What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will learn how an assassination in Europe sparked the deadliest war the world had ever seen. You will find out how the United States was drawn into the fighting and will read about new battle strategies, such as trench warfare.

SECTION 1: The Road to War . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 720
The Big Idea In 1914 tensions in Europe exploded into the deadliest war the world had ever seen.

SECTION 2: Americans Prepare for War . . . . . . . . . . . 725
The Big Idea After entering World War I in 1917, Americans began the massive effort of preparing for war.

SECTION 3: Americans in World War I. . . . . . . . . . . . . 730
The Big Idea American troops helped the Allies achieve victory in World War I.

SECTION 4: Establishing Peace . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 735
The Big Idea The United States and the victorious Allied Powers clashed over postwar plans.

Focus on Speaking

Persuasive Speech Before the United States entered World War I in 1917, Americans heatedly debated joining the fight. Many were torn between either helping Britain and France or remaining isolated from world conflict. In this chapter, you will read about U.S. involvement in World War I. Then you will make a speech presenting your point of view on whether the United States should have entered the war.
The Treaty of Versailles

The photograph on this page shows the terrible conditions soldiers faced as they fought the enemy from their trench positions.

1915 A German U-boat sinks the Lusitania.

1916 Jeannette Rankin becomes the first woman elected to Congress.

1917 The Selective Service Act is passed, introducing the draft.

1918 President Wilson announces the Fourteen Points.

1918 Germany agrees to an armistice, ending World War I.

1919 The U.S. Senate refuses to approve the Treaty of Versailles.
Focus on Themes In this chapter, you will read about World War I and the changes it brought to the United States and the world. Many of the political tensions that led to the war were caused by the rise of nationalism in European countries. You will read about how the war devastated European economies, and how peace affected European countries.

Recognizing Fallacies in Reasoning

Focus on Reading As part of evaluating a historical argument, you can judge whether the reasoning is sound. A fallacy is a false or mistaken idea.

Recognizing Fallacies As you identify a main idea, judge its soundness. Look for cause-and-effect relationships that support the idea. Decide whether you think the argument is logical.

Notice how a reader explained the logical reasoning behind the main idea in the following paragraph.

Three main factors led to a shortage of labor in the United States during the war. First, American factories were working nonstop to produce weapons and supplies for the Allied forces. Factories needed new workers to meet this huge demand. Second, the war almost completely cut off immigration. As you know, immigrants had provided a steady source of labor to American industry. And third, many of the young men who would normally take factory jobs were off fighting in Europe. From Chapter 23, p. 728

If factories were working overtime, they would need more workers. This supports the main idea of a labor shortage.

If factories were used to having immigrants to hire, and there were fewer immigrants, it would make sense that there was a labor shortage.

Here’s a third reason for a labor shortage: many men became soldiers. It makes sense that there was a labor shortage during the war.
You Try It!

1. Is the first conclusion reasonable? Why or why not? How can you tell?
2. Do you think the second conclusion is logical or illogical? What makes you think so?
3. Is the third conclusion a fallacy of reason? What reasonable conclusions can you draw from the statement?
The Road to War

If YOU were there...
You are walking past a newspaper stand when a headline catches your eye: “Austria-Hungary’s Archduke Francis Ferdinand Assassinated in Sarajevo.” Your first thought is, “Who’s he?” You pick up the paper and read about the archduke and about the rising tensions in Europe related to his death. The article makes it sound like Europe is about to explode into war.

At this point, do you think the assassination will affect the United States? Why or why not?

BUILDING BACKGROUND
European nations had not been involved in a major war in the region since the 1870s. Rising political tensions during the early 1900s threatened this peace, however, and nations began to build up their military forces. Even a small incident might trigger a major war.

Outbreak of War
Though Europe was at peace in the early 1900s, relations between European nations were not necessarily friendly. In fact, feelings of fear and distrust were growing among European powers such as Germany, France, Great Britain, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. This dangerous tension had several important causes.

