

# World War I



**1914-1918**

# Long Term Causes of the War

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- **Militarism:** the aggressive increase of military forces to intimidate and threaten other nations.
- **Alliance system:** by 1907 Europe was divided into two sides or armed alliances.
- **Imperialism:** economic and political control over weaker nations
- **Nationalism:** an extreme devotion to the interests and culture of its own people.

# Colonial Competition

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- Some countries felt left out Asia
  - Opium wars –spheres of influence
  - Boxer rebellion
- Colonization of Africa
  - European colonies
  - Rules of colonization made
- The decline of the Ottoman Empire

# THE DECLINE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



- **Ottomans entered war in 1915 on side of the Central Powers:**
  - They wanted to acquire Russian territory.
  - Turkey slaughtered millions of Armenians to get their land.
- **Britain wanted to protect trade routes to India:**

They promised the Arabs their own country if they would join with Britain against the Ottomans.

# Fundamental Rivalry

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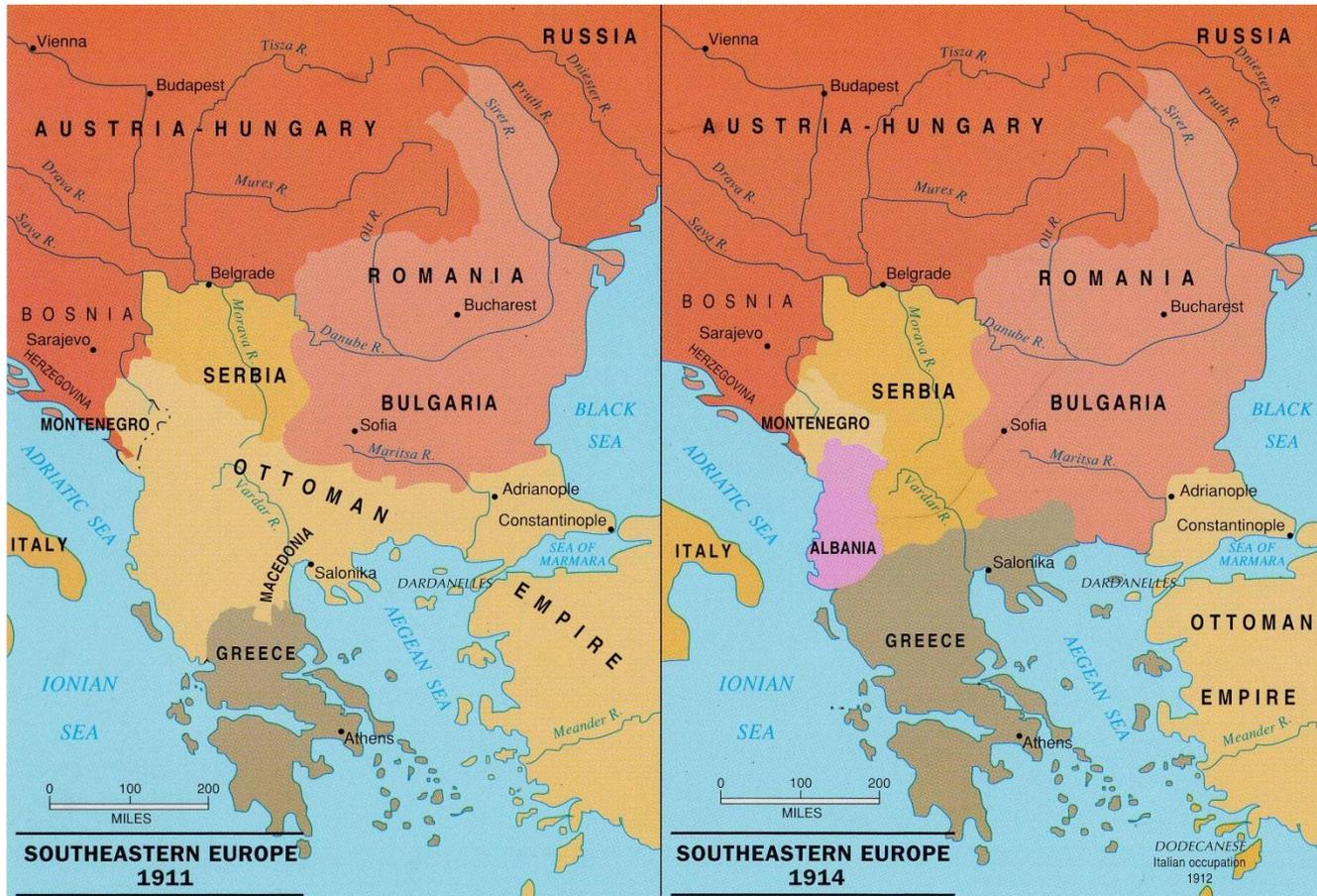
- ❑ Between **Germany** and **France**: antagonism reactivated by the defeat of the French in 1871 and the loss of **Alsacia-Lorraine** to the German kingdom of Prussia.
- ❑ Between **Germany** and **England**: competition for industries, colonial policy on rearmament and maritime control.
- ❑ Between **Austria-Hungary** and **Russia**: the possession of the Balkans and the Slavs people.

# Goals of each of the alliance members

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- England**      Maintain the balance of power in continental Europe and its supremacy of the seas.
- France**      To limit the power of Germany.
- Russia**      To expand its territory towards the Mediterranean Sea.
- Germany**    Solidify German-speaking peoples and never fight on two fronts (West first and then East)
- Italy**      Unification of its own territory.
- Austria-Hungary**    To maintain the Empire united.
- Ottoman Empire**    Survive by conquering the Balkans.

# Balkan Chaos



The Serbs, Bosnians, Croats, and Slovenes all spoke similar languages and considered themselves one people, **South Slavs**, or **Yugoslavs**. Only Serbia became independent from the Austro-Hungary Empire.

The Yugoslavs wanted independence for its nations and when Austro-Hungary annexed **Bosnia** to their empire, Serbian nationalists decided to act.

# Short term cause

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



## Balkan trigger

Serbs revolted in the Balkans, backed by the Russians.

Austria, in Bosnia, suppressed the Serbs.

