

World War I

Edward Wadsworth's 1919 painting *Dazzle Ships
In Drydock At Liverpool*



NATIONAL MUSEUM *of the*
UNITED STATES NAVY



Study Guide

JOIN THE NAVY

— THE REASONS WHY —

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU

The Navy Needs More Men

In case of war the Navy must do the first fighting. If any one starts a fight with this country, let us find out who is right.

THE TIME HAS COME

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Core Standards

DC:

10.5. Students analyze the long-term military, economic, and political effects of the World War I.

1. Describe advances in tank and aerial warfare, the belief that the “Great War” would end war, and disarmament movements.

(M, P)

2. Describe the effects of the war and resulting peace treaties on population movement, the international economy, and shifts in the geographic and political borders of Europe and the Middle East. (G, P, E)

3. Analyze the aims and negotiating roles of world leaders, including Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, and the causes and effects of the United States’ rejection of the League of Nations on world politics. (P)

4. Describe the conflicting aims and aspirations of the conferees at Versailles and the Versailles treaty’s economic and moral effects on Germany.

10. Explain the widespread disillusionment with prewar institutions, authorities, and values that resulted in a void that was later filled by totalitarians. (P)

11. Analyze the objectives and achievements of women’s political movements in the context of World War I and its aftermath.

(P, S)

12. Explain the influence of World War I on literature, art, and intellectual life (e.g., Pablo Picasso, the Jazz Era music of the Harlem Hellfighters 369th Regiment Band and James Reese Europe; the “lost generation” of Gertrude Stein and Ernest Hemingway). (I)



Introduction

World War I (1914-1918) was a conflict that involved more countries and caused greater destruction than any other war up to its time. In total, 9 million soldiers and 6 million civilians lost their lives.

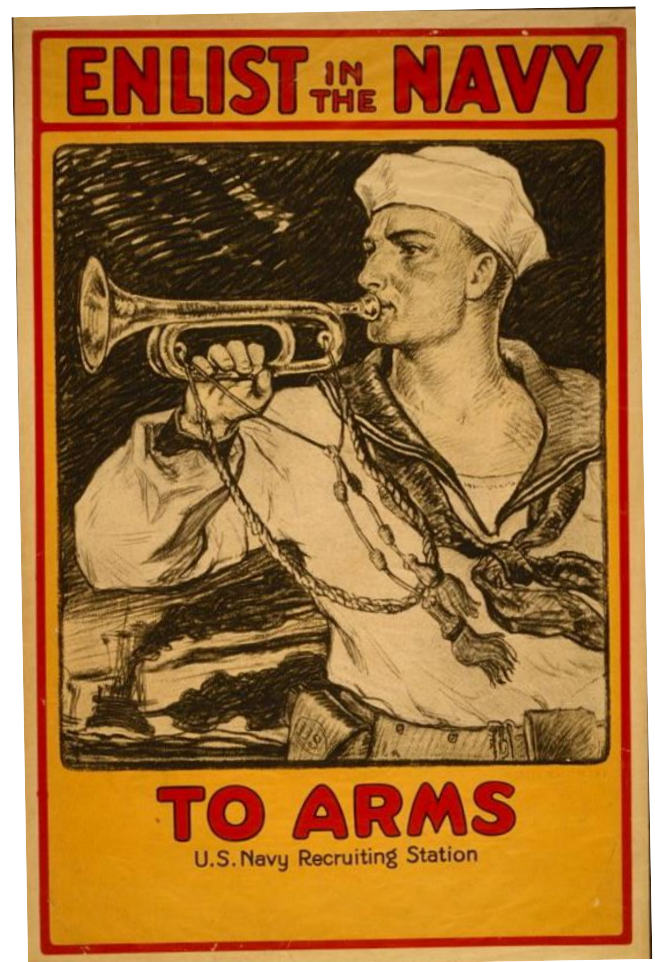
The conditions that led to World War I took shape over several decades. The unification of Germany in 1871 had created a powerful and fast-growing new state in Central Europe. In the early 1900's, Germany's quest for power caused a series of crises. Armed forces expanded, and Europe's great powers formed alliances and prepared for war.

