



ÇAPAMUN'23



OTTOMAN WAR
CABINET OF 1914
Study Guide

ÇAPAMUN HCC OTTOMAN WAR OF 1914

- 1. Letter from Under Secretary General**
- 2. Introduction to the Committee**
- 3. Key Terms**
 - Caliphate
 - Djihad
 - Union and Progress Party
 - Freedom and Accord Party
 - Constitutional Monarchy
 - Secret Agreements Upon the Status of the Ottoman Empire
- 4. Timeline of Events**
 - Young Turk Revolution
 - 31 March Incident
 - Italo-Turkish War
 - 1912 Election
 - First Balkan War
 - Coup d'état of 1913
 - Second Balkan War
 - Entrance to the World War
 - Front of Gallipoli
 - Front of Caucasus
 - Front of Sinia & Palestine
 - Front of Mesopotamia
 - Arab Front
 - End of the World War and Treaties
- 5. Major Parties Involved**
 - Central Powers
 - Entente Powers
- 6. Bibliography**

LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Esteemed participants of the this committee,
Firstly, I'm pleased to welcome you all to the first ever session of ÇAPAMUN. I'm Berkay Öztürk, it's an honor to introduce you all as the Under Secretary General of this committee, the Historical Crisis Committee: Ottoman War Cabinet of WWI

Our historical crisis committee takes you 100 years back to the last days of the Ottoman Empire where the Union and Progress Party was leading the country by the leadership of three pashas: Talat, Enver and Cemal. We are waiting for you to experience the hard conditions of that time and change the history of the empire under these hard conditions. Firstly I have to thank all board members starting with Çınar Varlık, our Head of Crisis, for giving me the chance to be a part of this conference and family. Also, I have to thank my hardworking academic assistants Ceren Gülüş and Ali Delice for helping me whenever and wherever I need them.

If you have any more questions about the committee, study guide, crisis procedure, or ÇAPAMUN; please feel free to contact me from:

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Introduction to the Committee

By the year 1908, members of the Union and Progress Party such as Enver Bey and Resneli Niyazi Bey managed to bring the Kanun-i Esasi to power. With the establishment of Parliamentary Monarchy they put an end to the Era of Istibdad, known as the dictatorship of Abdulhamid II between the years 1878-1908. They took down Abdulhamid II and crowned his brother Reşad under the name Mehmed V on the accusation of interfering the Event of 31st of March. After the First Balkan War and loss of Edirne made the members of the Union and Progress Party mad at the present government and they planned a coup d'état in January 1913. From that date the Unionist's took full control of the government, so the state. Unionists had 3 terms of sadrazams starting with Mahmud Şevked Paşa (January 1913 to June 1913), Said Halim Paşa (June 1913 to February 1917) and Talat Paşa (February 1917 to October 1918). The Ottoman Empire's entry into World War I began when two recently purchased ships of its navy, still crewed by German sailors and commanded by their German admiral, carried out the Black Sea Raid, a surprise attack against Russian ports, on 29 October 1914. Russia replied by declaring war on 1 November 1914 and Russia's allies, Britain and France, then declared war on the Ottoman Empire on 5 November 1914. From 1914 to 1918, the Ottoman military fought on four intensive fronts: the Caucasus, the Dardanelles (Gallipoli), Sinai-Palestine, and Mesopotamia-Iraq. They also fought on less intensive

fronts both independently and with the Central Powers: Arabia-Yemen, Iran, Azerbaijan, Romania, Galicia, and Macedonia.

Key Terms

Caliphate

A caliphate is a form of Islamic government that is led by a caliph, who is considered to be the successor to the Prophet Muhammad as the political and religious leader of the Muslim community. The term "caliphate" comes from the Arabic word "khilafa," which means "succession" or "stewardship."

Historically, caliphates were established following the death of the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century, and they continued to exist in various forms until the 20th century. The caliphate was considered to be the pinnacle of Islamic governance, and the caliph was seen as the ultimate authority on matters of religion, law, and government.

During the Islamic Golden Age, which spanned from the 8th to the 14th centuries, the caliphate was a center of learning, culture, and scientific advancement. However, over time, the caliphate became increasingly weakened by internal conflicts and external pressures from other empires.

