

**War Comes to Europe** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prd: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /25

**Directions:** Highlight the answer in the text on the left *before* answering the questions on the right.

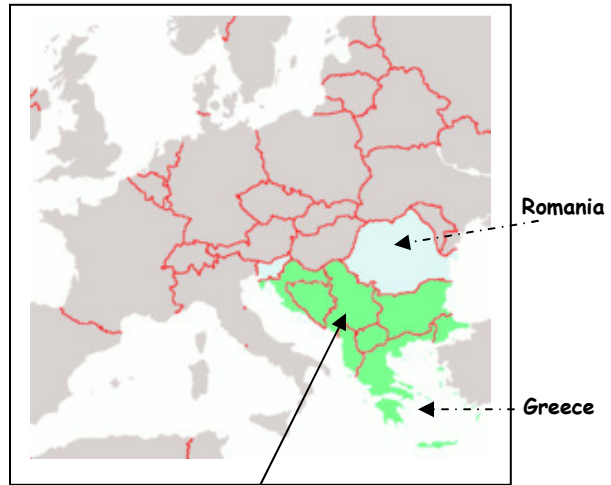
Many years before World War I (WWI,) the German chancellor Bismarck remarked that a clash among Europe's nations would probably come over "some *foolish* thing in the Balkans." This idea might have surprised many Europeans. The Balkans were just 6 tiny countries on a peninsula south of Austria. But that's exactly where WWI did start!

By the early 1900's, however, Europe's major powers were becoming concerned, particularly Russia & the Austrian Empire. Both had interests in the **Balkans**. Russia wanted to dominate the area around the straits, or narrow waterways, that led from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean & the Middle East. Russia also regarded itself as the protector of the Slavic peoples of the Balkans.

Austria was troubled over rising **nationalism** in the Balkan nation of Serbia. Most Serbians were Slavs. And they were determined to liberate their fellow Slavs who lived within the Austrian Empire. Over the years, Serbian patriots tried many times to free these Slavs.

The Balkans were indeed a trouble spot. Two major powers were ready to fight over them. If Russia & Austria did go to war, their struggle could involve the whole of Europe because of the **secret, interlocking treaties between the various countries**. One German official was probably thinking of the Balkan situation when he said, "Peace remains at the mercy of an accident."

The "accident" occurred in June of 1914, when **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** of **Austria** was killed by a Serbian patriot. **Austria** saw its chance to destroy Serbia once & for all. A month after the assassinations, the empire declared war on **Serbia**. **Russia** immediately called up its army. **Germany** entered the conflict by declaring war on **Russia** & Russia's ally, **France**. Soon, **Britain** declared war on **Germany**. By August 5<sup>th</sup>, all the great powers of Europe were at war. Britain, France & Russia, known as the **Allies**, opposed Germany, Turkey & Austria-Hungary ~ called the **Central Powers**.



The Balkan Peninsula

\* Label the Mediterranean Sea & Black Sea.\*

Recalling past history & terminology.

**Nationalism** (by definition) is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| a. total control of a nation                      | c. no private property; |
| b. overwhelming feeling of pride for one's nation | d. rule by 1 nation     |
|   | government owned        |

**Why** were the Balkans thought to be a "trouble spot"?

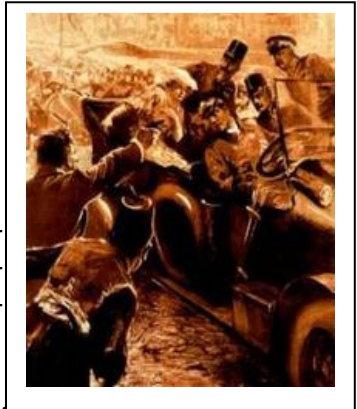
---



---



---



**WWI begins with a "chain of events..."**

- ~ Archduke Franz Ferdinand of \_\_\_\_\_ ↑  
is **assassinated** by a \_\_\_\_\_ patriot
- ~ \_\_\_\_\_ **declares war** on Serbia
- ~ \_\_\_\_\_ **calls up** its army, while \_\_\_\_\_ **declares war** on Russia & its ally, \_\_\_\_\_
- ~ \_\_\_\_\_, then, **declares war** on \_\_\_\_\_ bringing all the great powers of Europe into WWI!

The conflict spread ever wider. **Japan & Italy** entered the war on the Allied side. The Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers. In 1917, the **United States** joined the Allies. Before the war ended in 1918, 30 nations on 6 continents were fighting! *It was truly a world war!*

Military experts on both sides thought the war would last about 6 weeks. "The boys will be home before Christmas," they predicted. *They were wrong.* World War I dragged on for 4 terrible years, from 1914 to 1918. More than 8 million soldiers died in the fighting. And about 5 million died of hunger, disease, & war injuries. For the first time, cities were bombed from the air. Hundreds of towns & villages were wrecked by cannon fire.

