Chapter 28

World War I and Its Aftermath (1914–1919)
The Pursuit of Peace

By the early 1900s, many efforts were underway to end war and foster understanding between nations.

- In 1869, the first modern Olympic games were held. Their founder hoped the games would promote “love of peace and respect for life.”

- Alfred Nobel set up the annual Nobel Peace Prize to reward people who worked for peace.

- Women’s suffrage organizations supported pacifism, or opposition to all war.

- In 1899, world leaders attended the First Universal Peace Conference. There they set up the Hague Tribunal, a world court to settle disputes between nations.
Nationalism & International Rivalries

Aggressive nationalism was one leading cause of international tensions.

- Nationalist feelings were strong in both Germany and France.
  - Germany was proud of their military
  - France wanted to regain their world power status
  - French resentments lingered from their defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and Germany occupation of Alsace and Lorraine

- In Eastern Europe, Pan-Slavism held that all Slavic peoples shared a common nationality. Russia felt that it had a duty to lead and defend all Slavs.
  - Russia was prepared to back Serbia in creating a Southern Slavic state
  - Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire feared the rising nationalism among minority populations within their empires.
  - The Balkan Wars created a “powder keg of Europe”
The term **Balkan Wars** refers to the two wars that took place in South-eastern Europe in 1912 and 1913.

The First Balkan War broke out in 1912 when Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro & Serbia (the Balkan League), rebelled against the Ottoman Empire.

The Second Balkan War broke out in 1913 when Bulgaria, dissatisfied with its gains, attacked its former allies, Serbia and Greece.

Greece & Serbia repulsed the Bulgarian offensive and counter-attacked penetrating into Bulgaria.

Romania and the Ottomans then intervened against Bulgaria to win territorial gains.
Nationalism & International Rivalries (cont.)

Imperial rivalries divided European nations.

- By 1900, German factories were out-producing older British ones, causing Britain to oppose Germany in any conflict.
- Germany did not think the other great powers gave them enough respect.
- In 1906 and again in 1911, competition for colonies, especially in Morocco, brought France and Germany to the brink of war.

The 1800s saw a rise in militarism, the glorification of the military.

- The great powers expanded their armies and navies, creating an arms race that further increased suspicions and made war more likely.
Standing Armies in Europe, 1914

Source: The International Internet Encyclopedia
European Alliances, 1914

- Distrust led countries to sign treaties pledging to defend one another.
  - The **Triple Alliance** (later the Central Powers) included Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary
  - The **Triple Entente** (later the Allies) included Russia, France, and Britain

- Alliances were intended to prevent possible attack.

- The growth of rival alliance systems increased international tensions.
Assassination in Sarajevo

In 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary announced he would visit Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

- At the time, Bosnia was under the rule of Austria-Hungary. But it was also the home of many Serbs and other Slavs.

News of the royal visit angered many Serbian nationalists.

- They viewed Austrians as foreign oppressors.
- The date chosen for the archduke’s visit, October 8th, was a significant date in Serbian history. On that date in 1389, Serbia had been conquered by the Ottoman empire. On the same date in 1912, Serbia had freed itself from Turkish rule.

Members of a Serbian terrorist group assassinated the Archduke and his wife.
Assassination in Sarajevo (cont.)

After the attacks the police arrested anyone they thought suspicious (this picture does not show Princip) →

↑ Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria with his wife Sophie in Sarajevo →

Gavrillo Princip in prison during the investigation
After the assassination of the archduke, Austria sent Serbia an *ultimatum*, or final set of demands.

Serbia agreed to most, but not all, of the terms of Austria’s ultimatum. As a result, Austria declared war on Serbia.

- Germany offered full support to Austria-Hungary. Instead of urging restraint, the Kaiser gave Austria a “blank check.”

- Serbia sought help from Russia, the champion of Slavic nations. When Austria refused to soften its demands, Russia began to *mobilize*.

- Germany responded by declaring war on Russia.

- Russia appealed to its ally France. France offered full support to Russia, prompting Germany to declare war on France.
The Schlieffen Plan

Germany planned to invade France quickly and defeat them early to avoid a war on two fronts. They invaded Belgium angering Britain, who then joined the war.

General Alfred Von Schlieffen
The Historians’ View

How could an assassination lead to all-out war in just a few weeks?

Today, most historians agree that all parties must share blame.