A Serbian killed the Austrian heir in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

*Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and his Wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg one hour before their deaths, **June 28, 1914**. The assassination was the spark that ignited the war.*

# The Black Hand

The main objective of **the Black Hand** was the creation, by means of violence, of a Greater Serbia.

Its stated aim was:  
*"To realize the national ideal, the unification of all Serbs. This organization prefers terrorist action to cultural activities; it will therefore remain secret."*



The arrest of the serbian **Gavrilo Princip**.

# The Domino Effect

**Austria** declares war to **Serbia**.

**Russia** declares war to **Austria**.

**Germany** joins **Austria**.

**France** and **England** declares war to **Austria** and **Germany**.



# Alliances and Strategies

## Central Powers Triple Alliance

- **Germany**
- **Austria-Hungary**
- **Ottoman Empire**
- Bulgaria

## Allies Triple Entente

- **Russia**
- **France**
- **Great Britain**
- Italy
- Japan
- United States (1917)



**Italy joined the Triple Alliance but after the war broke out, it switched sides and went to fight with the Triple Entente. Turkey later joined the Triple Alliance.**

# The Great War



- ❑ Lasted **4 years, 3 months and 14 days**. Developed during the **“Black Week”** and all European nations, except **Italy** where involved one way or another.
- ❑ The death toll was terrible due to the **Trench Warfare** and the use of **chemical arms** and **flamethrowers**. It was a **Total War**.

The Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers through the secret **Ottoman-German Alliance**, which was signed on 2 August 1914. The main objective of the Ottoman Empire in the Caucasus was the recovery of its territories in Eastern Anatolia lost during the Russo-Turkish War in 1877-78.

Participating on the Allied side were Arabs who participated in the **Arab Revolt**, and Armenian militia who participated in the Armenian Resistance. The Armenian volunteer units and Armenian militia formed the Armenian Corps of the **Democratic Republic of Armenia** in 1918.

This theatre encompassed the largest territory of all the theatres of the war.

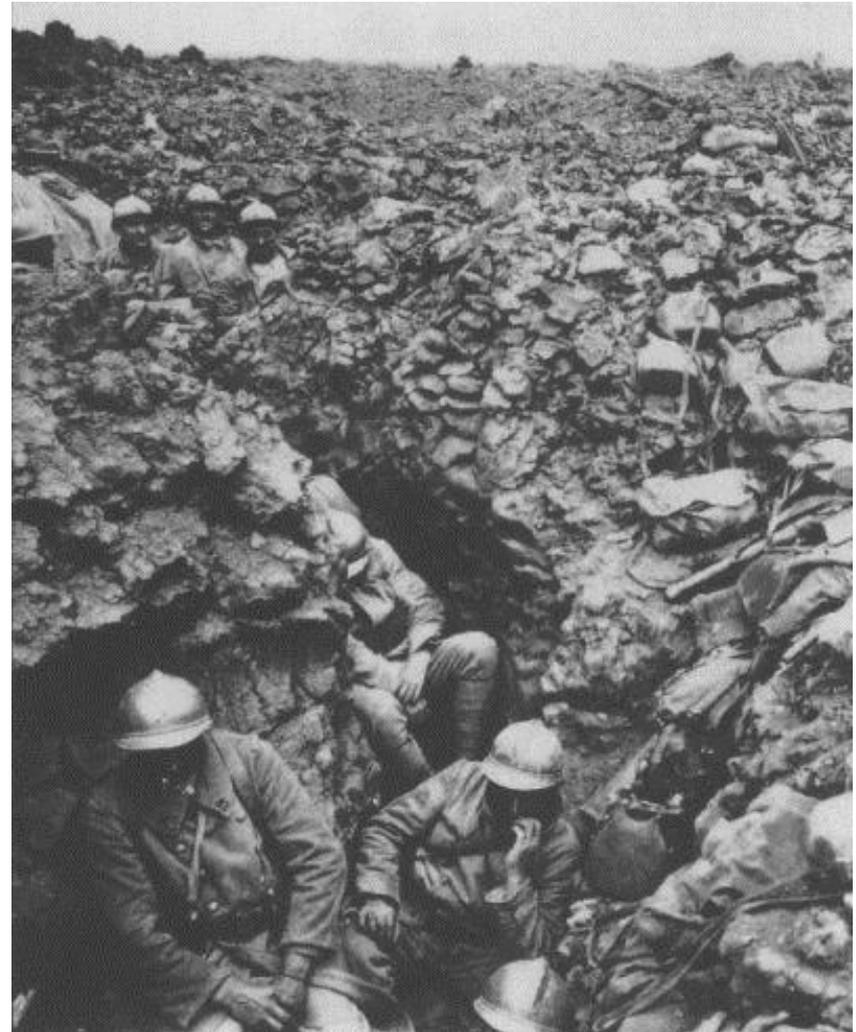
# Phases of the War

Germany invades France through **Belgium** ( neutral) to reach Paris. (**Shlieffer Plan** )

France stopped Germany in the **battle of Marne**.

Germany counter-attacks in the **battle of Verdum** without success because of Allied intervention.

On the eastern front, the Russians face the Germans and reach the border of the Austrian Empire.



In the **battle of the Somme** (July to November 1916) the British lost **60,000 soldiers** in one day.

At the end of the battle **1.2 million** soldiers had been killed to protect **7 miles** of territory.

These battles in the trenches lasted three years and gained little territory for both sides.



# Trench Warfare

- Technology superior to tactics
  - Soldiers had to fight against the enemy, the dirt, the flooding and the humidity from the rain, the poison gas and the diseases from the corpses. It was a "**No man's land**".
- Very high death rates
  - **Battle of the Somme** = 600,000 allied and 500,000 German dead for 125 miles of land.
  - **Battle of Verdun** = 700,000 killed on both sides with no gain in territory.



Many weapons evolved during the conflict:

- Flamethrowers
- War tanks
- Toxic Gas
- Repetition Machine Guns



**Airplanes** were first used as weapons of war, emerging the **aerial warfare**.

**France** and **United States** manufactured aircraft for military purposes.



# Flying Aces

## Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen

(2 May 1892 – 21 April 1918) was a German fighter pilot known as the "**Red Baron**". He was the most successful flying ace of World War I, being officially credited with 80 confirmed air combat victories. He was killed in combat with Canadian pilots near the Somme River.



