

# WWI FIRST WORLD WAR





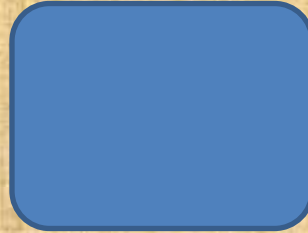
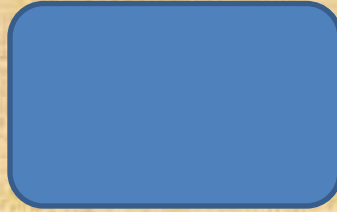
# LONG TERM CAUSES:

1. Imperialism
2. Militarism
3. Nationalism
4. Alliances





**IMPERIALISM**



**WAR**

Around 1900

1914



# 1. IMPERIALISM

One of the main causes of the First World War was imperialism: an unequal relationship, often in the form of an empire, forced on other countries and people, resulting in domination and subordination of economics, culture, and territory.



- Imperial Europe is dominated by the **Great Powers**: Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Russia.
- The Ottoman Empire is in decline, resulting in **increasing instability in the Balkans**.
- Serbia and Romania have already got a large degree of **independence**.



# What is Imperialism?

Imperialism is the process whereby powerful groups try to extend their power and increase their wealth by bringing more of the world under their domination.

It is important to say that Imperialism is a direct consequence of hierarchical organisation.

This process develops in the late 19th century and it has a lot of causes





# Economic reasons

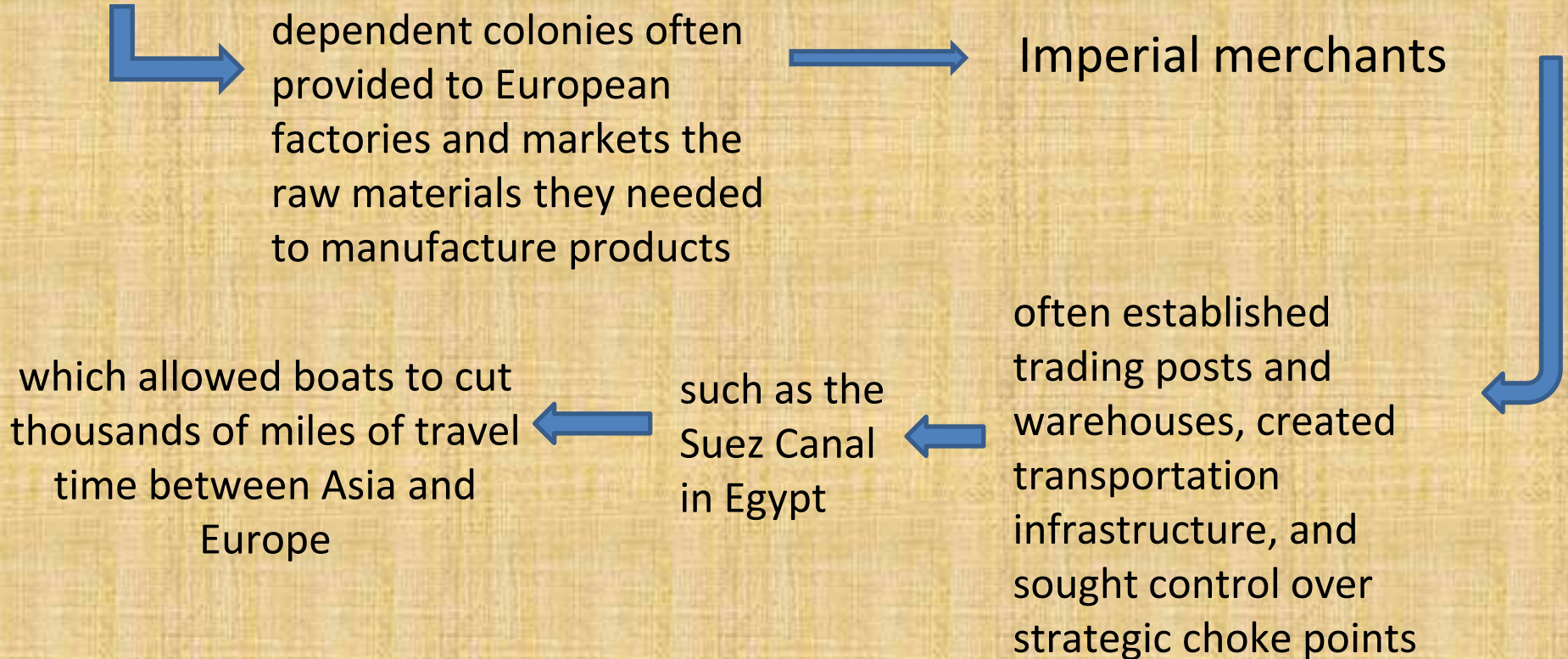
Economic expansion demanded cheap labour, control of markets to sell or buy products, and natural resources such as precious metals and land.



Governments met these demands by tributes or by plunder.



# After the advent of the Industrial Revolution





The first who investigated the economic reasons for Imperialism was the British economist John Hobson. In his theory he stressed that economic reasons of Imperialism were the driving force behind the colonial expansion in the late 19th century.



This economic explanation inspired Lenin on his work «Imperialism: the highest Stage of Capitalism», in which he showed the relationship between capitalism and imperialism.

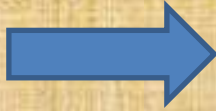


# Imperialism: the highest Stage of Capitalism

Lenin developed a perspective that took Marx's class struggle, based on the mode of production, and used it to explain capitalism's international effects as transmitted through the production and finance structures of rich industrial countries to the poorer developing regions of the world. Lenin's famous summary of his views is "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism" (1917).



Marx said that capitalism, driven by its three laws, would come to revolutionary crisis and suffer internal class revolt.



Lenin observed that capitalist nations had avoided the crisis by expanding the pool of workers they exploited.



He said that "the acquisition of colonies had enabled the capitalist economies to dispose of their unconsumed goods, to acquire cheap resources, and to vent their surplus capital".



To Lenin, Imperialism was another portion of the capitalist epoch of history that the world had to endure on the road to Communism.



The key for Lenin was the fact that , since monopolies concentrated capital, they could not find sufficient investment opportunities in industrial regions of the world.



Therefore, they found it necessary to export capital around the globe to earn sufficient profits.



# Afterwards...

Lenin argued that imperialist expansion allowed capitalism to postpone its inevitable crisis and turn into socialism.



Lenin said that he would take Russia out of the War and he ended up doing it



# SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

*The scramble for Africa (or Race for Africa) was the proliferation of conflicting European claims to the African territory during the New Imperialism period, between the 1880s and the start of World War I.*

On the eve of the scramble for Africa, only ten percent of the continent was under the control of Western nations. In 1875, the most important holdings were *Algeria*, whose conquest by France had started in the 1830s; the *Cape Colony*, held by the United Kingdom, and *Angola*, held by Portugal.





# Main Steps

- Foundation of Liberia, 1820
- Building of the Suez Canal, 1854-56
- Colonization of Congo Empire, early 1880s
- Triple Alliance, 1882 ( Germany, Austria and Italy)
- Britain's occupation of Egypt and South Africa
- Berlin Conference, 1884-85
- Italy  First Italo-Abyssinian War (1895-96)  
War in Lybia (1911)
- Fashoda Incident, 1898
- Entente Cordiale, 1904 (France and Britain)
- Moroccan Crisis (1906/1911)
- Triple Entente, 1907 (France, Britain and Russia)



# Colonization of Congo

- Leopold II in 1882 obtained the *Congo Free State*, after making treaties with several African chiefs
- He exploited it in ivory and rubber and he imposed a terror regime, making millions of victims
- This prompted Belgium to end Leopold II's rule and they annexed Congo as a colony in 1908, known as *Belgian Congo*
- Meanwhile, the French marine officer Pierre de Brazza travelled into the western Congo basin and raised the French flag over the newly founded Brazzaville in 1881



# The Suez Canal

- In 1854-56 Ferdinand de Lesseps obtained concession to build the Suez Canal from *Isma'il Pasha*, the Egyptian ruler



- Over 1,5 million of Egyptians were forced to work on the canal
- Britain and France assumed joint financial control over the country, forcing the Egyptian ruler to abdicate
- *Muhammad Ahmed* proclaimed himself the Mahdi (redeemer of Islam), and led the rebellion. He was defeated only by Kitchener
- Britain assumed the role of administrator of the country



# Britain's occupation of Egypt and South Africa

- Egypt was occupied by Britain in 1882 (not formally declared as a protectorate until 1914, and never as a proper colony)
- UK consolidated its power over most of the colonies of South Africa
- First Boer War (1880-81)  $\Rightarrow$  peace treaty giving «self-government» to the Boers in the Transvaal
- Second Boer War (1899-1902)  $\Rightarrow$  Orange Free State and Transvaal were absorbed into the British Empire



# The Fashoda Incident

- France wanted to link the Niger River with Nile
- The English, on the other hand, wanted to link their possessions in Southern Africa with their territories in East Africa, and these two areas with the Nile Basin (the “red line”)
- *Sudan* was obviously the key of these ambitions, especially the eastern Sudan near *Fashoda*
- Clash between *Marchand* (France) and *Kitchener* (Britain)
- In 1899 French and British agreed that the source of the Nile and Congo Rivers should mark the frontier between their spheres of influence



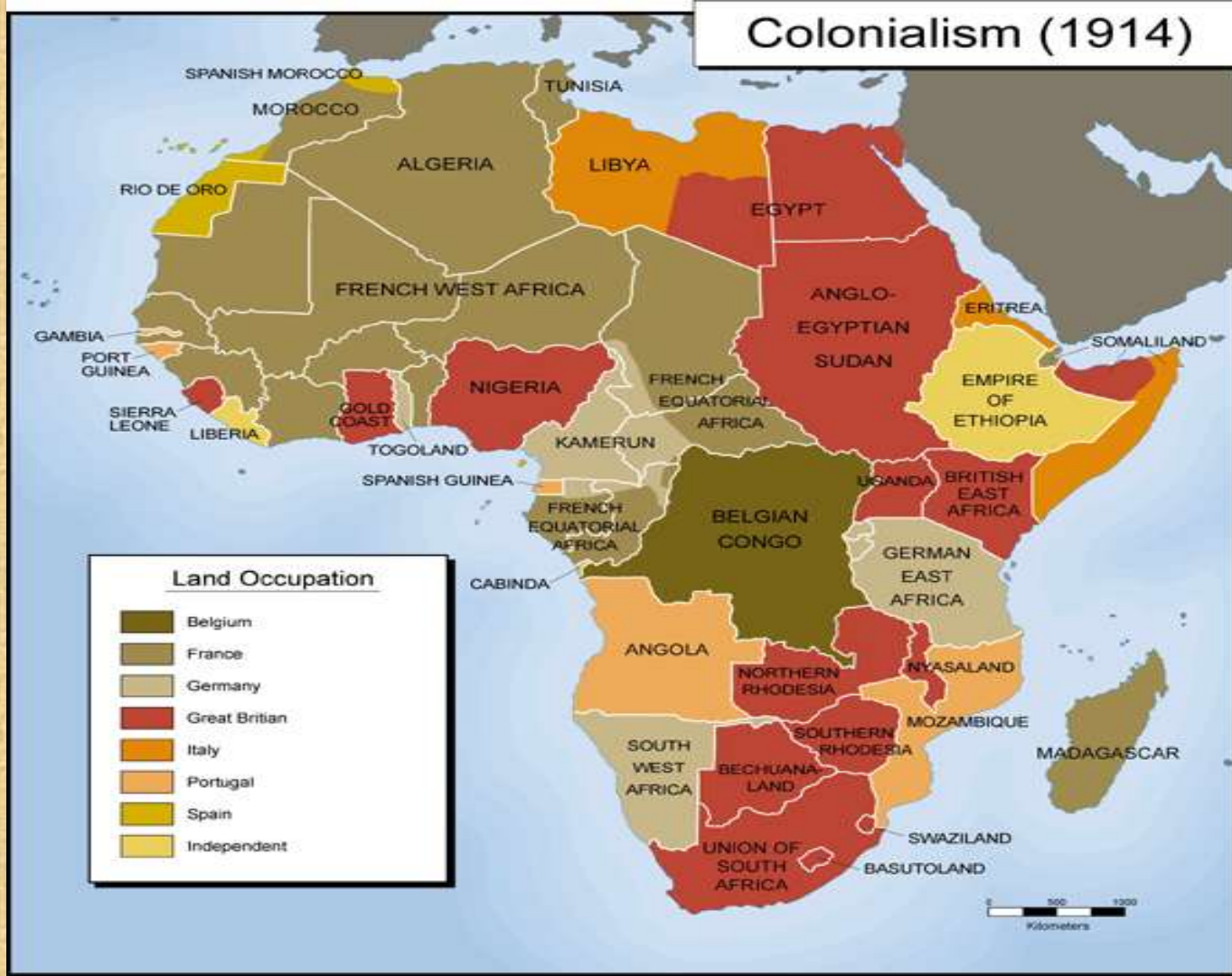


# The Moroccan Crisis

- Germany decided to test the solidity of the Entente Cordiale (between France and Britain)
- *First Moroccan Crisis*  $\Rightarrow$  Germany mobilized his army and France moved the troops in 1906
- Algeciras Conference (1906) was called to settle the dispute. The Germans accepted an agreement where France yielded certain domestic changes in Morocco but retained control of key areas
- *Second Moroccan Crisis*  $\Rightarrow$  Deployment on the German gunboat Panther to the port of Agadir
- Germany accepted France's position in Morocco in return for territory in the French Equatorial African colony of Middle Congo
- France established a protectorate over Morocco in 1912
- This crisis led to Anglo-German estrangement, deepening the divisions, which would culminate in WWI