A single assassination on June 28, 1914, sparked the outbreak of World War I. That day, a gunman shot down Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. The shooting took place in Sarajevo, the capital of Austria-Hungary's province of Bosnia. Serbia had long sought freedom from their colonizer Austria-Hungary, and Austrian investigators believed Serbia had a hand in the assassination. With the assistance of Germany, Austria later declared war on Serbia, sparking an alliance-based chain declaring war.

When the fighting began, each nation's allies became involved in the conflict. France, Russia, and the United Kingdom, collectively known as the Entente, backed Serbia. They opposed the Central Powers, made up of Austria-Hungary and Germany. Other countries later joined each alliance. The Entente and its allies came to be known as the Allies.

The United States remained neutral at first. However, many Americans turned against the Central Powers after German submarines began sinking unarmed American ships. In 1917, the United States joined the Entente. The support of the United States gave the Entente the resources they needed to win the war. In the fall of 1918, the Central Powers surrendered.

A number of developments contributed to the historic bloodshed of World War I. Military drafts raised larger armies than ever before. Industries equipped those armies with new and dangerous weapons. Barbed wire slowed the movement of troops across the battlefield, and machine guns fired hundreds of rounds in less than a minute. Armies fought from vast systems of trenches (fortified ditches). Also, government **propaganda** drove support by making opposing nations seem villainous. This particular war changed the laws of warfare and society's mindset of the "glory of war".



Causes

Numerous complicated events led to what we know as World War I. It is hard to give a direct cause and effect, like the invasion or attack on a country. Many point to the assassination of the Archduke, and heir, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Franz Ferdinand. Historians agree that the “Great War” became a global event when Russia **mobilized** its forces or when Germany declared war on Russia, however, this may not mean Germany and Russia are to blame for the war. Let’s look at the complicated timeline that made this a global war.

June 28, 1914- Gavrilo Princip assassinates the Archduke and Heir of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. Austrian agents learn that Princip was a member of the Black Hand, a group of Bosnian Serbs who believed in the liberation of Serbs who lived outside of Serbia, mainly in Austria-Hungary. Agents learned the Black Hand was armed by Serbia.

July 23- Nearly one month after the assassination, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to the kingdom of Serbia basically saying to back down or we will invade. The Serbs almost immediately reject the ultimatum, but in their reply, make the language appear to be a surrender. This stalled the Austro-Hungarian response for a few days.

Why did Austria-Hungary wait a month to issue the ultimatum?

Austria-Hungary wanted to ensure that their ally Germany would help militarily should they need to invade Serbia. They spent the month in talks with Germany, which ended in what is known as the “Blank Check”. Germany would back Austria-Hungary in whatever it decided to do. Germany and Austria-Hungary knew that Russia was allies with Serbia, but Germany thought Russia would not defend Serbia after the assassination. Keeping this in mind, they knew the alliance with Austria-Hungary would help should Russia **mobilize**.

July 25- Russia, an ally to Serbia, declares they are in a “Period of Preparatory to War”. Had they declared they were mobilizing, this would have alerted Germany and Austria-Hungary to **mobilize** themselves, but their preparatory declaration translated as a mostly diplomatic strategy.

July 28- Austria declares war on Serbia, as they rejected the ultimatum.

July 30- Since Serbia and Russia were allies, Russia **mobilizes** its troops. Germany demands that Russia stays out of the conflict and back down. Russia ignores the demand.