The British **Vickers Machine Gun** required a six man team to operate. One to fire, one to feed the ammunition, and the rest to help carry the weapon and supplies.



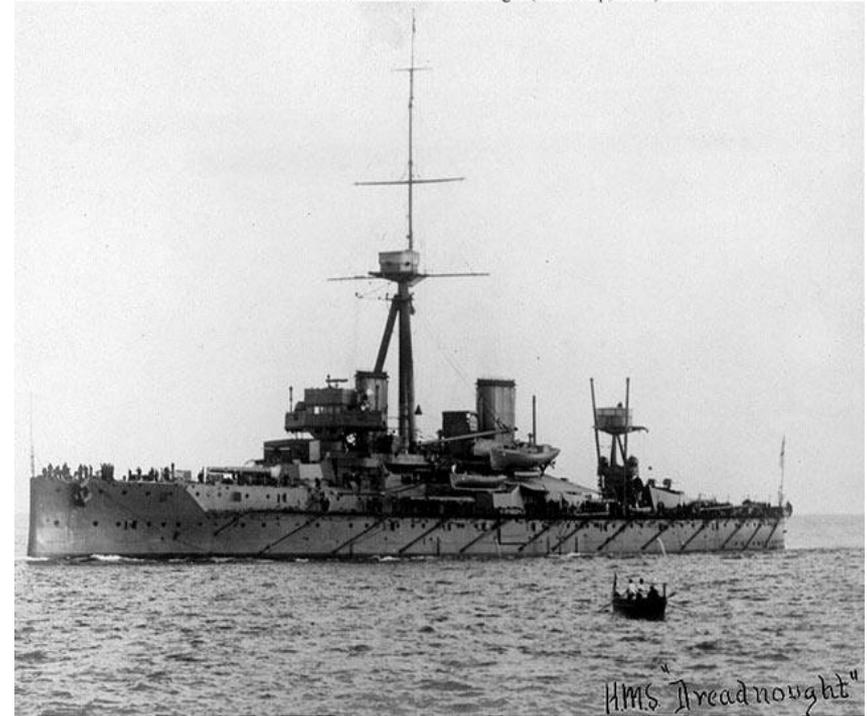
# Naval Arms Race

The **Dreadnought** was the most heavily-armed ship in history. It was also faster than any other warship.

The introduction of this new warship resulted in an arms race between **Britain** and **Germany**.

By 1914 the British had nineteen Dreadnoughts and thirteen under construction, compared with Germany's thirteen and seven under construction. Other fleets that had them at sea by 1914 were United States eight, France eight, Japan four, Austria-Hungary two and Italy one.

Photo # NH 61007 HMS Dreadnought (battleship, 1906)

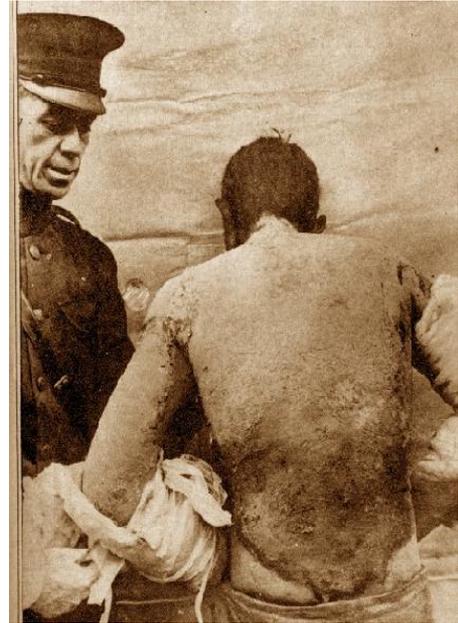


# British Mark I tank on September 26, 1916





Australian troops in the trenches equipped with gas masks, **Battle of Ypres, 1917**



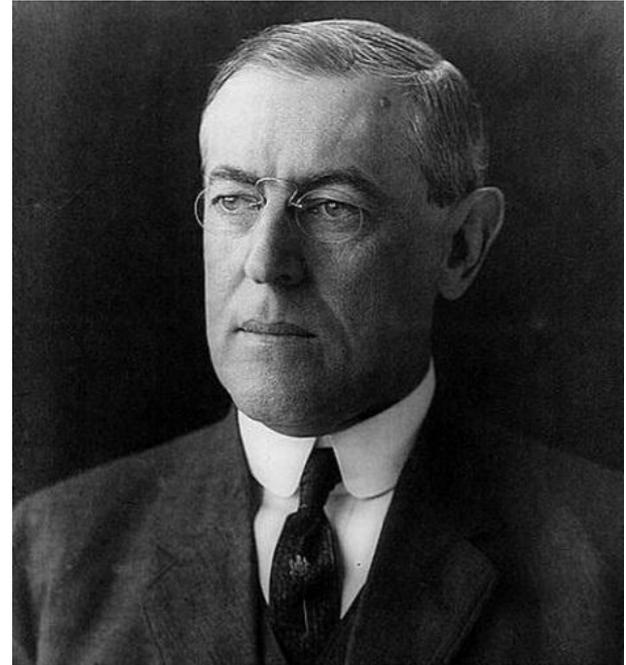
**Mustard gas** burns.

# United States Neutrality

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United States was neutral during the first **two years** of the war. They traded with both alliances in Europe and their economy grew.

They sold **dynamite, gunpowder, submarines, pipes** and **copper wire** and other **war materials**.



President Wilson wanted to keep the country out of the war.

# Reasons for Neutrality

## Central Powers

- 11 million German-Americans
- Irish-Americans hated Great Britain

## Allies

- Close cultural ties to other allies
- American, England, and France's economies were increasingly interdependent.

## US Exports to Both Sides

Nations	1914	1915	1916
Britain	\$594,271,863	\$911,794,954	\$1,526,685,102
France	\$159,818,924	\$364,397,170	\$628,851,988
Germany	\$344,794,276	\$28,863,354	\$288,899



## America was Isolationist.

The Monroe Doctrine (1823) sought to isolate “the American continents” from European influences and problems.

