



# The World War I Era

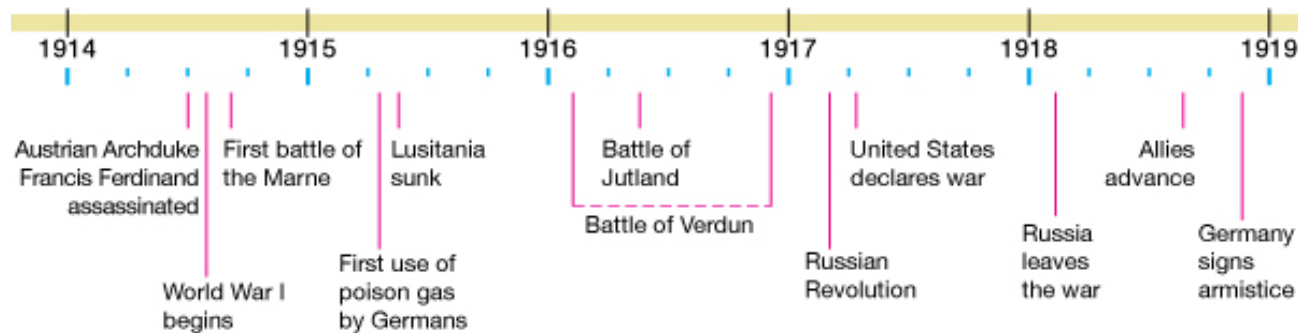
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1900-1919

# Overview of World War I

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## Chief Events of World War I, 1914–18



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- Lasted 1914-1918
- Referred to as the “Great War” because of incredible scale of violence and unprecedented involvement of nations
- Fundamentally hindered power of Western European nations
- Encouraged growth of nationalism in Europe

WWI CASUALTIES

# TOTAL STATISTICS

1914-1919

37,466,904  
TOTAL CASUALTIES



65,038,810  
MEN MOBILISED



8,528,831  
KILLED



21,189,154  
WOUNDED



7,750,919  
PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND MISSING

Description of  
all World War I  
Casualties

# Long-term Causes of the Great War

## The Alliance System

### Triple Entente:



Great Britain



France



Russia

### Triple Alliance:

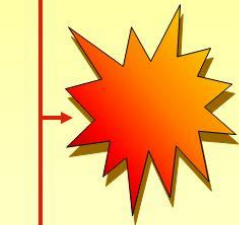


Germany


Austria-Hungary



Italy



- Represented by the acronym **M.A.I.N.**
- **Militarism:** Aggressive military preparedness that celebrates warfare
- **Alliances:** Triple Entente (Britain, Russia, France) vs. Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy)
  - *U.S., China, and Japan (and later Italy) joined Triple Entente to form the "Allies"*
  - *The Ottoman Empire joined the Triple Alliance, forming the "Central Powers"*
- **Imperialism:** Western European rivalries for global domination
  - *Overseas colonies (i.e. Scramble for Africa) major source of global power/wealth*
- **Nationalism:** Sense of community based on common ethnicity, language, etc.



1. Russo-Turkish War in 1877-1878 had shifted the balance of power in the Balkans through the Treaty of San Stefano

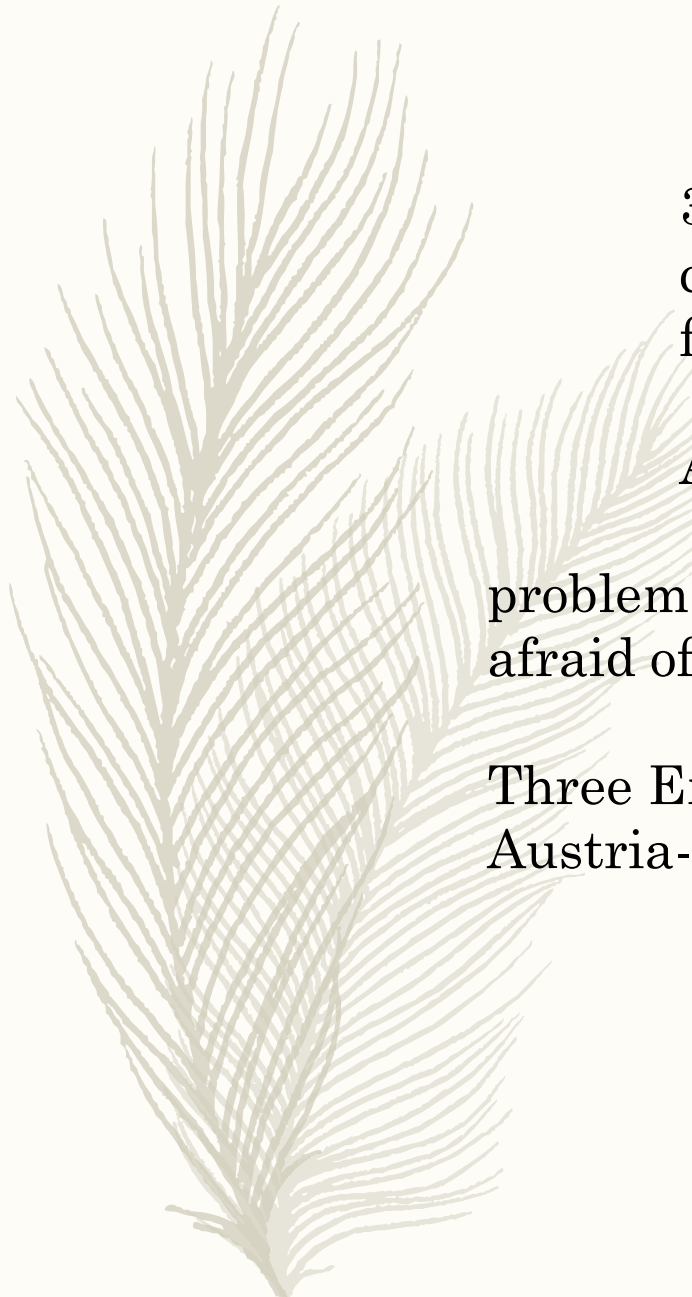
a. Austria-Hungary got control of Bosnia-Herzegovina

b. Romania, Montenegro, and Serbia became independent nations

c. Bulgaria independent but mostly influenced by Russia

2. When Austria-Hungary officially annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina, Pan-Slavic nationalists (and the Serbians) became enraged



