

Causes of World War 1

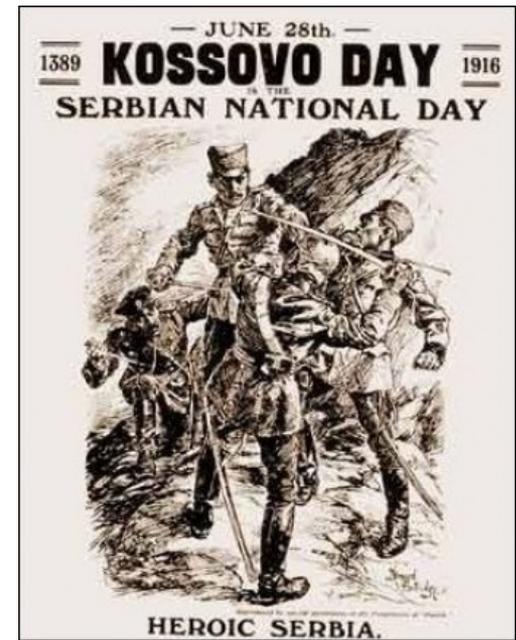
- World War 1 started in Europe in 1914, but the U.S.A. would not become involved until 1917.
- There were 4 major causes of why the war happened:
 - 1) **Nationalism**
 - 2) **Imperialism**
 - 3) **Militarism**
 - 4) **Alliance system**

Long-Term Causes

- Nationalism spurs competition among European nations.
- Imperialism deepens national rivalries.
- Militarism leads to large standing armies.
- The alliance system divides Europe into two rival camps.

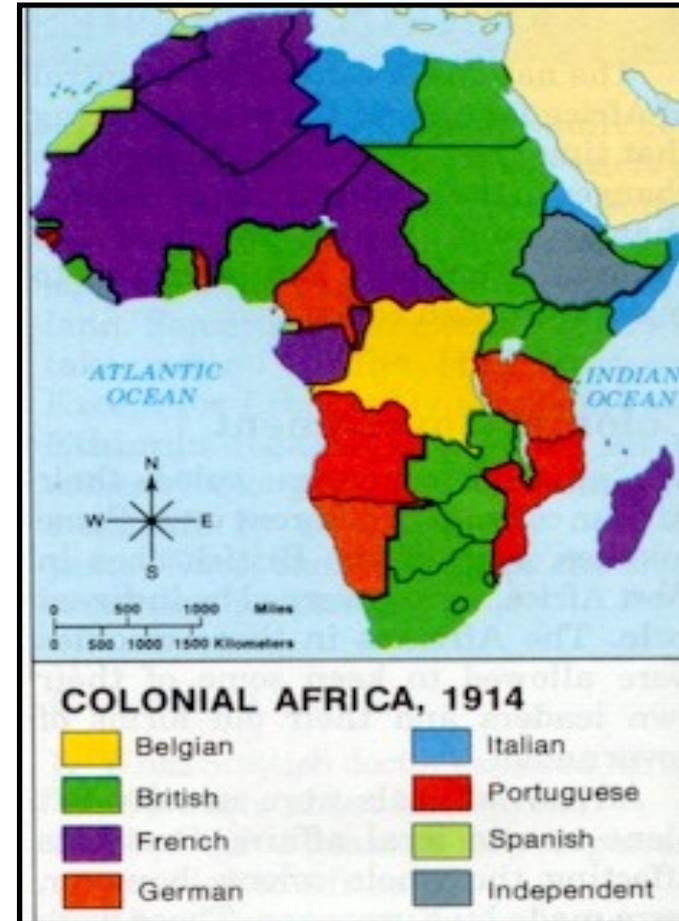
Causes of World War 1

- **Nationalism** – a strong devotion to the interests and culture of one's own nation, to the exclusion of other nations.
- **This belief led to idea that a single nations interests are more important than cooperation among nations.**
- Several ethnic groups within other nations wanted to form their own countries.
- Nationalism led to fighting among nations!