# Colonialism (1914)





**IMPERIALISM**

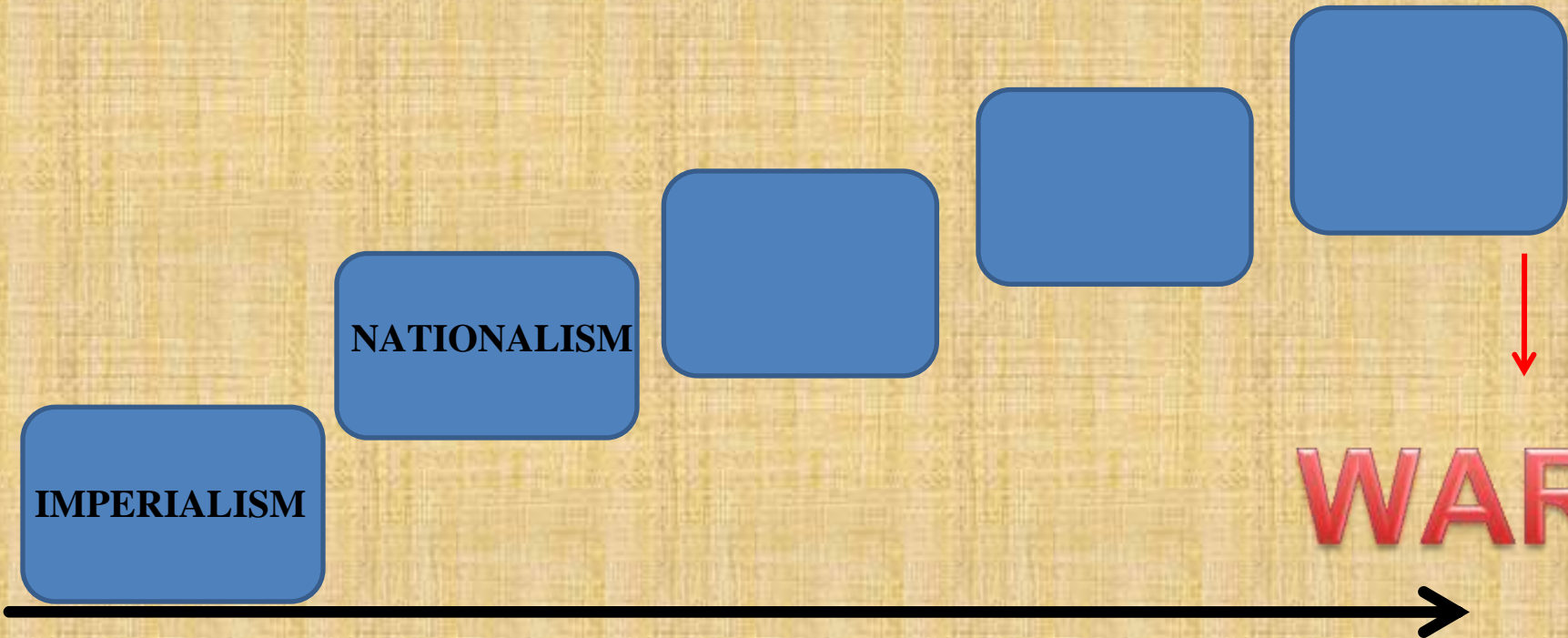
**NATIONALISM**

**WAR**



Around 1900

1914





## 2.NATIONALISM

It was the most successful political force of the 19th century

Two main sources:  
romantic exaltation  
and the liberal requirement that a State can be based on people rather than dynasty

It is the development of imperialism in a capitalistic sense

The early emergence of a patriotic nationalism took place in the mid 18th century and was promoted by national symbols, myths, flags...

A sense of national consciousness exalts one nation above all others



# The Kaiser's excuse

- *"But, you will say, what of the German navy? Surely, that is a menace to England ! Against whom but England are my squadrons being prepared? If England is not in the minds of those Germans who are bent on creating a powerful fleet, why is Germany asked to consent to such new and heavy burdens of taxation? My answer is clear. Germany is a young and growing empire. She has a worldwide commerce which is rapidly expanding, and to which the legitimate ambition of patriotic Germans refuses to assign any bounds. Germany must have a powerful fleet to protect that commerce and her manifold interests in even the most distant seas. She expects those interests to go on growing, and she must be able to champion them manfully in any quarter of the globe. Her horizons stretch far away".  
(Daily Telegraph, October 28, 1908)*



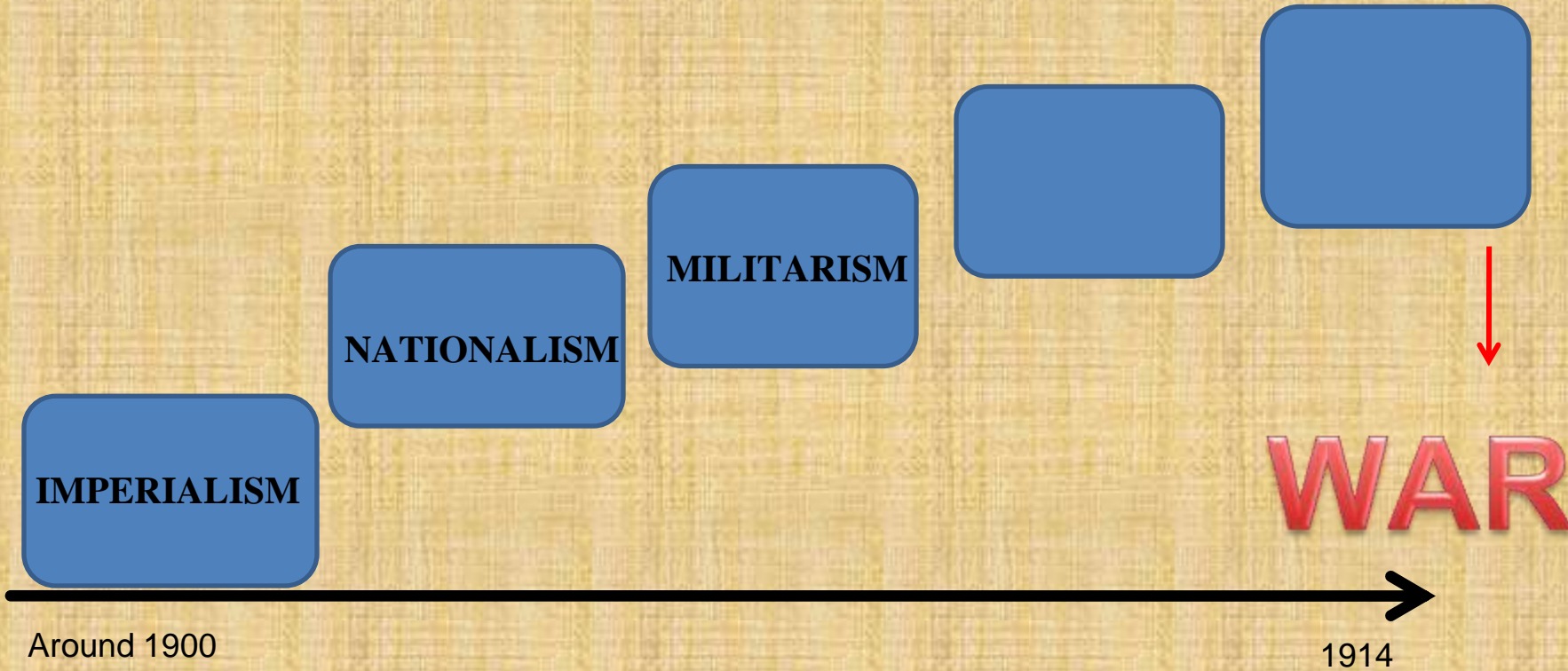
- This article was written in 1908, when the Londoner Newspaper “Daily Telegraph” decided to interview the German Kaiser Wilhelm II.





- Wilhelm had seen the interview as an opportunity to promote his views and ideas concerning the role of Germany in a world politics (Weltpolitik); Germany would become a 'great' among the Greatest such as England and France. German Nationalism led to Imperialism. They both played a substantial role in determining the causes of the war.







# 3. MILITARISM

Militarism denoted a rise in military expenditure, an increase in military and naval forces, more influence of the military men upon the policies of the civilian government, and a preference for force as a solution to problems. Militarism was one of the main causes of the First World War.



Increased military and naval rivalry led not only to the belief that war was closer but also increased cooperation among the military staff of the countries of the same camp. For example, all the Triple Entente powers held secret military talks. The British and the French naval authorities agreed that the French navy should be concentrated in the Mediterranean and the British in the North Sea. Germany and Austria also had military agreements. When the First World War was fought, it was to be fought by all powers because they had made their military plan cooperatively.

As a result of the armaments race, all the European powers were prepared for a war by 1914.





The race was particularly serious between 1900 and 1914, because the international situation became much worse than before. There was a significant rise in the army and naval estimates of the European powers those years.



# An insight of the race to Militarism: The naval race

The Anglo–German naval arms race was one of the several causes for WW I. There were also other naval buildups in several other countries: in the United States and Japan, and in South America.

- The United Kingdom, the largest navy in the world
- Kaiser Wilhelm II's enthusiasm for an expanded German navy;
- Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz: four Fleet Acts between 1898 and 1912, to greatly expand the German High Seas Fleet.
- The German aim was to build a fleet that would be 2/3 the size of the British navy.



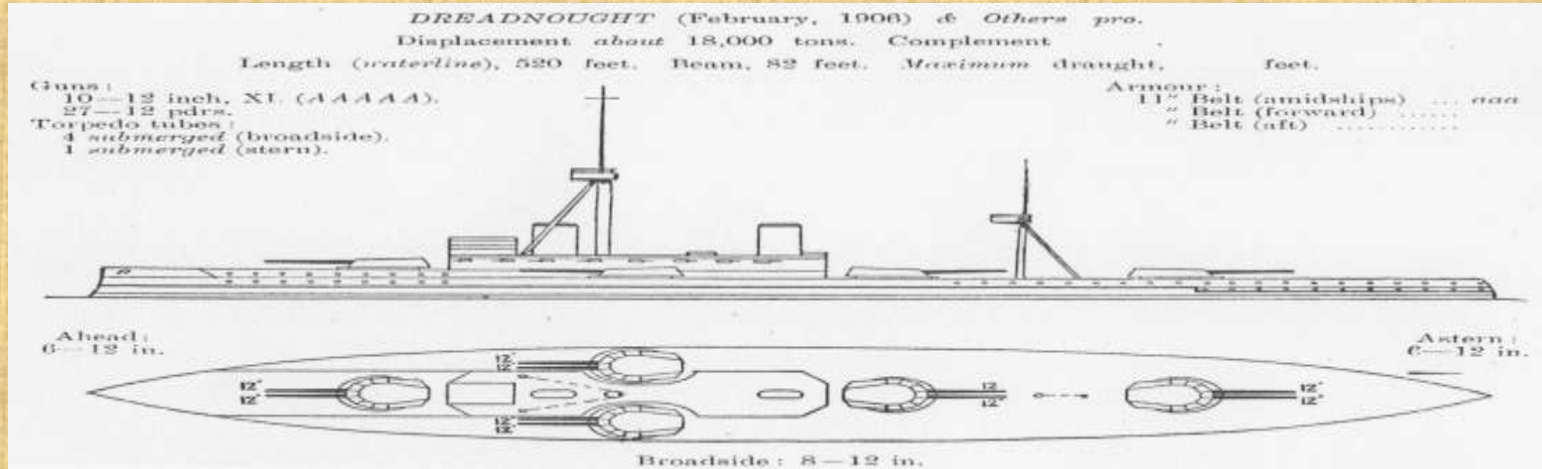
This plan was sparked by the threat of the British Foreign Office in March 1897, after the British invasion of Transvaal that started the Boer War, in order to block the German coast and to cripple the German economy. From 1905 , the British navy developed plans for such a blockade that was a central part of the British strategy.



- The reaction : the British Royal Navy (from 1902 to 1910) embarked on its own massive expansion to keep ahead of the Germans.
- One of Fisher's innovations was the HMS Dreadnought, the world's first battleship with a main armament of a large number of big guns of the same size and the first with turbine engines, launched in 1906



# HMS Dreadnought , at sea 1906



So large and heavily gunned it effectively made all the other battleships obsolete and gave its name to a new class of ship.

All the great naval powers had to supplement their navy with Dreadnought.

It had a stronger construction and armour, it was very strong artillery - main guns were placed in double turrets, which were able to rotate for almost 360 degrees - that gave guns the ability to fire in almost every direction.

