

World War I

Origins of WWI

Germany v. Great Britain

arms race

Kaiser Wilhelm II seeks to build modern navy

Britain responds costing money and building tensions

economics - colonies

Germany wished to catch Britain

Purpose of having navy

militarism

belief that war is necessary and good

no major conflicts in Europe since 1871

Alliances

agreements amongst nations

offensive, defensive, economic

most are secret agreements

causes paranoia

Triple Alliance

Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy

Triple Entente

Great Britain, France, Russia

Balkans - "powder keg of Europe"

June 28, 1914 - Gavrilo Princip assassinates Austrian Archduke Ferdinand

Austria demands Serbia pay retribution

justice, money, and land

Serbia doesn't meet all conditions

Russia backs Serbia

Austria gets "blank check" from Germany

promises any and all help both political and military

Austria issues ultimatum to Serbia

Russia mobilizes for war

Aug 1 - Germany declares war on Russia

WWI AKA "The Great War"

Schlieffen Plan

designed to save Germany from two front war

through Belgium

Belgian neutrality guaranteed by Britain

Aug 4 - Great Britain declares war on Germany

Battle of the Marne - Fall - 1914

Germany almost succeeds in capturing Paris

British reinforcements and Russians stop Germans

"Race to the Sea"

both armies attempt to outflank each other to Atlantic

lines stabilize in late 1914

Turkey and Bulgaria join Central Powers

Italy joins Allies

Trench Warfare

New weapons change the nature of warfare

led to the development of trench warfare

machine guns

capable of firing up to 600 rounds/minute

poison gas

mustard gas/chlorine introduce chemical warfare

airplanes

scouting, bombing

submarines

U-boat - German submarines used to cut off Britain

convoys organized to protect merchant shipping

tanks

introduced at end of the war

Total Warfare

idea that entire societies must be mobilized to win wars

civilians were heavily affected

factories were brought under gov. regulation

rationing of goods was introduced

propaganda

gov. controlled access to information

1916 - Verdun

last German offensive

five months of battle

300,000 dead on both sides

Somme

British offensive

one week artillery bombardment

3 months long

500,00 dead on both sides

Russia

ill-equipped for the war

little industry and poor transportation/military production

internal strife causes problems(see later in chapter)

Russia drops out of the war in 1917

Treaty of Brest Litovsk

America enters the war

Pres. Wilson initially declares American neutrality

US still traded with combatants

May 7, 1915 - U-boat sinks the HMS Lusitania

1100 killed including 128 Americans

Sussex Pledge - Germany promises to stop sub attacks

Americans end up trading primarily with Allies

British navy blocked German ports

1917 - Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare

American businesses pressure Wilson to enter war on Allied side
were concerned war loans would not be paid

Feb, 1917 - Zimmerman telegram

Germany offered Mexico Southwest of US

April 2, 1917 - US declares war on Germany

Wilson must set goals for war

“war to end all wars”

nobody would ever fight again

“war to make the world safe for democracy”

est. moral superiority

Americans must build an army

General John “BlackJack” Pershing

slowly builds forces in Europe

August, 1918 - Amiens

largest American and tank battle in the war

End of the War

Nov 9, 1918 - Kaiser William II abdicates

armistice signed

temporary cease-fire

Wilson’s Fourteen Points

end to secret alliances

freedom of seas and trade

self-determination

League of Nations

Britain and France want revenge and refuse to cooperate

Treaty of Versailles

France regained Alsace-Lorraine, mining rights to Saar valley

Poland recreated, Balkans and Eastern Europe reorganized

colonies given to other nations as mandates

limited army, no air force, no submarines, Rhineland demilitarized

\$31 billion in reparations

US does not ratify treaty

WWI lead to the end of the Romanov’s

War again rallies Russian people

lack of supply and success hurts Russians

Rasputin

faith - healer for Alexis

much influence with royal court

gives impression of royal weakness

assassinated in 1916 by royal court members

1917 - food in short supply

Feb - riots force Nicolas to abdicate

No real government

provisional government

Duma works on constitution

Soviets

elected worker councils
St. Petersburg is largest soviet

Kerensky

leader of provisional gov.
member of both Duma and St. Pete's soviet
chose to continue the war
hoping to secure loans, dooms gov. to failure

Germans sneak Lenin back into Russia

armored train from Switzerland
Bolsheviks small, but organized
Lenin begins campaigning for support
"Peace, Land, and Bread"

Gen. Kornilov tries military takeover

Kerensky arms Bolsheviks to save revolution
helped reputation dramatically

October 24, 1917, Bolsheviks seize power

Lenin overturns Nov. elections
Bolsheviks had lost

creates dictatorship of proletariat

Treaty of Brest Litovsk spreads unrest

gives away ¼ land, 1/3 production

Civil War ensues

lasts from 1918 - 1920

"White" vs. "Red" Army

Whites

non-Bolsheviks

helped by West

Reds

Bolsheviks

led by Leon Trotsky

builds large army

Lenin orders death of remaining Romanovs

Reds win when Lenin gives peasants land

Solidifying Power

Kronstadt revolt - 1920

sailors who supported revolution revolt against tyranny

Lenin orders them brutally put down

Lenin attempted to implement Marxist economics

disaster for the economy

New Economic Policy -1921

privatization of some businesses

reintroduces currency

Birth of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Lenin renames Bolsheviks Communist Party

Moscow becomes new capital

Comintern - est. to promote international communism

Lenin dies in 1924 after 3rd stroke

Struggle to replace Lenin

Leon Trotsky

early party leader

eloquent speaker, led Red Army

most likely replacement

Joseph Stalin

party secretary

Stalin works behind the scenes against Trotsky

accuses Trotsky of treason

1929 - Trotsky exiled to Turkey

later assassinated by Stalin's agents in Cuba

Stalin becomes dictator

sets up command economy(1928)

all decisions made from central gov.

Five Year Plans

infrastructure and military investment, no consumer production

everything must be done for the "good of the state"

industrialization explodes

1928-1938 - 4 to 18 million tons of steel production

agriculture

Stalin est. collective farms

peasants resist

USSR becomes totalitarian state

dictator controls all aspects of life

Stalin kills 30 million Russians

Political, military enemies, peasants, workers, minorities

Religion banned in USSR

reorganizes education

Most Russian people live in fear

Post-War

Weimar Republic created in Germany

no democratic tradition

burdened by treaty

people blamed gov. for problem

hyperinflation

destroys confidence in gov.

1924 - Dawes Plan

US gives loans to Germany to stabilize economy

1928 - Kellogg-Briand pact - 128 nations renounce war