

Chapter 29

The Great War

- Preparing for War 1815-1914
- Great Powers
 - Germany
 - Austria-Hungary
 - Great Britain
 - Russia
 - Italy
 - France

*The entire able-bodied population are preparing to massacre one another; though no one, it is true, wants to attack, and everybody protests his love of peace and determination to maintain it, yet the whole world feels that it only requires some unforeseen incident, some unpreventable accident, for the spark to fall in a flash . . .and blow all Europe sky-high.
---FRÉDÉRIC PASSY*

- Causes of war
 - Nationalism
 - France-Alsace/Lorraine
 - Balkans
 - Imperialism- Race for colonies
 - Militarism-Arms Race
 - Armies, ships, artillery
 - Complicated Alliances
 - Triple Alliance
 - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
 - Triple Entente
 - Great Britain, France
Russia

Nationalism was a powerful force in these countries. Each group longed to extend its borders. Serbia, for example, had a large Slavic population. It hoped to absorb all the Slavs on the Balkan Peninsula. Russia, itself a mostly Slavic nation, supported Serbian nationalism. However, Serbia's powerful northern neighbor, Austria-Hungary, opposed such an effort. Austria feared that efforts to create a Slavic state would stir rebellion among its Slavic population.

• Crisis in the Balkans

- Powder keg
- Ottoman Empire crumbles
 - Greece
 - Serbia
 - Bulgaria
 - Romania
 - Bosnia/Herzegovina
- Terrorism in the name of nationalism
 - Black Hand
 - Princip and Arch Duke Ferdinand
 - Sarajevo, July 23, 1914
 - By August, all Europe at War!!!!



- The Great War Begins
 - Central Powers
 - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Ottoman Empire
 - Allies
 - Serbia, Russia, France, Great Britain, Italy
- The German Schlieffen Plan
 - France first, then Russia
- Reality
 - Russia moves first
 - German offensive stalls
 - Battle of the Marne
 - Germans move troops to Russia
 - Battle of Tannenberg