Dreadnoughts were so superior to all the other battleships, designed by British sailor, Admiral Fisher





*Turret with twin 12-inch Mk X guns. Two 12-pounder guns for defence against torpedo boats are mounted on the roof.*



*12-pounder guns mounted on 'X' turret; note the sighting hoods on the turret roof.*



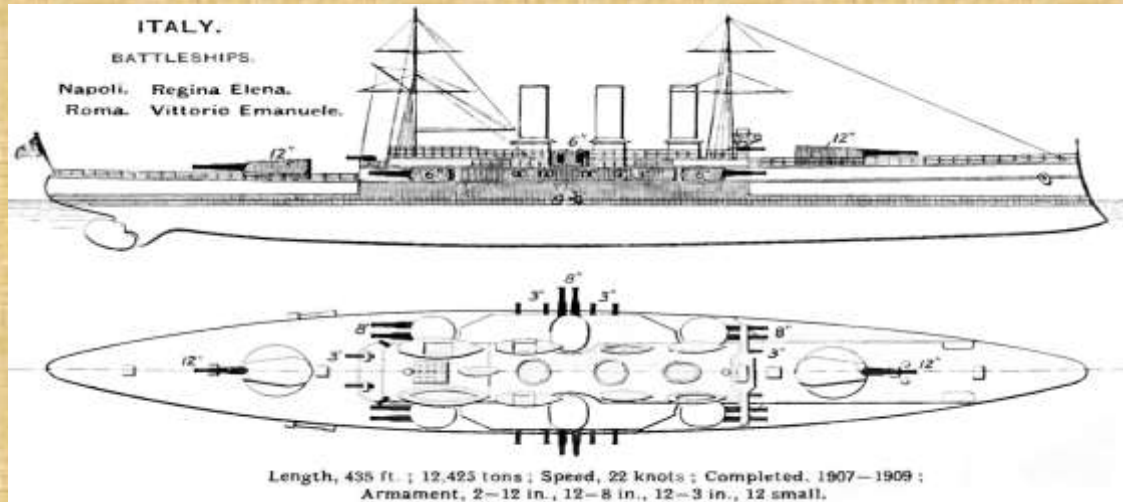
# The big battleships in other countries:

- The USS South Carolina was designed before Dreadnought;
- The Japanese HIMS Satsuma was originally intended to have an all big gun armament;
- Vittorio Cuniberti had published plans for an all big gun battleship. He was an Italian military officer and naval engineer.



# Vittorio Cuniberti:

- A revolutionary warship: the monocaliber battleship.



*Cuniberti's "ideal battleship"*



# The Naval Race

- In the midst of the race, the British public coined the slogan 'We want eight and we won't wait!', referring to the number of dreadnoughts they wanted the government to build.



- It caused suspicion and rivalry between Great Britain and Germany.
- With the surge of public support, the government needed more shipbuilding.
- British defense policy was to ensure that the British navy was at least the size of the next two largest navies;
- Britain managed to build HMS Dreadnought in just 14 months and by the start of the First World War Britain had 49 battleships, compared with Germany's 29;
- It was economically impossible for the Germans to close the gap before the war broke out.
- Britain had to build more ships as they followed the “two power standard”, until 1904;
- The two powers were France and Russia.



# The Naval Race

- In 1912, the German chancellor Bethmann Hollweg ended the naval arms race.
- His aim was to secure an understanding with the British to end the more and more isolated position of Germany.
- The increasing size of the Russian army compelled the Germans to spend more money on their army and therefore less on the navy.
- This initiative led to the Haldane Mission.



# The Naval Race

- Germany proposed a treaty, in which Germany would accept British naval superiority in exchange of a British neutrality in a war, in which Germany could not be said to be the aggressor. BUT



- This proposal was rejected by Britain.
- Considering the Anglo-German arms race both as a direct precursor of the war and as part of a developing Anglo-German antagonism became common in each country.
- Foreign observers, especially the United States, were prone to draw a direct line from the arms race to a war and to view the latter as a product of the pre-war Anglo-German conflict over navies and empire.



# Who was Alfred Von Tirpitz?

(born 1849, Küstrin, Prussia—died 1930, Ebenhausen, near Munich)

- German admiral, the chief builder of the German Navy in the 17 years preceding World War I; he was the son of a Prussian civil servant.
- A dominant personality of Emperor William II's reign.
- He was ennobled in 1900 and attained the rank of Admiral in 1903 and that of Grand Admiral in 1911. He retired in 1916.
- In 1898 Tirpitz introduced the First Fleet Act, for the reorganization of Germany's sea power.
- He launched the Dreadnought (1906) in an effort to score an important technical advantage by constructing oversized capital ships.
- As a modern naval officer he possessed a sound knowledge of the world, a dedicated mind, and an active interest in technology ; he was also a brilliant organizer;
- With the largest German navy, Tirpitz forged an efficient military weapon that did not see the action for which it was intended in the war and finally collapsed from within.





**IMPERIALISM**

**NATIONALISM**

**MILITARISM**

**ALLIANCES**

Around 1900

1914

**WAR**





# 4. ALLIANCES

- All the major powers were linked by a system of alliances
- If one power was attacked, allied countries were bound to defend it
- This system made the war easier to spread throughout the continent





# THE ALLIANCE SYSTEM

1. The Triple Alliance (also called Central powers) signed in 1884, by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.
2. The Entente Cordiale signed by France and Great Britain in 1904
3. The Triple Entente formed in 1907, among France, Russian Empire and British Empire.





# THE ALLIANCE SYSTEM

- Bismark wanted to protect Austria-Hungary from a possible Russian aggression

↓  
humiliated at the Congress of Berlin  
could make an alliance with France

- Relations between  Russia  
Austria-Hungary are the result of Russian attack to  
Turkey and imposition of the Treaty  
of Santo Stefano

- In protecting Austria-Hungary from Russia, Germany was looking out for her own interest because if Austria-Hungary was ever to fall, then Russia would be at the German door



The two nations ( Austria-Hungary and Germany) signed the **Dual Alliance** in 1879

Was an actual defensive alliance on the part of Germany

Will last until the end of First World War (1918)

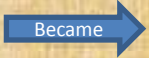
Support in case of a Russian attack even if one of the nations was bound to Russia by any other treaty

neutrality in case of aggression by any other power





In 1882 Italy (with Depretis) joined the alliance

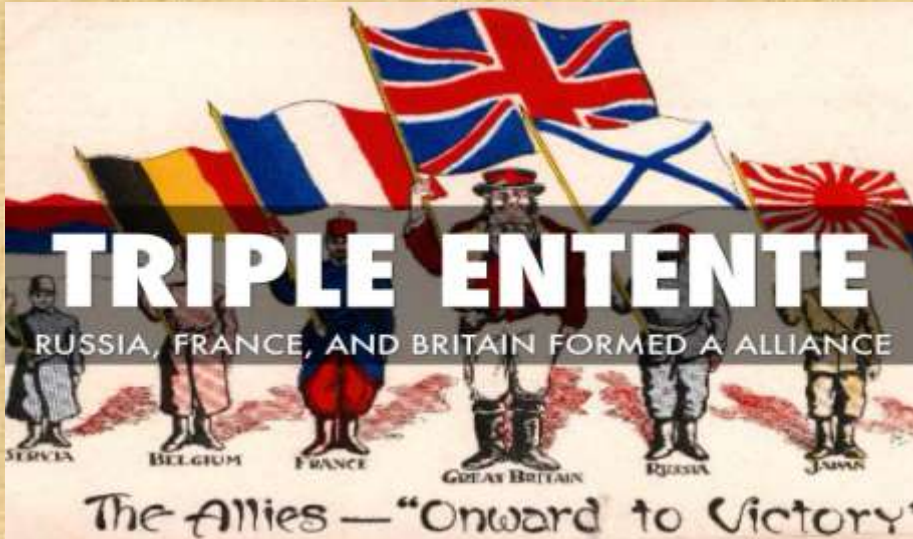
Dual Alliance  Triple Alliance

Austria was a «historical» enemy of Italy

It was a difficult decision because:

In Austria there were some areas where Italian people used to live:

- Trieste
- Trento





# Why did Italy decide to join the Alliance?

- France in 1881 invaded Tunisi .  
Italy considered it under its control because of the economic relation between Sicily and North Africa
- The German Empire, at that time, had a bad relation with France so, the alliance was convenient for both nations (France and Germany)
- The Alliance established that, in case of attack by any other country, each member helped the others



French invasion of Tunisi



# The Treaty was periodically renewed until World War I but:





# And then... the Reinsurance Treaty (1887)

- A secret agreement between Germany and Russia arranged by Otto Von Bismarck
- The Treaty provided that each party would remain neutral if the other became involved in a war with a third great power and that this would not apply if Germany attacked France or if Russia attacked Austria
- Germany declared herself neutral in the event of a Russian intervention to open
  - Bosphorus
  - Dardanelles



# The Treaty of Saint Stefano

The Treaty of Saint Stefano (March 3, 1878) is a peace settlement imposed on the Ottoman government by Russia at the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78; it provided for a new disposition of the European provinces of the Ottoman Empire that would have ended any effective Turkish control over the Balkans if its provisions had not later been modified. Its most important provision established an independent Bulgarian principality, which included most of Macedonia and extended to the Danube and from the Aegean to the Black Sea. The independence of Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania was recognized. The boundaries of Serbia and Montenegro were extended so as to be contiguous, while Romania was compelled to cede southern Bessarabia to Russia, receiving the Dobrudja from Turkey in exchange. Bosnia-Herzegovina was to be autonomous. Parts of Asiatic Turkey were ceded to Russia, and the Ottoman sultan gave guarantees for the security of his Christian subjects.



# The Congress of Berlin

- Congress of Berlin, (June 13–July 13, 1878), a diplomatic meeting of the major European powers at which the Treaty of Berlin replaced the Treaty of Saint Stefano, which had been signed by Russia and Turkey (March 3, 1878) at the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–78. Officially convoked by the Austrian foreign minister, Count Gyula Andrassy, the congress met in Berlin on June 13th.
- Dominated by the German chancellor Otto von Bismarck, the Congress solved an international crisis linked to the treaty by revising the peace settlement to satisfy the interests of Great Britain (by denying Russia to extend its naval power and by maintaining the Ottoman Empire as a European power) and to satisfy the interests of Austria-Hungary (by allowing it to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina and thereby to increase its influence in the Balkans). In acting so, however, the Congress left Russia humiliated by substantially reducing the gains that it had made under the Saint Stefano treaty. Furthermore, the Congress failed to consider adequately the aspirations of the Balkan peoples themselves and, thereby, laid the foundation for future crises in the Balkans.



**IMPERIALISM**

**NATIONALISM**

**MILITARISM**

**ALLIANCES**

**FRANZ  
FERDINAND'S  
ASSASSINATION**



**WAR**

Around 1900

1914



# 5. THE SPARK OF THE WAR

## *Murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand*





U.S.A.  
Space, future and occupation

GREAT BRITAIN  
Competitiveness in sport

The France Revolution had inspired  
the people all over Europe. It  
spread the ideas of liberty, equality  
and nationalism

ITALY AND FRANCE  
Exaltation of historical records

GERMANY  
Pre-history with religious and mystic  
themes



# Franz Ferdinand's Assassination

## Previously

Archduke Franz Ferdinand  
left Vienna to attend army in  
Bosnia

## Where

In Sarajevo

## When

June 28th 1914





# What happened?

- The heir of the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, Sophie, were shot by Gavrilo Princip, member of a group of six assassins coordinated by Danilo Ilic.

OBJECTIVE OF  
THE  
ASSASSINATION



It was to break of Austria-Hungaric  
South Slav provinces so they could be  
combined into Yugoslavia



- It immediately appeared that the press and public opinion attributed the responsibility to the Serbian Government, which was accused of encouraging a revolution.



Gavrilo Princip

When he killed the Archduke, he was only twenty and he was the only one who hadn't been condemned to death due to his age.



# Black hand



- It was a secret military society formed in 1911 by officers in the Army of the Kingdom of Serbia
- This society used terrorist methods to promote the liberation of Serbs
- It was formed by Dragutin Dimitrijevic, better known as Apis



- Operating from Belgrade, it organized armed bands in Macedonia
- It became so powerful that its authority challenged that of the government. In order to eliminate the Black Hand, **Prince Alexander** brought their leaders to trial on dubious charges at Salonika in 1917; Dimitrijevic and two others were executed.





