Chapter 8 – The First World War

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A World Crisis

The Main Idea
Rivalries among European nations led to the outbreak of war in 1914.

Reading Focus
• What were the causes of World War I?
• How did the war break out?
• Why did the war quickly reach a stalemate?
In 1912 a Bosnian teenager named Gavrilo Pincip joined the Black Hand terrorist organization, which wanted to free Bosnia-Herzegovina from Austro-Hungarian rule. This group plotted to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on his visit to Sarajevo, Bosnia. On June 28, 1914, Princip fatally shot the archduke and his wife.

3,000 miles away, most Americans cared little about the murder. Still, most of Europe plunged into war within five weeks. Long before Princip even fired a shot, political changes in Europe made war almost unavoidable. By 1914 Europe was ripe for war.
## Conditions in Europe in 1914

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationalism</th>
<th>Imperialism</th>
<th>Militarism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extreme pride people feel for their country</td>
<td>Other nations were also trying to expand, and this quest for colonial empires is known as imperialism.</td>
<td>The policy of military preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struggle for power was visible in the Balkans, a European region with many ethnic groups.</td>
<td>Late 1800s: Britain and France already had large empires.</td>
<td>Germany built a strong navy to rival Britain’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ottoman Empire that ruled the Balkans was falling apart.</td>
<td>German emperor, <strong>Kaiser Wilhelm II</strong>, wanted colonies for Germany.</td>
<td>Germany enlarged, bought latest weapons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria-Hungary saw this and began to annex provinces.</td>
<td>He created a stronger military to start colonizing.</td>
<td>German army officials drew up war plans like the Schlieffen Plan, which called for attacks on several countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Slavs wanted to revolt, and Russia promised protection.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Britain, France, and Russia began to prepare, too.</td>
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Alliances

- Nations formed alliances, or partnerships, for protection.
- Alliances were formed to maintain peace but would lead directly to war.
- Germany formed a military alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy called the **Triple Alliance**.
- Fearful of Germany’s growing power, France and Russia formed a secret alliance with each other.
- Great Britain, also worried, joined France and Russia to form the **Triple Entente**.
- Some European leaders believed that these alliances created a **balance of power**, in which each nation had equal strength, therefore decreasing the chance of war.
- Archduke Ferdinand’s assassination exposed flaws in this thinking, as after this attack Europe exploded into war.
War Breaks Out

• After the assassination, Princip was arrested, and Austro-Hungarian officials learned that the Serbian government had supplied the assassins with bombs and weapons.

• They blamed Serbia for the killing, and because Russia had vowed to protect Serbia, Russia’s army began to mobilize.

• Germany, allied with Austria-Hungary, declared war on Russia and France, Russia’s ally.

• Germany followed the Schlieffen Plan and crossed into neutral Belgium, bringing Belgium and its ally, Great Britain, into the conflict.

• Most countries had chosen sides in World War I.

Central Powers
Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire

Allied Powers
• Great Britain, France, and Russia

• Germany’s plan worked well in Belgium, as the Belgians only had six divisions of troops against Germany’s 750,000 soldiers.
A New Kind of Warfare

- Word of Germany’s invasion of Belgium quickly spread to France and other European nations.
- French troops mobilized to meet approaching German divisions.
  - They looked much as French soldiers did over 40 years earlier, wearing bright red coats and heavy brass helmets.
  - The German troops dressed in gray uniforms that worked as camouflage on the battlefield.
- French war strategy had not changed much since the 1800s.
  - French soldiers marched row by row onto the battlefield, with bayonets mounted to their field rifles, preparing for close combat with the Germans.
  - The Germans, however, had many machine guns, and mowed down some 15,000 French troops per day in early battle.
  - A well-trained German machine-gun team could set up equipment in four seconds, and each machine gun matched the firepower of 50 to 100 French rifles.
- Many Europeans wrongly thought these technological advances would make the war short and that France would be defeated in two months.
The First Battle of the Marne

• The German army quickly advanced through northern France and after only one month of fighting were barely 25 miles from Paris.

• The French, however, would not give up.

The Battle

• The French launched a counterattack along the Marne River east of Paris on September 7, 1914.

• This battle became known as the First Battle of the Marne.

• 2 million men fought on a battle-front that stretched 125 miles.

• After five days and 250,000 deaths, the French had rallied and pushed the Germans back some 40 miles.

