

# THE CRISIS OF THE IMPERIAL ORDER, 1900-1929

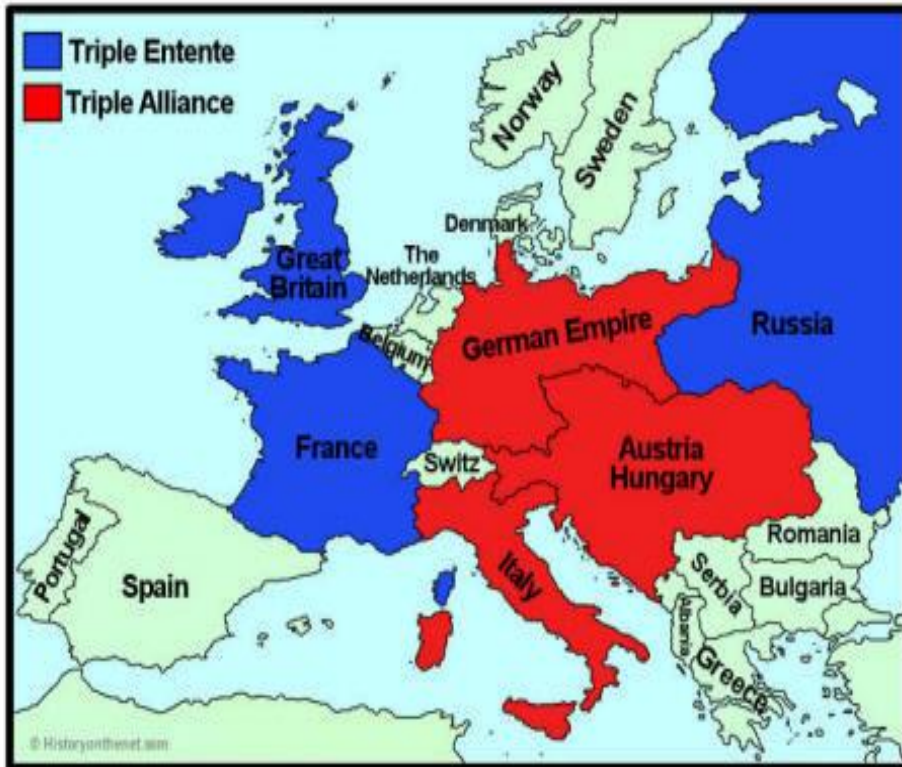
Chapter 28



- On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914 the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, **heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary**, was riding in an open carriage through Sarajevo, a city Austria had annexed six years earlier.
- When his carriage stopped by a member of a **pro-Serbian** conspiracy, fired his pistol twice, killing the arch-duke and his wife.
- Those **two shots** ignited a global conflict.
- Previous wars had caused death and destruction, but they were marked by heroism and glory.
  - Stemming from an era of Romanticism.
- This war would be marked by four long years of war **with no victor, no gains, and no glory.**

## Origins of the Crisis in Europe and the Middle East

World War One Alliances 1914



- At the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the world seemed firmly under the control of the **Great Powers**.

- 1900-1910 was relatively peaceful with economic growth throughout most of the world.
  - Including many new technologies: airplanes, automobiles, radio, and cinema.

- The **Great Powers consolidated their colonial conquests** of previous decades and **alliances were evenly matched**.

- The only international war of the period was the **Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)**, which ended quickly with a Japanese victory.

- However, **two major changes** undermined this stability:

1. **Tensions in Europe mounted as Germany challenged Britain at Sea and France in Morocco.**
2. **The Ottoman Empire grew weaker, leaving a dangerous power vacuum in regions, resulting in chaos in the Balkans.** –Further strengthened by the **Nationalist movements**.

- Ultimately the alliances formed during the previous century, drew the lines of conflict and arms.

# The Ottoman Empire and the Balkans



- From the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the **Ottoman Empire** was one of the **most powerful states in the world**.

By the **late 19<sup>th</sup> century**, however, it had **fallen** behind economically, technologically, and militarily.

- Europeans referred to it as the “sick man of Europe.”
- The Ottomans were weakened as it lost European provinces:
  - **Macedonia 1902-3, Bosnia 1908, Crete 1909, Albania 1910.**
  - **In 1912 Italy conquered Libya, the Ottoman’s last foothold in Africa.**
  - **Serbia 1912-3, then Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece chased the Ottomans out of Europe except for the small city of Constantinople (Istanbul).**
- As a result the **Turks began to assert themselves** against rebel minorities and meddling foreigners.
- The blame was placed on Sultan Abdul Hamid II for the decline. –**The guy that revoked the Young Turks’ Constitution when he became scared of uprisings.**
- The “Young Turks” plotted to force the sultan to reinstate a stillborn constitution that had been suspended in 1876.
- In 1909 parliament was dominated by *Young Turks* and **overthrew** Abdul Hamid II.
- The **new regime** brought back Tanzimat reforms, cracked down on minorities, began **modernizing it’s military**.

