

DAY 22: HISTORY



Read pages 442 - 445 of the pages that follow this sheet.

1. Which three nations formed the Triple Alliance? Which three nations formed the Triple Entente?
2. What event sparked the beginning of World War 1 in 1914?
3. When and why did England declare war on Germany?
4. What did Winston Churchill do to prepare the British fleet for war?
5. Why didn't Italy help the Triple Alliance?
6. Which group became known as the Central Powers? Which group became the Allied Powers?
7. Where was the Western Front? How long was it?
8. What took place in Russia in February 1917? How did this affect the war?

Read pages 446 - 451 of the pages that follow this sheet.

9. What two events prompted the US to enter the war?
10. Who was the US President who declare war on Germany? What was the date?
11. How did American aid ensure an Allied victory?
12. On what day was the war over?
13. Who were the "Big Four" and what did they do?
14. What were the three main provisions of the Treaty of Versailles?
15. What did the Germans think about the treaty?
16. What new nations were formed after World War 1?

WRITING

World War I was a "total war". That means it didn't just affect soldiers; it affected every-day citizens as well. Search online and find out how citizens were affected during World War 1. Write a paragraph and discuss at least three ways people were affected. Check your spelling and punctuation. Hand-write your paragraph; no computers.



The “Iron Chancellor” of Prussia Otto von Bismarck determined to maintain peace in Europe and give Germany a chance to develop as a powerful nation. He accomplished this goal by keeping Germany closely allied with powerful nations. In the process, he was careful to keep France diplomatically isolated (without allies) and therefore harmless. During the “Era of Bismarck” (1871–1890), Germany became a strong industrial and military power.

Steps toward War

German aggression. In 1890, the young Kaiser **Wilhelm II** dismissed Bismarck and took foreign policy into his own hands. Wilhelm II began a program to build a naval fleet to rival the British navy, and by 1914, Germany’s navy was second only to Britain’s.

Under the leadership of Wilhelm II, Germany was eager to flex its muscles, expand, and demonstrate its strength to the older established nations of Europe. Most of the German people had by this time rejected all but an empty form of their Christian heritage and had accepted Modernism almost without question. The vacuum left by this rejection of true Christianity was destined to bring terror and destruction to Germany.

Opposing alliances. By 1914, the major European powers were divided into two



Otto Von Bismarck



Wilhelm II

hostile camps. On the one side was the **Triple Alliance**, including *Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy*. On the other side was the **Triple Entente**, consisting of *England, France, and Russia*. Smaller nations allied themselves with whichever power bloc they feared less. Europe was divided and ready for war.

World War I (1914–1918)

The Archduke’s assassination. On June 28, 1914, the nations of Europe found an excuse for war when **Archduke Francis Ferdinand**, heir to the Austrian throne, and his wife were assassinated by a Serbian revolutionist in the town of Sarajevo [sä’rä·yě·vō] in Bosnia. Convinced that anti-Austrian propaganda coming out of Serbia had led to the assassination, Austria decided to take aggressive action. On July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia. **World War I (1914–1918)**, known in its day as *the Great War*, had begun.

Global conflict. Within months, all the major powers of Europe and their worldwide colonies were at war. First, Russia agreed to help Serbia, and Germany, an ally of Austria, declared war on Russia. Then France agreed to help Russia, and Germany declared war on France. The next day, Germany, putting into effect a long-planned scheme to conquer France, sent troops through neutral Belgium to attack Paris. England insisted that Belgium’s neutral

rights be respected, but the German chancellor said the 1839 treaty guaranteeing Belgian neutrality was “a scrap of paper.” So England came to the aid of Belgium by declaring war on Germany. World War I would be the first war to be fought on a global scale.

Winston Churchill (1874–1965), one of the few men in Britain who had seen war with Germany coming years ahead of the first shots, had done what he could to build friendly relations with Germany. But as First Lord of the Admiralty, Churchill had also modernized and expanded the British navy and had developed the navy’s first air force. Thanks to Churchill, when England declared war on Germany, the British fleet was ready.

Opposing sides. As the nations of Europe took sides in the conflict, the Triple Entente (England, France, and Russia) and



The Assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and His Wife, 1914



its allies became known as the **Allies**, and the Triple Alliance (Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy) and its allies became known as the **Central Powers**. Because Germany and Austria were not fighting a *defensive* war, Italy refused to fulfill her treaty obligations to aid them. Instead, Italy remained neutral and eventually joined the Allies, quite confident she had joined the winning side.

The Western Front, 1914–1916

The Battle of the Marne. Within three months, the Germans had conquered Belgium and had overrun much of France. By September, they were only 15 miles from Paris. Finally, French forces stopped the German advance and miraculously drove the Germans back across the *Marne River*. Paris and the French army were saved.

