

World War I – The Great War	
1914-1918	

Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Central Powers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Germany ■ Austria-Hungary ■ Allied forces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Great Britain ■ Russia ■ France ■ USA

When?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1914-1918

Where?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All over Europe ■ Started when Germany invaded Belgium and then France <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ (aka the "Western Front")

Why?

- Most common (yet terribly incomplete) answer:
 - Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, 1914

Why?

- Tensions caused by:
 - Imperialistic goals
 - Territory claims
 - Economics/Resources

Why?

- Old grudges
- Secret alliances
- Strong sense of nationalism
 - Espec. In Austro-Hungary and France

Why?

- Showcase for new military tech
 - Vehicles
- Improved arms (machine gun)
- Chemical warfare
 - So gruesome most countries vowed to never do it again

Timeline

- 1914 – Archduke Franze Ferdinand – heir to the throne in the Austro-Hungarian Empire – is assassinated by a Slavic nationalist

Animated maps of major battle fronts

- https://www.pbs.org/greatwar/maps/maps_western.html

Timeline

- 1914 – Germany invades Belgium
 - Why? Geography...
 - 1) Belgium is flat w/no major obstacles – easy to get to France
 - 2) Need to get to France for access to Atlantic Ocean to cut off Allied supplies by sea

Britain invades Germany in retaliation (b/c of earlier promise to protect them)

Timeline

- 1914 - Other countries start to get involved
 - War spreads to the seas

German troops on the Western Front



Timeline

- 1915 – Lusitania sunk by German sub– 1200 dead
 - A British passenger liner
- Women take up men's jobs back home
- London attacked by German zeppelins

Timeline

- 1916 – Germany vows to “bleed France white”
 - Conscription for those age 18-41 in UK

Timeline

- 1917 – tank, submarine, & gas warfare increases
 - U.S. joins war

Timeline

- 1918- Germany launches major attack
- Allies respond with major attack

Treaty of Versailles, 1918

- Signed in the Hall of Mirrors, Palace of Versailles, France
- It called for high penalties for the Triple Alliance, especially high reparations Germany was to pay
 - Also limiting the size of their army
 - Took away land they had seized and gave it out to other countries
 - Forbidden for Germany and Austro-Hungary to unite into one supercountry

Treaty of Versailles, 1918

- US did not sign this treaty b/c the penalties seemed so high
 - Might cause revenge instead of reconciliation
- Made their own treaty w/them 1921
 - Pres. Woodrow Wilson's "14 points"
 - Created League of Nations
 - Also called secret provisions for dividing up German lands between the Allied forces
 - They had to sign that they were the cause of everything that happened

Germany had no choice but to sign

- The scuttling at Scapa Flow
 - Just north of Scotland

Treaty of Versailles, 1918



Wilson's "14 Points" - 1921

Made their own treaty w/them 1921

- Pres. Woodrow Wilson's "14 points"
- Created League of Nations to prevent "crime of war"
- Also called secret provisions for dividing up German lands between the Allied forces
 - Irony b/c one of the 14 points was "no more secret treaties"

Consequences

- Much of Europe destroyed – infrastructure such as:
 - Roads
 - Factories
 - Homes
 - Telegraph poles
 - Sanitation systems
 - Suppliers of electricity, gas, coal, etc. put out of business

Consequences

- Approx. 40,000,000 dead
 - Approx. soldiers 9,000,000
 - Approx. 13,000,000 civilians
 - Approx 20,000,000 more died of disease (influenza)

Consequences

- Reorganized European map
- Basically ended European monarchies and European colonialism
- Inspired League of Nations – to promote global peace
 - 1920-1946
 - Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
 - Predecessor to today's United Nations

Consequences

- **World War II**
- Because of the shambles Germany's economy is left in after having to commit to all the items in the Treaty of Versailles and to Wilson's 14 Points