

Section 1

World War I

Key Ideas

- Rising tensions brought Europe to the edge of war in 1914.
- Trench warfare and new weapons led to a long, deadly stalemate.
- After winning the war, the Allied powers sought to weaken Germany and prevent future wars.

Key Terms

- World War I
- militarism
- Central Powers
- trench warfare
- propaganda
- reparation

Visual Glossary



Reading Skill **Identify Main Ideas and Details** Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.



▲ British (top) and American (bottom) posters urged people to join the military.

When the 1900s began, Europe had been largely peaceful for many years. But a bloody war was on the way. **World War I** (1914–1918), sometimes called the Great War, was the first truly global conflict. It killed millions of people and reshaped much of the world.

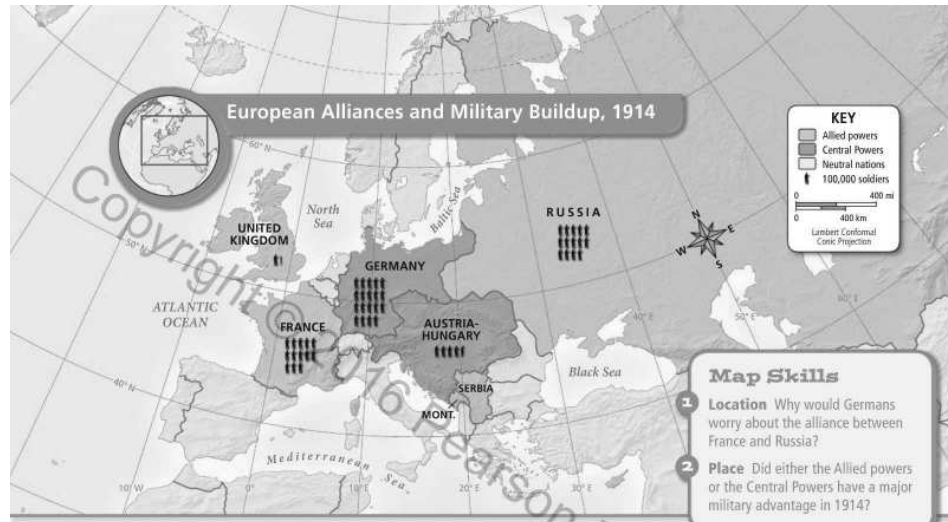
Causes of World War I

In 1914, Europe was on the edge of war. Rising tensions among European powers resulted from four main factors: imperialism, nationalism, militarism, and alliances.

Imperialism and Nationalism As you read in the previous chapter, European powers controlled much of the world in the late 1800s. This imperialism was caused by a desire for land, raw materials, and new markets for goods. At the same time, many Europeans were developing feelings of nationalism, or devotion to one's nation or cultural group. National pride fueled the desire for new lands, and it also led to unrest.

Militarism and Alliances To protect their colonies and trade routes, European countries built powerful military forces. This policy of aggressive military buildup is known as **militarism**. Across Europe, armies and navies grew dramatically larger. For example, Germany and Great Britain competed to build huge navies. Nations also developed powerful new weapons, believing that these weapons would quickly end the fighting if war broke out.

The growing military power left all sides nervous. To protect themselves against other nations, European countries entered into a com-



Map Skills

- Location** Why would Germans worry about the alliance between France and Russia?
- Place** Did either the Allied powers or the Central Powers have a major military advantage in 1914?

plicated system of alliances. An alliance is an agreement between different people, organizations, or states to work together to achieve common goals. Alliance members usually agree to defend one another.

For example, the Triple Alliance was an agreement among Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary. In response, Great Britain, France, and Russia formed the Triple Entente (ahn TAHNT).

Leaders hoped that these alliances would help prevent war. In fact, they had the opposite effect. The most powerful countries in Europe were now divided into two opposing alliances, neither of which trusted the other. In such a tense atmosphere, even a small disagreement might lead to widespread war.

Reading Check How did alliances affect Europe in the early 1900s?

War Breaks Out

War began in southeastern Europe, where the Serbs and other ethnic Slavic peoples ruled by Austria-Hungary had strong feelings of nationalism. On June 28, 1914, an ethnic Serbian assassin killed the Austrian archduke Francis Ferdinand.

