

UNIT #4 GREAT WAR



The War's Causes

- Militarism

- Buildup of a nation's armed forces
 - Was a result of imperialism- countries needed strong militaries to defend their colonies

- Alliance System

- 2 major defense alliances in Europe on the eve of World War I
- Alliances were intended to prevent large-scale war, yet ended up starting the largest war in history at the time

- Imperialism

- Competition for colonies leads to rivalries between nations

- Nationalism

- Devotion to the interests and culture of your nation
- Competition between nations

King Frederick William III of Prussia
(1770-1840)

Duchess Louise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz
(1776-1810)

HOHENZOLLERN FAMILY

Tsar Paul I
of Russia
(1754-1801)

Sophie Dorothea
of Württemberg
(1759-1828)

Maria
of Russia
(1786-1859)

ROMANOV FAMILY

Tsar Nicholas I
of Russia
(1796-1855)

Princess
of Prussia
(1798-1864)

Wilhelm I
Emperor
(1797-1888)

Augusta
of Prussia
(1811-1890)

Queen Victoria
of England
(1819-1901)

Prince Albert
of Saxe-Coburg
and Gotha
(1819-1861)

Christian IX
of Denmark
(1818-1906)

Louise
of Hesse-Cassel
(1817-1898)

Tsar Alexan
of Russia
(1818-1881)

BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

DANISH ROYAL FAMILY

Frederick III
German Emperor
(1831-1888)

Victoria
of England
(1840-1901)

King Edward VII
of England
(1841-1910)

Alexandra
of Denmark
(1844-1925)

Dagmar
of Denmark
(1847-1928)

Tsar Alexan
of Russia
(1845-1894)

Kaiser Wilhelm II
German Emperor
(1859-1941)

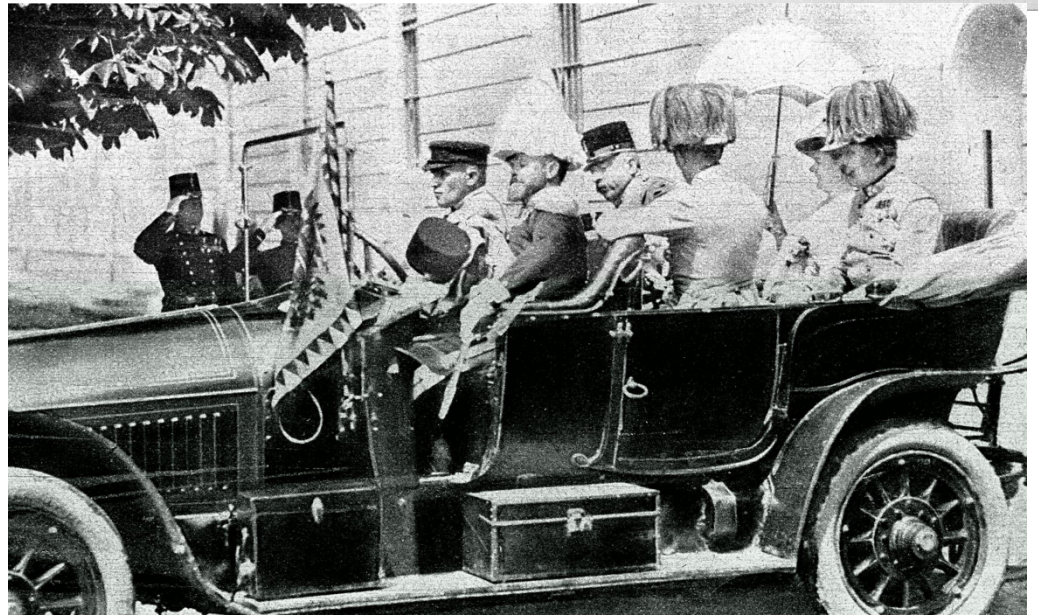
King George V
King of England
(1865-1936)