The Aftermath

• The French paid a heavy price, as countless red-coated French troops had fallen in the battle.

• Despite the loss of life, it helped the Allies by giving Russia more time to mobilize for war.

• Once Russia mobilized, Germany had to pull some of its troops out of France and send them to fight Russia on the Eastern Front, which stretched from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea.
The War Reaches a Stalemate

- The First Battle of the Marne ended in a stalemate, and both French and German soldiers dug trenches, or deep ditches, to defend their positions and seek shelter from enemy fire.
- By late 1914, two massive systems of trenches stretched 400 miles across Western Europe, and the battle lines known as the Western Front extended from Switzerland to the North Sea.
- **Trench warfare**, or fighting from trenches, was an old strategy that had been used in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- This trench warfare, however, was different because of its scale.
  - Soldiers lived in trenches, surrounded by machine-gun fire, flying grenades, and exploding artillery shells.
  - Opposing forces had machine guns pointed at enemy trenches at all times, firing whenever a helmet or rifle appeared over the top.
  - Thousands of men that ran into the area between the trenches, known as “no-man’s-land,” were chopped down by enemy fire.
- Neither the Allies nor the Germans were able to make significant advances, creating a stalemate, or deadlock.
Poisonous Gas
- German military scientists experimented with gas as a weapon.
- Gas in battle was risky: Soldiers didn’t know how much to use, and wind changes could backfire the gas.
- Then Germans threw canisters of gas into the Allies’ trenches.
- Many regretted using gas, but British and French forces began using it too, to keep things even.

Tanks
- When soldiers began to carry gas masks, they still faced a stalemate.
- British forces soon developed armored tanks to move into no-man’s-land.
- These tanks had limited success because many got stuck in the mud.
- Germans soon found ways to destroy the tanks with artillery fire.

Airplanes
- Both sides used planes to map and to attack trenches from above.
- Planes first dropped brinks and heavy objects on enemy troops.
- Soon they mounted guns and bombs on planes.
- Skilled pilots sought in air battles called dogfights.
- The German Red Baron downed 80 Allied planes, until he was shot down.
### Major World War I Battles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Battle of Tannenburg: Aug. 1914, Russia’s worst defeat in World War I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Battle of the Marne: Sept. 1914, Allies halted German advance, saving Paris from occupation</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Battle of Ypres: Oct.–Nov. 1914, last major German offensive until 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle of Gallipoli: Apr.–Dec. 1915, failed attempt of the Allies to knock Turkey out of the war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle of Verdun: Feb.–Dec. 1916, longest battle of World War I with huge loss of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle of the Somme: July–Nov. 1916, first great offensive of the British, best remembered for its staggering loss of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele): July–Nov. 1917, so many losses that the name Passchendaele came to mean senseless slaughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle of Caporetto: Oct.–Nov. 1917, tremendous victory for the Central Powers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The United States in World War I

The Main Idea
The United States helped turn the tide for an Allied victory.

Reading Focus
- Why did the United States try to stay neutral in the war?
- Which events showed that America was heading into war?
- What contributions did Americans make in Europe?
- How did the war end?
The United States Stays Neutral

- Americans thought of World War I as a European conflict with little effect on their country.
- Just after the war broke out, President Wilson declared that the U.S. would stay neutral.
- Wilson’s decision reflected the U.S.’s longstanding policy of isolationism, or not being involved in foreign affairs.
- Privately, Wilson favored the Allied cause because Germany's tactics and invasion of Belgium was worrisome.
  - The U.S. also had greater political, cultural, and commercial ties to Great Britain and France than to Germany.
- Financially, the U.S. did more business with the Allies.
  - The British fleet blockaded German ports and transportation routes, and few American businesses could sell goods to German forces.
  - Doing business with the Allies was easier, and by 1917 Britain purchased nearly $75 million worth of war goods each week.
### German Submarine Warfare

#### U-Boats
- Germany suffered because of the British blockade, so it developed small submarines called U-boats to strike back at the British.
- U-boats are named after the German for “undersea boat.”
- In February 1915 the German government declared the waters around Great Britain a war zone, threatening to destroy all enemy ships.
- Germany warned the U.S. that neutral ships might be attacked.
- The German plan for unrestricted submarine warfare angered Americans, and Wilson believed it violated the laws of neutrality.
- Wilson held Germany accountable for American losses.

