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Origins of World War I

Review:

The Great War (World War I) invoked a sense of patriotism and purpose in many citizens of their respective countries.

People danced when war was declared.

Painter Adolf Hitler was one of these people that were inspired by the war declarations.

Battle of Somme (1916)

- Clash between the British army and German army.
- The British army fired a multitude of shells at the German army in order to weaken them before they went “over the top” of the trenches and kill them.
- This failed and there were 19,000 casualties from the British army (and their allies).

Is this war worth these lives?

Introduction: Differences between World War I & World War II

- German Question:
 - Allied plans
 - Morgenthau plan

Long Term Causes of the War

- Nationalism
 - Each nation believes they are superior to other nations.
 - They had an undoubted belief that God sided with them.
- Militarism
 - The nation's "superiority" is measured by their military power.
 - Example: **Otto von Bismarck**
 - Chancellor of Germany
 - Prussia fights a war on three fronts, Denmark, Austria, and France.
 - Prussia wins and unites Germany under Prussia.
 - Inspired by militarism.
 - Arms race (We need to have a better military than other countries.)
- Alliance System
 - Otto von Bismarck's system
 - 1871: Germany founded as a country
 - Otto von Bismarck wanted to find allies so that Germany was not seen as a threat.
 - Germany wanted to be done after the unification of its state.
 - France harboured hatred for Germany after its loss to Bismarck.
 - Bismarck wanted to isolate France
 - Kaiser Wilhelm II
 - Came to power with idea of extreme nationalism
 - Disliked Bismarck, forces him to retire
 - Angered the Russians by alienating them
 - Wants a large empire like the French and the British
 - Franco-Russian Alliance
 - Signed military alliance between France and Russia
 - Both countries feel extremely isolated and alienated from Germany
 - This causes Germany to be surrounded.

- Britain gets suspicious of Germany
 - German Kaiser wants to have a large empire
 - Engages in naval arms race with Britain, creating enemies with Britain
- Entente Cordial
 - An agreement between France and Britain (not a formal alliance)
 - Made agreement due to German threat
- First Moroccan Crisis
 - Ottoman Empire has lots of land that other countries set their eyes on
 - France claims Morocco
 - March 1905: Germany invades and takes Morocco.
 - Germany hosts a conference thinking that everyone else hates France
 - They want Morocco, France already claimed it.
 - The nations that arrived at the Conference believes that France retains Morocco.
 - If they allow Germany to take Morocco like that, they can do it to anyone else.
- The Triple Entente
 - Agreement between Russia, France, Britain due to increasing threat from Germany
- International Polarization
 - Balkans
 - Austria has not been expanding for a while
 - Austria has been eyeing Ottoman Empire lands
 - Ottoman Empire does not want to lose these territories
 - The people living in the territories also do not want to be conquered.
 - Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Crisis in Bosnia
 - Bosnia is located in the Balkans, part of the Ottoman Empire
 - Austria and Russia made a deal:
 - Austria can take over a part of the Ottoman Empire as long as they wait for Russia to be ready
 - Austria immediately takes over Bosnia, humiliating Russia
 - Russia looks for alliances within the Balkans
- Second Moroccan Crisis
 - Uprising in Morocco against French rule
 - Germany tries to “assist” Morocco with uprising
 - Germany says give us Morocco or lands in Europe
 - This strengthens the bond between France and Britain due to German aggression
- Balkan Wars

- Italy takes over Libya (next to Italy) through convincing from Morocco
- Balkans suddenly realize the Ottoman Empire is weak, causing war to break out for independence.
- The Balkan groups that fought win against the Ottoman Empire.
- Tensions begin to increase between Bulgaria, Serbia, Austria, etc.
- **Serbia**
 - Serbia wanted to get a bunch of land but Austria-Germany immediately prevented them from doing so.
 - Serbia asks Russia for assistance

The Trigger/Spark:

- **The July Crisis**
 - June 28th, 1914: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to Austria-Hungary) in Sarajevo
 - Serbian terrorist kills Ferdinand in Sarajevo
 - Austria believes that the Serbian government is at fault, asking for lots of demands.
 - Serbia agrees but Austria declares war
 - Outbreak of War
 - Germany is forced to back Austria since they are their only true allies.
 - Russia moves to protect Serbia as they are now in an alliance
 - Germany starts declaring wars on both France and Serbia
 - Britain declares war on Germany due to the Schlieffen Plan.
 - Schlieffen Plan
 - Target France first as they are weaker and smaller
 - Invasion starts by mobilizing through Belgium
 - Russia will take longer to mobilize troops
 - **Issue:** British points out how Germany marches through neutral Belgium is a very aggressive, warmongering tactic which sparks more anti-German propaganda. (This would help convince British politicians to allow them to declare war on Germany)
 - Germany's military is smaller and weaker than other nations which hinders the Schlieffen Plan.
 - Belgium was also extremely nationalistic, meaning they immediately fought back, slowing down the Germans. (Belgium eventually loses)
 - The Belgium Railroad wasn't built to immediately transport troops to France, so France was able to mobilize faster than Germany.

- Germany also could not hold the countries that they planned to invade, stretching out their troops.
- War goes on for the Fall 1914-Fall 1918

World War I (Europe 1914)

The Sides:

- *Allies*
 - France
 - United Kingdom
 - Russia
 - Serbia
 - (Italy and the United States will join later)
- *The Central Powers*
 - Germany
 - Austria
 - Italy

The Great War: Guilt Question

Who was guilty for starting World War I?

- Historiography
 - History of the history of a topic(This case: The Great War)
 - Writing of History

World War I Summary:

- US comes in late to end the war
- Russia leaves war due to two revolutions.
- Germany and the Central Powers lose
- Treaty of Versailles created
 - British, Italian, and French powers pushed for Article 231: Germany was guilty.
 - They are also forced to pay reparations. (Germany is now in permanent debt.)
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Interpretations before World War II

- Countries published statements on why they were the “victims”.
 - These statements can be doctored, forged, and used as propaganda to boost their own cause and image.
- Treaty of Versailles created
 - British, Italian, and French powers pushed for Article 231: Germany was guilty.
 - They are also forced to pay reparations. (Germany is now in permanent debt.)
- Interwar Revisionism
 - Claims that Austria and Germany made mistakes but did not intend on starting a war
 - New communist Russia published documents stating that France, Britain and themselves are not completely innocent in the start of the war.
 - *Collective Responsibility*: All powers should take blame for the start of the war.
 - Sidney B. Fay (American politician) argues that Germany should take the majority of the guilt for World War I, but not all of it.
 - *Underlying Causes*:
 - Alliance system
 - Militarism : military plans like the Schlieffen Plan and mobilization of the Franco-Russian alliance increased hostility
 - Nationalism : increases animosity between different countries
- **World War II is started by the new Nazi Germany**
 - The true cause of World War II was Germany, there is no collective responsibility.
 - The context *changes*.
- World War II ends and Germany splits into two
- ***Cold War: Russia v. USA***
 - West Germany is taken by the allies (eventually become NATO)
 - East Germany is taken by Russia (USSR)
- Fischer Controversy
 - Fritz Fischer (1961, German historian) wrote a book called (in English translation) “Germany’s War Aims in the First World War”.
 - (Original Translation) “Grasp for World Power”
 - Book dismantles the idea of Collective Responsibility.
 - France was supposed to be a side power (weaker)
 - Belgium was supposed to be a colony
 - Force West Europe into an economic union
 - States that the German culture is the cause of the aggression of Germany
 - Says the Nazi culture should not be excused for Germany
 - Germany should receive complete blame

So who is at fault?

- Germany attacked France first in 1914
- Russia mobilized their troops first
- Both Russia and Germany gave a “blank check” to Serbia
- Germany was forced to make a move as Austria was their only ally
- Russia had to make a move due to the alliance system
- Germany was not more militaristic than other nations

Most people would say Austria and Serbia were responsible for World War I

Germany is responsible for escalating World War I

Every European nation is at fault for not thinking about what would have happened along the road of the war.

They all have collective irresponsibility.

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Why did the United States enter the war?