# The July Crisis

- After the assassination, a series of diplomatic maneuverings led to an *ultimatum* from Austria-Hungary to the kingdom of Serbia



A diplomatic crisis among the major powers of Europe, in the summer of 1914



The intent to take control of the Bosnian Serbs was meant to be achieved through diplomacy or by a war if they had rejected the *ultimatum*



## *REACTIONS TO THE MURDER:*

Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbian Government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the question of Slave nationalism once and for all

As Russia supported Serbia an Austro-Hungarian declaration of war was delayed until its leaders received assurances from German leader Wilhelm that Germany would support their cause in the event of a Russian intervention

On July 28th Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Within a week Russia, Belgium, Great Britain, France and Serbia had lined up against Austria-Hungary and Germany.  
*World War I had begun.*



**Key**

- Neutral Powers
- Central Powers
- Allied Powers



**EUROPE, 1914**

SCALE OF DISTANCE  
 0 100 200 300 400 500  
 Kilometers  
 0 100 200 300 400 500  
 Miles

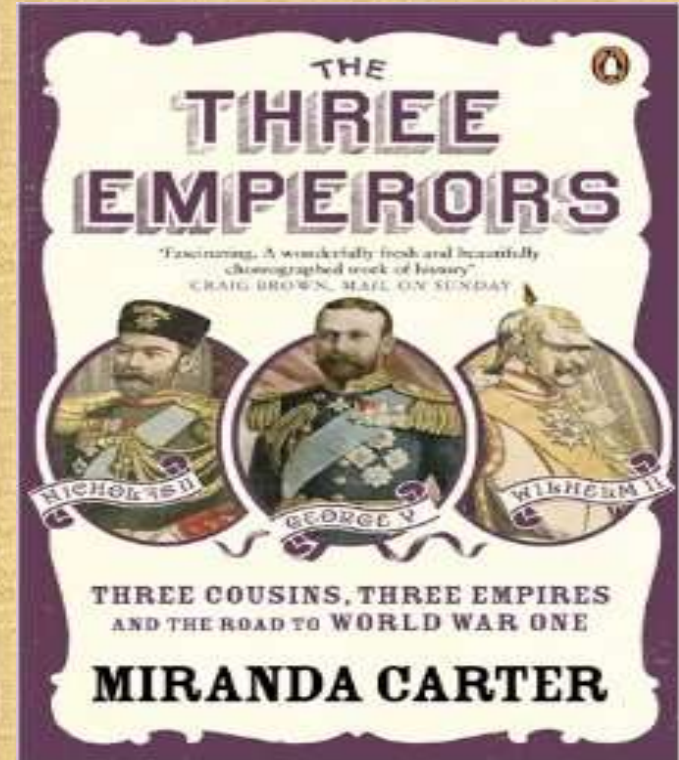
Compass rose showing North (N), South (S), East (E), and West (W).



# A FURTHER CAUSE OF WWI, THE BALKANIC WAR

The Ottoman Empire collapses

- Bismark wanted France to be isolated.
- He created the League of the Three Emperors (1873).





# Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire.



## CAUSES:

- Russia wanted the Slavic population to be independent



## CONSEQUENCES:

- Treaty of Saint Stefano (1878).
- Independence of Serbia, Montenegro and Romania (Moldavia e Valacchia).



- Bismark decided to meet the other countries of Europe in Berlin (Conference of Berlin 1878)



- The creation of a balanced power among the great countries of Europe;
- To reach this goal, they had to;
- create the independent principedom of Bulgary.
- Bosnia-Erzegovina had to become a protectorate of Austria-Hungary.
- the Ottoman Empire had to give Cipro to England.



- The First Balcanic War broke out in 1912.



**CAUSE:**

The states involved  
(Bulgary, Montenegro,  
Serbia and Greece)  
wanted to defeat the  
Ottoman Empire.



**CONSEQUENCE:**

The creation of an  
independent  
Albania.



- The Second Balcanic War broke out in 1913.



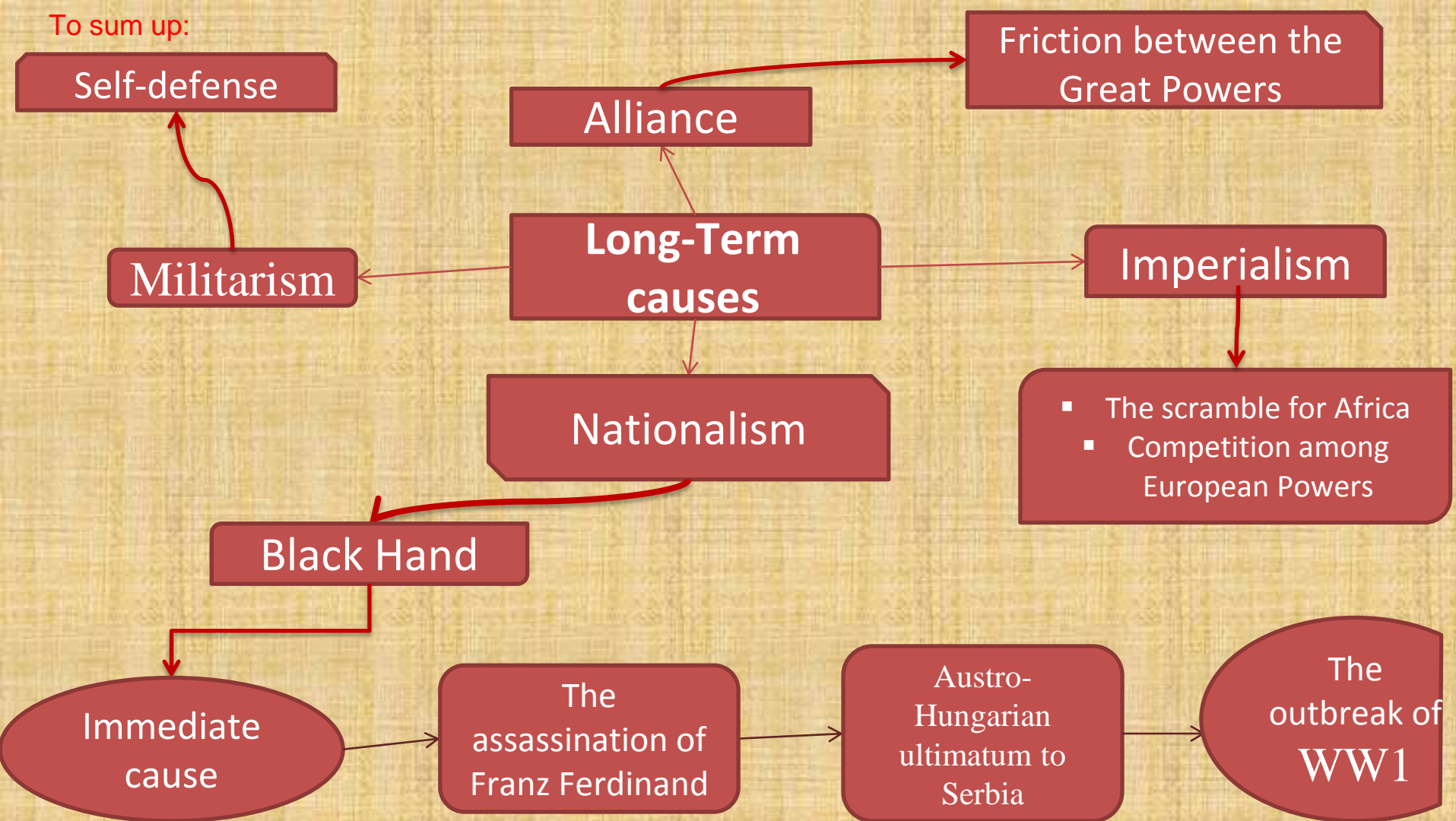
CAUSE:  
Bulgarian attack  
of Greece and  
Serbia.



CONSEQUENCE:  
Pact of Bucarest  
(1913)



To sum up:





# THE OUTBREAK OF THE 'EUROPEAN WAR'

The origins of the First World War were in Europe, where we can distinguish the **Western Front** (Belgium and France), the **Eastern Front** (the current lands of Poland, Romania and Ukraine), the Balkans and Italy (**South Front**).

The remaining theatres of war were in Asia, Africa and Australasia.

The **Western Front** was the main theatre of the war.

Between 1915 and 1917 there were several major offensives along this front.

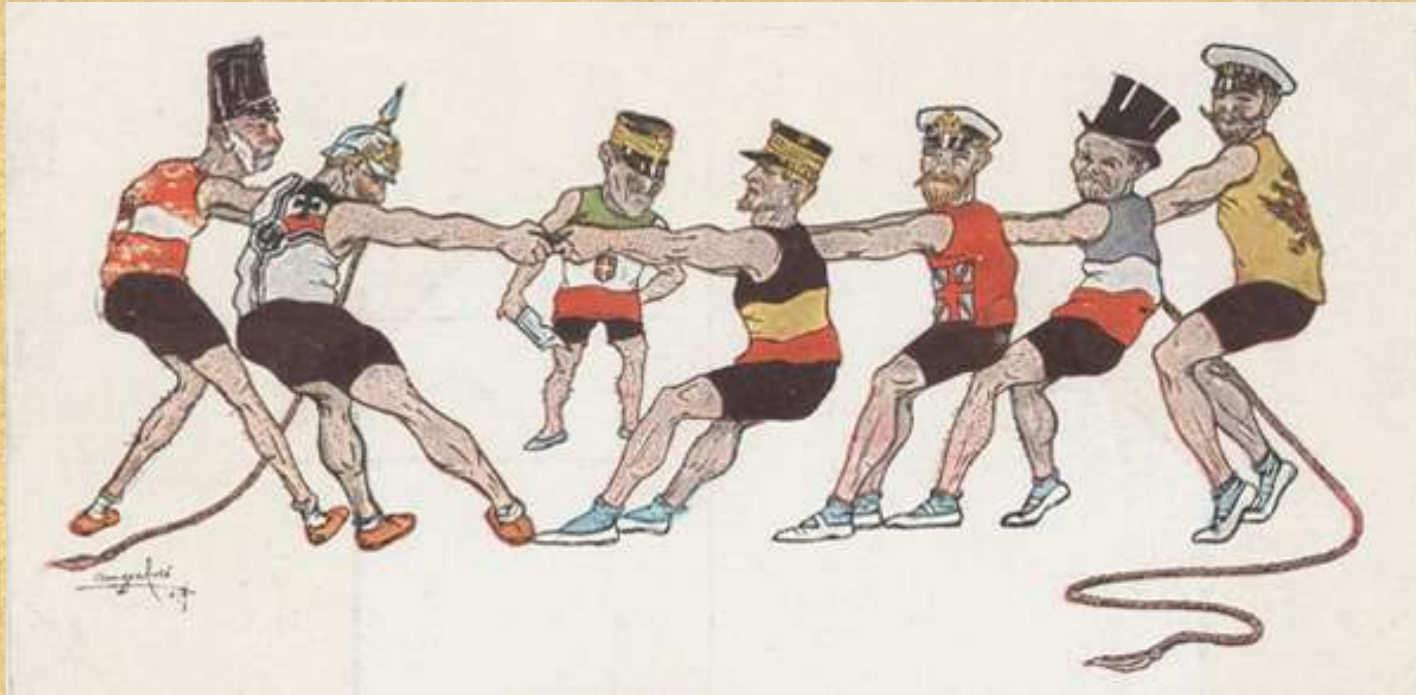
In an effort to break the deadlock, this front saw the introduction of new military technology, including poison gas, aircraft and tanks. But it was only after the adoption of improved tactics that some degree of mobility was restored.



THE MAIN EVENTS	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHY
	JULY 28	Austria-Hungary	Rejected the Serbian reply and declared war on Serbia	She feared Serbian indipendence
	30 JULY	Russia	Ordered general mobilization of her troops	She wanted to support Serbia
	1 AUGUST	Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declared war on Russia</li> <li>- Invaded Poland and Luxemburg</li> <li>- Signed a secret alliance treaty with the Ottoman Empire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russia was mobilizing against Austria-Hungary, Germany's ally</li> <li>- She wanted to outflank Russia and France</li> <li>- She needed military support in the Balkans from the south</li> </ul>
	.....	France	Ordered general mobilization	She feared a sudden German invasion and hoped to regain Alsace and Lorraine
	2-3 AUGUST	Germany	Issued an ultimatum to Belgium declared war on France	She wanted to move troops through the Belgian territory. To secure her Western Border from attacks
	3 AUGUST	Italy	Proclaimed her neutrality	She was supposed to side with the Central Powers only if they had been attacked
	4 AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Germany</li> <li>- Great Britain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Declared war on Belgium and invaded it</li> <li>-Declared war on Germany</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Belgium had refused let the Germany army pass through towards France</li> <li>-Germany had violated Belgium's neutrality, guaranteed by the treaty of London (1839)</li> </ul>
	6 AUGUST	Austria-Hungary	Declared war on Russia	Germany, her own allied had declared war on Russia



