Outbreak of the Great War

- Directly caused by Balkans
  - Underlying Problems (NIMS)
  - Trigger: assassination of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand
    - Gavrilo Princip and the Black Hand
    - Dragutin Ddimitrijevic – Leader of Black Hand, Head of Serbian Intelligence
  - Austria worried about Russian reaction
    - Germany issues “Blank Cheque”
    - Austria issues ultimatum
      - Serbia rejects
  - 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
  - Schlieffen Plan
    - Attack France through Belgium
    - Redeploy and attack Russians
  - Aug 3rd Declares war on Belgium
    - Britain declares war on Germany
- French Plan
  - Attack towards Alsace-Lorraine
- Russian Plan
  - Attack Austria (Galicia) and Germany (East Prussia) at same time

War Sets in

- Reality 1914-1915
  - Germans 20 miles from Paris in early September
  - British to the rescue
    - Gen. Joffre mobilizes quickly
    - Germans, Brits, French fight to a stalemate
      - Stalemate for FOUR years
- Trench Warfare
  - Life miserable
    - Constant death
    - Mice, mud, dust
  - 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
  - Great defensively
  - Moving forwards is disastrous
    - Made unofficial truces
  - HEAVY casualties
- New Technology
  - Machine Guns
  - Artillery
  - Sniper Rifles
  - Gas
  - Air Planes
  - Tanks
- Ottoman Empire joins Central Powers
  - British attempted to gain land in area
    - Fail miserably at Gallipoli
      - ANZAC and India
    - Succeed with T.E. Lawrence
- USA declares Neutrality
  - Woodrow Wilson does not want to commit
    - Sees it as Europe’s problem
  - British Blockade Germans
    - Germans Blockade British
  - 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
        - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

Home Front

- Total War
  - Everyone involved
  - Political Centralization
    - Government takes over Economy
      - Rationing
        - Famine in Germany and Russia
        - France has many many problems
      - Controlled prices, wages, rent
      - Bond drives
      - Nationalized Resources and transportation
        - Problem – Frances coal and iron fields in German control
    - Media
      - Propaganda
      - Censorship
  - 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, Hungry, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia
    - Bela Kun attempts communist state in Hungary
      - Fails