Causes of World War 1

- **Imperialism** – controlling a weaker nation as a source of raw materials and as a market for your products.
- **As nations tried to increase their economic power and influence around the world it led to conflicts and war!**
- Many European nations controlled other nations of Africa and Southeast Asia, it was becoming more difficult to find and keep colonial empires.



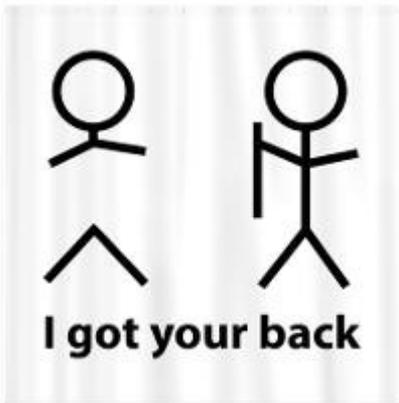
Causes of World War 1

- **Militarism** – build up of the military.
- Europeans were used to seeing people in uniform even if you were not in the military.
- It became a status symbol to wear military gear as military discipline and war became more admired.
- Military leaders felt it was better to attack first rather than wait to be attacked, because of the time it took to mobilize troops.



Causes of World War 1

- **Alliance System** – agreements between nations to aid one another if they were attacked.
- By 1890s, Europe was divided into two alliances,
 - **Central Powers (enemy)** --- **Allied Powers (friends)**.
- One alliance had **Germany Austria-Hungary**, and the **Ottoman Empire**.
- Other alliance was **Great Britain, France, & Russia**.



The Beginnings of War

- In 1914 the country of **Austria-Hungary** used imperialism to control several smaller nations located in the **Balkans** region (outlined in red) of Europe.
- Many nations of the **Balkans** were controlled by other stronger nations.
- **Serbia** was 1 of these nations and didn't like it.



The Balkans were called a “powder keg” and things were ready to explode!

The Match That Lit the Fuse



- The “powder keg” exploded in 1914.
- **Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary** was touring several nations his nation ruled over with imperialism.
- A man from Serbia (country controlled by the Archduke) ran into the street and shot the Archduke and his wife.



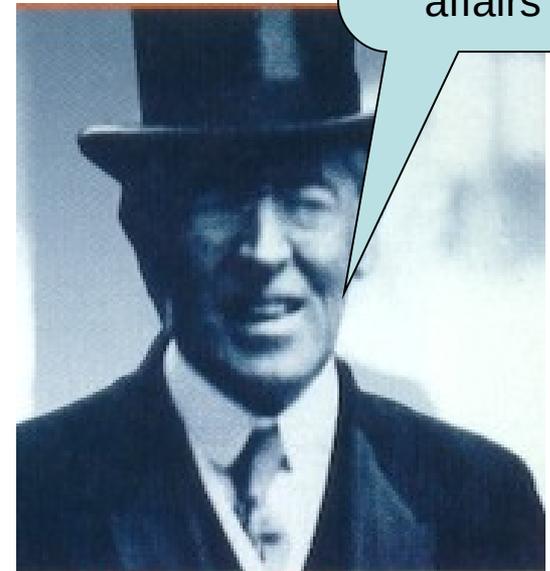
The Archduke gets capped

Alliance System Takes Down Europe

- The assassination of its leader caused **Austria-Hungary** to declare war on little **Serbia**.
- But, **Serbia** had made an alliance with **Russia**.
- So when **Austria-Hungary** attacked **Serbia**, the **Russians** came to their defense and declared war on **Austria-Hungary**.
- This brought **Germany** into the war, because they had an alliance to help **Austria-Hungary**.
- And so on it went as nation after nation was forced to join the war because of alliances they had made.

World War Begins in Europe

- It's 1914 and Europe is at war!
- The U.S.A. remained **neutral** (didn't become involved).
- U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was elected as president on the campaign promise of "**I'll keep us out of war**".
- Pres. Wilson kept his word until 1917 when a series of events caused America to want war.

