

WW I Reading Study Gdes in compressed form.

# Marching Toward War

## Rising Tensions in Europe---*Why didn't peace last in Europe?*

Many people in Europe had joined groups to work for peace. However, developments would soon lead Europe into war.

One of those developments was *nationalism*—a deep feeling of attachment to one's own nation. This force helped *unify* the people of a country. It also created competition between countries. By 1900, six nations were *rivals* for power in Europe. These nations, called the *Great Powers*, were Germany, Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, and France. They competed economically, and they competed for neighboring land. Imperialism was another force that helped lead to war. France and Germany were each seeking to control of parts of Africa. They almost came to war twice in the early 1900s. Mistrust was a huge problem.

The third factor leading to war was a growing arms race. Each country in Europe—except Great Britain—built a large army. Glorifying war and preparing for it is called **militarism**.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**militarism** Glorifying war and preparing for it

**Triple Alliance** Military agreement between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy

**Kaiser Wilhelm II** Emperor of Germany

**Triple Entente** Military agreement among Britain, France, and Russia

### 1. What were three factors leading to war?

## Tangled Alliances---*What caused countries to fear one another?*

Growing *rivalries* led the nations to make military *alliances*. Prussia's chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, feared that France would want revenge for its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. He set out to *isolate* France. In 1879, he formed a **Triple Alliance** with Austria-Hungary and Italy. He also signed a treaty with Russia.

**Kaiser Wilhelm II** of Germany did not want to share power with Bismarck. He forced Bismarck to resign and followed his own foreign policy. He let the agreement with Russia end. Russia soon allied itself with France. This alliance meant that Germany would have to fight enemies on its eastern and western borders if there were a war with either country. Wilhelm II then moved to make the German navy larger.

Britain grew alarmed. It began to build more ships. It also entered into the **Triple Entente** alliance with France and Russia. The six Great Powers had now formed two camps—Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy against Britain, France, and Russia.

### 2. What two groups of nations developed?

## Crisis in the Balkans---*What part did the Balkans play in the increasing tensions?*

Meanwhile, trouble was brewing in the Balkans, in southeastern Europe. The Ottoman Empire controlled this area. But it was breaking apart. Both Austria-Hungary and Russia wanted some of this land.

The kingdom of Serbia was also in this region. It wanted to bring other Slavic peoples who lived in the Balkans under its control. In 1908, Austria-Hungary seized Bosnia and Herzegovina. These lands had Slavic peoples. This action angered the Serbs. However, their Russian allies were unwilling to support them, and they backed down.

By 1914, the situation was different. Serbia had gained land in other parts of the region and felt strong. Austria worried that Serbia might interfere with its control of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June 1914, a Serbian killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the *heir* to the throne of Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia came to Serbia's defense. Soon most of Europe was at war.

### 3. How were the Serbians involved in the start of World War I?

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# Europe Plunges into War

## The Great War Begins---*How did so many nations become involved?*

The system of alliances turned the war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a wider war. Russia moved against Austria-Hungary. It figured that Germany would support Austria-Hungary. So it moved troops against Germany as well. Germany declared war on Russia. Soon after, it also declared war on Russia's ally, France.

Germany had a plan for winning the war on two fronts. This was the **Schlieffen Plan**. It called for a rapid push through France, a quick defeat of that nation, and a turn to face Russia in the east. To capture France quickly, Germany moved through Belgium. Belgium was a neutral country. Britain was outraged by Germany's action. It declared war on Germany. France, Britain, and Russia were called the **Allies**. They were later joined by Italy, which broke with Germany and Austria-Hungary. Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria-Hungary. They were called the **Central Powers**.

### 1. Who were the Allies and Central Powers?

#### A Bloody Stalemate---*What kind of warfare was used?*

After the German army moved almost to Paris, French defenses strengthened and stopped them in September 1914. Both sides became bogged down in a bloody conflict. Soldiers dug deep *trenches* into the ground. **Trench warfare** began. When soldiers left the trenches to storm enemy lines, they faced powerful weapons. Machine guns, tanks, poison gas, and larger pieces of *artillery* killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers. This was how the war was fought in France, which was called the **Western Front**.

