

World War I

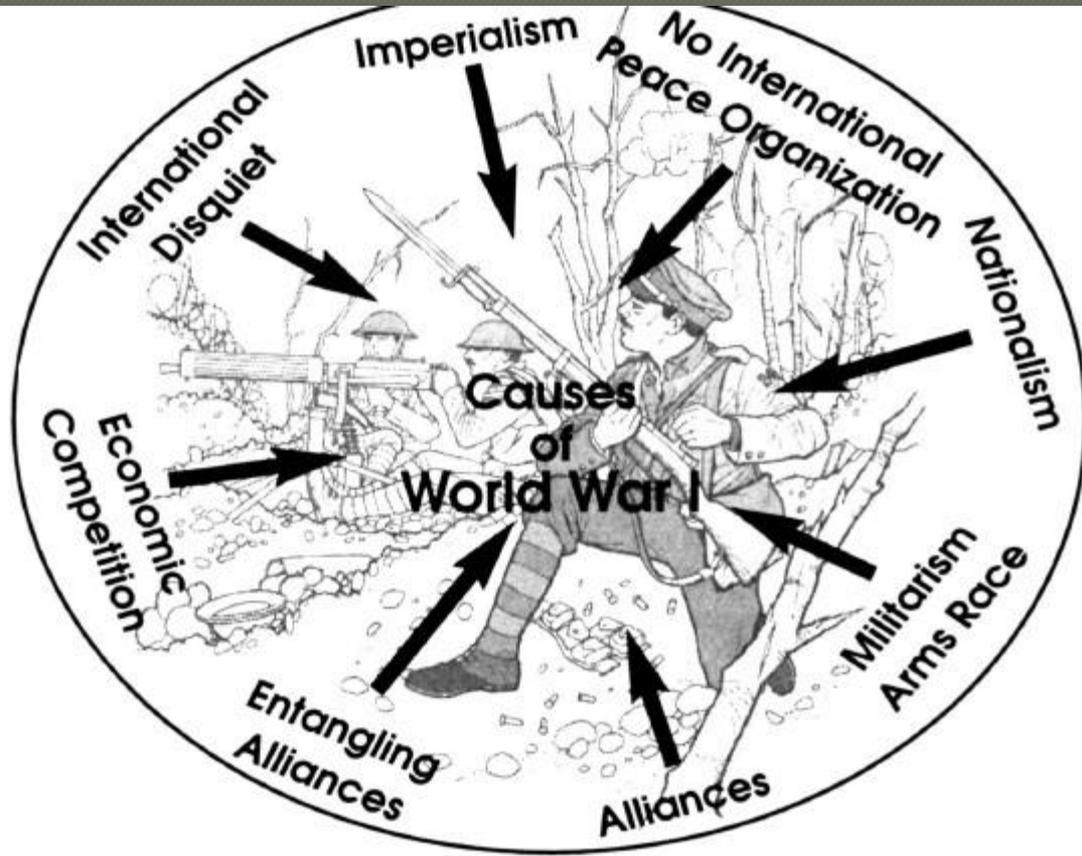
1914-1918





GENERAL MAP
EUROPE IN 1914





Source: Kime and Stich, *Global History and Geography STAR Review*, N & N, 2003

Causes of World War I: Alliances

- Otto von Bismarck successfully constructed the German Empire from a collection of German States.
- After France was defeated in the Franco Prussian War they were forced to pay reparations of what today would be \$1 billion.
- France was planning to go back to war later to regain Alsace and Lorraine, territories lost afterwards.

Causes of World War I: Alliances

- Bismarck is keen to France's plans.
- He turns to Austria-Hungary and Russia as allies.
- Russia drops out of the Three Emperors League in 1878, leaving the Dual Alliance.
- The treaty promised aid to each other if Russia attacked either or if Russia backed a power attacking Germany.
- If France were to attack, they could help or at the least they had to stay neutral.

Causes of World War I: Alliances

- In 1881, Italy enters the alliance, creating the Triple Alliance.
- If France is to attack any of the countries then the others will come to their aid.
- Additionally, if any country was to come to war with two or more powers, aid would be given.
- Lastly, if any 'preventative war' was started, the others would remain neutral.

Causes of World War I: Alliances

- However, France and Italy negotiated a secret treaty in which Italy would remain neutral should Germany attack France.



Causes of World War I: Alliances

- In 1887 Bismarck agreed to a three year deal with Russia known as the 'Reinsurance Treaty'.
- This stated that both parties would remain neutral if involved with a third power.
- Bismarck wanted to avoid a two front war.
- In the end, Czar Nicholas II allowed the treaty to lapse.

Causes of World War I: Alliances

- In 1891 France and Russia sign a treaty and agreed to help one another should they become entangled in war.
- This pitted the Triple Alliance against France and Russia.
- The alliances had come to a conclusion.



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Causes of World War I: Imperialism

- As the Industrial Revolution had already reached its peak, many nations, especially Britain and unified Germany had expanded tremendously.
- With more production the need for more resources and markets occur.
- Most markets and empires for raw materials were already taken, mostly by Britain.
- Germany was late to colonize because they were late to unify in comparison.

Causes of World War I: Imperialism

- When Bismarck resigned, Wilhelm II was firm about establishing Germany as a world power.
- He built a large navy to rival Britain's.
- Britain notices and allies itself with Japan with hopes of limiting Germany's influence to the east.
- Britain commissions a naval project of its own. By 1914 Britain has 49 battleships to Germany's 29.

Causes of World War I: More Alliances

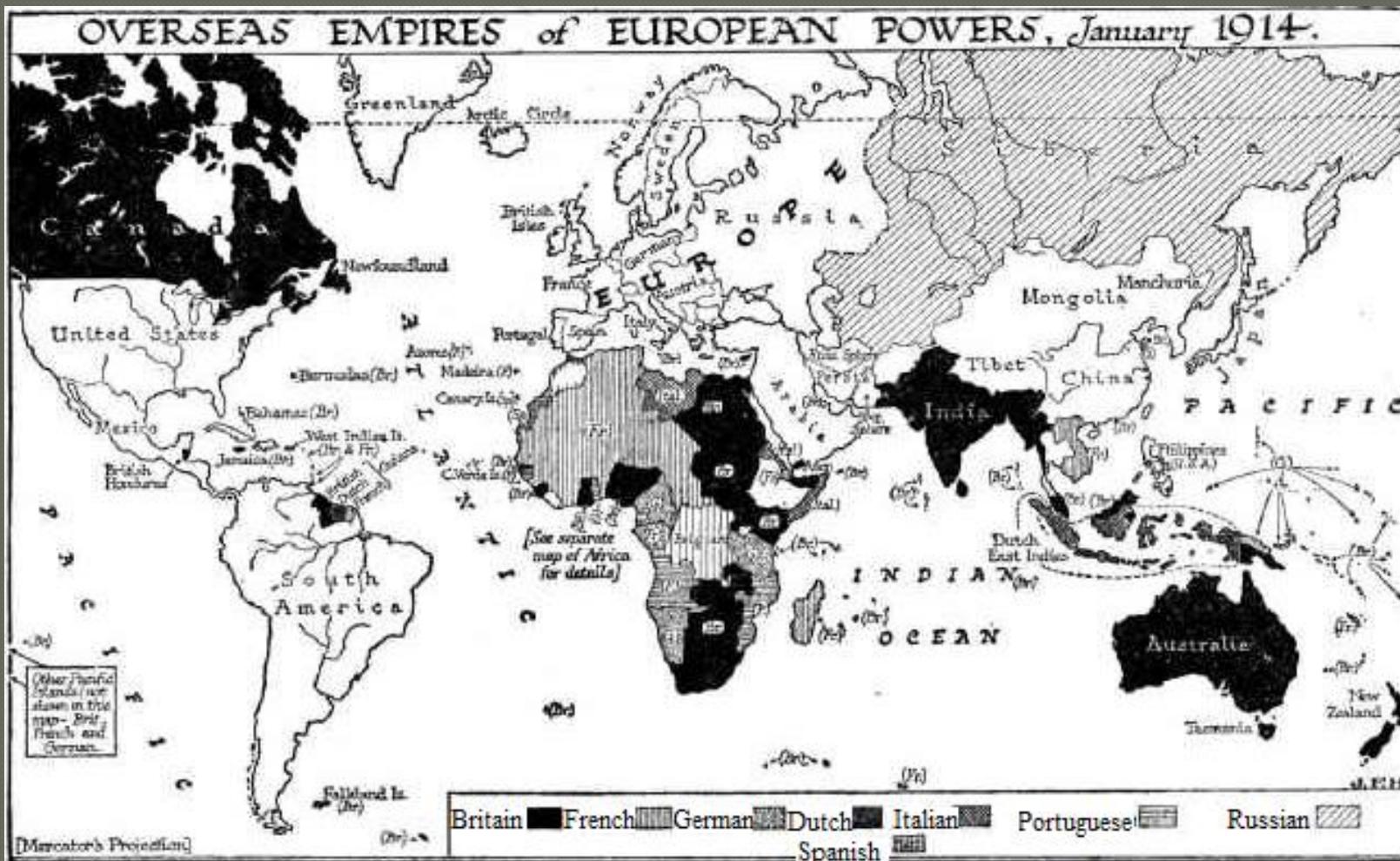
- In 1904 Britain signs the Entente Cordiale with France.
- In 1907 Russia signs on to create the **Triple Entente** that lasted until the outbreak of the war.
- These agreements were efforts to cease German imperialism.