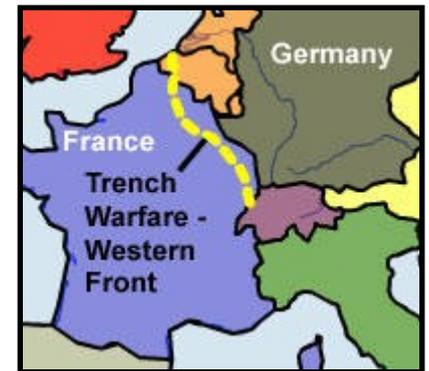


Woodrow Wilson
1856-1924

Elect me
and I will
keep us out
of Europe's
affairs

A New Kind of War

- Both sides predicted the war would be over soon, both would be wrong.
- **New weapons** were introduced:
 - machines guns, poison gas, submarines, airplanes, & tanks.
- These weapons made it easier to defend a position rather than attack.
- Trenches were dug along France's eastern border with Germany, it was called the '**Western Front**'.
- The Western Front would become a very deadly area.

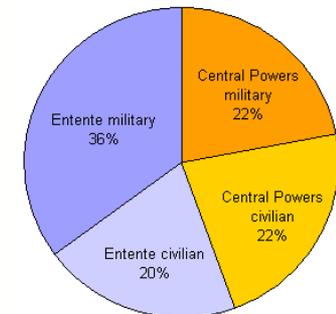


Trench Warfare

- Trench Warfare was a new and strange form of war no one had ever seen before.
- Men dug **trenches** that were separated by barbed wire and land mines, the area between them was called '**no man's land**' and was a killing zone.
- Soldiers would spend years in the trenches because neither side could advance.
- The death toll was horrendous.



World War I Deaths



Causes of USA's Involvement in the War

When war broke out in Europe, America would attempt to remain neutral.

But the U.S.A. would eventually become involved.

1. Close ties with both Britain and France
2. Germany declares unrestricted submarine warfare.
3. Germany had promised not to sink neutral ships, but they were breaking that promise.
4. Allied propaganda played the Germans as committing atrocities against civilians
5. The 'Zimmerman Note' offered Mexico a deal to join with Germany.

The Zimmerman Note

- Germany sent a telegram from its Ambassador Zimmerman to Mexico.
- Germany offered Mexico lands in the southwestern USA if Mexico would attack the USA.
- The telegram was intercepted and published in American newspapers.
- America screamed for war!

Berlin, January 19, 1917

On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this it is our intention to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left for your settlement.

You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain there will be an outbreak of war with the United States, and we suggest that the President of Mexico on his own initiative should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

Zimmermann.

Coded telegram proposing an alliance between Germany and Mexico
The Zimmerman Note decoded