The “Race to the Sea.” Between October and November, the Allies and Germans raced each other to ports on the English Channel and the North Sea. At *Ypres* [ē’pr’], Belgium, the small but gallant British Expeditionary Force lost 50,000 men in its courageous defense against the German onslaught. The Germans were finally stopped, and both sides settled down to dig *trenches* (deep ditches used in battle for cover against enemy gunfire).

By Christmas of 1914, the **western front** stretched for 600 miles from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps. The number of

casualties (soldiers killed or wounded in battle) mounted as trenches, machine guns, and barbed wire came to dominate the battlefield. New “secret” weapons—the Germans introduced poisonous gas and the flamethrower and the Allies developed the military tank—made local gains possible but failed to achieve a breakthrough.

The Battle of Verdun. In 1916, the Germans tried to break through the French line with a massive assault (attack) on the fortress-city of *Verdun*. After 24 hours of heavy artillery, the Germans stormed the city’s fortifications. French opposition was so great, however, that in six months the Germans advanced only about four miles at the staggering cost of 540,000 French and 430,000 German casualties.

The Battle of the Somme. In an attempt to relieve the pressure at Verdun, British forces launched an intense offensive against the Germans at the *Somme River*. For a solid week, British guns pounded the German lines day and night. When the barrage lifted, long rows of British infantrymen charged the German lines. Instead of being crushed, however, the Germans emerged from their trenches and raked the British troops with intense machine-gun fire. The British suffered over 600,000 casualties to gain just seven miles of land! The German army likewise suffered the loss of more than 500,000 officers and men. In disgust, Kaiser Wilhelm II dismissed the

The Rock of the Marne by Mal Thompson



General
Paul von
Hindenburg



chief of the German General Staff and replaced him with General Paul von **Hindenburg** (1847–1934), who became supreme commander of all Central Powers forces. Hindenburg would be the virtual dictator of Germany during the last two years of the war.

The Battle of Jutland. It was also in 1916 that the most important naval battle of the war took place. At the Battle of Jutland, in the *North Sea* west of Denmark, the British navy defeated the German fleet, forcing it to remain in home port throughout most of the rest of the war.

Other Fronts

The eastern front. Throughout the war, the Central Powers had been fighting French, British, and other Allied troops on the western front and Russian troops on the eastern front. Although the Russian army lacked armaments (military equipment) and discipline, it was large enough to inflict heavy casualties on the Austrians and the Germans. Russia was not prepared for a prolonged struggle, however, and by the winter of 1917 she had suffered 1 million casualties. *The unpopularity of the war led to the **Russian Revolution in February 1917***, when the people overthrew the czar and established a Provisional Government modeled after Western representative democracies. With the collapse of the czarist government, the Russian army soon began to fall apart.

In **October 1917**, Communist revolutionaries, led by **Nikolai Lenin** (1870–1924) overthrew the Provisional Government in the **Bolshevik Revolution** and established a *Communist state* in Russia. Lenin quickly signed an armistice (cease-fire) with Germany, allowing the Germans to concentrate all of their strength on the Western Front. With the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918), Russia was forced to give up much land and many people, but Lenin was willing to pay the price for peace.

War in Africa and Asia. Germany's African colonies were quickly subdued by French and British forces. In Asia and the Pacific, the German colonies fell to the Japanese. British Colonel T. E. **Lawrence** ("Lawrence of Arabia") led Arab revolts against Turkish rule in the Arabian Peninsula, and British troops under General **Allenby** captured Jerusalem in December of 1917. (The British would remain in the Holy Land until Israel achieved independence in 1948.)

The Gallipoli Campaign. By far the greatest British offensive in the east was the Gallipoli [ga·lĭp'ō·lē] Campaign, the strategy of the First Lord of the British Admiralty, **Winston Churchill**. Realizing that it was useless to hurl men and equipment against the well-entrenched German fortifications in France, Churchill proposed instead to strike at the Central Powers through the "back door" of the much weaker Ottoman Empire (Turkey), which had sided with the Central Powers. The plan called for the landing of British troops at Gallipoli, in Turkey, and the swift capture of Istanbul (Constantinople), the Turkish capital. The few Australians and New Zealanders who landed at Gallipoli fought bravely but were greatly outnumbered. The Allies were compelled to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties. As a result of the tragedy at Gallipoli, Churchill was forced to resign his post.

involvement with the Allies was the growing pro-English and anti-German sentiment. England had been the bulwark of freedom through the 19th century. The tyranny of the German government over its own people and other people of Western Europe was incompatible with American ideals. America's basic belief in the dignity and rights of mankind would not allow it to remain genuinely neutral in the European conflict.