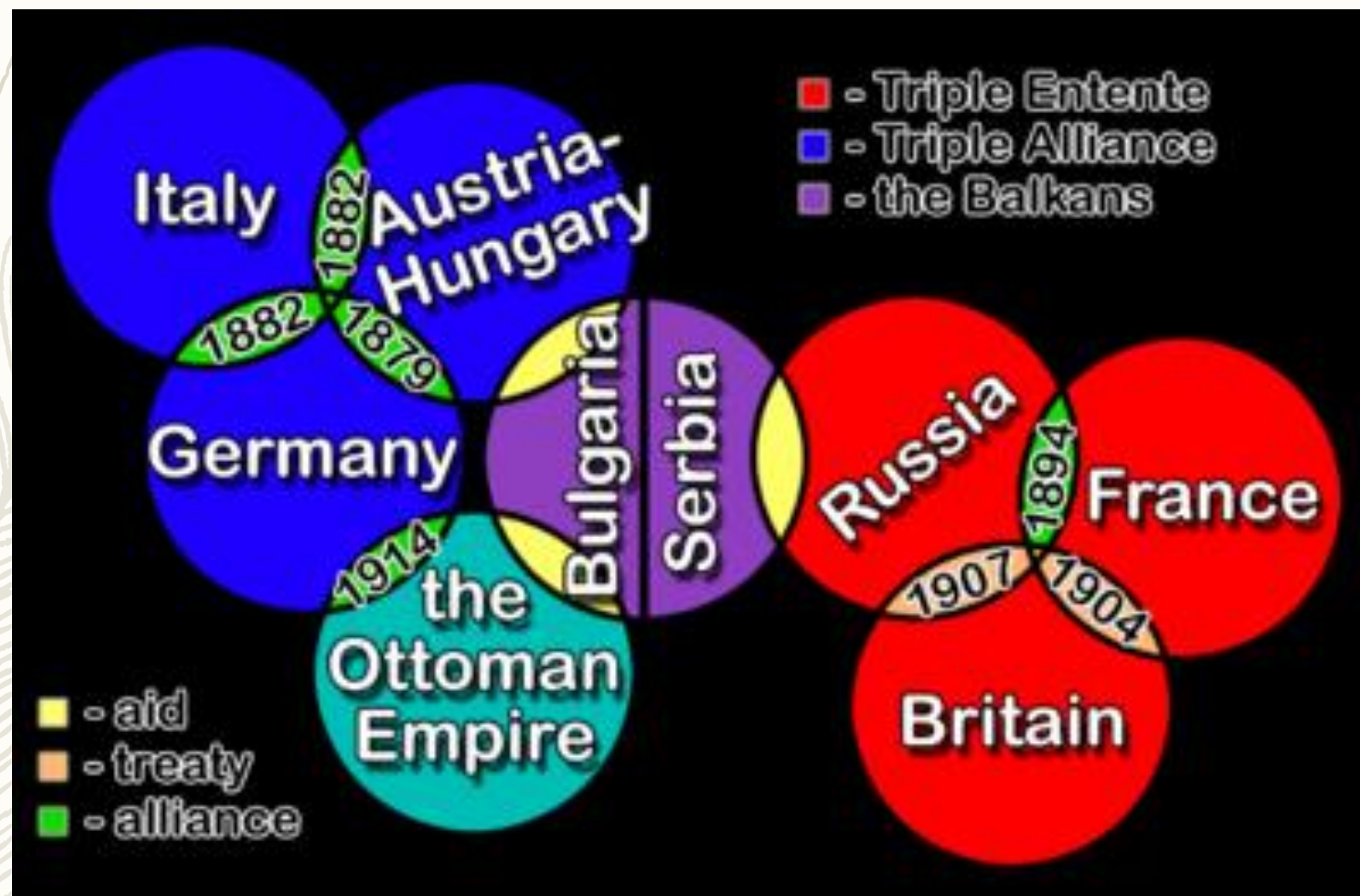


3. Confusing European Alliances– Many confusing and contradictory alliances dating all the way back to 1815 from the Congress of Vienna

a. The Triple Alliance (of 1882) – Germany, Austria-Hungary, and **Italy**

1. All of these countries had previous problems or issues of colonial competition with France and were afraid of French aggression

2. Russia was a member of the earlier version (The Three Emperor's League) but left when tensions between it and Austria-Hungary grew over the Balkans





#### 4. Military Build-up as a reflection of Competition

a. Britain and Germany competed for a larger navy – mostly to enforce trade routes and protect overseas colonial holdings

b. most countries had a draft – increasing the overall size of their armies

c. military spending was enormous in most European countries

\*. Militaries equip themselves with the latest weapons





Newspaper Account of Archduke's Assassination

# Immediate causes of the Great War

- June 28, 1914-Gavrilo Princip assassinates Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife
- Princip was a member of the Black Hand nationalist organization
  - Group purpose: ending Austro-Hungarian presence in Serbia and the Balkans
  - Austro-Hungarian Empire sent an ultimatum to Serbia to end all anti-Austrian activities, Serbia rejected it
- Austro-Hungarian Empire sought military assistance from their German allies
- Serbia requested help from fellow Slavic countries (esp. Russia)



## 2. Austria-Hungary Reacts against Serbia

a. Austria-Hungary, with the support of their ally, Germany, issued an ultimatum to Serbia on July 23, 1914

1. Serbia would allow Austro-Hungarian forces into Serbia to put down all nationalistic and anti-Austro-Hungarian movements

2. Austro-Hungarian officials would be allowed to conduct a full investigation of the assassination and administer justice to the perpetrators

\*. Serbia was given 2 days to comply or else Austria-Hungary would declare war. When Serbia declined the second of the demands, Austria declared war on Serbia on July 28.



### 3. The Alliances Swing into Action

a. July 30 – Russia mobilized its forces against both Austria-Hungary and Germany (fully expecting to be supported by France)

b. July 31 - Germany issued ultimatums:

1. to Russia - stop the mobilization or else Germany would declare war on Russia

\*. Czar Nicholas II sent no reply!

