

WORLD WAR ONE —A BRIEF GLIMPSE

THE PLAYERS:

Before 1914, Europe was dominated by five empires:

1. Austro-Hungarian Empire
2. German Empire
3. France
4. Ottoman Empire
5. Bulgarian Empire

NATIONALISM:

“We are fighting because our leader says to.”



BEFORE THE WAR ... *there was war*

The Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)

The Players: Germany and France

The Cause: Prussia didn't like France (or Napoleon)

The Results: Germany wins, and its states unite as a country. France is completely and publicly humiliated.

The Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)

The Players: Russia and Japan

The Cause: Control of Manchuria

The Results: Japan surprises Russia and sinks the entire Russian Fleet. Japan takes control of Korea, some land in China, South Manchuria and the southern part of Sakhalin Island. President Theodore Roosevelt steps in to negotiate peace, and wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Neither Russia or Japan citizens are satisfied.



The Balkan Wars (1908, 1912, and 1930)

The Players: the Balkan League (Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro) and the Ottoman Empire

The Cause: The Balkans wanted to push the Ottoman Empire out!

The Results: The Ottoman Empire is defeated utterly, and the empire collapses.

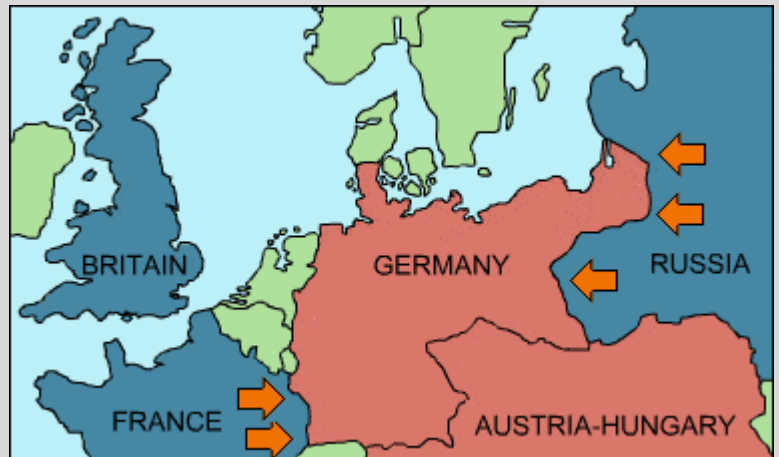
...AND THEN THERE WAS GERMANY

The Schlieffen Plan (*when war comes*):

In 1905, Germany decided they should begin strategizing war against France. Russia made them nervous, and Germany felt that removing France as Russia's ally would be beneficial.

General Count Alfred von Schlieffen believed his plan would be successfully completed in 6 weeks, as long as Britain did not ally with Belgium.

Railroad tracks were laid based on battle plans.



*Looking to
pick a fight*

Summer 1914

Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie (Next in line for the Austrian throne), head to Sarajevo Bosnia to attend war games.

The Black Hand movement wanted to free Bosnia from Austro-Hungarian rule, and had made several unsuccessful attempts on the Dukes life. They finally succeeded in assassinating him June 28, 1914. The leader and founder Captain Dragutin Dimitrijevic, better known as 'Apis', is shown to the right.



... the outrage!

- Franz's father is angered, and Austria declares war on Serbia
- Russia declares to support Serbia if they are invaded
- Germany, believing this is as good a time as any, initiates the Schlieffen plan by declaring war on France
- France, who despised Germany, sides with Russia



the war begins!

A VERY BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE WAR

- Russia invades Germany at the beginning of the war and is flattened. The withdraw, and do not reenter the country until the end of the war.
- People are excited to go to war. It begins with a mix of old strategies and new technologies.
- Germany invades Belgium, prompting Britain to join the war

1914

- Wilson is re-elected president of the U.S.A.
- The largest sea battle in World History is fought. (Battle of Jutland between Britain and Germany, with over 9,000 men killed)
- Romania enters the war.

1916

1915

- Japan declares war on Russia (remember the Russo-Japanese war), trying to take back all of Sakhalin Island
- The Lusitania is sunk by a German U-boat submarine, inciting anger in America.
- President Wilson tries to keep the US out of the war

1917

- The French military goes on strike (mutiny amongst the troops!)
- Russia drops out of the war because of the Russian revolution.
- Germany looks west, and attacks Italy
- The United States enters the war.



1918

- Germany struggles for victory
- The United States helps end the war.
- The Influenza Epidemic impacts the world. 1/2 million Americans die of the disease and 50-100 million people dies worldwide.

THE END OF THE WAR:

- President Wilson is a hero in Europe, but not at home
- The League of Nations is founded (but the U.S.A. does not support it)
- Germany loses land, and the European map is redrawn.
- 8 million people died in the war, with another 21 million injured. This does not include the influenza epidemic.

Allied Forces vs. Axis Forces

U.S.	Denmark
Britain	Greece
France	Netherlands
USSR	New Zealand
Australia	Norway
Belgium	Poland
Brazil	South Africa
Canada	Yugoslavia
China	

Germany
Italy
Japan
Hungary
Romania
Bulgaria



INTERESTING FACTS:

- The French began the war in bright red pants (very easy to see), and were slaughtered in their very first battle.
- Airplanes and Zeppelins are used during the war to track enemy movements.
- By the end of the war, airplanes have been modified to carry guns, and speed is improved from 100 mph to 160 mph.
- Trenches are used extensively through the war. Trench warfare include hand grenades, poison gas (first time it is used as a terror weapon), Tanks (first time used in war), flame throwers (another terror weapon), and trench mortars (which launch explosives).
- Battleships and submarines are also used throughout the war. Germans began using such dirty tactics that restrictive warfare was put in place. (The German's ignored the restrictions)
- For every two men killed in action in the war, one horse was also killed.
- Many soldiers fashioned gas masks for their horses and dogs throughout the war.