# TUG OF WAR



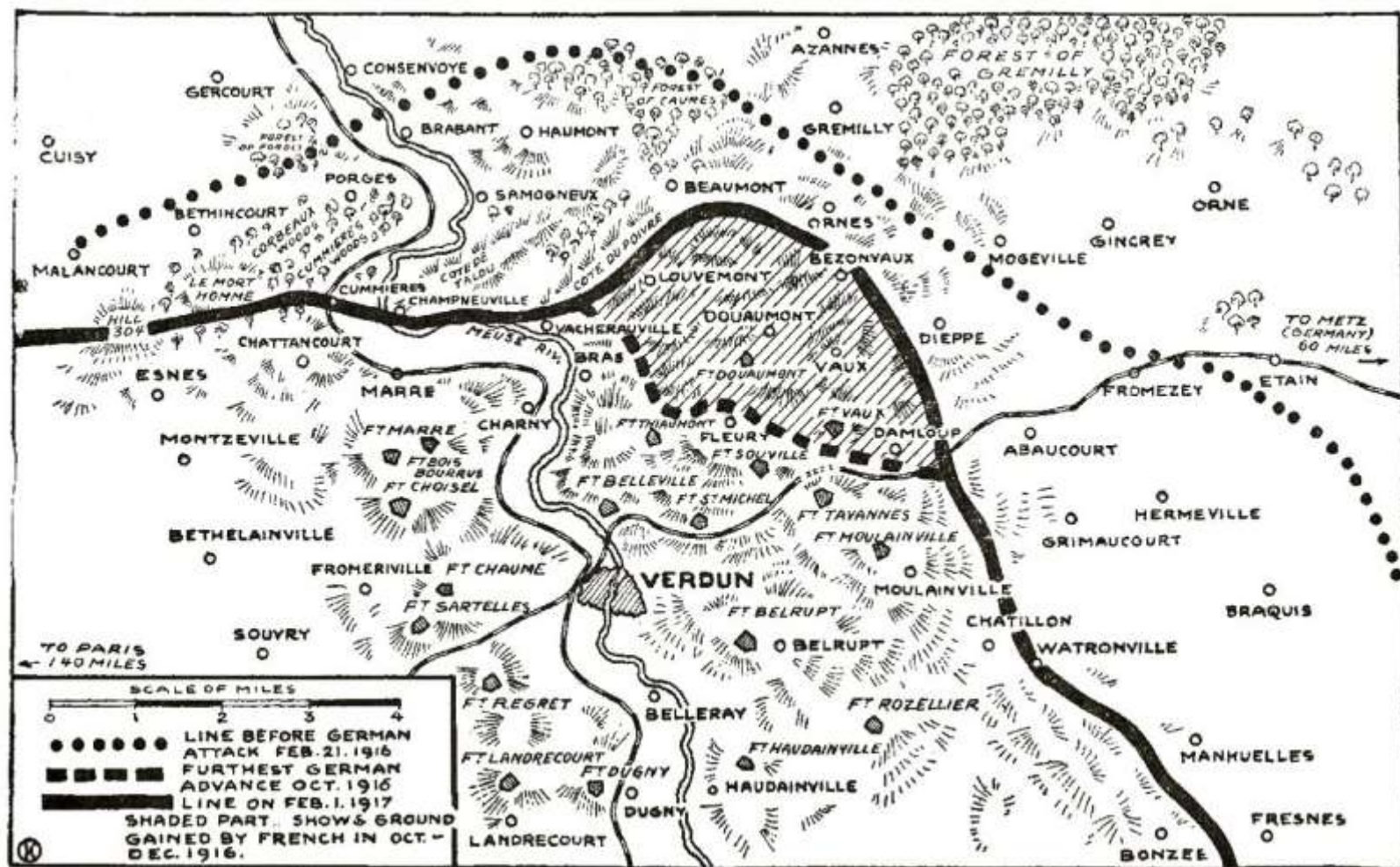


A black and white photograph of World War I soldiers in a trench. Two soldiers are visible: one in the foreground, seen from the back, and another further back, looking towards the camera. They are wearing helmets and military uniforms. The trench is filled with debris and barbed wire. The background shows a hilly landscape under a cloudy sky.

# THE BATTLE OF VERDUN

FEBRUARY 21 – DECEMBER 16, 1916







The Battle of Verdun, fought from **February 21st** to **December 18<sup>th</sup> 1916**, was one of the biggest battles of the First World War on the Western Front between the **German** and **French** armies.

The impact of the battle on the French Army was a primary reason for the British starting the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 in an effort to take German pressure off of the French at Verdun.

It was to make **General Philippe Pétain** a hero in France.

#### FOCUS LANGUAGE

**Philippe Pétain**, French general who was a national hero for his victory at the Battle of Verdun in World War I but was discredited as Chief of State of the French government at Vichy in World War II. He died under sentence in a prison fortress.





## The attack of Verdun

by the German Chief of General Staff, Von Falkenhayn, a massive attack on a narrow stretch of land, Verdun

Falkenhayn believed that the French could not allow these forts to fall as the national humiliation would have been a success for Germany.

He believed that the French would lose many men and the battle would change the course of the war.







The battlefield in 2005

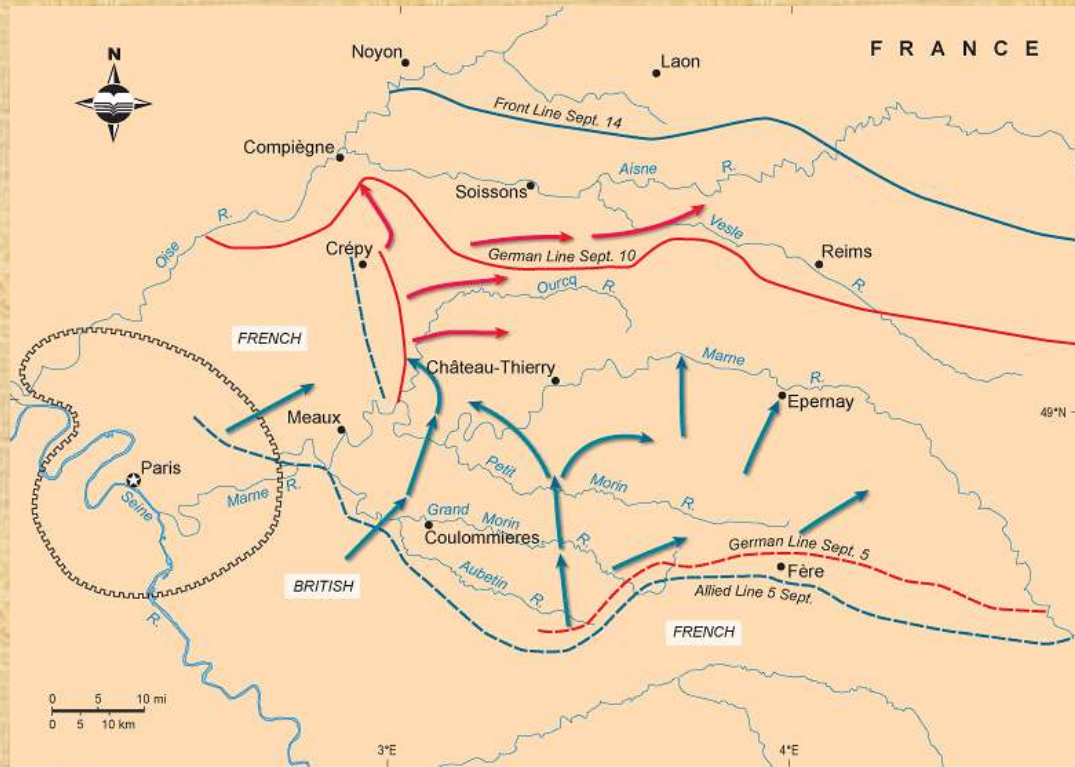


# THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE

There were two major battles fought by the Marne River near Paris, France. The first battle was fought in 1914 between **September 5th** and **12th**. (*The Second Battle of the Marne was fought four years later in 1918 between July 15th and August 6th.*)

**1st Battle:  
Germany  
Vs  
France and  
Britain**

The French were led by General **Joseph Joffre** and the British by General **John French**.