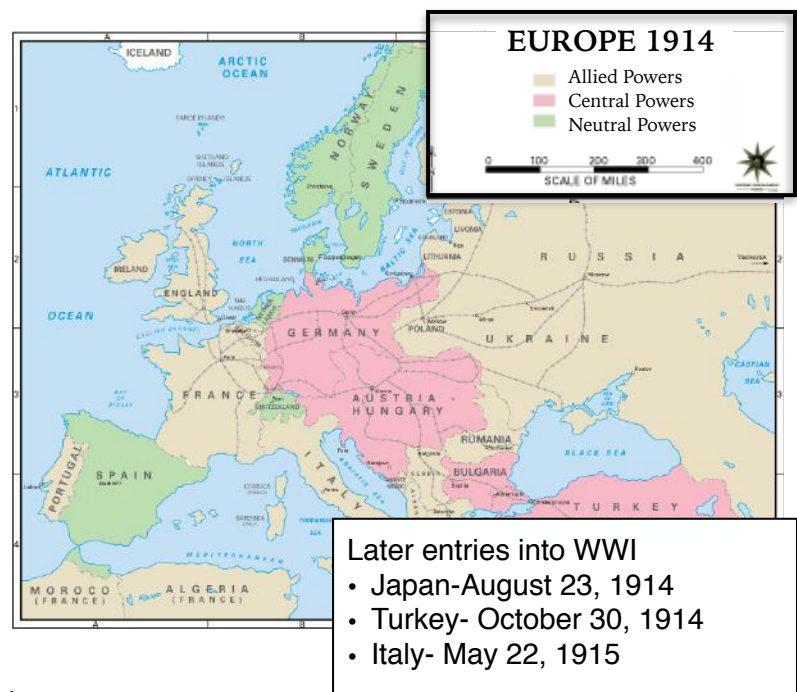
August 1- Germany declares war on Russia. France begins to **mobilize** because they are allies with Russia.

August 3- Germany declares war on France and moves to march through Belgium, the quickest route to France from Germany. Belgium was allies with the Great Britain.

August 4- Germany marches through Belgium to quickly defeat France. Great Britain issues warning to retreat. Germany ignores warning, and Great Britain declares war on Germany.



Gavrilo Princip



Later entries into WWI

- Japan-August 23, 1914
- Turkey- October 30, 1914
- Italy- May 22, 1915



Causes

July/August 1914

				23 Austria/ Germany's Ultimatum to Serbia	24	25 Russia's Period Preparatory to War
26	27	28 Austria declares war on Serbia	29	30 Russia mobilizes troops	31	1 Germany declares war on Russia
2	3 Germany declares war on France	4 Germany marches through Belgium to France	← Great Britain declares war on Germany			

Alliances

Alliances, both secret and otherwise, led to the onset of World War I. As you can see from the last page, this started as a regional issue and exploded within two weeks. Using the information given above and on page 3, list the countries within the two major alliances of the War.

Central Powers

Triple Entente/Allies

Russia

WWI Technology

World War I is considered to be the first “modern war”. Dozens of new inventions and technologies led to completely new approaches to warfare and strategy. Prior to “The Great War”, warfare was considered a glorious and romanticized event that spread national pride. These new technologies, however, were created for destruction, and killing opponents became much easier. Using old-war strategies and new technologies created even more **casualties** than necessary. Read below to learn why:

Trench Warfare

Digging trenches was originally used in warfare by the French as far back as the 17th century. Most all soldiers were issued entrenching tools like a shovel, but neither side of the war anticipated that warfare would be so **static** for years at a time. The first trenches, dug in September, 1914, measured only a couple feet deep, enough to crouch and avoid gunfire. Soldiers inevitably dug trenches meters deep and hundreds of miles long, creating sleeping and eating quarters. Due to heavy rainfall and humidity, soldiers often waded in mud throughout every day, and infection, or gangrene, ran rampant among these men.



German Trenches- 1914 (Courtesy: Library of Congress)



Machine Gun commonly used in World War I. Notice that both men don gas masks while fighting.

Machine Guns

Prior to World War I, weaponry and firing weapons was a much more intimate experience with your target. You would have to aim directly at your target and carefully shoot, as not to waste the limited ammunition loaded in your gun. With the invention of the machine gun in the late 19th century, soldiers could fire up to 600 bullets per minute. This being said, consider the former battle strategy **line formation**, like the images of the British during the American Revolutionary War. Now, read the first hand account of using the machine gun by a British soldier during the Battle of the Somme:

“When we started firing we just had to load and reload. They went down in their hundreds. You didn’t have to aim, we just fired at them.”

Guiding Questions:

How might the popularity of trenches and machine guns have led to long, stalemate battles?
Considering the living conditions of trenches, what diseases and health concerns would have spread? What would you have done to prevent these risks?

