SSWH17: World War I
SSWH17 Demonstrate an understanding of long-term causes of World War I and its global impact.

17a. Identify causes of the war, include: nationalism, entangling alliances, militarism, and imperialism.

17b. Describe conditions on the war front for soldiers, include: new technology and war tactics.

17c. Explain the major decisions made in the Versailles Treaty, include: German reparations and the mandate system that replaced Ottoman control.

17d. Analyze the destabilization of Europe in the collapse of the great empires.
17a. Identify causes of the war, include: nationalism, entangling alliances, militarism, and imperialism.
Causes of World War I
Long-Term Causes:

- **Nationalism:**
  - **Definition:**
    - Deep devotion to one’s nation
  
- **Balkan Nationalism:**
  - Many ethnic groups, each hoped to extend borders
  - Serbia (Slavs) wanted to absorb all Slavs on Balkan Peninsula – Russia supported this
  - Austria-Hungary opposed this and wanted to take over Balkan territory – upset Russians Balkan groups
Causes of World War I
Long-Term Causes:

- Imperialism:
  - Definition:
    - Quest for colonies
  - How it increased tensions:
    - Intensified European nations’ sense of rivalry & mistrust toward one another as they competed for colonies in Asia & Africa
Causes of World War I
Long-Term Causes:

- **Militarism:**
  - **Definition:**
    - Policy of glorifying military power & keeping an army prepared for war & able to mobilize troops quickly in case of war
  - **How it increased tensions:**
    - Led to an arms race and formation of large standing armies &, eventually, to military alliances
Causes of World War I
Immediate Causes:

- **Alliance System:**
- **Triple Alliance (1882):**
  - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
  - Agreement crafted by Bismarck (saw France as threat to peace) – made three powers military allies
  - Created an unstable & fragile alliance that tried to isolate France
Causes of World War I
Immediate Causes:

- **Alliance System:**
- **Triple Entente (1907):**
  - France, Britain, Russia
  - Pledged not to fight each other
  - Established two rival camps in Europe → created possibility that any dispute b/w two rival powers could draw entire continent into war
Inflexible Diplomatic Alliances

- Agreements of mutual defense
- Chain reaction for Global War
- Triple Alliance
  - Germany-Austro-Hungarians (1879), joined by Italians 1882
- Triple Entente
  - Russia, France, UK
Causes of World War I
Immediate Causes:

- Assassination in Sarajevo – June 28, 1914:
  - Serbian nationalist (member of Black Hand) murdered Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife
  - This provided Austria-Hungary w/ an excuse to launch war on Serbia, leading to confrontation b/w Austria & Russia
Road to War - 1914

- Austria-Hungary Delivers Ultimatum:
  - Get rid of all nationalists
  - Allow AH to investigate murder
  - Serbia agrees to all but investigation
  - AH mobilizes

- July 28:
  - AH declares war on Serbia

- July 31:
  - Russia mobilizes; declares war on AH
Road to War - 1914

- August 1
  - Germany declares war on Russia, who asks France for help
- August 3
  - Germany declares war on France
- August 4
  - Germany declares war on neutral Belgium to get to France
  - Britain declares war on Germany
- August 6
  - AH declares war on Russia
Nations Take Sides

Central Powers
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Ottoman Empire

Allied Powers
- France
- Britain
- Russia

Neutral
- United States
- Italy
Schlieffen Plan

- Germany worried about fighting two-front war
- Attack through Belgium to defeat France quickly then invade Russia
Warm-Up

- Which THREE nations belonged to the Triple Alliance?
- Which THREE nations belonged to the Triple Entente?
- What is the policy of glorifying power and keeping an army prepared for war?
Western Front
Battle of the Marne-Sept. 1914:

- Allied victory
- Destroyed Germany’s hopes for the Schlieffen Plan
- Led to stalemate
Western Front

Trench Warfare:

- Both armies dug trenches to fight from; constant shelling; vermin; disease
- Area b/w trenches known as “No Man’s Land”
- Led to huge losses for small land gains
Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it.

