

## Chapter 28: World War I

### Section 1: The Seeds of War

- Since mid 1800s w/ industrial rev. at height
  - European countries begin imperialism & nationalism
- **Rivalries**
  - Intense competition for resources
  - Br. needed to keep empire to maintain trade in land & sea
  - Gr. wanted economic control of weak Ottoman Empire
  - Austria & Hungary wanted territory in Balkans
  - Russia wanted Dardanelles in Blk. Sea & E. unto Manchuria
- **Nationalism**
- **Militarism**
  - European countries assessed each others military
    - Began to out-build and out-perform
    - arms race to protect themselves
    - felt nat. security depended on tech skill & readiness
- **Alliances**
  - 1873 Otto von Bismarck created 3 Emperor's League
    - German, Russian, and Austrian-Hungarian
    - Bismarck want to isolate Fr. by getting all possible friends to join
    - Not last b/c problems in Balkans
  - 1882 Italy join Ger. & Aus.-Hun. - Triple Alliance
    - Italy angry with France over Fr. occupation of Tunisia
  - By 1904 Fr., Rus., & Br. joined - Triple Alliance
    - Br. joined b/c worried about Gr. navy
  - Early form of M.A.D.

### Section 2: The Spark

- Archduke Ferdinand next in line for Aus.-Hun. Emperor
  - When became emperor planned give Slavs equal voice in govt.
    - Would diffuse political problems w/ Bosnia & Serbia
    - Serbia then not able to get control of Bosnia
      - Bosnia would have no reason to rebel
    - Serbian group - Black Hand - plan assassination
      - Ferdinand visiting Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina
        - In motorcade 1st attempt made & failed
        - 2nd made along same route
        - Gavrilo Princip shot him & wife
- **German Support & War**
  - Aus.Hun. blame Serbia directly
  - Gr. emp. William II assured Aus.Hun. that support be given
  - July 23 Aus.Hun. gave ultimatum
    - Serbia allow Aus.Hun. officials in to investigate
    - Also put down subversive movements
    - Serbia have 48 hours to decide
  - July 25 Serbia reject ultimatum
  - July 28 Aus.Hun. declare war on Serbia
- **A European War**
  - Many believe war can be avoided
    - But countries keep pushing & hoping others back down
    - Not happen b/c nationalism

- Russia Czar Nicholas II on July 30 declare war on Gr. & Aus.Hun.
  - Was assured Fr. would join & support Rus.
- Gr. send ultimatums to Fr. & Rus. To withdraw but ignored
- Br. not join yet & Gr. hope to keep neutral & hoped to negotiate
  - Gr. invade Belgium who neutral by 1839 treaty
    - Belgium ask Br. for help so send ultimatum to Gr.
      - Gr. Chancellor call 1839 treaty "scrap of paper"
    - Aug 4 Br. declares war

### - A Happy War

- B/c of nationalism many happy and parades held
- Felt war only last weeks
- No one understood that new tech. outpaced planning

### Section 3: The War

- G.B./ Fr./ Rus./ Serbia/ Belgium/ Sp./ Montenegro - Allied Powers
- Gr./ Aus.Hun./ Ottoman/ Bugaria - Central Powers
  - It claimed Gr. act aggressively so was neutral
- No one prepared most have 6 months stockpiled