Assassination Leads to War In response, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Alliances drew other countries into the conflict. Russia wanted to protect Serbia, its ally. Then Germany, Austria-Hungary's ally, declared war on Russia. Soon, the two sides of the conflict were lined up. Germany and Austria-Hungary were the **Central Powers**. Russia, France, Serbia, and Great Britain made up the other side, the Allied powers. Other countries—such as the United States—were **neutral**.

neutral, adj. not aligned with either side

stalemate, n., situation with no chance for progress

Powerful artillery was fired from far behind the front lines. ▼

A Stalemate Develops At the beginning of the war, German troops moved quickly through Belgium and into France. But in September 1914, at the first battle of the Marne, Allied troops pushed back the German invasion. This battle ended German hopes for a fast victory on the battle line that extended from Belgium to the Swiss border, known as the Western Front. Instead, the war on the Western Front turned into a **stalemate**.

A New Kind of Warfare As fighting continued, both sides dug deep trenches to protect themselves from enemy fire. **Trench warfare**, or fighting from trenches, was not new. But trench warfare had never before happened on such a large scale.

Life in the trenches was awful. Soldiers lived with rats and lice, with poor sanitation and little shelter from bad weather.

“Our living conditions were lousy, dirty and insanitary. . . . There were rats as big as cats and if you had any leather equipment the . . . things would gnaw at it. For four months I was in France I never had a bath.”

—British soldier Harry Patch, quoted in *The Faces of World War I*

New weapons made World War I deadlier than earlier wars. Rapid-fire machine guns could mow down many soldiers at once. Long-range artillery could kill from a great distance. Perhaps the most feared

new weapon was poison gas, which blinded and choked its victims.

Both sides also used new war machines. Trains, cars, and trucks made it easier to move soldiers to the front. There, armored tanks moved across the area between opposing trenches—called no man’s land—to attack enemy trenches. Airplanes and zeppelins, or large, gas-filled airships, were used to watch—and bomb—enemy troops from the air. Later in the war, both sides mounted machine guns onto airplanes, and pilots fought in the skies. On the seas, submarines attacked ships.

Other Fronts By 1915, the Ottoman empire and Bulgaria had joined the Central Powers. On the Eastern Front, in

Eastern Europe, the Central Powers fought against Russia. But although most of the fighting took place in Europe, World War I was a global conflict. Battles took place in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

The Allied powers turned to their colonies for troops, workers, and supplies. Some colonial subjects volunteered to fight, hoping that their service would be a step toward independence after the war. Others were reluctant to serve colonial leaders who seemed to treat them unfairly.

The Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea were also battlegrounds. German submarines sank hundreds of Allied ships, hoping to cut British and French supply lines. British ships tried to stop shipments of raw materials to Germany.



Soldiers on both sides wore gas masks to protect themselves from poison gas. ▼

Closer Look

Trench Warfare

Over four years, millions of soldiers dug many miles of trenches across Belgium and northern France. Soldiers ate, slept, fought, and died in their trenches. As the war dragged on, trenches grew deeper and more complex.

THINK CRITICALLY How did new weapons affect World War I?



◀ A bullet-scarred sign identifying a trench

◀ Armored tanks could flatten barbed wire fences and roll across trenches.

▲ Soldiers used sticks, planks, and sandbags to support trench walls and protect themselves from enemy fire.



Rapid-fire machine guns were a devastating weapon. Shown below are German machine gunners in 1914. ▼

▲ A British soldier eats dinner in the trenches. ▼

Effects of the War

A nurse tends to wounded soldiers in a Belgian hospital, 1914.



Life on the Home Front At first, most people thought that the war would end soon. As it dragged on, leaders focused their nations' resources on the war effort.

Governments raised taxes and borrowed huge amounts of money to pay the costs of war. They required young men to serve in the military. Citizens' food and other products were rationed, or limited, so that soldiers received steady supplies.

To win support for the war effort, both sides used **propaganda**, or the spreading of ideas to promote or to harm a cause. Propaganda urged citizens to loan money to the government. It made claims about cruelties committed by the other side.

With millions of men serving in the military, many women entered the workforce for the first time. Some took jobs in factories that made military supplies.

