

WORLD WAR I BEGAN IN 1914 AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND AND LASTED UNTIL 1918. DURING THE CONFLICT, GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (THE CENTRAL POWERS) FOUGHT AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, RUSSIA, ITALY, ROMANIA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES (THE ALLIED POWERS). THANKS TO NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES AND THE HORRORS OF TRENCH WARFARE, WORLD WAR I SAW UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF CARNAGE AND DESTRUCTION. BY THE TIME THE WAR WAS OVER AND THE ALLIED POWERS CLAIMED VICTORY, MORE THAN 16 MILLION PEOPLE—SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ALIKE—WERE DEAD.

ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND

TENSIONS HAD BEEN BREWING THROUGHOUT EUROPE—ESPECIALLY IN THE TROUBLED BALKAN REGION OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE—FOR YEARS BEFORE WORLD WAR I ACTUALLY BROKE OUT.

A NUMBER OF ALLIANCES INVOLVING EUROPEAN POWERS, THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, RUSSIA AND OTHER PARTIES HAD EXISTED FOR YEARS, BUT POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN THE BALKANS (PARTICULARLY BOSNIA, SERBIA AND HERZEGOVINA) THREATENED TO DESTROY THESE AGREEMENTS.

THE SPARK THAT IGNITED WORLD WAR I WAS STRUCK IN SARAJEVO, BOSNIA, WHERE ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND—HEIR TO THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE—WAS SHOT TO DEATH ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, SOPHIE, BY

THE SERBIAN NATIONALIST GAVRILO PRINCIP ON JUNE 28, 1914. PRINCIP AND OTHER NATIONALISTS WERE STRUGGLING TO END AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN RULE OVER BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

THE ASSASSINATION OF FRANZ FERDINAND SET OFF A RAPIDLY ESCALATING CHAIN OF EVENTS: AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, LIKE MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, BLAMED THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE ATTACK AND HOPED TO USE THE INCIDENT AS JUSTIFICATION FOR SETTLING THE QUESTION OF SERBIAN NATIONALISM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

KAISER WILHELM II

BECAUSE MIGHTY RUSSIA SUPPORTED SERBIA, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WAITED TO DECLARE WAR UNTIL ITS LEADERS RECEIVED

ASSURANCE FROM GERMAN LEADER KAISER WILHELM II THAT GERMANY WOULD SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE. AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN LEADERS FEARED THAT A RUSSIAN INTERVENTION WOULD INVOLVE RUSSIA'S ALLY, FRANCE, AND POSSIBLY GREAT BRITAIN AS WELL.

ON JULY 5, KAISER WILHELM SECRETLY PLEDGED HIS SUPPORT, GIVING AUSTRIA-HUNGARY A SO-CALLED CARTE BLANCHE, OR "BLANK CHECK" ASSURANCE OF GERMANY'S BACKING IN THE CASE OF WAR. THE DUAL MONARCHY OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY THEN SENT AN ULTIMATUM TO SERBIA, WITH SUCH HARSH TERMS AS TO MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT.

WORLD WAR I BEGINS

CONVINCED THAT AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WAS READYING FOR

WAR, THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE SERBIAN ARMY TO MOBILIZE AND APPEALED TO RUSSIA FOR ASSISTANCE. ON JULY 28, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY DECLARED WAR ON SERBIA, AND THE TENUOUS PEACE BETWEEN EUROPE'S GREAT POWERS QUICKLY COLLAPSED.

WITHIN A WEEK, RUSSIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND SERBIA HAD LINED UP AGAINST AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND GERMANY, AND WORLD WAR I HAD BEGUN.

THE WESTERN FRONT

ACCORDING TO AN AGGRESSIVE MILITARY STRATEGY KNOWN AS THE SCHLIEFFEN PLAN (NAMED FOR ITS MASTERMIND, GERMAN FIELD MARSHAL ALFRED VON SCHLIEFFEN), GERMANY BEGAN FIGHTING WORLD WAR I ON TWO FRONTS, INVADING

