WWI

The War to End All Wars
The Great War
1. What were the main causes of WWI?
2. How did the conflict expand to draw in much of Europe?
3. How did Germany’s use of submarines affect the war?
4. How did the US prepare for war?
5. How did new weapons change the way soldiers fought in WWI?
6. How did the war affect people & government at home? (Economics, laws, everyday lives, etc)
7. What were the important provisions of the Treaty of Versailles?
4 M.A.I.N. Causes of WWI

- **M**: Militarism (building up & glorifying a country’s military)
- **A**: Alliances (Facebook: how many friends do you have)
- **I**: Imperialism (quest for colonies; conquer other lands & build an empire)
- **N**: Nationalism (nation or ethnic group is better than others)
Gavrilio Princip, a member of the Serbian nationalist group, the Black Hand, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne) & his wife Sophie.
7/28/1914: Austria Hungary declares war on Serbia

7/29: Russia mobilizes

Germany demands Russia stop

France, Russia ally, begins to mobilize

8/1: Germany declares war on Russia

Germany activates the Schlieffen Plan

Germany invades neutral Belgium

8/4: Britain, Belgium’s ally, declares war on Germany

One thing leads to another
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Allies</th>
<th>Central Powers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
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By September, Germany was within 30 miles of Paris
At Marne River, both sides dug in & reached a bloody stalemate
Neither side able to gain much ground without costing hundreds of lives due to trench warfare

Stalemate: Western Front
Trench System
Russian victories forced Germany to send troops to Eastern Front early = destroyed the Schlieffen Plan.

Eastern Front was almost 1000 miles & stretched from Serbia to the Baltic Sea.
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<tr>
<td>Italy (1915)</td>
<td>Ottoman Empire (1914)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania (1915)</td>
<td>Bulgaria (1915)</td>
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<td>Greece (1917)</td>
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Modern Warfare

- Machine gun (450 rounds a minute)
- Grenades
- Artillery shells (could give a soldier a concussion from 900 yards away & liquefy internal organs)
- Flame throwers
- Poison gas
- Trench warfare
  - Tunneled below No Man’s Land to plant bombs near enemy trenches
- Distinction between soldier & civilian was erased
  - Both sides poisoned wells & killed livestock
  - Germans torpedoed ships
  - British naval blockade starved German civilians
Gas Attack Victims
• Immigrants took the war personally
• Germany: autocrat (Kaiser Wilhelm II); rule offended Americans; Germans were cold blooded
• Sway public opinion US used propaganda
### Neutrality
- Concerns over trade

### Prepare
- Business leaders who had commercial ties with Britain
- Be able to aid Britain if needed
- National Security League
- Summer 1915: US sets up training camps
- Summer 1916: Wilson & Congress increased size of armed forces

### Peace
- Former Populists, Midwest progressives, social reformers & many women
- 8/29/14: Suffragists marched down NYC 5th Ave protesting
- 11/1915: American Union Against Militarism formed
  - Congress: Claude Kitchin (NC); Jeanette Rankin (MT)
German Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

- U-boat (Unterseeboot)
- 1st used to prevent supplies from reaching Britain
  - Trying to break the British blockade of NEUTRAL allied shipments to Central Powers
- Originally: warned crew to abandon before firing
  - After Germany abandoned that policy, Britain developed hydrophones
- May 7, 1915: Lusitania sunk (1200 killed, 128 Americans)
- March 24, 1916: Sussex sunk (80 killed/wounded)
- Germany signs Sussex Pledge with US: promises to warn ships before sinking them
• 1/31/1917: Germany announced it was ending the Sussex Pledge
  ◦ Taking a gamble; beat Britain before US enters
• March 16 - 18, 1917: Germany sinks US ships
  ◦ City of Memphis
  ◦ Illinois
  ◦ Vigilancia
• Wilson – ticked
• March 20: Cabinet votes unanimously for war
• Britain revealed an intercepted telegram
• Germany offered part of the US to Mexico IF Mexico joined the Central Powers & invaded US
• Not taken seriously
• Russian War Effort
  ◦ +1.5 million KIA
  ◦ +2.5 million POW
  ◦ +1 million wounded