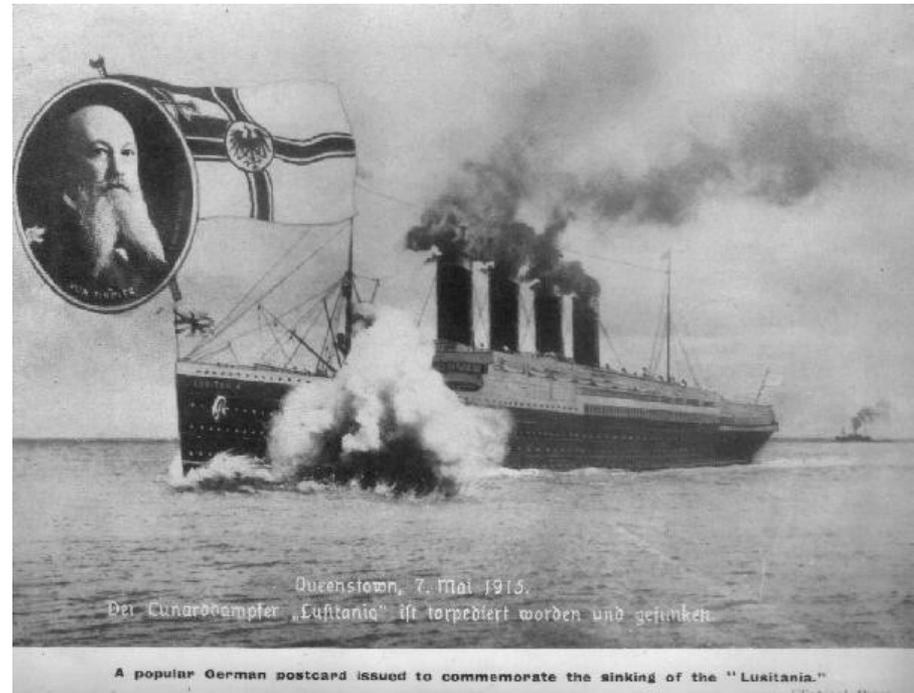
Freedom of the Seas

Freedom of the Seas was the main reason the U.S.A. finally entered the war.

- The British had blockaded Germany, preventing them from getting food & supplies.
- Germany retaliated by sinking merchant ships with their submarines.
- Germany continued to sink ships until America threatened to end relations with Germany.
- Germany then made the '**Sussex Pledge**' not to sink merchant ships without warning or without helping passengers on board.

Sinking of the Lusitania

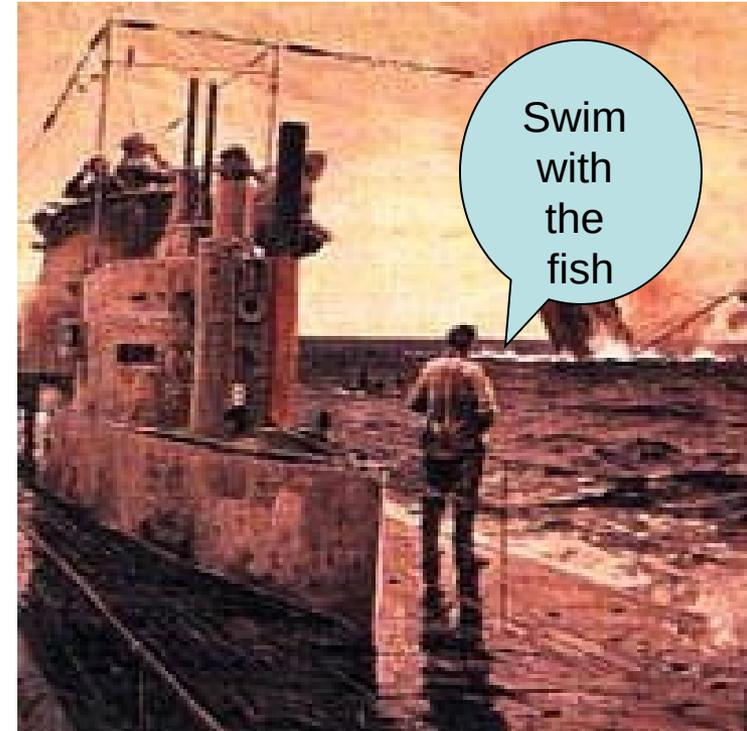
- The British passenger ship the **Lusitania** was sunk by a German U-boat.
- The ship carried 1200 passengers, of which 128 were Americans.
- This was the first time that Germany had actually killed an American citizen.
- American's called for war!



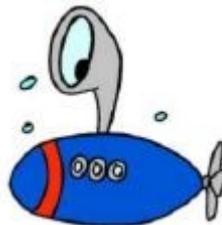
The image is a postcard that Germany printed to show its sinking of the Lusitania.

Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

- Germany was suffering from the British blockade and declared they would again start using **Unrestricted Submarine Warfare** to sink any ships they found.
- This violated the principle of “**freedom of the seas**”, or the right of neutral nations like the USA to ship non-military goods to nations at war.
- Pres. Wilson asked Congress to declare war, and they did!