Submarine warfare. This growing belief that America must support the Allies was reinforced when Germany provoked the U.S. in two important ways. At the start of the war, Great Britain had set up a naval blockade of Germany's ports. To get around the British blockade, Germany resorted to a new weapon of war—the **U-boat** (undersea boat) or **submarine**. With its deadly torpedoes, the submarine would prove to be a very effective weapon. In early 1915, the Germans declared all waters surrounding the British Isles to be a war zone and threatened to sink without warning any ship that passed through these waters.

One of the first victims of submarine warfare was the British luxury liner **Lusitania**. Before the *Lusitania* sailed from New York, the German embassy in the U.S. warned people not to board the ship, claiming that it carried war supplies for the British army. But the *Lusitania* embarked with passengers and crew despite the warning, and on May 7, 1915, the vessel sank off the coast of Ireland after being hit by torpedoes from a German submarine. Some 1,198 passengers, including 128 Americans, were killed.

The U.S. government sent Germany an ultimatum, demanding the termination of unrestricted submarine warfare. Germany replied that in the future merchant ships would *not* be sunk without warning and that provision would be made for the safety of those on board. For a time, it seemed

America Enters the War

American interest in Allied cause.

Hoping to avoid involvement in the conflict, the United States had declared her neutrality at the beginning of the war. However, as the war progressed, America became increasingly drawn to the Allied cause. Between 1914 and 1916, her exports to the Allies quadrupled. Much of what the Allies purchased from America was bought on credit. If the Allies were to pay the debt, they must win the war. But more important than America's financial in-



Unrestricted Submarine (U-boat) Warfare:
A German submarine sinks an American freighter.

that the U.S. might avoid the war after all. But then, in January 1917, Germany announced the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare. The Germans hoped to win the war by cutting off British sup-



New York Times Headline May 7, 1915

plies and defeating the Allies before the U.S. had time to mobilize (prepare for war) and join the Allied forces. In February, the U.S. broke off diplomatic relations with Germany.

Air Warfare Makes Its Debut

In addition to military tanks and submarines, World War I also witnessed the debut of *airplanes* and other aircraft in the military. At first, airplanes were used mainly for scouting purposes. In the earliest air combat encounters, pilots fought with pistols or rifles. Later, planes were used to drop bombs and were equipped with machine guns. Many daring pilots called “aces” flew on both sides, engaging in colorful “dogfights” in the skies over France and Belgium.

The Germans also used giant *Zeppelins* (similar to blimp air balloons) to bomb targets in England. Containing highly flammable hydrogen gas, these airships had to fly so high to avoid anti-aircraft fire that their diesel engines froze up and their crews developed frostbite.



The Zimmerman Note. Meanwhile, British agents intercepted a message from German Foreign Minister Arthur **Zimmerman** to the German delegate in Mexico. The Zimmerman Note instructed the delegate to offer Mexico its lost land in the American Southwest in return for Mexico's help if the U.S. should enter the war. The British released this message to America, and in March the Zimmerman Note appeared in newspapers across the country. This news was shortly followed by news of renewed submarine attacks on American vessels.

America declares war. Americans now demanded retaliation. President **Woodrow Wilson** addressed Congress, declaring that "The world must be made safe for democracy," and Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

America's entrance quickly turned the tide of the war. As soon as Congress declared war, the U.S. Navy mobilized its Atlantic fleet. Soon naval destroyers were protecting great convoys of merchant ships carrying men and supplies across the North Atlantic. The American fleet also laid a great mine field in the North Sea to limit the activity of German submarines. Between March and July of 1918, over a million American "**doughboys**" (as U.S. troops were called) landed in France. American manpower, weapons, economic resources, and food supplies ensured an Allied victory.

The Western Front, 1917–1918

The last German offensive. Hoping to win the war before the Allies could be reinforced by fresh American troops, the Germans launched a major offensive to capture Paris in March 1918. Having made peace with the Communist government in Russia, Germany could concentrate its forces on the western front. For weeks, the German army fought French and British forces along the western front. They

steadily drove the Allies back, conquering territory and taking prisoners, until they came within 40 miles of Paris. But the German offensive was too late. By May 1918, American reinforcements had reached the front. With American resources, the Allied forces under the leadership of the French Marshal Ferdinand **Foch** [fôsh] began to drive the Germans back.

