

Imperialism and World War I

Lesson 3 World War I Begins

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why is history important?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What factors threatened the peace in Europe after 1900?*
2. *Why did war break out in Europe in 1914?*
3. *How did World War I affect the world outside of Europe?*

Terms to Know

militarism a strong attraction to war and military power

conscription the policy that requires the citizens in a country to serve in the military for a certain period of time

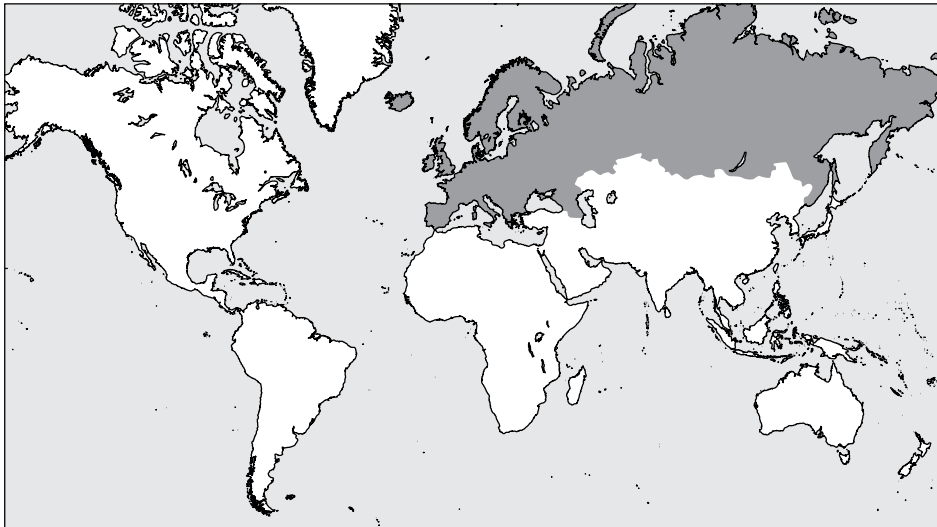
entente a formal agreement between two nations to cooperate for specific purposes

mobilization the process of assembling armed forces into readiness for a conflict

propaganda biased information used to influence public opinion

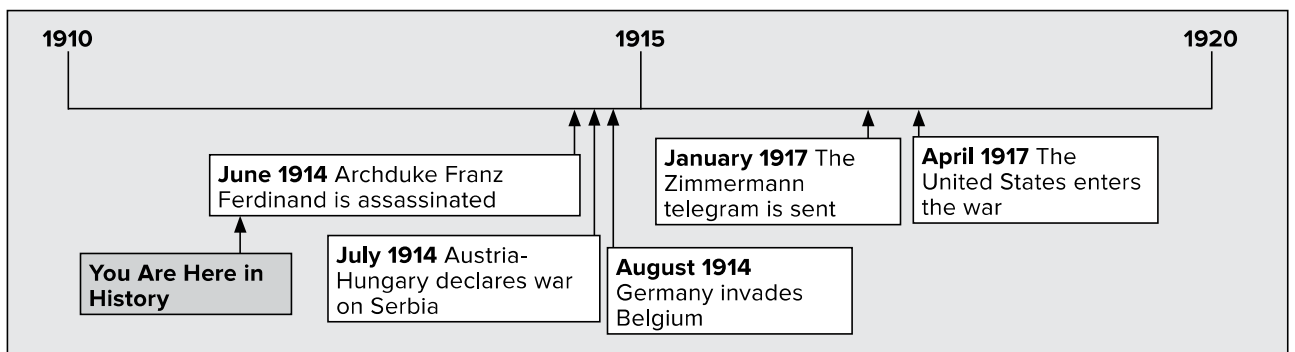
blockade the closing of a port or harbor to prevent entrance or exit

Where in the world?



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When did it happen?



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Lesson 3 World War I Begins, *Continued*

Causes of Conflict

Nationalism is a strong feeling of loyalty to one's country. In the early 1900s, nationalism made some countries strong, but weakened others.

By 1900 European powers controlled much of the world's land area. European nations often came into conflict with each other while trying to expand. As European nations grew, they increased the size of their military forces. This caused other nations to increase their own militaries. This type of competition between nations is called **militarism**. Powerful nations used **conscription**, or a draft, to require their citizens to serve in the military.