#### America’s Involvement
- In 1915, Germany sank a luxury passenger ship to Great Britain called the *Lusitania*, killing many, including 128 Americans.
- Americans were outraged, and Wilson demanded an end to unrestricted submarine warfare.
- The Germans agreed to attack only supply ships but later sank the French passenger ship *Sussex*, killing 80 people.
- Wilson threatened Germany again, and Germany issued the *Sussex pledge*, promising not to sink merchant vessels “without warning and without saving human lives.”
Re-Election, Espionage, and War

- Wilson promised not to go to war, and after his re-election in 1916 he began to work for a settlement of “peace without victory.”
- When Germany restarted unrestricted warfare, the U.S. ended diplomatic relations and started installing guns on merchant ships.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The Zimmermann Note</th>
<th>The U.S. Declares War</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram to a German official in Mexico proposing an alliance between Germany and Mexico.</td>
<td>Wilson continued to resist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>Zimmermann Note</strong> asked for Mexico’s help in exchange for its lost Southwest territory.</td>
<td>Russians forced the czar to give up absolute power and formed a more democratic government, which Americans liked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mexicans declined, but the British decoded the note, and Americans called for war.</td>
<td>Then German U-boats sank three American merchant ships, and Wilson’s cabinet convinced him to declare war, which Congress approved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On April 6, 1917, the United States joined the Allies. Now they needed to raise an army, train them, and ship supplies and troops.
The American Army

Raising an Army

• On May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, requiring men between 21 and 30 to register for a draft.

• Some asked to be classified as conscientious objectors, or religious people against fighting, but were rejected.

• In the summer of 1917, new recruits reported for training but found almost nothing ready.

• Soldiers slept in tents until barracks were built, and supplies hadn’t yet arrived.

• New recruits learned military rules with sticks and barrels instead of rifles and horses.

Discrimination

• African American soldiers were segregated and trained in separate camps.

• Many white officers and southern politicians feared African Americans would pose a threat after the war so only trained a few black regiments.

• Latino soldiers faced scorn from other troops and were often assigned menial tasks.

• The federal government, however, did accept non-English-speaking soldiers.

• The military had programs in New Mexico and Georgia to help Hispanic soldiers learn English.
Arriving in Europe

- The American Army, National Guard, and volunteer and draft soldiers overseas formed the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), led by General John J. Pershing.

- The first U.S. troops arrived in France in 1917 through a convey system, in which troop-transport ships were surrounded by destroyers or cruisers for protection, limiting the number of ships sunk and troops lost.

- When America arrived, Germany occupied all of Belgium and part of France, and Russia struggled against famine and civil war.

- If Russia fell, Germans would bring all their troops west, and the Allies needed the Americans to fight immediately.

- General Pershing, however, wanted American troops to train and to fight separately from European regiments.

- Pershing sent his troops to training camps in eastern France instead of to the battlefields.
## Allied Setbacks and U.S. Action

### Allied Setbacks

- While Americans trained, the Allies suffered a blow when a group called the Bolsheviks took over Russia’s government.

- Bolsheviks were **Communists**, who seek equal distribution of wealth and no private ownership.

- The new government, led by Vladimir Ilich Lenin, signed a peace treaty with the Central Powers and withdrew its troops.

- Germany was free to focus on the West, and in May 1918 Germany launched a series of offensives against the Allies.

- US troops entered Russia to prevent war material from confiscation by the Germany Army.

### The U.S. Fights

- American troops began fighting 12 months after arriving, digging extensive trenches in the dark to avoid detection.

- In the trenches, troops stood in deep mud with rats as enemies dropped gas and explosives.

- While defending Paris in June 1918, U.S. troops helped the French stop the Germans at Chateau-Thierry.

- In northern France, a division of U.S. Marines recaptured the forest of Belleau Wood and two nearby villages.

- After fierce fighting, the Allies halted the German advance and saved Paris.
The majority of Americans who served in the military were men, but some women also signed up to serve overseas.

During the war, more than 20,000 nurses served in the U.S. Army in the United States and overseas.

Women also served in the navy and marines, usually as typists and bookkeepers.

- Still, some women became radio operators, electricians, or telegraphers.