German U-Boat sinking an unarmed Allied ship



STAAR Practice Question # 1

Using the newspaper to answer the question

What event in American history does this newspaper headline refer to?

- A. American Revolution
- B. Civil War
- C. Spanish American War
- D. World War I



ANSWER: Letter D, the sinking of the Lusitania was a major cause of America entering into World War I

America Declares War

WORLD WAR I



The Home Front, 1917-1918

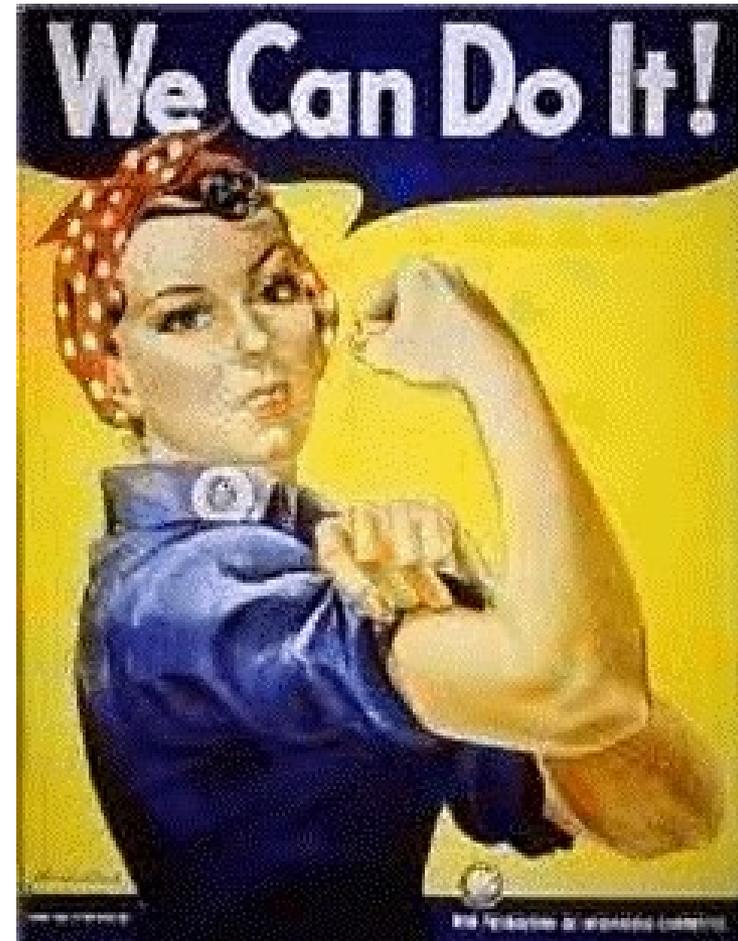


- To fight the war, Pres. Wilson was given wide powers by Congress.
- To solve the problem of a lack of military personnel the U.S. Congress passed the **Selective Service Act** (aka the draft), the draft put about 3 million men into uniform.
- But, because of Supreme Court ruling of 'Plessey v. Ferguson, African Americans served in segregated units.



The Home Front, 1917-1918

- Women & African Americans would play a vital role in the war as millions of men left their jobs to fight the war.
- African Americans were not allowed to fight in the AEF, but did serve under French leaders. (American Expeditionary Force)
- **The efforts of women in the workplace helped them gain support for suffrage.**



The Home Front, 1917-1918

- Almost 2 million men would serve in Europe.
- The cost of the war, about \$30 billion, was paid for with increased taxes and the sale of war bonds.
- Propaganda would play an important role in the war.
- All resources were mobilized turning the conflict into a **'total war'**.