Reading Check What was trench warfare?

War Ends

By 1917, three years of war had hit both sides hard. Desperate for soldiers, Germany was sending teenage boys and elderly men to the front lines. The United Kingdom was nearly bankrupt. A revolution in Russia forced Russia to withdraw from the war.

U.S. Entry Into the War The United States had remained neutral in the early years of the war, but it decided to enter on the side of the Allied powers in April 1917. With the aid of American soldiers and war supplies, the Allies slowly forced the Germans back across France and Belgium.

By late 1918, the German government had collapsed, and the Central Powers asked for peace. On November 11, 1918, World War I ended. More than 10 million soldiers had been killed during the war, and some 20 million were wounded.

Postwar Treaties After the war, Allied leaders met to write the peace treaties. The Allies had varying goals. French leader Georges Clemenceau (KLEM un soh) wanted to weaken Germany so that it could never again threaten France. He also wanted Germany to pay **reparations**, or payment for war damages. However, Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. President, wanted to ensure peace without humiliating the defeated Central Powers.

In the end, the treaties were closer to Clemenceau's vision than Wilson's. The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to accept blame for causing the war. It made Germany pay enormous reparations and limited the size of the German military.



The treaties changed the map of Europe and the Middle East. New countries and territories were formed from lands that had been ruled by Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman empire, and Russia. You will read more about some of these changes in the next section.

The Allied powers also created the League of Nations, an international organization meant to maintain peace. The League was one of President Wilson's

goals, but many Americans feared that joining the League of Nations would drag the United States into future foreign wars. The U.S. government refused to ratify American membership. Without American participation, the League was greatly weakened. **Reading Check** What was the major turning point of the war?

Map Skills

- Region** How did Europe change after World War I?
- Places to Know!** Label the following places on the outline map in your Student Journal: Germany, Russia, Baltic Sea, Ottoman empire, Italy, United Kingdom.

▲ This family's house in Lens, France, shows the devastation that the war brought to Europe.



Section 1 Assessment

Key Terms

- How did militarism help cause World War I?
- How did countries use propaganda to support the war effort?

Key Ideas

- Why was Europe close to war in 1914?
- What led to the long stalemate on the Western Front?
- What did the Treaty of Versailles do?

Think Critically

- Analyze Cause and Effect** How did new weapons affect World War I?
- Solve Problems** How did Allied leaders try to prevent future wars?

Essential Question

- How should we handle conflict?
- Describe the causes, course, and effects of World War I. Go to your Student Journal to record your answer.

Section 2

Revolution and Depression

Key Ideas

- A revolution in Russia resulted in the formation of the world's first communist state.
- Nationalism and the desire for change led to uprisings around the world.
- The Great Depression caused worldwide hardship and helped lead to the growth of totalitarian governments.

Key Terms • Bolsheviks • mandate • Great Depression • New Deal
• totalitarianism • fascism

 Visual Glossary



Reading Skill Summarize Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.

The years before and after World War I were a time of change. Nationalist movements grew, economies collapsed, and anti-democratic leaders took power and sought to expand their territories.

The Russian Revolution

In 1914, the vast Russian empire stretched from Eastern Europe to the Pacific Ocean. But World War I badly strained Russia's primitive economy. Many Russian soldiers ran out of ammunition and other supplies. Millions died in battle. At home, Russians suffered from shortages of food and fuel.

War and Revolution in Russia

August 1914

Russia enters World War I.

March 1917

A revolution forces Tsar Nicholas II from power.



November 1917

Lenin's Bolsheviks overthrow the government.

November 1920

The Russian Civil War ends with a communist victory.



December 1922

The Soviet Union is formed.



The Fall of the Tsar Suffering caused by the war, combined with anger at years of harsh rule by Russian tsars, led to a revolution. In March 1917, protestors marched through the streets shouting for food. The protests grew into a rebellion, and Tsar Nicholas II was forced to step down. A temporary government took power, but revolutionaries had other plans.

Bolsheviks Take Over The **Bolsheviks**, a radical socialist group led by Vladimir (vlad uh MIHR) Lenin, overthrew the temporary government in November 1917. The Bolsheviks wanted to rule Russia as a socialist country, or a country in which all people would benefit from society's wealth.