WWI Technology

Barbed Wire

While barbed wire had originally been invented in the mid 19th century for the purpose of farming, both the Central Powers and Triple Entente found it to be useful in trench warfare. Barbed wire could be used as a defensive and offensive strategy in warfare. More simply as a defense strategy, troops would line the border of their trenches as a last line of defense from the enemy. Offensively, barbed wire was used strategically by creating paths leading to “kill zones”. Troops would run to attack their opponents’ trenches only to be surrounded by barbed wire. Once they were all in a designated area, the opponent would shoot them down using machine guns.



German Sniper behind barbed wire defense. Year unknown.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress



US Marines in gas masks,
1918.

Poison Gas

This weapon was first successfully used by Germany on April 22, 1915. Because both sides were largely using trench warfare, neither would raid the opposing side. The area between the trenches, often fairly close, became known as “no man’s land”. So, in 1915, Germany used a chemical agent known as mustard gas to force the Allies into surrender. On that day alone, the gas killed 5,000 soldiers, clearing the area for a German battle victory. Mustard gas is a type of chlorine. Chlorine gases burn the lining of the throat causing victims to choke to death. These gases can also burn out the eyes and other soft tissue exposed to it. Gas masks and other preventative measures came into effect after

chemical warfare became more popular on both sides of the war. After the War ended, chlorine gas killed over 100,000 soldiers and wounded over 1 million.

We gathered by the rail [of the ship] and gazed for the first time at the brilliantly lighted harbor and realized that we were in France... While we were waiting on deck with our equipment on, a trainload of 500 wounded came on the wharf beside us. They were brought on board at once. About half of them were suffering from gas poisoning. Their skin was yellow and their eyes were protected from the sun by paper shades. Many had both legs amputated.”

WWI Technology

Tanks

Tanks were introduced late in World War I as a response to the stalemate of trench warfare. A British invention, they first saw action in 1916, two years after the beginning of the War. It was first successfully used in 1917 in the Battle of Cambrai. German forces had reinforced their trenches with strong barbed wire, and their machine weapons kept the Allies from victory. Fleets of tanks assembled and charged the front, passing easily through no man's land, the barbed wire, and crossing the trenches. In response to this success, the Allies continued to manufacture thousands of tanks. Germany, in response, were only able to develop and build 20 tanks.



Tank forging through a trench



Aviation

In the beginning of the War, planes were rarely used. Most countries used hot air balloons and zeppelins in order to photograph enemy grounds and gain **intelligence**. Most of the actual planes owned by governments were not for warfare and didn't see the line of battle until the end of the War. Pilots started carrying bricks on board to drop on opposing planes, and some even started carrying guns with them. The French became well known for their **Aces**, or infamously talented pilots, like Manfred von Richthofen (Red Baron). Pilots like Richthofen learned to do spins, half-rolls, and climbing turns, among other flying techniques.

Guiding Questions:

Which of the weapons listed are considered defensive strategies? Offensive?

Which of these weapons would you consider to be the deadliest?

Could a soldier utilize or face more than one of these in a similar setting? Which ones would work together?

WWI Technology

Instructions: Draw a line from the quotation to the correlating technology introduced during World War I.

"...I couldn't see, my eyes were running water and burning, so was my nose and I could hardly breathe. I gasped, choked and felt the extreme terror of the man who goes under in the water and will clutch at a straw."

"...lumbering slowly towards U.S.came three huge mechanical monsters such as we had never seen before."

"Artillery was the killer; artillery was the terrifier; artillery followed the soldier to the rear; sought him out in his billet; found him on the march"

Colonel Pope, the commanding officer of the Borderers, becomes a casualty. Tripping over some rusty wire he falls and punctures his face. Two years later a military funeral...of Pope. The dirty wire killed him.

"Whilst asleep during the night, we were frequently awakened by rats running over us. When this happened too often for my liking, I would lie on my back and wait for a rat to linger on my legs; then violently heave my legs upwards, throwing the rat into the air. Occasionally, I would hear a grunt when the rat landed on a fellow victim."

You don't think much of the individual, because you don't think you've hit him and you hope that he will bail out or something; it's the aeroplane you've hit ... normally it was more of a game if you like, you were outwitting and shooting down another aircraft, you were simply hitting metal.