The Home Front, 1917-1918

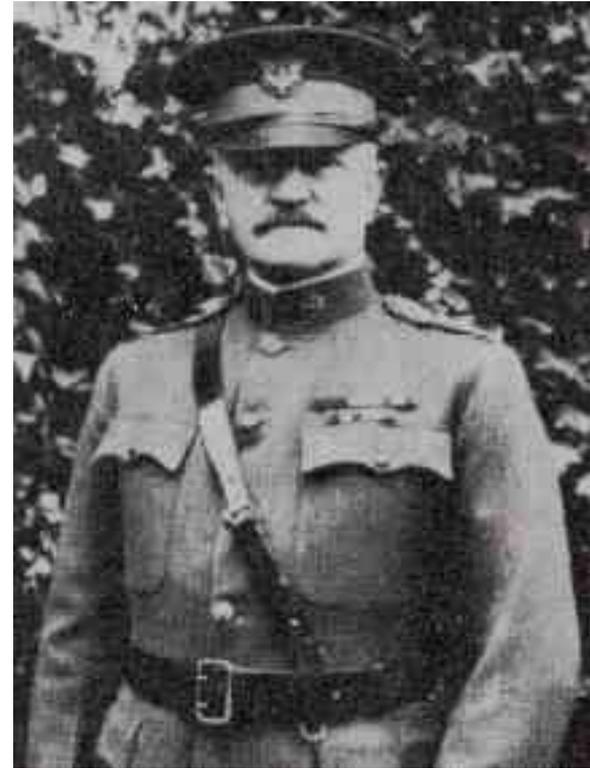
- During the war, civil liberties were violated to meet wartime needs.
- The Espionage Act (1917) made it a crime to criticize the war.
- **This violated American's civil rights, like the 1st Amendment and freedom of speech.**
- **Over 6,000 Americans were arrested under these acts.**



Heroes of the War

Gen. John J. Pershing

- Gen. Pershing was selected to lead the **AEF** which was the **American Expeditionary Force**.
- Pershing was a decorated war veteran who refused to send American troops into battle until they were well trained.
- This led to fewer deaths and the love and respect of his men.



Battle of Argonne Forest

- One of the greatest battles of the war was fought in the Argonne Forest of northeastern France.
- Germany had spent years fortifying this hilly, forested area surrounded with barbed wire, land mines, concrete barriers, tanks and machine guns.
- Gen. Pershing led 600,000 men against all odds and succeeded into breaking through the German lines in this final and most important battle the American Expeditionary Force fought.

Heroes of the War

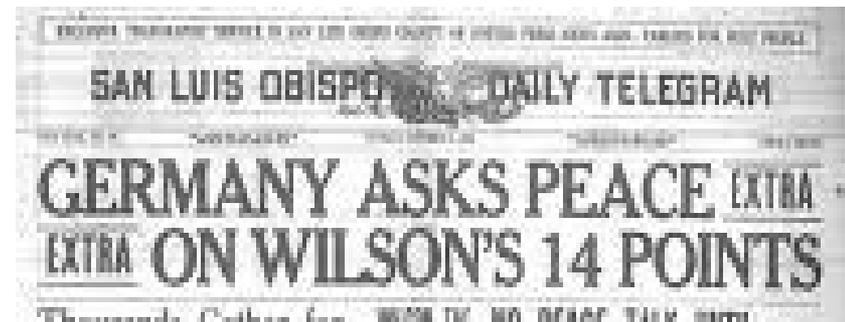
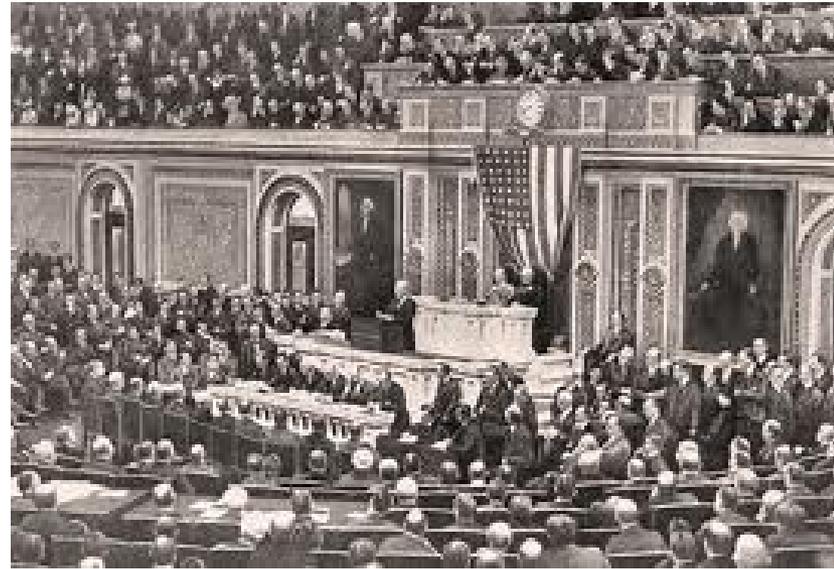
Alvin York