• March 1917: Czar Nicholas II forced to abdicate the throne
  ◦ Replaced with Representative Government

• Cleared way for US to enter the war

Does not include civilian dead & wounded
4/2/1917: President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress for a Declaration of War against Germany

- Senate: 82:6
- House: 372:50

“The world must be safe for democracy” ~ President Wilson
By 1918 only older men, boys turning 18 & wounded returning from hospitals were available to fight

Allies desperate
  ◦ 6/1917: Gen. John J. (Blackjack) Pershing & 14,000 men to Europe
Preparing for War

- Selective Service Act (May 1917): draft of young men
  - By 11/1918, over 24 million had registered
  - Lottery picked 3 million
- Volunteers: AEF (American Expeditionary Force... aka: Doughboys)
- Women
  - 11,000: nurses, drivers
  - 14,000: private agencies
• 300,000 African Americans volunteered
  ◦ +4000 killed
• 369th Infantry: Harlem Hell Fighters
• Earned Croix de Guerre (French medal for bravery)
• Sept. 1917: draftees arrived at camps
• Learned to use a bayonet, throw a grenade, dig a trench, put on a gas mask
• May 1917: US begins using convoy system to protect troopships
• April – December 1917: losses dropped by ½
  ◦ Not 1 US troopship was sunk
Dogfights

- US had 55 planes when they entered the war.
- Planes were originally used for recon/scouting missions.
  - Later pilots would engage in dogfights using their pistols.
  - Planes were later fit with machine guns.
  - Shot down Zeppelins.
- Germany used to drop +1500 bombs on London.
- 1918: US used to drop 1400 bombs on enemy positions & RR.

Eddie Rickenbacker
American “Ace”
Shot down 26 planes.
Tide Turns

- Russian Revolution
- Allies Launch a Counterattack
- Americans Save Paris
• Czar Nicholas II already given up throne
• November 1917: Bolshevik Revolution begins (Civil War)
• 3/3/1819: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk pulls Russia out of the war
• Germany no longer fighting a 2 front war
• Pershing’s troops headed to the front & began to push Germans back
• American victories:
  ◦ Belleau Wood
  ◦ Chateau Thierry (lost +1/2 of troops but stopped Germans)
  ◦ 2nd Battle of the Marne (dashed German hopes for victory)
  ◦ Meuse-Argonne
• About 250,000 Americans arriving every month
• New weapon: Tank
• Aug 8: Battle of Amines
  ◦ Stop German advance & Gen. Von Ludendorff advises Kaiser to seek peace
  ◦ Allies: nope! TOTAL SURRENDER!
• Meuse-Argonne: September
  ◦ 500,000 Americans & 100,000 French launch a final assault on German forces
  ◦ Shot our own guys (oops!)
• Bulgaria & the Ottoman Empire back out & sign a separate truce the Autumn 1918
• October 1918: Poles, Czechs & Slavs declare independence & the Austro-Hungarian Empire falls apart
• Germany is now by herself
  ◦ Commanders beg for peace
  ◦ Allies refuse anything but total surrender
  ◦ German soldiers mutiny & defy orders

Central Powers Collapse
• November 10: Kaiser Wilhelm II flees to Holland
  ◦ Replaced by a civilian representative government
• Signs a armistice (cease fire)
• War is over: 11am 11/11/1918
• 1918: American troops arriving in Europe bring a strain of the flu that swept across Europe
  ◦ June: disabled 500,000 German troops
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} wave hits in fall
  ◦ Kills in days
  ◦ Bases/crowded areas susceptible
  ◦ Gravediggers could not keep up
• More died from the flu than from battle
  ◦ 30 million WORLDWIDE
Average of 5000 solders were killed daily
  - US: 50,000 killed