Jihad

In Islamic history, jihad has been used to refer to military campaigns launched by Muslims against non-Muslims in order to defend or spread the Islamic faith. These campaigns were not necessarily offensive in nature, but were often defensive in nature, aimed at protecting the Muslim community from external threats.

During the early Islamic period, the concept of jihad was closely tied to the concept of the Islamic state, which was seen as the protector of the Islamic faith and the Muslim community. The early Islamic armies were often called upon to engage in jihad to defend the Islamic state and to spread the Islamic faith.

Over time, the concept of jihad became more complex and nuanced, with different scholars and leaders interpreting it in different ways. Some scholars emphasized the importance of defensive jihad, while others argued that offensive jihad was necessary to spread the Islamic faith and protect Muslim interests.

Union and Progress Party

The Union and Progress Party, also known as the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), was a political party in the Ottoman Empire that emerged in the late 19th century. The party was

founded in 1889 by a group of Ottoman intellectuals who were concerned about the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the increasing dominance of European powers in the region.

The Union and Progress Party was committed to modernizing and strengthening the Ottoman Empire in order to make it competitive with other world powers. They believed that the empire needed to embrace the values of science, technology, education, and democracy in order to survive.

The party was particularly focused on the issues of political reform and national identity. They believed that the Ottoman Empire needed to establish a more democratic system of government that would give more power to the people and limit the power of the Sultan and his advisors. They also believed that the empire needed to promote a sense of national identity among its diverse population, which included Turks, Arabs, Kurds, Armenians, and other groups.

Under the leadership of figures such as Mehmed Talat Paşa, Ismail Enver Paşa, and Ahmed Kemal Paşa, the Union and Progress Party became the dominant political force in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century. The party played a key role in the Young Turk Revolution of 1908, which overthrew the authoritarian regime of Sultan Abdulhamid II and established a constitutional monarchy.

Freedom and Accord Party

In order to create a constitutional monarchy and change the political system, academics and politicians in the Ottoman Empire created the Freedom and Accord Party in 1911. The party supported the establishment of a bicameral parliament, the defense of individual rights, and the advancement of economic and educational growth. The party, however, ran into opposition from traditional segments of Ottoman society, and the Sultan disbanded the parliament in 1913, which effectively terminated the party's power. Despite its brief existence, the party had a big impact on Ottoman politics and society, which helped pave the way for later movements for democratic reform.

Constitutional Monarchy

A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which the monarch acts as head of state under a constitution that defines the powers and limits of the monarch and other governmental institutions. The role of the monarch is largely ceremonial, with actual government exercised by elected officials and representatives of the people. Constitutional monarchies can be found in countries around the world and represent a stable and unifying symbol of national identity, even if some criticize them as old-fashioned and undemocratic.

Secret Agreements Upon the Status of the Ottoman Empire

Secret agreements upon the status of the Ottoman Empire refer to a series of diplomatic agreements between European powers in the early 20th century aimed at sharing the territories and influence of the Ottoman Empire. The most notable of these agreements was the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, a secret agreement between Britain and France to divide up the Ottoman

Empire's territories in the Middle East. Under this deal, France would have control of Syria and Lebanon, while Britain would have control of Palestine, Iraq and parts of present-day Jordan. Another important agreement is the Treaty of Sèvres, signed in 1920 after World War I, which led to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the modern Turkish state. The treaty also granted territories to Greece, Armenia and other countries. These secret agreements eventually had significant effect in the Middle East, including the emergence of new states and ongoing border and territorial disputes.

Timeline of Events

Young Turk Revolution

The Young Turk Revolution was a political movement that took place in the Ottoman Empire in 1908 with the aim of overthrowing the absolute monarchy and establishing a constitutional government. The revolution was led by a group of reformers known as the Young Turks, who sought to modernize and secularize the Ottoman Empire. The revolution was successful, culminating in the establishment of a constitutional monarchy and the passage of a new constitution in 1909. The Young Turks also implemented a series of political and social reforms aimed at modernizing the Ottoman Empire and achieving greater equality and rights for its citizens.

