

UNIT 8 STUDY GUIDE

WORLD WAR I & 1920s (1914-1929)

World War I

Causes of Wars: throughout world history, wars have been fought for a number of key reasons, dating back to the ancient world.

- ☐ Nationalism: extreme pride and devotion to one's country
- ☐ Imperialism: exerting political control over another nation or territory
- ☐ Militarism: using force or the threat of force against another group or nation
- ☐ Entangled alliances: complex alliances can make it difficult to determine which countries or nations are aligned with one another
- ☐ Fanatical leaders: tyrant or extremist leaders who target their own people or other nations may cause wars

Nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and alliances were all causes of World War I.

European alliances: in the years leading up the start of World War I, nations in Europe began to form alliances, or mutual agreements to help another country in a time of crisis and support one another politically.

- ☐ Triple Alliance: consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- ☐ Triple Entente: consisted of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and France

Start of World War I: the First World War, also known as the Great War or War to End All Wars, began on June 28, 1914 upon the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Occurring in Sarajevo, Bosnia, the Archduke's assassination, although perpetrated by an extremist group, compelled Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia.

- ☐ Due to the complex alliances of European nations, Austria-Hungary's declaration of war triggered responses
 - ☐ The Soviet Union, having ethnic ties to Serbia, declared war on Austria-Hungary
 - ☐ France and Great Britain, who had a pre established alliance with the Soviet Union, also declared war on Austria-Hungary
 - ☐ Germany and Italy, who had a pre established alliance with Austria-Hungary, declared war on Serbia

U.S. Neutrality: the United States maintained a public position of neutrality, thus choosing not to support either side, for the first two years of World War I. However, the United States provided financial support and military resources to the Allies.

- ☐ When Germany learned of U.S. support of the Allies, they began sinking merchant ships en route to Europe

- ☐ Over time, the Germans began to target passenger ships, the most famous of which was the *Lusitania*, which was sunk by German U-boats.

U.S. Entry into World War I: the United States would eventually join the war effort in April 1917 when President Woodrow Wilson requested a declaration of war. Wilson believed American entry would lead to Allied victory, thus “making the world safer for democracy”.

- ☐ The United States joined the war as the Soviet Union withdrew
 - ☐ Bolshevik Revolution in the Soviet Union
- ☐ The French and British had endured two long years of fighting; American entry “revitalized” both nations

Trench warfare: due to the technological advancements in weaponry, especially the use of the machine gun, trench warfare allowed for soldiers to be out of the line of fire. Trench warfare is a strategy of attrition, which involves “waiting it out”.

- ☐ Millions of soldiers fought from the trenches during World War I
 - ☐ Sickness and disease were common, especially the Spanish flu and trench foot
 - ☐ Soldiers endured prolonged periods of inactivity, leading to extreme boredom, followed by intense periods of fighting
 - ☐ No Man’s Land: the dangerous area between the trenches; soldiers had no cover and were killed in droves
- ☐ New technology
 - ☐ Machine gun
 - ☐ Gasses
 - ☐ Tanks
 - ☐ Airplanes (for surveillance)
 - ☐ Hot air balloons (for surveillance)

End of World War I: the First World War officially ended in the 11th month, on the 11th day, at the 11th hour of 1918, November 11, 1918. The Allied nations proved victorious and would meet in France to discuss terms of the peace treaty.

The Treaty of Versailles

The Big Three: Woodrow Wilson of the United States, David Lloyd George of Great Britain, and Georges Clemenceau of France led the coalition of nations at the Versailles Peace Conference.

- ☐ Wilson viewed World War I as the “War to End All Wars” and wanted to create a lasting peace through a League of Nations.
- ☐ Clemenceau and Lloyd George wanted reparations payments from Germany and the defeated nations

Clause 231: also known as the War Guilt Clause, placed Germany in the cross hairs. Germany was blamed for starting World War I and for causing damages. The War Guilt Clause singled out Germany and forced them to pay massive reparations.