Veterans
  - Shell Shock
  - Amputees
    - Wounds
    - Trench foot

Genocide
  - Ottomans murdered 100’s of 1000’s of Armenians

War’s Legacy
• Liberty Bonds: raised +$20 billion
• New Agencies:
  ◦ **War Industries Board**: oversaw the nation’s war related production
  ◦ **War Trade Board**: licensed foreign trade
  ◦ **National War Labor Board**: worked to settle labor disputes
  ◦ **War Labor Policies Board**: set standards for wages, hours & working conditions
  ◦ **Lever Food & Fuel Control Act**: managed the production & distribution of food & fuel
  ◦ **Food Administration**: worked to increase farm output & reduce waste; imposed price controls & began a system of rationing
  ◦ **Fuel Administration**: gasless days & daylight savings time
Enforcing Loyalty

• Fear that spies/secret agents could target communication/transportation = restrictions on immigration
  ◦ National Security League: literacy test for those wanting to enter the country
• Espionage Act (1917; aka: Sedition Act):
  ◦ Illegal to interfere with the draft, obstruct the sale of Liberty Bonds, discuss anything “disloyal, profane or abusive” about the US, its government or the Constitution, or the armed forces
  ◦ +1500 prosecuted; +1000 convicted
• IWW (Industrial Workers of the World): almost 200 members arrested for supporting the overthrow of capitalism
• Vigilantes: lynched/horsewhipped many
• Children joined patriotic scouting programs

Enforcing Loyalty
- Businesses recruited women, African Americans & Mexican Americans
- Women’s Land Army: women working on farms
- Telegraph messengers, elevator operators, letter carriers
- 400,000 joined industrial work force
US: Global Peacemaker

- Wilson’s 14 Points:
  - End of entangling alliances
  - Keep the peace
  - Prevent future wars
  - Remove trade barriers
  - Reducing military forces
  - Right of ethnic groups to self determination
• Wilson: not interested in spoils nor did the US want land or $$ from Germany
  ◦ Goal: establish a permanent agency for countries to solve problems peacefully
• Britain, France & Italy: Germany owes us!
• Russia: not invited & signed a separate treaty in 1922
• Wilson forced to compromise on 14 Points
  ◦ agreed for Allied to take over former German colonies INSTEAD of granting freedom
• Wilson wrote in 10 days
• League of Nations – international peacekeeping organization
  ◦ Article 10: an attack on one country was an attack on all
  ◦ No military power
  ◦ US did not like – could draw us into another global conflict
- 9 new counties in Europe
- Middle East:
  - Ottoman Empire broken apart
  - Wilson refused to support Italy’s claims to land in the Middle East
- Germany had to accept responsibility for the war (starting it & expense)
  - Pay war reparations... $33 billion
- 5/7/1919: Treaty presented to Germany
  - June 28: treaty signed
- US
  - Irreconcilables: could not be made to accept the treaty
  - Reservationists: would accept the treaty IF changes were made
  - Presented to Congress 3 times & never signed

“Peace” Treaty
Wilson toured the country to get support for joining the League of Nations
- 23 days gave over 36 speeches
- Suffered a stroke

5/20/1920: Congress disregarded treaty & declared war over
- Wilson vetoed

7/2/1921: another resolution passed & Warren G. Harding signed
“We all started out with high ideals... After being right up here almost at the front line... I cannot understand what it is all about or what has been accomplished by all this waste of youth”
~Alice Lord O’Brian

- Economy grew during war
- Europe owed US $11.5 billion
- US became the largest a creditor nation
- Servicemen began returning home
  - Women & minorities quit or were fired from jobs
  - Government contracts lost & jobs cut
  - African Americans still faced discrimination
- War darkened outlook for artists & intellectuals; end of an era of optimism
1. What events fueled the Red Scare of the early 1920’s?
2. Why did communism seem to pose a threat to capitalist nations?
3. How did the Red Scare contribute to America’s policy of isolationism in the 1920’s?
4. What led Americans to suspect that Communists were the source of labor unrest in the 1920’s?