Tensions in Europe
One cause of tension was the rise of nationalism in the 1800s. Nationalism is a strong sense of pride and loyalty to one’s nation or culture. Nationalism inspired people who shared a language or culture to want to unite politically. In 1871, for example, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm I brought together several German states to form the nation of Germany.

While nationalism helped bring stability to Germany, it caused instability in other places. The empire of Austria-Hungary included people from many different cultural groups. One of these groups was the Slavs. Slavic nationalists wanted to break away from Austria-Hungary and join the independent Slavic country of Serbia on the
Balkan Peninsula. Leaders of Austria-Hungary reacted angrily, seeing this movement as a threat to their empire.

Another source of tension in Europe was imperialism. Britain’s huge empire, stretching from Africa to Asia, brought it wealth and power. Eager to share in such benefits, other European powers competed for control of overseas territories. Fierce competition for territory took place within Europe as well. For example, Germany had taken the Alsace-Lorraine region from France in the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. France wanted it back.

In this competitive atmosphere, nations focused their resources on militarism—the aggressive strengthening of armed forces. European nations raced to build armies and navies that were larger than ever before.

As nations became more powerful, they sought to protect themselves by forming new alliances. Germany formed an alliance with Austria-Hungary in 1879. Each promised to defend the other in case of enemy attack. Concerned with Germany’s growing power, France and Russia created their own alliance in 1893. Britain joined France and Russia in 1907.

**The Spark**

With so much hostility dividing the nations of Europe, a German general felt that “a European war is bound to come sooner or later.” All that was needed was a spark to set Europe on fire. That spark flew from the Balkan province of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina had gained independence from Turkish rule in 1878. In 1908, however, Austria-Hungary annexed the province. Slavic nationalists resisted violently—they wanted the region to be part of Serbia.

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, visited the province’s capital of Sarajevo with his wife, Sophie. While riding through the streets, they were shot and killed by a 19-year-old Serb nationalist named Gavrilo Princip.

The assassination shattered Europe’s fragile peace. Determined to crush Serbia and the Slavic nationalists, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Very quickly, other countries were pulled into the fighting. Russia had promised to support Serbia in case of war. It began to mobilize, or prepare its military for war. On August 1 Germany, Austria-Hungary’s ally, declared war on Russia. Two days later, Germany also declared war on France, Russia’s ally. To reach France quickly, the German army marched into Belgium on August 4. Britain, which had promised to support Belgium, then declared war on Germany.

As the fighting started, the alliance between Austria-Hungary and Germany came to be known as the **Central Powers**. Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire later sided with the Central Powers. **France, Russia, and Britain were known as the Allied Powers**. Italy joined them in 1915. Over the next several years, soldiers from 30 nations and six continents would fight in what was then called the Great War. The conflict later became known as World War I.

**READING CHECK**

**Identifying Cause and Effect**

How did nationalism contribute to political tensions in Europe?
Early Battles of the War

Both sides expected the war to be over in a few months. German leaders planned to defeat France quickly, before Russia could join the fighting. But as the Germans marched toward France, they met fierce resistance from Belgian soldiers. This gave Britain and France time to mobilize their own troops.

The First Battle of the Marne

Belgian resistance slowed the German advance but could not stop it. On September 3 the German army was just 25 miles from Paris, the capital of France. The French army blocked the German advance at the Marne River, east of Paris. The First Battle of the Marne raged for several days before the Germans were pushed back.

By mid-September French and German troops faced each other along a long battle line called the western front. The western front stretched from the North Sea all the way to Switzerland. Meanwhile, the Russian and German armies were struggling back and forth along the eastern front, which reached from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea. It quickly became clear that this war would be longer and deadlier than anyone had expected.

A New Kind of War

Part of what made World War I so long and deadly was a new technique called trench warfare—defending a position by fighting from the protection of deep ditches. When the French defeated the Germans in the First Battle of the Marne, the Germans did not retreat far. Instead, they dug trenches nearby. Opposite them, the French dug their own trenches. A 400-mile-long network of trenches soon stretched across the western front.