- Alvin York represented the typical draftee in World War 1, he was underprivileged and uneducated.
- In the Battle of Argonne Forest, Sgt. York singlehandedly was responsible for killing 25 Germans and capturing 132 prisoners of war.
- He earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism.
- The Medal of Honor has been given to over 3,499 soldiers.



Wilson's Fourteen Points

- Pres. Wilson broadened the war aims from a defense of 'freedom of the seas' to a crusade of making the world 'safe for democracy'.
- In January of 1918, Pres. Wilson made a speech to Congress called the "Fourteen Points".
- The speech outlined a plan for world peace.



Wilson's Fourteen Points

The Fourteen Points

- Major European nationalities would be given right of self-determination about their own country and governments.
- Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire would be divided into smaller nations.
- Wilson called for a reduction in arms, removal of trade barriers, and an end to secret diplomacy.
- The most important of all to Wilson was his plan called the **“League of Nation”**, an organization to mediate international disputes to avoid war.

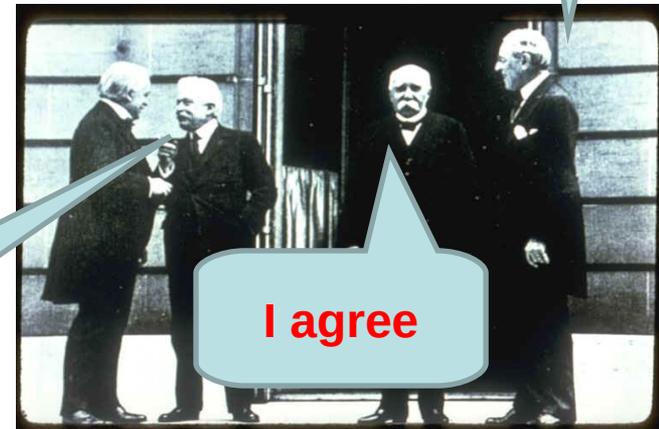
The League of Nations

- Pres. Wilson campaigned across America and with European leaders to gain support for his League of Nations plan.
- But, Americans were not interested in giving others the power to decide whether the USA would go to war or not.
- European leaders argued with Wilson, because they wanted a harsher punishment on Germany than he did.
- Wilson's plan was in jeopardy.

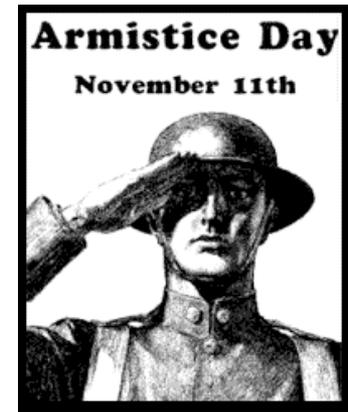
What about my plan ?

