

First World War

Western Front

Schlieffenplan: two front war, France then Russia.

Russia mobilized faster than expected, and Germany did not knock France out
Germany tried to stay static in the south while moving quickly in the north
France holds them off at the Marne, leads to Race to the Sea.
West becomes a stalemate

Stalemate leads to expansion of the war to new fronts, more troops, deeper control of the economy, mobilizing the homefront using propaganda and hatred, mobilize minds and scholarship leading to new war tech
Becomes war of attrition: maximum deaths on the other side, can accept staggering losses as long as you kill more of the enemy
Britain blockades the central powers so that by 1916, as farming falls while people's needs rise, German/Austrian/Russian cities start starving

Development of war as a material contest, not a moral one. Men are a material.

Eastern Front

Germany and A-H can push back the Russians starting 1915 w/ Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive
Start seizing huge swaths of Russian territory, ethnically mixed. Large rural Jewish population

Key ideas: stalemate brings war into civilian life, economics of war blur line between homefront and warfront. State control of the media. Germany signs armistice

Bolshevik Revolution

Tsar Nicholas wanted to raise morale by taking control of the army in 1915, except now Russia knew who to blame.

By 1917, city people in Russia are starving

February Revolution- soldiers refused to fire on citizens and joined the revolution

International Women's Day: women started it asking for bread

Parliament formed, Kerensky government

Kerensky Offensive, July 1917: soldiers thought their officers in the backs and retreated

Lenin stepped in to fill the vacuum

Bolsheviks stayed out of government, had clean hands

Lenin's new Marxism said no waiting to abandon the historical path, seize power with violence

Armed rebellion on November 6+7 and Lenin takes over

New foreign policy: all capitalist governments must be overthrown by force

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (3 March 1918)

Russia lost.

Treaty that the Soviet Union signed with Germany, Austria Hungary, dictating the peace

Turkish was written in Arabic until 1922, adopted Roman alphabet to show their secularity

Established new nations carved out of the Russian empire

Ukraine, Latvia, Poland, etc. Economic satellites for Germany/Austria-Hungary

With that peace, Germany could reroute troops from the East. All-out offensive in spring 1918
Germans quickly push Allies back to almost 1914 lines but are quickly exhausted and spread too thin in March 1918

US arrives, commanded by French and tactics developed by Brits

Germany quickly overrun. Three months after promising conquered Russians food, they start losing

Suddenness + censorship + propaganda means nobody thought they could lose

Treaty of Versailles, War Guilt and Reparations

Germans had no foreign troops on their soil, were suing for peace rather than being conquered
Versailles was one of five treaties ending WWI

- Versailles was first

- St. Germain

- Neuilly

- Trianon

- Sevres

Jan 1919: 10,000 delegates from 32 countries discussed what peace terms would be dictated

National self-determination: Woodrow Wilson proposes making countries "democratic" from his perspective

- Needed to create nation-states

- Started the idea of "unmixing" diverse communities to make issues less complicated: ethnic cleansing.

When Germany surrenders, Brest-Litovsk goes away

May/June 1919: Allies present their conditions to a German delegation who hasn't seen it before

- Shock and dismay, threatens to resign

- German admiral was supposed to turn ships over to UK, blows them up instead

- Delegation is blackmail into signing it on 28 June 1919

Schoolchildren during Weimar Republic are learning off of a map of Germany + what they lost

Plebiscite: direct democracy where people could decide what country they wanted to join

Reparations and War Guilt

- Indemnity: penalty for losing

- Reparations: paying for damages caused

 - Add in War Guilt, Article 231: Has to take all of the blame for WWI

 - Have to wait until 1921 to come up with the bill: ends up \$33 Billion

- Military limitations

Emperor had abdicated so it was a parliamentary democracy who caught the blame

Unrest, Revolution and Counterrevolution

For Eastern Europe, war did *not* end in 1918. No peace.

Organized, disorganized killing

- Russia's civil war 1917-1923

- Greco-Turkish War, 1919-1922 (UK and France give permission to invade Turkey)

 - 1.5 million displaced with ethnic cleansing, sanctioned by League of Nations

- Polish-Soviet War 1919-1920