The U.S. Enters WWI

The mission of the Navy is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

The United States did not enter World War I until 1917, three years after its beginning. The United States President at the time, Woodrow Wilson, believed that we should remain neutral but trade and deal with both the Central Powers and Allies. The German Navy began attacking merchant and civilian ships crossing the Atlantic, as they knew the U.S. stored munitions for sale to the Allies. One of the most famous attacks was that of the sinking of the cruise liner RMS Lusitania in 1915. This was a civilian ship crossing the Atlantic from New York City to Liverpool. Germany knew that U.S. weapons were on board the ship, and to prevent the Allies from receiving them, sank the *Lusitania*, killing 1,198 of the 1,962 on board. At this point, the German Navy was preventing free trade of the seas, in conflict with the mission of the U.S. Navy. This event did not directly lead to U.S. involvement of World War I. The U.S. would not enter the war for another 2 years. This event would, however, create anti-German sentiments among the American public.

Two major events in 1917 did lead to the U.S. entering World War I. In January of that year, the German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram to the German Minister to Mexico. In this telegram, famously known as a **Zimmermann Telegram**, Germany promised to reclaim portions of the American Southwest if they would form allegiance with Germany. This telegram was intercepted by British Intelligence who notified President Wilson. Germany was now a more major threat to the United States, and one month later, Germany declared **unrestricted submarine warfare**, breaking military code. In unrestricted submarine warfare, German U-boats (submarines) would fire on any ships without any warning, whether they be military or merchant/civilian liners. With this action, along with the Zimmermann Telegram, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany, joining the Allies, in April 1917.



...since April of last year the Imperial Government had somewhat restrained ... with its promise then given to U.S. that passenger boats should not be sunk and that due warning would be given to all other vessels which its submarines might seek to destroy... The new policy has swept every restriction aside. Vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board, the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents.



US Navy and WWI

Imperial Germany relied heavily on their 48 submarines at the beginning of World War I. With regard to the US, they felt that their strong Navy would prevent American troops from entering the war by preventing troops from crossing the Atlantic. Their initial plan was to suffocate the Allies of their supplies, shipped mainly from the US, and force the Allies into an early surrender in the war. This plan worked quite well in the beginning of the war. Germany had the most submarines ships and sank 5,554 Allied and merchant ships over the course of the War. By 1917, Germany had built 372 U-boats. The Allies ended up sinking 178.

Once the United States entered World War I, our Navy, along with the British Royal Navy, had developed anti-submarine technology which ultimately helped win the war. Initially, the U.S. Navy facilitated naval transport and supply service for the Allied forces in Europe. These shipments required protection from German submarines. Later, the U.S. Navy began a complicated campaign of anti-submarine warfare in order to weaken the German stronghold on the Atlantic Ocean.

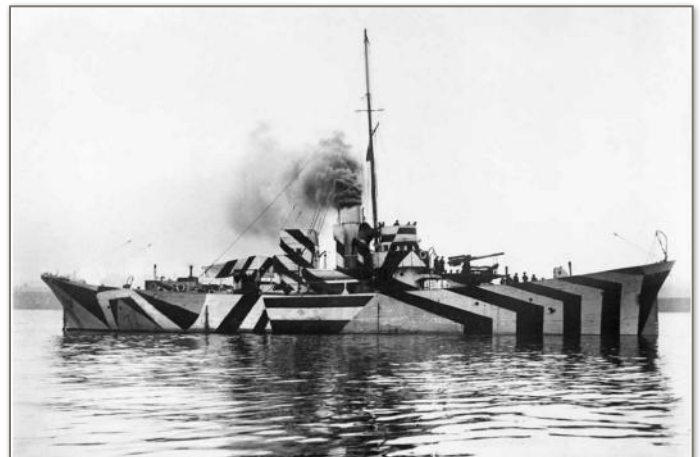


Mines

Mines were an effective way to damage or destroy submarines. Using an anchor and a float tied to copper wire, the mine would be suspended underwater at the depth of submarines. Tripping the wire would detonate the mine. The British Royal Navy had been setting mines for years before the U.S. Navy entered the War. Once the United States Navy entered, we laid tens of thousands of mines in the North Sea to avoid an attack. Our Navy could lay as many as 5,000 mines in one expedition. Records show that we destroyed at least six German U-boats along the northern trade routes of the Atlantic.