- RMS Lusitania (Civilian Ocean Liner)
 - Germany said any US ships sending supplies to Britain is susceptible to sinking
 - The US didn't care and sent an ocean-liner which got blown up by a German u-sub.
- US entered war to protect economic interests

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War and Revolution

The Role of Ideology in World War I

- Lack of ideology

Russia before World War I:

- Democracy begins to emerge in the top powered nations.
- Communist revolution strikes in Russia
 - Battle between ideologies (capitalism v. communism) (democratic v. undemocratic)
- Russia was originally an autocracy

- Romanov dynasty seemed to be similar to the French Bourbon family of 1789 (French Revolution)
 - They did not care about their people and only cared about their wealth
- Russia became the world's largest country with different nationalities.
- Serfdom emerges in 1861 Russia (Slavery with contracts)
- MIR : multiple families share a piece of land and reap the profits
- Russian Orthodox church worked closely with
- Intelligentsia formed
 - Educated members of the aristocracy (growing middle class)
 - They want to solve Russia's problems

Growth of Political Opposition

- Nicholas II (Tsar of Russia)
 - Believed in his own power
 - Believed it was God-given
 - Hated challenges to power
- Constitutional Democrats ("The Cadets")
 - Believed that laws should be applied equally to all classes
- Social Revolutionaries (part of Intelligentsia)
 - Believed that they should prioritize the life of the people and land
 - Use violence to get their way.
- Bloody Sunday (Russian) - 1905
 - Russians losing war against Japan
 - Send Baltic fleet to Japan
 - Entire fleet sunk and war lost to Japan
 - Peaceful protests led by priest against the tsar at the tsar's palace
 - The guards at the palace open fire into the crowd.
 - 100 people die
 - Revolts happen throughout the country
 - Tsar promises constitution in order to stop the revolt

Collapse of Tsarist Regime & Triumph of Lenin

- Prime minister assassinated in the Opera House.
- Tsar tries to lead army but fails, leaving wife in order to run country
 - Wife is German and incompetent
- Rasputin is in the inner circle of the Russian elites.
 - Became scandalous
 - Drank a lot and very full of himself
- Winter 1917 was the worst winter in history for Russia
 - Pushes Russian citizens to the edge

- Food riots start in St. Petersburg (Eventually renamed Petrograd due to Petersburg sounding German)
- Troops ordered to put down civilians
 - Troops refuse
 - Mutinies happen throughout the country
- Uprising starts all over the capital.
- The tsar cannot control the situation from the frontlines.
- The Romanov dynasty dismantles and ends.
- Temporary government set up
- Vladimir Lenin
 - Worked for the government
 - Age 16: Brother was apart of a plot to kill Alexander the III (current tsar)
 - Brother failed and sent to jail
 - Lenin plans to overthrow and kill the tsar regime
 - Lenin says they can lead the workers
 - Lenin forms the Bolsheviks (majority party of Russia)
 - Later rename to communists
 - Russia is scared of revolutionaries as they can start problems for Russia
 - Lenin is a Marxist meaning he did not want to be in the war
 - Russia is unable to pull out of the war because the ruling class wants to be in.
 - Germany sends Lenin back to Russia to cause problems by having Russia pull out of the war.
 - They send him to cause chaos
 - The Bolsheviks want to seize control and elect Vladimir Lenin.
- Challenges to the Revolution
 - *Red Army (Communists)*
 - Led by Trovsky
 - The Whites (anti-Lenin group) don't believe in the Bolsheviks.

Reparations for Germany:

- Germany has to give land back to France, Poland, and Belgium
- Give up all their colonies
- Pay money
- Army reduced from 1 million to 100,000 men
 - No large navy
 - No subs
 - No war planes

- No heavy artillery

Impact of World War I

- Humans that survived:
 - Lost limbs
 - Lost face
 - Impairment to senses
 - Psychological and physical scars
- Fall of Empires:
 - Russian, Austro- Hungarian, Ottoman, German etc
- Russian Revolution
- Rise of Hitler and the Weimar Republic
- Mussolini Rise to Power in Italy
- Loss of power in Great Britain and France
- United States has a new potential role
- Fall of the League of Nations

The Soviet Union

- Introduction
 - Bolsheviks come into power 1917
- Civil War
 - White v. Red Army
 - Red (Communists)
 - White (Foreign troops)
 - White troops were not united
 - Leon Trotsky (Leader of the Red Army)
 - Red Army wins
 - Economy is in shambles
 - Bolsheviks wanted to put economy immediately behind war efforts
- War Communism - Put workers in charge
 - Red Army took a lot of food
- Nepmen
 - Industrial capitalists
- Kulaks