Germany tried to win a quick victory when the war started. In August, its armies overran most of Belgium & northern France. But in September, the French managed to get reinforcements to the war front at the Marne River.

At the Battle of the Marne, the German army was pushed back. A few weeks later, the British stopped the Germans in Belgium. With that, the fighting settled down along a line called the **Western front**, stretching from the **North Sea** through **Belgium & France** to the border of **Switzerland**. For the next 4 years, there was bloody fighting. Yet, neither side could push the other back more than 10 miles.

The opposing sides dug along the western front. Hundreds of miles of **trenches**, or deep ditches, ran along the front. Some were just simple shelters. Others were deep tunnels. Often they were filled with rain & infested with rats. *For years, German & Allied soldiers lived in these trenches.* An American reporter, visiting in 1916 *might have described the trenches this way.*

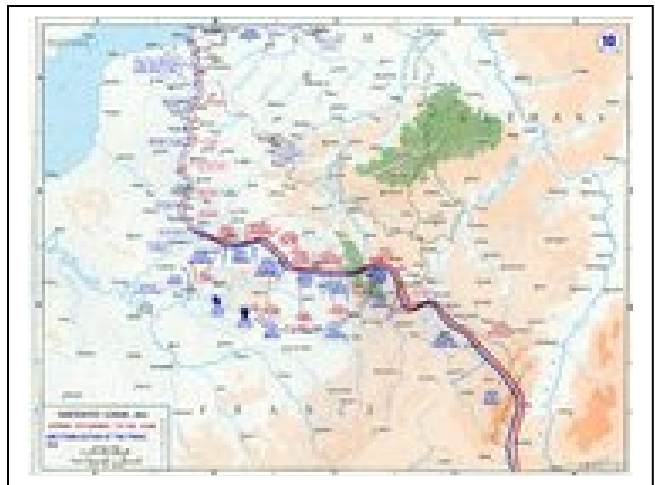
I have never seen anything like this **trench warfare** in my life. It is *impossible to imagine that human beings could live this way for 2 years!*

*With the war spreading, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ enter the war on the Allied side & later, the \_\_\_\_\_ unites with the Allies.*

*\_\_\_\_\_ (#) nations fought by war's end...giving it the name, "The GREAT WAR."*

*Just the stats, sir:*

*Instead of 6 \_\_\_\_\_, the war lasted 4 horrible \_\_\_\_\_ with 8 million \_\_\_\_\_ dying...*



The **Western front** ↑ *stretched from the \_\_\_\_\_ through the countries of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ to the border of \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Trench warfare was gruesome ~ often filled with \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_!*



*This war seems like it will never end. When one side attacks another, its soldiers pour over the top of their trench. They fling grenades at the enemy, climb through barbed wire, & fire their rifles. They kill 100s of enemy troops at a time.*

But then the enemy counters with cannon fire & machine guns. They throw cans of poison gas. The attackers suffer heavy casualties & usually they retreat to their trenches. Many soldiers die, but *neither side makes any progress.*

Back in the trenches, the horror continues. Soldiers are safer there, but they are still in danger of a sniper's gunfire if they stick their heads out of the trenches. The trenches themselves are nothing more than deep ditches. When it rains, the soldiers are up to their ankles in mud.

Soldiers have to work constantly. The trenches always need repairing & barbed-wire walls must be built. The trenches have to be heavily guarded. Their work leaves the soldiers with little time to sleep. When they do try to sleep, the weather & the gunfire keep them from getting any rest.

Soldiers have confided to me that they are afraid more of the order to go over the top. They know that many won't return to their trenches. But they also love their countries & are willing to die defending them.

While one bloody war raged in the trenches of the western front, *an even bloodier one was being fought on the Eastern front.* There, the armies of Russia faced the forces of Germany & Austria. *By 1916, Russia was close to total defeat.* It also confronted a complete economic & social collapse at home.

Although it had the largest army in Europe, Russia was not really ready for war. It had few factories & railroads. So it could not supply its soldiers with enough guns & ammunition. It could not get food, fuel, & clothing to either its soldiers at the front or its people at home.

Often Russian soldiers went into battle with no weapons. They were told to take the guns of the dead & wounded. In one single campaign in 1916, Russia lost one million men.

Discontented & weary, soldiers by the 1000s left the front & returned to their homes.