September 6-12, 1914

→ German movement

→ Allied movement

~~~~~ Paris defensive belt



## Leading up to the Battle

World War I had begun about one month before the battle. During that time, Germany had been winning many of the battles. They had advanced through Belgium and were marching through France.

The German attack was all part of a war strategy called the **Schlieffen Plan**. Germany hoped to conquer France and Western Europe before the Russians could attack from the east. This way Germany would only have to fight on one front at a time.

As the Germans approached Paris, the Allies of Britain and France decided to give an effort to stop the Germany army. This fight is known as the First Battle of the Marne.



### FOCUS LANGUAGE

Alfred von Schlieffen was a Germany Army Chief of Staff. In 1905 he was asked to devise a plan to prevent a war on two fronts.

In 1906 General Von Moltke made some changes to the plan, excluding the invasion of Holland.





# The Battle

It was French General Joseph Joffre who decided that it was time for the Allies to counterattack the Germans. Although British men were too tired to attack, the British war minister, Lord Kitchener, convinced them to join General Joffre in the attack.

A large gap grew between the First and Second German armies. The Allies charged the two armies splitting the German forces and confusing them.

After a few days of fighting, the Germans were forced to retreat.





# Results

The Allies had around 263,000 soldiers wounded including 81,000 who later died. Around 220,000 Germans were injured or killed.

However , the battle was considered a great victory for the Allies.





# THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The Battle of the Somme started on **July 1st 1916**. It lasted until **November 1916** and it **was fought near the Somme River in France**. For many people, it symbolized the horrors of warfare.

**Douglas Haig was the responsible and was very criticized**. This criticism was based on the appalling casualty figures suffered by the British and the French.

By the end of the battle, the British Army had suffered 420,000 casualties including nearly 60,000 on the first day alone. The French lost 200,000 men and the Germans nearly 500,000.

## FOCUS LANGUAGE

Douglas Haig was Britain's commander-in-chief during the Somme battle and took much criticism for the sheer loss of life in this battle.



Source:

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-the-somme>





# Why was the battle fought?

For a number of months the French had been taking severe losses at Verdun – to the east of Paris. To relieve the French, the Allied High Command decided to attack the Germans to the north of Verdun requiring the Germans to move some of their men away from the Verdun battlefield, thus relieving the French.

The battle at the Somme started with a weeklong artillery bombardment of the German lines. 1,738,000 shells were fired at the Germans. The logic behind this was that the artillery guns would destroy the German trenches and barbed wire placed in front of the trenches.





The Germans had deep dugouts for their men and when the bombardment started, they moved their men into the relative safety of the deep dugouts. When the bombardment stopped, the Germans would have known that this would have been the beginning of an infantry advance; so they manned their machine guns to face the British and French.

In November 1916, the British had lost 420,000, the French lost nearly 200,000 men and the Germans 500,000.





# Italy enters the War

## ITALY IN WORLD WAR ONE

MORE PROBLEMS THAN BENEFITS?



- In 1915 Italy was the least densely populated neutral nation in Europe and the army was sizeable. For its strategic value, nations like Britain, France and Russia wanted to bring Italy into war on their side. The Italian Prime Minister Salandra and his Foreign Minister Sonnino began to negotiate with the Allies (France, Great Britain and Russia) and the Central Powers (German Empire and Austro-Hungarian Empire).







- Because of the Italian policy of “sacred egoism” Churchill described Italy as “the Harlot of Europe”. At a secret meeting held in London on 26th April 1915, Italy and the Allies signed the Treaty of London. The Allies promised to Italy some territories such as Trento, Trieste, Dalmatia, Albania and some colonies in Africa while Great Britain received £50 millions.





- The anti-war demonstrations held on the Radiant May Days put pressure on Italy. For this reason Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary on May 23rd 1915.
- Italy did not declare war on the German Empire until August 28th 1916.





# The Caporetto Tragedy

- The defeat of Caporetto brought shame and humiliation to Italy but had also significant effects on the subsequent developments on the Italian front.
- Caporetto was supposed to be securely protected but something was wrong and the disaster came.  
First of all, the soldiers in all that region were tired. They had fought with infinite courage, also giving up their lives.
- The news of the breaking-up in Russia, followed by the cessation of the hostilities, had a repercussion in certain localities in Italy where the socialist Peace propaganda fell on ears prepared to accept it.
- In August a strike was ordered in Turin.
- A large number of those engaged in the movement were sent to the Caporetto sector to be taught a lesson.





- The Germans reinforced the Austrians with a number of Divisions and aided them with the new tactics and methods.
- The Italians were deceived by a stratagem that the first enemy units were bent on friendly fraternization. It was reported that the officers of the Austrian Army were from the Irredentist region and spoke Italian.
- When Italy awoke, she applied in an effort to extricate herself from the slough into which she had been and succeeded.
- At least, eventually, peace was fastened by Austria's collapse under the final assault.



# The USA

- The Usa entered World War I in April 1917.
- They produced many more propaganda posters than any other nation at war but the Americans were not eager to enter the war.
- The government needed first of all to convince citizens to support the war effort without reservation
- In 1917 the government decided to rely primarily on conscription rather than voluntary enlistment.
- The government also shut down newspapers and magazines publishing articles against the war.



- One of the most popular posters portrayed an authoritative Uncle Sam exclaiming “I Want You for the U.S. Army”.





- The U.S. government introduced posters encouraging people to reduce waste and grow their own vegetables in “victory gardens”.
- They were found at private residences and public parks also in the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany.
- Alcohol consumption was banned in the USA because it was made of fermented grain, which was needed to feed the soldiers in Europe.



# WILSON'S WAR MESSAGE

- On April 2, 1917 Wilson addressed the Congress to declare war.
- It began with the Germans' use of unrestricted submarine warfare. On May 7th, 1915 a German submarine (u-boat) sank the British cruise ship Lusitania. 1,198 people were killed, including 128 Americans. Attacks continued and the US got involved.





# THE RHETORIC OF THE WAR MESSAGE

- “Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its peoples, and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic governments backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the will of their people.”
- War is justified by the idea that peace is better than war and freedom is a natural value of all the people.



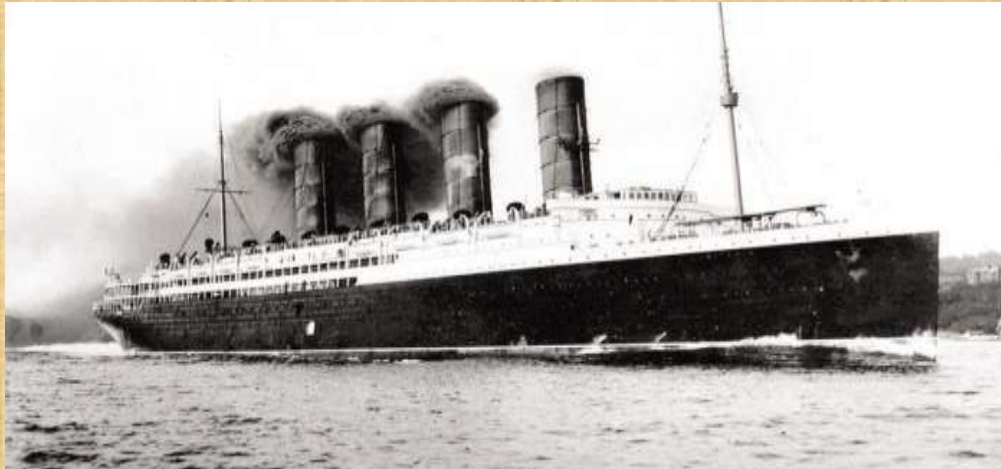
# THE WAR AT SEA

- In 1914, the sea was essential for trade and communication.
- For this reason protecting their own sea lanes was a fundamental part of each side's war effort.
- At the beginning of the war, Britain decided to establish a blockade of Germany and her allies by sea, in order to restrict the maritime supply of communication and of war material.
- The Central Powers (Germany) tried to break the blockade or to blockade Britain and France by attacking and sinking Allied merchant shipping vessels with German submarines.
- Germany's unrestricted submarine and the sinking of the American ship Lusitania, helped lead the USA into the war in April 1917.

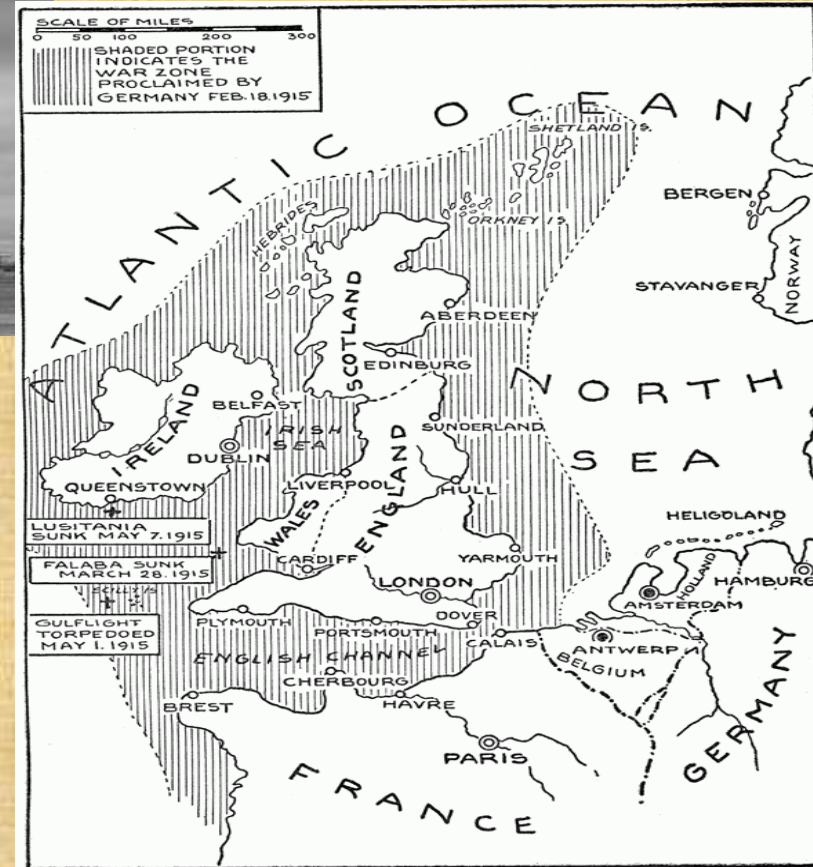




German submarine



Lusitania





# Did the blockade starve Germany and the other Central Powers into defeat in 1918?

- Most historians state that the “hunger blockade” contributed greatly to the outcome of the WWI. However, it has recently been argued that this common assumption is wrong. According to the revisionists, the German people often went hungry as a result of the blockade, but few actually starved to death.
- Meanwhile some food was smuggled into Germany through Italy, Switzerland, and Adriatic ports.
- These shortages caused riots not only in Germany but also in Wien and Budapest. In 1917, after Russia was out of the war, Germany could access the resources of Poland and other eastern territories.





# THE USA ENTER THE WAR

- Neutrality was America's initial response to the outbreak of WWI. Wilson, the President of the USA at that time, wanted to keep the United States out of the war. He hoped that the war would show the futility of imperialism and would promote a world of free trade in products and ideas.
- At the beginning Wilson traded with both the Allies and Central Powers. Yet, neutral trade became impossible when Britain established the illicit naval blockade of Germany and began seizing American ships.
- Wilson accepted the British blockade even if he forgot his idealist belief. On the contrary he reacted to the German unrestricted warfare that broke the international law.
- All these things led the USA into the war.



# THE DAILY MISSOURIAN

NUMBER 104

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1917.

NUMBER 104

## U.S. OFFICIALLY AT WAR

### WILSON TELLS PLANS FOR RAISING ARMIES

Approves of Conscription of 18-Year Males in Addition to Regulars

### AGE LIMIT IS 19 TO 25

Declining to Be Practical in National Guard in Volunteering Fash.

Mr. Wilson today said in a brief statement that he approved of the President's plan for raising the National Guard and other volunteer forces to be used in connection with the war effort and that he would support the plan.

The statement followed the plan which the military committee of the Senate and House have adopted here.

It is proposed to send the soldiers for the emergency now by bringing the regular army and volunteer forces up to their full war strength and adding the additional forces by selective conscription. The first increment of soldiers to be called by the conscription act will be selected immediately and other increments called as rapidly as officers can be obtained to train the men in arms. The act will be passed.

### THE WEATHER

Forecast for Friday, April 6, 1917. Partly cloudy, with light rain in the morning and evening. Temperature 60 to 70.

Forecast for Saturday, April 7, 1917. Partly cloudy, with light rain in the morning and evening. Temperature 60 to 70.

Forecast for Sunday, April 8, 1917. Partly cloudy, with light rain in the morning and evening. Temperature 60 to 70.

Forecast for Monday, April 9, 1917. Partly cloudy, with light rain in the morning and evening. Temperature 60 to 70.

Forecast for Tuesday, April 10, 1917. Partly cloudy, with light rain in the morning and evening. Temperature 60 to 70.

### GUARDS TO MOBILIZE AT NEVADA IN WEEK

Inspector of Company F Says Fourth Missouri Infantry Will Be Called.

### 75 RECRUITS NEEDED

Local Unit Will Probably Take Members From Other Cities.

The mobilization of the Fourth Missouri Infantry at Nevada in a week will take place at Nevada, the first of next week. The unit will be called to mobilize at Nevada in a week.

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### DRAFTING OF ARMY TO AFFECT STUDENTS

Large Per Cent Come With in Age Limits—Many Have Had Experience.

### MUST BE EXAMINED

Returning Will Be Given Big of Test and Army Ignorance Maintained.

The selective conscription act will affect students in the University of Missouri. The act will affect students in the University of Missouri.

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### WILSON SIGNS RESOLUTION AT 1:13 O'CLOCK TODAY

Four Missouri Representatives Vote "No" When House Passes Act