Thus a dangerous mix of modern armies and nationalism was established in the Ottoman Empire.

# Nationalism, Alliances, and Military Strategy

## Formation of Alliances

Rise of Nationalistic views throughout the World

Tensions mount between Serbs & Austria-Hungary

Escalation of Military technology & skillsets

The Assassination of Franz Ferdinand

Either side calling on their alliance to uphold their honor

**Global War**

- The assassination of Franz Ferdinand triggered a chain of events over which military and political leaders **lost control**.
- Escalation and the presence of such contrasting alliances **quickly spiraled out of control**, resulting in a **Global War**.
- Nationalism **united** the people of France, Britain, and Germany behind their governments, giving them **strength and purpose to go to war**.
  - Only the most powerful feelings could inspire millions of men to march into battle and sustain civilian populations through years of hardship.
- Nationalism was also a **dividing force**, especially in Russia, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman Empires.
  - A large and diverse population, containing countless ethnic and religious minorities.
  - Some repressed, thus the government could not count on their support.
- Filled with nationalistic pride, most people viewed the war as **a crusade for liberty and a revenge for justice**.

# Causes for Global War

## Europe in 1914



- Triple Entente
- Triple Alliance
- Neutral throughout the war

By Mr. Field

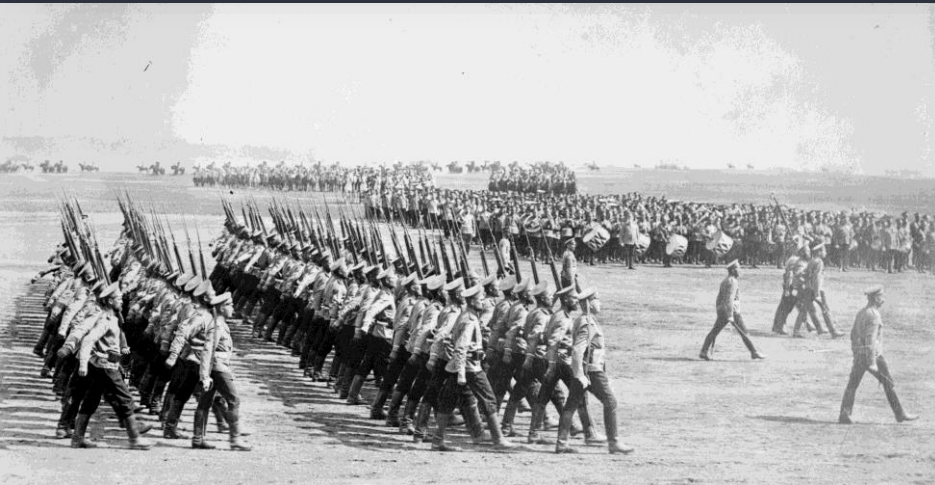
  
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- An incident in the Balkans turned a conflict involving two groups, into an **international crisis**.
- At the center of Europe was Germany, the most heavily industrialized and militarized country.
- Germany was apart of the Triple Alliance between Austria-Hungary, and Italy.
- The Entente (on-TONT) alliance consisted of Britain and France, later joined by Russia.
- Thus Europe was divided into two blocs of roughly equal power.
- **THIS SYSTEM WAS INFLEXIBLE.**