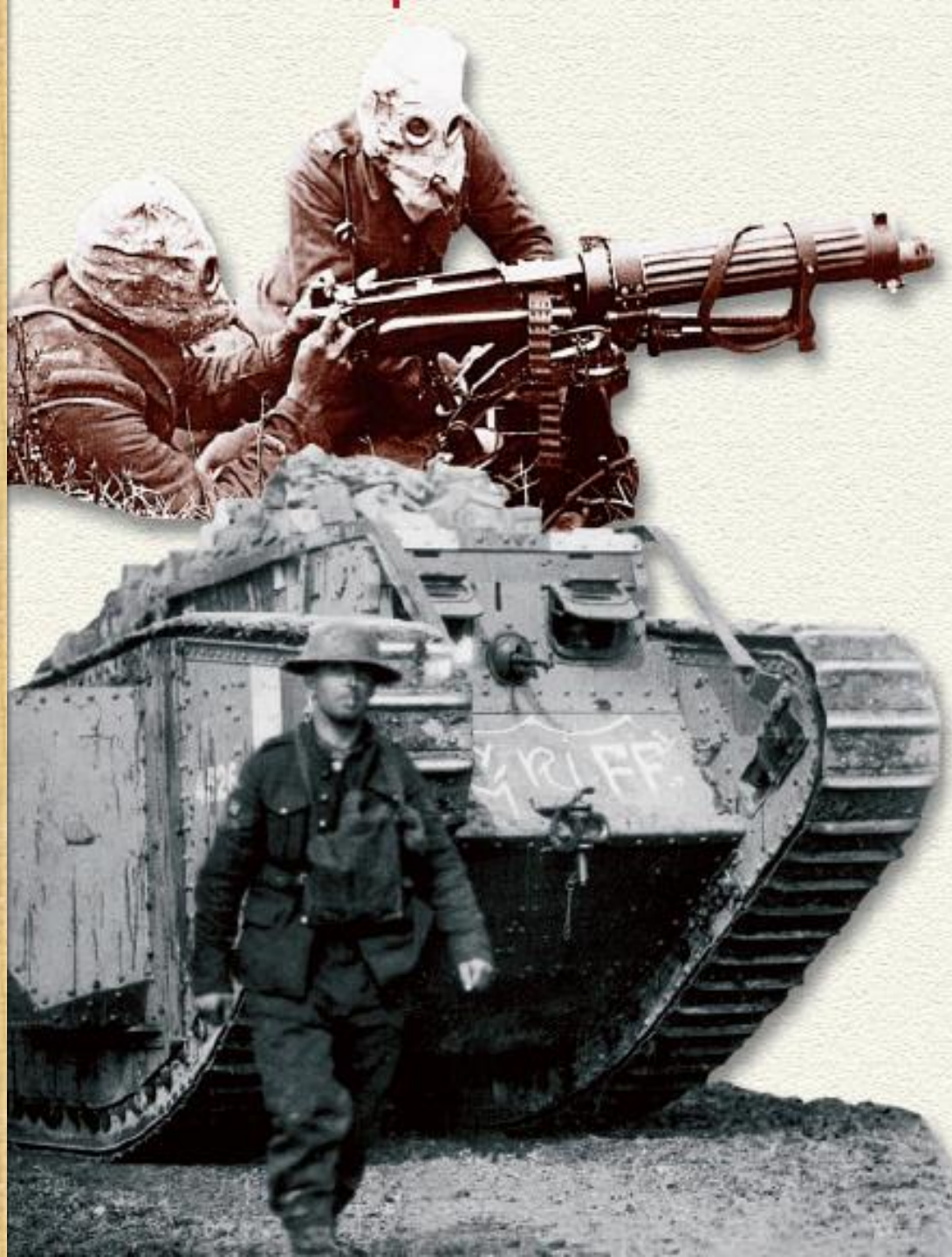
- Fighting during the Great War

- Trenches
- Attrition
- No-man's land
- Battle Fronts
 - Western Front
 - Russian Front
 - Africa
 - Alps
 - Middle East
 - Gallipoli
 - Atlantic Ocean

Imagine a broad belt, ten miles or so in width, stretching from the Channel to the German frontier near Basle, which is positively littered with the bodies of men and scarified with their rude graves; in which farms, villages and cottages are shapeless heaps of blackened masonry; in which fields, roads and trees are pitted and torn and twisted by shells and disfigured by dead horses, cattle, sheep and goats, scattered in every attitude of repulsive distortion and dismemberment.

---VALENTINE FLEMING

- Armies
 - Cavalry-not effective
 - Infantry-held territory
 - Artillery-did the killing
- Navies
 - Battle Fleets, Jutland 1916
 - Blockade vs. U-boats
- Weapons
 - Machine guns
 - Aircraft & Zeppelins
 - Poison gas
 - Huge artillery
 - Barbed wire



- Global Conflict
 - Gallipoli 1915
 - Turkey
 - Open supply line to Russia
 - Africa
 - Togo
 - German SW Africa
 - Cameroons
 - German East Africa
 - Oceans-blockade to stop trade
 - U-Boats
 - High Seas Fleet

The Frozen Front

For soldiers on the Eastern Front, like those shown above, the overall misery of warfare was compounded by deadly winters. “Every day hundreds froze to death,” noted one Austro-Hungarian officer during a particularly brutal spell. Russian troops suffered too, mainly due to their lack of food and clothing. “I am at my post all the time—frozen and soaked . . . ,” lamented one soldier. “We walk barefoot or in rope soled shoes. It’s incredible that soldiers of the Russian army are in rope soled shoes!”

- British Empire
 - India
 - Australia
 - Canada
 - New Zealand
 - South Africa
- French Empire
 - Indo-China
 - Senegal
 - Algerians
 - Moroccans

Elsewhere in Asia and Africa, the British and French recruited subjects in their colonies for the struggle. Fighting troops as well as laborers came from India, South Africa, Senegal, Egypt, Algeria, and Indochina. Many fought and died on the battlefield. Others worked to keep the front lines supplied. To be sure, some colonial subjects wanted nothing to do with their European rulers' conflicts. Others volunteered in the hope that service would lead to their independence. This was the view of Indian political leader Mohandas Gandhi, who supported Indian participation in the war. "If we would improve our status through the help and cooperation of the British," he wrote, "it was our duty to win their help by standing by them in their hour of need."

- Battles on Western Front
 - Marne
 - Ypres
 - Artois
 - Somme
 - Flanders
 - Verdun
 - Isonzo
 - Amiens
 - Belleau Wood
 - Soissons
 - Saint-Mihiel
 - Meuse/Argonne
- All were blood baths!!