- Peasants
- Could hire other peasants
- Power Struggle: Trotsky v. Joseph Stalin
 - Trotsky (War Hero, Good Writer and Lenin's Right Hand Man)
 - Hero of the People
 - Stalin (Executive Secretary to the Communist Party)
 - Stalin determines who gets jobs
 - Son of serfs
 - Revolutionary
 - Stalin makes arrangements for Lenin's funeral after he dies
 - Tells Trotsky the wrong date of the funeral so he does not show up
 - Trotsky thinks we need to bring communism to other countries and end NEP (New Economic Policy)
 - Stalin believes they can handle communism on their own
 - Stalin works with other Bolsheviks and manipulates everyone against each other
 - Trotsky is isolated in the Communist Party
 - Stalin comes to power and assassinates Trotsky
- The Great Purges
 - Sergei Kirov is assassinated
 - Stalin may have done this
 - Stalin blames this on anti-Stalinist enemies
 - Party purges happens in the Communist Party
 - Most original Bolsheviks are murdered or executed
- Hitler hated communism
 - Was very anti-communist and wanted to invade the East (Poland and USSR)
- World Revolution
- The USSR tries to ally with the West to prevent German invasion
 - No one approaches Stalin

Weimar Germany

- Three Phases:
 - 1918-1923
 - Republic established
 - 1924-1929
 - 1929-1933
- Three Major Problems facing the republic
 - Treaty of Versailles: Terms
 - Territories lost (colonies etc)
 - Military reductions

- Rhineland: occupied by foreign troops and German troops are no longer to ever be there again
 - Economic Reparations
 - Inflation
 - Violent Political Culture
 - Political Assassinations
 - Matthias Erzberger (one of the armistices that signed on ending the war) was assassinated for “betraying the country”)
 - Military Defense Organizations
- Ruhr Occupation & Hyperinflation

The Great Depression

- Introduction
 - Economy struggles to be recovered
 - US is struggling economically heading into war
- Factors Contributing to the Depression
 - Taxes
 - Mass production xx
- Crash and Collapse
 - Wall Street crumbles

Collapse of the Weimar Republic

- Introduction
 - No more putsch attempts (no more attempts to overthrow government)
 - Beer Hall Putsch
 - Dawes Plan
 - DNVP
- Crisis and Collapse 1929-1930
 - The Republic in 1929
 - Industrial production is higher than before

- New economic plan to combat reparations (The Young Plan)
 - All foreign troops will leave Germany ahead of schedule
 - Still have to pay reparations but fluctuates based on how good the economy is in Germany
 - Culture hotspot
 - Welcomed to International Community (no longer viewed as scapegoat)
 - Stood on the brink of economic collapse
 - *Cons*
 - Unemployment is too high
 - Economy is growing very slowly
 - Prosperity is tied to U.S loans
 - Great Depression hits
 - U.S needs loan money ASAP
 - Weimar is unable to pay it all and banks close
 - Crisis and economic emergency erupts
 - Counservative Counterrevolution, Phase I: March 1930-May 1932
 - Nazi breakthrough: Election of September 1930
 - Gains members but fails to gain majority against the socialites
 - Heinrich becomes chancellor, Hindenburg wnts to be president and wants to strengthen presidential power
 - Article 48
 - Socialist do not like this article but have to approve or else Nazi's get majority
 - Phase II: 1932 Election
 - Hitler v. Hindenburg
 - Hindenburg's campaign manager was Bruning
 - Hindenburg fires Bruning for saying they had to spend less money on military and have to stop sending subsidies to large landowners to not destroy the market
 - Hindenburg used to be a general and owns a lot of lands (so does his friends)
 - Hindenburg needs to appoint another chancellor, (appoints Franz von Papen)
 - Wants to have a weaker government
 - Germany is split into states, largest one being Prussia

- Wants to remove the socialist government from Prussia
 - (Excuse was Nazi's would take over Prussian government, so the federal government should take over instead)
 - This is illegal but Hindenburg signs off on this.
- Socialists protest to the Supreme Court. (The court is filled with Conservatives)
 - They won't make a decision or do anything
- Hindenburg wants to work with Hitler to make him happy
 - Hitler says lift the ban on the SA's (Stormtroopers)
 - Hitler wants another election in July 1932
 - Hindenburg agrees to this
- Election of July 1932: Nazi's win
 - Nazi's are now the largest party (not majority)
 - Hindenburg thinks Hitler will back the conservatives now, but Hitler wants to be chancellor
 - Hindenburg refuses
- Election of November 1932
 - Von Papen suggests to declare a military dictatorship
 - This fails.
 - Hitler would undermine the democracy as long as it was legal, so declaring military dictatorship would suspend the constitution which would make them look bad
 - SA's are 4x more than the new reduced military (100,000 men in German

military), if Civil War erupts
Conservatives will lose.