- Each of the great powers believed that its cause was just.
- Once the machinery of war was set in motion, it seemed impossible to stop.
- Although leaders made the decisions, most people on both sides were equally committed to military action.
Conduct of War

- German attack in the West sweeping through Belgium toward Paris
- French counter-attack but are pushed back
- Russian speed of mobilization surprised Germans so Germany was forced to move some troops to the Eastern front – Battle of Tannenberg
- British & French troops defeat Germans at the Battle of Marne
- Stagnation and trench warfare in the West
Trench Warfare

- Technology superior to tactics
  - Machine gun versus a human charge through "No man's land"
  - New technology = poison gas, airplanes

- Very high death rates
  - Battle of the Somme = 600,000 allied and 500,000 German dead for 125 miles of land
  - Battle of Verdun = 700,000 killed on both sides with no gain in territory
Europe at War, 1914–1918
Trench Warfare

“There were vast stretches of mud, of fields once cultivated, but now scarred with pits, trenches, rusty barbed wires. The roads were rivers of clay. They were lined with dugouts, cellars, and caves. These burrows in the earth were supported by beams, and suggested a shaft in a disused mine.”

-Richard H. Davis, *With the French in France and Salonika*
In 1916, both the Allies and Central Powers tried to break the stalemate, by launching massive offenses.

The Germans attacked the French at the Battle of Verdun, which lasted 11 months. The French held firm, but both sides suffered massive casualties.

The Allied offensive at the Somme River, which lasted 5 months, was even more costly and ended without either side gaining an advantage.
World War I Technology

Modern weapons added greatly to the destructiveness of the war.

**Airplane**
A one- or two-seat propeller plane was equipped with a machine gun. At first the planes were used mainly for observation. Later, “flying aces” engaged in individual combat, though such “dogfights” had little effect on the war.

**Automatic machine gun**
A mounted gun that fired a rapid, continuous stream of bullets made it possible for a few gunners to mow down waves of soldiers. This helped create a stalemate by making it difficult to advance across no man’s land.

**Submarine**
These underwater ships, or U-boats, could launch torpedoes, or guided underwater bombs. Used by Germany to destroy Allied shipping, U-boat attacks helped bring the United States into the war.
New Technologies
# How Did the War Become a Global Conflict?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EASTERN EUROPE</th>
<th>SOUTHERN EUROPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• In August 1914, Russian armies pushed into eastern Germany.</td>
<td>• In 1915, Bulgaria joined the Central Powers and helped crush Serbia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• After Russia was defeated in the Battle of Tannenburg, armies in the east fought on Russian soil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTSIDE EUROPE</th>
<th>THE COLONIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Japan, allied with Britain, tried to impose a protectorate on China.</td>
<td>• The Allies overran German colonies in Africa and Asia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Ottoman empire joined the Central Powers in 1914.</td>
<td>• The great powers turned to their own colonies for troops, laborers, and supplies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Arab nationalists revolted against Ottoman rule.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total War

Warring nations engaged in total war, the channeling of a nation’s entire resources into a war effort.

Economic impact

- Both sides set up systems to recruit, arm, transport and supply huge fighting forces.
- All nations except Britain imposed universal military conscription, or “the draft.”
- Governments raised taxes, borrowed money, and rationed food and other products.

Propaganda

- Both sides waged a propaganda war. Propaganda is the spreading of ideas to promote a cause or to damage an opposing cause.
Propaganda Posters

Food is Ammunition - Don't waste it.

Remember Belgium
Buy Bonds Fourth Liberty Loan
TOGETHER WE WIN
UNITED STATES SHIPING BOARD EMERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION

NOT Just Hats Off To The Flag BUT Sleeves Up For It!
**Poster 1**

*don't let up*
*Keep On Saving Food*

**Poster 2**

*Oh, Boy! that's the Girl!*

*THE SALVATION ARMY LASSIE*
*Keep Her on the Job*

*UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN*

*NOV. 11-18 1918*
Women and War

Women played a critical role in total war:

- As men left to fight, women took over their jobs and kept national companies going.
- Many women worked in war industries, manufacturing weapons and supplies.
- Women grew food when shortages threatened.
- Some women joined branches of the armed forces.
- Women worked as nurses and Red Cross workers close to the front lines.
Collapsing Morale

By 1917, the morale of both troops and civilians had plunged.

- As morale collapsed, troops mutinied or deserted.
- Long casualty lists, food shortages, and the failure of generals to win promised victories led to calls for peace.
- In Russia, soldiers left the front to join in a full-scale revolution back home.

America was still not officially involved in the war, though we were supplying food and weapons to the Britain and France.
Why Did the United States Enter the War?

- German submarines attacked merchant and passenger ships carrying American citizens.

- In May 1915, a German submarine torpedoed the British liner *Lusitania*, killing 1,200 passengers, including 128 Americans.

- Many Americans felt ties of culture and language to Britain and sympathized with France as another democracy.

- In early 1917, the British intercepted a telegram sent by German foreign minister, *Arthur Zimmermann*. 
In 1917, The United States declared war on Germany.

By 1918, about two million American soldiers had joined the Allies on the Western Front.

The Germans launched a huge offensive, pushing the Allies back.

