

WWI

LONG-TERM CAUSES

The weakest European power is a tie between Austria-Hungary and Italy. Although the latter does have a decent number of warships and submarines, its power on land is the weakest with a mere 750 soldiers at its disposition. Austria-Hungary, however, has slightly more power on land with 810 soldiers and a population of 50 million, though only 24 warships and 6 submarines.

When it comes to the strongest at sea, Britain has a naval superiority that blows away the rest. With a startling 122 warships, 64 submarines and 20 merchant ships, defeating Britain would require the combined naval force of two powerful countries (France and Germany, for example). On land, however, Germany's power exceeds the rest with an army of 2200 soldiers and quite a large population: 65 million. From a naval standpoint, it is quite impressive as well. Finally, between France and Russia, it is France who seems superior at first, but Russia's enormous population makes it a "sleeping giant," capable of mass destruction if properly lead.

Italy < Austria-Hungary < Russia < France < Britain < Germany

The most common problem was the threat of revolution on behalf of the socialists and working class. In Britain, the "suffragettes" were fighting for the right to vote, and Ireland was deeply divided and still not independent from England. France was domestically in decline because it did not industrialize like Britain and Belgium. There was a decrease in population and, as in Britain, anti-capitalists and Marxists were rioting. As well as dealing with the Polish nationalists seeking independence, Russia was in great need of economic and political reform. The Tsar Nicholas II was weak and easily influenced, and the poor suffered immensely. Germany was, like the rest, trying to keep trade unions and socialist risings at bay, and Austria-Hungary lived in fear of nationalism (+ the Serbs) and had little to no influence in European politics. Lastly, Italy was the smallest, weakest and most deeply divided country. North vs south/ rich vs poor.

CAUSES

Imperialism

Kaiser Wilhelm II believed that Germany was under-represented and demanded, through his *Weltpolitik*, that she be involved in world politics. In Morocco, for instance, Germany's provocation forced Britain and France to join forces and set up war planes in case of a German attack. The Agadir Crisis in 1911 sealed this alliance between the two nations, and because of it, Britain would be forced to support France in the outbreak of war in 1914. In addition, the demand for resources (which had been temporarily put on hold by the Scramble of Africa) had come back in full force by 1900. Nations needed more raw materials, and the only way to provide them would be to take from another nation's colonies-either diplomatically or by force. Despite Bismarck's efforts to prevent war, the European powers would come close to it after his retirement in 1890.

- Fight over status of Morocco
- An international conference was held in Algeciras in 1906.
- Imperial rivalries pushed France, Germany, and Britain to compete for control of Morocco, leading to a short-lived war scare in 1911

1905-6 Moroccan crisis - Kaiser supports Moroccan independence but at Algeiras conference Kaiser humiliated

Scramble for Africa- The Scramble for Africa was the invasion, occupation, division, and colonization of most of Africa by a handful of European powers during a short period known to historians as the New Imperialism (between 1881 and 1914).

1908 Austria annexes Bosnia- the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary announces its annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, dual provinces in the Balkan region of Europe formerly under the control of the Ottoman Empire.

Nationalism

With the press and government run by the rich elite, countries were advocating nationalism around every corner. Education systems were made to glorify their pasts and help create a sense of community, vital to the building of a strong army, and the support behind it. This was especially important in multi-national empires, like the Balkans. Serbia was split between two: the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary. But the ethnic group, the Slavs, living in the area, were giving rise to political nationalism independent of Austria-Hungary and were determined to establish a Greater Serbia. They were getting too strong for surrounding nations' likes.

- Public support for militarism was encouraged by newspapers and popular nationalism reached new levels of enthusiasm. In Germany war and militarism were glorified. The Kaiser surrounded himself with military advisers. He staged military rallies and processions. He loved to be photographed in military uniforms.,
- Austria took over the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Russia and Serbia protested, but they backed down when Germany made it clear that it supported Austria.
- Serbia emerged from these as the most powerful country in the Balkans.

Shooting of Franz-Ferdinand- The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, occurred on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo when they were mortally wounded by Gavrilo Princip.

Militarism

The idea of being military superior to your neighboring countries was a great desire in Europe leading to 1914. Originally, it was thought that this would prevent an attack to occur, but paradoxically, it meant that others should strike soon before it would be too late. During this period, Europe would see a dramatic increase in weaponization, the building of warships, submarines, guns, machinery that would provide the tools to go to war in July.