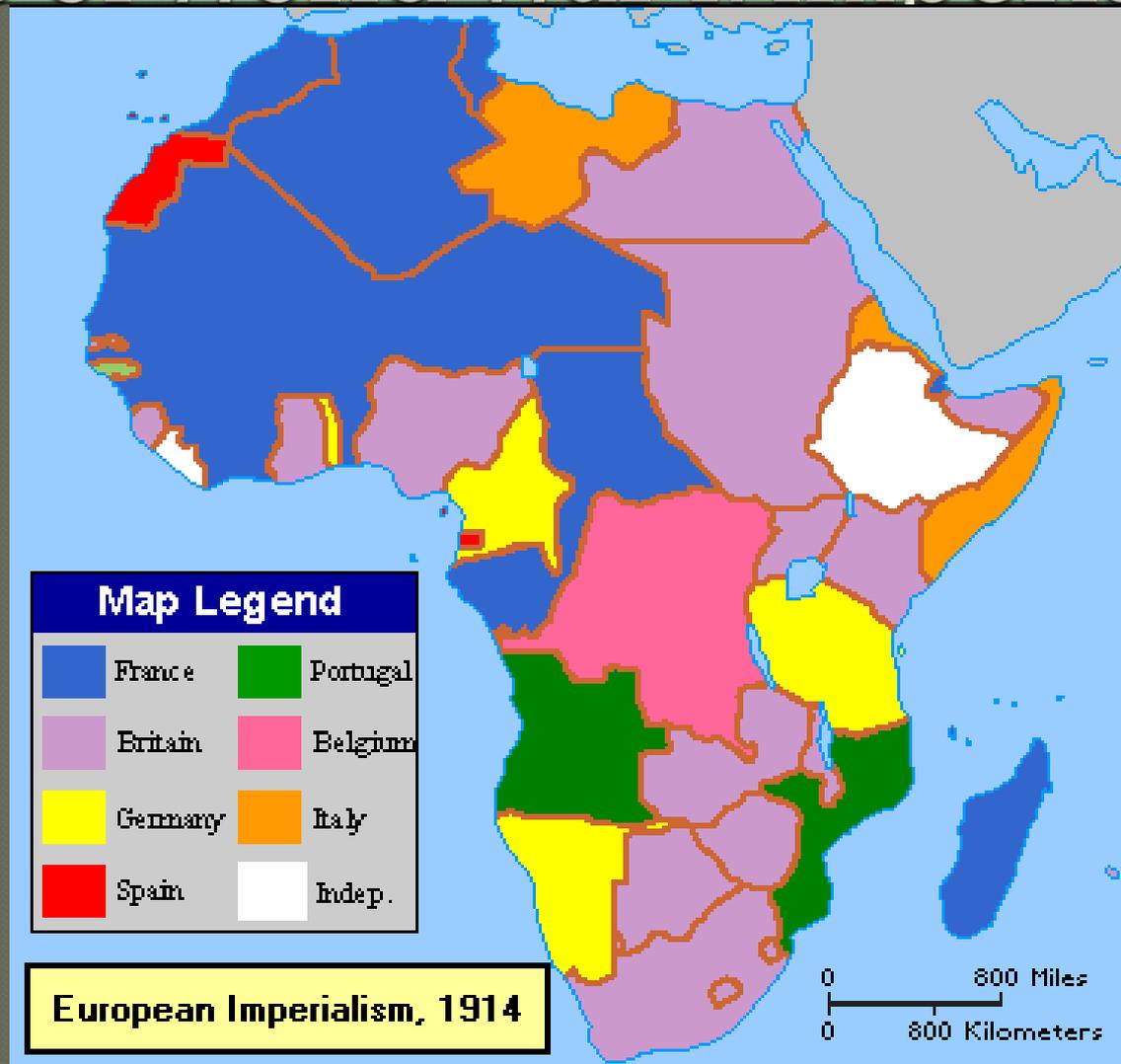
Causes of World War I: Imperialism

- ◉ Interests in Asia eventually spark a war between Russia and Japan.
- ◉ Both sought influence in Manchuria and Korea but failed to recognize each other's motives.
- ◉ Significance: Ends the idea of Russian 'invincibility'.
- ◉ Japan shows it is a growing power.
- ◉ Russia and Nicholas II want revenge.

Causes of World War I: Imperialism



Causes of World War I: Imperialism



Causes of World War I: Militarism

- Militarism: the belief or desire of a government or people that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests.
- Not to be confused with arms race.
- Arms Race: a competition between two or more parties for real or apparent military supremacy. Better weapons, stronger armies, and superior technology are goals.

Causes of World War I: Militarism

- In Germany, the army was considered to be a 'state within a state' due to its strength and influence.
- In Russia, much was the same.
- In 1914, Russian generals actually forced the Czar to mobilize.
- The arms race had been going on since around 1871 due to all of the treaties being signed between powers.

Causes of World War I: Militarism

1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
94	130	154	268	289	398

- Total amounts in pounds spent on military activity.
- It is also important to take notice of the fact that from 1910 to 1914, while France increased her defense expenditure by 10%, Britain by 13%, Russia by 39%, and Germany was the most militaristic as she increased by 73%

Causes of World War I: Militarism

- Increased in militarism and naval rivalry led the powers to believe that a war was coming at some point.
- Germany felt that war was *necessary* to make imperialistic gains.
- Militaries were taking more control over civilian governments.
- The armaments race led to quicker and more complete mobilization allowing the participants of WWI to start it off with a bang! (no pun intended)

First Moroccan Crisis: 1905-1906

- Also known as the Tangier Crisis.
- Morocco exists on the northern coast of Africa and was rich in mineral and agricultural wealth.



First Moroccan Crisis: 1905-1906

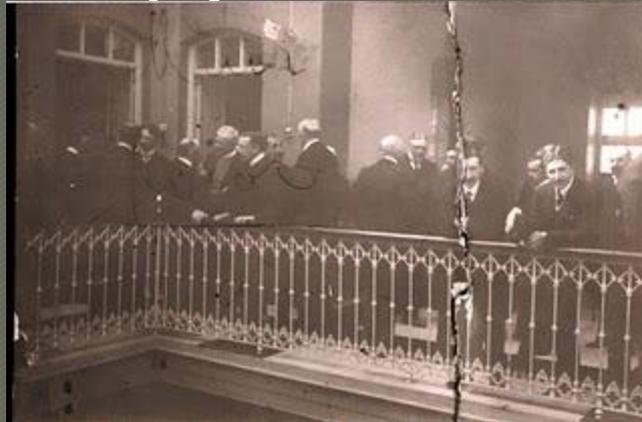
- Both France and Germany wanted influence in Morocco.
- France had easy access because they were aligned with Britain and Britain dominated that area.
- In March of 1905 Kaiser Wilhelm II arrives and makes a speech to the Sultan, promising aid if France tries to colonize.
- Germany calls for a meeting to settle the 'illegal' French claims in Morocco.