Dazzle Dazzle

The British Royal Navy initially invested in painting wild and chaotic paint patterns, Dazzle, on their ships to confuse the German U-boat targets. The project met great success, as the German Navy could not calculate the trajectory of British ships. The United States Navy followed the development of Dazzle in Great Britain with great interest. In March 1918, it established its own program, which built on and expanded the British Dazzle system with new patterns of “war paint” and experimented with vivid colors and modern art designs. The American version was dubbed “Razzle Dazzle”.





US Navy and WWI

Railway Gun-

One of the gun factory's most stellar accomplishments was the production of railway carriages on which were mounted 14-inch naval rifles. By 1918, the Imperial German Navy had effectively developed the *Paris-Geschütz* (Paris Gun). This long range siege gun targeted and destroyed Paris from 70 miles away, making it the first of its kind. This one weapon brought France to its knees, as no Allied weapon could defeat its size and range. Seeing a desperate need to counter this invention in 1917, Rear Admiral Ralph Earle, chief of Bureau of Ordnance persuaded the Navy Department that to develop rail-mounted guns that could effectively counter German guns shelling the French capital of Paris and other allied sites from greater distances. The U.S. sent five guns to France, delivering a strong message to Imperial Germany. The Paris Gun evacuated France within a week. The U.S. Navy Railway Guns are most known for their immense size and firing range (over 75 miles). While they were not widely used during World War I, they remain a legend in Naval History. One of the original five guns can be seen at the Washington Navy Yard.



Navy Corpsmen-

Enlisted Navy medical specialists serve as Navy Corpsmen and were the first in history to care for wounded Marines and Sailors. Major advancements in medicine, along with the casualties seen during the Spanish American War led high ranking officials to expand and better recognize the need for medical personnel and equipment on the field. In 1914, two Hospital Corps Training Schools were opened in Rhode Island, and California. To further strengthen the structure of the corpsmen, an act of Congress on August 29, 1916 introduced medical apprenticeships and pharmacists to the ranks. What spurred the growth of the corpsmen to an undeniable asset was the American entry into World War I. In 1916, the corpsmen had roughly 1,600 active troops. Just one year later, 17,000 enlisted corpsmen provided medical assistance to those serving overseas.

Depth Charger-

Depth Charges-A depth charge is a bomb that is designed to explode underwater at a pre-determined depth. Its invention allowed surface ships, for the first time, to attack submarines that had submerged. The Royal Navy first deployed the weapon in 1916 and the U.S. Navy quickly adopted and placed them aboard their ships.



Convoys-

A convoy is a group of merchant ships escorted by warships. The concept forced U-boats to attack a group of ships, rather than a lone merchant vessel.



Hydrophone-

A hydrophone is a listening device that allowed Sailors aboard surface ships to determine the location of a submerged U-boat. Trained to listen for certain sounds made by the U-boat's machinery, a Sailor could then determine its location and relay the data to the bridge.





Treaty of Versailles

World War I officially ended with the Paris Peace Conference in January, 1919. The treaty of Versailles was then completed for signatures on June 28, 1919. In 1918, the war appeared to be in favor of Germany. Russia had pulled out of the War, weakening the Allies. The U.S.'s entry into the War turned the favor to the Allies, providing them with the armed forces and resources necessary to fight the German Empire. Since the Allies technically won the war, they took the responsibility of drafting the Treaty of Versailles, all but excluding Germany from negotiations. Let's look at the various points and measures included in the Treaty:

Provisions of the Treaty:

The main provisions of the treaty set up the League of Nations, revised boundaries, disarmed Germany, and called for reparations. In more detail, the Treaty consisted of seven major points:

1. A League of Nations would be established, much like the United Nations today, in order to bond countries and prevent a war of this level again. Germany would not be permitted to enter the League until 1926.
2. The Allies would break up the German Empire and redraw the map of Western and Central Europe. See the images on this page for changes.
3. Demilitarized zones would be established surrounding Germany.
4. Germany would lose all of its colonies.
5. Germany's armed forces would be minimized and would be prevented from obtaining certain weapons, especially those of higher technology.
6. Most importantly, as stated in Article 231, known as the War Guilt Clause, placed the blame of the War on the German Empire. This was included to serve as a humiliation to Germany.
7. Germany must pay **reparations** for all civilian damage caused during the war, regardless of the country in question.