2. to France – if Germany declared war on Russia, and France sided with Russia, Germany would declare war on France, too



c. August 1

1. Germany declared war on Russia
2. German forces moved into Luxembourg

d. August 3

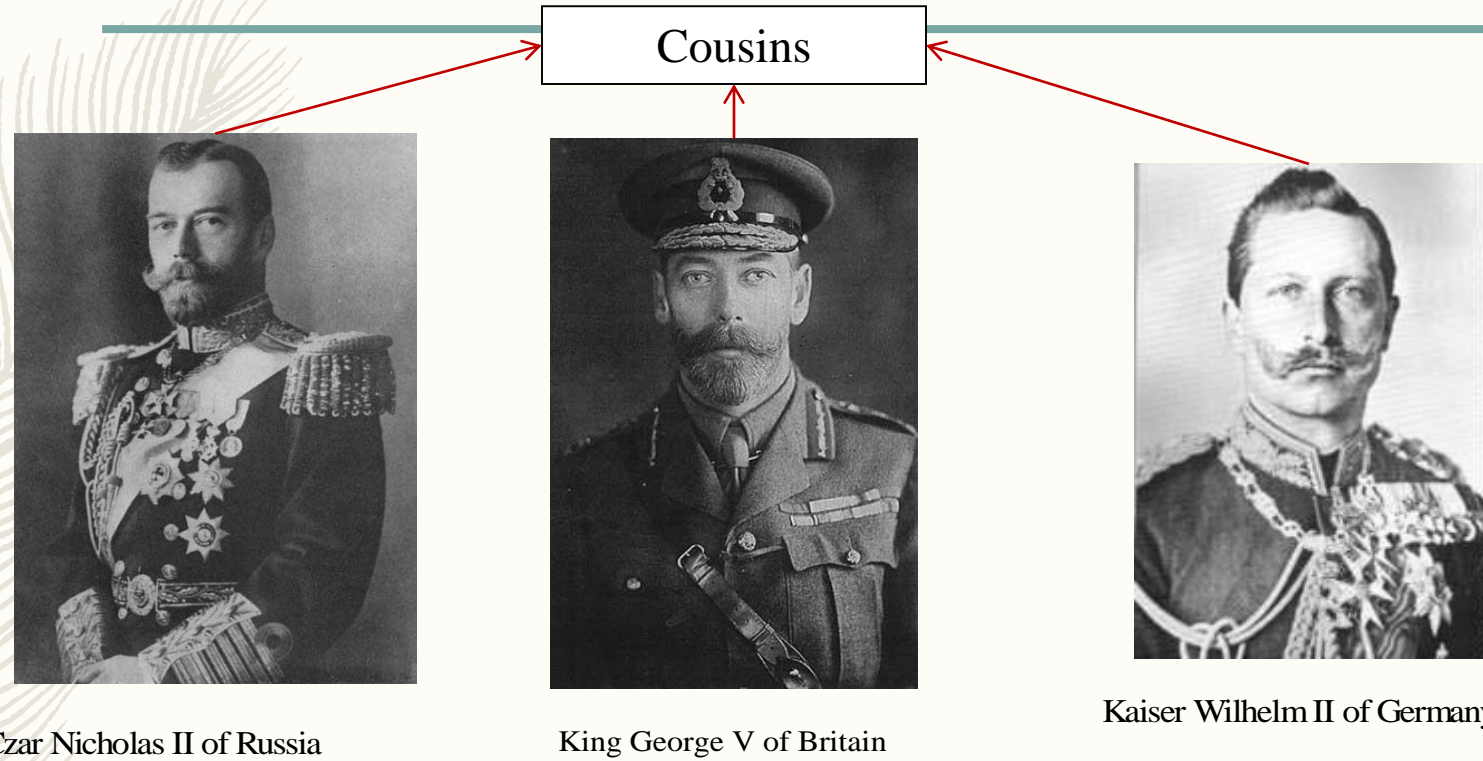
1. Germany declared war on France
2. German forces moved into Belgium
3. Protesting Germany's invasion of neutral Belgium, Britain issued an ultimatum to Germany

\*. Germany must honor the 1839 treaty assuring Belgian neutrality and pull out of Belgium or else Britain would declare war

e. August 4 – Britain declared war on Germany (who responded to Great Britain's ultimatum by calling the treaty a “scrap of paper”)



# Monarchs of the Great War







Great British war-time propaganda

## More on M.A.I.N

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- **Militarism:** Germany and Great Britain (especially) spent incredible sums of money on naval and army expansion due to bitter rivalry
- **Alliances:** "secret alliances" formed where alliance member nations protected each other if one was targeted
- **Imperialism:** Western European countries owned colonies in South and Southeast Asia, the Americas, and the Pacific
- **Nationalism:** Multinational empires (i.e. Ottomans and Austro-Hungary) contended with nationalist movements



## **II. Major Events and Themes of The Great War (1914 – 1918)**

A. Common beliefs at the beginning of the war in the late summer of 1914

1. The war would not last very long (most people thought that it would be over by Christmas)

2. “War Fever”

- a. Men from many countries enlisted to fight because of

1. injustices that they believed that were inflicted on others

2. patriotism/national pride



b. Many countries experienced patriotic celebrations in the streets of their cities

c. Many truly did not even know for what they were really fighting!

### 3. The Sides (as of 1915)

a. **The Allied Powers** – France, Great Britain and Ireland, Russia, Portugal, Italy (who “switched sides”), Belgium, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Greece, Romania, Japan

\*. USA joins Allies in 1917 (we’ll get to that later)

b. **The Central Powers** – Germany, Austria-Hungary, The Ottoman Empire (as a result of a secret treaty signed with Germany), and Bulgaria



## B. Early actions in the War

### 1. Germany enacted the “Schlieffen Plan”

a. This was Germany’s plan to end the war quickly against both France (to the West) and Russia (to the East)

\*. Devised by General Alfred von Schlieffen

#### b. The Plan:

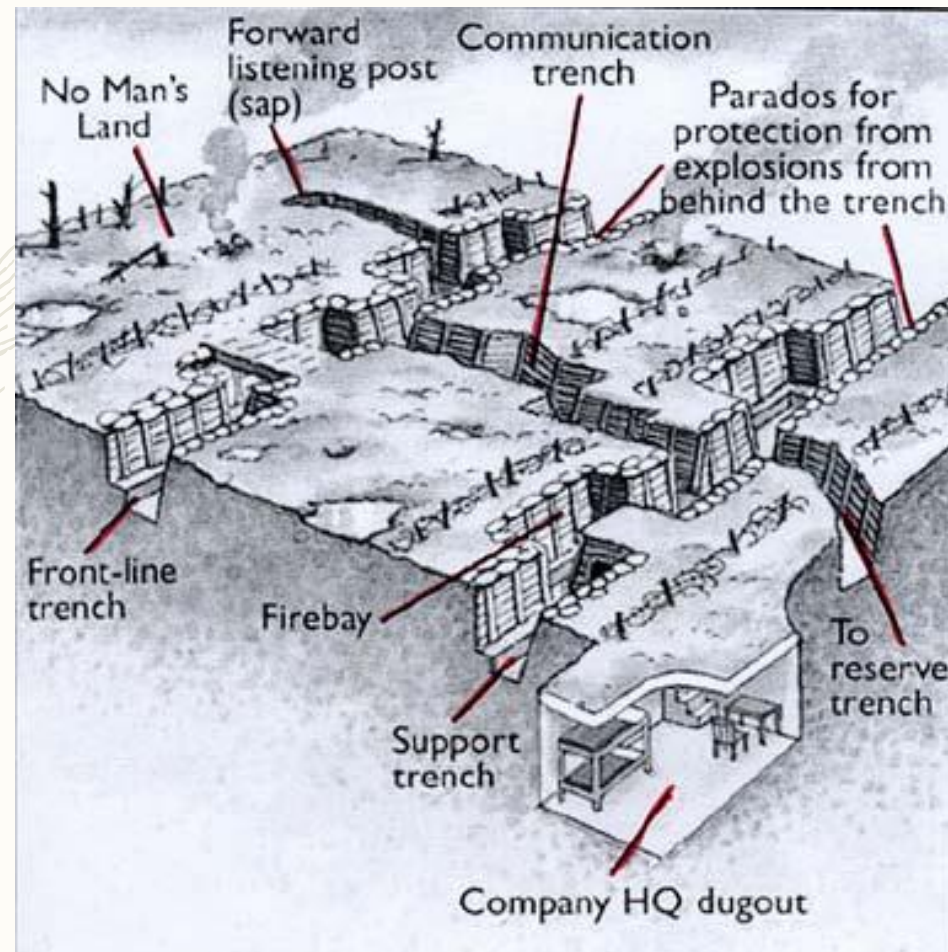
1. Move through Belgium into France – take over Paris in 6 weeks
2. Then, fight against Russia