**FRANCE THROUGH NEUTRAL
BELGIUM IN THE WEST AND
CONFRONTING RUSSIA IN THE
EAST.**

**ON AUGUST 4, 1914, GERMAN
TROOPS CROSSED THE BORDER
INTO BELGIUM. IN THE FIRST
BATTLE OF WORLD WAR I,
THE GERMANS ASSAULTED
THE HEAVILY FORTIFIED
CITY OF LIEGE, USING THE
MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS IN
THEIR ARSENAL—ENORMOUS
SIEGE CANNONS—TO CAPTURE
THE CITY BY AUGUST 15. THE
GERMANS LEFT DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION IN THEIR
WAKE AS THEY ADVANCED
THROUGH BELGIUM TOWARD
FRANCE, SHOOTING CIVILIANS
AND EXECUTING A BELGIAN
PRIEST THEY HAD ACCUSED
OF INCITING CIVILIAN
RESISTANCE.**

**FIRST BATTLE OF THE
MARNE**

**IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF
THE MARNE, FOUGHT FROM
SEPTEMBER 6-9, 1914, FRENCH
AND BRITISH FORCES
CONFRONTED THE INVADING
GERMANY ARMY, WHICH HAD
BY THEN PENETRATED DEEP
INTO NORTHEASTERN
FRANCE, WITHIN 30 MILES OF
PARIS. THE ALLIED TROOPS
CHECKED THE GERMAN
ADVANCE AND MOUNTED A
SUCCESSFUL COUNTERATTACK,
DRIVING THE GERMANS BACK
TO NORTH OF THE AISNE
RIVER.**

**THE DEFEAT MEANT THE END
OF GERMAN PLANS FOR A
QUICK VICTORY IN FRANCE.
BOTH SIDES DUG
INTO TRENCHES, AND THE
WESTERN FRONT WAS THE
SETTING FOR A HELLISH WAR
OF ATTRITION THAT WOULD
LAST MORE THAN THREE
YEARS.**

PARTICULARLY LONG AND COSTLY BATTLES IN THIS CAMPAIGN WERE FOUGHT AT VERDUN (FEBRUARY-DECEMBER 1916) AND THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME (JULY-NOVEMBER 1916). GERMAN AND FRENCH TROOPS SUFFERED CLOSE TO A MILLION CASUALTIES IN THE BATTLE OF VERDUN ALONE.

WORLD WAR I BOOKS AND ART

THE BLOODSHED ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WESTERN FRONT, AND THE DIFFICULTIES ITS SOLDIERS HAD FOR YEARS AFTER THE FIGHTING HAD ENDED, INSPIRED SUCH WORKS OF ART AS "ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT" BY ERICH MARIA REMARQUE AND "IN FLANDERS FIELDS" BY CANADIAN DOCTOR LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOHN MCCRAE. IN THE LATTER POEM, MCCRAE WRITES FROM

**THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE
FALLEN SOLDIERS:**

***TO YOU FROM FAILING HANDS
WE THROW
THE TORCH; BE YOURS TO
HOLD IT HIGH.
IF YE BREAK FAITH WITH US
WHO DIE
WE SHALL NOT SLEEP,
THOUGH POPPIES GROW
IN FLANDERS FIELDS.***

**PUBLISHED IN 1915, THE POEM
INSPIRED THE USE OF THE
POPPY AS A SYMBOL OF
REMEMBRANCE.**

**VISUAL ARTISTS LIKE OTTO
DIX OF GERMANY AND
BRITISH PAINTERS
WYNDHAM LEWIS, PAUL NASH
AND DAVID BOMBERG USED
THEIR FIRSTHAND
EXPERIENCE AS SOLDIERS IN
WORLD WAR I TO CREATE
THEIR ART, CAPTURING THE
ANGUISH OF TRENCH
WARFARE AND EXPLORING
THE THEMES OF**

**TECHNOLOGY, VIOLENCE AND
LANDSCAPES DECIMATED BY
WAR.**

THE EASTERN FRONT

**ON THE EASTERN FRONT OF
WORLD WAR I, RUSSIAN
FORCES INVADED THE
GERMAN-HELD REGIONS OF
EAST PRUSSIA AND POLAND,
BUT WERE STOPPED SHORT BY
GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN
FORCES AT THE BATTLE OF
TANNENBERG IN LATE AUGUST
1914.**

**DESPITE THAT VICTORY,
RUSSIA'S ASSAULT HAD
FORCED GERMANY TO MOVE
TWO CORPS FROM THE
WESTERN FRONT TO THE
EASTERN, CONTRIBUTING TO
THE GERMAN LOSS IN THE
BATTLE OF THE MARNE.**

**COMBINED WITH THE FIERCE
ALLIED RESISTANCE IN
FRANCE, THE ABILITY OF**

RUSSIA'S HUGE WAR MACHINE TO MOBILIZE RELATIVELY QUICKLY IN THE EAST ENSURED A LONGER, MORE GRUELING CONFLICT INSTEAD OF THE QUICK VICTORY GERMANY HAD HOPED TO WIN UNDER THE SCHLIEFFEN PLAN.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

FROM 1914 TO 1916, RUSSIA'S ARMY MOUNTED SEVERAL OFFENSIVES ON WORLD WAR I'S EASTERN FRONT, BUT WAS UNABLE TO BREAK THROUGH GERMAN LINES.