- powerful German navy
- HMS Dreadnought
- entente Cordiale with France in 1904 and the Anglo-Russian Entente of 1907
- The Morocco crisis worsened German relations with both France and the United Kingdom, and helped ensure the success of the new Anglo-French Entente Cordiale
- The size of armies, the length of military service and level of investment all increased.
- In 1905, the Germans came up with the Schlieffen Plan
- Austria relied on the success of the Schlieffen Plan so that Germany could help it to defeat Russia.
- Austria and Russia wanted to control the area because it gave them access to the Mediterranean

- Russia resented being forced to back down in 1909. It quickened its arms build-up.
- The main result was deeper suspicion between London and Berlin, and even closer military ties between London and Paris
- Britain felt very threatened by German navy size

The Schlieffen Plan - The Schlieffen Plan was a strategic plan by Count Alfred von Schlieffen, who worked for the German navy. It was made for the army of the German empire in 1905. It was designed for a war between France on one side and the German empire, Austria-Hungary and Italy on the other.

Launch of HMS Dreadnought- In 1906 Britain launched a new, more-advanced warship, the HMS Dreadnought triggering a naval arms race.

The Balkan Wars - The Balkan Wars consisted of two conflicts that took place in the Balkan Peninsula in 1912 and 1913. Four Balkan states defeated the Ottoman Empire in the First Balkan War. In the Second Balkan War, Bulgaria fought against all four original combatants of the first war along with facing a surprise attack from Romania from the north.

1911 Second Moroccan Crisis – was a brief international crisis sparked by the deployment of a substantial force of French troops in the interior of Morocco.

Arms race on land- One example of an arms race is the “dreadnought” arms race between Germany and Britain prior to WW1. In the early 20th century, Germany as a rising power sought to challenge the United Kingdom’s

1907 Triple Entente - Britain and France join alliance with Russia

European countries mobilise for war- Intricate plans for mobilization contributed greatly to the beginning of WW1, since in 1914, under the laws and customs of warfare then observed (not to mention the desire to avoid compromising national security), general mobilization of one nation's military forces was invariably considered an act of war by that country's likely enemies.

The Balkans

- Different nationalities mixed → instability
- Had been ruled by Turkey, but now Turkey in decline → new governments set up in place of Turkish rule were in dispute with each other
- Both Russia and Austria wanted to control area because it would give them access to Mediterranean

1908: First Balkan Crisis: Austria took over Bosnia and Herzegovina → Russia & Serbia protested → backed down when Germany made clear that it supported Austria → Austria now felt confident that it would have German backing in future disputes → Russia quickened arms build-up

1912-1913: Local Wars: Serbia emerged as most powerful country in the Balkans & friendship with Russia → very serious for Austria, decided it had to deal with this → by 1914, looking for any excuse to crush Serbia

1914: Murder in Sarajevo on the 23rd: Archduke Franz Ferdinand's death □ Austria blamed Serbia though no hard evidence □ secured "Blank Check" □ Ten-point ultimatum that would have made Serbia part of empire □ asked for time to reconsider □ Declared war on 28th July 1914.

1914

Although there was no hard evidence that Princip was acting under orders from the Serbian government, Austria blamed Serbia. Frantic diplomatic effort gave Austria a guarantee of German backing. With this support Austria now felt secure enough to deal with the Serbian problem once and for all. It gave Serbia a ten- point ultimatum that would effectively have made Serbia part of the Austrian Empire. The Serbs could not possibly accept it. When the Serbs asked for time to consider, Austria refused and declared war on 28 July 1914. The slide to all-out war had begun.

The July Crisis - War by railway timetable

Germany decided to support Austria unconditionally (The blank cheque)

- Mobilization occurred thanks to railways --> cars were not used for communication
- Railways demanded timetables --> plans had been timed to the minute, and they could not be changed. Delay changes everything.
- Ex: Austria couldn't mobilize against Serbia because that would leave them defenseless against Russia.
- Mobilization meant war.
- Germany couldn't fight a two-front war, so decided to take one before moving onto the other.
- So they devised the Schlieffen Plan: to go through Germany, there could be no delay between mobilization and war, because if so, Russia could catch up.

AJP Taylor begins his lecture by explaining the intricacy and importance timetables played in mobilization. With the emergence of railways, trains had to be carefully timed, and their trips planned out months ahead of time. If something went wrong, then the whole communication system would be down for months, as blockades would form with trains going opposite ways. Nevertheless, trains were essential to mobilization, and could only be in one place at one time. Germany, faced with the problem of a very probable two-front war with France and Russia, created the Schlieffen Plan, a plan that left no delay between mobilization and the start of war. This meant that countries would not have enough time to mobilize their troops, and therefore Germany would be able to take out one of them.