31 March Incident

The March 31 Incident, also known as the Istanbul Incident, was a political uprising that took place in 1909 in Istanbul, Turkey. The incident was initiated by conservative factions within soldiers and religious institutions of the Ottoman Empire who opposed the Young Turk movement and the new constitutional government. The revolt resulted in violent clashes between the two sides, with the conservative forces eventually being crushed by the Young Turks. The incident led to a period of instability in the Ottoman Empire and increased polarization between conservative and progressive factions in government and society.

Italo-Turkish War

The Italo-Turkish War was a 1911-1912 conflict between Italy and the Ottoman Empire over control of Libya, then part of the Ottoman Empire. The war began when Italy, wanting to expand its colonial holdings in North Africa, declared war on the Ottoman Empire after negotiations for a peaceful solution had failed. Better equipped and more modern than the Ottoman forces, the Italian army quickly gained the upper hand in the conflict. Italian troops captured Tripoli in 1911, the Libyan capital, and continued to advance into Ottoman territory. The Ottoman Empire initially struggled to defend itself effectively, but eventually reunited under the leadership of Enver Pasha and launched a successful counteroffensive against the Italians. However, the Ottoman forces were ultimately defeated and Italy won the war. The Treaty of Lausanne, signed in 1912, recognized Italian control over Libya and granted Italy several other concessions in the region. The Italo-Turkish War had important implications for the Ottoman Empire and European

imperialism in general. The Ottoman Empire was further weakened by the loss of Libya, and the war showcased Italy's growing military and economic power as a major European power. The conflict also contributed to heightened tensions between the European powers in the years leading up to the World War.

1912 Election

The 1912 Ottoman general elections were the first multi-party elections in the history of the Ottoman Empire. The elections were held on April 27, 1912 and were contested by various political parties, including the Liberal Union, the Freedom and accord party, and the Ottoman Socialist Party. Elections were held under the new Ottoman constitution of 1908, which established a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary system of government. The purpose of the elections was to elect representatives of the Ottoman Parliament called Meclis-i Mebusan. The Liberal Union gets the majority of seats in Parliament with 269 out of 275 seats. However, other parties accused the union of electoral fraud, and the election was marred by violence and unrest in parts of the country. Despite the controversy surrounding the election, it marked an important step in the Ottoman Empire's transition to a more democratic form of government. Meclis-i Mebusan operated until the outbreak of World War I in 1914 when it was dissolved by the Ottoman government.

The 1912 Ottoman general election was marked by violent clashes known as "Sopalı Olayları" in Istanbul, Turkey. Tensions between political factions, allegations of fraud, and the use of religious and ethnic identities in political propaganda all contributed to the riots. The ruling CUP party won a clear majority and the events highlighted the challenges of campaigning at a time of political tension and polarisation.

Balkan Wars

The Balkan Wars were a series of conflicts that took place in the Balkan Peninsula in the early 20th century. The region had long been under the control of the Ottoman Empire, but by the early 1900s, several Balkan states were seeking independence and greater territorial control. The Balkan Wars were a result of these tensions, as various Balkan states sought to gain control over different territories.

The First Balkan War began on October 8, 1912, when Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro formed an alliance and declared war on the Ottoman Empire. The alliance quickly gained the upper hand, and by the end of November, the Ottoman Empire had lost most of its European territories, including Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo. The war was characterized by brutal fighting, with both sides committing atrocities against civilians.

The victory of the Balkan alliance in the First Balkan War led to tensions among the victorious states, particularly between Bulgaria and its former allies. These tensions eventually led to the Second Balkan War, which began on June 29, 1913. In this conflict,

Bulgaria, dissatisfied with the territorial gains it had received in the First Balkan War, declared war on Serbia and Greece. However, Romania and the Ottoman Empire also entered the war on the side of Serbia and Greece, and Bulgaria was quickly defeated. The Second Balkan War resulted in significant territorial changes in the region, with Serbia, Greece, and Romania gaining territory at Bulgaria's expense.