Soldiers fought in these cold, wet, and muddy ditches, sometimes for months at a time. The filthy trenches were perfect breeding grounds for disease.

History Close-up

Trench Warfare

A series of trenches at the back was used to deliver food, ammunition, and mail to soldiers on the front lines.

Some trenches served as first-aid posts where wounded soldiers were cared for until they could be evacuated.

Trenches were dug in a zigzag pattern so that the enemy could not stand at one end and fire down the length of a trench.
grounds for germs, and soldiers on both sides died from disease. An American in the French army described life in the trenches:

"The impossibility of the simplest kind of personal cleanliness makes vermin [bugs] a universal ill, against which there is no remedy. Cold, dirt, discomfort, are the ever present conditions, and the soldier's life comes to mean . . . the most misery that the human organism [body] can support."

—Alan Seeger, Letters and Diary of Alan Seeger

The empty patch of ground between enemy trenches came to be known as "no-man's-land." This area was quickly stripped of trees and blasted full of holes by artillery shells. Anyone who ventured into no-man's-land was likely to be killed by enemy fire.

Another factor that made World War I deadlier than previous wars was the use of modern technology. New machine guns, for example, could fire 400 to 600 bullets a minute. Enormous artillery guns fired shells over the trenches, where they exploded and sent speeding scraps of metal onto the soldiers below. Other shells spread poisonous gases. If soldiers were not wearing gas masks, the gas destroyed their lungs, causing slow, painful deaths. Poisonous gases were originally banned but came into use by both sides by the end of the war.

Other new weapons included tanks and airplanes. Tanks are armored combat vehicles that can cause heavy damage but cannot be destroyed easily. Airplanes were used to fire down on soldiers in trenches and to gather information about enemy locations. Airplanes also battled each other in fights called "dogfights."

**Land and Sea Battles**

After a year of vicious fighting, the war had become a **stalemate**—a situation in which neither side can win a decisive victory. Determined to break the stalemate, both sides launched massive attacks in 1916. In February 1916 the Germans attacked the French city of Verdun, at the southern end of the western front. That summer, the Allies staged an attack along the Somme River, in northeastern France.
France. Both battles raged for months, as the armies attacked and counterattacked.

By the end of the year, the Germans had failed to take Verdun. At the Somme River, the Allies had advanced just seven miles. Almost nothing had changed on the western front. But nearly 1 million men had been killed at Verdun and the Somme River.

As the stalemate on land dragged on, sea battles in the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea became even more important. The powerful British navy blockaded the ports of the Central Powers and laid explosive mines in the North Sea. These could blow a huge hole in a ship, sinking it in minutes. The tactic effectively stopped ships from reaching German ports with needed supplies.

The Germans responded by using submarines called U-boats. U-boats launched torpedoes against Allied supply ships, causing heavy losses. The Germans also attacked ships belonging to neutral countries they believed were helping the Allies. This would soon pull the United States into World War I.

### Academic Vocabulary

**neutral**
unbiased, not favoring either side in a conflict

### Reading Check

**Categorizing** What new technologies did armies in World War I use?

### Summary and Preview

World War I became a stalemate by 1916 as countries battled for control. In the next section you will find out why the United States decided to join the fighting.

### Section 1 Assessment

#### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Describe** What factors contributed to the outbreak of World War I?
   **b. Contrast** How did nationalism affect Germany and Austria-Hungary differently?
   **c. Predict** What might have happened if Russia had not honored its agreement to defend Serbia?

2. **a. Identify** What were the outcomes of the early battles of the war?
   **b. Explain** How did Belgian resistance affect the German war plan?
   **c. Evaluate** How successful was trench warfare as a strategy?

#### Critical Thinking

3. **Identifying Cause and Effect** Review your notes on the major battles of World War I. Then copy the graphic organizer below and use it to show the outcomes of these early battles and how they affected the war.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Battle</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Focus on Speaking

4. **Analyzing Rising Tensions** Start a list of ways that World War I might affect the United States. Was there sufficient reason for the United States to join the conflict at this time?