Who attended the Conference?

Thirty-two countries in total participated in World War I, 28 of them sided with the Allies, or Triple Entente. Germany, the unspoken leader of the Central Powers, was not invited to attend.



Germany reluctantly agreed to the Treaty, causing disastrous deflation and the rise of extremism in the country among civilians. Terrorists ultimately assassinated those involved in signing the Treaty. Much of the provisions were withdrawn in 1932 with the onset of the Great Depression. At that point, Germany began rebuilding their military, in violation of part 5 of the Treaty. An energetic and passionate public speaker rose to power and was elected Chancellor of Germany in 1933 by the name of Adolf Hitler, who reclaimed much of the land taken in the Treaty. Fearing another war, the former Allies allowed these actions until the German invasion of Poland in 1939, starting the Second World War.



Activities

There is a lot of information in this packet, so let's go back to the beginning and remember how this War began. Look at the events listed below and order them chronologically as the events leading to World War I.

_____	Germany marches through Belgium to quickly defeat France. Great Britain issues warning to retreat. Germany ignores warning.
_____	The Serbs almost immediately reject the ultimatum, but in their reply, make the language appear to be a surrender. This stalled the Austro-Hungarian response for a few days.
_____	Great Britain declares war on Germany.
_____	Russia, an ally to Serbia, declares they are in a "Period of Preparatory to War". Had they declared they were mobilizing, this would have alerted Germany and Austria-Hungary to mobilize themselves, but their preparatory declaration translated as a mostly diplomatic strategy.
_____	Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to the kingdom of Serbia basically saying to back down or we will invade.
_____	Since Serbia and Russia were allies, Russia mobilizes its troops. Germany demands that Russia stays out of the conflict and back down. Russia ignores the demand.
_____	Gavrilo Princip assassinates the Archduke and Heir of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. Austrian agents learn that Princip was a member of the Black Hand, a group of Bosnian Serbs who believed in the liberation of Serbs who lived outside of Serbia, mainly in Austria-Hungary. Agents learned the Black Hand was armed by Serbia.
_____	Germany declares war on France and moves to march through Belgium, the quickest route to France from Germany. Belgium was allies with the Great Britain.
_____	Germany declares war on Russia. France begins to mobilize because they are allies with Russia.
_____	Austria declares war on Serbia, as they rejected the ultimatum.

Vocabulary

Aces- Unofficially term for those pilots who have shot down five enemy aircrafts.

Intelligence- The collection of information of military or political value.

Line Formation- a standard tactical formation which was used in early modern.

Mobilize- To prepare and organize (troops or military) for active service.

Reparations- The compensation for war damage paid by a defeated state.

Static- Lacking movement, action, or change.

Unrestricted Submarine Warfare- A type of naval warfare in which submarines sink vessels such as freighters and tankers without warning, against agreed upon standards of war.

Zimmerman Telegram- an internal diplomatic communication issued from the German Foreign Office in January 1917 that proposed a military alliance between Germany and Mexico in the event of the United States' entering World War I against Germany.

Fill in the following sentences with the vocabulary words you just learned.
Use context clues to help:

_____d troops in WWI battlefields endure long,
_____ front lines as opposed to the more famous _____
_____ tactic used in years past. Above these fields,
_____ grew famous for their bravery and ingenuity in the sky. In
1918, the United States entered WWI for several reasons but mainly
the German Empire's policy of _____
_____ and _____ the U.S. received about the
_____ in Mexico. The U.S' entrance into the
War led to an Allied victory, forcing Germany to pay _____
for all civilian damage.

Create your own Razzle Dazzle!

The U.S. Navy used these patterns and colors to thwart Imperial German U-boats. Create your own pattern and colorful scheme below. Explain how your pattern would have helped to trick the U-boats.