The Balkan Wars had significant consequences for the region and contributed to the outbreak of World War I. The territorial changes resulting from the wars destabilized the Balkans and created new tensions and rivalries. In addition, the wars weakened the Ottoman Empire, which had been a major power in the region, and contributed to its eventual collapse. The Balkan Wars were also seen as a prelude to World War I, as the conflicts highlighted the instability and tensions in Europe at the time

Entrance To The World War

The July Crisis, as it is known to historians, was the incident that ignited World War I in the summer of 1914. In essence, this crisis was brought on by the murder of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which sparked a war between the main European powers. The Ottoman Empire was on the periphery of Europe before World War I broke out. This indicates that the Ottoman Empire was not a major European power and was frequently regarded as a 'interloper' by the other European countries. As a result, it did not actively participate in the development of the events that started World War I in 1914.

However, as soon as it appeared that war between the major European powers was about to break out, the leadership of the Ottoman Empire started looking for a means to benefit itself. The Ottoman Empire initially proclaimed its neutrality and started negotiating with both the Central Powers and the Allied Powers.

On July 30, 1914, they finally decided to form a covert Ottoman-German Alliance against Russia as a result of this. Germany provided two naval ships to the Ottoman Empire as part of the deal. (SMS Goeben and SMS Breslau). These naval vessels played a crucial role in the Ottoman Empire's ultimate involvement in World War I combat.

The Black Sea Raid, which happened on October 29, 1914, was the catalyst for the Ottoman entrance into World War I. Ottoman and German naval leaders devised the raid as part of a scheme to deceive Russia into attacking the Ottoman Navy and give the impression that Russia had started the war against the Ottoman Empire. In essence, the Ottoman Navy and the two German warships planned to conduct maritime manoeuvres close to the Russian Navy in an effort to incite them to attack. Admiral Wilhelm Souchon, the German leader of the two German warships, instead launched an assault on the Russian coast. Russian outrage against the

Germans and Ottomans was ignited by this, which compelled the Ottoman Empire to enter World War I.

On November 2, 1914, the Russians proclaimed war on the Ottoman Empire despite the fact that the Ottoman Empire's leadership condemned the assault and attributed it to Wilhelm Souchon. Just three days later, the British and the French made similar declarations of war against the Ottoman Empire. On November 11, the Ottoman Empire formally proclaimed war on the United Kingdom, France, and Russia. The formal declaration of war was issued by Mehmed V, the Ottoman Sultan.

Army of Ottoman Empire In World War I

The Ottoman Empire had four major forces in 1914, each of which was divided into divisions. Both in the Anatolia and the Middle East, various tasks and objectives were assigned to each of the four Ottoman Armies. The Fifth and Sixth Armies of the Ottoman Empire were also created in 1915.

The Ottoman Empire had trouble organizing, correctly supplying, and preparing its armies when it joined World War I in 1914. In actuality, both before and during World War I, the empire had trouble properly supplying and preparing its armed forces. For instance, the nation had mainly provided its soldiers with equipment and weapons made in Germany at the beginning of the war. However, compared to more recently created weapons used by other countries, the weapons were typically out of current and of lower quality. As a result, the force of the Ottoman Empire struggled in many of its pivotal battles.

Overall, it was difficult for the Ottoman Empire to field a strong fighting army during World War I. The Ottoman army was nevertheless commanded by a number of distinct generals, including Enver Pasha, Fakhri Pasha, and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Ottoman Empire's Major Battles In World War I

The Ottoman Empire played a major role in World War I events and participated in battle on several fronts. For instance, Ottoman forces fought mainly in the Middle East and the Balkans. While the Middle East Front saw renowned conflicts like the Battle of Gallipoli, the Balkans Front took place in Eastern Europe. The Caucasus Campaign was fought in the Armenian Highlands, east of the Black Sea, and the Ottomans participated in that conflict as well. All things considered, this meant that during World War I, the Ottoman Empire fought mainly against the British and the Russians.