Another way that European countries increased their power was to form alliances with other nations. These were agreements to help one another in the event of war. Two powerful alliances were created. These were the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. An **entente** is an agreement between nations.

The Triple Alliance

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy

The Triple Entente

- Britain
- France
- Russia

Allies promised to help each other if one was attacked. This meant that an attack on any allied nation could lead to a large war. In the early 1900s, feelings of nationalism had been growing in the Balkan Peninsula. Ethnic groups demanded self-rule. Each group had alliances with other nations. The Balkan situation increased tensions in Europe.

War Breaks Out in Europe

In June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary visited the city of Sarajevo in Bosnia. He was shot and killed by a Bosnian Serb who was loyal to neighboring Serbia. Serbia opposed Austria-Hungary's rule of Bosnia. Austria-Hungary blamed the Serb government for the murder and responded by declaring war on Serbia.

Russia was Serbia's ally. Russia began **mobilization** of its troops against Austria-Hungary. Germany came to the aid of Austria-Hungary and declared war on Russia and then on France, Russia's ally. In August, Germany invaded Belgium, which was neutral, to get to France.



Marking the Text

1. Underline the reason imperialism created tensions in Europe.



Explaining

2. Why did military alliances create danger in Europe?



Reading Check

3. Why did European countries form alliances?



Identifying

4. What event sparked the beginning of World War I?

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Lesson 3 World War I Begins, *Continued*



Describing

5. What was a trench, and how was it important in the war?



Marking the Text

6. Circle the new weapons used during World War I.



Reading Check

7. What is a total war?



Explaining

8. How was Russia able to weaken Germany?

Alliances lined up quickly. On one side were the Allies. On the other side were the Central Powers.

The battle zone between France and Germany was called the Western Front. The war became a standoff. Neither side could gain any ground for three years. Each side dug deep trenches to protect their soldiers. To move forward, soldiers had to climb out of the trenches and cross open ground against the enemy guns.

Allies

- France
- Russia
- Britain
- Italy (joined in 1915)

Central Powers

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Ottoman Empire
- Bulgaria

New weapons made this war deadlier than any other. Cannons and machine guns were more powerful. Tanks and poison gases were used for the first time. Submarines and airplanes were also used to fight the enemy.

The war required huge resources. Each nation needed to involve all of its citizens in the war effort. Governments took over industries and railroads. They rationed civilians' use of food and materials needed for the war. They used **propaganda** to convince the public to support the war. It was a time of "total war," when entire societies were involved in fighting.

Women began working in factories, taking the place of the men who had left to fight. They made weapons, supplies, and war goods. Their contributions helped women's rights. After the war, many countries were ready to give women the right to vote.

A Global War

Germany and Austria-Hungary continued to fight on the Western Front against France and Britain. They were also determined to conquer Russia on the Eastern Front. Russia did not have the modern weapons like France and Britain, and it suffered many losses. It was, however, able to weaken Germany by forcing Germany to split its forces between the two fronts.

When the war began, the United States declared itself neutral. Advisers to President Woodrow Wilson supported the Allies. They argued that if the Allies won, it would strengthen democracy and maintain a balance of power in the world.

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The powerful British navy placed a **blockade** on Germany. This prevented ships from leaving or entering German ports. Germany tried to break the blockade with its submarines.

The event, however, that finally brought the United States into the war was the Zimmermann telegram. The telegram from Germany suggested to Mexico that the two should become allies. Germany would then help Mexico reclaim territory from the United States.

The Zimmermann Telegram

- Sent from Germany to Mexico
- Suggested Mexico become allies with Germany
- Germany would help Mexico reclaim Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona
- Outraged many Americans
- Brought the United States into the war

Americans were outraged. They demanded war with Germany. The anger grew even greater when German submarines sank four American merchant ships. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany.

Check for Understanding

List two causes of World War I.

1. _____
2. _____

List two members of the Allies and two members of the Central Powers as of April 1917.

- | Allies | Central Powers |
|----------|----------------|
| 3. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 6. _____ |

Reading Check

9. Why did the U.S. favor the Allies in World War I?

FOLDABLES[®]

10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Write *Assassination of an Archduke* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Cause* and *Effect*.

Use both sides of the tabs to write what you remember about the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914.