Key Events

- As you read this chapter, look for the key events of World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the Paris Peace Conference
- Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist
- Militarism, nationalism, and alliances drew nations into war
- The United States’ entry into the war helped the Allies

Key Events (con’t)

- The impact of the war at home led to an increase in the federal government’s powers and changed the status of women
- The Russian Revolution ended with the Communists in power
- Peace settlements caused lingering resentment
- The League of Nations was formed

Nationalism & the System of Alliances

- The Road to War
  - Many felt that the establishment of nations would lead to peace and stability in Europe
  - Imperialist states became highly competitive over trade and colonies
  - Two main alliances divided Europe (Triple Alliance, & Triple Entente)
Nationalism & the System of Alliances

- Crisis in the Balkans
  - During the early 1900s, several crises erupted in the Balkans which created great deal of anger and tension between the nations of the two alliances.
  - Each nation was willing to go to war to preserve its power.
  - Ethnic groups within Europe such as the Slavs dreamed of creating their own nation.

- Internal Dissent
  - European Strife
    - Another source of strife was dissent within nations.
    - Socialist labor movements became more powerful, using strikes to achieve their goals.
    - Conservatives feared revolutions, socialists welcomed them.
    - War could please both conservatives & socialists.

- Militarism
  - Changes in the European Armies
    - After 1900 the armies of Europe got much larger.
    - Conscription – compulsory military service was common in Europe prior to 1914.
    - Between 1890 and 1914 European Armies doubled in size.

- European Militarism
  - European Armies: Russia 1.3 million, France and Germany 900,000; Britain, Italy, and Austria-Hungary between 250,000 and 500,000.
  - Before 1914 European countries aggressively prepared for war.
  - The real power rested with the military leaders who created complex war plans.
  - Because plans were in place, political leaders had few options when conflicts arose.

Germany Planner Alfred von Schlieffen
**Militarism**

- **War Plans**
  - Bitter over past rivalries, and the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine the Germans and the French had battle plans in tact by 1914
  - The Schlieffen Plan in Germany and Plan XVII in France were designed to deliver a quick knock-out punch

**The Outbreak of War: Summer 1914**

- **Lighting the fuse**
  - While Militarism, nationalism, and the desire to control internal dissent all had a part in starting World War I, the outbreak of fighting stemmed directly from events in the Balkans in 1914
  - Balkan states struggled for independence from the Ottoman Empire
  - Austria-Hungary and Russia competed for control over these new states
  - 1914 – Serbia wanted to form a large Slavic state in the Balkans

**Crisis in the Balkans**

- Serbia was supported by Russia and opposed by Austria-Hungary. Many in Europe feared this situation
- June 28, 1914 – Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary and his wife Sophie were in Bosnia in the southern portion of the Empire

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While visiting the town of Sarajevo, Serbian terrorists from an organization called the “Black Hand” planned assassination...
The Outbreak of War: Summer 1914

- Crisis in the Balkans
  - Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Serbian Black Hand, shot and killed Archduke Ferdinand and his wife while they sat in their car.
  - Princip was to then commit suicide, to keep from being connected to the Serbian organization.

- Before Princip could kill himself, he was apprehended by Bosnian authorities and linked to Serbia.

- Austria-Hungary wanted to declare war on Serbia, but they feared Russia would come to the aid of Serbia.
- The Austro-Hungarian government asked and received the full support of Germany.
- In July, 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

- Russia’s response to war between Serbia and Austria was mobilization of the Russian Army.
- Austria-Hungary and Germany considered mobilization an act of war.
- The Germans wanted Russia to halt mobilization, but the Russians refused.
- War with Russia, meant war with France, Russia’s ally.

- Austria-Hungary and Germany declared war on Serbia.
- Russia mobilized its army.
- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
- Germany declared war on Russia.
- France declared war on Germany.
- Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary.

- The Allies declared war on the Central Powers.
- World War I began.
The Outbreak of War: Summer 1914

Three of the most powerful men in the world, Czar Nicholas of Russia, King George of England, and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany all shared a common ancestor, Queen Victoria of England.