### 2. What was the war like on the Western Front?

#### The Battle on the Eastern Front---*What happened on the Eastern Front?*

The war on the **Eastern Front** showed more movement at first—but it was equally *destructive*. Russian armies attacked both Germany and Austria-Hungary. They had some early success but were driven back in both places. One reason was that Russia did not have a fully industrial economy. It could not keep troops supplied.

Still, Russia had a huge population and could send millions to war. The large Russian army provided a constant threat to Germany. This threat prevented Germany from putting its full resources against the Allies in the west.

### 3. What weaknesses and strengths did Russia have?

#### TERMS AND NAMES

**Schlieffen Plan** Germany's plan for winning the war on two fronts

**Allies** Great Britain, France, Russia, and other nations who fought on their side

**Central Powers** Germany, Austria-Hungary, and other nations who fought on their side

**trench warfare** Fighting from trenches dug in the battlefield

**Western Front** Region of northern France where much fighting took place

**Eastern Front** Region along German-Russian border where much fighting took place

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## A Global Conflict

#### War Affects the World--*What other areas of the world were involved?*

The Allies hoped to take a part of the Ottoman Empire called the Dardanelles. The attack failed with great loss of life. A more successful operation was headed by a British officer named T. E. Lawrence. He helped lead an Arab revolt against Ottoman rule. As a result, the Allies were able to capture several important cities in Southwest Asia.

Japan took German colonies in China and the Pacific Ocean. The Allies also captured three of the four German colonies in Africa.

The British had used their strong navy to block all supplies from reaching Germany. The Germans

responded by increasing their submarine attacks on ships bringing food and supplies to the Allies. They used **unrestricted submarine warfare**. This meant sinking any ship without warning in the waters around Great Britain.

When American ships were sunk and lives were lost, the American people grew angry. Then the British intercepted a secret message from Germany to Mexico. This message asked Mexico to ally itself with Germany. In return, Germany offered to help Mexico regain land lost to the United States in the 1840s. In April 1917, Congress declared war on Germany.

### 1. What areas outside of Europe were affected by the war?

#### TERMS AND NAMES

**unrestricted submarine warfare**  
Using submarines to sink any ship without warning

**total war** War in which countries use all their resources for the war

**rationing** Control of the amounts and kinds of goods people can have

**propaganda** One-sided information designed to persuade

**armistice** Agreement to stop fighting.

## War Affects the Home Front--*What happened on the home fronts?*

By 1917, the war had already killed millions. It had drastically changed the lives of millions more— people at home as well as soldiers. This “Great War,” as it was called, was a **total war**. It demanded all the resources of the countries that fought it.

Governments took control of factories. It told them what to produce and how much of it to make. Governments also used **rationing**. This limited how much food and other goods people could buy and hold. That way armies in the field would have the supplies they needed. Governments used **propaganda** to get support for the war. They also took steps to stop *dissent*, or opposition to the war.

With so many men in the military, women played a growing role in the economies of the countries at war. They worked in factories, offices, and shops. They built planes and tanks, grew food, and made clothing. These changes had an impact on people’s attitudes toward what kind of work women could do.

### **2. What were three ways that the war affected people’s day-to-day lives?**

#### **The Allies Win the War-- *Why did the Allies win?***

In 1917, the United States entered the war. And Russia left it. Suffering during the war chipped away at the Russian people’s support for the *czar*. In March, he stepped down. The new government hoped to continue fighting the war, but the Russian armies refused. Just months later, a new revolution broke out. Communists seized Russia’s government. They quickly made a treaty with Germany and gave up huge amounts of land in return for peace.

In March 1918, Germany tried one final attack. Once again, the German army nearly reached Paris. But the soldiers were tired, and supplies were short. The Allies—now with fresh American troops—drove the Germans back.

Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire surrendered. In October, a revolution overthrew the emperor of Austria-Hungary. In November, Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to step down in Germany. The new government signed an **armistice**, an agreement to stop fighting. On November 11, 1918, Europe was finally at peace.

### **3. What were the final problems that Germany and Austria-Hungary faced?**

#### **The Legacy of the War--*What was the cost of the war?***

World War I had a devastating effect on the world. About 8.5 million soldiers had died. Another 21 million had been wounded. Countless civilians had suffered as well. The economies of the warring nations had suffered serious damage, too. Farms were destroyed, and factories ruined. One estimate said the war had caused \$338 billion in damage.

