



Ending of WWI



The Eastern Front

- The Eastern Front (Russia) was opposite the Western Front (France).
- The Fronts were defined by surrounding the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire)



Russia at War

- Russia initially entered the war to protect Serbia, who were fellow Slavs.
- The Russian Army was plagued with communication confusion and delays in the army.
- This led to the Russian Army being less effective and to many casualties.



Russia at War cont.

- Even though Russia mobilized 12 million men, the Eastern Front was so large that soldiers were never as concentrated as in the Western Front.
- Russian offences against Austria-Hungary lost their steam when supplies and reinforcements started to run out.
- Tired of the war, the people of Russia showed their dissatisfaction by revolting and overthrowing the Czar.

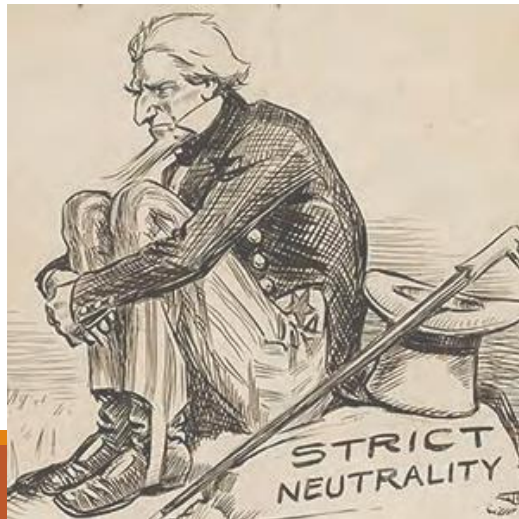
Russian Revolution, 1917

- In October of 1917, the Bolsheviks replaced the Czar as leaders (Communists).
- Russia had taken massive casualties and felt that they were alone on the Eastern Front .
- In March of 1918, the Bolsheviks signed a treaty which took Russia out of the war.



America at the Start of the War

- When the war broke out in 1914, America, led by President Woodrow Wilson, wanted to remain neutral.
- Americans were sympathetic to Europe and the American government lent large sums of money to the Triple Entente.



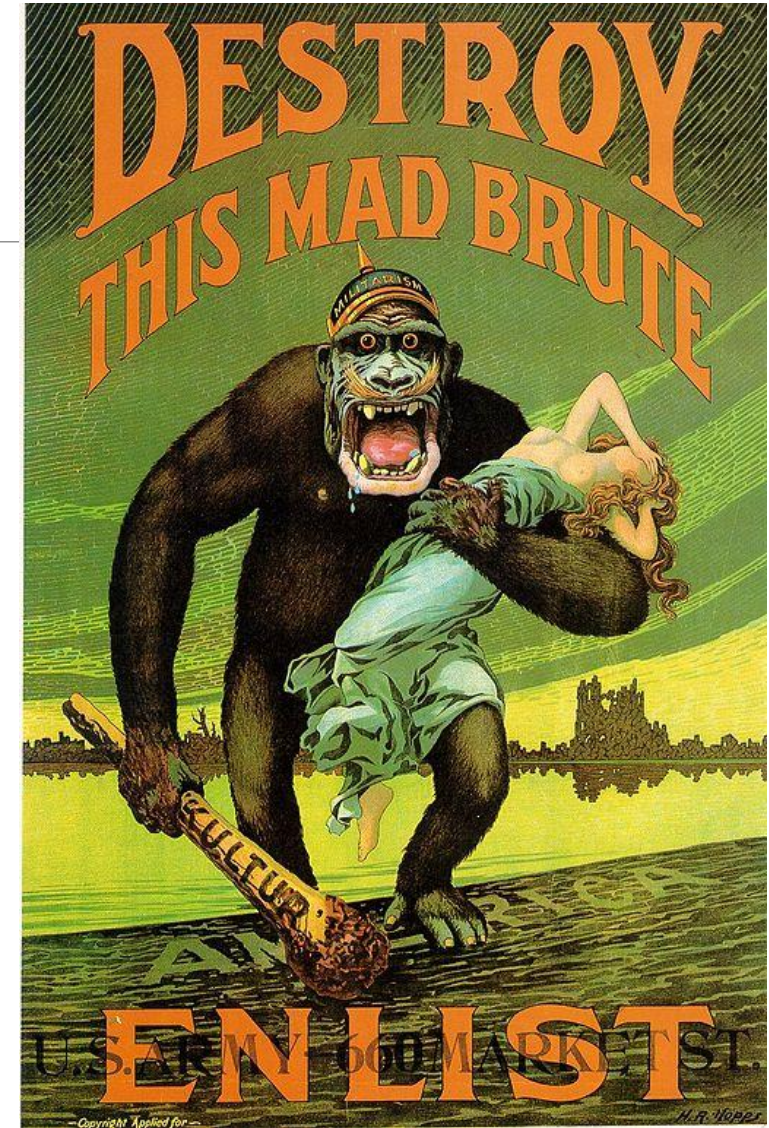
The Lusitania

- In May of 1915, a German submarine sank the British ship the Lusitania with submarines.
- Unfortunately for the Germans, 128 American passengers were onboard.
- Germany stopped sinking vessels in the hopes of keeping America out of the war.