DEFEAT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, COMBINED WITH ECONOMIC INSTABILITY AND THE SCARCITY OF FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIALS, LED TO MOUNTING DISCONTENT AMONG THE BULK OF RUSSIA'S POPULATION, ESPECIALLY THE POVERTY-STRIKEN WORKERS AND

**PEASANTS. THIS INCREASED
HOSTILITY WAS DIRECTED
TOWARD THE IMPERIAL
REGIME OF CZAR NICHOLAS
II AND HIS UNPOPULAR
GERMAN-BORN WIFE,
ALEXANDRA.**

**RUSSIA'S SIMMERING
INSTABILITY EXPLODED IN
THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF
1917, SPEARHEADED
BY VLADIMIR LENIN AND
THE BOLSHEVIKS, WHICH
ENDED CZARIST RULE AND
BROUGHT A HALT TO RUSSIAN
PARTICIPATION IN WORLD
WAR I.**

**RUSSIA REACHED
AN ARMISTICE WITH THE
CENTRAL POWERS IN EARLY
DECEMBER 1917, FREEING
GERMAN TROOPS TO FACE THE
REMAINING ALLIES ON THE
WESTERN FRONT.**

**AMERICA ENTERS WORLD
WAR I**

AT THE OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN 1914, THE UNITED STATES REMAINED ON THE SIDELINES OF WORLD WAR I, ADOPTING THE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY FAVORED BY PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON WHILE CONTINUING TO ENGAGE IN COMMERCE AND SHIPPING WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT.

NEUTRALITY, HOWEVER, WAS INCREASING DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN IN THE FACE OF GERMANY'S UNCHECKED SUBMARINE AGGRESSION AGAINST NEUTRAL SHIPS, INCLUDING THOSE CARRYING PASSENGERS. IN 1915, GERMANY DECLARED THE WATERS SURROUNDING THE BRITISH ISLES TO BE A WAR ZONE, AND GERMAN U-BOATS SUNK SEVERAL COMMERCIAL AND PASSENGER VESSELS, INCLUDING SOME U.S. SHIPS.

**WIDESPREAD PROTEST OVER
THE SINKING BY U-BOAT OF
THE BRITISH OCEAN
LINER LUSITANIA—
TRAVELING FROM NEW
YORK TO LIVERPOOL,
ENGLAND WITH HUNDREDS OF
AMERICAN PASSENGERS
ONBOARD—IN MAY 1915 HELPED
TURN THE TIDE OF AMERICAN
PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST
GERMANY. IN FEBRUARY 1917,
CONGRESS PASSED A \$250
MILLION ARMS
APPROPRIATIONS BILL
INTENDED TO MAKE THE
UNITED STATES READY FOR
WAR.**

**GERMANY SUNK FOUR MORE
U.S. MERCHANT SHIPS THE
FOLLOWING MONTH, AND ON
APRIL 2 WOODROW WILSON
APPEARED BEFORE CONGRESS
AND CALLED FOR A
DECLARATION OF WAR
AGAINST GERMANY.**

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

WITH WORLD WAR I HAVING EFFECTIVELY SETTLED INTO A STALEMATE IN EUROPE, THE ALLIES ATTEMPTED TO SCORE A VICTORY AGAINST THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, WHICH ENTERED THE CONFLICT ON THE SIDE OF THE CENTRAL POWERS IN LATE 1914.

AFTER A FAILED ATTACK ON THE DARDANELLES (THE STRAIT LINKING THE SEA OF MARMARA WITH THE AEGEAN SEA), ALLIED FORCES LED BY BRITAIN LAUNCHED A LARGE-SCALE LAND INVASION OF THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA IN APRIL 1915. THE INVASION ALSO PROVED A DISMAL FAILURE, AND IN JANUARY 1916 ALLIED FORCES STAGED A FULL RETREAT FROM THE SHORES OF THE PENINSULA AFTER SUFFERING 250,000 CASUALTIES.