On 23 July: Having secured the support of Germany (the blank cheque) Austria blamed Serbia for the death of Franz Ferdinand and sent it an ultimatum that was impossible to fulfil.

On 28 July: Austria declared war on Serbia and shelled its capital, Belgrade.

On 29 July: The Russian army mobilised (got ready) to help Serbia defend itself against the Austrian attack. Germany warned Russia not to help the Serbs. Russian war plans assumed mobilisation against Germany.

On 1 August: Germany declared war on Russia, but the Schlieffen Plan meant that its army moved towards France and Belgium.

On 2 August: The French army was put on a war footing ready to fight any German invasion.

On 3 August: Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Britain ordered Germany to withdraw from Belgium.

On 4 August: With the Germans still in Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany.

On 6 August: Austria declared war on Russia.

BATTLES

Attrition is the process of reducing something's strength or effectiveness through sustained attack or pressure. The WWI was called the "war of attrition" because of the events occurred in the trenches along the western front between France and Germany, when both military forces found themselves stuck in defensive positions facing one another along a single front that stretched for hundreds of miles across Europe. Neither army could move against the other except to go head-to-head against one another repeatedly in hopes of gradually weakening the opposing army.

- Barbed wire, trenches and mud made cavalry charges ineffective.
- Machine guns could mow down charging infantry.
- The colossal new guns of the artillery could kill the enemy in their trenches, could wear down the troops and sap their morale and could disrupt enemy supplies, but they couldn't make a breakthrough.
- Artillery could also destroy enemy guns but the supply of weapons to both sides quickly became inexhaustible. Factories back home in each country were soon geared up to produce all the extra munitions needed.

Trench warfare consisted in two lines of dugout separated by a stretch of land called No Man's Land. Soldiers would spend months at a time living in the trenches, sleeping where they would then shoot the following morning. Germans were known to have created better more long-lasting trenches than the French or British and would lodge themselves in tunnels underground. Many soldiers found it difficult to tell their families of the reality of war. Lice was impossible to get rid of, and food could be extremely scarce at times. Although there were enormous casualties, no lines moved much during the four years of the war.

1914: War on the Western Front

Schlieffen Plan put into motion: German had to try to get to Paris and defeat France within six weeks so that they could send all their troops to Russia □ did not work because Belgians slowed them down & Russians moved more quickly than expected (100k troops transferred to Eastern Front).

Battle of Mons 23rd August: BEF landed in France and gave Germans a shock, troops led by General Haig, and used good rifles □ despite early success, British outnumbered □ organized orderly retreat. Only French could defeat them.

Plan 17: launched attack through Alsace-Lorraine but Germans defended with machine-gun fire □ French lost 200'000 men in 12 days □ abandoned Plan 17 and regrouped to defend Paris.

The Battle of Marne: Eastern Front problem & advanced too quickly □ food and ammunition could not keep up. Von Kluck headed straight to Paris despite this. French troops transported there by rail

or taxi □ combine British & French forces stopped Germans along River Marne, but could not drive them out of France completely □ dug trenches, first signs of a stalemate

The race to the sea: Schlieffen plan had failed. Germany was fighting two fronts. Moltke replaced by Falkenhayn who began a charge to the sea on 12th October □ British & French moved troops to block them □ named “Railway Battles of Northern France”

1st Battle of Ypres: 12th October-11th November: BEF lost 50k & Germans 100k, but British held ground □ kept control of English Channel ports □ could be supplied with equipment and reinforcements. By November 1914 it was a deadlock. BEF had been decimated. French had suffered 1 million dead or wounded □ still tried to break through Artois and Champagne but were beaten back with heavy losses. As 1914 ended, the fighting had reached a stalemate which would last until 1918.

Warfare on the Western Front

Trenches: war was static; trenches began as shelters but became complex defensive systems by 1915. Characteristics: Dug-out, duck boards, mud and water, fire step, wooden or iron supports, sandbags, wooden periscope, Lee Enfield rifle, barbed wire.

Artillery: shelling every day, caused more casualties than any other weapon. At first, inaccurate, but by end, bigger and more accurate □ key weapon, vast part of industry made shells for the artillery

Cavalry: End of cavalry because too vulnerable to artillery & impossible in trenches, remained vital for transporting supplies and equipment

Infantry: backbone of the army, replaced cavalry with “infantry charge.” □ over the top = 1. Barrage 2. Over the Top 3. Defends usually had advantage with machine-gun fire 4. If attackers captured forward positions, they then had to hold them □ generally impossible

Poison Gas: April 1915. Germans released chlorine □ aim to disable enemy troops so that infantry charge would be successful. Later developed worse gases like mustard gas, developed effective gas masks □ main significance was psychological impact

Tanks: British invention. Churchill, head of navy, thought that idea had potential. First used at the Battle of Somme. They advanced ahead of the infantry, crushing barbed wire defenses, but moved slowly □ only achieved great success in 1917 □ too successful because infantry could not keep up

Life in the Trenches: over the top was an exception, spent more time on guard, repairing trenches, trying to rest, didn’t spend all time in front trench, wrote letters or diaries, sanitation awful, smell

appalling, rotting corpses, sewage, lice, trench foot, frostbite, rats, discipline generally good, respect for leaders who fought.