The U.S. Army Signal Corps recruited French-speaking American women to serve as switchboard operators. Known as the Hello Girls, they served a crucial role in keeping communications open between the front line and the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces.
The War Ends

The Germans’ Last Offensive

- At midnight on July 14, 1918, the Germans launched their last offensive at the Second Battle of the Marne.
- U.S. blew up every bridge the Germans built across the Marne River, and the German army retreated on August 3, after suffering 150,000 casualties.
- The Allies began a counterattack in September 1918 and, fighting as a separate army for the first time, defeated German troops at Mihiel, near the French-German border.

Allies Push Forward

- Allies continued their advance toward the French city of Sedan on the Belgian border, which held the main German supply railway.
- By November, the Allies had reached and occupied the hills around Sedan.

The Armistice

- By 1918 the war crippled the German economy, causing food strikes and riots, and revolution swept across Austria-Hungary.
- The Central Powers lacked the will to continue and started to surrender.
- Austria-Hungary, and then Germany, surrendered, and the Allies demanded that Germany surrender its weapons and allow Allied occupation of some areas.
The Main Idea
The U.S. mobilized a variety of resources to wage World War I.

Reading Focus
• How did the government mobilize the economy for the war effort?
• How did workers mobilize on the home front?
• How did the government try to influence public opinion about the war?
Mobilizing the Economy

• Going to war was extremely expensive, and President Wilson needed to find ways to pay for it.

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<th>Taxes</th>
<th>Loans and Liberty Bonds</th>
<th>Regulating Industry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Congress passed the War Revenue Act of 1917, which established very high taxes.</td>
<td>• Wilson sparked an intense campaign to sell <strong>Liberty Bonds</strong>.</td>
<td>• Congress created administrative boards to prepare industries for war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It taxed wealthy Americans up to 77 percent of their incomes.</td>
<td>• They were a form of loan to the government from American people.</td>
<td>• The War Industries Board (WIB) regulated all war materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It increased federal revenue by 400 percent within two years.</td>
<td>• The national debt grew from $1.2 billion to $25.5 billion in three years.</td>
<td>• It increased industrial production by 20 percent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regulations to Supply U.S. and Allied Troops

Regulating Food

- Congress passed the Lever Food and Fuel Control Act, letting the government set prices and establish production controls.
- Herbert Hoover’s Food Administration promised farmers higher prices for crops.
- He also asked Americans to eat less and to plant food gardens.
- Prohibition also helped the war, as alcohol is made using food crops like grapes and wheat.
- The 1919 Volstead Act passed Prohibition as the temperance movement gained strength.

Regulating Fuel

- The Fuel Administration was established to set production goals and prices for fuel.
- Harry Garfield, son of former president James A. Garfield, headed the administration.
- Garfield introduced daylight savings time to extend daylight hours for factory workers with long shifts.
- He promoted fuel conservation by encouraging Americans to go without gas and heat on certain days.
Mobilizing Workers

- During the war, the profits of many major industrial companies skyrocketed because companies sold to the federal government.

- Americans had come more independent due to increased ownership of automobiles.

- Factory wages also increased, but the rising cost of food and housing meant that workers were not much better off.

- War demands also led to laborers working long hours in increasingly dangerous conditions in order to produce the needed materials on time and faster than other companies.

- These harsher conditions led many workers to join labor unions.

  Union membership increased by about 60 percent between 1916 and 1919, and unions boomed as well, with more than 6,000 strikes held during the war.
Wartime Workers

National War Labor Board
• Leaders feared strikes would disrupt production for the war effort.
• The Wilson administration created the National War Labor Board in 1918.
• The board judged disputes between workers and management, handling 1,200 cases during the war years.
• Also, to improve working conditions, it established an eight-hour workday, sought companies to recognize unions, and urged equal pay for women.

Women’s War Efforts
• As men left their jobs to fight, women moved in to keep the American economy moving.
• Women took many jobs traditionally held by men on the railroads, in factories, and on docks, as well as building ships and airplanes.
• Other women filled more traditional jobs as teachers and nurses, and many volunteered.
• About 1 million women joined the workforce during the war, and women used this as leverage for suffrage movements.
Influenza Spreads

- Three waves of a severe flu epidemic broke out between 1918 and 1919 in Europe and in America.
- Of all American troops who died in World War II, half died from influenza.
- On the Western Front, crowded and unsanitary trenches helped flu spread among troops, then to American military camps in Kansas and beyond.
- This strain of influenza was deadly, killing healthy people within days, and during the month of October 1918, influenza killed nearly 200,000 Americans.
- Panicked city leaders halted gatherings, and people accused the Germans of releasing flu germs into the populace.