Vocabulary
- Communism
- Red Scare
- Isolationism
• Russian overthrow of Czar & the Russian civil war caused concern for US
• Reds (Communists): seized foreign investments (including American)
• Whites: backed by US
• 1920: Reds won
• US begins to fear the possibility a rebellion reaching the US
• Vladimir Lenin openly opposed American beliefs & values
• Promoted communist beliefs:
  1. Gov’t owned all land & property
  2. A single political party controlled the gov’t
  3. Needs of the country always took priority over the rights of the individuals
• Problem: If Russia was isolated they could be attacked
  ◦ Answer: Spread revolution
Americans feared:

- The spread of communism
  - 1919
    - Communists try to overthrow German government
    - Come to power in Hungary

- Immigrants
  - Did not trust them; they could all be subversives

- Threat of communists already in the US
  - Bombings & shootings caused fear
  - Americans call for communists to be driven out
• War opponent Charles Schenck mailed letters to draftees urging them to not report for duty
  ◦ Arrested & convicted under Espionage Act
  ◦ Appealed; violation of 1st amendment
• Supreme Court:
  ◦ Gov’t is justified in silencing free speech when there is a “clear & present” danger
• Bernard Gitlow, socialist, convicted of criminal anarchy
• Published calls to overthrow the gov’t by force
• Appealed
• Violated freedom of speech & press
• Supreme court upheld conviction
• Urged people to violent revolution
June 1919: bombs explode
  ◦ Attny. Gen. A. Mitchell Palmer was a target
  ◦ “Radicals conspiring to overthrow the gov’t”

Justice Department created a special force to round up “subversives” (Communists, Socialists, Anarchists)

1/2/1920: federal agents launched raids in 33 cities, arrested 1000’s
  ◦ +500 deported

April 1920: NY State assembly ousted 5 elected members of Socialist Party

May 1, 1920: Socialist Holiday
  ◦ Palmer warned of violence
  ◦ Nothing happened
  ◦ Media & people turned against him
4/15/1920: gunmen robbed & killed a guard & paymaster of a shoe factory
Police arrested 2 Italian immigrants
  ◦ both had guns on them & were anarchists
Americans suspected they were arrested b/c of their radical views
Trial drew international attention
  ◦ Jury found guilty
  ◦ Appealed & convictions upheld
  ◦ Sentenced to death 4/1927
    • Executed via electric chair 8/1927 despite mass protests

Nicola Sacco: shoemaker; gun was same model as the one used
Bartolomeo Vanzetti: fish peddler
Americans believed Communists were behind labor unrest

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<tr>
<th>Boston Police Strike</th>
<th>Steel &amp; Coal Strikes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Wanted a raise</td>
<td>• <strong>Steel workers</strong>: 65 hour weeks; wanted better hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Were not allowed to unionize</td>
<td>• 350,000 walked off the job</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 19 officers fired for trying to unionize &amp; whole force voted to strike</td>
<td>• US Steel hired private police force who killed 18 strikers &amp; beat hundreds more</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Riots broke out</td>
<td>• Thousands African Americans came to work</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Mayor sent out volunteer police</td>
<td>• After 10 weeks: strike called off; workers would not win</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gov. Calvin Coolidge called in state guard but Boston was already calm</td>
<td>• <strong>Coal Strike</strong>: demanded higher wages</td>
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<td>• No strike agreement during the war; ended with armistice</td>
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<td>• Court ordered strikers to go back to work... they refused</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Coal shortage brought them back AND a 14% pay raise</td>
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</table>
• Americans opposed strikes... seen as unpatriotic & could result in violence
• Most distrusted labor unions b/c mainly immigrants were members & immigrants had “radical” ideas
• Union membership dropped sharply after the Red Scare & strikes declined
• Unions hurt by:
  ◦ Public opposition
  ◦ Lack of government support
  ◦ Economic downturn in 1920’s