As was already mentioned, troops from the Ottoman Empire took part in numerous World War I conflicts. The Ottoman Empire took part in some of the most important conflicts of World War I, including:

- **Caucasus Front**
- **Gallipoli Front**
- **Sinai And Palestinian Front**
- **Mesopotamia Front**
- **Arap Front**

Caucasus Front

The Caucasus Front, which lasted from October 1914 to October 1918, was one of the first major operations in which the Ottoman Empire took part during World War I. As previously mentioned, the Caucasus Front took place in the region on Russia's southern frontier, close to the eastern shore of the Black Sea, and was fought between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. During the earlier Russo-Turkish War of 1877, the Ottoman Empire had lost land in the Caucasus to Russia and was keen to reclaim it. The Caucasus Front was welcomed by Germany and Austria-Hungary as a way to separate the Russian troops from the Eastern Front.

In the Caucasus Front, the Ottoman Empire deployed its Third Army, and subsequently bolstered their assault with Second Army components. According to historians, the Ottomans launched their initial assault with up to 190,000 soldiers and deployed over 300,000 soldiers by the conclusion of the conflict. The Front's combat came to an end when Russia withdrew from the conflict as a result of the Russian Revolution's events. For instance, in March 1918, Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which formally put an end to the conflict for Russia.

Gallipoli Front

The Gallipoli Front was the Ottoman Empire's next major campaign in World War I. The Gallipoli Front, also referred to as the "Dardanelles Front," took place between February 17, 1915, and January 9, 1916. It was a significant World War I battle that took place on the Gallipoli Peninsula in southeast Europe, not far from the contemporary country of Turkey. The Allied Powers (Britain, France, and Russia) and the Central Powers took part in combat during the Gallipoli Campaign. (Austria-Hungary, Germany and the Ottoman Empire). Due to its geographical position and proximity to the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Ottoman Empire played a significant part.

From the point of view of the Allied Powers, the Gallipoli Front aimed to weaken the Ottoman Empire, which had a significant impact in the southeast of Europe. For instance, the Allied countries wanted to protect the region's waterways to make sure that the Ottoman Empire did not obstruct essential trade routes, particularly those to Russia. This is so because the Ottoman

Empire had the power to control the waterways leading into and out of the Black Sea, which was a crucial trading route for Russia along its southern frontier.

In February 1915, at the Dardanelles, a crucial entrance to the Ottoman city of Constantinople, the Allied nations—Britain, France, India, Australia, and New Zealand—started their assault against the Ottomans. (modern-day Istanbul). The Gallipoli Peninsula saw another Allied advance in April 1915 as a result of this unsuccessful Allied assault. In close proximity to the Dardanelles is the Gallipoli Peninsula. To take possession of Constantinople was the aim of the attack. As their soldiers battled the Fifth Army of the Ottoman Empire, the British and their allies' entire operation was a colossal failure. By December 1915, the Allies had left the area and left their posts.

Sinia And Palestine Front

The Sinai and Palestinian Campaign was yet another significant World War I operation in which the Ottoman Empire took part. The Allied Powers and the Central Powers clashed for control of Egypt and Palestine in this significant incident on the Middle Eastern Front of World War I.

The British Empire (which included Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, etc.), France, Italy, and some local Arab countries and groups were among the Allied Powers in the Sinai and Palestinian Campaign. The Ottoman Empire, Germany, and Austria-Hungary were Central Powers that took part in the war.

The Suez Canal in Egypt, which was under British rule at the time, was of vital importance to the Central Powers. They actually wanted to seize it so they could stop the Allied Powers from using it to move troops and supplies for the war cause. In order to strengthen the area, the British planned to send troops from their empire. However, in order to take control of the region's transportation hubs, the Ottoman Empire aimed to attack and seize the Suez Canal. A Suez Canal assault by the Ottoman Empire occurred between January 26 and February 4, 1915, as an illustration. German-led Ottoman troops were unable to take control of the Suez Canal, and the British raid was successful. Additionally, during the war, the British used Australian and New Zealand forces (ANZAC) to guard the Sinai Peninsula and the Suez Canal. In the Sinai and Palestinian Campaigns against the Ottoman Empire, for instance, the ANZAC Mounted Division took part in all of the key engagements. More specifically, they were crucial in preventing the Ottomans from seizing control of Egypt under British rule and the Suez Canal.

