The Great War
1914-1918
Major Factors Leading to WWI

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

- Policy of glorifying military power and keeping an army prepared for war
- Led to arms race
Different nations formed military alliances with one another to help prevent war ... but it did the opposite
European nations competed fiercely for colonies in Africa and Asia.
Created rivalry and mistrust.
Nationalism

- A deep devotion/loyalty to one’s nation, desire for national advancement/independence
- Created competition among nations in Europe
Germany
2. Austria-Hungary
3. Italy

1. Britain
2. France
3. Russia
Balkans Crisis

- Ottoman Empire was in decline
  - losing provinces
- many different ethnic groups led to many conflicts
Serbs (allied with Russia) were strongly against Austro-Hungarian aggression.

Austria-Hungary had invaded area near Serbia (Bosnia) to prevent Serbs from expanding.
“The Shot Heard Round the World”

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand
  - heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne
  - visited Sarajevo on a state visit
  - assassinated by a Serbian nationalist (Black Hand)
b/c of alliances, many countries were immediately brought into the war
Euros initially joined the war enthusiastically, believing victory would come quickly. New technologies (machine guns, tanks, poison gas, etc.) resulted in slow-moving trench warfare. War of attrition.
Trench Warfare

Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun.

Reserve trench.

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops.

Communication trenches are reserved to be brought forward and not exposed to shell fire.

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross.

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it.

Front-line trench.

Support trench.

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.

A deep dug-out, German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

This is Trench Foot.

Prevent it!

Keep feet dry and clean.
Eastern Front

- Much more traditional style of warfare
- Less trenches = more movement
- Russia was overwhelmed
Previously lost Balkans
Joined the Central Powers
Hoped to gain territory from Russia
Allies attacked the Ottoman Empire
tried to get supplies to underdeveloped Russia
Allies failed
Christian Armenians
1 – 1.5 million killed

Men slaughtered
Women & children marched into the desert
• Euros imposed heavy taxes
• forced exports at cheap prices
• recruited African men for military
• Allies defeated and captured German territories in Africa
The Home Front

- Governments imposed rationing and recruitment of subject peoples into the workforce
Victory Gardens

Uncle Sam says -
GARDEN
To Cut Food Costs

Ask the
U. S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D. C.
For a FREE Bulletin on Gardening - it's food for thought
Women during WWI

- filled jobs left by men who became soldiers
- also served as nurses in the war
Total War

- WWI affected every part of the countries in it:
  - resources
  - economy
  - government
  - rations – people could only buy small amounts of items
Propaganda

- one-sided information designed to persuade, keep up morale, support the war
British suggested to Zionist leaders that they favored a Jewish national homeland in Palestine.
By winter of 1916-1917, Russia suffered severe shortage of food/fuel/munitions

Economy in state of collapse
February Revolution (1917)

- Tsar Nicholas II was overthrown
- Interim gov’t. led by Alexander Kerensky
  - Lost support b/c he stayed in war
Vladimir Lenin’s Bolsheviks overthrew Kerensky and the Provisional Government.
- Offered “Peace, Bread & Land”
- refused to have his troops stay in WWI
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
  - Russia offered truce to Germany
  - Russia agreed to lose some territory
Russian Civil War

- Lenin’s Red Army – promoted communism
- Whites Army – opponents of the new regime
- British, French, and Americans sent forces to fight Lenin’s troops
  - Created future mistrust between Russia and West
More than 10 million Russians dead (starvation, disease, battle)
Western Front

- Russia was out
- Germany sent almost all their troops to the Western Front
- launched massive assault
Germans got close to Paris but millions of Americans arrived
- allowed Allies to push Germans back
U.S. economy

- U.S. grew rich by selling goods to Britain and France during the war
- Isolationist policy
Lusitania sunk
  - Germany stopped temporarily

unrestricted submarine warfare
  - Germany said it would sink ANY ship near Britain
  - Caused the U.S. to join WWI in 1917
Zimmermann Telegraph

We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace.” Signed, ZIMMERMANN.
April 2, 1917 – President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany ............. they said YES.
European Immigrants

- So many refugees fled Europe for the U.S. that the U.S. gov’t. passed immigration laws limiting access to Euros

**Figure 1. Immigrant Population, 1900-2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Immigrants (in millions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
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Germany signed an armistice (cease-fire) on November 11, 1918 @ 11 am
Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919

- Spread around world by traveling soldiers
- Killed 20 million people
Origins of deadly pandemic debated

The “Spanish flu” outbreak of 1918-20 killed perhaps 50 million people worldwide. Here are three possible origins:

ALDERSHOT, U.K.  ÉTAPLES, FRANCE
World War I’s trenches were first seen as the source of the disease.

SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA
A respiratory disease outbreak in 1917 may have been the first stirrings of the flu.

KANSAS, U.S.
At Camp Funston, 48 soldiers died in March 1918, just ahead of the outbreak.

JOHN TOMANIO, RYAN MORRIS, KELSEY NOWAKOWSKI, NG STAFF SOURCES: WAR IN HISTORY; JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY
Paris Peace Conference

- U.S. – Woodrow Wilson
  - Fourteen Points
  - League of Nations
- France – Georges Clemenceau
- Britain – David Lloyd George
- Ended with the Treaty of Versailles
Treaty of Versailles

- Punished/humiliated Germany
  - Limited military
  - Lost territory/colonies
  - Paid reparations

- Left Germans resentful/desperate

- Austria-Hungary was divided up into several nations
Legacy of WWI

- used new technologies for 1\textsuperscript{st} time
- global war for 1\textsuperscript{st} time
- more destructive than ever before
- 8-10 million military deaths
- Over 20 million soldiers wounded
Legacy of WWI

- Many civilians (non-soldiers) died from disease, starvation, slaughter
- European economies devastated
- European land destroyed (farms, etc.)
- left people feeling insecure, disillusioned
"We were eighteen and had begun to love life and the world; and we had to shoot it to pieces. The first bomb, the first explosion, burst in our hearts. We are cut off from activity, from striving, from progress. We believe in such things no longer, we believe in the war."

- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet On The Western Front*, Ch. 5
Next time...

- Build up to World War II
- Major Events of the War
- Effects