*In this cartoon, “**The Great Wall**” (1914), the Monroe Doctrine is shown as a protective shield for the United States.*

# British Control of Propaganda

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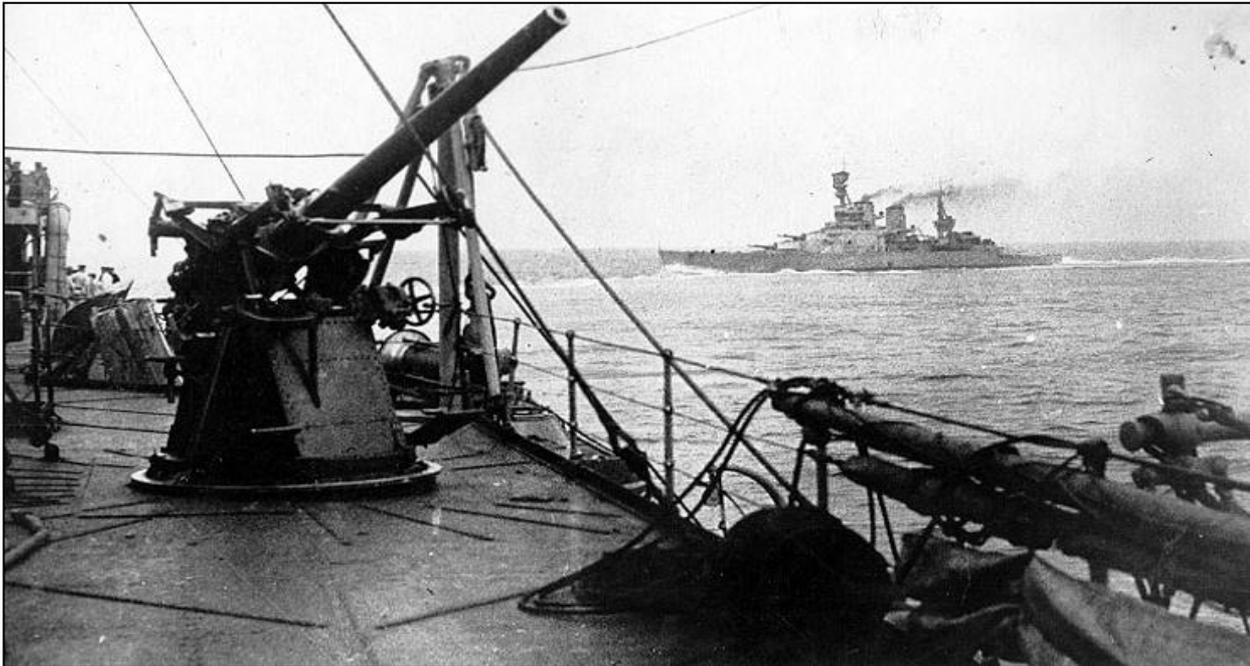
- ❑ Great Britain cut the transatlantic telegraph cable from Europe to the United States, controlling most war news to their own interest.
- ❑ Companies in the East Coast had business ties with Allied countries.
- ❑ Many American banks began to invest and make huge loans to cash-hungry Allies.
- ❑ Other American banks lent millions to Germany, even against the approval of the secretary of Treasury, a pro-British.
- ❑ The economic prosperity of the United States depended on the outcome of the war: if the Allies won, the money loaned would be paid back; if not, the money was lost forever.

# Why did the U.S. get involved?

## Blockades

Britain blockaded (stopped) all German ships going to America.

*HMS Renown* seen from another British warship (circa 1917)



May, 1915:  
Germany told  
Americans to  
stay off British  
ships, because  
they could and  
would sink  
them.

"All the News That's  
Fit to Print."

# The New York Times.

EXTRA  
6:20 A. M.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.  
**LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD;  
TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES;  
CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING;  
WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND**

### SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

### BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

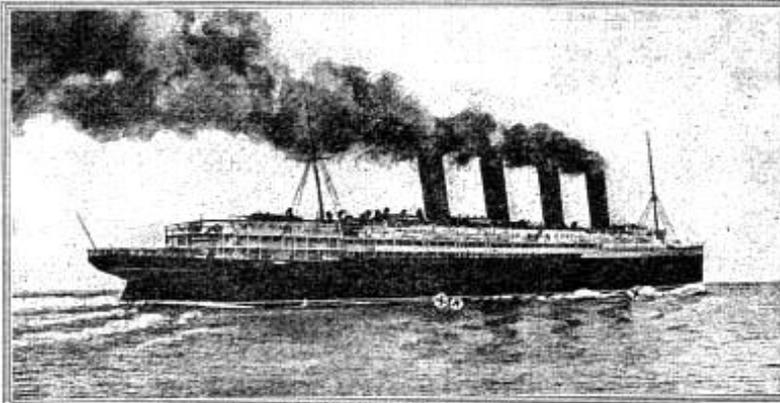
White House—Then Chief, but is Silent on the Nation's Course.

### WANTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Revives Fears of Our First Warning to Germany.

### CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Rumors from London Warn to Be Ready to Fight Before Actual Hostilities.



The Lost Cunard Steamship Lusitania.  
A Where the First Torpedo Struck. B Where the Second Torpedo Struck.

### SOME DEAD TAKEN HOME

Several Hundred Soldiers of Queenstown and Kinsale.

### STEAMBOATS OF POSSIBLE

One Torpedo Caught into the Damaged Linn's Bow and into the Engine Room.

### SHIP LISTS OPEN TO PORT

Wants to Respond to Last Mary Queen, the Lusitania Must Have Gone Down.

### ATTACKED IN BROAD DAY

Passengers at London—Hurry and Run Over to Queen to See the Ship Linn's Bow.

### Only 650 Were Saved.

Four Cabin Passengers. QUEENSTOWN, Sat. 10:45 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have returned here will find that about 450 of them, including the principal ones, were saved, and are still at...

Germany torpedoed the **Lusitania**, sinking it with 1,200 passengers and crew (including 128 Americans).

It was eventually found to be carrying 4,200 cases of ammunition.