By the time it passed, over 600,000 Americans lost their lives.
Influencing Public Opinion

President Wilson used a number of tactics to gain the support of Americans who had favored neutrality in World War I.

**Propaganda**

- The **Committee on Public Information** (CPI) appointed reporter and reformer **George Creel** as its leader.
- Creel began a campaign of **propaganda**: posters, news stories, speeches, and other materials to influence opinion.
- Creel hired movie stars to speak, and artists to create patriotic posters and pamphlets.
- One famous poster by James Montgomery Flagg pictures Uncle Sam saying “I Want You for the U.S. Army.”

**Reactions**

- Some Americans began to distrust German things.
- Many schools stopped teaching German, and symphonies stopped playing German music.
- German-sounding names were changed, so sauerkraut became liberty cabbage and hamburgers became liberty steak.
- Reports spread that German secret agents were operating in the U.S., causing some Americans to discriminate against German Americans.
Some Americans Speak Out

- Prominent Americans such as pacifist reformer Jane Addams and Senator Robert La Follette spoke out against the war.
- Addams founded the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.
- Wilson’s administration tried to limit public speech about the war.

Legislation

- Congress passed the Espionage Act, which punished people for aiding the enemy or refusing military duty.
- The year after, it passed the Sedition Act, making it illegal for Americans to criticize the government, flag, or military in speech or writing.

Opponents

- More than 1,000 opponents of war were jailed under those acts, including Robert Goldstein, who directed a film called The Spirit of ‘76 and refused to remove scenes of British brutality during the American Revolution.
- Socialist Party leader Eugene Debs was sentenced to 10 years in prison for criticizing the Espionage Act but was released after the war.
Many Americans thought the Espionage and Sedition Acts violated the First Amendment, but others thought they were essential to protect military secrets and the safety of America.

The Supreme Court also struggled to interpret the acts.

In one case, Charles Schenck, an official of the American Socialist Party, organized the printing of 15,000 leaflets opposing the war and was convicted of violating the Espionage Act.

He challenged the conviction in the Supreme Court, but the Court upheld his conviction, limiting free speech during war.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. wrote the Court’s unanimous decision, stating that some things said safely in peacetime are dangerous to the country during wartime.
The Main Idea
The Allies determined the terms for peace in the postwar world.

Reading Focus
- What was President Wilson’s Fourteen Points plan for peace?
- What was resolved at the Paris Peace Conference?
- Why did Congress fight over the treaty?
- What was the impact of World War I on the United States and the world?
The Fourteen Points

• In a speech to Congress before the war ended, President Wilson outlined a vision of a “just and lasting peace.”
• His plan was called the Fourteen Points, and among its ideas were
  — Open diplomacy, freedom of the seas, the removal of trade barriers, and the reduction of military arms
  — A fair system to resolve disputes over colonies
  — **Self-determination**, or the right of people to decide their own political status and form their own nations
  — Establishing a **League of Nations**, or an organization of countries working together to settle disputes, protect democracy, and prevent future wars
• The Fourteen Points expressed a new philosophy that applied progressivism to U.S. foreign policy.
• The Fourteen Points declared that foreign policy should be based on morality, not just on what’s best for the nation.
• President Wilson led American negotiators attending the peace conference in Paris in January 1919.
  – His attendance of the Paris Peace Conference made him the first U.S. President to visit Europe while in office.
  – Republicans criticized Wilson for leaving the country when it was trying to restore its economy.
• Wilson’s dream of international peace, though, required him to attend the conference as a fair and unbiased leader to prevent squabbling among European nations.
• The Paris Peace Conference began on January 12, 1919, with leaders representing 32 nations, or about three-quarters of the world’s population.
• The leaders of the victorious Allies—President Wilson, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, French premier Georges Clemenceau, and Italian prime minister Vittorio Orlando—became known as the Big Four.
• Germany and the Central Powers were not invited to attend.
**Conflicting Needs at the Peace Conference**