### **C. Stalemate on the Western Front 1915-1917**

1. Trench Warfare developed along the front  
both sides dug in – constructing trench lines that  
ran parallel to each other along the Western Front
  - a. The trenches contained “dugouts” –  
which served as living quarters/shelter for  
the troops
2. The trenches were often flooded with water or  
worse and were infested with vermin







## 2. Major Battles on the Western Front during this period

### a. Battle of Verdun

1. Germans unsuccessfully attacked this French fortification in Northern France between February and July 1916
2. This battle resulted in a combined 500,000 dead or wounded

### b. Battle of the Somme

1. Allied troops launched a major attack against the German fortifications in Northern France
2. This battle ended without a clear winner, but managed to kill or injure a total of about 1.1 million soldiers combined



3. Many countries, now having to supply fresh troops and supplies for the war, enact many policies “at home” (effecting the civilians)

a. More production = more jobs = less unemployment

b. More women employed – with men gone, many work in traditionally male jobs and even with military in non-combat roles

\*. As a result, many countries grant women the right to vote shortly after WWI ended

c. Food rationing – actually led to better nutrition for the poor!

d. Countries used propaganda to keep morale up and to develop hatred of the enemy

e. In most countries, the governments became more controlling in the lives of people (this eventually gave rise to some socialist movements)



### 3. In Africa

- a. British and French forces seized control of the German colonies of Togo, Southwest Africa (now known as Namibia) and Cameroon by 1915
- b. Fighting also went on in the German colony of Tanganyika (now called Tanzania)
- c. The European powers greatly utilized their African colonies during the War
  - 1. colonists heavily taxed
  - 2. Increased production of food products and raw materials
  - 3. African colonists drafted into the militaries of their mother countries (either as soldiers or porters)
- d. Many Europeans left their posts in African colonies, causing uprisings there (e.g. Nigeria and Libya)



#### 4. In the Middle East

a. The British caused an Arab uprising against the Ottoman Turks in 1916

1. The British promised the Emir of Mecca, Hussein ibn Ali, a kingdom of his own in the Arabian Peninsula, in exchange for his help in fighting the Ottoman Empire

2. In response Hussein proclaimed himself the King of Western Arabia

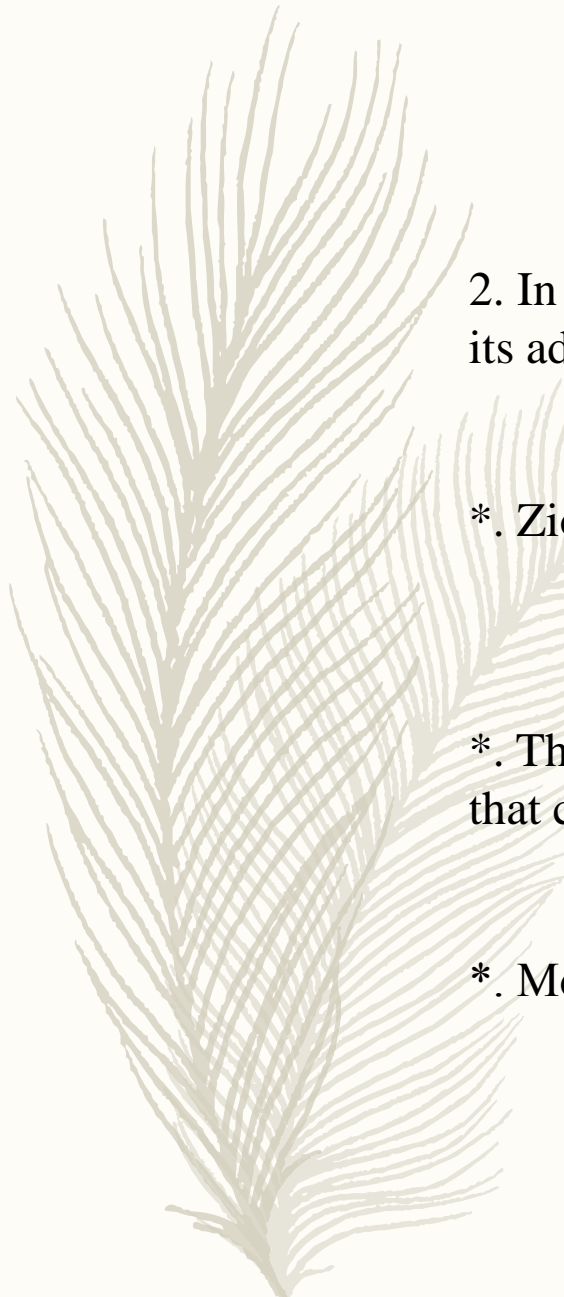
b. The British attacked Palestine (what is now Israel) and Syria from Egypt

1. British forces were aided by

a. an Arab army led by Faisal, the son of Hussein

b. a band of Arab guerrillas, led by T.E. Lawrence (“of Arabia”), a British officer





2. In November 1917, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration (in response to its advance on Jerusalem)

a. This declaration was made due to the influence of the British Zionist Leader Chaim Weizmann

\*. Zionism – Jewish nationalism movement in Europe

b. The Declaration basically stated that Britain had intended to create a Jewish homeland AND maintain the rights of the Arab Palestinians (both under British protection) in Palestine

\*. This is basically the first step in the creation of Israel and the problems in that country

c. the British army also moved into present-day Iraq – taking Baghdad and a major oil pipeline in 1917

\*. Most of the troops in this campaign were “Native Troops” from India

# Changes in Warfare

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- Poison Gas – not fatal, but severe lung damage resulted
  - Later outlawed by international treaties due to long-term damage to lungs
- Mustard Gas
- Gas Masks



# Changes in warfare con't...

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- Machine guns developed in the late 1800s
  - Could fire more than 500 rounds per min.
- Submarines
  - Briefly used in American Civil War
  - Caused havoc on Atlantic shipping lanes during World War I.





