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Subject-World History

Class-TYBA

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The First world War (1914-1918)

Causes of the War

- ✦ Historians have traditionally cited four long-term causes of the First World War
 - ✦ **NATIONALISM** – a devotion to the interests and culture of one's nation
 - ✦ **IMPERIALISM** – Economic and political control over weaker nations
 - ✦ **MILITARISM** – The growth of nationalism and imperialism led to increased military spending
 - ✦ **ALLIANCE SYSTEM** – By 1907 Europe was divided into two armed camps

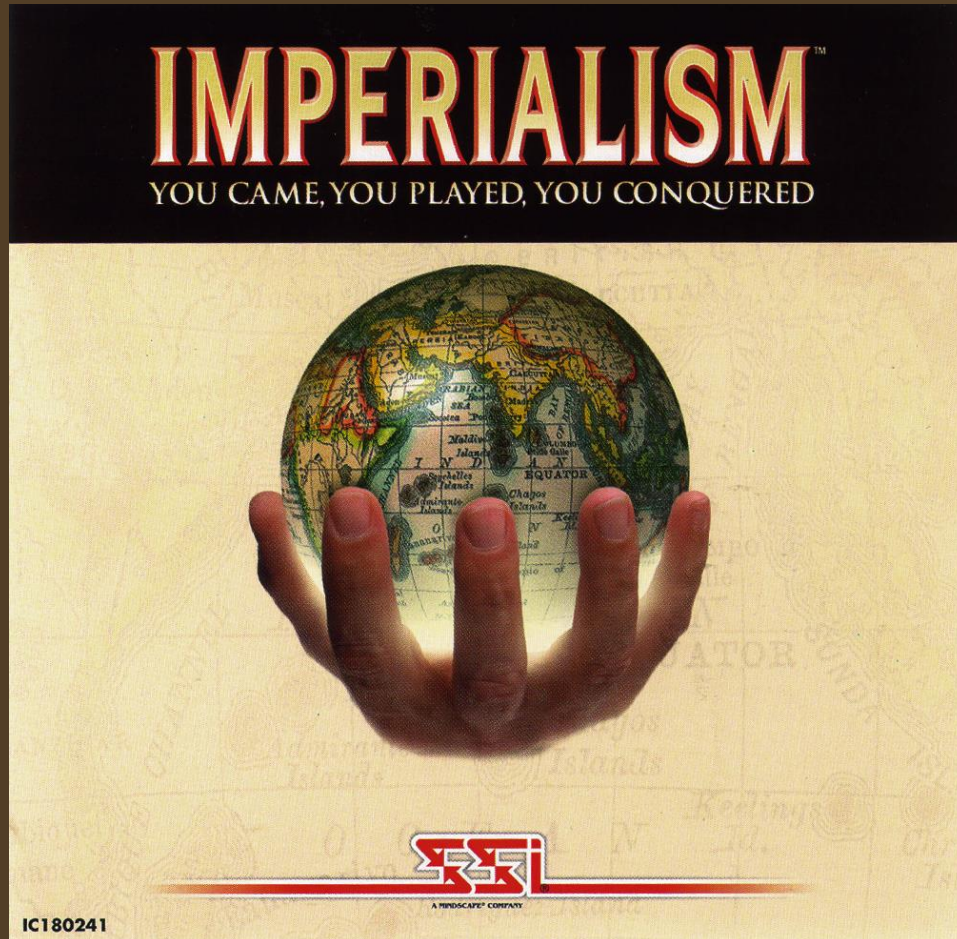
Nationalism

- ✦ Often **nationalism** led to rivalries and conflicts between nations. Additionally, various **ethnic groups** resented domination by others and wanted independence. Finally, Russia and Austria-Hungary disagreed over the treatment of Serbs in central Europe.



Germany was allied with Austria-Hungary while Russia, France and Britain were partners

Imperialism



- ✦ For many centuries, European nations **built empires**. Colonies supplied raw materials and provided markets for manufactured goods. As Germany **industrialized**, she competed with other nations and colonies made her more competitive.

Militarism



- ✦ Empires had to be defended and European nations **increased military spending** enormously in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- ✦ By 1890 the strongest nation militarily in Europe was Germany
- ✦ **Germany had a strong army** and built up a navy to rival England's fleet.
- ✦ France, Italy, Japan and the United States quickly joined in the **naval buildup**.