*Have a Lovely Day!*

# Mobilization

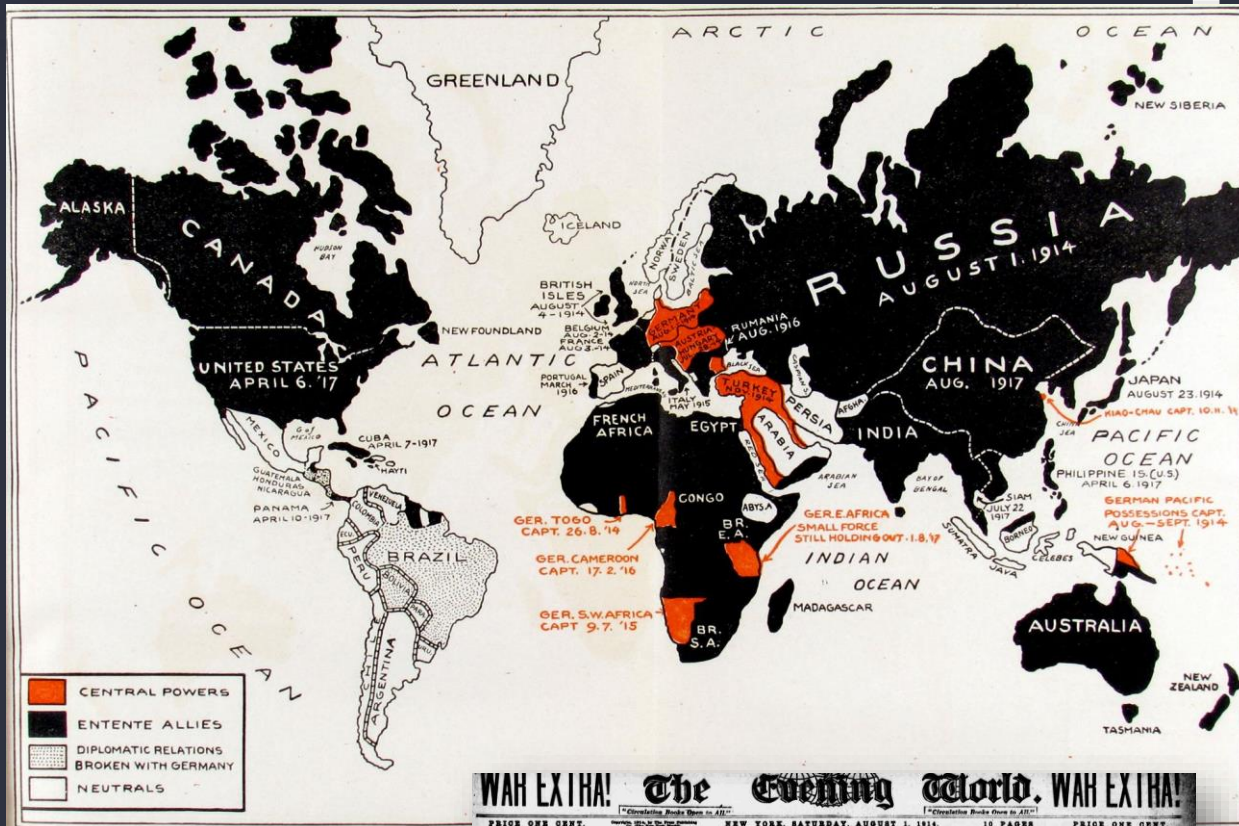


- In 1914 western & central Europe had highly developed railroad networks, but few motor vehicles and European armies had grown to include millions of soldiers and reservists.
- To mobilize these forces and transport them to battle, elaborate train schedules were required.
- Once underway, a country's mobilization could not be cancelled or postponed without causing chaos.
  - France & Germany could mobilize their troops in a few days.
  - Russia, with less modernized railroad infrastructure, would need several weeks to mobilize its forces.
  - Britain had not mobilization plans.
- Germany assumed that Britain would stay out of the fight on the continent, and therefore be able to defeat France in a matter of days, then transport its entire army across Germany to the Russian border to train before Russia could fully mobilize.



# Declaration of War

- On July 28, 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
- Triggering the general mobilization plans for Russia, France, and Germany.
- On July 29, 1914 the Russian government ordered general mobilization to force Austria back down.
- On August 1, 1914 France ordered general mobilization. Minutes later Germany did likewise.
  - Because of the ridged railroad timetables, war was now automatic, there was no turning back.
- Germany assumed they'd go around Belgium quickly and into NW France before Britain could respond and easily take France.
- However, on Aug. 3 the German troops entered Belgium, Britain demanded their withdrawal, when they refused, Britain declared war on Germany.



# The “Great War” and the Russian Revolutions

1914-1918

- Throughout Europe, people greeted the outbreak of war with parades and flags, expecting a quick victory.
- Sociologist Max Weber wrote: “This war, with all its ghastliness, is nevertheless grand and wonderful. It is worth experiencing.”
- Very few imagined the devastation coming, nor the possibility they might not win.
- No one foresaw that everyone would lose.

# The Stalemate, 1914-1917

- The war began in 1914 and was known as the “Great War” until the 1940s, when a far greater war overshadowed it.
- The military science of war had demonstrated that the advantage always went to the fastest-moving army led by the boldest general.
- In 1914, the generals carefully drawn plans, believing that a spirited attack would always prevail.
  - Thus, French generals hurled their troops, dressed in bright blue and red uniforms, against the well-defended German border and suffered a crushing defeat battle after battle, even after the British arrived.
  - By early September the Germans held Belgium and northern France and were fast approaching Paris.
  - German victory seemed assured.
  - But Germany’s troops were soon exhausted and their generals wavered, opening a gap between two German armies and the Marne River to Frances’ General Joffre’s last reserve.
  - At the Battle of Marne (Sept. 5-12) the Germans were thrown back several miles.
  - During the next month, both sides spread out until they formed an unbroken extending line over 300 miles, from the North Sea to the border of neutral Switzerland.