First Moroccan Crisis: 1905-1906

- The Algeciras Conference is called in 1906.
- Austria-Hungary side with Germany while the United States and Britain side with France.
- Morocco was to be an independent state but France had special privileges.
- A victory was scored for the Entente Powers.

First Moroccan Crisis: 1905-1906

- Germany was dissatisfied with the outcome.
- France planned for a Franco-German War.
- France resented Germany even more now as Germany just threatened them with war.



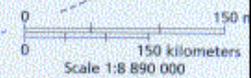
Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- The Balkans were a sensitive spot in Europe.
- Turks ruled most of the land.
- Several states such as Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania and Bulgaria had gained independence.
- Many of the independent states wanted Austria-Hungary or Turkey to give up territory that had people who identified separately from them.



International boundaries
 Boundaries of semi-independent kingdoms, duchies, principalities, and free cities
 Provincial boundaries
 Boundaries of counties, districts, and departments

- ⊙ State capitals
- ⊕ Capitals of kingdoms, duchies, and principalities
- Provincial capitals
- Departmental centers
- KOSOVA Names of provinces other than capitals

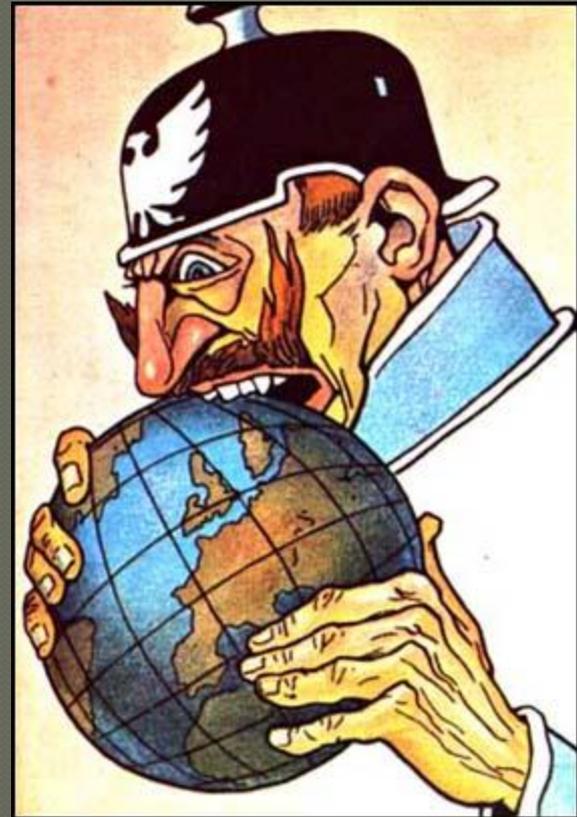


Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- Russia, Austria, and Germany were very interested in the Balkan territories.
- Russia felt it was their duty to help all slavs (such as Serbians).
- Austria wanted to suppress any movement for political freedom within their territories.
- Austria wanted to extend its rule into Serbia, forcing conflict with Russia.

Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- Germany was interested for economic reasons much like Russia.
- The Balkans provided a warm water port for Russia (or whomever held it) and access to cheap and abundant resources.



Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- The land also had a decent population, good for expanding markets for industrialized goods.
- Germany had built the Baghdad railway since 1888 that was to eventually connect Berlin to the Persian Gulf.
- Germany felt their culture was superior and that they had a mission to dominate the Balkans, the Middle East, central Europe and Asia.



FIG. 5.

Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- Count von Aehrenthal, Austrian foreign minister wanted to extend Austrian power over the Serbs in the Balkans.
- In Serbia a new king ascended and he, Peter, wanted to unite the people of Bosnia and was also anti-Austrian.
- At the same time the 'Young Turks' were growing in the Ottoman Empire.
- They were a group of military officers and liberals that demanded a constitution from the sultan.

Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- The Sultan cedes to their demands.
- In the chaos caused by the Young Turks, Ferdinand of Bulgaria ended relations with the sultan.
- Crete proclaims itself loyal to Greece.
- In Russia, their defeats to the east in Japan had turned their focus back west.
- Knowing Austria's motives, they struck a deal to stay neutral in Austria's annexation attempts in turn for their neutrality in Russia's use of the Dardanelle Straits.

Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

Dardanelles Strait is important because it links the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea and ultimately the Mediterranean. This is important for moving supplies, ships, and resources.



Bosnian Crisis: 1908 -1909

- In 1908, Austria 'suddenly' annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Serbia was upset as they wanted to someday create a Greater Serbia with these slavs.
- Russia is upset as slavs are annexed and Austria strengthened its position in the Balkans.
- War was avoided only because England and France were unwilling to help Russia.

Consequences

- I: Russia felt humiliated and immediately starts an armament program.
- II: Russia sends ambassadors out to negotiate support in France.
- III: Serbia is enraged and forms the Black Hand in 1911, a society aimed to provoke revolution in Bosnia and war with Austria.
- IV: Austria now had more Serbs than Serbia!
- V: Austria looked to crush Serbs at the first chance.

Second Moroccan Crisis: 1911

- ◉ Continued rivalry between France and Germany.
- ◉ France extends its control in Morocco.
- ◉ Germany responds by sending a gunboat to port Agadir that happened to lie along the British trade route.
- ◉ Britain sides with France fearing German construction of a naval base.
- ◉ War is avoided. Germany gives in and is compensated with a piece of the French Congo.

Consequences

- Germany had suffered a political defeat and vowed to not suffer another.
- The world powers were now alarmed by the three attempts Germany had made to dominate affairs.
- Defensively, the Entente powers exchanged information about their military statuses.
- Britain and France make a naval agreement.
- If Germany attacked, France would guard the Mediterranean and Britain would guard the English Channel and North Sea.

The Balkan Wars: 1912 - 1913



The First Balkan War: 1912

- The Young Turks successfully create revolution but also make a weak central government.
- Italy decides to attack during this time and wins Tripoli from Turkey.
- After Turkey's defeat Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro formed the Balkan League.
- They declare war on Turkey with hopes to partition the Turkish Empire.

The First Balkan War: 1912

- ◉ The world powers watched from a distance as the league successfully won.
- ◉ Victory caused Austria to fear growing Serbian power.
- ◉ The powers intervene and create the Treaty of London.
- ◉ In this treaty, Albania is created at the insistence of Austria.
- ◉ This new country prevents Serbia from gaining territory along the coastline of the Adriatic Sea.

The First Balkan War: 1912



Black line:
frontiers at
outset of the
war
Green line:
frontiers of
Ottoman
Empire at
outset of war
Darker colors:
Serb, Bulgarian,
Greek and
Montenegrin
gains

The Second Balkan War: 1913

- Bulgaria was not completely satisfied.
- The country felt that Macedonia belonged to them.
- Serbia did not agree and the conflict developed into war.
- Bulgaria alone fought against Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, Greece and Turkey.
- Bulgaria is defeated.

Consequences

- The Balkan Wars directly led to the beginning of World War I.
- Firstly, Serbia was twice victorious in the Balkan wars and was larger than ever--her area doubled as she got a large part of Macedonia. The desire to make herself larger by including all fellow nationals in a united Slav state was intensified. This brought her more sharply into collision with Austria which ruled eight million Serbs and Croats and which prevented Serbia from getting a coastline.

Consequences

- ◉ Secondly, Austria found that the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina grew increasingly troublesome. She was determined to attack Serbia before it was too late.
- ◉ Thirdly, the Kaiser knew that Austria was her only dependable ally in Europe. He assured the Austrian Foreign Minister that 'You can be certain I stand behind you and am ready to draw the sword whenever your action makes it necessary.'