The view from Britain: difficult for people to get accurate impression of war, letters and newspaper were censored, no photographers were allowed in trenches, official war artists forbidden to show dead bodies in paintings. Reality of war began to sink in, war artists produced somber paintings.

Why stalemate: barbed wire, trenches made cavalry ineffective, machine guns could mow down infantry, colossal new guns could not make breakthrough, supply of weapons inexhaustible.

1915: The stalemate continues

In 1915, the French, British and Germans all tried and failed to break the deadlock. Early in 1915 the French lost many thousands in an unsuccessful offensive in Champagne. British gained some ground in Neuve Chapelle in March but at a heavy cost. The Germans were driven back from Ypres in April with heavy losses and the British suffered a setback in Loos in September.

1916: The year of attrition

Verdun: Germans began battle to capture strategic French forts surrounding Verdun □ Falkenhayn came up with strategy of attrition □ tactic failed, both sides suffered equal losses. The French led by General Pétain were by summer of 1916 close to breaking, Germans had greater resources.

Somme: To relieve the pressure, Haig launched offensive at Somme □ British troops advanced (1st day: 57 k British casualties) □ fighting continued until November with loss of 1.25 million men.

1917: USA in, Russia out

3rd Battle of Ypres/Passchendaele: British detonated huge mines which destroyed German artillery positions, killing 10k Germans. However, infantry advance which followed became hopelessly bogged down. Heavy rain created nightmare conditions.

The British Blockade: both sides tried to stop supplies from getting to each other's troops. British had been blockading ports since 1914 □ supposed to strangle German industry so that it could not supply the German army.

The German U-Boat campaign: sank British ships supplying Britain. 1917: policy of unrestrained warfare against all ships □ caused shortages and helped bring the USA into the war.

The USA joins the war: officially neutral but supplying loans and equipment to the Allies. Germans attacked and destroyed many American ships. Sank passenger ships, killing American civilians. When the USA discovered that Germany hoped to ally with Mexico against them, they declared war on April 1st, 1917.

The Russian Revolution: Crushing blow when a revolution in Russia had brought in a Communist government and it had made peace with Germany. The Germans could now transfer hundreds of thousands of troops back to Western front.

1918: The Hundred Days – the stalemate is broken

- Allies' blockade of German ports had starved economy of raw materials and the population of food
- USA was moving troops to France at a rate of 50k per month
- German army demoralized → needed quick breakthrough and end the stalemate.
- March 1918: Ludendorff launched offensive → huge bombardment and gas attacks → very effective.
- Lost 400k men in the process with no reserves to call on, discipline was poor, badly fed and supplied.
- Between May and August no further progress made → run out of time and resources.
- Allies had large numbers of well fed and well-equipped troops supported by tanks, aircraft, and improved artillery.
- August 8th: Allies counter-attacked along much of the Western Front. Only matter of time before they defeated the Germans. By late September they had reached Hindenburg line. By October Germans in full retreat. On November 11th, Armistice came into effect.

Gallipoli (1915)

- War planners attracted to the idea of a knock-out blow against Turkey, whom they considered vulnerable → Dardanelles Strait.
- Would hopefully: open up sea route to the Russian Front so that Allies could get supplies to Russia, march through the Balkans and attack Austria-Hungary, relieve pressure on Russian forces by drawing troops away from Russian front
- March: began assault, bombarded strong forts that lined strait; made advance → British navy threatened by shell fire → risks of the navy's trying to continue towards Constantinople too great → decided to launch land invasion → troops attacked Helles beach → war commanders underestimated power of defending army (they had been prepared, doubled forces) → beach strewn with dead → continued to fight bravely but couldn't clear Turks off peninsula → dug trenches → eventually withdrew

The Balkan Campaign

- Allied force at Salonika in Greece did not fare much better than that at Gallipoli → aim to land at Salonika, help Serbia to defeat Austria and Bulgaria and then march through what was described as the 'soft underbelly of Europe' to create a new front against Germany

- Greece was neutral and wanted to stay out of the war. Russia was not particularly happy either about the Allies working with Greece. Greece and Russia were bitter rivals in the Balkans.
- The Allied landing took place in October 1915 with a mixed force of British, French, Serb, Italian and Russian troops. They were immediately bogged down by Bulgarian resistance. Here again, as on the Western Front, a stalemate developed – main hazard facing the troops was malaria and dysentery. At any one time so many troops were ill that attempts to plan attacks were thwarted.