# The Western Front



- **Western Front:** A line of trenches and fortifications in WWI that stretched without a break from Switzerland to the North Sea. Scene of most of the fighting between Germany, on the one hand, and France and Britain, on the other.
- The most effective weapons were **machine guns**, that provided an almost impenetrable defense against advancing infantry, but useless for offensive because they were too heavy to carry and took too long to set up.
  - To escape the stream of bullets, soldiers dug holes in the ground and connected them, forming the shallow trenches, then created communication trenches to the rear.
  - Within a few weeks, the battlefield was scarred by lines of trenches several feet deep, their tops protected by sandbags and floors covered with planks.
  - All of these trenches along the Western Front were connected leaving no gaps, thus no way an army could advance.

# The Battle of Verdun & Heavy Losses



- For four years, generals on either side continued ordering their troops to attack.
- In battle thousands of young men on one side climbed out of their trenches, raced across the open field, and were mowed down by machine-gun fire.
- Hoping to destroy the machine guns, the attacking force would saturate the entrenchment lines with artillery barrages.
  - But all this did was give the opposing side a warning of an impending attack, allowing them time to rush reinforcements and set up new machine guns.
- In 1916 was the bloodiest and most futile battle of the war. The Battle of Verdun.
  - Germans attacked the French fort at Verdun. Losing 281,000 men and causing 315,000 French casualties.
  - The British retaliated attacking the Germans at the Somme River losing 420,000 British troops (60,000 on the first day), the Germans lost 450,000, and the French 200,000 troops.
- Wars had never been waged this way before. It created a mass slaughter in a moonscape of artillery altered mud, steel, and flesh.
- During these 4 years the world saw the bloodiest fighting it had ever seen, and the Western Front moved no more than a few miles either way.

# The Home Front & the War Economy



- The necessity and demand for weapons, ammunition, and food was so great during the War that it effect life on the home front.
  - Civilians cut back, worked harder, ate less, and paid higher taxes.
  - Imported goods were strictly rationed.
  - Governments gradually imposed stringent controls over all aspects of their economies.
- Thus, war economies transformed civilian life.
  - Food rations were allocated according to need, which improved nutrition among the poor.
  - Jobs were created and unemployment vanished. (Jobs fed the demand for supplies)
    - Foreigners from Africa, India, and China were brought in for heavy labor in Europe.
    - Women were hired to fill other jobs men vacated when they left for war. (including government)
    - The British created non-combative auxiliary military units in their navy, army, and air force.
      - Giving women a taste of personal and financial independence.
- As the war reached into the African colonies, colonial life changed, imposing heavy taxes, and demanding the Africans grow certain crops and sell them back to them at lower than average prices.
- One country grew rich during the war: The US
  - Through war bonds, production, and other goods at a spectacular profit.

# The Ottoman Empire at War



- On Aug. 2, 1914 the Turks signed a secret alliance with Germany.
- In Nov. they joined the fighting hoping to gain land at Russia's expense.
- They pushed out the Caucasus and Armenians, gaining back the eastern land of the Anatolia.
- Hunger and exposure killed thousands during the force march to Syria across the mountains in the winter. Others were killed by military forces.
- The Turks closed the Dardanelles strait.
- The British attempted to open the Strait again, by landing on the nearby Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915, the Turkish troops pushed the invaders back to the sea.
- The British then made promises to the hereditary governor of Mecca Hussein ibn Ali to take his Arab forces against the Turks. In 1916 Ali's son led the Arab army in support of the British advance from Egypt to Palestine and Syria.
- The Arab Revolt of 1916 did not affect the struggle in Europe, but contributed to the defeat of the Ottoman Empire.
- The British again made promises to the Jews as well as Arabs, thereby strengthening the Allied cause.

