

## # 18 -- WORLD WAR I

### Causes of War

#### Europe at its Peak:

- Industrial Revolution at its peak
- Europe had 25% of world population- highest percentage of any time in history
- Modernization led to sense that Europeans were at the peak of world civilization

#### Imperial Tensions

- European nations competed for colonies

#### Militarism

- Glorification of war and increase in military spending
- Germany competed against England's naval superiority

#### Nationalism

- Great pride in one's country or aspiring to become one's own country
- Germany and Italy had only recently become united, independent countries
- Many countries torn by tensions of different nationalist groups
- Combined with militarism and imperial competition, this increased tensions in Europe.

#### The System of Alliances

- Web of treaties to protect themselves
- Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- Triple Entente: France, Russia and Great Britain

### War Breaks Out

#### Nationalism in the Balkans

- People with diverse religions, ethnic backgrounds, languages
- As Ottoman Empire receded, new nations were born
- Russia and Austria competed for control of new nations
- Austria-Hungary annexes Bosnia in 1908 and Serbia resents this

#### The Assassination of the Archduke

- Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria visited Bosnia capital on June 28, 1914
- 7 assassins from the Black Hand, a Serbian nationalist group, plot against him
- 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip shot the Archduke and his wife

#### Austria-Hungary's Ultimatum

- Germany gave "blank check" of military support to Austria-Hungary
- Austria-Hungary's severe ultimatum to Serbia
- Serbia refuses to let Austria-Hungary's officials run an investigation on Serbia
- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914

#### The Alliance System Leads to War

- Russia supported Serbia and Germany supported Austria-Hungary
- Within one week, almost all of
- Germany declares war on Russia and France
- Britain declares war on Germany

## **Alliances and Fronts of the War**

### The Alliances

- Triple Entente—Britain, France, Russia and Belgium
- Central Powers—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Ottoman Empire

### The Western Front

- Germany tried to take France quickly in the Western Front and then turn to fight Russia
- Instead, battle lines drawn formed in northeastern France and changed little
- Battles along the Western Front
- Long, bloody battles: Verdun 680,000 casualties; Somme over 1 million casualties

### The Eastern Front

- Lack on modern technology caused Russia enormous defeats
- Treaty signed with revolutionary government in Russia—lost one-fourth of country

### The Balkan Front

- The Allies abandoned attempts to land in Balkans after losing

### The Italian Front

- Italians joined the Triple Entente in 1915 and fought Austria-Hungary

### The War Ends

- Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire were first Central Powers to be defeated
- Revolts inside Austria-Hungary and Germany helped the war end quickly

## **The Paris Peace Conference**

### Peace of Justice

- Leaders of Allied and Central powers met at the Palace of Versailles.
- President Woodrow Wilson's 14 points supported self-determination for all nations and a just peace.

### Peace of Vengeance

- Italy and Britain wanted territory
- France wanted to punish Germany
- Italy and the United States left, leaving peace settlement to France and Britain

### Treaty of Versailles with Germany

- France and Britain created a severe treaty that punished Germany
- Germany had to:
  - Return Alsace-Lorraine region to France
  - Keep area near France, called Rhineland, de-militarized
  - Pay war reparations of 32 billions dollars
  - Agree to a guilt clause

### The New Europe

- Treaties similar to Germany's signed with other Central Powers
- Many countries experienced a change in their borders
- Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia lost territory
- Many new countries were created.