When the Bolsheviks took power, they pulled Russia out of World War I and formed a communist government. Under communism, the government owns all property and makes all economic decisions. The Bolsheviks ended private ownership of land. They let peasants farm the land and workers control the factories.

The Soviet Union Is Born Though Russia was no longer in World War I, peace did not come. Instead, a civil war broke out, in which Bolsheviks fought their opponents. Finally, the Bolsheviks triumphed. In 1922, they united much of the former Russian empire into the Soviet Union, a communist state.

Reading Check Who were the Bolsheviks?

Widespread Discontent

The early 1900s saw the rise of nationalist movements in China, Mexico, Ireland, and elsewhere. People around the world sought to live free of outside control.

Three Rebellions In China, the 1899 Boxer Uprising had failed. Still, Chinese nationalism spread. Reformers wanted to strengthen China's government. In 1911, uprisings led to a revolution that overthrew the Qing dynasty. The reformer Sun Yixian (soon yee SHYAHN), also known as Sun Yat-sen, became president of the new Chinese republic.

In Mexico, wealthy foreign companies had much control over the country. Many peasants lived in poverty. In 1910, protests against dictator Porfirio Díaz led to open rebellion, and Díaz was forced from power. A new constitution made reforms, but Mexico still struggled with poverty.

In Ireland, Irish nationalists rebelled against British rule in 1916. This marked the beginning of a six-year struggle for Irish independence. In 1922, the British granted independence to Catholic Ireland, although they kept control of Protestant Northern Ireland.

Postwar Mandates The treaties that ended World War I created a system of **mandates**, or territories administered by the Allied powers. Britain and France took former German colonies in Africa as mandates. Japan and Australia took Pacific islands. In theory, mandates were to be guided by other countries until they were able to be fully independent. In reality, mandates became colonies.

The Middle East The Allied powers also formed mandates in the Middle East, much of which had been controlled by the

Ottoman empire. Arabs had helped the Allied powers during the war, and they expected to gain independence. When Britain and France took Arab lands as mandates, Arabs felt betrayed. During the postwar years, their anger led to protests and revolts against Western imperialism.

When the Allies tried to divide the Turkish peninsula among Greece and other nations, Turks resisted. Led by Mustafa Kemal, Turkish nationalists defeated Greek forces and declared Turkey to be independent in 1923.

Palestine Mandate One center of conflict was the British mandate of Palestine. In the late 1800s, Jews fleeing persecution in Europe began moving to the region, their ancient homeland. By the early 1900s, an Arab nationalist movement was also developing in the region.

During World War I, the Allied powers made conflicting promises to Arabs and Jews. They promised Arabs a kingdom in the Middle East. Yet in 1917, the British issued the Balfour Declaration, stating Britain's support for "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.

After the war, Britain established Arab kingdoms in Iraq and in Transjordan, which was part of the Palestine Mandate. But both Arabs and Jews were unhappy, believing that the Allied powers' wartime promises had been broken. Arabs felt that they should rule the entire mandate. Jews wanted a country of their own for a Jewish national home. As the Arab and Jewish populations in the region increased, conflict developed.

Reading Check What were mandates?



Prosperity to Depression

After World War I, Germany faced many economic problems. It had lost land, people, and resources. At the same time, it owed billions of dollars in reparations, or payments for war damage. Germany printed increasing amounts of money to support its economy. But with so much currency in circulation, German money became almost worthless. Germany was not alone in its economic problems. At the end of the 1920s, a financial crisis spread quickly around the world.

▲ Rapid inflation in the early 1920s made German money so worthless that children used it as building blocks.

A U.S. Financial Crisis Develops During the 1920s, the U.S. economy grew dramatically as American factories shifted from producing war materials to making consumer goods. New goods such as automobiles, radios, and washing machines transformed American life.

The Middle East, 1920s

Map Skills

- Place** Which mandates were French? Which mandates were British?
- Region** How might these mandates lead to conflict?

KEY

- British mandate
- French mandate
- Jewish settlements

0 200 km
0 200 mi
Miller Cylindrical Projection

Mustafa Kemal, leader of the Turkish nationalists

▲ A Jewish farmer in the Palestine Mandate, 1934