# A Double Revolution in Russia

- At the beginning of the war Russia had the largest army in the world, but its generals were incompetent, supplies were lacking, and soldiers were numerous, but poorly trained and equipped.
- Aug. 1914: Two Russian armies invaded eastern Germany, but were thrown back.
- In 1916, after a string of defeats, the Russian army ran out of ammunition and other essential supplies.
  - Soldiers were ordered into battle unarmed and told to pick up the rifles of fallen comrades.
  - Railroads broke down for lack of fuel and parts.
  - Crops rotted in fields.
  - Civilians faced shortages and widespread hunger.
  - The Winter of 1916-17: Factory workers and housewives had to line up in front of grocery stores before dawn to get food.
    - Tsar Nicholas II remained living an extravagant and corrupt life as ever.
- March (February on the Russian calendar) 1917: Food ran out in St. Petersburg. Mass demonstrations were held and soldiers began to mutiny and join striking workers to form soviets (councils) to take over factories and barracks.
- A few days later the Tsar abdicated and a new provisional government was established. Thus beginning the “February Revolution.”
- Revolutionaries came out of hiding, notably those calling for a redistribution of land to the peasants.



## Russian Revolution, cont.



- **Bolsheviks:** Radical Marxist political party founded by Vladimir Lenin in 1903. Under Lenin's leadership, the Bolsheviks seized power in November 1917 during the Russian Revolution.
- **Vladimir Lenin:** Leader of the Bolshevik (later Communist) Party. He lived in exile in Switzerland until 1917, then returned to Russia to lead the Bolsheviks to victory during the Russian Revolution and the civil war that followed.
- Lenin's goal was to create a party that would lead the revolution rather than wait for it.
- In early 1917 the German government, hoping to destabilize Russia, allowed Lenin to travel from Switzerland to Russia in a sealed railway car.
- Upon his arrival in St. Petersburg Lenin announced his program:
  - Immediate peace, all power to the soviets, and transfers of land to peasants and factories to the workers.
  - The people were very accepting of this plan.
- The next few months became a tug-of-war between the Provisional Government and the various revolutionary factions.
  - Soldiers were deserting at the front and the government lost the little support they had as the Germans advanced.

# Russian Revolution, cont.



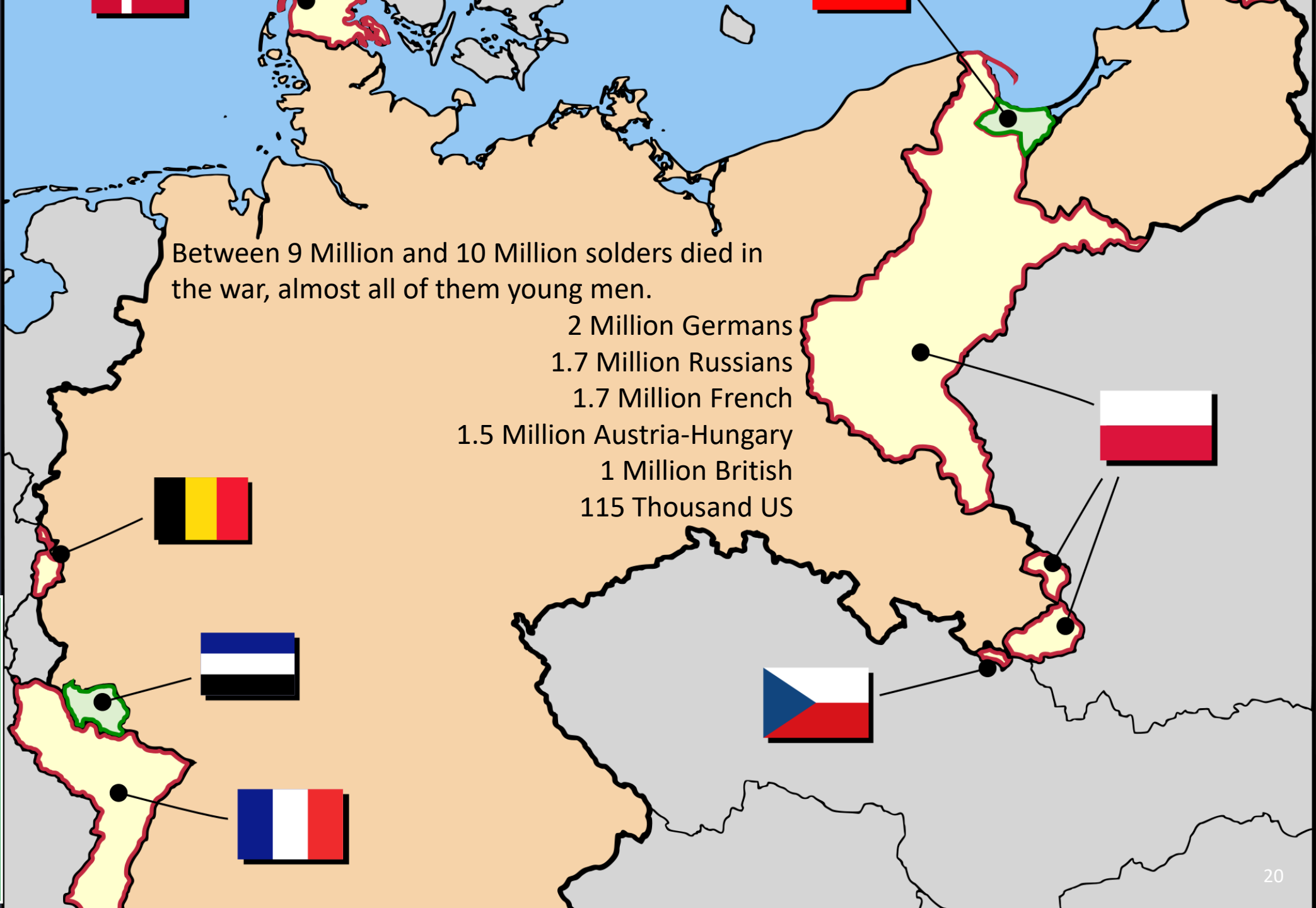
- Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks were gaining support among the workers in St. Petersburg and the soldiers and sailors stationed there.
- On Nov. 6, 1917 (Russia's October) they rose up and took over the city calling it the "October Revolution."
- Lenin overthrew the Provisional government and arrested Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries and other rivals.
- The rest of Russia was in Chaos.
- The Bolsheviks then made peace with Germany and Austria-Hungary with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918, Russia lost territories containing a third of its population and wealth.