The Middle East

- When Turkey had entered the war, it threatened Britain's oil supplies in Persia and its territory in Egypt. Turkish soldiers fought well and were ably led and supported by German officers and technical experts. They had such success in Mesopotamia that the Allies had to send 600,000 troops there. They sent a further half a million to Palestine.
- 1916-1918: British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops gradually drove the Turks back through Palestine towards Turkey itself. The Turks, as well as facing superior forces, were harassed by guerrilla warfare from the many Arab tribes who wanted independence from Turkish rule and led by TE Lawrence of Arabia.

The Eastern Front

1914: At the start of the war, Russia surprised everyone. It quickly mobilised two huge armies and invaded East Prussia in August 1914 – Germans had to take an extra 100,000 troops away from the Western Front to fight them. The Russian armies enjoyed some early successes but at the Battle of Tannenberg they suffered a significant defeat by German forces. The Russian soldiers were badly led, poorly equipped and underfed.

1915: Russians were more successful against the Austrian forces – invaded Galicia. Although the Russians were defeated at Gorlice in May 1915, it took four more months for the Austrians to drive them out of Galicia altogether, and to do so the Austrians needed substantial reinforcements from the Germans. However, this defeat put a terrible strain on Russia - there were 2 million dead or wounded in 1915 alone.

1916: Russia's war was helped when the focus of the German and Austrian war effort shifted to Italy, Turkey, and the Balkans. General Brusilov a stunning offensive against the Austrians. Three Russian armies broke through the Austrian lines and captured the city of Lutsk on 8 June. But by August, the Russian advance was running out of steam. Another 500,000 Russians were dead or wounded, adding to the half million dead, or wounded already in 1916. Such losses intensified Russia's domestic problems.

Total War

Aims: Germany's aims were outlined in Bethmann-Hollweg's September Memorandum of 1914 – European wide domination including ethnically cleansing Poles from areas conquered by Germany, as

well as the Germanisation of Polish territories by settlement of German colonists. France was determined to regain Alsace-Lorraine and both France and Britain had committed themselves to crushing 'Prussian militarism'. Nationalist propaganda on both sides reinforced nationalist sentiment, justifying the war and demonising the enemy (although not quite dehumanising yet). Governments would have had to do a serious turn around in terms of public opinion if they were to seek a compromise.

Weapons and technology: Land (see above); planes: Zeppelin carried machine guns and bombs but were then abandoned because they were easy to shoot out of the sky, dogfights, spying; Sea, dreadnoughts, light cruisers, torpedoes, U-Boats

Civilians: The lives of civilians in all countries were obviously affected by the huge losses of soldiers; all families and villages across Europe faced the consequences of what later became known as the 'lost generation'. But civilians were also affected by the actual fighting, and there were many casualties because of the new technologies. Paris was shelled from 126km by the massive German gun known as 'Long Max', while first the Zeppelins, and later planes, made raids on Britain. British planes also inflicted severe damage on German factories and towns in the last year of the war. On the Eastern Front, civilians were actually caught up in the battles. For example, Jews - viewed with suspicion by the Russian military - were actively attacked by advancing Russians. Ethnic violence also took place in the Balkans. World War I also saw Europe's first genocide of the 20th century. Turkish propaganda at the time presented the Armenians as pro-Russian. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians died from starvation and thirst when the Turks deported them en masse from eastern Anatolia to the Syrian desert and elsewhere in 1915-16. There is dispute over the number of Armenians killed. Armenians say 1.5 million, while the republic of Turkey estimates the total to be 300,000. According to the International Association of Genocide scholars, the total was 'more than a million'. Whether countries recognise this genocide or not is still a matter of diplomatic tension.

The impact of economic warfare on civilians

Both sides realised the advantages of cutting off supplies to their enemies. They tried to disrupt each other's trade routes and prevent vital foods and raw materials getting through by laying minefields at sea or attacking merchant ships with submarines or warships. The British blockade had a devastating effect on Germany, causing desperate food shortages and contributing to Germany's defeat in 1918. The average daily calorie input for a civilian adult dropped from around 1,500 in 1915 to below 1,000 in the winter of 1916-17. Germany's use of submarine warfare also subjected British civilians to shortages, and Russia suffered from the blockade of the Dardanelles. Rationing was introduced in many countries.

