

# World War I and Peace Settlement

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## Info

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## Study Part

### *Factual knowledge*

#### You can list the main events of the July crisis 1914 and explain the reactions of the countries involved

- June 28: assassination of Franz Ferdinand by Serbian liberation terrorist in Sarajevo
- July 3: "carte blanche" issued to Austria by Germany (unconditioned military support)
  - Serbia as a proxy war (possibly) between Russia and Germany
  - Germany provoked Russia as they knew Russia had a slow transportation system and thus Germany could demonstrate their force without having to attack them *directly*
- July 28: Austria gives Serbia an ultimatum; declares war
- July 29: France mobilizes; British navy goes to war with 232 ships

#### You know the main characteristics of World War I

- New kind of war by then
- Long
- Affected all layers of society
- Testing ground for new weapons
- Casualties
- Poison gas
- Tanks
- horror

#### Phases



#### You know the belligerent powers and the alliance system

##### Belligerents<sup>1</sup>

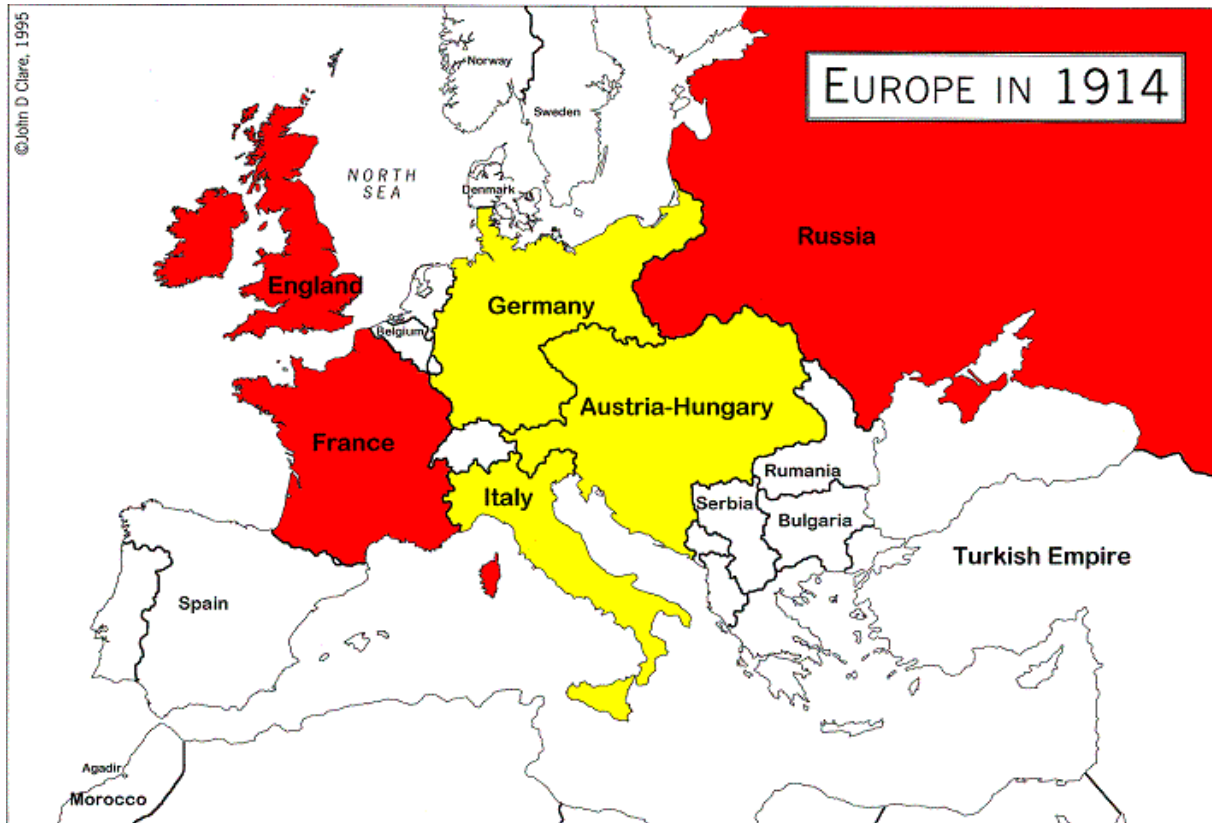
- Germany
- France
- GB

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<sup>1</sup> For a full list see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participants\\_in\\_World\\_War\\_I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participants_in_World_War_I)  
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- Italy
- Austria-Hungary
- Russia
- (Ottoman Empire)

### Alliance System



(Middle Powers and Triple Entente)

### You know the content of the peace treaties

There were separate peace settlements with each “loser”, the most prominent being the one of Versailles with Germany, which was basically a dictated peace.