The Spark: An Assassination

- ✦ The Balkan region was considered “the powder keg of Europe” due to competing interests in the area. **Russia** wanted access to the Mediterranean Sea. **Germany** wanted a rail link to the Ottoman Empire. **Austria-Hungary**, which had taken control of Bosnia in 1878, accused Serbia of subverting its rule over Bosnia.
- ✦ Finally, in June of 1914, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to the Austrian throne was gunned down by a Serbia radical igniting a diplomatic crisis.



The Fighting Begins

- ✦ The Alliance system pulled one nation after another into the conflict – **The Great War had begun**. On August 3, 1914, Germany invaded Belgium, following a strategy known as the **Schlieffen Plan**. This plan called for a quick strike through Belgium to Paris, France. Next, Germany would attack Russia
- ✦ **The plan was designed to prevent a two-front war for Germany.**



The Schlieffen Plan

The War Becomes A Stalemate

- ✘ Unable to save Belgium, the Allies retreated to the **Marne River** in France where they halted the German advance in September of 1914. Both **sides dug in** for a long siege. By the spring of 1915, two parallel systems of **deep trenches** crossed France from Belgium to Switzerland. Between enemy trenches was “**no man’s land**” – an area pockmarked with shell craters and filled with barbed wire.



British soldiers standing in mud

First Battle of The Somme



Gas attacks were common features of trench life and often caused blindness and lung disease

- ✦ During the **First Battle of the Somme**—which began on July 1, 1916, and lasted until mid-November—the British suffered an enormous number of casualties (60,000 on the first day). Final casualties for this phase of the war totaled 1.2 million, yet only 7 miles of ground was gained. This bloody trench warfare, in which **armies fought for mere yards of ground**, lasted for three years.

Americans Question Neutrality



French propaganda poster portrayed the Germans as inhuman.

- ✦ In 1914, most Americans saw no reason to join a struggle 3,000 miles away – they wanted **neutrality**. Some simply did not want their sons to experience the horror of warfare. Some German-Americans supported Germany in World War I. However, many Americans felt closer to the British because of a shared ancestry and language. Most importantly, **American economic interests were far stronger with the Allies.**

The War Hits Home



- ❖ During the first two years of the war, **America was providing** (selling) the allied forces dynamite, cannon powder, submarines, copper wire and tubing and other war material.
- ❖ Both the Germans and British imposed **naval blockades** on each other. The **Germans used U-boats** (submarines) to prevent shipments to the North Atlantic. Any ship found in the waters around Britain would be sunk.

America Declares War



- ❖ On April 2, 1917, senators, representatives, ambassadors, members of the Supreme Court, and other guests crowded into the Capital building to hear Wilson deliver his **declaration of war**.
- ❖ Wilson said, "The world must be mad safe for democracy."
- ❖ Congress passed the resolution a few days later.

Important New Weapons

- ✦ **Machine Guns:** Guns could now fire 600 rounds per minute.
- ✦ **The Tank:** New steel tanks ran on caterpillar treads.
- ✦ **Airplanes:** Early dogfights resembled duels, however by 1918 the British had a fleet of planes that could deliver bombs.
- ✦ **Poison Gas:** Mustard gas was used to subdue the enemy.



Other Weapons & Equipment

- ✦ Howitzers
- ✦ Flame throwers
- ✦ Torpedoes
- ✦ U-boats
- ✦ Phosphorus grenades
- ✦ Field phones
- ✦ Search lights
- ✦ Gas masks
- ✦ Camouflage
- ✦ Railroad guns
- ✦ Blimps