# The End of the War in Western Europe, 1917-18

**Fourteen Points:** A peace program presented to the US Congress by President Woodrow Wilson in January 1918. It called for the evacuation of German-occupied lands, the drawing of borders and the settling of territorial disputes by the self-determination of the affected populations, and the founding of an association of nations to preserve the peace and guarantee their territorial integrity. It was rejected by Germany, but it made Wilson the moral leader of the Allies in the last years of WWI.

- Woodrow Wilson: President of the United States (1913-21) and the leading figure at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. He was unable to persuade the US Congress to ratify the Treaty of Versailles or join the League of Nations.
- America was during the early years of WWI neutral, Wilson tried desperately to get either side to agree to a disarmament.
- In late 1916 German leaders attempted to starve the British into submission by using submarines to sink ships carrying food supplies to Britain.
  - The Germans knew unrestricted submarine warfare was likely to bring the US into the war, but they were willing to gamble to break the stalemate, that the allies would crumble before the US could get enough troops to them.
  - The Submarine campaign resumed on Feb. 1, 1917 and the gamble failed.
    - Shipments were now protected by convoys of destroyers.
    - On April 6, 1917 President Wilson asks Congress to declare war on Germany.
- In Jan. 1918 President Wilson presented his Fourteen Points, a peace plan to evacuate Germany from occupied lands, settling territory disputes.
- Germans kept fighting and every month brought 250,000 American soldiers to the Western Front.
- In late October, German General Ludendorff resigned, and sailors in the German fleet mutinied. Two weeks later, a new German government signed an armistice.
- At 11 A.M. on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918 World War I concluded.

The Great War lasted four years. Millions of people had died or been displaced; political tensions and resentment lingered; and national economies remained depressed until the mid-1920s.