Consequences

- Fourthly, the Russian Czar felt that Russia had suffered a diplomatic defeat because she could not obtain Albania for Serbia due to Austrian insistence. In order to recover her lost prestige in the Balkans, the Czar declared in February 1914, "For Serbia, we shall do everything."



Consequences



Consequences

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Assassination: 1914

- The Serbian Black Hand felt pressured to assassinate Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria.
- Francis Joseph, the reigning monarch was eighty-four years old and was expected to die soon.
- Ferdinand wanted to convert Austria-Hungary into a triple alliance by consuming Serbia.

Assassination: 1914

- By obtaining Serbia in this manner, Serbia may gain autonomy but it would never be able to create a unified Serbian state.
- Some members of the Serbian cabinet knew of the plot but did nothing or little to stop it.
- This was not the first time Serbians had tried to kill Austrian officials

Assassination: 1914

- Sarajevo National Day: June 28, 1914



Assassination: 1914

- Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, Princess Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg were in Sarajevo.
- They visited Serbia to inspect troops and it also happened to be their anniversary.
- Sophie was pregnant with their fourth child at the time.
- They drove along in a procession while members of the Black Hand Movement waited.

Assassination: 1914

- Several men were positioned along Apple Quay, armed with guns, grenades, and cyanide for themselves to commit suicide.
- As they drove, the first two men failed to act.
- Upon reaching Cumurja Bridge, the next assassin, Cabrinovic, threw a grenade.
- Ferdinand saw it and batted it away, killing and injuring several behind him.

Assassination: 1914

- Cabrinovic then swallowed his cyanide and jumped into the river nearby.
- Unfortunately for him, the cyanide was old and did not kill him. He was later arrested.
- The other assassins heard the explosion and figured the Archduke was dead so they were too stunned to act when the car proceeded and they saw him alive.

Assassination: 1914

- The archduke made it to the town hall and gave his speech in disarray.
- He decided to visit those wounded in a nearby hospital.
- The driver of the car made the fatal mistake of turning down Franz Joseph Street.
- 19 Year old Gavrilo Princip had gone to lunch after a 'failed' assassination attempt.
- He had come out of Schiller's Store and Deli and was still armed from the previous plan.

Assassination: 1914

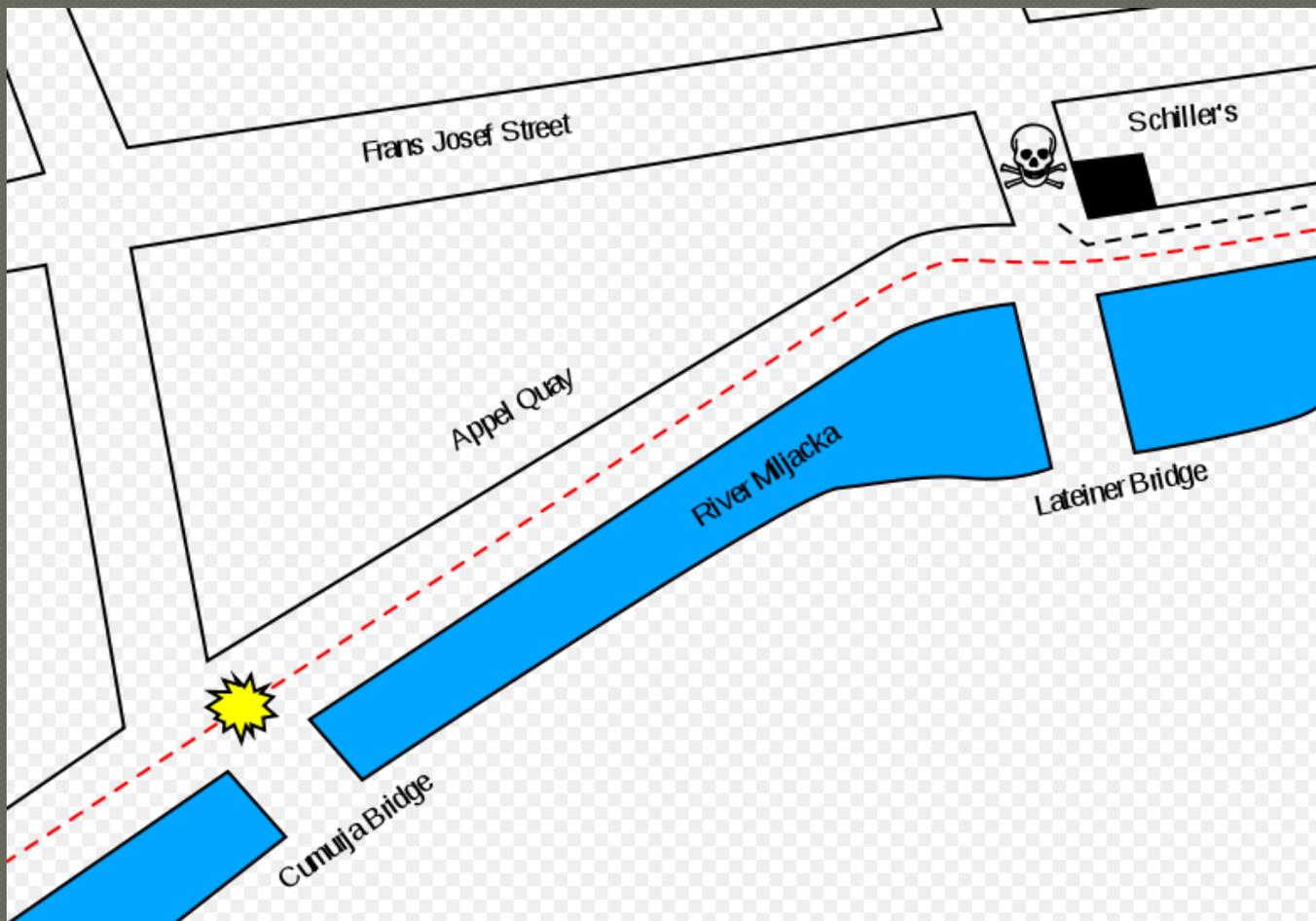
- ◉ When the driver stopped to go reverse back onto the street, Princip shot.
- ◉ The first bullet hit Ferdinand in the neck, piercing his jugular and lodging in his spine.
- ◉ The second missed its original target, but hit Sophie in the abdomen.
- ◉ She died in her husband's arms.
- ◉ Franz Ferdinand died shortly afterwards even though he had a bullet proof vest on.

Assassination: 1914

- Gavriilo Princip and Cabrinovic each received 20 years in prison, the maximum for their age (under 20).
- Several others were executed.



Assassination: 1914



Consequences

- Yes, the assassination famously triggers World War I.
- Austria-Hungary see the act as a direct threat to the dual alliance system.



Consequences

- Although no evidence was found linking the assassination to the government, Austria-Hungary used the event to make a move against Serbia.
- Serbia was allied with Russia so Austria-Hungary had to make sure Germany was behind them.
- Germany did not fully believe Russia would aid Serbia over the death of a *future* monarch.

Consequences

- Germany's pledge of endless aid is known as the "Blank Cheque".
- Austria, knowing its alliances, sends an ultimatum to Serbia.
- The answer must be received within 48 hours.



Ultimatum

- (i) Serbia was to suppress all anti-Austrian (and Pan-Slav) publications, societies and propaganda.
- (ii) Serbia was to dismiss all anti-Austrian officials objected by Austria.
- (iii) Austrian police and officials were to enter Serbia and to take part in the Serbian police force in order to carry out the suppression of anti-Austrian activities and investigations concerning the Sarajevo murders.

