This would lead to problems regarding the issue of self-determination. The three main Allied leaders had conflicting goals. British Prime Minister David Lloyd George focused on rebuilding Britain. French leader Georges Clemenceau wanted to punish Germany severely. American President Wilson insisted on the creation of an international League of Nations, based on the idea of **collective security**. In this system, a group of nations acts as one to preserve the peace of all.

In June 1919, the Allies ordered representatives of the new German Republic to sign the Treaty of Versailles. The German delegates were horrified. The treaty forced Germany to assume full blame for the war. The treaty also imposed huge reparations that would burden an already damaged German economy and limited the size of Germany's military.

The Allies drew up treaties with the other Central Powers. Like the Treaty of Versailles, these treaties left widespread dissatisfaction, especially among many colonies that had hoped for an end to imperial rule. Many nations felt betrayed by the peacemakers. As a result of these treaties, new nations emerged where the German, Austrian, and Russian empires had once ruled. Outside Europe, the Allies added to their overseas empires. The treaties also created a system of **mandates**. The one ray of hope was the establishment of the League of Nations. The failure of the United States to support the League, however, weakened the League's power.

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