



WORLD WAR I

“The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make.”

Woodrow Wilson

“Small use it will be to save democracy for the race if we cannot save the race for democracy. I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war.”

Jane Addams

Several underlying causes → severe global tension since late 1800s

Militarism = aggressive, intimidating build-up of armed forces

Alliance = formal coalition of nations (usually for military support)

Imperialism = belligerent practice of occupying/controlling foreign lands

Nationalism = intense, skewed pride in one's homeland (extreme patriotism)

◆* Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Serbs (June 28, 1914)

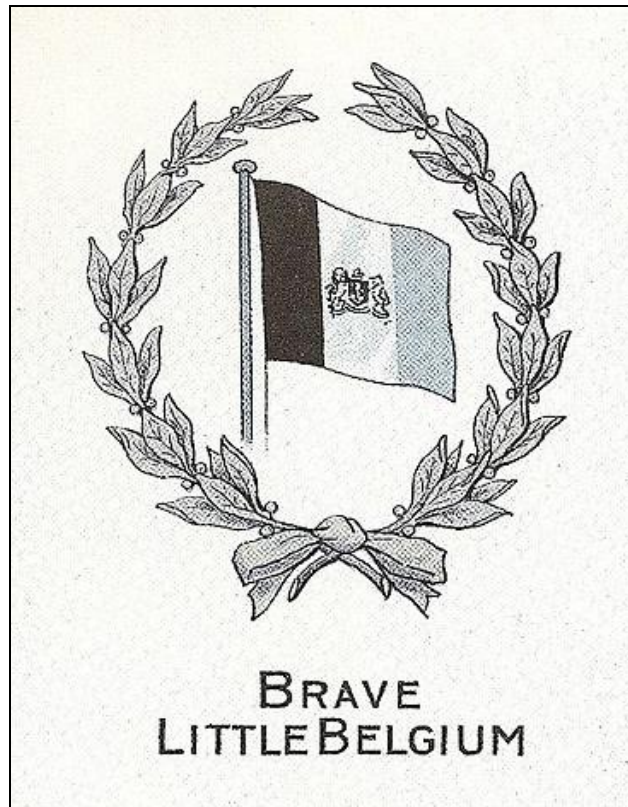
- ✓ Ferdinand heir to throne in Austria-Hungary
- ✓ Austria-Hungary one of participating European nations (MAIN above)
- ✓ Ferdinand assassinated in Bosnia by nationalist from neighboring Serbia
- ✓ Serbia resistant to Austro-Hungarian territorial aggression
- ✓ Austria-Hungary (backed by Germany) declared war on Serbia
- ✓ Serbia supported by Russia & France

◆ Within five weeks much of Europe exchanged declarations of war

- ✓ Central Powers → Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria (Italy ?)
- ✓ Allied Nations (aka Triple Entente) → Great Britain, France, Russia (25+ total)

◆ Schlieffen Plan → Germany's strategy to overrun Europe in 6 weeks

- ✓ Germany divided forces (Western Front 91% stronger than Eastern 9%)
- ✓ Invaded tiny Belgium
- ✓ Great Britain came to Belgium's aid (thru alliance)
- ✓ Belgium resisted longer than planned
- ✓ Allowed Britain to aid western Europe & Russia to make unplanned gains
- ✓ German high command uneasy & shifted forces (Western to Eastern Front)
- ✓ No quick victory



◆ President Woodrow Wilson urges American neutrality

- ✓ Sinking of British liner *Lusitania* (May 7, 1915) → 120+ American deaths
- ✓ Sec. of State Wm. Jennings Bryan replaced by Robt. Lansing (pro-British)
- ✓ President Wilson's "peace w/o victory" speech (Jan 22, 1917)
- ✓ Germany renewed vigorous U-boat warfare, inc. American vessels (Feb 1917)
- ✓ Zimmermann telegram intercepted/exposed by British intelligence (Feb 1917)
- ✓ Bolshevik Revolution (March 1917) → Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

- ◆ America reluctantly enters the war (April 6, 1917)
 - ✓ Jeannette Rankin (Montana) = pacifism & feminism
 - ✓ Selective Service Act (May 1917)
 - ✓ Functions as an “associate power” to the Allies
 - ✓ Assured eventual victory for the Allies
 - ✓ France’s Marshal Ferdinand Foch = supreme commander
 - ✓ Gen. John J. “Black Jack” Pershing (AEF) & Adm. William S. Sims (USN)
 - ✓ American “doughboys” operated separately from other Allied units
 - ✓ Over 25,000 miles of trench warfare
 - ✓ Cpl. Alvin York & Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker
 - ✓ New weaponry = armored tank, poison gas, zeppelins & airplanes

