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™

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<tr>
<th>World War One</th>
<th>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 &quot;total war&quot;? What were the consequences for those countries that failed to make this adjustment effectively?</th>
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<td>&quot;total war&quot;</td>
<td>Women</td>
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<th>Germany after World War</th>
<th>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?</th>
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<td>Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>Georges Clemenceau</td>
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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               New States after World War I
Austria-Hungary                              Finland
Ottoman Empire                               Estonia
Russian Empire***                           Latvia
                   Lithuania
               Poland
                    Czechoslovakia
               Austria
                    Hungary***
               Yugoslavia

* 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.