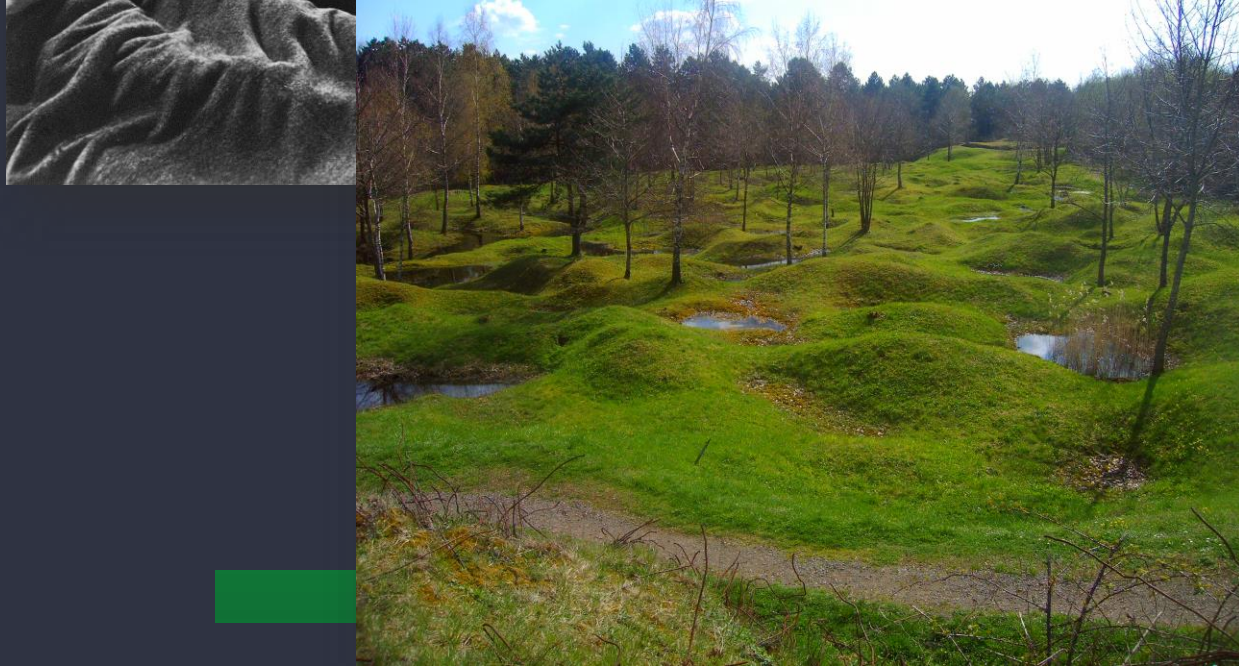


Between 9 Million and 10 Million soldiers died in the war, almost all of them young men.

- 2 Million Germans
- 1.7 Million Russians
- 1.7 Million French
- 1.5 Million Austria-Hungary
- 1 Million British
- 115 Thousand US

Perhaps twice as many returned home wounded, gassed, or shell-shocked (PTSD), many injured for life. An entire generation maimed.

# The Impact of the War



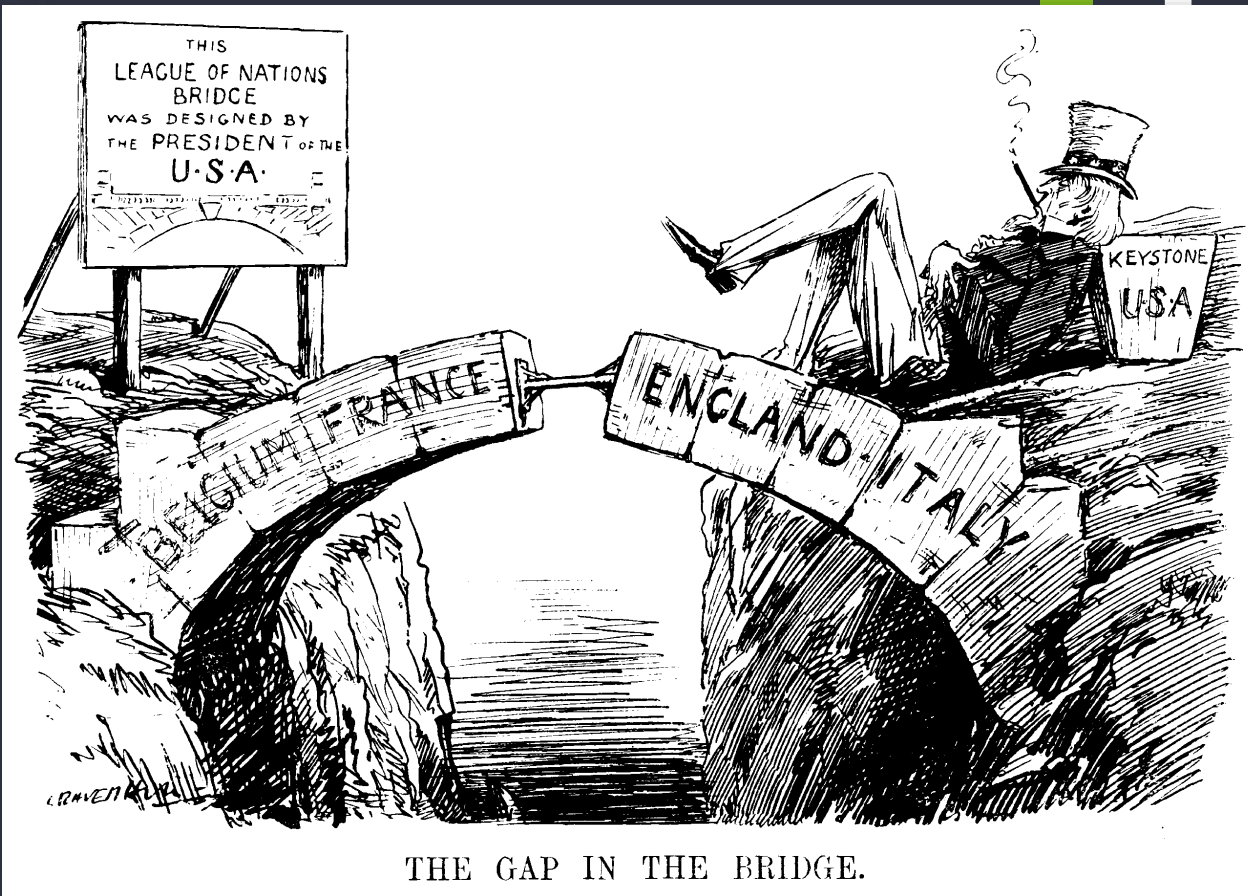
- War and revolution had forced almost 2 million Russians, 750,000 Germans, and 400,000 Hungarians to flee their homes.
- Postwar conflicts also led to expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Greeks from Anatolia and Muslims from Greece.
- Many refugees found shelter in France, which welcomed 1.5 million people to bolster its declining population.
- 800,000 immigrants reached the US before immigration laws passed in 1921 and 1924 closed the door to eastern and southern Europeans.
- Canada, Australia, and New Zealand adopted similar immigration restrictions.
- Latin American republics welcomed European refugees, but their poverty discouraged potential immigrants.