### - The Schlieffen Plan

- Gr. was strategy drawn in 1905 by Alfred von Schlieffen
- One problem - enemies E & W & should not have 2 front war
  - Divide resources & be weak
  - Believed Rus. mobilize slow & meantime defeat Fr. in 6 weeks
    - Then move to E & fight Rus.
- Problems start at beginning
  - Gr. commander Helmuth von Moltke into heavy defended area Belgium
    - Advance held up 2 weeks
  - Rus. army mobilize quickly & move troops to E.
  - Br. into N. Fr. & fight well & inflict heavy losses, but retreated
  - Fr. advanced into Alsace-Lorraine region but retreated
  - Br. & Fr. movements delated Gr. advance & timetable
- Battle of the Marne
  - Fr. chief of command Gen. Joseph Joffre pull back to protect Paris
  - Fr. Cen Joseph Gallieni regrouped army in Paris & counterattacked
    - Used hundreds of taxis to speed troops to front
  - Sept. 5 Fr. met Gr. in NE Fr. Battle of Marne
    - 4 days shelling push Gr. back 50mi from Paris
  - battle boosted Fr. morale
  - Gr. hold much Fr. industry area but Schlieffen Plan failing
    - Neither side able to win quickly
- Russian disaster
  - Rus. send troops before fully mobilized
    - Caught Gr. & Aus.Hun. by surprise
  - Rus. invaded E. Prussia & Aus.Hun. by Aug 13
  - Provided critical pressure on Gr.
  - Rus. success not last
    - Gr. support arrive
    - End of Aug Gr. & Rus. troops meet at Tennenberg
      - Gr. able encircle & destroy Rus. army
        - 30,000 Rus. killed & 92,000 prisoners
        - 13,000 Gr. killed
      - disaster for Rus.

### - Years of Deadlock

- After battle of the Marne Gr. & Allies began "the race to the sea"
  - Each attempted to reach N Sea first & outflank the other
    - Gr. advance toward Dunkirk & meet Br. at Ypres ("seepr")
      - Ypres in W. Belgium
      - High casualties on both & no breakthroughs
      - War settled to stalemate from Swiss to N Sea
        - By Nov. 1914 stalemate
- Trench warfare
  - War of attrition
  - Approx. 500mi trenches Switzerland to N Sea
  - Land mines - barbed wire in "no man's land"
  - Trenches 1/2mi or several yards away
  - Spend weeks w/o leaving spot, very boring
  - If get above trench, machine gun open up
  - Poison gas used b/c heavy & go into trench
- Verdun & the Somme
  - 1916 begins the stalemate
    - It. Join w/ allies but no victories
  - Feb 1916 Gr. surprise attack on Fr. at Verdun
    - Ig. Fortress NE Fr. on Meuse R.
      - 1/2 million die both sides & Gr. withdraw
  - Br. & sm. Fr. force attack Gr. in Somme R. Valley in N Fr.
    - 500,000 Gr. - 400,000 Br. - 200,000 Fr. die
    - Br. introduce tank here
      - Slow & ineffective
- Eastern front
  - Not as entrenched as W Front
    - More mobile & constant changes but no complete victories
  - Rus. least of industrialized powers
    - Not have resources & skills for modern war
  - By end of 1915 lost territory = to size of Fr.
  - Lost hundreds thousands of lives & lost weapons = to when they started war
  - Allies promise control of Constantinople & Dardanelles if they win
  - 1916 Rus. working to rebuild & rearm
  - 1916 launch offensive
    - little progress against Gr.
    - w/ Aus.Hun. did well
      - captured several cities
      - several hundred thousand prisoners
      - lost over 1 million troops & most supplies
  - Russian morale very low & helped lead to revolution
    - Did help divert supplies from Verdun offensive
- Gallipoli campaign
  - War dragging on w/ stalemate
  - Br. 1st Lord of the Admiralty - Winston Churchill
    - Wanted open front on Dardanelles straight in Turkey
      - Only real place to supply Russia & help Serbia
      - From there take Constantinople and Ottomans out of war
      - Open Aus.Hun. to attack from S
  - Begin 1915 but poor planning - coordination - lack reinforcements
    - Gave Turks time to regroup & prepare

- Allies begin to attack on Gallipoli peninsula
  - Turks drive back & Jan 1916 Allies withdraw

#### - On the Seas

- Br. largest navy & kept sea lanes open & Gr. from invading
- Gr. needed keep supplies out
- Both attempt blockade
  - Br. seized Gr. bound ships having contraband
  - Gr. used U-Boats to stop allied shipping
    - At first used only against warships
    - Expanded to civilian b/c too many Br. ships
    - May 1915 Br. liner Lusitania sunk
      - 1200 killed w/ 128 Amer. on board
      - no warning & gr. claim contraband
      - Amer. closer to war but not want
    - Mar 1916 Gr. sinking passenger ships
      - Pres. Woodrow Wilson gives ultimatum
        - If not stop unrestricted warfare, diplomatic relations over
        - Gr. stops