The home front: civilians as part of the war effort

The war saw the rapid growth of industry in all countries as governments tried to keep up with the production demands of total war. In Britain, France, and Germany, these demands also meant women joining the workforce as more and more men left to fight in the war. However, in all countries there was resistance to employing women, and it was not until 1915 that serious recruitment of women into industries began. Even then, there was little enthusiasm from employers and trade unions for women entering the workforce, and in Britain there had to be negotiations to reach agreements on women entering 'men's jobs' in munitions and engineering, e.g., that such arrangements were only to be temporary. The work in munitions was extremely dangerous, with risks of TNT poisoning and accidental explosions. By 1917, one in four war workers was female,

leading Joseph Joffre to claim that 'if the women in the war factories stopped for 20 minutes, we should lose the war.' (76-7)

Government power increased

Perhaps the most significant long-term consequence of the First World War was the changed relationship between the state and the citizen. Citizens found themselves being subjected to much greater control from their governments as countries tried to ensure that maximum use was made of human and economic resources. But in turn, citizens came to expect the state to take a more active role in protecting their interests.

In France, a 'state of siege' was proclaimed by President Raymond Poincare, who placed eight departments of government under the control of the commander-in-chief, Joffre, and subject to military law. This number was later increased to 33 departments. In Germany, executive power was given to the deputy commanding generals of Germany's 24 military districts. The Tsar in Russia, meanwhile, used the pro-war atmosphere in 1914 as an opportunity to reassert autocratic powers and rule without the Duma (Russian parliament). In Britain, the government passed the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) in 1914, which gave the government wide-ranging powers to police many aspects of people's daily lives, such as restricting the hours of pub opening (law lasted until 1988) or banning the flying of kites.

Government began to play a more important role in the general welfare of its citizens. For example, the government intervened to protect workers (and their unions) from their bosses. In Britain the coal industry and shipping was considered too important to be left to the free market, so it was taken over by the government. There was even intervention in areas such as canteens and child care, and the setting up of various committees such as the Health of Munitions Workers Committee. Rationing of food was taken very seriously and guaranteed a fairer distribution based on need rather than an ability to pay. The diet and health of the poor actually improved as a result of war.

War also had a significant impact on the economy. In order to pay for the war, Britain increased direct taxation. It also abandoned its 19th-century policy of free trade by adopting tariffs on certain types of imported goods. All countries borrowed immense sums to pay for the war. The Russians, French and Italians borrowed heavily from the British and the Americans; the British also borrowed massive amounts from the USA. The governments of all combatants borrowed from their own people through 'war loans', which would be paid with interest after the war. For example, this was done in Britain through tank banks, which capitalised on British enthusiasm for the new weapon by selling government bonds from the back on touring tanks.

To motivate the home fronts and keep up morale, governments also invested in propaganda and censorship. Propaganda portrayed the enemy as an inhuman force that must be defeated at all costs and censorship prevented bad news from reaching the public. The British government also created a Ministry of Information, making propaganda a key element of its war policy.