Central Powers collapse. Suddenly everything fell apart for the Central Powers. Bulgaria surrendered at the end of September, and Turkey gave up a month later. Austria surrendered November 3. Meanwhile, revolution had broken out in Germany. The kaiser abdicated, a republic was created, and the Germans asked for an armistice. On **November 11, 1918**, in a railroad dining car in France, German delegates signed an armistice, to go into effect at 11:00 that morning—the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Whistles and sirens sounded and church bells pealed throughout Europe and the U.S. in celebration of **Armistice Day** (now called **Veterans Day** in the U.S.). The Great War was over.

A costly victory for freedom. World War I was a great victory for the forces of freedom, but it was also a very costly victory. World War I brought the greatest destruction in property and people the world had ever seen. It was a modern war, employing trench warfare, airplanes, tanks, machine guns, poisonous gas, and submarines. More than 13 million people died, and as many as 21 million were wounded. In the aftermath of the war, America began to ship food and medical supplies across the Atlantic. American food relief shipments kept millions of Europeans, including Germans, from starving after the devastation of World War I.

U.S. President Wilson declared that the war was

... a war for freedom and justice and self-government amongst all the nations



*Armistice
November 11,
1918: Parisians
and Allied troops
celebrate the end
of the Great War.*

of the world, a war to make the world safe for the peoples who live upon it and have made it their own, the German people themselves included.

He expressed the hope that World War I would be "the war to end all wars."

The Peace That Failed

The Conference of Versailles. On January 18, 1919, a peace conference convened at the Palace of Versailles outside Paris. The signing of a peace treaty seemed urgent. The economies of Western Europe were in shambles, and many parts of the continent were experiencing political upheaval. *Communism had taken control in Russia*, and it threatened to spread to other parts of the world. The Conference of Versailles made little progress however, for although it was supposed to achieve a "peace among equals," no representatives from the defeated Central Powers were invited to attend. After two slow months, the leadership of the conference fell to four influential men. The "**Big Four**" included President Wilson of the U.S., Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Britain, Premier Georges Clemenceau [klä'män'sō'] of

France, and Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando of Italy.

League of Nations. President Wilson was convinced that the most critical step to maintaining future world peace was the establishment of a League of Nations. He was even willing to compromise on other issues in order to get his League accepted, believing that mistakes made at the peace conference could be corrected later through the League of Nations. Wilson worked hard to get the League covenant drawn up and approved. The covenant specified the aims of the League: "To guarantee international cooperation and to achieve international peace and security."



**U.S.
President
Woodrow
Wilson**

Treaty of Versailles. The result of the peace conference was a series of compromises. The main provisions of the Treaty of Versailles may be summarized as follows:

- (1) **German territorial losses.** Germany would be forced to give up all colonies and overseas possessions as well as territory on her northern, eastern, and western borders.
- (2) **Demilitarization of Germany.** Germany would be forced to surrender her fleet and reduce the size of her merchant marine. The German army was reduced to 100,000 men, about the size of Belgium's army, and conscription (military draft) was prohibited.
- (3) **Reparation and admission of guilt.** Germany was forced to admit full

responsibility for causing the war. On that basis, Germany was to pay the entire cost of war damages. A special committee later decided that the total reparations should be about \$33 billion.

Many predicted that the Treaty of Versailles would set the stage for another war. When the French Marshal Foch learned that the Rhine was not to be set as a permanent boundary to protect France from Germany, he remarked, "This is not peace. It is an armistice for twenty years."

German bitterness. The Germans had no choice but to accept the Treaty of Versailles, but it left them very bitter toward the Allied nations. It saddled Germany with guilt and with a debt its people could not pay; it placed her in a



position to be easily victimized by extremists and fanatics; and it gave her a new “democratic” government with no sure foundation. The resentment and economic hardship that resulted in Germany because of the Treaty of Versailles helped sow the seeds for World War II.

Peace of Paris. In addition to the Treaty of Versailles, separate treaties were signed with the other Central Powers: Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey. These treaties included the following provisions:

- (1) All of the Central Powers were forced to give up land.
- (2) Austria and Hungary became separate nations.
- (3) The following **new nations** were created: *Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.*
- (4) The following **nations were enlarged:** *Serbia* (which became *Yugoslavia* after the war), *Belgium, Italy, Greece, and Romania.*

Collectively, the treaties signed at the end of World War I were called the Peace of Paris. Each of the treaties in the Peace of Paris contained the covenant of the League of Nations.

America rejects the League. Ironically for President Wilson, the U.S. was the only victor *not to join the League of Nations.* By the time the Treaty of Versailles was put in final form, many Americans had come to oppose it. Some insisted it was too harsh on Germany, and others feared the entangling alliances it would create. Many Americans feared that the treaty would draw the U.S. into a European war that was none of her concern. By a joint Congressional resolution America officially ended its hostilities against Germany in 1921, but it never ratified the Treaty of Versailles or joined the League of Nations.