DID YOU KNOW? THE YOUNG WINSTON CHURCHILL, THEN FIRST LORD OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY, RESIGNED HIS COMMAND AFTER THE FAILED GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN IN 1916, ACCEPTING A COMMISSION WITH AN INFANTRY BATTALION IN FRANCE. BRITISH-LED FORCES ALSO COMBATED THE OTTOMAN TURKS IN EGYPT AND MESOPOTAMIA, WHILE IN NORTHERN ITALY, AUSTRIAN AND ITALIAN TROOPS FACED OFF IN A SERIES OF 12 BATTLES ALONG THE ISONZO RIVER, LOCATED AT THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

BATTLE OF THE ISONZO

THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE ISONZO TOOK PLACE IN THE LATE SPRING OF 1915, SOON AFTER ITALY'S ENTRANCE INTO THE WAR ON THE ALLIED SIDE. IN THE TWELFTH BATTLE OF THE

**ISONZO, ALSO KNOWN AS
THE BATTLE OF
CAPORETTO (OCTOBER 1917),
GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS
HELPED AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
WIN A DECISIVE VICTORY.**

**AFTER CAPORETTO, ITALY'S
ALLIES JUMPED IN TO OFFER
INCREASED ASSISTANCE.
BRITISH AND FRENCH-AND
LATER, AMERICAN-TROOPS
ARRIVED IN THE REGION, AND
THE ALLIES BEGAN TO TAKE
BACK THE ITALIAN FRONT.**

WORLD WAR I AT SEA

**IN THE YEARS BEFORE WORLD
WAR I, THE SUPERIORITY OF
BRITAIN'S ROYAL NAVY WAS
UNCHALLENGED BY ANY
OTHER NATION'S FLEET, BUT
THE IMPERIAL GERMAN NAVY
HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL
STRIDES IN CLOSING THE GAP
BETWEEN THE TWO NAVAL
POWERS. GERMANY'S
STRENGTH ON THE HIGH SEAS
WAS ALSO AIDED BY ITS**

LETHAL FLEET OF U-BOAT SUBMARINES.

**AFTER THE BATTLE OF
DOGGER BANK IN JANUARY
1915, IN WHICH THE BRITISH
MOUNTED A SURPRISE
ATTACK ON GERMAN SHIPS IN
THE NORTH SEA, THE
GERMAN NAVY CHOSE NOT TO
CONFRONT BRITAIN'S MIGHTY
ROYAL NAVY IN A MAJOR
BATTLE FOR MORE THAN A
YEAR, PREFERRING TO REST
THE BULK OF ITS NAVAL
STRATEGY ON ITS U-BOATS.**

**THE BIGGEST NAVAL
ENGAGEMENT OF WORLD WAR
I, THE BATTLE OF
JUTLAND (MAY 1916) LEFT
BRITISH NAVAL
SUPERIORITY ON THE NORTH
SEA INTACT, AND GERMANY
WOULD MAKE NO FURTHER
ATTEMPTS TO BREAK AN
ALLIED NAVAL BLOCKADE FOR
THE REMAINDER OF THE
WAR.**

WORLD WAR I PLANES

WORLD WAR I WAS THE FIRST MAJOR CONFLICT TO HARNESS THE POWER OF PLANES.

THOUGH NOT AS IMPACTFUL AS THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY OR GERMANY'S U-BOATS, THE USE OF PLANES IN WORLD WAR I PRESAGED THEIR LATER, PIVOTAL ROLE IN MILITARY CONFLICTS AROUND THE GLOBE.

AT THE DAWN OF WORLD WAR I, AVIATION WAS A RELATIVELY NEW FIELD;

THE WRIGHT

BROTHERS TOOK THEIR FIRST SUSTAINED FLIGHT JUST ELEVEN YEARS BEFORE, IN 1903. AIRCRAFT WERE INITIALLY USED PRIMARILY FOR RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS. DURING THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE, INFORMATION PASSED FROM PILOTS ALLOWED THE ALLIES TO EXPLOIT WEAK SPOTS IN THE GERMAN LINES, HELPING

