

World War I

Mr. Zindman's Class

Please study your slides and class notes

“The Great War in Europe becomes ours”

- Militarism, the alliance system, nationalism, and imperialism all caused tension in the early 20th century amongst European nations.
 - **Militarism** is the policy of building up strong armed forces.
 - **Imperialism** is when a powerful nation controls another country.
 - **Nationalism** is feeling your nation is superior to other countries in the world.
- The assassination of **Archduke Francis Ferdinand**, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was the immediate **spark** of World War I in Europe.
- **The Central Powers** or **Triple Alliance** included the powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. (Italy was a member until 1915)
- Russia, France and Great Britain were members of the **Triple Entente**. (The US joined these nations in 1917)
- **The Allied Powers** were France, Britain, Italy and 21 other nations.
- **Machine guns** became the weapon of choice for infantry soldiers.
- **Trench warfare** was when soldiers dug trenches to defend their position.
- Germans were the first to use phosgene, a **chemical weapon** and **submarine warfare**.
- **Aircraft** were fitted with machine guns and weapons to assist the army in trenches.
- In 1914, the US adopted a policy of **neutrality**, or the policy of non-involvement when war erupted in Europe.
- Both sides used propaganda to support their causes of war and hurt their enemies.
 - The sinking of the **Lusitania** was a great source for war propaganda.
- Germany's **Zimmermann Telegram** to Mexico gave the US reason to consider fighting a war with Germany. Thus, the letter drove the United States into the war.
- Woodrow Wilson was the US President during the First World War, and was re-elected in 1916 by promising to keep the US out of World War I. With the Zimmerman Telegram, Wilson soon signed a declaration of war. People that supported the war were known as warmongers.
- **George M. Cohan** wrote the song, **Over There** to support the war.

- The Supreme Court of the US ruled in the case, **Schenck vs. US**, that free speech can be restricted and limited if it creates a clear and present danger to the US (as in times of war) This led to the Sedition and Espionage Acts.
- The rights of freedom of speech and the press were restricted during the First World War in the US – ***The Sedition and Espionage Acts***.
- ***W.E.B. DuBois*** spoke about the African Diaspora, and racism in the military during WWI.
- ***Pacifists*** supported the war and ***warmongers*** supported the war.
- As a result of the Russian Communist Revolution of 1917, Russia decided to withdraw from World War I.
- The US government sold ***liberty bonds*** to help raise money for the war effort.
- **Socialists** believed that the people as a whole rather than the private individuals should own all property and share the profits from all businesses.
- The status of women changed during the war because with the absence of men greater job opportunities were suddenly available for women
- Trade with the Allied powers during the war helped the US economy grow tremendously.
- Through President Wilson's ***Fourteen Points*** he hoped to set up **democratic governments** in Asia and Europe.
- American opponents of World War I most often protested being **drafted** into the military to fight the war in Europe
- One portion of Woodrow Wilson's *Fourteen Points* which was included into the *Treaty of Versailles* was his idea of a **League of Nations**, which had the goal to prevent all future world wars.
- The US did not join the League of Nations because the US Senate refused to ratify (pass) the Treaty of Versailles.
- The US Senate did not want the US to be dragged into any future European wars, which the League of Nations would pledge to protect.
- A **blockade** is an attempt by a country to stop all types of shipping from entering another country's harbors or ports.
- The **Zimmerman Note** was a German message sent to Mexico trying to lure Mexico into the war on the side of Germany by attacking the US.
- **Reparations** are payments made by one nation to another for damages caused by a war.
- The **Selective Service Act** required all men between the ages of 18 – 45 to register for the draft.

- **Trench Warfare** was developed to try to combat the use of machine guns and other devastating weapons.
- Woodrow Wilson's idea for a **League of Nations** was a peace-making body whose goal was to avoid future war through discussion.
- **The proceedings at the Versailles Peace Conference would have real important consequences on the events of Europe in the decades to come. (1930's and 1940's) The terms of the Treaty of Versailles would cause resentment and bitter feelings amongst the defeated nation of Germany.**