- ◆ Notable engagements prior to America’s entry into the war
 - ✓ First Battle of the Marne (1914) → initial German advance halted on outskirts of Paris
 - ✓ Battle of Tannenburg (1914) → great German victory against Russia on Eastern Front
 - ✓ Battle of the Somme (1916) → armored tanks introduced by the British
 - ✓ Battle of Verdun (1916) → massive German assault could not break thru French lines

- ◆ Major engagements involving American forces
 - ✓ Battle of Château-Thierry (1918) → first significant engagement for U.S. forces
 - ✓ Second Battle of the Marne (1918) → turning point in the war
 - ✓ St. Mihiel offensive (1918) → first major U.S. offensive began the final stages of WWI
 - ✓ Meuse-Argonne offensive (1918) → greatest engagement of U.S. troops during the war

- ◆ War on the home front
 - ✓ Committee on Public Info (propaganda) = George Creel
 - ✓ Espionage Act (1917) & Sedition Act (1918)
 - ✓ Public hysteria = no German music, books, food, etc.
 - ✓ Discrimination & mistreatment of German-Americans
 - ✓ Shift in women’s roles helped bolster support for 19th Amendment
 - ✓ Economic measures, inc. voluntary rationing
 - ✓ War Industries Board = Bernard Baruch
 - ✓ Food Administration = Herbert Hoover
 - ✓ Railroad Administration = Wm. Gibbs McAdoo
 - ✓ War financed thru taxes (25-30%) and war bonds (50+%)
 - ✓ Uncle Sam poster = James Montgomery Flagg

- ◆ Armistice (November 11, 1918) & Paris Peace Conference
 - ✓ Wilson's "Fourteen Points" speech (January 18, 1918)
 - ★ First 5 points = causes of WWI
 - ★ Next 8 points = specific boundary changes
 - ★ Final point = suggested formation of League of Nations
 - ✓ "Big Four" = Clemenceau, George, Orlando, Wilson
 - ★ Defeated countries not included in process
 - ★ Russia & smaller Allied nations also excluded
 - ★ Divided objectives between European nations & United States
 - ✓ Provisions of Versailles Treaty
 - ★ Created new nations & shifted boundaries of others
 - ★ Designated mandates (none for America)
 - ★ Demilitarized Germany
 - ★ Demanded Germany pay huge reparations
 - ★ Forced Germany to acknowledge war-guilt clause
 - ★ Est'd League of Nations
 - ✓ Problems of Versailles Treaty
 - ★ Humiliated Germany
 - ★ Russia angered over exclusion from peace conference
 - ★ Mandate policy short-sided & ineffective
 - ★ Req'd membership in League of Nations

- ◆ America's apprehension = unexpected swell of opposition in U.S.
 - ✓ Feared loss of American independence
 - ✓ Senate's exclusive power to conduct foreign affairs reduced somewhat
 - ✓ Reluctant to abandon tradition of isolationism
 - ✓ No key Republicans appointed to peace talks

- ◆ Wilson's battle for the Versailles Treaty
 - ✓ Senate must approve all treaties (2/3 majority)
 - ★ "Irreconcilables" → Wm. Borah (Idaho) & Robt. La Follette (Wisc)
 - ★ "Strong reservationists" → Henry Cabot Lodge (Mass)
 - ★ "Mild reservationists" → approved League w/ minor alterations
 - ✓ President's stubbornness (unwilling to compromise)
 - ★ 8,000-mile tour to rally public support (35 speeches in 22 days)
 - ★ Suffered stroke in early October & remained in fragile health thru term
 - ★ Senate twice defeated Treaty of Versailles
 - ✓ Wilson awarded Nobel Peace Prize (1919)



◆ America's transition into the 1920s

- ✓ Separate treaty signed w/ Germany (in 1921 under Pres. Harding)
- ✓ America desired a "return to normalcy"
- ✓ America disillusioned over its participation in the war
 - ★ No everlasting peace as hoped (apparently WWI was not the war to end all wars)
 - ★ No significant global shift toward democracies

◆ Europe (esp. Germany) plunged into severe postwar economic hardships