The Senussi Campaign, the Battle of Romani, the Battle of Rafa, the Three Battles of Gaza, the Battle of Beersheba, the Battle of Mughar Ridge, the Battle of Jerusalem, and the Battle of Megiddo were among the key engagements of the Sinai Campaign. These conflicts, which took place between 1915 and 1918, were crucial in securing Allied dominance over key Middle Eastern trade routes and economic hubs. The Ottoman government's capitulation on October 30th, 1918, brought an end to the Sinai and Palestinian Campaign.

Mesopotamia Front

The Mesopotamia Campaign is one of the other major campaigns during the World War. Mesopotamia was crucial to the struggle between the Central Powers and the Allies during World War I. The area was a valuable prize for both parties due to its advantageous location and abundant natural resources. The initial capture of Basra was a major victory in the British campaign in Mesopotamia, which was launched in 1914 with the goal of securing the region's oil fields. The Ottoman Army eventually drove the British and Indian forces back, though.

The longest fight in Mesopotamia, which lasted from December 1915 to April 1916, was the Siege of Kut. An enormous setback for the Allies occurred when Ottoman forces surrounded the British and Indian soldiers and ultimately forced them to submit. However, T.E. Lawrence, also known as Lawrence of Arabia, who played a crucial part in the region as a liaison officer between the British and Arab forces, successfully coordinated attacks during the Mesopotamian War.

Despite the British eventually taking Baghdad in March 1917, the Mesopotamian war had a major effect on the area and its inhabitants. Following political unrest and economic hardship, many Iraqis opposed the ultimate creation of their country as a British mandate in 1920. Up until 1932, the British controlled the nation's military, major infrastructure initiatives, and foreign and domestic policy.

The British captured Mosul in November 1918, putting an end to Ottoman rule there and closing the Mesopotamia front. British military strategy, coordination with Arab troops, and the Ottoman Empire's decline all contributed to their victory. The establishment of Iraq as a British mandate in 1920 was met with opposition from Iraqis wanting independence, who finally won their independence in 1932.

Arab Front

The Arab front was a crucial battleground during World War I, where Arab forces under the command of Arab generals like Emir Faisal and T.E. Lawrence (also known as Lawrence of Arabia) battled the Ottoman Empire, which was allied with Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Arab nationalists coordinated the Arab Revolt, which got under way in 1916, in an effort to free themselves from Ottoman control. The British supported the Arab rebels by giving them weapons, supplies, and advisers like T.E. Lawrence because they had their own interests in the area.

The Ottoman Empire's control over the area was weakened by the Arab Revolt's notable victories, which included the capture of the cities of Aqaba and Damascus. The British and French ultimately betrayed the Arab forces, dividing the Middle East after the war into new colonies and spheres of influence, preventing the Arab forces from winning the war completely.

Arguments over the Consequences of the Arab Revolt and T.E. Lawrence's contribution to it are still continuing. However, it is well known that it represents a significant period in Middle Eastern history as well as the fight for independence from colonial rule.

End of the World War and Treaties

At the end of World War I, a series of treaties were signed that reshaped the political map of Europe and the world. These treaties are:

- Treaty Of Versailles
- Treaty Of Saint-Germain-en-Laye
- Treaty Of Neuilly-Sur-Seine
- Treaty Of Trianon
- Treaty of Sèvres

Treaty Of Versailles

The most important agreement made at the conclusion of World War I was the Treaty of Versailles, which punished Germany severely. The treaty constrained Germany's military power, held Germany accountable for the war, and demanded compensation from Germany for the harms brought on by the conflict. The League of Nations, a global organization created to advance peace and avert future conflicts, was also founded by the treaty. However, the harsh conditions of the agreement helped Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party gain power in Germany, which sparked the start of World War II.

Treaty Of Saint-Germain-en-Laye

The Allied Powers and Austria signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The treaty reduced Austria's size and weakened its economy while recognizing the freedom of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. Additionally, Austria was required to yield land to Italy, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia as well as give up its access to the sea.

Treaty Of Neuilly-Sur-Seine

The Allied Powers and Bulgaria signed the Neuilly-sur-Seine Treaty. Bulgaria was compelled by the treaty to hand over land to Greece and Yugoslavia as well as give up its access to the Aegean Sea. Additionally, Bulgaria had to make restitution to the Allies.