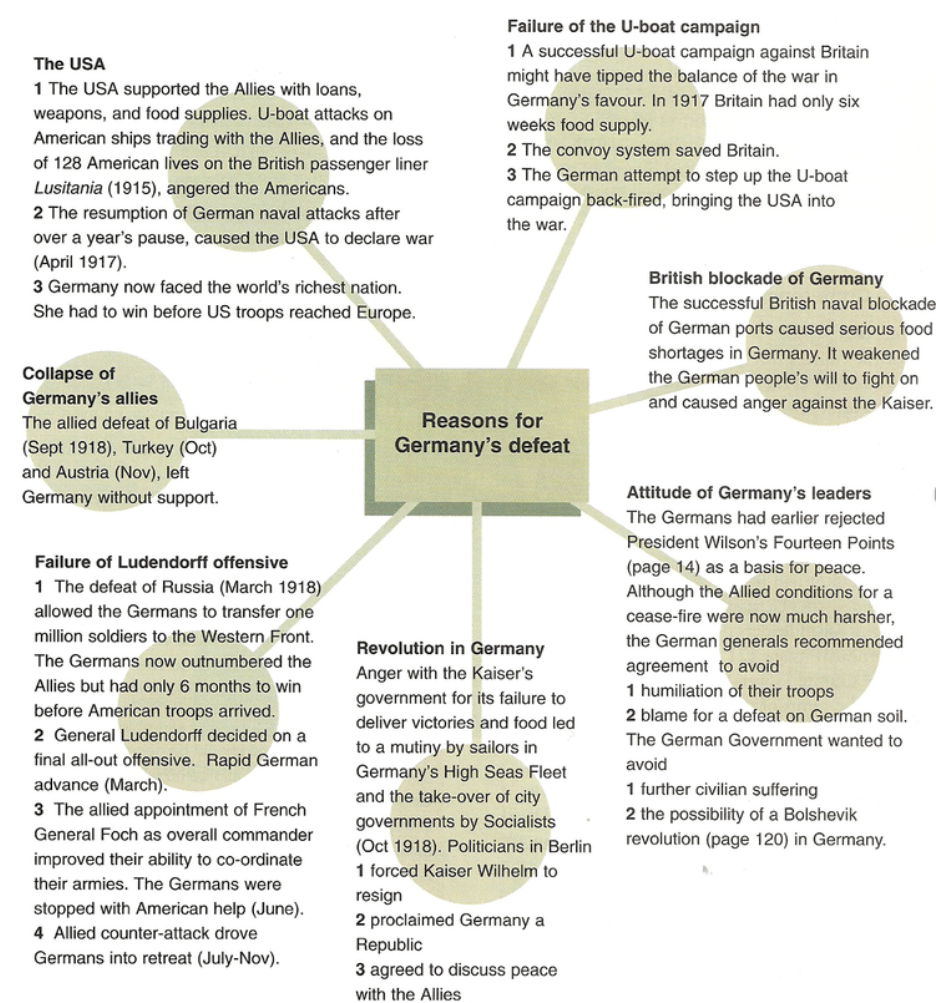
Reasons for German defeat

Military: The USA supported the allies with loans, weapons, and food supplies. U-boat attacks on American ships trading with the Allies, and the loss of American lives on the British passenger liner *The Lusitania* in 1915 angered the Americans. In 1917, the resumption of German naval attacks after over a year's pause caused the USA to declare war in April. Germany now faced the world's richest nation. She had to win before US troops reached Europe. In addition, Germany's allies, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Austria had all been defeated, leaving Germany on its own. Finally, the failure of the

Ludendorff offensive led to Germany's downfall. The defeat of Russia allowed the Germans to transfer one million soldiers to the Western Front. The Germans now outnumbered the Allies but only had 6 months to win before American troops arrived. General Ludendorff decided in an all-out offensive and ordered rapid German advance. However, the allied appointment of General Foch as overall commander improved their ability to coordinate their armies. The Germans were stopped with American help in June.

Political: Anger with the Kaiser's government for its failure to deliver victories and food led to a mutiny by sailors in Germany's High Seas Fleet and the take-over of city governments by Socialists. Politicians in Berlin forced the Kaiser to resign, proclaimed Germany a Republic, and agreed to discuss peace with the Allies. The Germans had earlier rejected Wilson's 14-points as a basis for peace. Although the Allied conditions for a cease-fire were now much harsher, the German generals recommended agreement to avoid humiliation of their troops and blame for a defeat on German soil. The German government wanted to avoid further civilian suffering and the possibility of a Bolshevik revolution in Germany.

Economic: A successful U-boat campaign against Britain might have tipped the balance of the war in Germany's favor. In 1917 Britain had only six weeks food supply. But the convoy system saved Britain and the German attempt to step up the U-boat campaign backfired, bringing the US into the war. The successful British naval blockade of German ports caused serious food shortages in Germany. It weakened the German people's will to fight on and caused anger with the Kaiser.



The Paris Peace Treaties 1919

Georges Clemenceau: Considering France's main aim was to cripple Germany; it would certainly agree with the amount of reparations it owed to all the Great Powers. This way, the country would be plunged in debt and unable to attack France again. But if it had the chance to, France would have tried to weaken Germany even more by demilitarizing it.

Woodrow Wilson: Mr. Wilson would have certainly agreed with the fifth point: the establishment of a League of Nations, but not much else. The attribution of Germany's colonies to France and Britain's rule would have violated his principles of self-determinism and fifth point: that Colonies should have a say in their future. He would have also disagreed with the debt bestowed on Germany

David Lloyd George: The Prime Minister would have been in accordance with Germany's loss of its colonies and navy because they threatened the British Empire. However, he did not want Germany to seek revenge in a future war, so acted as a middle ground between Clemenceau and Wilson as far as how much Germany should pay. He knew it was essential for Britain to begin trading with Germany as they had before the war.