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

# CUNARD

## EUROPE VIA LIVERPOOL LUSITANIA

Fastest and Largest Steamer now in Atlantic Service Sails  
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 10 A. M.  
Transylvania, Fri., May 7, 5 P. M.  
Orduna, - - Tues., May 18, 10 A. M.  
Tuscania, - - Fri., May 21, 5 P. M.  
LUSITANIA, Sat., May 29, 10 A. M.  
Transylvania, Fri., June 4, 5 P. M.

Gibraltar—Genoa—Naples—Piraeus  
S.S. Carpathia, Thur., May 13, Noon

ROUND THE WORLD TOURS  
Through bookings to all principal Ports of the World.  
Cunard's Office, 21-23 Scale St., N. Y.

### NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 21, 1915

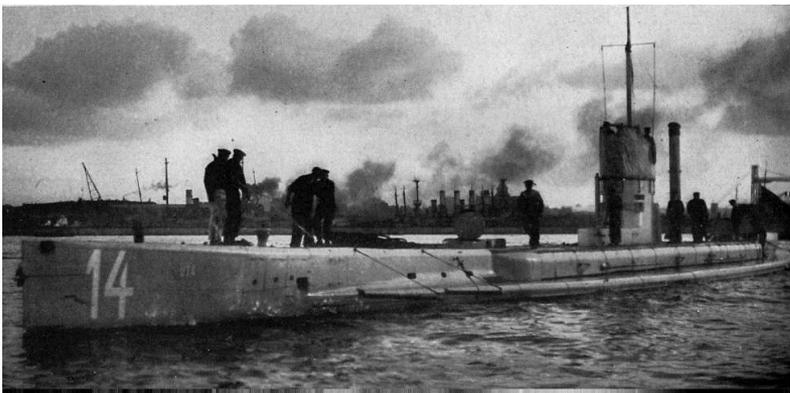
# Unlimited Submarine Warfare



A British ship torpedeed by a German U-boat

In March 1916 a U Boat sank the French passenger ship **Sussex**, killing some Americans. Wilson demanded Germany to abandon the use of submarine warfare in the **“Sussex Pledge”**.

In 1917, Germany announced **“unlimited submarine warfare”** in the war zone. Otherwise, Germany’s blockade would not be successful.



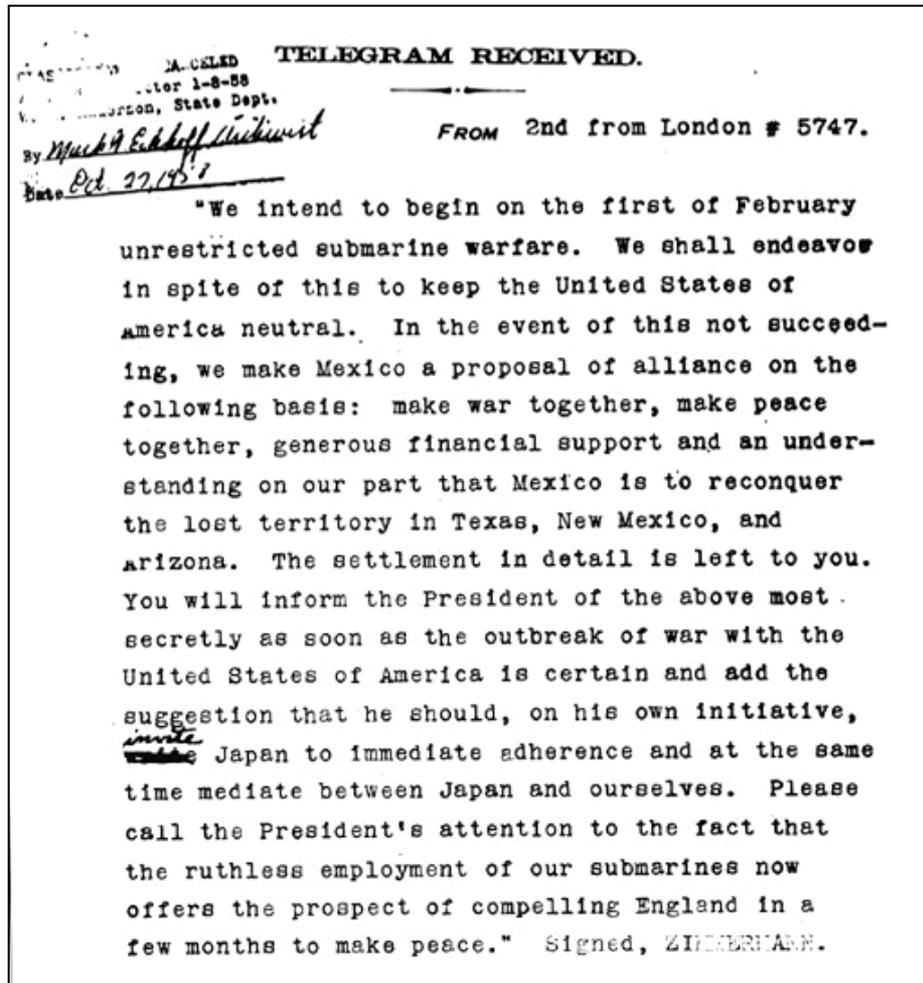
**Submarines:**

**German U-Boat U-14**

# The Zimmerman Note

The U.S. intercepted a note from **Zimmerman**, the German ambassador in Mexico.

It promised to give Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona back to Mexico in return for an alliance and attacking the United States.



The decoded Zimmerman Telegram



The Zimmerman Note and the sinking of six unarmed American ships led to a declaration of war.

On **April 2, 1917** Wilson declared in Congress: *“the world must be made safe for democracy”*.

On **April 6**, after debate in both House and Congress, Wilson signed the resolution.

America was at war.

*New York Journal* (4/7/1917) announcing the declaration of war.

# Convincing the American People

## Idealism: Posters

Posters were used as propaganda and helped to convince the American people that the war was a good idea.



## Idealism: 2 Goals For War

1. Wilson had to convince American that this would be the ***“War to End All Wars.”***
2. He had to convince American that beating the Germans and its allies would make the world safe for democracy.



On Christmas Eve 1914, German and English soldiers stopped fighting to celebrate Christmas. It started when German troops decorated their trenches and began singing Christmas Carols. British troops opposite them began singing English Christmas Carols. The singing soon turned to shouts of Christmas cheer across the lines, eventually causing the troops to cross the No Man's Land between the trenches. The two sides began to exchange small gifts between each other.

