

Outbreak of the Great War

- Directly caused by Balkans
 - o Underlying Problems (NIMS)
 - o Trigger: assassination of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand
 - Gavrilo Princip and the Black Hand
 - Dragutin Ddimitrijevic – Leader of Black Hand, Head of Serbian Intelligence
 - o Austria worried about Russian reaction
 - Germany issues “Blank Cheque”
 - Austria issues ultimatum
 - Serbia rejects
 - o Austria declares war July 28, 1914
 - Russia declares war on Austria July 29
 - Willi – Nikki Letters
 - Germany and Russia try to avoid war
 - Germany declares war on Russia August 1

Start of War

- All plans relied on quick mobilization
- German Plan
 - o Schlieffen Plan
 - Attack France through Belgium
 - Redeploy and attack Russians
 - o Aug 3rd Declares war on Belgium
 - Britain declares war on Germany
- French Plan
 - o Attack towards Alsace-Lorraine
- Russian Plan
 - o Attack Austria (Galicia) and Germany (East Prussia) at same time

War Sets in

- Reality 1914-1915
 - o Germans 20miles from Paris in early September
 - o British to the rescue
 - Gen. Joffre mobilizes quickly
 - Germans, Brits, French fight to a stalemate
 - Stalemate for **FOUR** years
- Trench Warfare
 - o Life miserable
 - Constant death
 - Mice, mud, dust
 - o Eastern front
 - More movement but more death
 - Russian attack into Germany stopped
 - Austrians defeated in Galicia and Serbia
 - Italy switches sides and joins allies
 - 1915
 - Saw Central Powers as weaker
 - Italy wanted to gain land
 - Bulgaria Joins War
 - Knocks out Serbia with help of Austria and Germany



The Great Slaughter 1916-1917

- Trenches work
 - o Great defensively
 - o Moving forwards is disastrous
 - Made unofficial truces
 - o HEAVY casualties
- New Technology
 - o Machine Guns
 - o Artillery
 - o Sniper Rifles
 - o Gas
 - o Air Planes
 - o Tanks
- Ottoman Empire joins Central Powers
 - o British attempted to gain land in area
 - Fail miserably at Gallipoli
 - ANZAC and India
 - Succeed with T.E. Lawrence
- USA declares Neutrality
 - o Woodrow Wilson does not want to commit
 - Sees it as Europe's problem
 - o British Blockade Germans
 - Germans Blockade British
 - o Germans declare unrestricted submarine warfare
 - Sink Lusitania
 - 100 Americans on board
 - USA Joins war 1918
 - Just in the nick of time
 - Russians pull out March 3, 1918
 - o Treaty of Brest-Litovsk



World War I. The Central Powers were in the unenviable position of fighting wars on two major fronts. The inset shows the stabilized Western Front of trench warfare in northern France and Belgium.

Home Front

- Total War
 - o Everyone involved
 - o Political Centralization
 - Government takes over Economy
 - Rationing
 - o Famine in Germany and Russia
 - o France has many many problems
 - Controlled prices, wages, rent
 - Bond drives
 - Nationalized Resources and transportation
 - o Problem – Frances coal and iron fields in German control
 - Media
 - o Propaganda
 - o Censorship
 - o Mass Conscription

- Internal problems
 - Minorities in Russia and AH
 - Public opinion
 - Italy
 - Irish attempt independence
 - Opposition from Liberals and Socialists
 - Especially within army
 - Czechs push for independence

Social impact

- Labor
 - No unemployment
 - Trade unions were accepted more
 - Post war unions were more respected- collective bargaining
- Women
 - New jobs opened for women
 - banking and physical labor
 - Women's wages rose
 - but still did not equal men's wages
 - Long term effects for women
 - Right to vote: Britain, Germany, and Austria right after the war. US in 1919
 - Social emancipation of middle and upper class women
- Social classes
 - Deaths hit jr. officers (often aristocrats) and unskilled workers/peasants (cannon fodder)
 - Skilled workers often were exempt to train workers in war industries
- Economic impact was uneven
 - Large firms favored for war production
 - Inflation cut purchasing power
 - Middle class people often could not keep up
 - pensions and salaries did not keep up

The end of the War

- Russians duck out
 - 1918
 - Russian Revolution causes problems at home
- Germany was encouraged by the withdrawal of Russia
 - final gamble: offensive in the west
 - Mar-July attack brought the Germans to the Marne river
 - 35 mi from Paris
 - 2nd battle of the Marne
 - French General Foch + 140,000 Americans won
 - Allies drive towards Germany
 - Germans recognize defeat
- Central Powers falls
 - Naval mutiny in Kiel
 - Kaiser flees to Holland
 - Socialists declare republic
 - Socialists do not win
 - Armistice 11/11/18
 - AH breaks into Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia
 - Bela Kun attempts communist state in Hungary
 - Fails