The delegates arrived at the Peace Conference with competing needs and desires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Better World</th>
<th>Revenge</th>
<th>Independence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• President Wilson had a vision of a better world.</td>
<td>• Many Allies wanted to punish Germany for its role in the war.</td>
<td>• Leaders of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia wanted to build new nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• He wanted nations to deal with each other openly and trade with each other fairly.</td>
<td>• Georges Clemenceau accused Germany of tyrannical conduct, exemplified by the huge loss of life and the continued suffering of veterans.</td>
<td>• Poland, divided between Germany and Russia, wanted one nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wanted countries to reduce their arsenal of weapons</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ho Chi Minh worked at the Paris Ritz hotel and asked France to free Vietnam.</td>
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</table>
The Treaty of Versailles

- The Allies eventually reached an agreement and presented the Treaty of Versailles to Germany in May.
- The treaty was harsher than Wilson wanted, requiring Germany to
  - Disarm its military forces
  - Pay $33 billion in reparations, or payments for damages and expenses caused by the war, which Germany could not afford
  - Take sole responsibility for starting the war
- The Central Powers also had to turn over their colonies to the Allies, to stay under Allied control until they could become independent.
- The treaty included some of Wilson’s Fourteen Points, such as the creation of a League of Nations and self-determination for some ethnic groups in Eastern and Central Europe.

  Germany strongly protested the treaty but signed it after France threatened military action.
Fight over the Treaty

- President Wilson returned to the U.S. and presented the treaty to the Senate, needing the support of both Republicans and Democrats to ratify it.
- Wilson had trouble getting the Republican Congress’s support.
- The Senators divided into three groups:
  1. Democrats, who supported immediate ratification of the treaty
  2. Irreconcilables, who wanted outright rejection of U.S. participation in the League of Nations
  3. Reservationists, led by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who would only ratify a revised treaty
- Reservationists thought the League of Nations charter requiring members to use force for the League conflicted with Congress’s constitutional right to declare war.
Wilson Tours America

- Wilson refused to compromise with reservationists and took his case directly to the American people, traveling 8,000 miles in 22 days.
- In 32 major speeches, Wilson urged the public to pressure Republican senators into ratifying the treaty, warning of serious consequences if world nations didn’t work together.
- Wilson’s heavy touring schedule weakened him, and after suffering a stroke in October 1919, he cut himself off from friends and allies.
- In September 1919, Senator Lodge presented a treaty to the U.S. Senate including a list of 14 reservations, or concerns about the Treaty of Versailles.
- Wilson was unwilling to compromise, and the Senate rejected Lodge’s treaty on Wilson’s instructions.
- After Wilson left office in 1921, the U.S. signed separate treaties with Austria, Hungary, and Germany, but never joined the League of Nations.
- Without U.S. participation, the League’s ability to keep world peace was uncertain.
# The Impact of World War I

## Political
- The war led to the overthrow of monarchies in Russia, Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Turkey.
- It contributed to the rise of the Bolsheviks to power in Russia in 1917.
- It fanned the flames of revolts against colonialism in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

## Economic
- WWI devastated European economies, giving the U.S. the economic lead.
- The U.S. still faced problems such as inflation, which left people struggling to afford ordinary items.
- Farmers, whose goods were less in demand than during the war, were hit hard.

## Social
- The war killed 14 million people and left 7 million men disabled.
- The war drew more than a million women into the U.S. workforce, which helped them pass the Nineteenth Amendment to get the vote.
- It also encouraged African Americans to move to northern cities for factory work.
The effects of World War I in Europe were devastating.
- European nations lost almost an entire generation of young men.
- France, where most of the fighting took place, was in ruins.
- Great Britain was deeply in debt to the U.S. and lost its place as the world’s financial center.
- The reparations forced on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles were crippling to its economy.

World War I would not be the “war to end all wars,” as some called it.
- Too many issues were left unresolved.
- Too much anger and hostility remained among nations.

Within a generation, conflict would again break out in Europe, bringing the United States and the world back into war.
Fighting in the Trenches

Protected by rows of barbed wire, sandbags, and armed soldiers, trenches were very difficult to capture. Neither side could advance on the Western Front without losing thousands of men in the attack.