The Allies launched a counteroffensive, driving German forces back across France and Germany.

Germany sought an armistice, or agreement to end fighting, with the Allies. On November 11, 1918, the war ended.
People Celebrating the Armistice
Wilson’s Fourteen Points

President Woodrow Wilson issued the Fourteen Points, a list of his terms for resolving World War I and future wars. He called for:

- freedom of the seas
- free trade
- large-scale reductions of arms
- an end to secret treaties
- **self-determination**, or the right of people to choose their own form of government, for Eastern Europe
- the creation of a “general association of nations” to keep the peace in the future
The Costs of War

- More than 8.5 million people died. Twice that number had been wounded.
- Famine threatened many regions.
- Across the European continent, homes, farms, factories, roads, and churches had been shelled to rubble.
- People everywhere were shaken and disillusioned.
- Governments had collapsed in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman empire.
# World War I Casualties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Dead</th>
<th>Wounded</th>
<th>Total Killed as a Percentage of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1,398,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>44,700</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>578,000</td>
<td>947,000</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Empire</td>
<td>921,000</td>
<td>2,090,000</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>278,000</td>
<td>133,000</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,811,000</td>
<td>1,450,000</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>88,000</td>
<td>152,000</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2,037,000</td>
<td>4,207,000</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>3,620,000</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>804,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>206,000</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Balfour Declaration November 2, 1917

During the First World War, British policy became gradually committed to the idea of establishing a Jewish home in Palestine (Eretz Yisrael).

This movement, known as Zionism, was started in 1897 under Theodor Herzl and took its name from Zion, or the hill of Jerusalem on which the city of David was built.

After discussions in the British Cabinet, and consultation with Zionist leaders, the decision was made known in the form of a letter by Arthur James Lord Balfour to Lord Rothschild.

The letter represents the first political recognition of Zionist aims by a Great Power.
The Balfour Declaration
November 2, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty’s Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

[Signature]
The deleges to the Paris Peace Conference faced many difficult issues:

- The Allied leaders had different aims.
- The Italians insisted that the Allies honor their secret agreement to gain Austria-Hungary. Such secret agreements violated Wilson’s principle of self-determination.
- Many people who had been ruled by Russia, Austria-Hungary, or the Ottoman empire now demanded national states of their own. The territories claimed by these people often overlapped, so it was impossible to satisfy them all.
The Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty:
- forced Germany to assume full blame for causing the war.
- imposed huge reparations upon Germany.

The Treaty aimed at weakening Germany by:
- limiting the size of the German military,
- returning Alsace and Lorraine to France,
- removing hundreds of miles of territory from Germany,
- stripping Germany of its overseas colonies.

The Germans signed the treaty because they had no choice. But German resentment of the Treaty of Versailles would poison the international climate for 20 years and lead to an even deadlier world war.
Widespread Dissatisfaction

- Eastern Europe remained a center of conflict.

- Colonized peoples from Africa to the Middle East and across Asia were angry that self-determination was not applied to them.

- Italy was angry because it did not get all the lands promised in a secret treaty with the Allies.

- Japan was angry that western nations refused to honor its claims in China.

- Russia resented the reestablishment of a Polish nation and three Baltic states on lands that had been part of the Russian empire.
# World War I: Cause and Effect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-Term Causes</th>
<th>Immediate Causes</th>
<th>Immediate Effects</th>
<th>Long-Term Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‣ Imperialist and economic rivalries among European powers</td>
<td>‣ Austria-Hungary’s annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>‣ Enormous cost in lives and money</td>
<td>‣ Economic impact of war debts on Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ European alliance system</td>
<td>‣ Fighting in the Balkans</td>
<td>‣ Russian Revolution</td>
<td>‣ Emergence of United States and Japan as important powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ Militarism and arms race</td>
<td>‣ Assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand</td>
<td>‣ Creation of new nations in Eastern Europe</td>
<td>‣ Growth of nationalism in colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ Nationalist tensions in Balkans</td>
<td>‣ German invasion of Belgium</td>
<td>‣ Requirement that Germany pay reparations</td>
<td>‣ Rise of fascism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Balfour Declaration
- League of Nations
Decolonization: Dream and Reality
Visual Source Documents 1–3

**Document 1**

The Granger Collection, New York

**Document 2**

The Granger Collection, New York

**Document 3**

Albo, Shutterstock Inc.
Opposition to imperialism grew among Africans. Resistance took many forms.

