Study Guide

Unit 6: World War I and the Russian Revolution

# Theme

What is necessary for a lasting peace?

# Vocabulary

## Context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Militarism |  |
| Alliances |  |
| Imperialism |  |
| Nationalism |  |
| Ottoman Empire |  |

## Conflict

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| July Crisis |  |
| Propaganda |  |
| Stalemate |  |
| Trench Warfare |  |
| Total War |  |
| Mustard Gas |  |

## Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Lusitania* |  |
| Dictator |  |
| Russian Revolution |  |
| Totalitarianism |  |

## Characters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Archduke Franz Ferdinand |  |
| Czar Nicholas II |  |
| Bolsheviks |  |
| Vladimir Lenin |  |
| Woodrow Wilson |  |

## Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Armistice |  |
| Fourteen Points |  |
| Treaty of Versailles |  |
| League of Nations |  |

# Analysis

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using your own words. The answers require about 3 sentences.

## Setting

1. What are the MAIN causes for World War I?

## Conflict

1. How did stalemate change the direction of World War I?

## Plot

1. What was the appeal of the communist revolution in Russia?

## Characters

1. How did Vladimir Lenin change Russia?

## Resolution

1. Why was the Treaty of Versailles a failure?

## Theme

1. What is necessary for a lasting peace?

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# Theme

What is necessary for a lasting peace?

# Vocabulary

## Context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Militarism | The desire of a nation to have a strong military to promote its national interests. |
| Alliances | Countries joining together for mutual benefit and protection. |
| Imperialism | A country’s expansion of power into new territories through colonization. |
| Nationalism | Pride in one’s people marked by a push for freedom and self-government |
| Ottoman Empire | A weakening empire that was losing land in Europe (the Balkans) and creating a power vacuum that was a cause of the war. |

## Conflict

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| July Crisis | The diplomatic conflict between European powers after the assassination of the Archduke |
| Propaganda | Information, usually biased, used to promote a political cause. |
| Stalemate | A situation when military progress is impossible. |
| Trench Warfare | A type of combat when opposing forces face each other from trenches because of a stalemate. |
| Total War | A war disregarding laws on the types of weapons used, where fighting takes place and who can be a combatant. |
| Mustard Gas | A chemical agent used as a weapon that causes blistering. |

## Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Lusitania* | A passenger ship sunk by German submarine warfare that began to turn the American public away from neutrality toward war. |
| Dictator | A ruler with complete power, like Joseph Stalin over Russia |
| Russian Revolution | The revolution that turned Russia from a monarchy to one inspired by communism |

## Characters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Archduke Franz Ferdinand | Heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary whose assassination sparked World War I |
| Czar Nicholas II | Ruler of Russia, who saw the collapse of his military and economic empire. |
| Bolsheviks | A faction of the Communist party that believed that a special group should lead the revolution, rather than the democratic Mensheviks. |
| Vladimir Lenin | Leader of the Bolshevik faction of the Communists who led the Russian Revolution. |
| Woodrow Wilson | American President whose Fourteen Points for peace were influential in the peace talks. |

## Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Armistice | An agreement between warring countries to stop fighting |
| Fourteen Points | Wilson’s Plan for international peace based on national self-determination, free trade, and international cooperation—a League of Nations. |
| Treaty of Versailles | The peace agreement to end World War I that had a harsh punishment for Germany |
| League of Nations | An international organization between countries to resolve conflicts and predecessor to the United Nations. |

# Analysis

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using your own words. The answers require about 3 sentences.

## Setting

1. What are the MAIN causes for World War I?

The rise of Germany and decline of the Ottoman Empire contributed to four MAIN causes for World War I. 1) **Militarism**: The Industrial Revolution contributed to a modernization of weapons like machine guns, missiles, airplanes, tanks, and submarines. This set of an arms race between European powers for military dominance. 2) **Alliances**: The arms race in Europe contributed to various countries seeking support for others. Austro-Hungary looked to Germany, while Russia looked to France and Britain. 3) **Imperialism**: The Industrial Revolution set off a competition for resources that brought European powers into conflict with each other overseas and in Europe in the Balkan region where the Ottoman Empire was in decline. 4) **Nationalism**: A sense of common identity had recently unified Germany, but also was leading to conflicts in the Balkans where the Ottomans where weakening. Various groups pushed for independence, which Austria-Hungary wanted to expand into. This fervor prompted Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist, to assassinate the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand II.

## Conflict

1. How did stalemate change the direction of World War I?

World War I was the first modern war where new military weapons capable of mass destruction were used. The German offensive toward Paris merely introduced Europe to the ravages of modern war. The Battle of the Marne brought the German forces to a halt. The war came to a stalemate as each opposing army dug trenches to hold their line—the Western Front. That line of trenches remained largely unchanged for the remainder of the war and became a source of immeasurable suffering. Deaths stacked up as men were uselessly sent into the “no man’s land” in a futile attempt to attack the enemy trench, only to be mowed down by machine guns. The mental shock of the living conditions and disease, not to mention the stress of unexpected weapons like mustard gas, led to massive abandonments. Ultimately the stalemate required the mobilization of whole countries for war. Women went to factories to prepare munitions. Governments turned to propaganda to mobilize their country for war.

## Plot

1. What was the appeal of the communist revolution in Russia?

The Eastern Front of the War between Russia and Germany was disastrous for Russia. Czar Nicholas II insistence on continuing the war was increasingly unpopular. The February Revolution of 1917 forced the Czar to step down with a provisional government in power. The Bolshevik faction of the Communist Party popular among workers and soldiers began to promise “Bread, Land and Peace”, that is, an end to the war, a redistribution of land to farmers, and food. In the October Revolution of 1917, the Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin took power. They took the country out of the war and began a radical shift in how the economy would work.

## Characters

1. How did Vladimir Lenin change Russia?

He was leader of the Bolshevik faction of the Communist party that took control of Russia during the October Revolution. The Mensheviks, who were a democratic form of communism and more dominant during the provisional government were swept away. He movement on behalf of the proletariat, the working class, helped industrialize the country and bring greater education and rights. Nevertheless, he was also as ruthless as the Czar in securing power by eliminating dissent.

## Resolution

1. Why was the Treaty of Versailles a failure?

Renewed German submarine warfare pushed the United States into World War I on the Allied side. This tipped the balance of the war against Germany. Germany was willing to seek an armistice with the Allies using Woodrow Wilson’s the Fourteen Points as an outline for peace talks. When peace talks began in France, the leaders of France, England, and Italy were more interested in punishing Germany for the war. The resulting Treaty of Versailles had some minor successes like the formation of a League of Nations (which ironically the United States rejected) and greater national self-determination for European nations, but Germany was forced to give up land, pay for the war (reparations), demilitarize, and accept guilt for the war.

## Theme

1. What is necessary for a lasting peace?

At the heart of Woodrow Wilson’s plan for peace was making a space for the nations of the world to resolve conflicts through diplomacy, that is, representatives of the world’s nations talking through the issues they are facing together. Previously European countries had used alliance, secret treaties, and military force to resolve their differences. The devastation of modern warfare of World War I convinced many that another way must be found. This led to the formation of the League of Nations, which would become the predecessor to the United Nations. The United Nations would be formed after World War II.