America Enters the War

- In January of 1917, Germany resumed their submarine strikes on ships that entered ports in England and France.
- America learned of the “Zimmermann Telegram,” which had Germany offering Mexico territory to join the war against the United States.
- In response, America declared war against Germany on April 4th 1917.



Italy

- Italy was initially part of the Triple Alliance, but joined the Triple Entente in 1915.
- Italy switched sides after being promised Austro-Hungarian territory.
- Italy mainly focused on Austro-Hungarian advances into Serbia and Greece for the rest of the war.



War for the Triple Alliance

- In Austria-Hungary, losses to Russia and the sudden shifting of Italy's allegiance led many to not support the war.
- Germany was running out of manpower, and food production was becoming more difficult.
- While Russia was out of the picture, the United States were now sending in fresh soldiers.

War for the Triple Alliance

- The British-Indian army joined with the Arabs to fight the Ottoman Empire.
- Husayn ibn Ali made a deal with the British to make an Arab homeland after the war.
- Instead, Britain, France, and Russia planned to split up the Ottoman Empire for themselves in the Sykes-Picot Agreement after the war ended.
- Russia opted out of this by leaving the war early.



Austria-Hungary at War's End

- Austria-Hungary had some recent success, such as the occupation of Romania, but this did not improve conditions at home.
- Faith was shaken in Austro Hungarian leadership, when food and materials started to run out.



Austria-Hungary at War's End cont.

- When coal supplies ran out, steel factories shut down crippling Austria-Hungary's ability to supply the army.
- The Triple Entente stoked nationalist ideas in Austria-Hungary and hoped countries would want to split from the empire.
- This led to the eventual dissolution of the empire shortly after WWI.

Germany at War's End

- The war was still moving slowly, with momentum moving towards the Triple Entente.
- Germany still had the manpower to keep fighting, but its infrastructure was failing.
- Due to this, the leadership of Germany agreed to an armistice deal that ended the fighting on November 11th 1918 at 11 AM.
- This angered the German Army since they felt they could keep on fighting and felt they were “stabbed in the back.”

Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, officially ended WWI, and placed sole blame of the war on the Triple Alliance.
- The “War Guilt Clause” forced Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire to pay reparations for the war, give up territories, and de-militarize.
- This created severe economic instability in these regions.



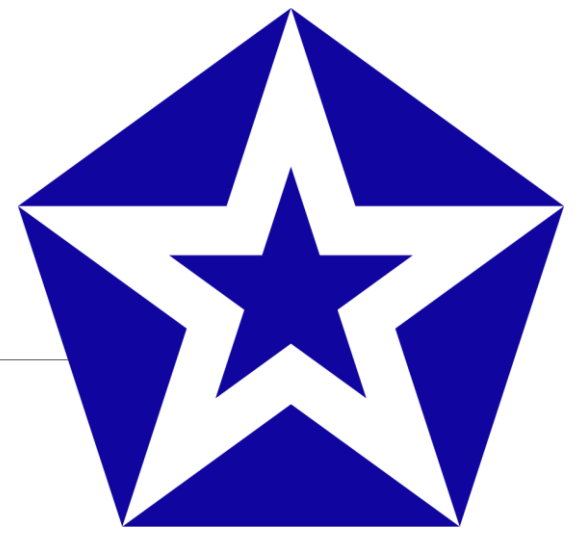
Treaty of Versailles cont.

- These payments can be made in cash, but could also be made in resources, territory, or manufactured goods.
- Germany had to pay the worst reparations since the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire were both in the process of dissolving.

Canada at War's End

- By the end of the war, Canada had sent over 424,000 servicemen overseas and nearly 61,000 were killed with many more permanently wounded.
- Over 4000 Indigenous soldiers served in the C.E.F. during a time when racism was common and harsh at home.
- Canada, with an influx of veterans, started programs to aid soldiers coming home that would eventually become the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Canadian Autonomy



- Prime Minister Robert Borden insisted that Canada sign for itself on the Treaty of Versailles rather than being represented by Britain.
- Robert Borden personally signed, showing Canada's newfound independence.
- Later in 1920, Canada was a founding member of the League of Nations, an organization meant to prevent another world war.

Canadian Identity

- Over the course of the war, Canada had become less reliant on Britain.
- We had even helped Britain weather the war by sending aid in the form of soldiers and supplies.
- Canadian autonomy was felt as if it was earned through military hardship.
- Canadians felt as though they had shaped the world stage and belonged on it.



Canada's Tough Reputation

- Canadians were merciless combatants that rarely took prisoners.
- Germans were quite scared of Canadian troops.
- Canadian soldiers would throw cans of beef at the German trenches.
 - When they asked for more, they threw grenades instead.
- On Christmas 1915 when German soldiers popped their heads up to say Merry Christmas, they were shot by Canadian Sergeants.
- Canadians were experts at raiding enemy trenches.
 - If enemies found out Canadians were across from them, they needed more night sentries to stay safe.