# Idealism: The Fourteen Points



President Woodrow Wilson

President Wilson's Fourteen Points was his vision for the future after the war, including freedom of the seas and a League of Nations to work for world peace.

# Russian Revolution

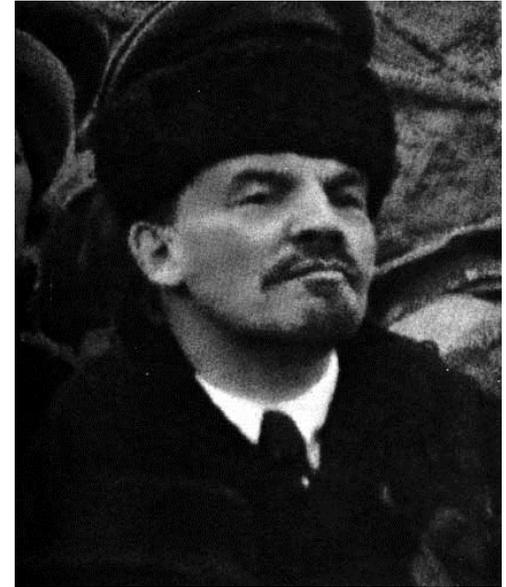
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- Unhappiness with the war among the Russian people
  - Germany/Austria beating Russians



Calling for a Communist revolution, anti-Tsarist protesters gather outside the Winter Palace in Petrograd, Russia, February 1917.

- There was a change in the Government towards a democratic one moderated by the revolution of the **Mensheviks**.
- The **Bolsheviks** of Vladimir **Lenin** overthrow the democratic Government, establishing **a Communist Government**.
- Russia withdraws from the war after signing the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** with Germany, in 1917, giving it **Poland** and **Ukraine**.
- Russia's withdrawal allowed Germany to fight a one-front war with all its troops concentrated on France.



# End of the War

- After the Central Powers were exhausted by the war, especially after the US began fighting, it sought an **armistice**, the end of fighting.
- The **Battle of Argonne** broke German morale.
- On November 3, 1918 the Austro-Hungarian Empire surrendered to the Allied forces.



On **November 9, 1918** Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate the throne and Germany became a Republic.

So in eleven in the morning, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 Germany signed an armistice and the great war ended.

Two month later 27 countries attended the peace conference at Versailles, directed by the “**Big Four**”, President **Wilson**, British Prime Minister David Lloyd **George**, French Premier **Clemenceau** and Italian Prime Minister Vittorio **Orlando**.



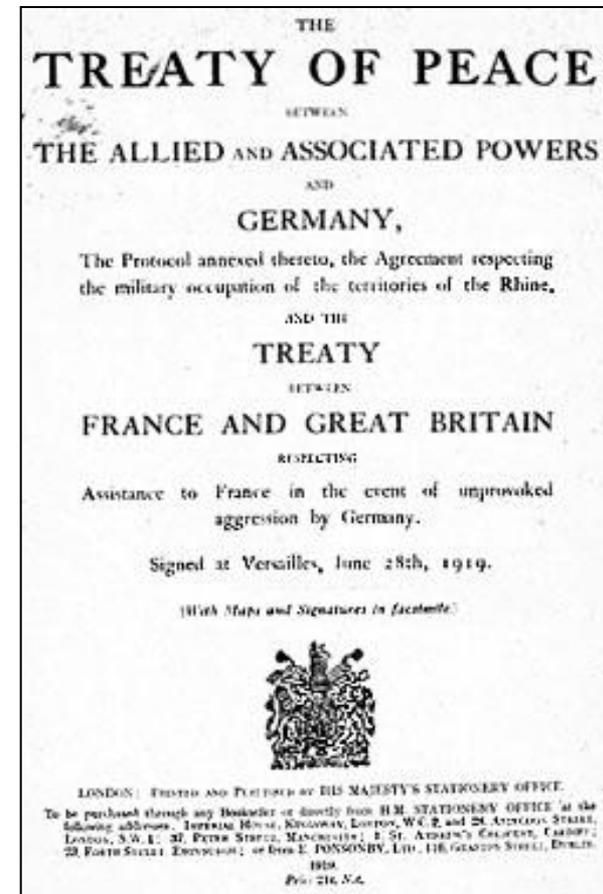
*The Great War ended  
on 11/11/1918*

# Peace Treaties

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1. The **Treaty of Saint-Germain** was signed with Austria.
  - It dissolved the Austro-Hungarian Empire and established nine new nations including **Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.**
2. The **Treaty of Versailles** was signed between the Allied powers and Germany.
  - It dismantled Germany's military.
  - It forced Germany to make reparations and pay \$33 billion in war damages and to return Alsace-Lorraine to France.

- It humiliated Germany and prevented the establishment of true peace in Europe.
- German reaction was that they were treated too harsh because they felt justified in the war.
- The **guilt clause** blamed Germany for the war.
- This treaty so destroyed the German economy and the morale of the German people, that within 20 years, they would start another world war.
- The Seeds of **WWII** were planted.



### 3. The Covenant of the League of Nations



- It divided the Ottoman Empire, creating independent nations and mandates.
- Armaments were to be reduced and protection guaranteed between members against aggressions.
- Colonies of the Central Powers became protectorates of the League.

President Wilson gave in to many of his fourteen points in exchange for support of the league. The United States Congress **did not agree** to ratify the treaty and negotiated separate peace treaties with each central power.

Germany lost all her colonies.

North Schleswig given to Denmark.

Danzig - a free city run by the League of Nations.

Eupen and Malmedy given to Belgium

Poland was given a 'corridor' to the Baltic Sea, cutting off East Prussia from Germany.

New government met here - so Germany was called the Weimar Republic.

Posen - rich farmland given to Poland.