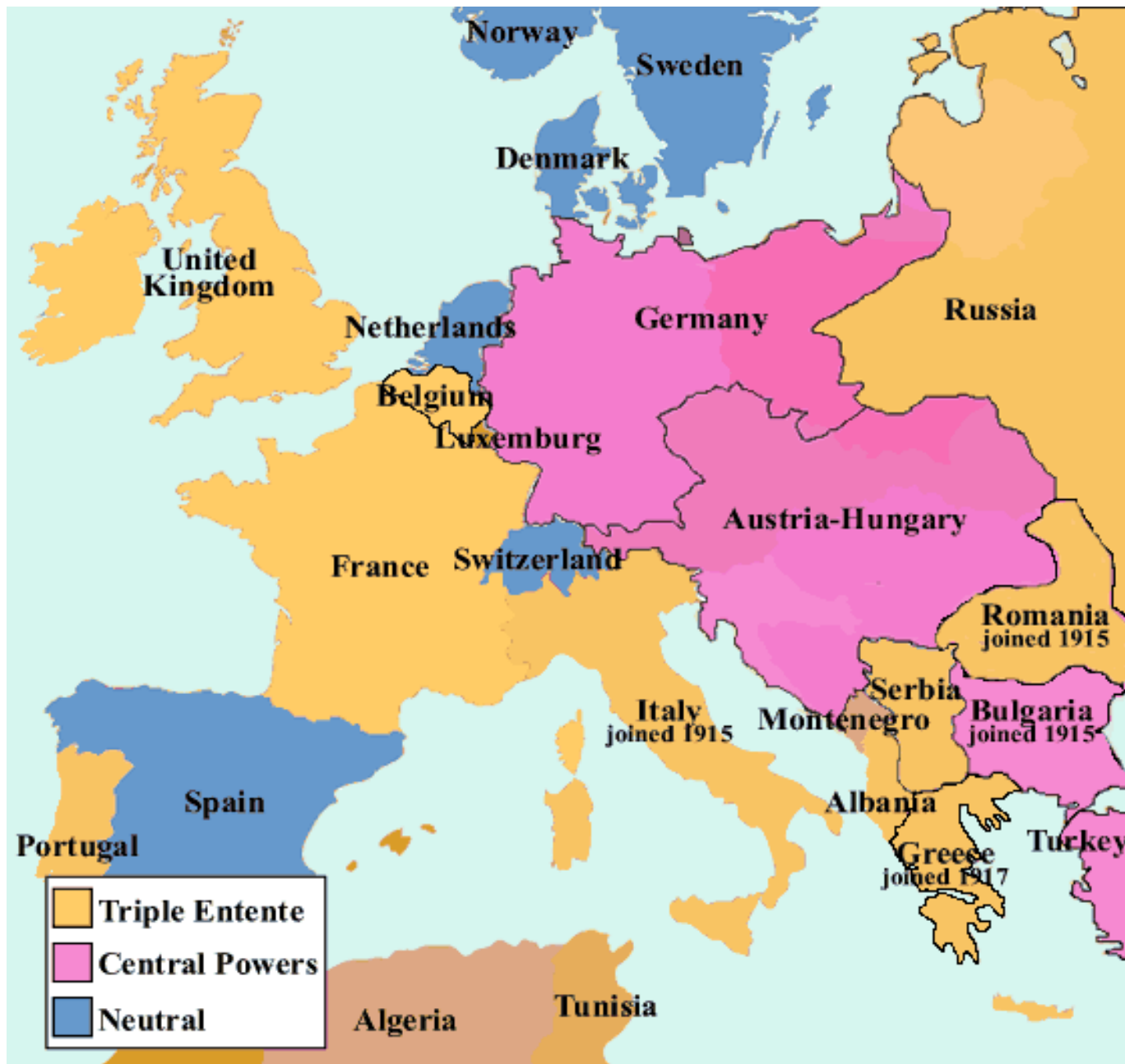
Tsar Nicholas II
Emperor of Russia
(1868-1918)



The Spark

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary assassinated by Gavrillo Princip in Sarajevo, Bosnia in 1914
- Austria-Hungary then declares war against Serbia
- Domino affect then begins the Great War!





Triple Entente:

- France
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- US

Central Powers:

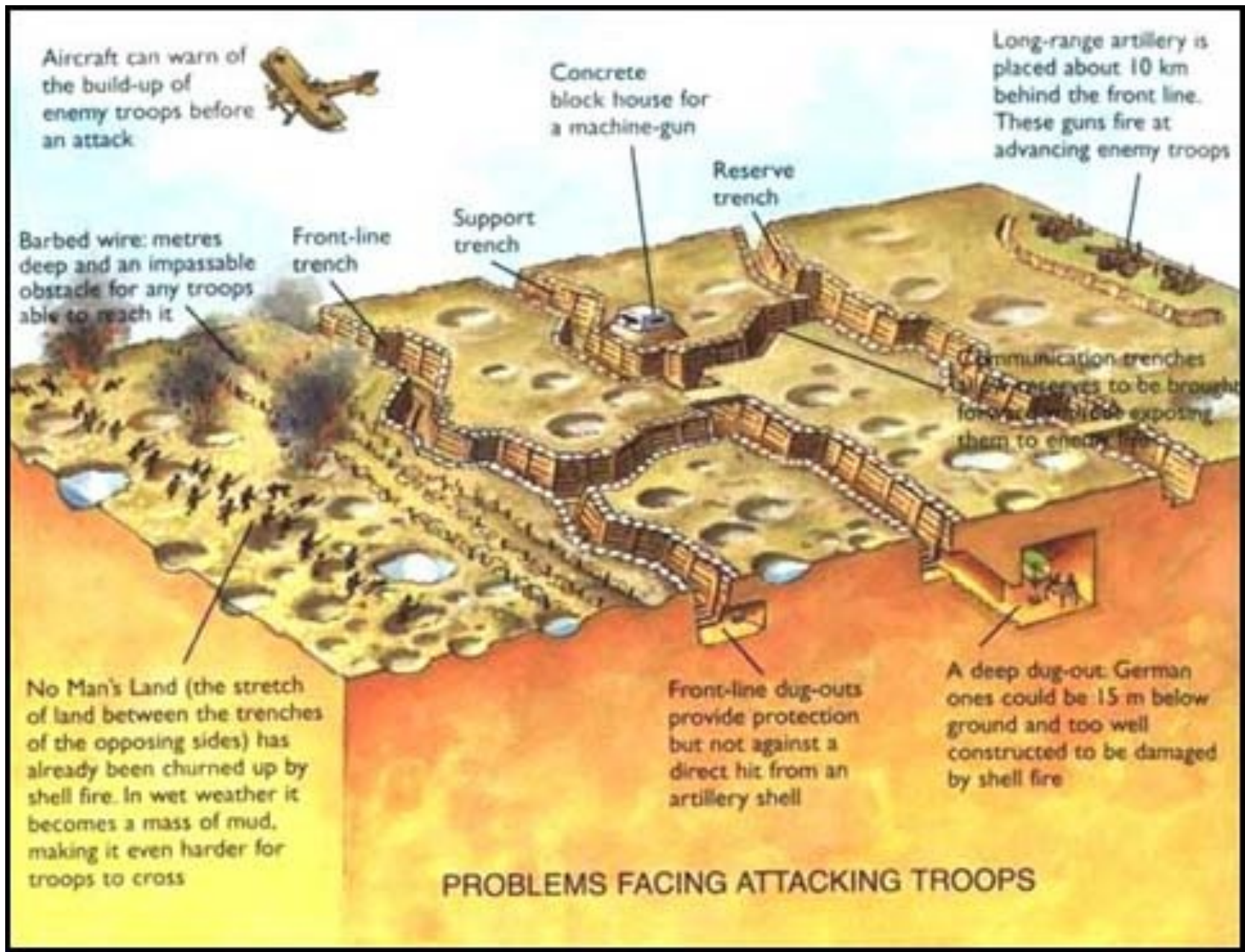
- Austria-Hungary
- Germany
- Ottoman Empire

War Begins

- 1914- War starts with Germany invading Belgium on their way to France
- Allies meet Germany in France
- Schlieffen Plan- Germany attack allies on two fronts (France & Russia)
- Trench Warfare- style of battle where forces attack each other from fortified ditches- becomes commonplace
- Between trenches lies No Man's Land- unoccupied region between opposing army's trenches

America: To Fight or not to Fight?

- Many Americans view the war as a struggle between Germany and Britain for colonial control around the world
- Newly arrived immigrants often sympathize with their former countries
- Americans begin favoring the Allies due to strong economic ties with those nations



Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack



Concrete block house for a machine-gun

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it

Front-line trench

Support trench

Reserve trench

Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross

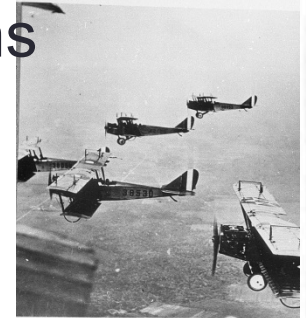
Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell

A deep dug-out: German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS

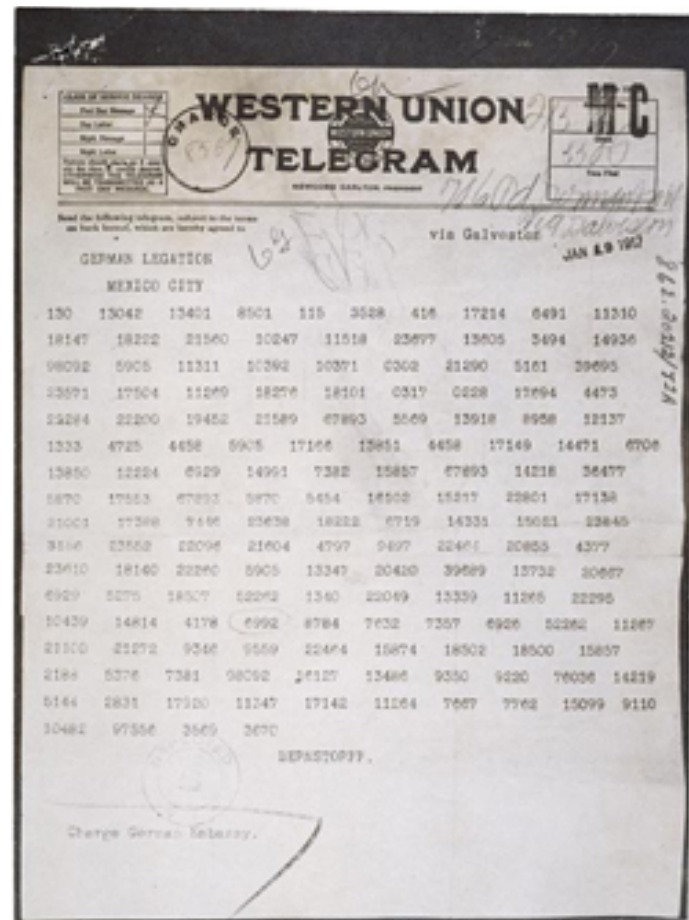
The War Hits Home

- By 1917 America prepares for war for two reasons
 - 1) Ensure Allies repay war debts
 - 2) Prevent Germans from threatening shipping
- Britain sets up blockade of Germany
- In response German U-boats, submarines, set up counter-blockade around Britain
- Germany sinks the British ship, Lusitania, in 1915 killing 128 Americans who were on board
- Sussex Pledge was a promise by Germany to stop sinking ships.
- President Wilson re-elected in 1916
- Wilson calls for peace and an end to the war after his re-election with little success



US Enters the War

- January 31, 1917 Germany announces it will sink all ships in British waters
- Zimmerman Note- message sent in 1917 by Germany to Mexico proposing a Germany-Mexico alliance in exchange for helping Mexico reclaim Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona
- April 1917 the US enters the war to make the world 'safe for democracy'



America turns the tide

- To counteract the threat of German U-boats, Allies employ the convoy system- formation where a heavy guard of destroyers protects merchant ships
 - Greatly reduces shipping losses and casualties
- Newly arrived American troops in Europe help lift Allied soldiers' morale and enthusiasm
- American 'doughboys'- infantrymen- serve on the front lines
- New weapons technology changes warfare
 - Machine guns
 - Tanks- used to drive through barbed-wire defenses
 - Airplanes- early on pilots shoot at each other with pistols until mounted machine guns are introduced aboard planes
 - Poison Gas (Mustard Gas)

Hazards of warfare

- Soldiers surrounded by lice, rats, and polluted water in trenches
- 'Shell shock'- describes the emotional collapse experienced during war
- Trench foot- disease caused by standing in cold wet trenches for long periods of time without drying out the feet
 - Feet literally begin to rot- only solution was amputation



Allies go on the offensive

- Russia pulls out of the war in 1917- causing Germany to place all its troops on the western front
- With the assistance of US troops, Allies begin pushing Germans back and out of France

Congress Gives Power to Wilson

- For the first time, Americans understand how the home front impacts the war effort
- Economy shifts from producing consumer goods to war supplies
- To make the effort more efficient, government takes over control of much of the economy
- War Industries Board- regulates the production of war supplies
 - Encouraged companies to mass produce

Congress Gives Power to Wilson

- March 1918: Daylight Savings time introduced to save fuels
- Wages jump heavily- however so did food prices and housing costs
- Union membership booms as uneven pay between labor and management becomes common
- Food Administration works to ration food- one day a week was 'meatless'
 - Many people plant 'victory gardens'- gardens at home allowing more food to be freed up for the troops