373 to 50—First War Measures Total \$164,000,000—Conscription Plans Call for 2,000,000 Men.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—The general declaration of war between the United States and Germany was signed by President Wilson at 1:13 this afternoon. At exactly that time President Wilson signed the joint resolution passed by the House and Senate declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

An hour before, the resolution was signed by Vice-President Marshall in the Senate at 12:13.

The resolution contained the following provisions: That the President be and he is authorized to take such measures as he may deem necessary to enforce the laws of the United States in relation to the war.

### BULLETIN

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By agreement of the House and Senate, the resolution was passed by a vote of 373 to 50.



## NEW YORK JOURNAL



House by a Vote of 373 to 50 Passes Joint Resolution

# WAR IS DECLARED BY U. S.



# IDEALISM, NATIONALISM AND CULTURAL FACTORS.

- For many Americans the war was a remote ideal and they were enthusiastic about beginning a new adventure.
- They believed in the romantic and noble purpose of the war as a struggle for honour and glory. They only remembered heroic triumphs rather than horrors.
- Hundreds volunteered to join ambulance units.
- However, most Americans were not so eager to enter the war.





# POLITICAL REASONS FOR THE USA

- Wilson was re-elected in 1916. He outlined a plan for "peace without victory" but Germany thought they could win the war and rejected Wilson's attempt to negotiate.
- On February 3, 1917, President Wilson addressed the Congress to announce that diplomatic relations with Germany were severed.
- He delivered a message to the Congress in which he explained the political reasons urging the U.S. into the war. The Congress then passed the War Resolution and the U.S.A. entered the Great War.



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Class of Service |  |
| Day Letter       |  |
| Night Letter     |  |
| Day Telegram     |  |
| Night Telegram   |  |
| Day Cable        |  |
| Night Cable      |  |
| Day Radio        |  |
| Night Radio      |  |

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

|      |
|------|
| MC   |
| 3370 |

Send the following telegram, subject to the rate and back charges, which will be applied to:

via Galveston

JAN 19 1917

## GERMAN LEGATIONS MEXICO CITY

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 130   | 13042 | 13401 | 8501  | 115   | 3528  | 418   | 17214 | 8491  | 11310 |
| 18147 | 18222 | 21560 | 10247 | 11518 | 23677 | 13805 | 3494  | 14936 |       |
| 98092 | 5905  | 11311 | 10792 | 10371 | 0302  | 21290 | 5161  | 39695 |       |
| 23071 | 17504 | 11269 | 18278 | 18101 | 0317  | 0228  | 17094 | 4473  |       |
| 23284 | 21200 | 19452 | 21589 | 87893 | 5689  | 13918 | 8958  | 12137 |       |
| 1333  | 4725  | 4458  | 5905  | 17105 | 13851 | 4458  | 17149 | 14471 | 6706  |
| 13850 | 12224 | 6929  | 14991 | 7382  | 15857 | 67893 | 14218 | 36477 |       |
| 5870  | 17553 | 67892 | 5870  | 5454  | 16102 | 15217 | 22801 | 17138 |       |
| 21001 | 17388 | 7416  | 23638 | 18222 | 6719  | 14331 | 15021 | 23845 |       |
| 3106  | 22552 | 20098 | 21004 | 4797  | 9497  | 22471 | 20855 | 4377  |       |
| 23410 | 18140 | 22290 | 5905  | 13347 | 20420 | 39689 | 13732 | 20687 |       |
| 6929  | 5275  | 18507 | 52292 | 1340  | 22049 | 13339 | 11265 | 22295 |       |
| 10439 | 14814 | 4178  | 6992  | 8784  | 7832  | 7357  | 6926  | 52282 | 11267 |
| 21100 | 41272 | 9346  | 9559  | 22474 | 15074 | 18502 | 18500 | 15857 |       |
| 2184  | 5378  | 7381  | 98092 | 17127 | 13488 | 9350  | 9280  | 76036 | 14219 |
| 5144  | 2831  | 17920 | 11347 | 17142 | 11264 | 7667  | 7762  | 13099 | 9110  |
| 10482 | 97558 | 3569  | 3670  |       |       |       |       |       |       |

REP:STOPFF.

Charge German Embassy.

# WAKE UP, AMERICA!



## CIVILIZATION CALLS EVERY MAN WOMAN AND CHILD!

MAYORS COMMITTEE 50 EAST 42<sup>ND</sup> ST



## The Forgotten Balkan Front

Although World War I was sparked by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Bosnian-Serb student Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, Bosnia in the Balkans and the Allies had their first success against the Central Powers in the Balkans, their fighting in the region of south-eastern Europe is not known.



WW1: Picture of Serbian infantry waiting for battle



# 1914

On July 28th, Austria-Hungary declared war against Serbia and started shelling its capital, Belgrade, on Serbia's northern border with Austria the next day. The Austrians numbered about 270,000 men while the Serbs fielded about 180,000, though many were battle-hardened from the Balkan Wars. From August to December, the Austrians launched three offensives against the Serbs and, though the Serbs had to retreat from Belgrade, they managed to push the invaders back and regained their capital. By the end of the year, the Austrians were back in their own territory.



WW1: Austria-Hungarian soldiers executing Serbs



# 1915

Later in 1915, Germany convinced Bulgaria to enter the war on the side of the Central Powers. With Bulgaria as an ally, the Germans were able to use her railways to support the Ottoman Turks who were having a rough time in the Middle East. The Bulgarian Army, along with a German Army and an Austro-Hungarian Army, prepared for a major offensive against the Serbs.



English: Map of German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian advances during World War I

In October, the Germans and Austrians attacked Serbia from the north and the Bulgarians attacked from the east. Alarmed, the British and French managed to negotiate with neutral Greece and landed troops at Salonika, Greece, hoping to drive north into Bulgaria in order to relieve the pressure on the Serbs, but the Bulgarians held them off, roughly along the lines of the Greek border, and the Serbs were driven steadily back by the three Central Power armies. The Bulgarians wanted to drive the Allies out of Greece, but the Germans held them back, still hoping to entice Greece to join the Central Powers. This would prove disastrous in 1918. The Great Serbian Retreat began.







# 1916

The remnants of the entire Serbian Army, the Serb King and many civilians made their way west over the Albanian mountains in winter. The old men, the Cheechas, manned the artillery and held up the advancing armies so the younger troops could escape. The victorious Central Powers occupied Serbia, but the Serbian Army still existed



WWI: Ox drawn transport and artillery of the Serbian Army during its retreat to Albania.



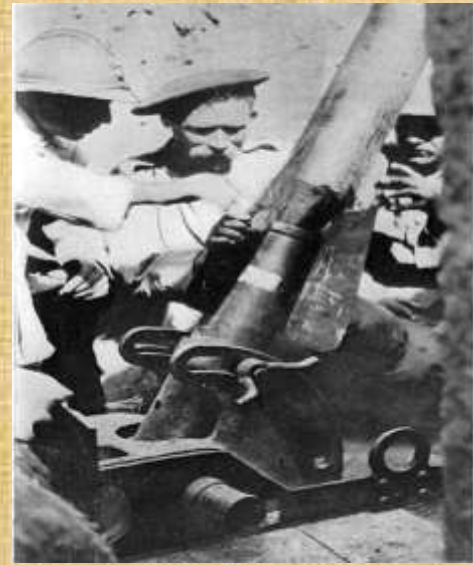
## 1917

In June, the Greeks entered the war for the Allies.

## 1918

After a prolonged buildup, a combined Allied Army of French, British, Greek units and the Serbian Army transported from Corfu to Salonika, attacked north from Greece in September.

The Bulgarians were thrown back and sued for peace and the Allies continued north, pushing back the the Germans and Austro-Hungarians until Serbia was liberated in October. The Allies were preparing to invade Hungary when the Armistice was signed on November 11th, 1918.



WWI: Frenchman instructing Serbian in Use of Trench Mortar. The shell weighs about 100 pounds.



# On the Eastern Front...

## Neglected By The West

In the English-speaking world, the Eastern Front during the First World War is generally ignored in favour of the Western Front fought in France and Belgium. This is unfortunate, since the Eastern Front in Eastern and Central Europe was as horrendous as the war in the west and the Western Front cannot be fully understood without appreciating the effect the war in the east had on it.



WW1: German infantry charging against the Russian Fortress of Novogeorgievsk in August 1915.



## What Was Different About The Eastern Front?

The fighting on the Eastern Front was mainly between the Central Powers (the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires) and the Russian Empire. Later, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers and Romania joined Russia. There were several factors which changed the nature of fighting on the Eastern Front when compared to the Western Front:

### The Terrain

The Eastern Front covered a far larger area, stretching at times for over 1,000 miles, basically north-to-south and hundreds of miles east-to-west. A solid trench system similar to the Western Front never materialized because neither side had the manpower to cover such a distance in depth. This resulted in more a war of maneuver, whereby attackers might penetrate 50 or 60 miles before being stopped.



Map of the Eastern Front in World War 1, 1914.



# The Eastern Front





## The Russian Empire

Russia's infrastructure was poor.

There weren't enough roads and railroads to keep the army supplied.

## The Austro-Hungarian Empire

The Empire of Austria-Hungary was in decline.

This, combined with poor leadership, resulted in low moral.

## The German Empire

The German Army had strong leaders and a good infrastructure .

This enabled them to succeed even when outnumbered.



# 1914

On August 17th, 1914, Russia launched its full scale offensive against Germany by entering Eastern Prussia in the northern part of the front. The Russians were decisively beaten at the Battle of Tannenberg and they withdrew.

Further south, Russia was much more successful against Austria-Hungary, driving the Austrians back across the Carpathian Mountains and occupying the Austro-Hungarian province of Galacia.



WW1: Russian 8-inch guns advancing to positions.



# 1915

At the beginning of 1915, the Austrians were unable to do much against the Russians in Galacia. So Germany took over command of the entire Eastern Front and shifted troops to bolster their southern neighbors. The German and Austrian troops launched a major offensive in May and drove the Russians back more than 200 miles from the Carpathian Mountains in two weeks-- an unimaginable feat on the Western Front.

The Russians had to make a strategic withdrawal, partly due to the deficiencies of supplies and ammunition, before they managed to make a stand, now back in their own territory. The Central Powers had captured Russian Poland, Lithuania, most of Latvia and parts of Russian Ukraine.



German officers in Riga during World War I



## 1916

By 1916, things improved for the Russians who were then better supplied. While Germany was occupied in the west by their massive offensive against the French at Verdun and then fighting for her life against the British Somme offensive, Russia attacked the Austro-Hungarians and, once again drove into Galacia. In addition, Romania, to the south of the Eastern Front, entered the war on the side of the Allies, extending the Eastern Front hundreds of miles south. Instead of first setting up adequate defenses, Romania immediately attacked west, dreaming of regaining the Transylvanian region of AustriaHungary.



WW1: Captured Russian soldiers at the Tilsit train.

Germany, Austria-Hungary along with Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire counterattacked Romania, which collapsed and the Central Powers gained control of her vast coal and wheat fields.

In late 1916 Russia, especially, edged closer to revolution.



# 1917

1917 was the year of the Russian collapse. The armies mutinied, the Tsar abdicated and a provisional government tried to hold things together. A final Russian offensive was tried, but the soldiers wouldn't stand for it and open civil war swept Russia as the Germans continued to advance. In November, the Communist Bolsheviks took control and began negotiations with the Germans and fighting stopped in December.



WW1: Map of the Eastern Front as of 1917.



# 1918

On March 3rd, 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was concluded, officially ending the war on the Eastern Front. As far as concessions to Germany, its terms didn't survive the year, but it did affirm the independence of Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine. Poland was not included, which caused riots and animosity of Poles to the Central Powers.



WWI: Map of Territory given away after Brest-Litovsk



# BEYOND THE EUROPEAN BORDERS

Learning about World War I, we primarily studied the role of European nations during the war.

Many other cultures, nationalities and ethnic groups, however, made significant contributions to it and were deeply involved in the Great War.

The following information proves that World War I was a war that truly involved and impacted people throughout the world.



# Asia