- Phase III: December 1932-January 1933
 - Von Papen is fired.
 - Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher
 - Wants to make an alliance with the Conservatives, Labor Unions, and moderate Nazi followers.
 - Conservatives have power but no support
 - Nazi's have a lot of support but no power

The Nazi Takeover

- Nazi's do NOT seize power.
- Deal between Hitler and Conservatives
- Hindenburg will appoint Hitler as chancellor
- Alliance forms between two groups
- Reichstag (legislative government) deadlock will be broken
- Conservatives will use Hitler's influence and take over government
- Hitler is appointed chancellor. (Article 48)
 - Hitler wanted to immediately destroy and smash the Communist party/supporters
 - The "Legal" Revolution
 - Pass "legal" laws that makes people think everything the chancellor is doing is accepted under the constitution says.
 - Abuses Article 48
 - Reichstag Fire: Someone sets the Reichstag on fire, and scapegoats the Communists (February 1933)
 - "Law for the Protection of the German People and State": Anyone suspected of starting the fire can be thrown in prison without trial.
 - This is used to arrest all communist politicians and supporters and put them in jail.
 - Conservatives love this
 - Communist party is finished
 - Nazi support rises
 - Enabling Act (March 1933)
 - Allows Hitler to ignore the Constitution for four years
 - Helps him have time to "fix the country" without restrictions and they can choose whether to end it or extend it on the term's conclusion

- Hitler becomes Germany's dictator

The Nazi Foreign Policy & The Origins of World War II

- Introduction
 - Hitler wanted to spark a war that would show the dominance of Germany over Europe
 - Starts by wanting to do traditional goal of invading land
 - Racial Purification
- Hitler's Goals & Reasons for Success
 - Lebensraum
 - Greater German Reich
 - Treaty of Versailles
- Diplomatic Revolution
 - Early Foreign Policy Moves
 - Geneva Disarmament Conference
 - Conference to remove lots of weapons from different nations
 - Hitler arrives and says they are leaving since they were already disarmed due to the Treaty of Versailles
 - League of Nations
 - Hitler leaves the League of Nations
 - All these moves are supported by Germany
- 1938 Expansion of Germany
 - Austria: Anschluss
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Sudetenland
 - Munich Conference
 - Appeasement
- Road to War
 - Dissolution of Czechoslovakia
 - Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia
 - Slovakia
 - Poland

Hitler's War

- Hitler has negotiations with the Soviet Union

- Shocks everyone since Hitler and Stalin despise each other
 - Hitler does not want to fight a two front war
- Nazi-Soviet alliance announced (This is a danger to Poland)
- Britain and France are allied
- German troops invade Poland
- France falls
- Britain susceptible to air raids
- Hitler offers a deal, Churchill refuses
 - Operation Sea Lion
- Britain survives Battle Of Britain
 - Herman Goring (Luftwaffe German Air Force Leader)
 - Horrible air admiral
 - Cost the war
 - Some British airplanes bombed Berlin, causing Hitler to send planes to kill civilians in Britain (target civilians)
 - This completely inspires the British to evict German forces
- Post-War Divisions
 - Two Germanys:
 - West Germany: Federal Republic
 - East Germany: Democratic Republic

Vergangenheitsbewältigung // “How do we come to terms with the past?”

Emergence of a Bipolar World

The Origins of the Cold War

- Berlin Blockade & Airlift
 - Soviets cutoff West Berlin from the West and Allies had to fly in supplies for months
- Alliances
 - Rio Pact
 - Rio De Janiero and most countries in the Western hemesphere
 - Attack on one is an attack on all
 - Treaty of Brussels
 - Britain, France, 3 unnamed countries
 - Attack on one is an attack on all
 - Worried about the Soviet Communists
 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 - Countries voluntarily joined
 - Attack on one is an attack on all
 - Sweden and Finland joined NATO (past few months)
 - Democrats/Capitalists/**Anti-communists**
 - **Formed 1949**
 - 1955 // The Warsaw Pact
 - Obligation (no choice) to join
 - Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, USSR etc are in the Warsaw Pact.

Sovietization of Eastern Europe

- Background: Similarities & Differences in Eastern Europe before 1945
 - All of Eastern Europe was in the Soviet occupation zone (
 - All (Bulgarians, Czechs, Yugoslavians etc) were Slavic in ethnic originso
- “Liberation”
 - Resistance Movements
 - Red Army

[ex]