### Shaping Principles

- Mistrust instead of trust
- Taking revenge instead of being collaborative
- Paris (where all treaties were drawn up) was destroyed → emotions high

**Germany**

- it excluded Germany from all international organization (e.g. League of Nations)
- forced Germany to pay reparation payments
- Germany's army had to be reduced
- Germany was guilty for the war
- Territorial changes
  - Lost all overseas territories
  - Eastern Europe
  - Alsace-Lorraine to France
  - Denmark
- Goal: weak Germany as much as possible
- US didn't support this treaty
- However, Germany continued to exist, unlike Austria and the Ottoman Empire

**Austria-Hungary & Ottoman empire**

- Dissolved; national states formed
- Austria
- Hungary
- Czechoslovakia
- Romania
- Poland
- Yugoslavia
- Turkey
- Iraq
- Syria
- Saudi-Arabia
- Kuwait

*Understanding*

## You can explain long-range & immediate causes of World War I

### Germany

- Huge, world power
- Fast growing economy (2<sup>nd</sup> worldwide)
- Huge army, scary
- Ruled by Prussian Kaiser
- Tensions due to socialism (working class ↔ aristocracy)
- Modern welfare
- System
- General suffrage, government appointed by Kaiser
- Fear Russia

### Austria-Hungary

- Big, multicultural
- aristocracy vs. Working class
- 12 nationalities
- Independent, mostly agriculture, some industrialization
- Old emperor
- Fear Serbia (might become independent)

### France

- Self-sufficient
- Paris and the rest
- Some industrialization
- Afraid of Germany

### GB

- Colonies
- Poverty, Labor Party
- Women's right
- Feared Germany's navy
- "Irish Problem"

### Russia

- Large, media & transportation is difficult
- Fear the Japanese
- Famines, tensions and strikes
- Supported Slavs
- Tsar. And no one else.
- Behind the others

### Serbia

Gained power on the cost of Turkey

### Main Causes

- Domestic tensions (liberation movement and distraction policy)
- International tensions
- Military build-up
- Imperialism
- Changed alliance system isolated Germany
- Powder keg: Balkan (independence movements; Russia vs. Austria- vs. Ottomans empire)

## You can explain the differences between expectations before the war and the war reality

Expected was a traditional man-on-man war at some few fronts. Reality was disastrous. (See: You know the main characteristics of World War I, page 2)

## You understand the impact of the way the peace was implemented on the further European history

In brief, as Germany (who was blamed for virtually everything) was excluded, they became angry and an angry country is never good to safeguard peace.

### **You can explain the objectives of the chief participants at the Paris peace conference**

- Mistrust instead of trust
- Taking revenge instead of being collaborative
- Paris (where all treaties were drawn up) was destroyed → emotions high
- Wilson's Fourteen Point Plan would have been a better solution IMO<sup>2</sup>

### *Interpretation*

### **You can discuss the war guilt question**

In brief, no *single* country can be said to be guilty for the war (as many, many different factors lead to its outbreak), however many argue it is Germany, if any.

### **You can assess the (in)evitability of the war**

In brief, due to the many different factors, it would've been rather difficult to prevent a war.

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<sup>2</sup> In my opinion  
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## You can evaluate how the war affected the belligerents' economy, social life and political situation

### General

- Death toll around 9M; mostly young males
- Women emancipation → economy, suffrage
- Declining birthrate
- No feeling to celebrate among winners
- 1<sup>st</sup> US-engagement since Monroe Declaration due to:
  - "unlimited warfare at sea" by Germany
  - Serve own interests: GB as important trading partner

### GB

- Strong navy
- Winner
- Ireland still not solved

### France

- Winner
- Wanted to re-gain territory
- Economically & demographically devastated
- Exhausted
- Fear GER more than GB does

### USA

- Winner, best situation
- Good economy (interested in healthy Europe)
- Some men killed but no destruction on own territory

### Germany

- Loser
- No invasion (surrendered before occupation)
- No food → famine
- Dramatic political change (enforced) (monarchy → republic); Weimar Republic
- Lost much territory
- Lost reputation, international acknowledgment
- Economic crisis (also due to reparation payments)
- Nationalism as proven to be bad (although WWII...)

### Russia

- Tsar regime collapsed
- Communist, 1<sup>st</sup> to be worldwide → Russian Revolution
- *Exhausted*
- Loser, surrendered
- Not involved in peace negotiations
- Feared by many due to communist revolution
- Economical disaster

## You can assess the peace treaties and how they reflect the belligerents' objectives

Sorry, no content yet ;) [+++]