# Changes in warfare con't...

- Airplanes
  - 1914- still light and small
    - couldn't carry weapons
  - Used to carry out observation of enemy lines
- Tanks
  - Used to move across vast areas of difficult terrain



# Changes in warfare con't...



- Trench Warfare
  - Long ditches dug in the ground
  - Often cold, rat infested, wet, muddy
  - Soldiers stayed inside for months at a time
  - Used for protection against enemy fire
  - All new military technology resulted in four-year stalemate



# United States Entrance into the War

– Entered in 1917

Entered because...

1. Economic ties between allies
2. Allied nations were more democratic
3. Growing resentment against the Germans



# United States Entrance into the War

- German submarines sank 3 U.S. ships carrying civilians which provoked the U.S.A (including Lusitania)
- Telegram revealed Germany attempting to ally with Mexico against the U.S.
- Warfare..
  - Railways allowed for men and material to be easily transported
  - Flame throwers- introduced in 1915 by the German Army



# The Russian Revolution

- Russia went even farther downhill due to:
- *Numerous military defeats*
- *Lack of strong control on part of Tsar*
- *Millions of Russian soldiers dying in war*
- *Rebellions in St. Petersburg because of fuel and food scarcity*
- *The Romanov Dynasty coming to its end in March 1917*
- Tsar Nicholas II was overthrown



The Romanov family had ruled Russia for over 300 years.  
The family was executed in 1918.





The Bolsheviks fought for “peace, bread, and land”.

# The Russian Revolution con't.


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- Provincial government substituted the monarchy.
  - *Made up of socialists, liberals, and conservatives.*
  - *Russian parliament was called the Duma.*
  - *Soviets, led by socialists, competed for political power separate from the parliament.*
  - *The Bolsheviks (radical socialists) seized power in 1917.*

# The Russian Revolution con't.

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- Rise of Communism
  - *Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918)*
    - Signed by the leaders of Soviet Russia to end their involvement in World War I.
    - Gave up much land to Germany in exchange for peace
  - *Bolshevik government planned to assemble a Communist state.*
    - Looked to Marxist ideas.
  - *By November 1920 the Soviet government had succeeded over anti-Communist powers.*



Japanese soldiers in Russia, one of the anti-Bolshevik forces that fought against communism during the Russian Civil War.





This U.S. propaganda poster shows how economy was tied to the war.

## Total War – all combatant nations committed ALL resources to war

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- Total war involves complete devotion to winning a war.
  - *This involves the domestic population of the country:*
    - Many people, especially women, worked in factories that produced war materials.
  - *The government's involvement:*
    - Prepared planning boards to make sure their economy was properly centered around the war.
    - Propaganda that frequently exaggerated facts and was meant to influence civilians was thought to be a worthwhile expense.



# Global War

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- World War I covered a tremendous amount of land.
  - *Europe, Asia, Africa, the Pacific Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean.*
- Imperialism was a major factor in the development of the war:
  - *Japan's interest in the war was to gain control of German colonies in the Pacific Ocean.*
  - *The Germans kept German East Africa (what is now Tanzania)*
    - The British conquered the majority of their African colonies.

# COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN WORLD WAR I



Map of countries  
involved in World  
War I



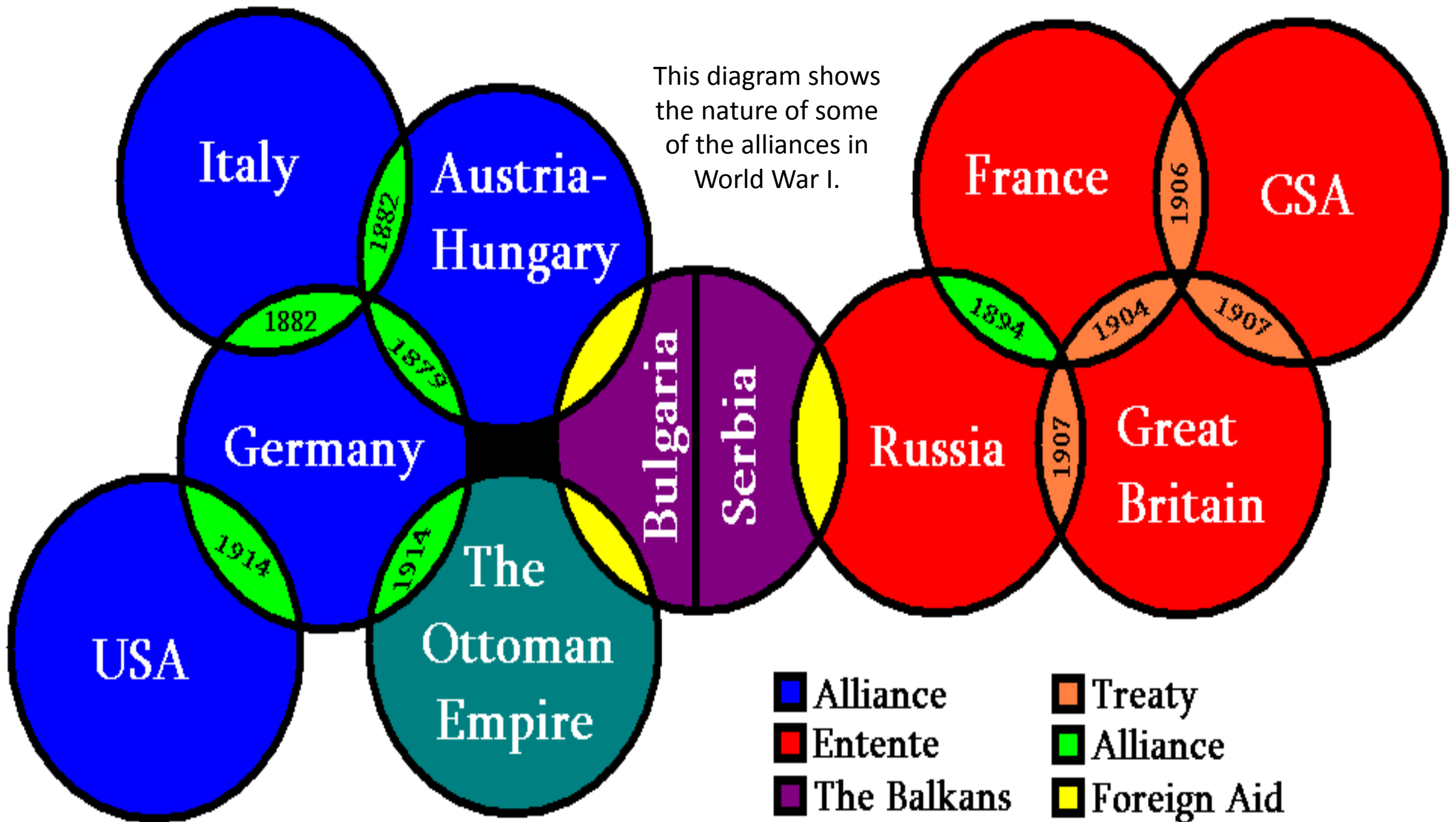


# Global War con't.

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- Colonial troops supported their home country's troops.
- *ANZAC (corps of Australian and New Zealand troops) fought at Gallipoli which led to an allied loss.*
- *Canada fought with Europe.*
- *Britain drafted Africans and Indians to serve in their army.*
- *France allied with the Chinese, Vietnamese, and Algerians.*
- *Many were promised self-rule after the end of the war; the Arabs allied with Britain for this reason.*

This diagram shows  
the nature of some  
of the alliances in  
World War I.





## Newspaper article



Armistice Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918.

# Casualties of the War

- The United States entered the war in 1917.
- April 4, 1917, the U.S. Senate voted in support of the measure to declare war on Germany.
- The United States later declared war on German ally Austria-Hungary on December 7, 1917.
- In the summer of 1918, U.S. actions helped push the war in the Allies' favor.
- Allied advances against Central Powers forced Germany to surrender.
- Germany's surrender is known as Armistice Day, November 11, 1918



Wounded soldier WWI



Dead soldiers WWI

# Casualties of the War con't.

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- Around 8 million and 9 million soldiers died in the Great War.
- More than 21 million were wounded.
- Less than half of all young men returned physically unharmed.
- Soldiers who returned often bore emotional scars.

# Atrocities

- German soldiers raping women and killing families were quite common.
- Between 600,000 and 1.5 million Christian Armenians in Turkey were killed.
- The killing of all those people was known as the twentieth century's first genocide.
- The Ottoman government alleged that the Christian Armenians were cooperating with the Russian army.
- War-related deaths continued past Armistice Day.



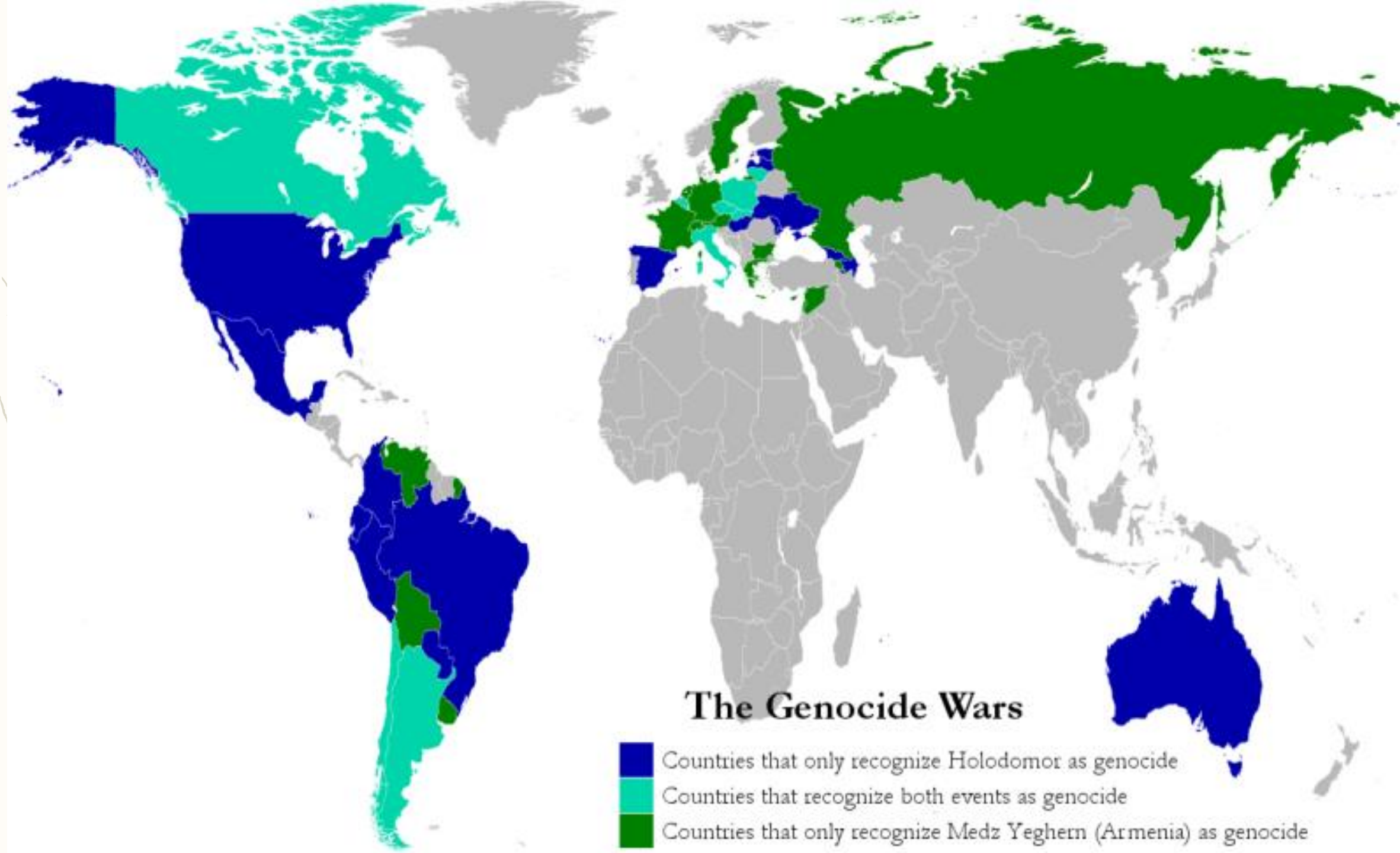


# Atrocities con't.



Lost generation

- An influenza epidemic was a fatal blow that struck the globe at the end of the war.
- In 1918, millions of soldiers returned home as the war ended.
- In 1919 the epidemic became a pandemic.
- The majority of Armenians were sent into the desert to die of thirst and hunger.
- By 1923, the Armenian population had been completely eliminated from Asia Minor and historic West Armenia.
- April 24 is commemorated as the date of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide.