Selling the War

- Government needs to raise money to pay for the war effort:
 - Progressive Income Tax- taxes higher incomes more than lower incomes
 - Bonds
 - Increased excise taxes on liquor, tobacco, and luxury goods
- US government uses propaganda, communication designed to influence people's thoughts and actions, to sell the war to the public
 - Propaganda usually in the form of paintings, posters, or cartoons

Selling the War



War Promotes Social Change

- Many German-Americans experience attacks
 - Many Germans lose their jobs, orchestras refuse to play Mozart or Beethoven's music
- 1918- Espionage and Sedition Acts- laws imposing harsh penalties on anyone interfering with or speaking against the US war effort
 - Thousands imprisoned for speaking out against the war
- Opportunities arise for women during the war
 - Void left by men leaving and fighting allows many women to enter the workplace
 - Contributions of women to the war effort help lead to women gaining suffrage- the right to vote- in 1919
 - speaking out against the war and the draft

Attacks on Civil Liberties

- Great Migration- large-scale movement of hundreds of thousands of Southern blacks to cities in the North
 - Many blacks seek to leave behind discrimination in the South
 - Many more jobs available to workers in the North
 - Thousands migrate to industrial centers of the North: Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit

Flu Hits Home

- 1918- influenza outbreak reaches the United States
- Approximately 500,000 Americans die
- Cripples the economy- many businesses temporarily shut down to avoid spreading the disease

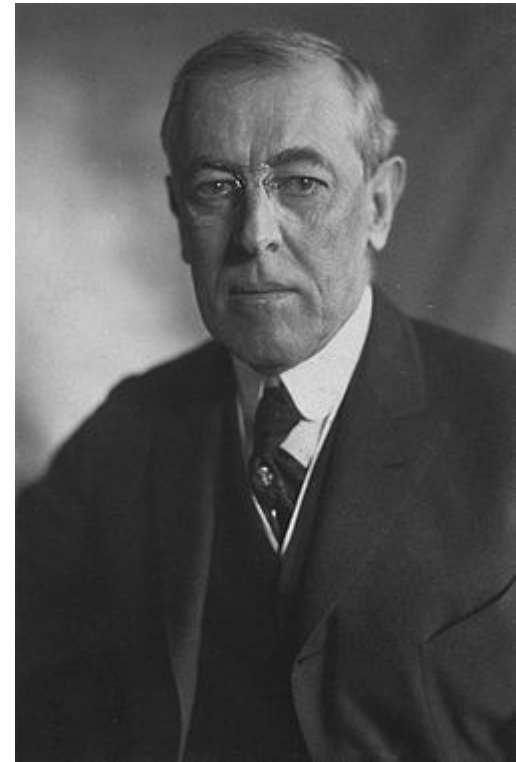
War's costs

- War deaths approximately 22 million
- Another 20 million wounded and 10 million left homeless
- Americans lose 48,000 in battle and another 62,000 to disease



Wilson's Peace Plans

- Germany signs armistice, truce, to end the war on 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918
- People of postwar Europe welcome Wilson with open arms
- Wilson's **14 Points**:
 - 1) There should be no secret treaties among nations
 - 2) Freedom of the seas
 - 3) Tariffs should be lowered or done away with to promote trade
 - 4) Arms should be reduced during diplomatic crises
 - 5) Colonial policies should include interests of those being colonized



Wilson's Peace Plans (cont.)

14 Points:

- Also stated distinct ethnic groups should form their own nation-states or decide for themselves what nation to join
- 14th point calls for a **League of Nations**- an international group designed to allow nations to come together and work to end conflicts

Reaction to Wilson's Plan:

- Most Allied leaders fail to share the same views as Wilson
- Leaders of France and Britain were angry about German aggression during the war
 - Wanted to make Germany pay for escalating the war

Treaty of Versailles

- Established nine new nations including Poland
- Gave territories of the former Ottoman Empire to France and Britain
- Barred Germany from possessing an army
- Forced Germany to pay **reparations**- war damages- of \$33 billion to the Allies
- **Impact:**
 - Treaty lead to future German aggression by humiliating the nation- forced Germany to sign a war-guilt clause
 - Because Russia didn't take part in the treaty it lost a great deal of territory
 - Ignored the self-determination of colonized peoples around the world
 - Many Americans disapprove of the creation of the League of Nations- after stiff resistance US fails to join League

Legacy of the War

- War strengthens the power of the US government and military
- Accelerates social change for women and minorities
- Creates political instability in Europe
- Resulted in the deaths of millions