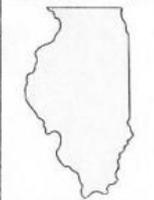
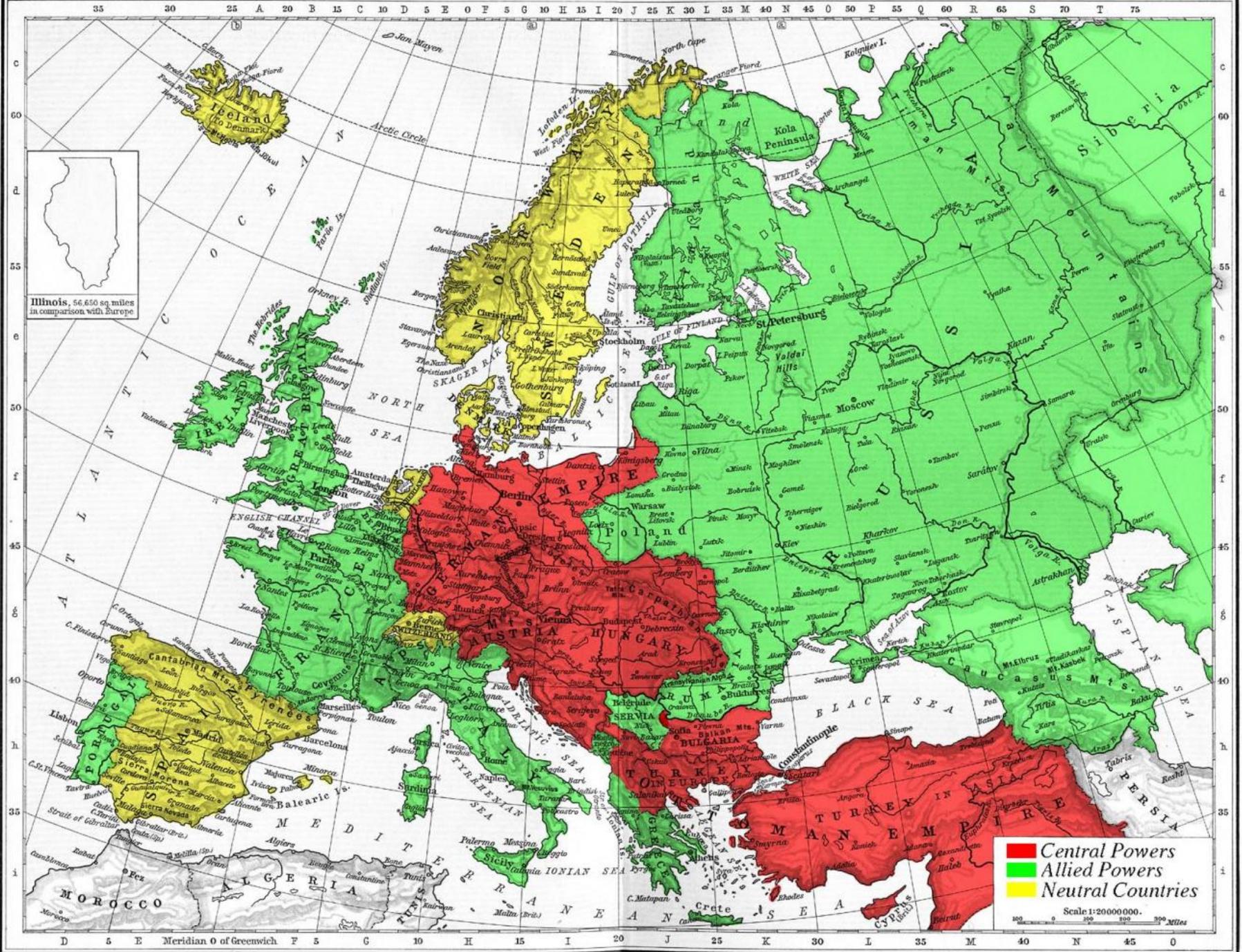
Response

- Austria designed the ultimatum with hopes that Serbia *would* reject it.
- This would give them an excuse to attack.
- Serbia accepted the first two, but not the third.
- Wilhelm II of Germany felt that the issue was resolved well enough to avoid war.
- On July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia.

Outbreak of War



- The bombing of Belgrade began on July 29, 1914.
- Immediately Germany fears a war on two fronts with France and Russia.
- Germany orders Russia to stop its mobilization, which is ignored.



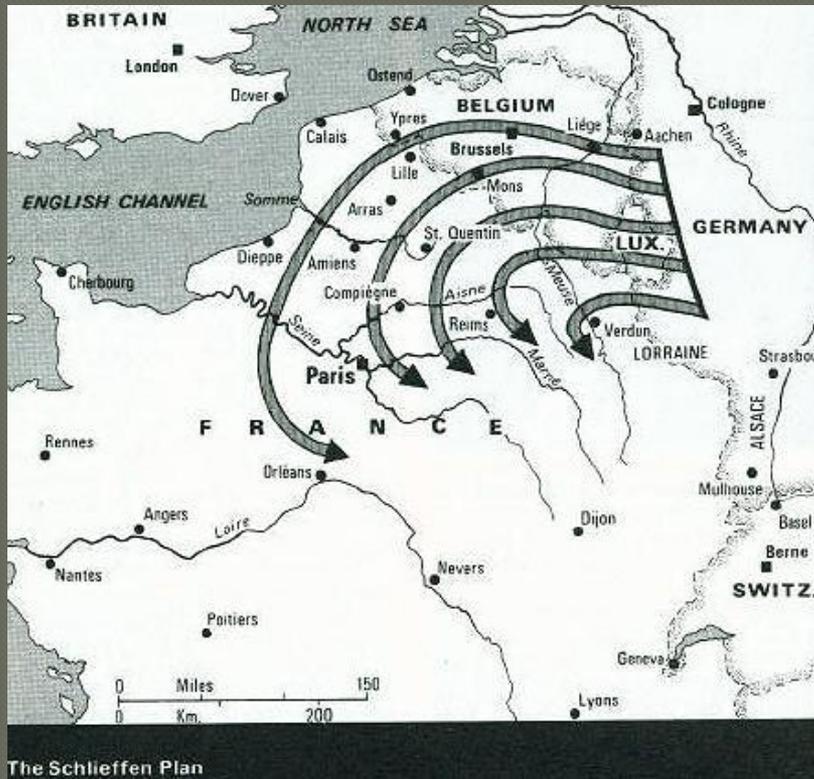
Illinois, 56,650 sq miles
in comparison with Europe

■ Central Powers
■ Allied Powers
■ Neutral Countries

Scale 1:20,000,000.

0 100 200 300 Miles

Schlieffen War Plan



- Count Schlieffen believed that Russia would require 6 weeks to fully mobilize.
- Germany would concentrate all of its power to overcome France before this.

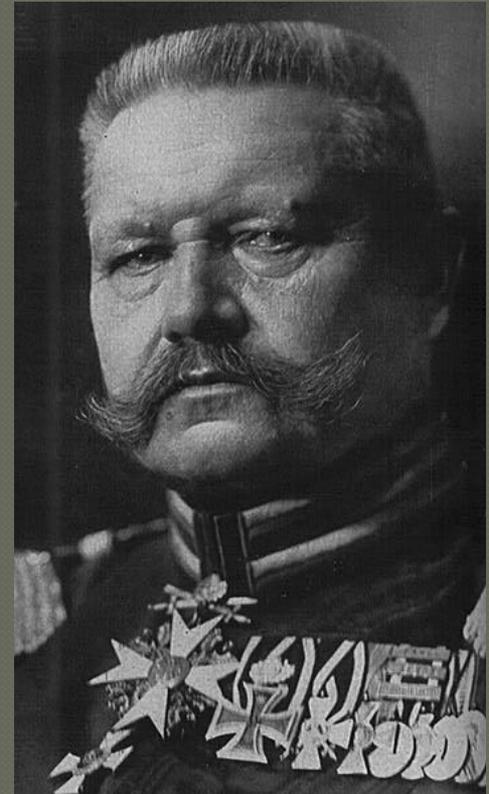
Schlieffen War Plan

- After entering France through Belgium Germany discovered more resistance than expected.
- Civilians took arms and sniped troops.
- Germany retaliated by burning towns and killing civilians.



Russia's First Moves

- In response to the Schlieffen Plan, Russia attacked Germany much sooner.
- Germany's military leaders panicked and Paul von Hindenburg was promoted to deal with the situation.
- He called troops back from the west.



Battle of Tannenburg



- German troops coming back from the west engaged Russian's under Samsanov forcing them to retreat.
- While running, another German force intercepts and proceeds to kill over 30,000 Russians and capture 92,000.