German War Plans
- Germany’s plan was to defeat the French before the Russians had a chance to mobilize (Schlieffen Plan)
- Germany declared war on France on August 3, 1914
- The plan called for a push through Belgium, which led to a declaration of war from England
- By August 4, 1914 World War I had begun

People thought that the system of alliances before the war would prevent a major war from starting. Why did this concept fail? How did the alliance system prove disastrous?

1914 to 1915: Illusions and Stalemate

False Beliefs
- War was not worth fighting
- Diplomats could prevent war
- Government propaganda—ideas to influence public opinion—had stirred up national hatreds before the war
- During the war, propaganda was used to urge people to defend their own country
- Most people thought their country’s cause was just

A New Kind of War
- All European wars since 1815 were short, lasting only a few weeks
- Wars did not involve civilian populations to any great extent, they were between armies
- In August, 1914 most people thought the war would be over by Christmas
1914 to 1915: Illusions and Stalemate

- **The Western Front**
  - Germany swept through Belgium and into Northern France—They were stopped a short distance from Paris at the first Battle of the Marne
  - The Western front was locked in Stalemate, with neither side able to break through—Trench warfare had begun

- **The Trenches**
  - The trenches stretched from the English Channel to nearly the Swiss border
  - For 4 years both sides remained in almost the same positions

- **The Eastern Front**
  - For the most part, the eastern front was much more mobile
  - Russian advances into Germany were beaten back at the battles of Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes
  - The Russians did expel Austria from Serbia

- **1914-1915**
  - Allies of Germany and Austria-Hungary, they broke their alliance and attacked Austria-Hungary in 1915
  - By 1915, about 2.5 million Russians had been killed, captured, or wounded
  - The Russians were almost out of the war—Germany focused on the Western Front
1916-1917: The Great Slaughter

- Western Front
  - The trenches in the West included massive tangles of barbed wire, machine guns, gun batteries, poison gas, and heavy artillery
  - The troops lived in holes in the ground
  - The territory between the trenches was called no-man's-land

- The Western Front
  - Military leaders did not know how to fight a trench war
  - They massed their men and charged across no-man's-land to try to break through

1916-1917: The Great Slaughter

- The Western Front
  - Attacks would begin with heavy artillery and involve thousands of troops
  - Men were completely exposed to machine gun fire
  - Millions died in these attacks without resolve

- At the French fort of Verdun in 1916, 700,000 men were killed in just 10 months
- German heavy artillery and aerial bombardment reduced the fort to rubble
The Western Front

- The war had become a "war of attrition"
- Each side tried to wear the other side down and exhaust their resources—men and material

The airplane was used as a weapon for the first time in World War I

- By the end of 1915, they were used to spot enemy positions from the air
- Later they attacked ground targets

In time, machine guns were mounted on airplanes, and they fought each other for control of the air

The Germans used giant airships to bomb England but they stopped when the British realized they could easily shoot down the airships
Widening of the War

- Searching for Allies
  - The war on the Western Front was bogged down in the trenches
  - Both sides tried to entice new allies
  - In November 1914, the Allies declared war on the Ottoman Empire
  - They tried to open a Balkan front by attacking Gallipoli, near Constantinople

- Searching for Allies
  - Bulgaria entered the war on the side of the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire)
  - The allies withdrew from Gallipoli after a disastrous campaign
  - Italy opened up a front against Austria-Hungary on the side of the allies
  - 1918, British forces from Egypt defeated the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East using troops from Australia, India and New Zealand

Widening of the War

- Searching for Allies
  - The Allies seized German colonies in the rest of the world
  - Japan, an ally of Britain, seized German-held islands in the Pacific Ocean

Entry of the United States

- The United States tried to stay neutral in the first years of World War I
  - As the war dragged on, this became more difficult
  - The naval war between Germany and Britain became the reason why the U.S. joined the war
Entry of the United States

- Naval Blockades
  - In a war of attrition, it is essential that each side stops the flow of supplies to the other side
  - Both England and Germany imposed a naval blockade
  - German U-Boats sank both military and civilian ships, including passenger ships

- Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
  - On May 7, 1915, the British liner *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German U-Boat (U-20) off the coast of Ireland killing 1,100 civilians including over 200 Americans
  - The ship sank in 18 minutes

Entry of the United States

- Sinking of the *Lusitania*
  - Before the ship sailed, the German government posted this warning in the *New York Times*
  - The Germans claimed the cargo hold of the boat was filled with contraband bound for England
  - The sinking brought strong protests by the U.S. government regarding German U-Boats

- Enter the U.S.
  - Events along the U.S.-Mexican border played an important part in the U.S. entry into the war
  - Raids by Poncho Villa created a hostile situation
  - The Zimmermann Telegram was intercepted by England
  - The telegram was to the German Embassy in Mexico encouraging Mexico to attack the U.S., and Germany would help after England was defeated
Entry of the United States

- Presidential Election of 1916
  - Wilson ran for re-election with the slogan "He kept us out of war"
  - In April 1917, we responded to Germany’s submarine warfare with a declaration of war on Germany
  - The majority of U.S. troops did not arrive until 1918

The Home Front: The Impact of Total War

- Total War
  - A Total War requires a complete mobilization of people and resources
  - It demanded the total commitment of the countries involved, soldiers, and civilians alike
  - The war had enormous impact on everyone’s life
  - Governments grew more powerful in order to meet wartime demands

- Total War
  - Millions of men were drafted into the military
  - Governments set up planned economies, which included: food and material rationing, regulated transportation, and controls on imports and exports
  - Government leaders saw all people as part of the war effort
  - Everyone was asked to do his/her part

- Total War
  - As the casualties mounted in the war, public support for the war waned
  - Authoritarian governments used force to keep people working
  - Other governments passed new laws to severely restrict dissent, exercised increased control of news sources (censorship), and to keep morale up with new propaganda techniques
The Home Front: The Impact of Total War

- **Total War**
  - Women assumed new roles during World War I, taking over jobs previously held only by men, including factory and trucking jobs.
  - These changes were seen as temporary, lasting only as long as the war.
  - Women gained the right to vote in America, Germany, and Austria shortly after the war.
  - Most British women gained the right to vote in 1918, during the war.

Background to Revolution

- **Russia**
  - Due to a lack of experienced military leaders and technology, Russia was unprepared for World War I.
  - The Russian army was poorly trained and equipped and suffered terrible losses.
  - Often second line troops went into battle unarmed.
  - By 1917, the Russian will to continue fighting in the war had disappeared.

Background to Revolution

- **Russia**
  - Czar Nicholas II relied on his army and government to keep him in power.
  - He did not desire war, and was a devoted family man.
  - On the day he became Czar, he said: “this is the day I’ve been dreading all my life!”
Background to Revolution

- **Russia**
  - The only son of Nicholas II was Alexei, who inherited the gene for hemophilia from his Great Grandmother Queen Victoria of England
  - In an attempt to find a cure, his mother Alexandra sought the powers of a would-be healer Grigori Rasputin

- **Russia**
  - Rasputin claimed to be a holy man, but was in fact an illiterate peasant
  - Increasingly, Alexandra made decisions of state with the help of Rasputin
  - While Nicholas II was commanding the army in the field, Alexandra and Rasputin were left in charge
  - The Russian people became increasingly upset with the czar and his wife

- **Russia**
  - Rasputin had a reputation both as a drunk and as a ladies man
  - Several attempts to kill Rasputin failed before he was finally shot and killed in 1916

- **Russia**
  - In March 1917, working-class women led a series of strikes in the capital city of Petrograd
  - They were upset about bread shortages and rationing
  - They called for a general strike that shut down all of the factories
  - Alexandrina reported the situation to Nicholas who responded by ordering troops to break up the crowds with force—many soldiers refused
  - On March 12, 1917 a provisional government asked Czar Nicholas to step down—He did
Background to Revolution

- Russia
  - The provisional government was headed by Alexander Kerensky and decided to continue fighting the war.
  - This was a grave mistake, upsetting workers and peasants who wanted the war over.
  - The government was also challenged by Soviets—councils representing workers and soldiers.
  - Soviets sprang up around the country and were mostly made up of socialists.