**THE ALLIES TO PUSH
GERMANY OUT OF FRANCE.**

**THE FIRST MACHINE GUNS
WERE SUCCESSFULLY
MOUNTED ON PLANES IN JUNE
OF 1912 IN THE UNITED
STATES, BUT WERE
IMPERFECT; IF TIMED
INCORRECTLY, A BULLET
COULD EASILY FELL THE
PROPELLER OF THE PLANE IT
CAME FROM. THE MORANE-
SAULNIER L, A FRENCH PLANE,
PROVIDED A SOLUTION: THE
PROPELLER WAS ARMORED
WITH DEFLECTOR WEDGES
THAT PREVENTED BULLETS
FROM HITTING IT. THE
MORANE-SAULNIER TYPE L
WAS USED BY THE FRENCH,
THE BRITISH ROYAL FLYING
CORPS (PART OF THE ARMY),
THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY
AIR SERVICE AND THE
IMPERIAL RUSSIAN AIR
SERVICE. THE BRITISH
BRISTOL TYPE 22 WAS
ANOTHER POPULAR MODEL**

**USED FOR BOTH
RECONNAISSANCE WORK AND
AS A FIGHTER PLANE.**

**DUTCH INVENTOR ANTHONY
FOKKER IMPROVED UPON THE
FRENCH DEFLECTOR SYSTEM
IN 1915. HIS "INTERRUPTER"
SYNCHRONIZED THE FIRING
OF THE GUNS WITH THE
PLANE'S PROPELLER TO AVOID
COLLISIONS. THOUGH HIS
MOST POPULAR PLANE DURING
WWI WAS THE SINGLE-SEAT
FOKKER EINDECKER, FOKKER
CREATED OVER 40 KINDS OF
AIRPLANES FOR THE
GERMANS.**

**THE ALLIES DEBUTED THE
HANDLEY-PAGE HP O/400, THE
FIRST TWO-ENGINE BOMBER,
IN 1915. AS AERIAL
TECHNOLOGY PROGRESSED,
LONG-RANGE HEAVY BOMBERS
LIKE GERMANY'S GOTHA G.V.
(FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1917)
WERE USED TO STRIKE CITIES
LIKE LONDON. THEIR SPEED**

**AND MANEUVERABILITY
PROVED TO BE FAR DEADLIER
THAN GERMANY'S EARLIER
ZEPPELIN RAIDS.**

**BY WAR'S END, THE ALLIES
WERE PRODUCING FIVE TIMES
MORE AIRCRAFT THAN THE
GERMANS. ON APRIL 1, 1918,
THE BRITISH CREATED THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE, OR RAF,
THE FIRST AIR FORCE TO BE
A SEPARATE MILITARY
BRANCH INDEPENDENT FROM
THE NAVY OR ARMY.**

SECOND BATTLE OF THE MARNE

**WITH GERMANY ABLE TO
BUILD UP ITS STRENGTH ON
THE WESTERN FRONT AFTER
THE ARMISTICE WITH
RUSSIA, ALLIED TROOPS
STRUGGLED TO HOLD OFF
ANOTHER GERMAN OFFENSIVE
UNTIL PROMISED
REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE
UNITED STATES WERE ABLE
TO ARRIVE.**

ON JULY 15, 1918, GERMAN TROOPS LAUNCHED WHAT WOULD BECOME THE LAST GERMAN OFFENSIVE OF THE WAR, ATTACKING FRENCH FORCES (JOINED BY 85,000 AMERICAN TROOPS AS WELL AS SOME OF THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE) IN THE SECOND BATTLE OF THE MARNE. THE ALLIES SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED BACK THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE AND LAUNCHED THEIR OWN COUNTEROFFENSIVE JUST THREE DAYS LATER.

AFTER SUFFERING MASSIVE CASUALTIES, GERMANY WAS FORCED TO CALL OFF A PLANNED OFFENSIVE FURTHER NORTH, IN THE FLANDERS REGION STRETCHING BETWEEN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, WHICH WAS ENVISIONED AS GERMANY'S BEST HOPE OF VICTORY.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF THE MARNE TURNED THE TIDE OF WAR DECISIVELY TOWARDS THE ALLIES, WHO WERE ABLE TO REGAIN MUCH OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED.

TOWARD ARMISTICE

BY THE FALL OF 1918, THE CENTRAL POWERS WERE UNRAVELING ON ALL FRONTS.