#### - U.S. Enters the War

- Why waiting?
  - Public opinion divided
    - Many Ger immigrants in U.S. & 1st gen
    - Many Irish were anti-Br. so side w/ Gr.
  - Also Euro conflict & not U.S. concern
    - Oceans apart and communication good but not
  - Nothing really done to bring U.S. into war
    - Gr. need break Br. & begin unrestricted sub
      - Feb 1, 1917 say sink any merchant ship
      - Wilson breaks relations
- Mar. 1917 newspapers print Zimmerman note
  - Gr. message from Gr. foreign minister Arthur Zimm.
    - To Gr. ambassador to Mexico
  - If Mex joined in war - would get TX-AZ-New Mexico
  - Swung public against Gr.
- Gr. continue sinking ships & 4 sunk in early 1917
  - Wilson asks Congress for declaration of war Apr 2, 1917

#### - Section 4: Russian Revolution

- 1917 morale of army and citizens at lowest point
  - 1/4 not have weapons – had wait for others to die
  - poor supply transportation
  - all resources going to military and civilians starving
    - many riots “Peace & Bread”
- Fall of the Czar
  - Poor leader – Nicholas Romanov II
    - Bad political judgements
      - Strikes & riots put down w/ violence
      - lost war with Japan & people losing with Gr.
      - Refused to give people a Duma
        - Similar to Parliament
      - Persecuted religious minorities
    - Wife Alexandra

- Kept Grigor: Rasputin around
  - Her son Alexis had hemophilia
  - Rasputin seemed to stop effects of disease
  - Religious radical & indulged in women
    - Caused scandal but protected
      - This made people go against czar
  - 2 relatives of Czar kill him
    - poison/ shot/ stabbed/ drowned
- ran country while Nicholas at front
  - b/c scandals many on cabinet resign
  - Alexandra appoint incompetents
- March 8, 1917 strikes & riots erupt
  - Food & fuel shortages
  - Several hundred thousand riot in Petrograd (St. Petersburg)
  - Called for end of war
  - March 11 & 12 troops ordered to put down riots
    - Refused to fire on crowd and many joined
  - Czar at front & ordered his generals to put down riots
    - Told that troops would just join riot
  - March 15, 1917 he abdicated
    - No real loss of life & w/o leadership
    - Most leaders in exile but now to return
- The Provisional Government
  - Temp. govt. "provisional govt."
    - Decided to hold elections to set up constitutional assembly
      - The assembly would set up a permanent govt.
  - Members consisted of middle-class Duma reps
    - Rival group begins
      - Petrograd Soviet of Worker's & Soldier's Deputies
        - Peasants & workers of different socialist groups
        - Bolsheviks small group
        - Became model for other soviet groups
- Alexander Kerensky
  - Moderate socialist
  - Member of executive committee of Petrograd Soviet
  - Also minister of justice then prime minister of provisional govt
  - Major go-between
- Provisional govt continue w/ war
  - Many deserted & workers striked
  - Production fell & made military worse
  - Preoccupied w/ war & not needed social reforms
  - Soviets call for 3 point plan
    - Immediate peace
    - Transfer of land to peasants
    - Control of factories by workers
    - Great support from population
  - Govt ignore 3 point plan & lose support
- Lenin
  - 2 major splits in communism in Russia 1903

- Mensheviks & Bolsheviks
  - 1917 Bolsheviks outnumbered but more real
    - Mensheviks not organized
  - Bolsheviks believed socialist society ready now
    - Would happen if force used
    - Felt rev. spread to whole world
  - Leader Vladimir Lenin
    - Older brother killed b/c tried assassinate czar
      - Lenin dedicated life to rev
    - 1895 govt arrested & send him to Siberia
      - after release traveled Europe
        - wrote articles of rev
    - Gr knows he wants peace
      - Provided him special train “sealed”
        - No one knew he was on it
          - Train might be stopped
    - Knew provisional govt not hold power
    - Proclaimed he follow 3 point plan
      - “Peace – Land – Bread”