The Rise of Lenin

- The Bolshevik Revolution
  - The Bolsheviks were a small action of a Marxist Party.
  - They were led by Vladimir Lenin and were dedicated to a violent revolution to overthrow the capitalist system.

- Lenin was exiled to Germany between 1900 and 1917.
- When the provisional government was formed, the Germans helped Lenin return to Russia in the hope that his presence would cause disorder.
- He felt that the Bolsheviks should try to gain control of the Soviets—they were already in place and could help overthrow the government.

- The Bolshevik Revolution
  - The Bolsheviks promised to end the war, redistribute land to the peasants, transfer control of the factories and industries to the workers, and transfer government power to the Soviets.
The Rise of Lenin

- Bolshevik Revolution
- 3 Slogans of the Revolution
  - “Peace, Land, Bread”
  - “Worker Control of Production”
  - “All power to the Soviets”

The Bolsheviks Seize Power

- Bolshevik Revolution
  - By the end of October 1917, the Bolsheviks had 240,000 members and held majorities in the Moscow and Petrograd soviets
  - The provisional government collapsed on November 6 when the Bolsheviks seized the Winter Palace
  - Lenin turned over power to the Congress of Soviets which represented soviets throughout Russia

The Bolsheviks Seize Power

- The Bolshevik Revolution
  - Lenin held on to the real power by running the Council of People’s Commissars
  - The Bolsheviks renamed themselves the Communists

The Bolsheviks Seize Power

- The Bolshevik Revolution
  - In March 1918 Lenin ended the war with Germany by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, giving up territory in eastern Poland, Ukraine, Finland, and the Baltic provinces
  - He believed these territories would eventually return to Russia as the Socialist Revolution spread across Europe
The Russian Civil War
- Civil War broke out soon after the Communists took power.
- Many people were opposed to the Communists, including groups loyal to the czar, liberals, and anti-Leninist socialists.

The anti-Lenin forces were aided by the Allies, who gave them troops and supplies, hoping Russia would rejoin the war.
- The Communist (Red) Army fought in many places between 1918 and 1921.
- The opposing, or “White” forces first attacked from Siberia in the east.
- Other attacks came from Ukrainians and the Baltic region.
- By 1920, the Red Army had defeated most of the White forces.

The Communists gained control over Georgia, Russian Armenia, and Azerbaijan.
- Czar Nicholas II and his family were moved to a mining town in the Ural Mountains.
- They were eventually killed (Buried July, 1998).
Triumph of Communism

- **A Communist Victory**
  - The Communist victory came about because of their better army
  - As commissar of war, Leon Trotsky had brilliantly organized the army and instituted rigid discipline
  - The opposition was poorly united and torn by political differences and mistrust
  - They lacked a common goal
  - Some wanted to restore the czar, others wanted democracy

Leon Trotsky

- **The Last Year of the War**
  - **1918**
    - In 1917, the Allies had been defeated in their offensives on the Western front, and the Russians had withdrawn from the war
    - The Central Powers seemed to have the upper hand
    - The German commander Erich von Ludendorff to a military gamble
    - March 1918 the Germans launched a major offensive on the Western Front

Erich von Ludendorff

- **Triumph of Communism**
  - **A Communist Victory**
    - The Communists had a strong sense of purpose and conviction
    - The Communists controlled banks, farms, and industries to serve the Communist war effort, a principle called: **war communism**
    - The Communists also made use of the secret police called "The Cheka" to terrorize the opposition

Leon Trotsky slays the dragon in a Communist propaganda poster
The Last Year of the War

1918

- The German assault came within 50 miles of Paris, but was stopped at the 2nd Battle of the Marne by French, American, and Moroccan troops

- Victory in the 2nd Marne, was assisted with the “super weapon” of the day, the tank
- By the end of September, General Ludendorff told German leaders that the war was lost

- The Allies were not willing to negotiate with the German government under Wilhelm II
- The German people were angry and exhausted by the war
- In spite of attempted government reforms, German workers and soldiers in towns such as Kiel revolted and set up their own councils
- On November 9, 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm fled the country