Britain and Japan

- ◉ When Germany invaded Belgium on its route to France, Britain had declared war.
- ◉ Britain did not want any power to control Belgium for any reasons.
- ◉ On August 23, 1914, Japan declared war on Germany in alliance with Britain.
- ◉ Japan had interest in reclaiming lands seized by Germany in the Pacific.

The First Month

- Russia suffered massive casualties.
- Germany did not realize its predicted quick victory.
- Serbia successfully defended itself.
- Britain and Japan had sided against Germany and Austria-Hungary.

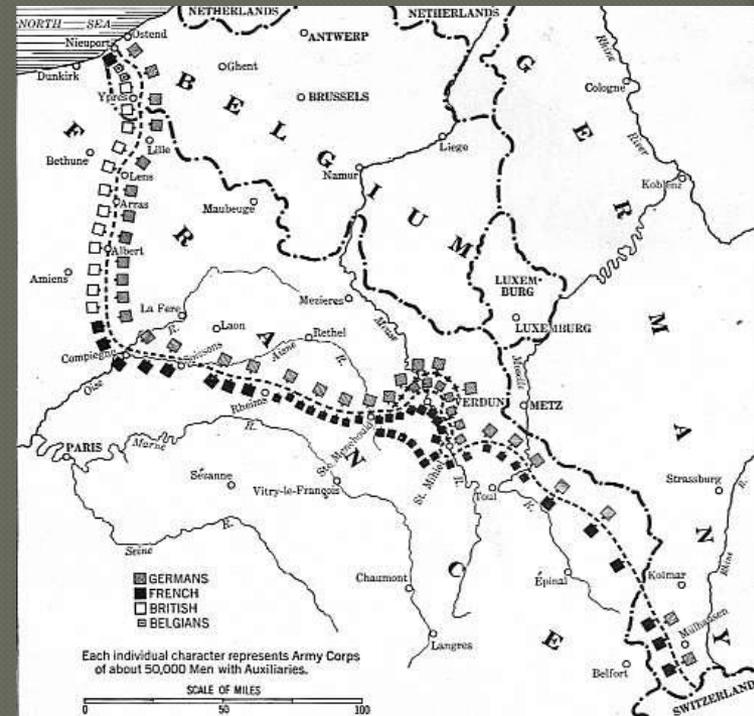
- The war had shown its capabilities for destruction and possibility to continue for a longer period than projected.

War Continues

- August 23, 1914: First real British/French/German encounter.
- Germany was advancing on Paris and covered 120 miles to the outskirts of the city.
- At the Battle of the Marne, retreating troops were reinforced and countered the sleep deprived Germans.
- Over 1 million troops fought on each side.

Forming the Western Front

- As the Germans retreated, they were able to dig in near the Aisne River.
- Neither side was able to advance and the Western Front was formed.
- It would last near the same position until the end of the war.



Schlieffen Plan Failure

- Failure occurred for several reasons:
- Russia's early entry into Germany.
- Britain's 'unexpected' entry into the war.
- The German supply line was stretched even further the farther it advanced.
- Troop rotation became impossible.
- Germany's army was split.

Trench Warfare

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Trench Warfare

- Evolved when improvements in firepower were not met with improvements in military strategy.
- Artillery ranged prohibited strategic movements and created a 'no man's land'.
- Defenses would hold strong.

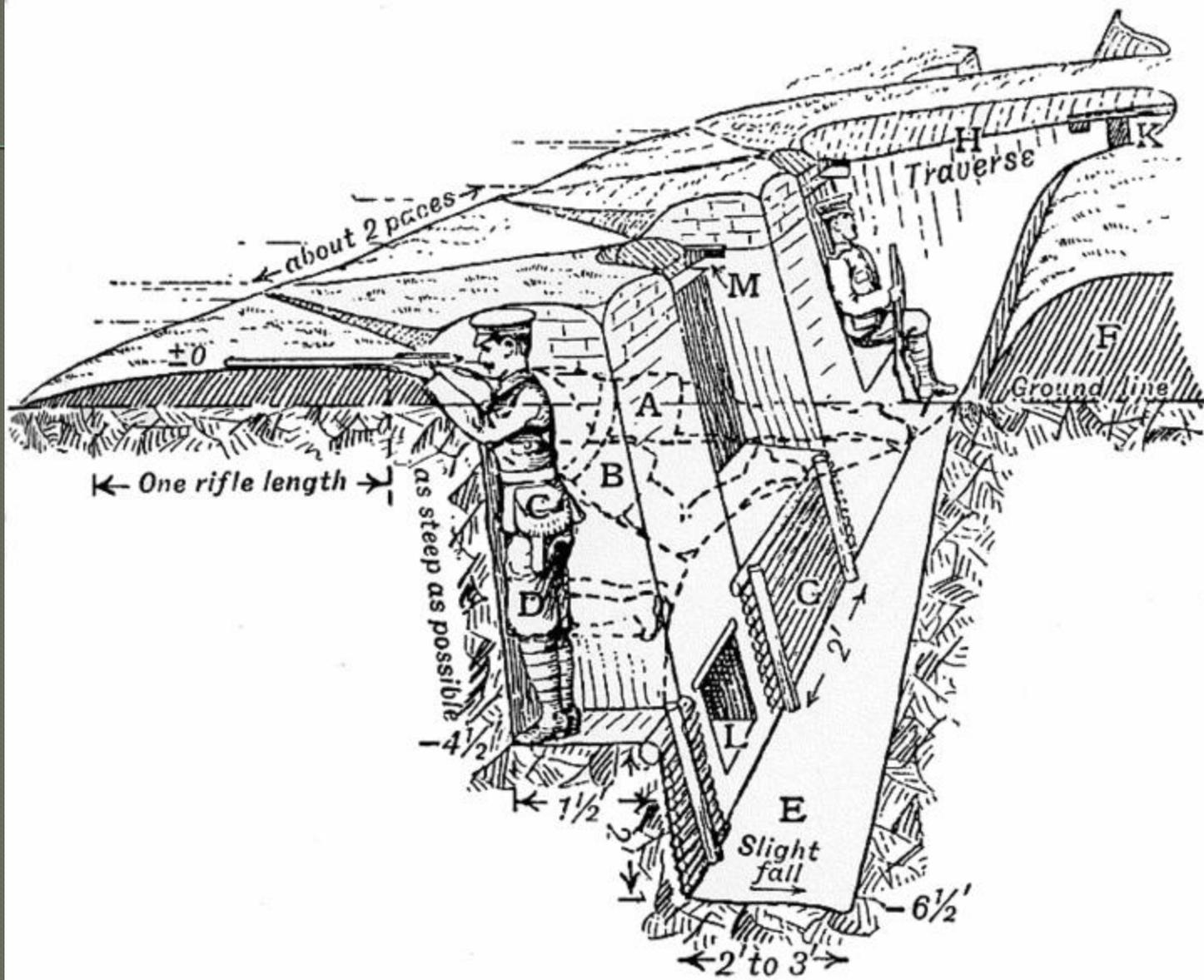


Trench Warfare

- Each trench was fronted by barbed wire.
- No Man's land faced artillery from both sides.
- Symbolic of poor leadership that was unwilling or unable to accept the fact that heroism would not overcome technology.
- “lions led by donkeys”
- No Man's land ranged from 30-300 yards, although it averaged around 100.

Trench Warfare

- At first the trenches were simple.
- As war went on, shell-proof bunkers were priority.
- Barbed wire lines were more intricate.
- Eventually, periscope rifles were created to help limit head exposure.
- The result of trench warfare was millions of deaths during WWI.



Life in the Trenches

On an individual level, a typical British soldier's year could be divided as follows:

15% front line

10% support line

30% reserve line

20% rest

25% other (hospital, travelling, leave, training courses, etc.)

Life in the Trenches

- Daytime in the trenches was most quiet as snipers and artillery observers watched.
- At night troops would move for supplies, attempt to expand trenches, and attack working parties.
- Trench raids became popular by the British.
- During these, artillery would cut the front trench and shift to protect by bombing in a 'box' shape.
- Ground troops moved in to take whatever they could.
- However, this notified the enemy of where troop movement was targeting.

