

## Information Sheet #10 The First World War

### Basic Outline on WWI:

- I. Factors in the War's Outbreak
- II. Phases of the War
- III. WWI as "Total War"
- IV. Staggering Losses & Destruction
- V. Territorial Adjustments after the War
- VI. An Analysis of Versailles

### Terms, people, concepts:

Otto von Bismarck	Franco-Prussian War (1870)
Alsace-Lorraine	Triple Entente
Central Powers	"July Crisis"
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Black Hand
Bosnia	Macedonia
Schlieffen Plan	Total war
home front	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
Treaty of Versailles	League of Nations
Woodrow Wilson	Fourteen Points
Bolsheviks (Russian communists)	

### Two Curious Triads™

<p>World War One "total war" Women</p>	<p>To answer this triad, think about the kinds of demands that the war made on domestic economies (especially in contrast to earlier wars) and what kinds of adjustments needed to be made for the conduct of war to be successful. How relevant were liberal assumptions about free trade, laissez-faire, and a self-regulating economy in the context of war? How did women fit into the wartime economy? What countries were most successful in adjusting their economies to the demands of "total war"? What were the consequences for those countries that failed to make this adjustment effectively?</p>
<p>Germany after World War Woodrow Wilson Georges Clemenceau</p>	<p>Here, you will probably want to consider the different approaches that each of the parties above brought to the peace settlement at Versailles in 1919. What different concerns did each of these parties have in constructing a new order after World War I? To what principles or values did they appeal? To what extent were their concerns and principles compatible? Which of those concerns and principles were actually included in the Versailles treaty? Taking a slightly longer view (and considering the next few decades after World War I in Europe), you may wish to address what the consequences of the peace were. Was the peace settlement a success? By what standards should we judge its success?</p>

## Major Alliances in Europe, 1870-1914

Three Emperors' League, 1873-78, 1881-1887, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary

Dual Alliance, 1879-1918, Germany and Austria-Hungary

becomes Triple Alliance when Italy joins in 1882

Reinsurance Treaty, 1887-1890, Germany and Russia

Franco-Russian Alliance, 1894-1917, France and Russia

Anglo-French Entente, 1904-1918, Britain and France

becomes Triple Entente, 1907-1917, Britain, Russia and France

## A Basic Chronology:

- 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War leads to creation of German Empire
- 1873 Bismarck creates Three Emperors' League: Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary
- 1890 Bismarck dismissed, German "Reinsurance" treaty with Russia lapses
- 1894 Conclusion of Franco-Russian alliance
- 1904 Conclusion of *Entente Cordiale* between Britain & France
- 1905 Revolution in Russia (during Russia's war with Japan)
- 1907 Creation of Triple Entente: loose agreement of Britain, Russia & France
- 1908 Austria-Hungary creates crisis by annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 1912-13 The Balkan Wars (largely over Macedonia)
- 1914 Assassination of Austrian heir Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo ("July Crisis")  
World War I begins
- 1916 Height of fighting on western front (Battles of Verdun & Somme)
- 1917 Two Revolutions in Russia: February & October
- 1918 Bolshevik Russian gov't signs separate treaty (Brest-Litovsk) w/ Germany (March)  
Beginning of Russian Civil War  
Revolution in Germany, Kaiser forced to abdicate  
Armistice on the western front: 11 November 1918, 11:00 AM.
- 1919 German parliamentary republic founded in Weimar (the "Weimar Republic")  
Treaty of Versailles signed\*
- 1920 Outbreak of Soviet-Polish War (lasts until 1921)
- 1921 End of Civil War in Russia
- 1922 Formation of USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

## Old States and New:

### States destroyed by World War I

Austria-Hungary

Ottoman Empire

Russian Empire\*\*

### New States after World War I

Finland

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Czechoslovakia

Austria

Hungary\*\*\*

Yugoslavia

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\* There was a series of separate treaties with the other defeated states: Treaty of St. Germain with Austria (1919); Treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria (1919); Treaty of Trianon with Hungary (1920); Treaty of Sèvres with Turkey (1920), which was later revised as the Treaty of Lausanne (1923).

\*\* But don't worry! The Russian Empire in effect re-emerges (in a somewhat modified form) as the USSR.

\*\*\* Austria & Hungary had in a sense existed before, but they emerged after the war as fundamentally new states.