The war also had an emotional cost. People felt all the suffering did not seem to have a purpose. The art and literature of the years after the war reflected a new sense of hopelessness.

### **4. Name one political, economic, and emotional cost of the war.**

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## A Flawed Peace

### **The Allies Meet and Debate--*What decisions were made at Versailles?***

Many nations sent delegates to the peace talks in Paris. The main leaders were **Woodrow Wilson** of the United States, **Georges Clemenceau** of France, and David Lloyd George of Britain. Germany and its allies and Russia were not present.

Wilson pushed for his peace plan called the **Fourteen Points**. He wanted to end secret treaties and alliances and give people **self-determination**, the right to form their own nation. He also hoped to set up a world organization that would police the actions of nations

#### **TERMS AND NAMES**

**Woodrow Wilson** President who proposed the Fourteen Points and represented the United States at Versailles

**Georges Clemenceau** France’s premier and delegate at Versailles

**Fourteen Points** Plan for a just and lasting peace

**self-determination** Allowing people to decide for themselves about what kind of government they want

**Treaty of Versailles** Agreement at the end of World War I between Germany and the Allied Powers

**League of Nations** International group with the goal of keeping peace among nations

and prevent future wars.

Britain and especially France had different views. They had suffered greatly in the war. They wanted to punish Germany. After long debates, the leaders finally agreed on a peace settlement. It was called the **Treaty of Versailles** and was signed in June 1919.

The treaty called for a **League of Nations**— the world organization that Wilson wanted. It would include 32 nations. The United States,

Britain, France, Japan, and Italy would make up the leadership. Germany and Russia were left out of the League. The treaty took away German land in Europe and took away its colonies in Africa and the Pacific. Limits were placed on the size of Germany's armed forces. Finally, Germany was given complete blame for the war. That meant it would have to make payments to the Allies for the damage caused.

### 1. How did the Treaty of Versailles affect Germany?

#### A Troubled Treaty--*Who opposed the treaty?*

Germany's former colonies were given to the Allies to govern until they decided which were ready for independence. Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia were all declared independent. Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—once part of Russia—were made independent nations as well. The treaty also broke up the Ottoman Empire. The Ottomans kept control only of Turkey.

The treaty did not make a lasting peace. The United States Senate never approved the treaty or joined the League of Nations. Germans bitterly resented the treaty because placed all the blame for the war on them. Colonial peoples in Africa and Asia were angry because the treaty did not make them independent. Japan and Italy were also upset by getting few *territorial* gains.

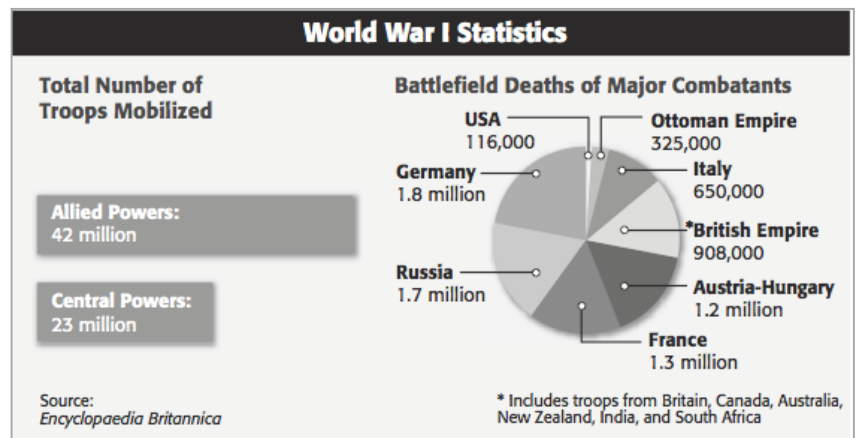
### 2. Which groups opposed the treaty and why?

## Skillbuilder

Use the graph to answer the questions.

1. Which country suffered the most battlefield deaths? Which country suffered the least?

2. Based on the graph, why did the Allies appear to have an advantage in the war?



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**2. What were three ways that the war affected people's day-to-day lives?**

**3. What were the final problems that Germany and Austria-Hungary faced?**

**4. Name one political, economic, and emotional cost of the war.**

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**2. Which groups opposed the treaty and why?**

## **Skillbuilder**

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