Life in the Trenches

- Most of the deaths that resulted from war came in the trenches.
- Disease and infection took the lives of the wounded or unsupplied.

- In 1914, the Christmas Truce was made between German and British troops.
- They stopped fighting and came out of their trenches to share goods, stories, and play football.
- No one knew the war would last so long.



Vue perspective de tranchées allemandes : 1. Tranchées de première ligne, garnies de fil de fer barbelé; 2. Tranchées de deuxième ligne; 3. Tranchées de troisième ligne; 4. Tranchées-abri garnies; 5. Boyaux et abris souterrains qui relient les lignes; A. Poste d'observation; B. Cockpays pour mitrailleuses; C. Châssis de armes.



War on the Sea

- Remember that Germany and Britain had improved their navies in response to one another.
- The Allied powers wanted to blockade the Central powers.
- Germany wanted to blockade Britain.



War on the Sea

- Germany develops the U-Boat, or submarine.
- U-Boats were not used in combat nearly as much as they *should* and *could* have been by Germany.
- They were used to stop merchant ships around Britain from bringing supplies.



War on the Sea

- ◉ German u-boats sank ships with ease.
- ◉ They observed 'prize rules' of warfare by which crews of merchant ships had to be placed in 'safety' before being sunk and civilian ships would not be sunk at all.
- ◉ Eventually Kaiser Wilhelm declares most areas warzones and gives the green light to sink all ships, including American passenger ships if necessary.

War on the Sea

- Naval technology greatly improved.
- Germans used better maneuverability, optical sights, and range finding.
- British boats were faster, were equipped with better guns, and were produced quicker.



War on the Sea

- ◉ August 28, 1914
- ◉ Britain plans to lure German boats out from the coastlines of the North Sea to open water.
- ◉ After a few attempts, German boats pursue dummy boats and go out into the fog.
- ◉ After an eight hour battle, Germany lost three cruisers and 1,200 men while Britain only lost 35 men and no ships.
- ◉ Germany would not venture out into open water again.

War on the Sea



- In 1907 an agreement was made that stated no sea mining would occur outside 3 miles of the enemies coast.
- Both Britain and Germany would break this agreement.
- This is a problem for neutral ships especially and the environment.

Enter the Ottoman Empire

- The war at sea brings in the Ottoman Empire.
- The Ottoman Empire was more friendly with the central powers before the war.
- Germany wanted more allies and the Ottomans thought allying itself with Germany would help revive their country.
- Germany sells two ships to the Ottoman Empire but Germans remain on and in control of the ships.

Enter the Ottoman Empire

- In 'practice' maneuvers, the German admiral moves up towards Russia and fires at seaports, boats, and oil depots.
- Russia believes Turkey is responsible, not the Germans due to the names of the boats.
- Britain, France, and Russia attack Turkish forts in the Dardanelles.
- Turkey declares war on all three at once.

Importance of the War at Sea

- ◉ Naval warfare technology rapidly increased.
- ◉ Large gunships could be destroyed with ease by new submarines.
- ◉ Sea mines could kill without the need of being manned by sailors.
- ◉ Fighting on the seas was important because it often decided who controlled certain trade routes.

The War in the Sky

- The airplane was only eleven years old when WWI started.
- Military leaders first employed it as a way to spy on the enemy.
- Reconnaissance plane is manned by one person with a camera.
- Participants now need a way to stop reconnaissance planes.
- Ground artillery at this time was ineffective.

The War in the Sky

- At first pilots tried shooting at each other with guns.
- Then they tried throwing grenades.
- Then they tried using grappling hooks.
- They even tried throwing bricks....



The War in the Sky

- ◉ Finally, fighter planes were equipped with machine guns.
- ◉ On August 1, 1915 German pilots shot down the first plane from another.
- ◉ Russia developed bomber planes based off of large passenger plane designs by 1914.
- ◉ Zeppelins were developed by the Germans by 1915.



The War in the Sky

- In WWI movies, pilots and airplanes are often seen as heroic or invincible.
- In truth, pilots often had less than five weeks of training.
- Few survived more than a few weeks of duty.
- Pilots would not know what to do in bad weather, they'd run out of fuel, or their engines would fail and they'd die a terrible death.
- Parachutes were considered to be 'cowardly' by countries such as Britain.

Total War: Gas

- 22nd of April, not far from the city of Ypres, the Germans did something new
- Cylinders of poison gas were lined up and when the wind was right, soldiers opened them on the French and Canadian troops.
- No masks were worn as gas had never been used.
- A green cloud filled the air and hundreds of men died a terrible death.

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Total War: Gas

- 22nd of April, not far from the city of Ypres, the Germans did something new
- Cylinders of poison gas were lined up and when the wind was right, soldiers opened them on the French and Canadian troops.
- No masks were worn as gas had never been used.
- A green cloud filled the air and hundreds of men died a terrible death.

Total War: Gas



Total War: Gas

- ◉ Mustard Gas, Chlorine, Phosgene, and Tear gas were the most widely used.
- ◉ By April 22, 1915, Germany had over 168 tons of chlorine in 5,730 cylinders.
- ◉ Chlorine was the first deadly gas.
- ◉ It caused external blisters, blistering of the lung, and the skin to rot.
- ◉ Mustard gas is another well known gas used in WWI.

Total War: Gas

- Mustard Gas is a non-lethal gas, although it may kill in high dosages.
- It is known as a blister gas.
- This gas has an agent that destroys DNA and cells, killing tissues and membranes it comes into contact with.
- It causes severe itching.
- As shown in the movie, some soldiers would claw themselves to death.

Total War: Gas

- Combined with the use of zeppelins that caused large amounts of destruction with little accuracy, gas now made WWI a total war.
- Civilians were affected more in this war than any other.
- According to Jay Winter of Cambridge University:
"Now, that moment is very important in understanding how the war that so many people joined up to fight turned into something much worse."

Total War: Gas

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Italian Neutrality... not

- In 1882 Italy became part of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- When WWI began, they declared neutrality.
- As the war developed they offered their allegiance to Austria-Hungary with a long list of demands.
- Austria-Hungary refused and Italy approached the Allied Powers.

Italian Neutrality... not

- On April 26, 1915 the (secret) London Treaty was signed.
- This granted Italy claims to land in Austria-Hungary and on May 23, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary.
- For the next two years, Italians and Austro-Hungarian forces battled in more trenches along South Tyrol to the Isonzo River.
- About 300,000 of 600,000 Italian casualties in WWI occurred along the Isonzo in 12 battles.

Italian Neutrality... not



The Battle of Verdun

- Verdun guarded the capital of Paris for hundreds of years in France.
- Attila the Hun even failed to capture the city.
- Battle lasts from February 21 until December 18, 1916.
- German chief of staff Erich von Falkenhayn writes to Kaiser Wilhelm II that the war will be won on the *western front* as he believed Russia was on the brink of revolution and withdrawal from the war.

The Battle of Verdun

- The Germans wanted to defeat France not necessarily by taking Paris but by killing so many soldiers.
- Germany needs a place where France will not be able to, nor want to retreat from.
- They believe Verdun can be taken and also know many pieces of artillery had been moved and 128,000 rounds were already expired.

The Battle of Verdun

- Verdun is a city-fortress, with rings of forts and underground tunnels and housing.
- The Germans begin by bombing the trenches with over 1,400 guns and 10,000 shells dropping per hour.
- One million Germans v. 200,000 French
- German advances are much slower than expected.
- They succeed in drawing French troops in as over 75% of the troops eventually fought at Verdun.

The Battle of Verdun

- Germany never realizes its goal of inflicting disproportionate casualties.
- French military casualties at Verdun, in 1916, are recorded as: 371,000 men including 60,000 killed, 101,000 missing and 210,000 wounded.
- Total German casualties at Verdun, between February and December 1916, are recorded as 337,000 men and half of them being dead.