#### - Bolshevik Revolution

- Nov 1917 Bolsheviks revolt
  - Seized post office – telephone system – train stations – electric plants
  - Navy threatened shell Winter Palace of former Czar
    - Where prov. govt offices located
  - Relatively bloodless
- Election for constituent assembly still took place in late Nov
  - When assembly meet – Bolsheviks dissolve
- Claimed absolute power & began foundation of socialist state
  - Ended private property
  - Distributed land to peasants
  - Gave workers control of factories & mines
  - Began calling themselves communists

#### - Civil war

- Nationalist movements in outlying areas pro-Czar
  - Set up independent govts: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland
    - Communists plan to use force
- Early 1918 civil war starts Red vs. White
  - Com red flag of rev
  - Moderate socialists – royalists – known as whites
  - Leon Trotsky organized Red Army to defend com state
    - Restored discipline & used force & education to foster loyalty
  - Whites said if win would re-enter war
    - Received aid & soldiers from Allies
      - Backfired b/c nationalists not want in war
  - Both sides fight hard & killed suspected enemies
- Communists more resolved
  - Used terror to win
    - Had czar & family killed
      - Whites 40 miles & feared would rescue

- Secret police “Cheka” arrest “enemy of rev”
- Harsh restrictions on church
- Whites composed of many factions & unorganized
- Also outnumbered & poorly equipped
- 1921 finally admit defeat

## - Section 5: The End of the War

### -Wilson’s Plan for Peace: 14 Point Plan

- ban secret treaties
- freedom of Seas
- removal of tariffs and equal trade wanted
- reduce military to defensive only
- adjust colonial claims
- return land to Russia
- return land to Belgium
- return land to France
- Romania, Serbia, Montenegro: restored and borders adjusted
- Turkish part of Ottoman Emp. stop genocide and allow trade in Dardanelles
- Poland to be recreated after 300 years
- Italy borders adjusted according to nationality
- peoples of Austria and Hungary free to develop into new countries
- creation of international organization League of Nations <- settle disputes
- became basis for German terms of surrender
- Wilson own worst enemy
  - did not take republican rep. with him (Wilson dem.)
    - lost all republican support in Congress
    - world leaders felt him stubborn and self-righteous
    - viewed as the “new guy”
- New Nations From Old Empires
  - four empires collapsed during war (Russia, Germany, Ottoman, Aust.Hung)
  - Russia: Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland
  - Austria-Hungary: Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
  - Ottoman: Turkey, Syria (mandate of France), Iraq (mandate of Great Brit)
    - Brit and France in answer to League
  - countries created along ethnic lines and freed most from oppression
  - Germany dealt with
    - accepted full responsibility for war
    - lose colonies
    - lose provinces of Alsace&Lorraine along Rhine R (good farm land, buffer)
    - reduce army and navy to small defense force
    - pay 33 billion in reparations
  - Germany was expecting terms along 14 points
    - British and French want Germans punished and no more war from them
    - refused to sign, but allies didn’t make changes
    - June 28, 1919 Germany signs Treaty of Versailles
- The Treaty In The Senate
  - not accept League because clause stated that if one is attacked, all help
    - U.S. not want alliances because The Great War started that way
    - felt would restrict U.S. foreign policies decisions
  - republicans remembered being snubbed at peace talks
  - Congress wants revised Treaty, Wilson says no
  - Treaty never ratified by congress and U.S. not join League

- Global Impact of War
  - Middle East
    - Britain promised support for Arabs against Ottoman-Trans-Jordan
    - Brit promised support for homeland for Jews – Palestine
    - Ethnic fighting broke out and continues today
  - Armenia
    - Ottomans killing Christian Armenians
      - felt would side with Russia (Christians)
      - began genocide and killed 1.5 mill
  - Russia
    - several revolutions because of various factions
    - 2 main- Red and White Russia
      - Red supported Communism
        - majority of population pulled together into U.S.S.R 1922
      - White supported Democracy
        - U.S., Britain, France, and Japan sent troops and supplies
  - Germany
    - Kaiser out of power and democratic Weimer Republic in place
    - weak gov't and not able to run country
    - much discontent and humiliation
    - Communists and National Socialists protested and anti-gov't activities
  - America
    - economy booming and lowest loss of life
    - left leadership role in world and began isolation policy
    - large fed. gov't
    - higher wages and reforms for workers
    - war work helped suffrage for women