Front-line trench

Support trench

Reserve trench

Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire.

No Man’s Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross.

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.

A deep dug-out: German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops.

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS
French soldiers firing over their own dead
Officers walking through a flooded communication trench.
A photograph of a man suffering from trench foot.
Western Front
Battle of Verdun-Feb. 1916:
- Allied victory
- 11 month battle - by end of 1916, over 500,000 casualties
- British tried to relieve French in valley of Somme
Western Front
Battle of the Somme - July 1916:

- Central Powers victory
- 20,000 British killed in first day alone
- Neither side gained anything as a result of Somme and Verdun
Eastern Front
Who Was Fighting Who:

- Russians & Serbs vs. Germans & AH
- Russian/German border – more mobile war on this front
Eastern Front
Early Fighting:

- Russians did not fair well against Germans
- Did okay against AH, but could not hold it
- Russian Strength: huge population
Eastern Front
Russia Struggles:

- 1916 – Russian war effort near collapse
- Russian Weakness: Lack of industries that could provide supplies troops needed
- No supplies from allies b/c Germany blockaded Baltic Sea ports
Home Front
Total War:

- Using all of a nation’s resources in the war effort
- Countries began raising taxes, borrowing money to pay for war effort
- Drafts – young men required to join military
Home Front Propaganda:

- One-sided information designed to persuade, keep up morale & support for war effort
- Allies told of German atrocities against civilians
- Press also spread stories of German violence
Home Front Rationing:

- People could buy only small amounts of those items needed for war effort.
- Covered wide range of goods, from butter to shoe leather.
Home Front
Women in War:

- Took over jobs in factories
- Joined war effort as nurses
New Weapons of WWI

Machine Gun:
- Wipe out waves of attackers → difficult for forces to advance
New Weapons of WWI
Poison Gas & Gas Masks:

- Introduced by Germans, used by both sides
- Some caused blindness or severe blisters
- Others death by choking
New Weapons of WWI
Armored Tank:

- Could cross many types of terrain (chain tracks)
- Introduced by British
New Weapons of WWI
Aircraft:

- Became powerful weapon
- Countries invested to maintain airforce as they realized air supremacy was key to military victory
New Weapons of WWI

Submarine:

- Introduced by Germans
- Primary weapon against ships was torpedo
Warm-Up

- On which front was Trench Warfare the primary form of warfare?
- What was the territory between the trenches called?
United States Joins Fight
May 7, 1915:

- Germans sink British passenger ship *Lusitania*
- Americans on board
- Germans claimed ship was being used to deliver military supplies (this was true)
- Remained neutral at this point
United States Joins Fight January 1917:

- Germans announce policy of unrestricted submarine warfare
  - Would sink without warning any ship in the waters around Britain
- Sank 3 American ships, despite warning from President Woodrow Wilson
United States Joins Fight February 1917:

- Zimmerman Telegram
  - Intercepted by British
  - Germans asked Mexico to invade the U.S.
  - Promised to give Mexico land in SW U.S. upon victory

Telegram received. From 2nd from London #5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZILMERMANN.
United States Joins Fight
April 2, 1917:

- President Wilson asks Congress to declare war
- Boosts war effort in Europe with men & money
Allies Win the War!!

Russia:

**Collapse:**
- Czar Nicholas abdicated – faced w/ civil unrest b/c bad economy & war, army refused to keep fighting, & prospect of revolution
- See AKS 45d for more info

**Treaty of Brest-Litovsk – March 1918:**
- Ended the war b/w Russia and Germany
Allies Win the War!!

Central Powers:

- **Collapse:**
  - July 1918 - Second Battle of the Marne – Allied victory
  - Bulgarians & Ottoman Turks surrendered
  - Revolution in AH
  - Mutiny in Germany – Kaiser resigned – Germany declared republic

**Armistice:**
11am, Nov. 11, 1918 – (11/11/11)

World War I ends
Allies Win the War!!
Legacy of WWI:

- **Immediate Effects:**
  - Generation of Europeans killed or wounded
  - Dynasties fall in Germany, AH, Russia
  - New countries created
  - League of Nations established to help promote peace
Allies Win the War!!