```
graph TD; Asia[Asia] --> Japan[Japan: Japan quickly declared war against Germany within a few weeks after the war had broken out and overran German possessions in China and captured most of Germany's Pacific Island colonies.]; Asia --> China[China: 175,000 Chinese were recruited by the British to serve in their Labor Corps. They dug trenches, brought up supplies, felled timber, carried ammunitions, built roads and laid railroads.]; Asia --> India[India: 1.4 million Indian soldiers fought for the allied cause during the war and 113,743 Indians were reported dead, wounded, or missing at the end of the war. In addition, 600,000 Indian non-combatants worked in the war effort in jobs such as laborers, carriers, and railway constructors.];
```

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Canada:

Though America is universally associated with World War I, little mention is generally made of Canadian involvement in the war. Canada contributed with roughly 640,000 troops to the British war effort, 57,000 of whom died as a result of the conflict.

## North America



```
graph TD; NA[North America] --> C[Canada]; NA --> US[The United States];
```

The United States:

They entered the war on the side of the Allies in 1917. The United States sent over 2 million soldiers ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of them saw the battle), money, and supplies. Although the role of American soldiers in World War I is well known, the importance of African-American soldiers in the war is less considered. More than 50,000 black troops from the U.S. made up over one-third of the entire U.S. force in Europe.

Among various military and civilian officials, arguments occurred as to whether black soldiers should be allowed to have guns. The fear was that these soldiers might use their weapons against their white commanders.



South Africa:  
when World War I began, the  
British government wanted  
the South African forces to  
capture German South West  
Africa.

# Africa



West Africa (including present Senegal and Morocco):  
Over the course of the war, the French drafted some 135,000 West Africans  
from their colonies to join the allied forces on the Western Front. West African  
conscripts endured extreme difficulty, fear, and degradation during the war.



# Australia



Since 1915, one day in the year has involved the whole of Australian ceremonies of remembrance, gratitude and national pride. That day is ANZAC Day – April 25<sup>th</sup>. Why does the Nation pause to commemorate what most historians choose to describe as a failure or a sad series of blunders? It is because every person and every nation must, sooner or later, come for the first time to a supreme test of quality and the result of that test will hearten or dishearten those who come afterwards. For Australia as a nation that first supreme test began in the early hours of Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>.

In 1914 Australia was a British colony, not a sovereign state. Australian soldiers are best-known for their contribution to the Gallipoli campaign of 1915 where the Allies attempted to take control of the capital of the Ottoman Empire in order to establish supply lines to Russia. The Gallipoli operation was not successful.

In Australia and New Zealand, the campaign was the first major battle undertaken by military formation, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), and is often considered to mark the birth of national consciousness in both countries.



# The Middle East

The Ottoman Empire  
The Central Powers

VS

The British  
The Russians supported by the  
Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks, Arabs

The two most significant campaigns were:

- *Gallipoli*
- *Mesopotamia*





- The battle at Gallipoli was one of the defining points of Australian (and also New Zealand) military history. World War 1 was the first major war that Australia fought as an independent country and not as a British colony. A lot of them died.
- Despite the massacre the troops marched bravely forwards and continued to fight. Countless young men were killed.



- In Mesopotamia, however, after the disastrous defeat suffered on the Tigris River (1915-1916), the British forces captured Baghdad in March 1917 and Jerusalem in December.
- Turkey surrendered in October 1918.
- In Mesopotamia the British were aided by local minorities, Arab and Assyrian tribesmen launching surprise attacks on the Turks. During the war, such populations were devastated by the Turkish ethnic cleansing.



From wikipedia



# WW1: THE MAIN TREATIES

## TREATY OF LONDON April 26<sup>th</sup> 1915

Secret pact among

The U.K., France, Russia, Italy

Italy should gain

1. Tyrol, which includes the present Italian provinces of Trentino and South Tyrol.
2. The entire Austrian Littoral
3. Northern Dalmatia, Istria, Gorizia
4. Some unspecified areas of Albania (to be divided among Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece).

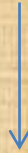
Italy claimed

*mutilated victory*



## TREATY OF LONDON

1915



Territories promised  
(Trentino, South Tyrol, Istria, Dalmatia,  
some areas of Albania)



*Mutilated* victory because Italy didn't  
gain all the expected lands

## TREATY OF VERSAILLES

1919



Italy finally gained some promised  
territories



Trientino, Istria, Tyrol, Gorizia but not  
Dalmatia where it gained only  
the city of Zara



## Some extracts from the Treaty of London:

- “The French and British fleets shall render active and permanent assistance to Italy” *Article 3*
- “In the event of France and Great Britain increasing their colonial territories in Africa at the expense of Germany, those two Powers agree in principal that Italy may claim some equitable compensation” *Article 13*
- “The present arrangement shall be held secret” *Article 16*



# WILSON'S FOURTEEN POINTS

- Delivered on January 8th, 1918
- The Fourteen Points were Wilson's response to Post WWI
- He proposed a program for a world peace through The League of Nations
- Open covenants of peace, free trade, equal treatments of all nations....



# THE RHETORIC OF THE FOURTEEN POINTS

- When addressing the Congress, Wilson explained his desire for peace
- A shorter speech, with shorter sentences , focusing mainly on the proposed points
- Wilson asked rhetorical questions throughout the speech, forcing Congress to think about what he was presenting, rather than simply hearing his opinions.
- Wilson described the people of the world as “partners,” establishing national unity.
- Wilson emphasized that idea of peace being beneficial for all nations
- He made reference to democracy, implying the desire for safety and security
- The Americans were not divided in the idea of national unity in front of the world.
- There was a clear statement made in both speeches that the German people were not hated by the Americans. Americans then were not jealous of German power. Wilson made a distinction between people and their government.



# Wilson's 14 Points

- I. **Open covenants of peace**, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and **in the public view**.
- II. **Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas**, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.
- III. **The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions** among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.
- IV. **Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced** to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.



- V. **A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims**, based upon a strict observance of the principle that **in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight** with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.
- VI. **The evacuation of all Russian territory** and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed **opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy** and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing...
- VII. **Belgium**, the whole world will agree, **must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys** in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another.
- VIII. **All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored**, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

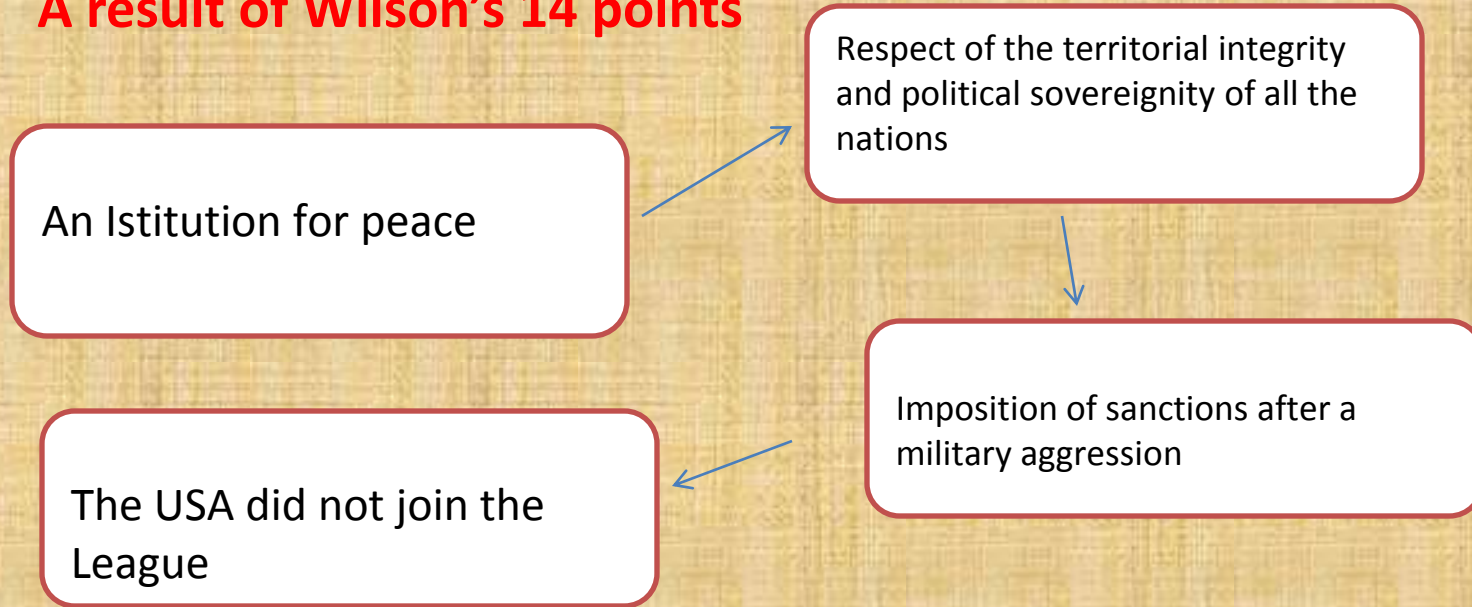


- IX. **A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy** should be effected along **clearly recognizable lines of nationality**.
- X. **The peoples of Austria-Hungary**, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, **should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development**.
- XI. **Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea;** and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality;
- XII. **The Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty**, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and **the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees**.
- XIII. **An independent Polish state** should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose **political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed** by international covenant.
- XIV. **A general association of nations must be formed** under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.



# THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS 1919

## A result of Wilson's 14 points





# TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The **Treaty of Versailles** was one of the peace treaties at the end of World War I and it represented a compromise or defeat of many of the *fourteen points*. It was signed on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1919 between Germany and the Allies (mainly France, Britain and United States).

- **Germany** had to reduce its army and sink its own fleet
- It lost one seventh of its territory
- Alsace-Lorraine was given back to France
- Other regions were given to Denmark, Belgium
- The heavy industry of the Saarland came under French control
- **Germany** had to renounce its colonies
- The part of Prussia was acquired by the new Poland
- **Germany** had to pay huge war compensation



# Extracts from the Treaty of London, April 26th 1915

## Article 1

A military convention shall be immediately concluded between the General Staffs of France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia. This convention shall settle the minimum number of military forces to be employed by Russia against Austria-Hungary in order to prevent that Power from concentrating all its strength against Italy, in the event of Russia deciding to direct her principal effort against Germany...

## Article 2

On her part, Italy undertakes to use her entire resources for the purpose of waging war jointly with France, Great Britain, and Russia against all their enemies.

## Article 3

The French and British fleets shall render active and permanent assistance to Italy...

## Article 4

Under the Treaty of Peace, Italy shall obtain the Trentino, Cisalpine Tyrol with its geographical and natural frontier, as well as Trieste, the counties of Gorizia and Gradisca, all Istria as far as the Quarnero and including Volosca and the Istrian islands of Cherso and Lussin, as well as the small islands of Plavnik, Unie, Canidole, Palazzuoli, San Pietro di Nembi, Asinello, Gruica, and the neighbouring islets...

## Article 5

Italy shall also be given the province of Dalmatia within its present administrative boundaries...

## Article 6

Italy shall receive full sovereignty over Valona, the island of Saseno and surrounding territory...

## Article 7

Should Italy obtain the Trentino and Istria in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, together with Dalmatia and the Adriatic islands within the limits specified in Article 5, and the Bay of Valona (Article 6), and if the central portion of Albania is reserved for the establishment of a small autonomous neutralised State, Italy shall not oppose the division of Northern and Southern Albania between Montenegro, Serbia, and Greece...

## Article 8

Italy shall receive entire sovereignty over the Dodecanese Islands which she is at present occupying.

## Article 9

Generally speaking, France, Great Britain, and Russia recognise that,... in the event of total or partial partition of Turkey in Asia, she ought to obtain a just share of the Mediterranean region adjacent to the province of Adalia...

## Article 11

Italy shall receive a share of any eventual war indemnity corresponding to their efforts and her sacrifices.

## Article 13

In the event of France and Great Britain increasing their colonial territories in Africa at the expense of Germany, those two Powers agree in principle that Italy may claim some equitable compensation...

## Article 14

Great Britain undertakes to facilitate the immediate conclusion, under equitable conditions, of a loan of at least 50,000,000 pounds...

## Article 16

The present arrangement shall be held secret.



# Europe after the First World War (1920/21)

## THE MAP OF EUROPE AFTER WW1





# A GREAT FACT: The Forgotten Armenian Genocide





# What is a genocide?

- A genocide is the act of putting an end to a race.
- This act is carried out mainly by the State since, in order to organize such an action, a lot of resources are required.





# The Armenian Genocide

- It was controlled and organized by the Turkish Government against the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during two waves. The first one during WWI (1915-1918) and the second one from 1920 to 1923.
- the Armenians were deported, expropriated of all their goods and most of them were sent onto the Syrian desert without resources, destined to a death of thirst and starvation.





# What are the reasons behind such atrocity?

- A new idea of Pan-Turanism was bolstered by the political party in power at the time, the CUP, of which the Prime Minister, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of War were part.
- Their intention was to create a New Empire stretching from Anatolia to Central Asia populated exclusively by Turkish people.





# What about the losses?

- It is estimated that a million and a half Armenians died during the genocide.
- In 1915 more than a million of people were deported and brought either to forced exile in the desert or in concentration camps, where they were basically left to their destiny.
- The majority of them was killed during the 'first wave', but from 1920 to 1923 the destruction of the Armenian community in the area of Minor Asia and historic West Armenia was total.



# What was the international response?

- In 1915 Great Britain, France and Russia alerted the Young Turks that they would have been held accountable for crimes against humanity. At the end of WWI there was also a public outcry in the US against the atrocities.
- Germany, the US and Great Britain sponsored the preparation of reports on the atrocities later published ; apart from moral critics and threats, no material actions were taken against the Turkish government.
- Ignoring the tragedy was a way not to provoke another war right after WWI and not to put at risk trade in an area that was economically significant to most states.





# What is the position of Turkey today?

- As of 2015, governments and parliaments of 29 countries, including Russia, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and Canada as well as 43 states of the United States of America, have recognized the events as a genocide. The governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan are the only ones denying the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide.





# Women : a new role in WWI





# Women in a new position

- As a consequence of the war many women took all those jobs left vacant by men who had left for the front.
- The initial reluctance to hiring women was defeated by the actual need of workforce, especially in factories supporting the war effort.





# Same work , different pay

- Besides weapon and ammunition factories, women started working in areas traditionally reserved to men such as railway guards and ticket collectors, buses and tram conductors, postal workers, police officers and firefighters.
- However, they received lower wages for doing the same work. It is during WWI that women start making the first demands for equal pay.



- Since women were paid less than men, there was a worry that employers would have preferred to rely on women, leaving men without a job at their return from war.
- This did not happen because of the common idea of women being less productive. The fact that women replaced completely skilled men, even in heavy factory work, did not change this misconception.
- At men's return women either continued to work at a lower wage alongside with men, or were fired if not needed.



# London is on strike

- At the end of the war in Great Britain men were given a 'war bonus', which was basically a raise on their paycheck.
- Women, who were already underpaid, did not take the initiative positively. In 1918 the female workers of buses and trams in London, went on strike to demand the same salary as men.
- The protest was won by women in 1919 when the War Cabinet Committee stated that 'where women had fully replaced skilled men, they would be paid the same as the men'.



London women workers of buses and trams.



# The start of a new era

- From the social point of view this first protest in London awakens in the woman a new sense of awareness.
- Women realize that these inequalities are completely unjustified and also feel empowered by a new sense of independence now that most of them (40% of women at the end of 1918) don't have to ask their husbands for money.
- After WWI a series of civil, social and feminist movements will start to take place, finally starting to elevate a gender 'held back' for centuries.



# Economic aftermath of WWI





# The untouched USA

- Unlike European countries, the US was not directly attacked nor physically damaged by WWI to speed up its industrial production. Both the war industry and the agriculture had an enormous increase, providing supplies also to the states of the old continent which found themselves, at least initially, in difficulty.





- While Europe was in a phase of recovery the United States were rapidly expanding their economic power and in the 'roaring twenties' were preparing to be one of the predominant nations in the world.





# Great Britain, France and Germany

- Germany suffered greatly in consequence of its defeat. Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was required to make monetary payments to the Allies, called reparations. If this helped the Allies recovering from the war damages, it surely damaged heavily the German economy.
- The heavy reparations, combined with the devastated infrastructures throughout Germany and political tension under the Weimar Republic, led to an economic depression.



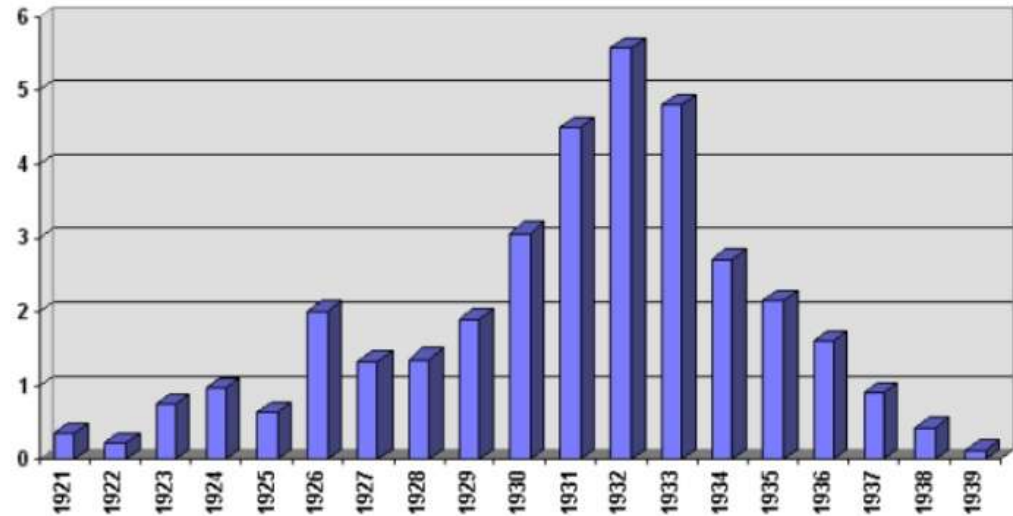
- Hyperinflation and unemployment in Germany were staggering. Reich marks, the German currency, became so devalued, that it took wheelbarrows full of money to buy basic items, such as a loaf of bread.





- In the mid to late 1920s, the German economy stabilized somewhat, but after the American stock market crash in 1929, the Great Depression spread to Germany.
- From 1929 into the early 1930s, unemployment and economic crisis were raging in Germany. It is with these bases that a new extremist group will manage to take advantage of the situation in order to come to power.

Unemployment in Germany (1921-1939)





# A symbol of WWI: the Trench Warfare

- It's a type of land warfare, mostly used in the Western front in World War I
- Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived
- Between 65 m and 90 m behind the trenches was located the support trench and then a third reserve trench





- Their only relief was writing and receiving letters: they looked forward to hearing news from their loved ones at home
- Many soldiers also kept diaries and journals which helped them to record their experience and feelings
- The soldiers used to clean their weapons and repairing collapsed trench walls after bad weather
- The trenches could be very muddy and smelly with many dead bodies and millions of rats





# World War I Poets

## Vera Brittain

**1893-1970**

Born in Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire.

Her Testament of Youth is one of the outstanding biographies of the First World War.

She felt compelled to play a part, and worked as a VAD nurse in England, France and Malta. She was moved to the verge of a nervous breakdown by her experiences in the war and the loss of a close friend, her fiancé and brother.





# Perhaps (To R.A.L.)

*A poem by Vera Brittain*

Perhaps some day the sun will shine again,  
And I shall see that still the skies are blue,  
And feel once more I do not live in vain,  
Although bereft of You.

Perhaps the golden meadows at my feet  
Will make the sunny hours of spring seem gay,  
And I shall find the white May-blossoms sweet,  
Though You have passed away.

Perhaps the summer woods will shimmer bright,  
And crimson roses once again be fair,  
And autumn harvest fields a rich delight,  
Although You are not there.

Perhaps some day I shall not shrink in pain  
To see the passing of the dying year,  
And listen to Christmas songs again,  
Although You cannot hear.'

But though kind Time may many joys renew,  
There is one greatest joy I shall not know  
Again, because my heart for loss of You  
Was broken, long ago.



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