- **Highly mobile machine guns could quickly fill any gap in the defensive line.**
- **Medical officers worked in the trenches during battles and bombardment to help the endless stream of wounded men.**
- **Gas masks protected eyes, noses, and throats from gas attacks.**
- **Tanks could flatten barbed wire, cross enemy trenches, and act as shields for the attack.**
- **Soldiers threw hand grenades into no-man's-land at advancing troops.**
- **Troops needed to cross no-man's-land, the area between opposing lines, to attack the enemy, but there they were unprotected from enemy fire.**
- **Aircraft helped ground units direct artillery fire with great accuracy.**

**Skills Focus:** Interpreting Infographics

1. **Drawing Conclusions:** What was the military tactic of the trench system? What soldiers' needs were met in the trenches?
2. **Making Inferences:** How do you think soldiers' morale would fare after they spent months in the trenches? Explain your reasoning.

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H18
From Neutrality to War

Remaining Neutral

Below, a German U-boat prowls the seas. President Wilson opposed the use of unrestricted submarine warfare, but he campaigned for re-election in 1916 (right) with promises to keep America out of the war.
Fighting in the War

In June 1918, Belleau Wood, France, became the proving grounds for American soldiers (below). Although a U.S. victory, 8,000 American casualties at the Battle of Belleau Wood made it America's bloodiest battle thus far in the war.
This photograph from March 17, 1918, shows U.S. troops of the 168th infantry in the trenches near the town of Badonville, France.
**WORLD WAR I, 1914–1917**

**Location** Where was the Western Front of the war located at this time? What were the outcomes of the major battles fought there?

**Movement** Describe the movement of the major fronts of the war. Why did the war have two fronts?

See *Skills Handbook*, p. H20
Movement: How did the battles at Cantigny, Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, and the Marne affect the German advance?

Major Battles

- **Battle of Tannenberg, Aug. 1914**
  Russia’s worst defeat in World War I

- **1st Battle of the Marne, Sept. 1914**
  Allies halted the German advance and saved Paris from occupation

- **1st Battle of Ypres, Oct.–Nov. 1914**
  Last major German offensive until 1918

- **Battle of Gallipoli, April–Dec. 1915**
  Failed attempt of the Allies to knock the Ottoman Empire out of World War I

- **Battle of Verdun, Feb.–Dec. 1916**
  Longest battle of World War I with huge loss of life

- **Battle of the Somme, July–Nov. 1916**
  First major offensive for the British; remembered for its staggering loss of life

- **3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele), July–Nov. 1917**
  British forces advanced just five miles at a cost of about 300,000 lives

- **Battle of Caporetto, Oct.–Nov. 1917**
  Tremendous victory for the Central Powers
Some—but not all—of President Wilson’s Fourteen Points were reflected in the Treaty of Versailles.

### The Fourteen Points

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Point</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Public diplomatic negotiations and an end to secret treaties</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Freedom of navigation on the seas</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Free trade among nations</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Reduction of armaments to the level needed for domestic safety</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Fair resolution of colonial claims that arose because of the war</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Evacuation of Russia and restoration of its conquered territories</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Preservation of Belgium’s sovereignty</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Restoration of France’s territory, including Alsace-Lorraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Redrawing Italy’s borders according to nationalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Divide up Austria-Hungary according to nationalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Redraw the borders of the Balkan states according to nationalities</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Self-determination for Turks and the other nationalities under Turkish rule</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Creation of an Independent Polish nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Creation of a League of Nations</td>
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### Major Provisions of the Treaty of Versailles

#### Military Changes
- Limited the German army to 100,000 men, with no tanks or heavy artillery.
- Limited the German navy to 15,000 men.
- Banned Germany from having an air force.

#### Territory Changes
- Required Germany to cede land to France, Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium.
- Required Germany to surrender all colonies to the control of the League of Nations.
- Germany and Austria were prohibited from uniting.

#### War-Guilt Provisions
- Held Germany solely responsible for all losses and damages suffered by the Allies during the war.
- Required Germany to pay reparations of 269 billion gold marks, later reduced to 132 billion.

#### Establishment of the League of Nations
- Did not initially permit Germany to join the League.
European rivalries lead to the outbreak of war in 1914.
- Nationalism
- Militarism
- Imperialism
- Alliances

The United States enters the war in 1917 and helps turn the tide for an Allied victory.
- Victory in the Battle of Chateau-Thierry
- Stopped German advance at Belleau Wood
- Defeated Germans’ last offensive in the Second Battle of the Marne

With the Treaty of Versailles, the Allies determine the terms for peace in the postwar world.
- Forced Germany to pay massive reparations
- Created the League of Nations
- Treaty not ratified by U.S. Senate
- United States did not join the League of Nations
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