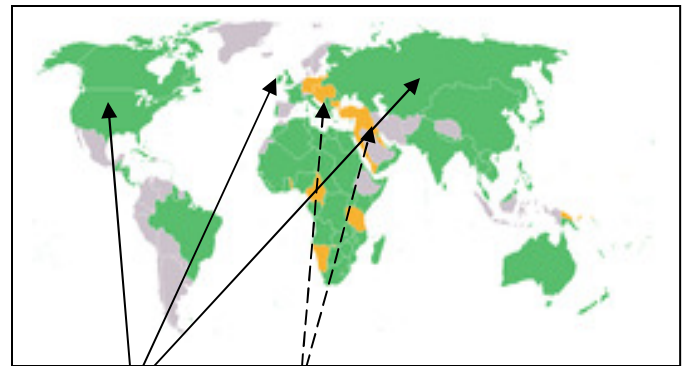
**T or F:** The advantage of trench warfare was that either side *could* make progress on any given day.

#### Drawbacks of trench warfare included

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. the need for them to be heavily guarded | c. always needing to be repaired |
| b. soldiers got little sleep               | d. the need to rebuild           |
|  | e. all the above                 |

The order that frightened more soldiers than any other in this war was the *order to*

"\_\_\_\_\_."



Allies in dark; Central Powers in lighter contrast

#### Russia was ill-prepared for war because

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Russian soldiers did not have weapons           | d. there wasn't enough fuel or clothing |
| b. the country had limited factories & railroads   | e. all the above                        |
| c. there was little food for soldiers or civilians | f. only a & c                           |
|  | g. b & d only                           |

Then, in 1917, the Russian government was overthrown by a violent revolution. The new government, *unable & unwilling to continue to the war*, made a peace treaty with Germany. *Russia dropped out of the war!*

With Russia out of the war, the Central Powers could now concentrate all their forces on the western front. Alarmed at the idea of a huge German assault in the west, Britain & France looked to the United States for help.

When war broke out in 1914, most Americans *favored* the Allies. But few people felt the United States should enter the conflict. Most Americans agreed with President Woodrow Wilson when he said, "The United States must remain **neutral** in fact as well as in name during these days that are to try men's souls."

Three years later, Wilson stood before Congress & urged its members to declare war on Germany. The war, he said, would "make the world safe for democracy." **What had happened in those 3 years to change Wilson's opinion? And how did the US go from neutrality to war?**

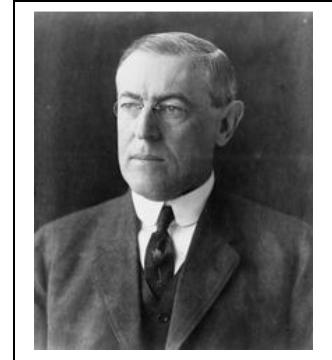
As early as 1915, Americans were shocked & angered when a German submarine sank the British passenger ship *Lusitania*. More than 100 Americans were aboard the ship. President Wilson strongly protested the sinking, & many Americans wanted to go to war then. When Germany promised not to attack any more passenger ships, the crisis eased. Still, Americans did not forget the *Lusitania*.

However, despite its promise, Germany resumed its submarine attacks. German military leaders realized that this policy might bring the US into the war. But they *believed their submarines would help them win the war before the US could get its troops into Europe*.

President Wilson reacted strongly to the German policy. He warned that he would take severe steps if American ships were attacked. *When word came of the sinking of American ships, angry Americans demanded war!*

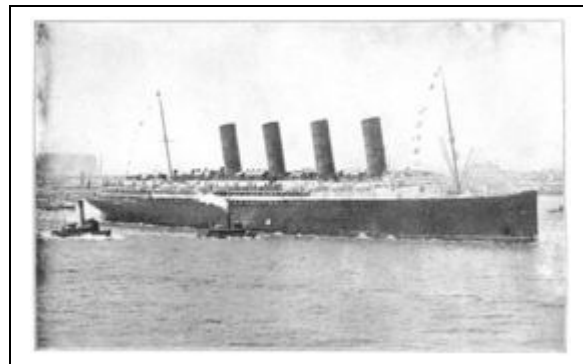
Recalling past history of the Russian Revolution:  
What political group under Lenin took control during the Russian Revolution?

- a. Proletariat                      c. Bolsheviks  
b. Soviets                            d. Plebeians



Woodrow Wilson serving  
as US President →

To "remain **neutral**" means to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



The *Lusitania* ↑ was sunk in May of 1915 by Germany.

**Why would Germany risk more submarine attacks if doing so MIGHT bring the US into the war?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What, then, sparked Americans to demand war?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On April 6, 1917, at the request of President Wilson, the United States Congress declared war on Germany. Although he was cheered everywhere, Wilson was saddened by his decision. He said, "My message [of war] was a message of death for our young men. How strange it seems to cheer that..."