The Treaty of Versailles: Germany was first and foremost blamed for starting the war. In consequence of this, the Allies felt it had to pay major reparations. 6600 million pounds to be exact, but this number was later changed in 1929. In addition, Germany was stripped of all its colonial territories. These former colonies became mandates, which were to be ruled by the League of Nations. It was also forbidden to form an alliance with Austria. But most importantly, Germany's army size was reduced to a maximum of 100 000 soldiers who had to be volunteers, and its navy size down to six battleships. The Rhineland was to be a demilitarized zone, and Germany was not allowed to join the League of Nations until it showed that it was a "peace-loving" country.

Treaty of St. Germain: Austria was separated from Hungary and forbidden to unite with Germany. It set out to create new states out of territories, though Italy was displeased with how little land it received.

Treaty of Neuilly: As with Austria, Bulgaria was forced to limit the size of their military and pay reparations to the Allies. It lost quite a bit of territory and was ruled by foreign powers by 1920.

Treaty of Trianon: Dealt with the transfer of territories. Hungary lost territory and population. Its economy was so impoverished it was never able to pay the reparations.

Treaty of Sèvres: Turkey lost a lot of territories that had once been in their empire (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco), and had to agree to their being independent. In addition, Smyrna was given to Greece and then later returned to Turkey. Overall, it was quite controversial and sparked numerous protests.

Reactions to the Treaty

Germany: It had lost 10% of its land, all of its overseas colonies, 12.5% of its population and 16% of its coalfield. The overall reaction was horror and outrage. They certainly did not feel they had started the war. They did not even feel they had lost the war. In 1919 many Germans did not really understand how bad Germany's military situation had been at the end of the war. They believed that the German government had simply agreed to a ceasefire, and that therefore Germany should have been at the Paris Peace Conference to negotiate peace. It should not have been treated as a defeated state. They were angry that their government was not represented at the talks and that they were being forced to accept a harsh treaty without any choice or even a comment. The war guilt was particularly hated. Germans felt at the very least that the blame should be shared. What made

matters worse, however, was that because Germany was forced to accept blame for the war, it was also expected to pay for all the damage caused by it. The German economy was already in tatters. People had very little food. They feared that the reparations payments would cripple them.

In 1919 Ebert's government was very fragile. When he agreed to the Treaty, it tipped Germany into chaos. His right-wing opponents could not bear the Treaty and they attempted a revolution against him. This revolution, called the Kapp Putsch, was defeated by a general strike by Berlin workers. The strike paralyzed essential services like power and transport. It saved Ebert's government, but it added to the chaos in Germany and the bitterness of the Germans toward the treaty. In 1922, Germany fell behind on its reparations, so in 1923 French and Belgian soldiers entered the Ruhr region and simply took what was owed to them in the form of raw materials and goods. This was quite legal under the Treaty of Versailles. The German government ordered the workers to go on strike so that they were not producing anything for the French to take. The French reacted harshly, killing over 100 workers and expelling over 100'000 protestors from the region. More importantly, the strike meant that Germany had no goods to trade and no money to buy things with. The government solved this problem by simply printing extra money, but this caused a new problem – hyperinflation. The money was virtually worthless, so prices shot up. The Germans naturally blamed these problems of the Treaty.

Czechoslovakia: mostly carved out of the old Austrian Empire, with the addition of land taken from Germany. The Allies wanted it to be economically and politically strong, so they made sure that it included industrial areas from the former empire. It included a wide range of nationalities.

Poland: The Western Allies were very keen on recreating the state of Poland. They wanted it to act as a potential watchdog on Germany in the years to come. They also hoped that Poland could form a barrier against any future threat from the new Communist government in Russia. The peace treaties put it together again as an independent country. Poland's western frontier was settled with Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. Poland's eastern frontiers were rather more difficult to agree on. Poland was a good example of the problems that arise when politicians sit down with a map and create new states that were not there before. Poland had no natural frontiers (rivers, mountains, etc.), and this made it vulnerable to attack. Also, around 30% of the population of Poland were not ethnically Polish – it included Ukrainians, Jews, Germans, and many others. Almost from its first day the new state was involved in fighting in Russia over the line of its eastern borders – this was eventually settled in 1921 with the help of the British diplomat Lord Curzon. The border was temporarily settled at the Curzon Line. In order to have access to the sea, Poland was given a strip of German land around the city of Danzig. This became known as the "Polish Corridor" and its loss was bitterly resented by Germany.

Yugoslavia: It was formed by merging Serbia with a number of its neighbors, most of whom had been part of the old Austria-Hungary Empire before the war. It began life as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, but in 1929 it changed its name to Yugoslavia. The Allies hoped that a relatively large and powerful state could be a stabilizing influence in the turbulent Balkans.