The Battle of Verdun

- Over 50 million shells were fired between the two sides.
- Over 100,000 men's remains still exist and are constantly found by the French Forestry Service.



The Battle of Verdun



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ABOVE - Fort Douaumont in 1915 before Battle of Verdun

BELOW - Aerial view of Fort Douaumont in November 1916



The Battle of Verdun

- Introduction of Phosgene gas and the usage of Storm Troopers.
- Storm troopers are also known as shock troopers.
- Used to assault enemy trenches.
- Introduction of the flame-thrower.
- Displays France's resilience and German leaders begin to become upset with each others tactics.

War of Attrition

- After Verdun and the Battle of Somme, where another 300,000 men die, the war become a war of attrition.
- This simply means who can afford to lose the most men.
- Most major participants (Germany, Britain, and France) use people from territories they've imperialized to fight.
- Only the US and Russia used their own people exclusively.

Enter the United States

- The United States declared neutrality in 1914.
- After the *Lusitania* was sunk, killing 128 Americans and 1,200 passengers, the US remained neutral.
- In 1916, Woodrow Wilson was re-elected President under a platform of antiwar and pro-neutrality rhetoric.
- By now, millions were dead and the US wanted to begin negotiations to end the war.
- France renewed themselves at Verdun and Germany wanted to begin negotiations.

Enter the United States

- Germany begins unrestricted submarine warfare in January of 1917 effective on February 1.
- They planned to starve Britain of resources.
- The United States had been actively aiding the Allied forces through trade.
- On February 3, 1917 the *Housatonic* was sunk.
- Wilson ends diplomatic relations with Germany.

Zimmerman Telegram

- Zimmermann's message was: FROM 2nd from London # 5747. "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.

Zimmerman Telegram



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SOME PROMISE!

April 1911

Zimmerman Telegram

- ◉ Although Germany proposed this, the Mexican government did not agree.
- ◉ Mexico did not want war with the US.
- ◉ Germany could not help them because Britain would blockade with their large Royal Navy.
- ◉ The territories to be re-gained were already predominately English speaking and would not be appeased.
- ◉ President Carranza declined on April 14, *after* the US declared war on Germany.

Zimmerman Telegram

- Americans were already anti-Mexican especially in the southwest due to Poncho Villas border raids.
- The matter by which Britain intercepted the message was a problem as they tapped into neutral lines.
- Britain had to make up stories to cover themselves.
- On April 6, 1917 the US entered WWI.

US Involvement



- Wilson was a progressive and wanted to promote global democracy.
- Not enough people signed up for the war so a draft was instituted .

Wilson's Fourteen Points

- January 8, 1918: Wilson delivers speech.
- Some main points:
 - -Freedom of the seas (Britain did not agree)
 - -Reduce armament programs
 - -France should be restored
 - -People in Austria-Hungary should be allowed to pursue their autonomy
 - -Poland should be created
 - -An association of nations should be formed

Wilson's Fourteen Points



- The Fourteen Points were dropped behind enemy lines as well.
- Germany took note and wanted an armistice but Britain and France wanted more.
- France wanted large reparations from Germany.
- Wilson wins Nobel Peace Prize in 1919

US Involvement

- The US was only at war with Germany and was not actually an Allied Power.
- By 1918 four million men were drafted.
- 10,000 troops were sent to France every day.



Exit Russia

- Russia was losing battles against Germany while winning against Austria-Hungary.
- 1.8 million military deaths and 1.5 million civilian deaths made the war very unpopular in Russia.
- Sympathy for Serbia declined.
- Food shortages began across the country.
- Labor strikes occurred, putting stress on the economy of Russia.

February Revolution

- Civilians at food queues began demonstrations on February 23, 1917.
- Women in nearby factories joined (it was also international Women's Day).
- Over the next few days factories shut down without workers and masses joined in the street.
- Military police began to sympathize with them and eventually everyone wanted to overthrow the government

Bolshevik Revolution

- On March 13, Tsar Nicholas abdicated.
- Germany sees an opportunity to fuel the chaos.
- They help exiled Vladimir Lenin come back to Petrograd via train on April 16.



Bolshevik Revolution

- Lenin is the leader of the Bolshevik Party.
- The October Revolution is the beginning of modern day communism.
- Based on Marxist ideas, Lenin's beliefs clash with monarchists and liberals/
- The White Army organizes to fight the Bolshevik Red Army.
- A civil war ensues killing even more Russians.

Bolshevik Revolution

- On July 17, 1918 the Romanov family was executed.
- Without Nicholas being alive, the White Army had no real cause to fight.
- Interestingly the executions did not go as planned and took 20 minutes as the young daughters were 'tough' to kill.
- They had pearl belts and diamond clad corsets that ricocheted bullets.

Exit Russia

- After the October Revolution and before the execution of the Romanov's, Lenin declared peace as his first action.
- Peace was not easily granted as the Allies still wanted Russia to fight.
- In the end, after threats, Russia negotiated a cease fire and negotiated for peace.
- They lost present day Finland, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, the Ukraine, and Belarus.

Exit Russia

- Now, the eastern front was closed and some 900,000 troops would join the western front.
- Ironically, this move of 'peace' probably lengthened the war.



Endgame

- Germany was determined to win Paris before the US arrived.
- On March 21, 1918 the typical long range shelling began and lasted 5 hours followed by poison gas attacks.
- Germany pushed forward and within 3 days they were in range with new weapons to drop shells from 74 miles away.

Endgame

- From spring until summer, both sides fought back and forth.
- Morale was at all time lows for both sides and soldiers had no energy but officers and leaders kept urging the fight along.
- The US at this time had been involved in the war for over a year but few troops had seen any combat.
- France and Britain were angry as they thought the US would immediately help.

Endgame

- In the summer of 1918 influenza outbreaks killed over 50 million people (3% of world population).
- 500 million were infected (33%)



One Hundred Days Offensive



- Germany's assault in the summer failed to realize their goals of separating British and French troops.
- The One Hundred Days Offensive was the last Allied counter attack on the Central Powers.

One Hundred Days Offensive

- From July 18 to November 11, 1918 the Allied Offensive slowly pushed Germans away from the western front.
- October 30, 1918: Turkey signs armistice
- November 3, 1918: Austria-Hungary
- On the 11th day at the 11th hour of the 11th month, WWI ended when Germany was to move their troops back into their homeland.

Treaty of Versailles

- Signed on June 28, 1919: Exactly 5 years after the archduke was assassinated.
- The signing of this treaty was done at the Paris Peace Conference that involved more than 30 countries.
- Each country would have their own treaty but this one dealt with Germany and greatly affected Europe and the future.

Treaty of Versailles

- French revanchism – intention to gain back money and lands for 1.5 million deaths.
- In article 231 Germany is blamed for the war.
- 31.4 billion dollars would be paid by Germany.



Treaty of Versailles

- German troops would never amount to more than 100,000 soldiers.
- The German Navy would be dramatically reduced in size (crews and ships).
- Weapons trade and manufacturing was severely cut.
- Some historians believe that reparations would not have been paid until 2020 in full.

League of Nations

- The League of Nations was created in the Treaty of Versailles.
- At its peak, 58 nations were included.
- Its primary goal was to prevent war through collective security, disarmament, and settling international disputes through negotiations and arbitration.
- Improving the treatment of natives, stopping drug trade, human trafficking, and improving global health were also concerns.

Assessment

- WWI changed the world in many ways.
- It was the first multi-continental war and killed more people than any other by far.
- Technological advancements appeared at faster rates than anytime before.
- WWI also shifted the balance of power in Europe and the United States was slowly becoming a world power.
- Many blame the Treaty of Versailles for starting WWII.

Discussion:

- 1. What is trench warfare, and why was so much of World War I dominated by this method of fighting? Consider such elements as technology, strategy, attitudes of leaders, and any other factors you can think of. How did trench warfare affect the duration of the war?

Discussion:

- 2. After the war, Germany was punished much more severely than were the remnants of Austria-Hungary. Do you think this was reasonable? In your answer, consider the roles each country shared in starting and escalating the war. Also consider the roles of Serbia and Russia.