He moaned through the bandages that his head was splitting with pain. I gave him morphine. Suddenly aware of the fact that he had [numerous] wounds, he asked: "Sa-ay! What's the matter with my legs?" Reaching down to feel his legs before I could stop him, he uttered a heartbreaking scream. I held his hands firmly until the drug I had given him took effect.
---SHIRLEY MILLARD

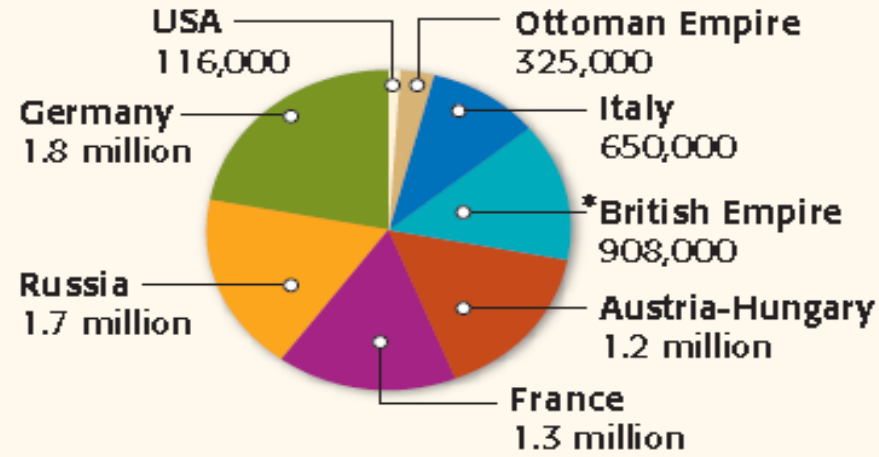
- United States Enters
 - Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
 - Zimmerman Note
 - Mexico joins Germans
 - Mexico could reconquer US lands
 - April 2, 1917 US declares war on central powers
 - Wilson's 14 Points
 - Framework for lasting peace
- Homefront
 - Total War
 - Rationing
 - Propaganda
 - Women

The Influenza Epidemic

In the spring of 1918, a powerful new enemy emerged, threatening nations on each side of World War I. This "enemy" was a deadly strain of influenza. The Spanish flu, as it was popularly known, hit England and India in May. By the fall, it had spread through Europe, Russia, Asia, and to the United States. The influenza epidemic killed soldiers and civilians alike. In India, at least 12 million people died of influenza. In Berlin, on a single day in October, 1,500 people died. In the end, this global epidemic was more destructive than the war itself, killing 20 million people worldwide.

- Ending the Great War
 - Russia quits, Nov. 1917
 - German's last attacks 1918
 - US arrives in strength, stops Germans
 - US counter attacks at Meuse/Argonne
 - US fights like wild men
 - German army panics, sues for peace
 - Armistice 11 am, 11/11/1918

Battlefield Deaths of Major Combatants



“Hostilities will cease as from 12 noon today.” This was the order which I had to read out to my men. The war is over. . . . How we looked forward to this moment; how we used to picture it as the most splendid event of our lives; and here we are now, humbled, our souls torn and bleeding, and know that we’ve surrendered. Germany has surrendered to the Entente!

---HERBERT SULZBACH

- Treaty of Versailles
Jan. 1919

- Big Four

- US-Wilson
- Great Britain-Lloyd George
- France-Georges Clemenceau
- Italy-Vittorio Orlando

- Absent:

- Russia, in its own Revolution
- All Central Powers



- Parts of the treaty
 - Return Alsace-Lorraine
 - No more German colonies
 - Limits German army
 - No German submarines or airplanes
 - Germany war guilt
 - Italian territory
 - Nationalism for Balkans
 - Reparations from Germany
 - League of Nations
- 14 Points forgotten
- US did not sign treaty
 - Begins isolationism

In addition, the treaty with Germany, in particular the war-guilt clause, left a legacy of bitterness and hatred in the hearts of the German people. Other countries felt cheated and betrayed by the peace settlements as well. Throughout Africa and Asia, people in the mandated territories were angry at the way the Allies disregarded their desire for independence. The European powers, it seemed to them, merely talked about the principle of national self-determination. European colonialism, disguised as the mandate system, continued in Asia and Africa.

- a. Sole responsibility for the war placed on Germany's shoulders.***
- b. Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 Billion in reparations over 30 years.***