Now that Russia had withdrawn from the war, Germany had to fight on only one front. However, 1000s of fresh US troops were arriving in France daily. It would not be long before 2 million American soldiers would be ready to fight.

German military leaders gambled on one final offensive. They sent nearly all their troops to the western front. There, Germany unleashed a tremendous attack. The offensive almost succeeded but not quite. In a series of bloody battles in France & Belgium in 1918, British, French, & American troops forced the Germans to retreat.

By October 1918, Germany was asking for peace. A revolution had broken out, & Emperor William II had fled to Holland. The German Empire, along with its ally Austria, collapsed. In November, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, an **armistice**, or agreement to stop fighting, was signed. *The war was over!*

But what kind of peace would Germany get? Because Germany had lost the war, that was for the Allies to decide. They met at **Versailles** to draw up the terms. The Allies, however, did not agree on the terms of the peace. The US, led by President Wilson, aimed for a "peace without victory," that is, a peace that was fair for everyone. The other allies, who had suffered much greater losses, wanted to punish Germany severely. When the treaty talks were over, the European allies had gotten their way.

When? **May 1919** Where? **Palace of Versailles**  
What's happening? American & French diplomats are discussing terms of the peace treaty ~ officially ending World War I between Allied & Associated Powers & Germany.



**Why** would Wilson, addressing Congress ↑ confide that he was "**saddened**" by his decision to go to war?

---



---

**Infantry in trenches with gas masks.**



In an attempt to win the war, Germany sent its troops to the **(eastern/western)** front to attack!

By definition, **armistice** is: \_\_\_\_\_

---



New York's newspaper announcing **ARMISTICE!**

**French diplomat:** Ah, what a glorious day for France! This is a truly honorable & just peace.

**American diplomat:** For France & the other Allies, perhaps...but not for Germany.

**French diplomat:** It is fair to Germany! The Germans *started* this war!!! Their war killed millions of young Frenchmen & cost France millions in damage. Now they will repay that debt.

**American diplomat:** But they can't pay that debt. They are as poor as you. That's why we wanted to keep every nation's debt as low as possible. But this treaty takes everything from Germany ~ its coal, billions of dollars, its industry, ships, & colonies. How will the German people survive? The Americans were concerned with justice, not revenge! We wanted a fair peace. That's why we wanted all of Europe to **disarm** (destroy its weapons.)

**French diplomat:** You Americans are crazy! We need our arms for defense. This treaty IS fair. The Allies will be repaid what they are owed, & Germany will be shamed, as it should be!

**American diplomat:** At least we will have the **League of Nations**; after all, it was created & intended to arbitrate international disputes & thereby avoid future wars.

At first the German leaders refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles. But rather than have the war resume, they gave in. Still, Germans were bitter at the harshness of the treaty. Today, many people believe that the bitterness *caused* by the Treaty of Versailles helped lead to World War II.

Wilson's hopes for the League of Nations were fulfilled. The provisions for the league were part of the Treaty of Versailles. And all treaties must be approved by the United States Senate. Wilson had to win Senate acceptance of the treaty. But many senators opposed the league. They did not believe that the US should be involved in Europe's affairs.

The Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles & with it the League of Nations. Without the US, the League of Nations was doomed to fail.



**Recalling past history:** What historical event(s) occurred at the Palace of Versailles? (Think: Fr Rev.)

What did *starting the war* "cost" Germany in terms of the peace treaty? 1) \_\_\_\_\_, 2) \_\_\_\_\_, 3) \_\_\_\_\_, 4) \_\_\_\_\_, & 5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Applying English skills:** To "disarm" means to:

a. amputate an arm	c. supply with weapons
b. identify weapons of war	d. abolish weapons for war

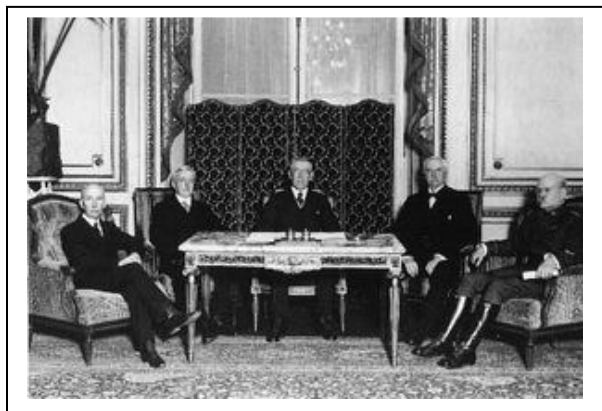
The *purpose of* the League of Nations was to

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

(There are 2 parts to its purpose...list both!)

**T or F:** There exists a belief that suggests that *the severity of* the Treaty of Versailles *contributed to* the start of WWII.



Woodrow Wilson & the American Peace Commissioners