Germany must pay

I agree



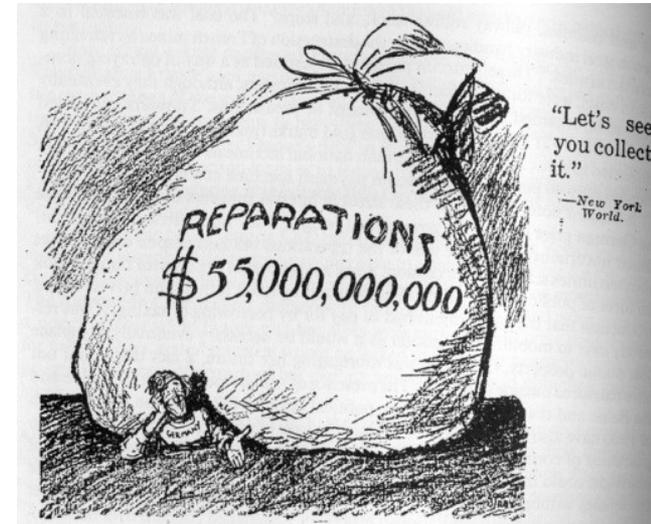
The Treaty of Versailles



- Germany, exhausted by the war, finally agreed to an **armistice** (peace agreement) on Nov. 11, 1918 we now call this Veteran's Day.
- The USA met with the French, British, & the Italians to discuss peace terms.
- The Russians, although they had fought on our winning side, were not invited to the peace talks.
Russia had become communist!

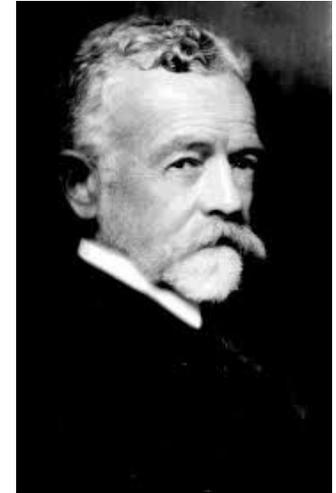
Terms of Treaty of Versailles

- Terms of the Treaty were very harsh, especially on Germany.
- Germany:
 - Lost land they had taken
 - Lost their overseas colonies.
 - Demilitarization, reduce military size.
 - Accept blame for war in the War Guilt Clause.
 - Make reparations (payments for damages)
- Austria-Hungary & Turkey:
 - Were divided into several new nations.



Rejection of League of Nations

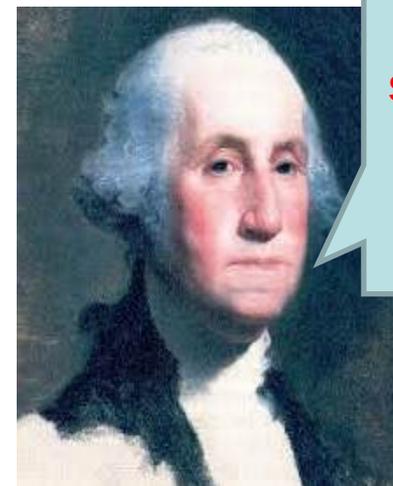
- Opponents of the League of Nations argued that it would drag the USA into unwanted military commitments.
- **Senator Henry Cabot Lodge** strongly opposed the creation of the League, saying the USA would lose its freedom of action.
- The United States Congress refused to ratify (ok) the Treaty of Versailles and the USA never joined the League of Nations.



The League would handcuff the USA

America Retreats to Isolationism

- By 1919, the American people had become disillusioned by world affairs.
- Victory in WW 1 had come at a high price in lives and dollars.
- American's began to think George Washington was right with his advice of staying out of European entanglements.
- America began to look at their well being at home.



**America
should stay
out of
Europe's
business**

American Isolationism

- America turned to a policy of isolationism – ‘separating themselves from other countries’ affairs’.
- America turned its back on Europe by:
 - Raising tariffs on imports to protect US businesses
 - Restricting European immigration, especially from Eastern and Southern Europe. (The New Immigrant)
 - Rejecting the Treaty of Versailles.
 - Refusing to join the League of Nations.

These were all signs of America’s decision to isolate themselves from the rest of the world.