Germany Collapses, War Ends



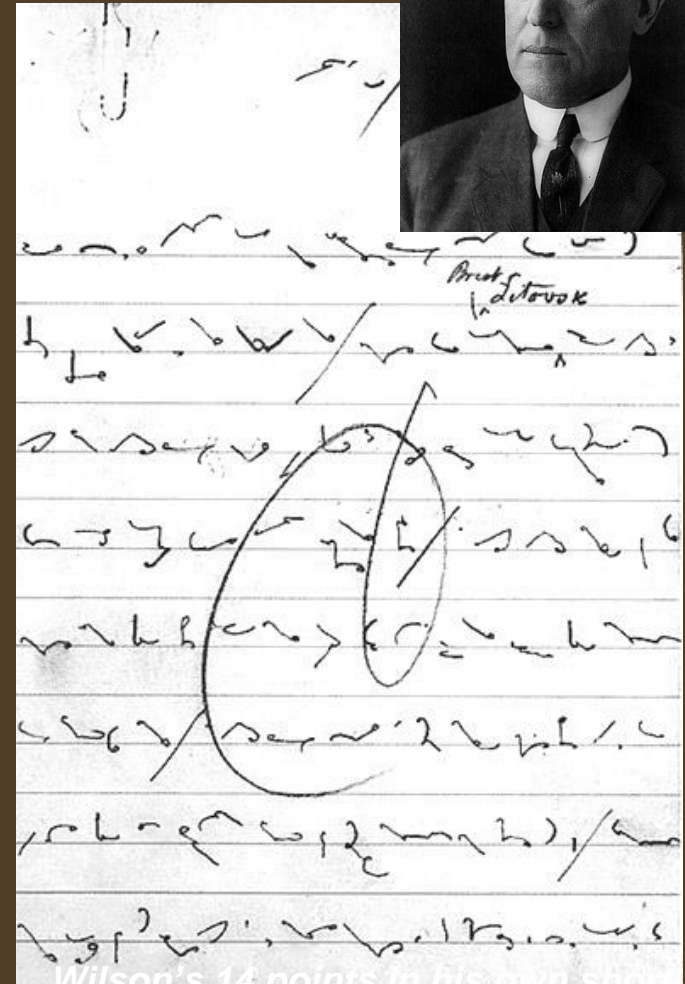
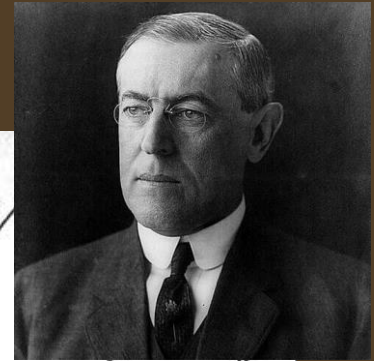
War ends 11/11/18

- ✦ On November 3, 1918, Germany's partner, Austria-Hungary, surrendered to the Allies. That same day, German sailors mutinied against their government.
- ✦ Other revolts followed, and **Germany was too exhausted to continue.**
- ✦ So at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month of 1918, **Germany signed a truce ending the Great War.**

Wilson Fights for Peace

❖ Despite the hero's welcome he received in Europe, Wilson's plan for peace would be rejected by the Allies. Wilson's plan was called the “**Fourteen points**” and included:

- ❖ No secret treaties
- ❖ Freedom of the Seas
- ❖ More free trade
- ❖ Reduction of arms
- ❖ Less colonialism
- ❖ A **League of Nations** to promote peace through collective security.



Wilson's 14 points in his own shorthand
hand

Allies Reject Wilson's Plan, Sign Treaty



Hall of Mirrors

- ✦ The Big Four leaders, Wilson (U.S.), Clemenceau (France), Lloyd George (England), and Orlando (Italy), worked out the Treaty's details
- ✦ Wilson conceded on most of his 14 points in return for the establishment of the League of Nations.
- ✦ On June 28, 1919, the Big Four and the leaders of the defeated nations gathered in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles and signed the Treaty of Versailles.

Treaty Of Versailles

- ✦ The Treaty established nine **new nations** including Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.
- ✦ It **broke up the Austro-Hungarian Empire** and the Ottoman Empire empires.
- ✦ It barred Germany from maintaining an army, required them to give Alsace-Lorraine back to France, and forced them to pay \$33 billion in **reparations** to the Allies



The Big Four met at Versailles

The Weakness of the Treaty



Germany

Germans felt the Versailles Treaty was unfair

- ✦ The harsh treatment of Germany prevented the Treaty from creating a lasting peace in Europe
- ✦ The Treaty **humiliated the Germans** by forcing them to admit sole responsibility for the war (**War-Guilt Clause**)
- ✦ Furthermore, Germany would never be able to pay \$33 billion in reparations.

The Legacy of the War



22 million dead, more than half civilians. An additional 20 million wounded.

- ❖ At home, the war strengthened both the military and the power of the government.
- ❖ The propaganda campaign provoked powerful fears in society.
- ❖ For many countries the war created political instability and violence that lasted for years
- ❖ Russia established the first Communist state during the war
- ❖ Americans called World War I, “The War to end all Wars” --- however unresolved issues would eventually drag the U.S. into an even deadlier conflict.

Thanks