- Those who had lost their lands to Europeans sometimes squatted, or settled illegally, on European-owned plantations.
- In cities, workers began to form forbidden labor unions.
- Western-educated Africans criticized the injustice of imperial rule.
- Socialism found a growing audience.
- In Kenya, the Kikuyu protested the loss of their land, forced labor, heavy taxes, and required identification cards.
- In Nigeria, Ibo women denounced British policies that threatened their rights and their economic role.
- In South Africa, a vital nationalist movement demanded rights for black South Africans.
Rise of Nationalism

During the 1920s, a movement known as **Pan-Africanism** emphasized the unity of Africans and people of African descent around the world.

- Marcus Garvey preached “Africa for Africans” and demanded an end to colonial rule.
- W.E.B. DuBois organized the first Pan-African Congress, which called for a charter of rights for Africans.

French-speaking writers in West Africa and the Caribbean expressed pride in their African roots through the *négritude movement*.

- Senegalese poet Léopold Senghor celebrated Africa’s rich cultural heritage and later became Senegal’s first president.
Modernization in Turkey

Mustafa Kemal, known as Atatürk, forced through an ambitious program of radical reforms. His goals were to modernize Turkey along western lines and separate religion from government. He:

- replaced Islamic law with a European-style law code
- replaced the Muslim calendar with the western calendar
- forced people to wear western dress
- opened state schools
- encouraged industrial expansion
- outlawed polygamy and gave rights to women

President Atatürk in 1933
“Today, our most important and most productive task is the national education [unification and modernization] affairs. We have to be successful in national education affairs and we shall be. The liberation of a nation is only achieved through this way.”

- President Ataturk
Modernization in Iran

Shah Reza Khan rushed to modernize Iran and make it fully independent. He:

- built factories, roads, and railroads and strengthened the army
- adopted the western alphabet
- forced Iranians to wear western clothing
- set up modern, secular schools.
- replaced Islamic law with secular law
- encouraged women to take part in public life
European Mandates and Arab Nationalism

During World War I, Arabs had been promised independence in exchange for helping the Allies against the Central Powers.

Instead, the Paris Peace Conference had set up mandates — territories administered by European nations, which outraged the Arabs.

In 1917, the British issued the Balfour Declaration, which supported the idea of creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Palestine was already the home to many Arab communities. This set the stage for conflict between Arab and Jewish nationalists.

Arabs felt betrayed by the West — a feeling that has endured to this day. During the 1920s and 1930s, their anger erupted in frequent protests and revolts against western imperialism.
What Sparked the Indian Independence Movement After World War I?

- After the war, Indians were restless for independence, having contributed heavily to the war efforts in both money and men.

- The **Rowlatt Act** passed in March 1919 extending “emergency measures” to control public unrest.

- Uprisings in Punjab caused the British government to enact marshal law.
  - Large protest led General Dyer to order troops to open fire towards the densest sections of the crowd
  - No warning or any order to disperse was given.
  - He continued firing until the ammunition was exhausted, 1,650 rounds in all.
  - There were 1,500 casualties (1,000 dead).
A Turing Point

- The **Amritsar massacre** was a turning point for many Indians, convincing them of the evils of British rule.

- The British had promised India greater self-rule in exchange for sending more than a million troops to fight in World War I. However, after the war, Britain proposed only a few minor changes.

- In the 1920s, a new leader, **Mohandas Gandhi**, emerged and united all Indians.

Location of Amritsar in India
Mohandas Gandhi

Gandhi adopted the weapon of nonviolent (passive) resistance and embraced Hindu traditions.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Gandhi launched a series of nonviolent actions against British rule.

- He called for boycotts of British goods, especially textiles.
- He urged Indians to wear only cotton grown and woven in India.
- He worked to restore pride in India’s traditional industries.
- He inspired Indians to “get rid of helplessness.”
The Salt March

- Indians were forced by the British to buy British salt.
- To end the monopoly, on March 12, 1930 Gandhi & 78 followers started on a 240-mile march to the sea.
- When they reached the sea, the marchers numbered in the 1000s.
- During the **Salt March**, Gandhi picked up a lump of the forbidden sea salt and declared, “With this, I am shaking the foundations of the British empire.”
- Gandhi was arrested and jailed.

Gandhi at Dandi, 5 April 1930, at the end of the Salt March.
Toward Freedom

- Coastal villages began collecting sea salt.
- Congress party leaders sold salt on city streets and displayed it to enormous rallies.
- Tens of thousands were arrested.
- World opinion turned against Britain, as stories revealed how police brutally clubbed peaceful marchers, who tried to occupy a government saltworks.
- Gandhi’s nonviolence and the self-sacrifice of his followers slowly forced Britain to hand over some power to the Congress party.
Separating India and Pakistan

- During the 1930s, the Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, called for a separate Muslim state, that would eventually become Pakistan.

- World War II caused the British to postpone further action on independence.

- Then Britain brought India into the war without consulting them, leading to a campaign of noncooperation by some.

- Millions of Indians did help in the war.

- Complete independence was finally achieved in 1947.