DESPITE THE TURKISH VICTORY AT GALLIPOLI, LATER DEFEATS BY INVADING FORCES AND AN ARAB REVOLT HAD COMBINED TO DESTROY THE OTTOMAN ECONOMY AND DEVASTATE ITS LAND, AND THE TURKS SIGNED A TREATY WITH THE ALLIES IN LATE OCTOBER 1918.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, DISSOLVING FROM WITHIN DUE TO GROWING NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS AMONG ITS DIVERSE

**POPULATION, REACHED AN
ARMISTICE ON NOVEMBER 4.
FACING DWINDLING
RESOURCES ON THE
BATTLEFIELD, DISCONTENT
ON THE HOMEFRONT AND THE
SURRENDER OF ITS ALLIES,
GERMANY WAS FINALLY
FORCED TO SEEK AN
ARMISTICE ON NOVEMBER 11,
1918, ENDING WORLD WAR I.**

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

**AT THE PARIS PEACE
CONFERENCE IN 1919, ALLIED
LEADERS STATED THEIR
DESIRE TO BUILD A POST-WAR
WORLD THAT WOULD
SAFEGUARD ITSELF AGAINST
FUTURE CONFLICTS OF SUCH
DEVASTATING SCALE.**

**SOME HOPEFUL
PARTICIPANTS HAD EVEN
BEGUN CALLING WORLD WAR I
"THE WAR TO END ALL WARS."
BUT THE TREATY OF
VERSAILLES, SIGNED ON JUNE**

**28, 1919, WOULD NOT ACHIEVE
THAT LOFTY GOAL.**

**SADDLED WITH WAR GUILT,
HEAVY REPARATIONS AND
DENIED ENTRANCE INTO
THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS,
GERMANY FELT TRICKED
INTO SIGNING THE TREATY,
HAVING BELIEVED ANY PEACE
WOULD BE A "PEACE WITHOUT
VICTORY," AS PUT FORWARD
BY WILSON IN HIS
FAMOUS FOURTEEN
POINTS SPEECH OF JANUARY
1918.**

**AS THE YEARS PASSED,
HATRED OF THE VERSAILLES
TREATY AND ITS AUTHORS
SETTLED INTO A SMOLDERING
RESENTMENT IN GERMANY
THAT WOULD, TWO DECADES
LATER, BE COUNTED AMONG
THE CAUSES OF WORLD WAR
II.**

WORLD WAR I CASUALTIES

WORLD WAR I TOOK THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 9 MILLION SOLDIERS; 21 MILLION MORE WERE WOUNDED. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES CAUSED INDIRECTLY BY THE WAR NUMBERED CLOSE TO 10 MILLION. THE TWO NATIONS MOST AFFECTED WERE GERMANY AND FRANCE, EACH OF WHICH SENT SOME 80 PERCENT OF THEIR MALE POPULATIONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 49 INTO BATTLE.

READ MORE: [THE PERILOUS BUT CRITICAL ROLE OF WORLD WAR I RUNNERS](#)

THE POLITICAL DISRUPTION SURROUNDING WORLD WAR I ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE FALL OF FOUR VENERABLE IMPERIAL DYNASTIES: GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

LEGACY OF WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I BROUGHT ABOUT MASSIVE SOCIAL UPHEAVAL, AS MILLIONS OF WOMEN ENTERED THE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT MEN WHO WENT TO WAR AND TO REPLACE THOSE WHO NEVER CAME BACK. THE FIRST GLOBAL WAR ALSO HELPED TO SPREAD ONE OF THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST GLOBAL PANDEMICS, THE SPANISH FLU EPIDEMIC OF 1918, WHICH KILLED AN ESTIMATED 20 TO 50 MILLION PEOPLE.

WORLD WAR I HAS ALSO BEEN REFERRED TO AS "THE FIRST MODERN WAR." MANY OF THE TECHNOLOGIES WE NOW ASSOCIATE WITH MILITARY CONFLICT—MACHINE GUNS, TANKS, AERIAL COMBAT AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS—WERE INTRODUCED ON A MASSIVE SCALE DURING WORLD WAR I.

**THE SEVERE EFFECTS
THAT CHEMICAL
WEAPONS SUCH AS MUSTARD
GAS AND PHOSGENE HAD ON
SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS
DURING WORLD WAR I
GALVANIZED PUBLIC AND
MILITARY ATTITUDES
AGAINST THEIR CONTINUED
USE. THE GENEVA
CONVENTION AGREEMENTS,
SIGNED IN 1925, RESTRICTED
THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND
BIOLOGICAL AGENTS IN
WARFARE AND REMAINS IN
EFFECT TODAY.**