## B. The End of the War

### 1. Germany's allies surrender in 1918

a. The Ottoman Empire surrendered after losing battles with the Allied powers in the Balkan Peninsula

b. Austria-Hungary surrendered after being defeated in the Battle of Vittorio Veneto in Italy

### 2. Germany's last attempt at victory

a. From March to July, 1918 the German armies launched a major offensive on the Western front

\*. The advance was finally stopped about 40 miles from Paris



b. After stopping the German advance, the Allies launched a counter-offensive

1. The German army, weakened by massive casualties and a major flu outbreak, were pushed back to the German border by September

2. By September, the Germans knew that there was no way to win

3. On November 9, 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated and went to Holland (a neutral country)

4. On November 11, 1918 at 11:00 AM the fighting finally stopped (eleventh hour, eleventh day, eleventh month)



## IV. The Aftermath of WWI

### A. Direct Effects of the War Itself

#### 1. Major Casualties

##### a. Combined Deaths

1. 9 million soldiers
2. 13 million civilians

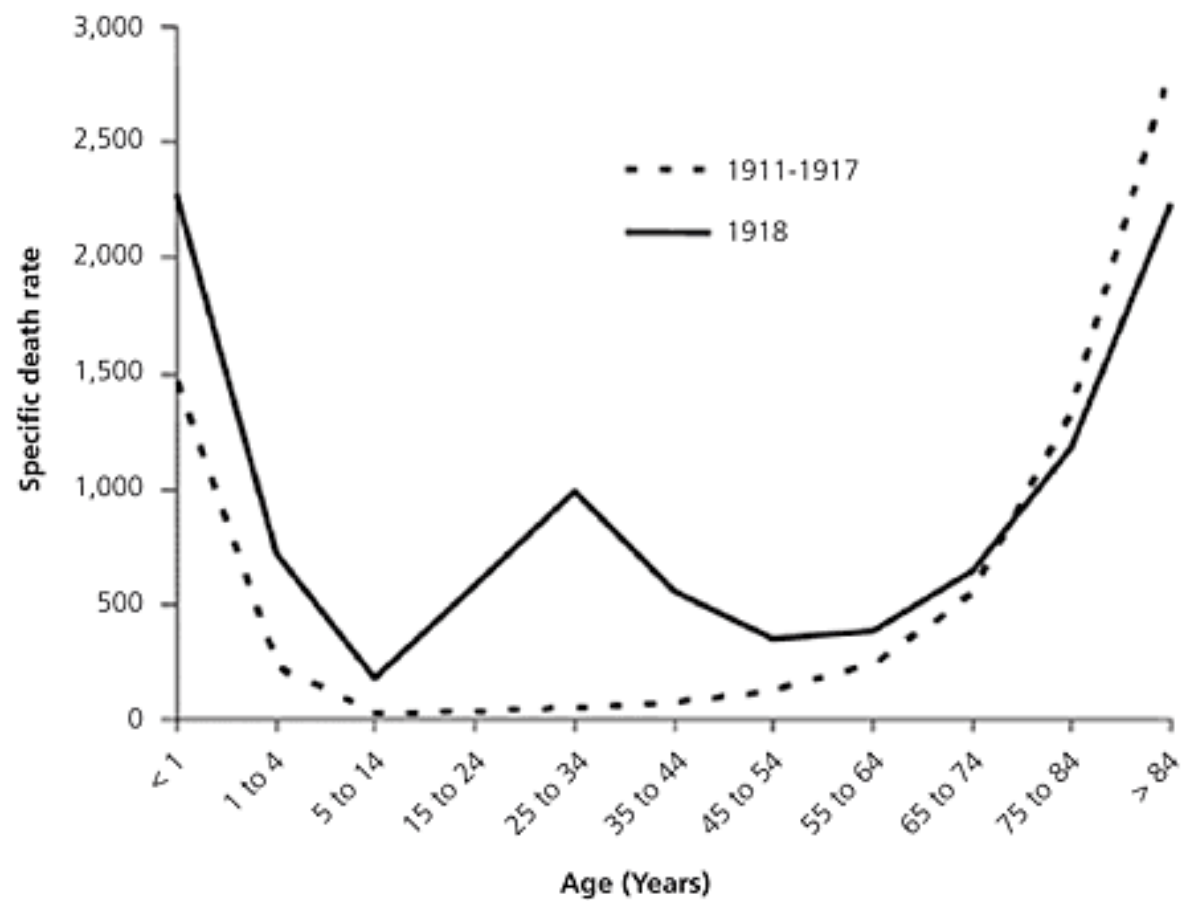
##### b. about 21 million soldiers wounded

#### 2. Influenza outbreak of 1918

a. a very virulent strain of the flu was spread globally by soldiers returning home from the Western front

b. 30 million people worldwide died from this epidemic

### Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality Rates





# Paris Peace Conference



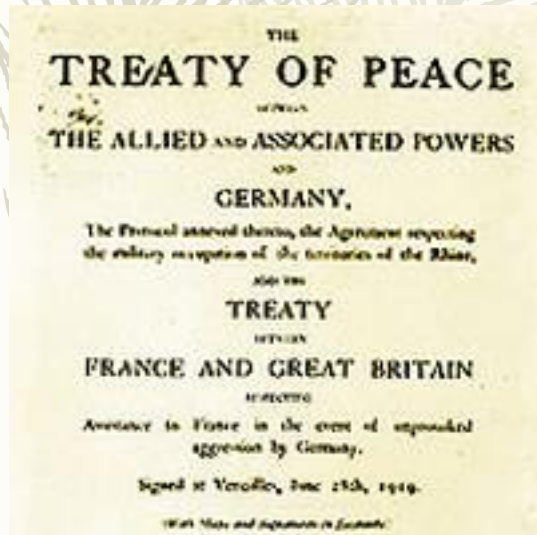
This political cartoon shows President Wilson with his 14 points choosing between competing claims.