Treaty Of Trianon

The Allied Powers and Hungary ratified the Treaty of Trianon. Two-thirds of Hungary's pre-war territory was lost as a result of the treaty, and new nations like Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were created. Additionally, Hungary had to make restitution to the Allies.

Treaty of Sèvres

The Allied Powers and the Ottoman Empire signed the Treaty of Sèvres. The pact resulted in the loss of Ottoman possessions in the Middle East and the creation of mandates, or areas under the League of Nations' administration, in Syria, Palestine, and Iraq. The Ottoman Empire was also obliged by the treaty to make amends to the Allies.

Major Parties Involved

The Central Powers;

- **German Empire**

A grand union of all the Germanic states, duchies, kingdoms and etc. under the flag of the Brandenburg Royal Family. As a newly formed state, the empire was bound to have internal problems, however thanks to the former Prime Minister Otto Von Bismarck, these incisions were quickly quelled.

In 1914 the empire stands strong with its stable internal affairs, and Prussian military doctrine which allowed it to become the dominant military power in all of Europe.

- **Austro-Hungarian Empire**

A once great empire, after the Austro-Prussian War in 1866, they pretty much became a vassal state of the German Empire. At the beginning of the war their armies are surprisingly ill equipped, and both physically and tactically weak. Almost in all the fronts the Austro-Hungarian Empire fought, the German Empire had to send troops to support them, otherwise the front would be lost. Thus throughout the war the once great empire just revealed to be a ball and chain tied to the German Empire's leg.

- **Kingdom of Bulgaria**

After the Balkan Wars of 1912 and 1913, the Kingdom of Bulgaria was politically isolated. It was surrounded by aggressive neighbors and deprived of Great Powers support. Thus after declaring neutrality when the War started, the kingdom quickly began making plans to enter the war. A strategic position and relatively strong military presence made Bulgaria a desirable ally for both sides. In the end, following their territorial ambitions, the Kingdom of Bulgaria entered the war on the Central Powers side, in 1915.

The Entente Powers

- **The United Kingdom**

Being the undisputed superpower of the era, the United Kingdom along with its many colonies had the power to set the course of the war. While it was clear they wouldn't join the Central Powers side, they could still maintain their neutrality. That was of course, until the German Empire decided to march to France through the small, neutral Belgium. Feeling that the integrity of Europe is at threat, and condemning the German Empire's attack on an innocent nation, the UK decided to join the war on the side of the Entente Powers. A move which would chance the course of the war to favor the Entente Side.

- **France**

After the Russian Empire announced their full support to Serbia in its conflict with the Austro-Hungarian Empire over the shooting of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, France declared full support to their trusted ally the Russian Empire. Thus when conflict erupted into war, on August 3 1914, the Central Powers declared war on France.

While being a major colonial power at the time and having a large army, the French Army was possibly, tactically and equipment wise, the worst army in the war. Thus the French was quickly torn to shreds at the beginning of the war by the German Empire's modern and organized army.

- **Serbia**

When Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot by a Serbian militia in Sarajevo, the Russian Empire announced their full support to Serbia in the conflict. And with France announcing their support to the Russian Empire, having two major powers support them, Serbia was confident throughout the beginning of the war. Even after being completely subdued and invaded by the Entente forces, the aftermath of the war was largely in favor of Serbia, receiving the entirety of the Slavic lands in the Balkans to become the state of Yugoslavia.

- **Russian Empire**

The Russian Empire fancied itself the protector of Slavs and Orthodox Christians. With Serbia being both, it was clear that Russia would side with them should the conflict erupt into war. So in

1914 when the Central Powers declared war on Serbia, the Russian Empire declared war on them right back, thus entering the Great War.

The Russian Empire suffered internal problems since before the war, yet the war only made them worse. The very clear division between citizens of different social statuses and the Russian leaders' unwillingness to modernize led the people to seek alternatives to the current regime. Thus in 1917, with the February Revolution, after a failed attempt at a Russian Republic, civil war began in Russian lands and the empire soon collapsed, effectively losing the war.

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