Legacy of WWI:

- Long-Term Effects:
  - Many nations feel bitter & betrayed by the peace settlements (especially Germany)
  - Forces that helped cause the war, like nationalism & competition, remain
Warm-Up
Allies Meet in Paris

Who?:

- **United States**: President Woodrow Wilson
- **France**: Georges Clemenceau
- **Great Britain**: David Lloyd George
- **Italy**: Vittorio Orlando

**Notable Absences**: Russia; Germany or any of its allies
Allies Meet in Paris
What...did the U.S. want?:

- Wilson’s 14 Points:
  - Just and lasting peace achieved by ending secret treaties
  - Freedom of seas, free trade, reduced national armies & navies
  - Adjustment of colonial claims w/ fairness toward colonial peoples
  - Granting self-determination (allow people to choose what gov’t they want)
  - 14th Point:
    - Establish world peace organization – a “general association of nations”
Allies Meet in Paris
What...did Britain & France want?:

- Concerned w/ national security
- Strip Germany of its war-making power
- Punish Germany
Treaty of Versailles

Germany Punished:

- Lost substantial territory
- Severe restrictions placed on military operations
- Forced to acknowledge “war guilt” & pay reparations to the Allies
  - Owed $33 million to Britain & France; borrowed from the United States
GERMAN TERRITORIAL LOSSES VERSAILLES TREATY 1919

- Ceded to Denmark
- Ceded to Poland
- Ceded to Czechoslovakia
- Returned to France
- Administered by the League of Nations until 1935

1933 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

NORDIC
BELOUGA
ROUHR
Rhine
LUXEMBOURG
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA
POLAND
LITHUANIA
BALTIC SEA
NORTH SEA

0 100 MILES
New countries from AH empire

Ottoman lands in SW Asia carved into mandates rather than independent nations

- Palestine, Iraq, Transjordan → Britain
- Syria, Lebanon → France

Poland, Romania gained Russian territory

Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania → indep.
Europe Post-World War I
Treaty of Versailles
Wilson’s 14th Point:

- Created League of Nations – international organization
  - Goal: Keep peace among nations
Treaty of Versailles - Results of Treaty
U.S. Rejects Treaty – Why?:

- Many Americans objected – believed U.S. should stay out of European affairs
- Without U.S. support, League unable to take action on various complaints around world
Treaty of Versailles - Results of Treaty
Many Countries Feel Bitter & Cheated - Why?:

- Africans & Asians angry that their desire for independence was ignored
- Japanese & Italians gained less land than they wanted
Treaty of Versailles - Results of Treaty

Germany:

- Economy destroyed
  - Printed money to pay reparations → inflation
- Resented being blamed & left legacy of hatred among Germans

Dawes Plan

- U.S. loaned Germany money to pay reparations
- France/Britain repay U.S. for war loans
- Germany now owes U.S.
Collapse of Dynasties
Hapsburg Dynasty (Austria-Hungary)

- October 1918 – revolution swept through & last Hapsburg ruler lost control
- Austria became a republic
- Different ethnic groups & promise of self-determination under 14 Points led to creation of new nations, largely based on majority ethnic group
Collapse of Dynasties
Romanov Dynasty (Russia)

- March 1917 – Czar Nicholas stepped down
- Provisional gov’t established – continued fighting – big mistake!
- November 1917 – Communist Vladimir Lenin seized power – ended war w/ Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
Collapse of Dynasties
Germany: the Hohenzollern Dynasty

- the Hohenzollern Dynasty was replaced by the Weimar Republic
- Weimar government was weak/ineffective because it lacked public confidence and from fighting among political parties
Collapse of Dynasties
The Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Sultan was replaced by the Turkish Republic
- Ottoman land in SW Asia divided into mandates controlled by France & Britain