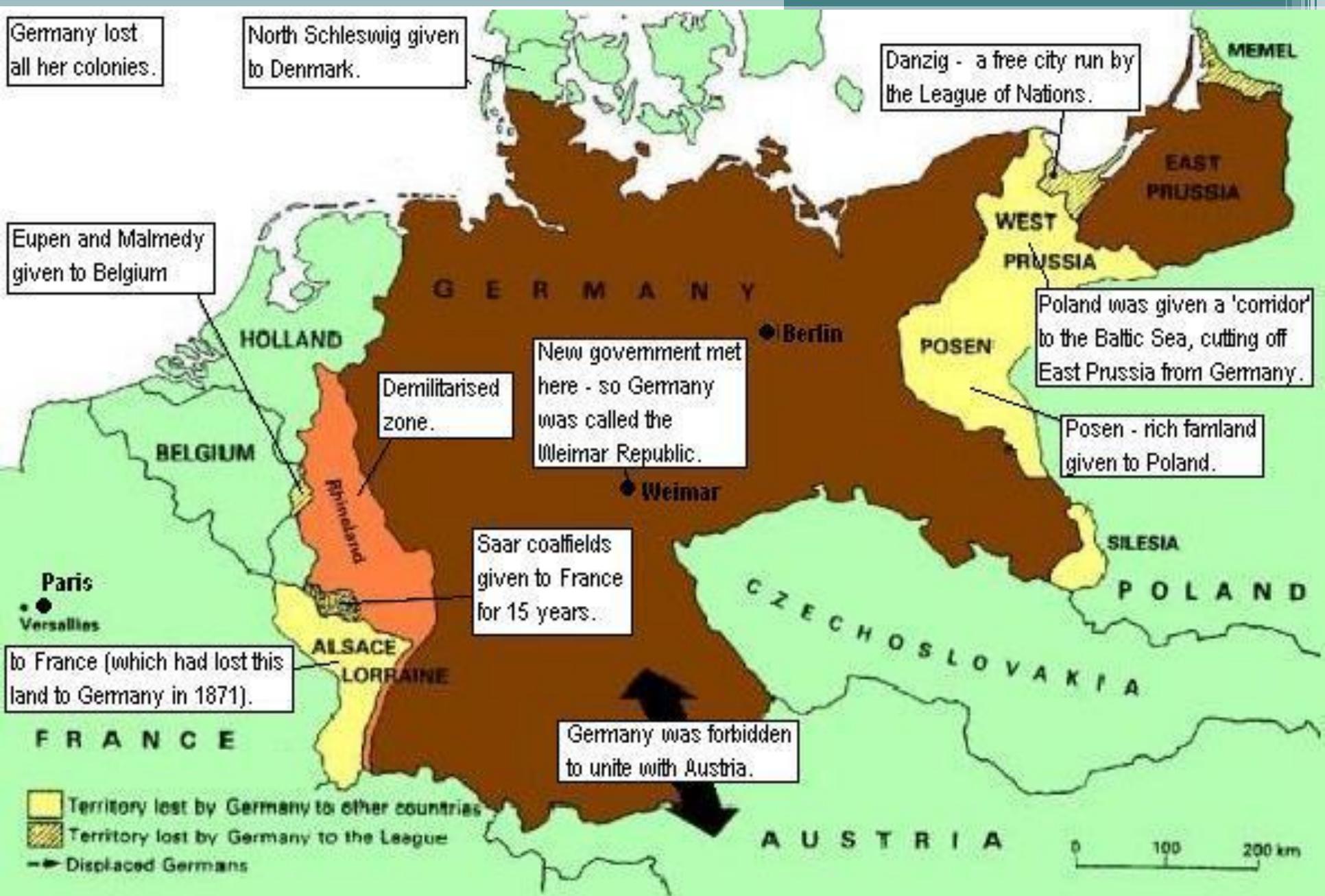
Demilitarised zone.

Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years.

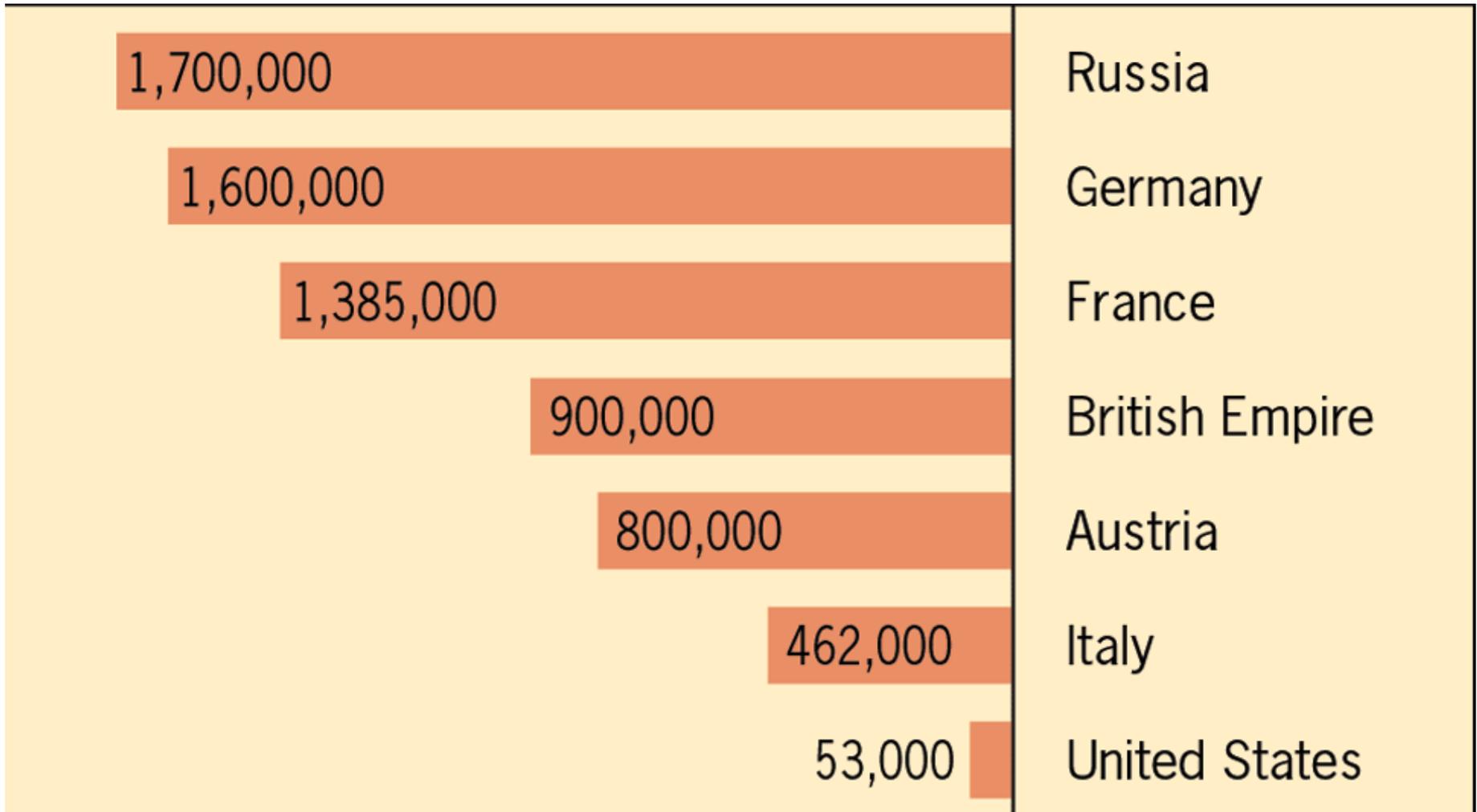
to France (which had lost this land to Germany in 1871).

Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.

- Yellow box: Territory lost by Germany to other countries
- Orange box: Territory lost by Germany to the League
- Black arrow: Displaced Germans



# Men Killed in Battle



**Approximate Comparative Losses in World War I**

# Middle East Mandates

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After Britain's declaration of war on the Ottoman Empire in November 1914, Zionist British cabinet member **Herbert Samuel** circulated a memorandum entitled “*The Future of Palestine*”, stating that the solution of the problem of Palestine would be the annexation of the country to the British Empire.

The **Balfour Declaration**, dated 2 November 1917, was a letter from the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary **Arthur Balfour** to **Baron Rothschild**, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the **Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland**.

**Zionism:** an international movement originally for the establishment of a Jewish national or religious community in Palestine and later for the support of modern Israel.

# Balfour Declaration



Foreign Office,

November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

'His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country'

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

*Y. W.*  
Arthur Balfour

# MIDDLE EAST AFTER WORLD WAR I



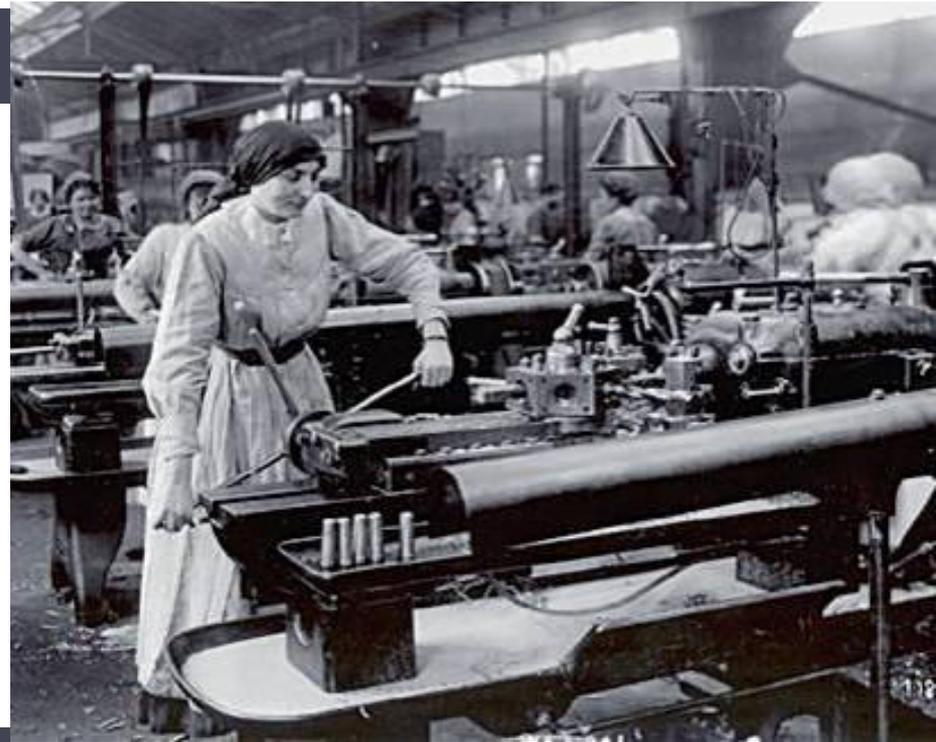
# How did the war affect the U.S.?

## Women

Women filled factory jobs.

Women served in the army in non combat positions.

Women's war effort helped bring about passage of the **19th Amendment** after the war giving women the right to vote.



## African Americans

Black soldiers still served in segregated units.

In the “**Great Migration**” thousands of African Americans moved to the North to work in factories.

# Wartime Agencies

## **War Industries Board (WIB)**

**Bernard Baruch**- coordinated the production of war materials, allocated raw materials and factories and set prices.



## **Food Administration**

**Herbert Hoover**- responsible for food production and reducing civilian consumption. It encouraged **Victory Gardens** and food rationing: *Wheatless Mondays, Meatless Tuesdays, Porkless Thursdays* left more food for the troops.



## **National War Labor Board**

**William Howard Taft**- Prevented strikes from disrupting the war efforts.



# What was the job of George Creel during the war?

- Journalist Head of the **Committee on Public Information** 1917.
- His job was to sell America the war. (Propaganda)
- Tried to “whip” up support for Wilson’s ideas.
- Help US raise money to fight.

*“There will be a creation of a passionate belief in the justice of America’s cause that would weld The American people into one white hot mass instinct.”*

- George Creel



# War's Impact at Home

Hatred of all things German spread across the U.S. For example “sauerkraut” was renamed “Liberty Cabbage.”

The **Espionage Act 1917** and the **Sedition Act of 1918** punished those against the war, many of whom were labor leaders.

The end of the wartime economy led to fear of Communism, unemployment for the veterans, riots, inflation, labor strikes and racial tension.

Adapted from McIntyre at <http://worldhistory.pppst.com> class notes and other internet sources. RGV