## The Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919

- Started among soldiers heading for the Western Front.
- This viral strain infected almost everyone on earth and killed one person in every 40.
- Half a million Americans died in the epidemic, and 5x as many as died in the war.
- Worldwide, some 20 Million people died.

Environmentally, it took decades to clear away the debris of broken forests, ammunitions, weapons, concrete, and the bones of countless soldiers and rebuild towns. Dozens of war cemeteries were created and the trenches were filled.

# The Peace Treaties



- **League of Nations:** An International organization founded in 1919 to promote world peace and cooperation but greatly weakened by the refusal of the US to join. It proved ineffectual in stopping aggression of Italy, Japan, and it was superseded by the United Nations in 1945.

**Treaty of Versailles:** The treaty imposed on Germany by France, Great Britain, the United States, and other Allied Powers after World War I. It demanded that Germany dismantle its military and give up some lands to Poland. It was resented by many Germans.

# The Wrap Up



- The War caused millions of deaths and injuries and millions of refugees.
- France, Britain, and the US dominated the Paris Peace Conference, refusing to listen to other voices.
- The US refused to join the League of Nations, thereby weakening it.
- The Treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany but did not weaken it, thus becoming one of the big failures in history.
- When Austria-Hungary and Russia fell apart, several smaller nations arose in Europe, creating another source of potential conflict.
- After the Bolshevik victory in the Civil War, the Russian economy was in ruins, and Stalin took power.
- After the German hyperinflation of 1923 was resolved, the world economy began to prosper in 1924.

# China & Japan



- China & Japan were strikingly similar, but China clung longer to traditional social structures and economy before it collapsed into chaos and revolution.
- Japan experienced reform in industry and with a powerful military (China's weakness).
- China's population 400 Million in 1900
  - Agricultural purists was still the top priority in China, despite a lack of land and farming methods had not changed.
  - Peasantry in China was divided.
  - Foreign trade was only a small portion of it's economy.
  - There was a large gap between the rich and poor.
- Japan had few natural resources or land.
  - Natural disasters made the society rocky.
  - Japan's population in 1925 was 60 million, and was steadily increasing a million a year.
  - Japan was continuing its move towards industrializing the country.
  - Their economy grew 4x faster than Western Europe during WWI, 8x faster than China.
  - Economic growth aggravated social tensions.
  - Japan also had a large gap between the rich and poor represented by traditionalist vs. non-traditional people.
  - Japan's prosperity depended on foreign trade, thus making Japan vulnerable to the moods world economy.



# CONCLUSION



- Japan prosperity during WWI and its efforts to modernize itself buoyed the country up, and they began setting their eyes on China (more land).
- When the Qing dynasty ended in 1911, the regional general took over China and repressed adversaries, upon his death the adversaries rose up to establish a corrupt military dictatorship.
- The **Mandate system** was the allocation of former German colonies and Ottoman possessions to the victors of WWI, to be administered under the League of Nations supervision.
  - Leading to the rise of the Modern Turkey and a change in the global social order.
  - Most coming under French & British control.
- Modern Turkish Republic was established and pushed towards secular reform.
- The Middle East also modernized, Arabs became more politically active but had to endure the mandate system.
- Jewish immigration to Palestine caused growing tensions between Jews, Arabs, and the British.
- Giving rise to conflicts and bitter animosities.



**QUESTIONS?**