- Fourteen Points
  - *President Wilson pushed ideals in document called the Fourteen Points*
  - *Wanted to create a league of nations to avoid tensions*
    - *U.S. Senate voted against joining*
  - *Believe conquered peoples should have right to self-determination*
    - *Should have right to determine their own political fate*
    - *Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were created as a result*
    - *Did not want to punish any nation, but Wilson was overruled by France*

# Paris Peace Conference con't.



Shows Germany's reparations



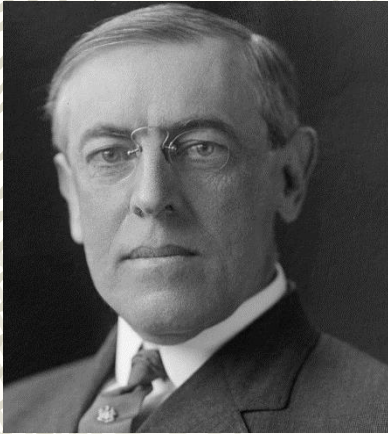
Treaty of Versailles

- Treaty of Versailles
- Big Four were US, Great Britain, France and Italy (later walked out)
- Russia not included due to Russian Revolution
- *Germany was terribly punished and had to:*
  - *Pay reparations for damage caused by the war*
  - *Give up all colonies*
  - *Restrict the size of it's armed forces*
- *German economy suffered from sky-high inflation*

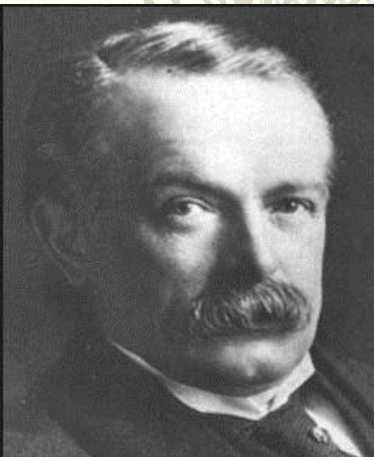
# Effects of the War



Georges  
Clemenceau



Woodrow Wilson



David Lloyd George

## – Effects on Colonial Lands

- *War renewed colonials hope for independence*
  - *African and Asian colonial troops offered man power to the Allied war effort*
  - *Britain, France, and Germany no longer seemed invincible*
    - Thought self-determination brought them closer to self rule
- *Big Three- Lloyd George, Woodrow Wilson, and Georges Clemenceau were not interested in freeing the colonies*
  - Rejection only fueled nationalist movements in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa



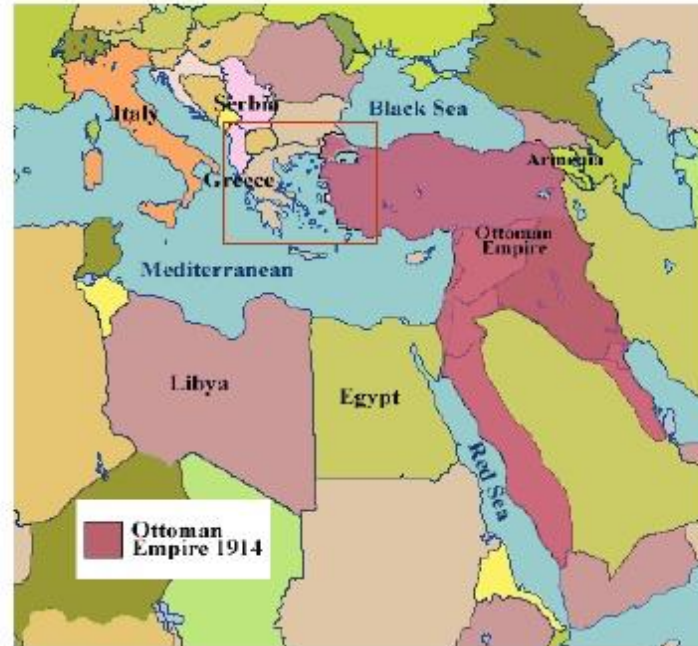
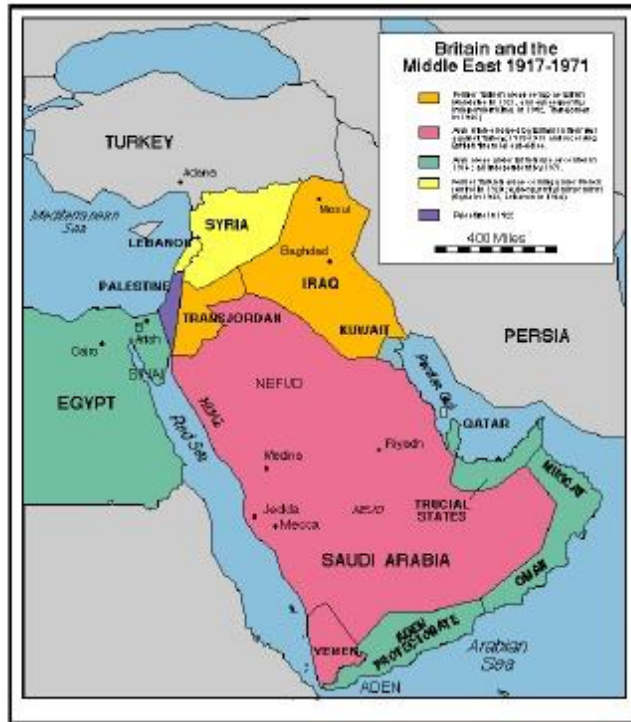
# Mandate System in the Middle East and North Africa

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- Allies forgot of their promises and through the League of Nations established a *mandate system* to rule the colonies and territories of the Central Powers.
- Colonized people in Africa and Asia required "tutelage" from more "advanced" nations in order to survive; Germany colonies were divided amongst the allies
- Southwest Asia experienced enormous upheaval



## Mandates-Middle East



# Mandate System con't

- Palestine, Transjordan, Syria, and Iraq all became League of Nations mandates
- These Arab states were virtual colonies of Great Britain and France which infuriated the Arabs
- *Pan-Arabism*= nationalist movement that unified all lands in North Africa and Southwest Asia

## PALESTINE FOR THE JEWS.

### OFFICIAL SYMPATHY.

Mr. Balfour has sent the following letter to Lord Rothschild in regard to the establishment of a national home in Palestine for the Jewish people :—

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of his Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to and approved by the Cabinet :—

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

# Creation of Palestine

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- British government issued the *Balfour Declaration* in 1917
- State that *Palestine* should become a permanent home for Jews of Europe
- *Zionists* were supporters of a Jewish homeland

Balfour Declaration as published in The Times, November 9, 1917



# Mandate System in East Asia

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- Japan and China were both allies
- A series of nationalistic demonstrations, known as the *May Fourth Movement*, erupted in 1919 in response to the results of the Paris Peace Conference
- These demonstrators also called for more democracy in China
- Japan took over German colonies in China