- ☐ Germany was prohibited from attending the Versailles Peace Conference
- ☐ Germany was forced to limit its army to 100,000 soldiers, preventing them from “going on the offensive”
- ☐ The Rhineland was established between Germany and France, a buffer zone in which Germany was prevented from going
- ☐ Germany was ordered to pay billions in reparations (\$600 billion in today’s money)
- ☐ Germany faced a prolonged depression as a country; widespread poverty, limited jobs and opportunities for citizens
 - ☐ Essential services, such as power and transportation, were halted in Germany
 - ☐ Within 3 years of the Treaty of Versailles being signed, Germany fell behind in reparations payments to France

Rise of Hitler: due to Germany’s embarrassment on the global stage, deep economic depression, and desperate citizens, Hitler’s platform to power was to restore Germany to its greatness.

- ☐ Hitler founded the National Socialist Workers Party (Nazi Party) in the early 1920s
 - ☐ Hitler was arrested for threatening to overthrow the government in 1923; Beer Hall Putsch
 - ☐ While imprisoned Hitler wrote his autobiography Mein Kampf (German for “My Struggle”), an antisemitic (anti-Jewish) work outlining his future plans.

The Roaring Twenties

Economic Boom: Americans, especially in major cities, began purchasing goods on credit on a massive scale. The development of new consumer goods caused a high demand for having the latest technology.

- ☐ Installment buying: customers would make payments over time (usually monthly) until balance owed is paid off.
 - ☐ “Be young, play, buy now, pay later”
- ☐ Cash vs. credit: while purchases on credit were more common in major cities, rural areas leaned more toward cash purchases.
- ☐ Following World War I, major industries prospered while farmers suffered.
 - ☐ Farmers had taken out large loans for land and equipment during World War I; demand plummeted, leaving farmers unable to repay debts.
- ☐ The high demand for cars led to increased growth in other industries
- ☐ Urban Americans made more money due to long working hours and better pay

- ☐ Suburbanization: overcrowding in American cities led to the growth of suburbs
 - ☐ High wages, hustle and bustle of the city gave way to comfortable, quiet life in the suburbs

19th Amendment: women's suffrage; allowed women the right to vote in the United States.

- ☐ Passed in 1919 and ratified in 1920
 - ☐ Monumental moment for gender equality in the United States
- ☐ Warren G. Harding became the first president to receive votes from females

Liberal vs. Conservative: generally speaking, conservatives were more likely to live in rural areas, whereas liberals tended to be in urban areas. In addition, conservatives, by and large, favored Prohibition, while liberals opposed it.

- ☐ Flappers: counterculturalist women who opposed traditional female roles and advocated for an equality within marriages.
 - ☐ Lived in urban areas
 - ☐ Flapper style clothing; sleeveless low-cut dresses, hats with feathers, long pearl necklaces
 - ☐ Frequented speakeasies
 - ☐ Took part in new dancing fads, such as the Shimmy, Black Bottom, and Fox Trot
 - ☐ Opposed Prohibition

Harlem Renaissance: a time of cultural rebirth for African Americans, especially in arts, music, and literature.

- ☐ The Great Migration led many African Americans from the South to northern cities, especially New York, Chicago, and Detroit.
 - ☐ Job opportunities
 - ☐ Segregation in the South
 - ☐ Educational opportunities
- ☐ Jazz music emerged and became extremely popular; a hybrid mix of African American and European music forms.

Prohibition: the 18th amendment banned the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the United States.

- ☐ Conservatives believed that the United States had become a "culture of drink"
 - ☐ Underperformance in jobs
 - ☐ Negative impact on family values
- ☐ Bootleggers: smugglers of illegal alcohol during the Prohibition era
 - ☐ Led to the birth of organized crime syndicates in the United States
 - ☐ Al Capone: notorious bootlegger and crime boss who made millions of dollars bootlegging
- ☐ 21st Amendment: repealed the 18th amendment

- ☐ Prohibition caused a massive increase in criminal activity
- ☐ 21st amendment ratified in 1933
 - ☐ 18th amendment is only amendment in U.S. history to be repealed (27 amendments total)