- The German Social Democratic party, led by Friedrich Ebert, declared that Germany would be a democratic republic
- At 11:00 A.M. on November 11, 1918, Germany signed an armistice with the Allies that ended the war

- Hindenburg, Wilhelm, and Ludendorff

- Friedrich Ebert
The Last Year of the War

1918

- The armistice was signed in a railway car located in the forest of Compiegne, France
- The car was made into a monument commemorating the event
- November 11 became known as Armistice Day, and now is Veterans Day in the U.S.
- Hitler made the French surrender to the Nazis in that same railway car during World War II

The Last Year of the War

1918

- In December 1918, radical socialists formed the German Communist Party and tried to seize power
- They were defeated by the new government which was backed by the army
- The revolutionary leaders were killed
- Many middle class Germans were left fearing Communism

The Last Year of the War

1918

- At the end of the war, ethnic groups within Austria-Hungary sought independence
- The Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated into the independent republics of Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia and the monarchial state of Yugoslavia
- National rivalries in the region would weaken eastern Europe for years to come
- Even today the United Nations maintains a peacekeeping force in the region

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
Grow in Flanders fields.
The Paris Peace Conference
- In January 1919, representatives of the Allied nations met in Paris to make a final settlement of the war.
- President Wilson outlined his “Fourteen Points” with which he intended to create a lasting peace.

Wilson’s plan included proposals for open treaty negotiations, reducing military strength, and ensuring self-determination, or the right of each people to have its own nation.
- Wilson proposed a new world order based on democracy and cooperation among nations.
- He suggested a League of Nations to safeguard political independence.

Factions within the conference complicated the process.
- Secret treaties had been made before the war that promised territories to certain nations.
- National interests created problems also.
- Under Prime Minister David Lloyd George, the British wanted to make Germany pay for the war.

The “Big Three” – U.S., France, and Britain made most of the important decisions.
- Germany and Russia did not attend the conference.
The Peace Settlement

- The Paris Peace Settlement
  - The Big Three argued about many points
  - Wilson wanted to create a League of Nations to be an international peacekeeping organization
  - The conference accepted the proposal
  - In return, he agreed to territorial settlements that were not consistent with his idea of self-determination

- France gave up on the buffer zone between France and Germany and accepted the defensive alliance with the United States and Britain
- The official treaty that ended the war was the Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles
  - It was actually a set of 5 treaties – one with each defeated nation – Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey
  - Germany was blamed for starting the war
  - Germany had to pay reparations for all damages suffered by the Allies

- The German military was greatly reduced, and Alsace and Lorraine were returned to France
- Sections of Eastern Germany became part of the new nation of Poland – (Buffer between Germany & Russia)
The Peace Settlement

- The Treaty of Versailles
  - A demilitarized zone was created between France and Germany
  - The German government had to accept the treaty or go back to war
  - The treaty outraged and angered the German people—they felt the Treaty of Versailles was a harsh and unfair peace
  - The global depression of the 1930s made paying reparations impossible, and set the stage for the rise of the Nazi Party, Hitler, and World War II

- Eastern Europe changed as a result of the war
  - Russia and Germany lost territory
  - Austria-Hungary was dissolved
  - New nations emerged including: Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia

- Although in principle the treaty was guided by the idea of self-determination, the mix of people in Europe made it nearly impossible
  - Almost every eastern European state had an ethnic minority—(Germans in Poland, Hungarians in Romania)
  - These mixes would lead to future conflicts
The Peace Settlement

- The Treaty of Versailles
  - The Ottoman Empire was broken up—the Allies promised independence for the Arab states within the former Empire
  - France and Britain changed their minds and took over control of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Palestine
  - Because Wilson opposed colonization, these acquisitions were called “mandates”

- Under the mandate system, a country controlled another as a mandate on behalf of the League of Nations—it did not "officially" own the territory

The “War to End all Wars”
- World War I undermined the concept of human progress
- Entire populations had slaughtered each other in unprecedented ways
- The war set the stage for future revolutions and instabilities