AMSCO Chapter 25

The World War I Era, 1900-1919

1. Immediate Causes of the Great War
2. June 28, 1914, a Serbian named Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife.
3. Princip was a Serbian nationalist and member of the Black Hand, a group working to get Austria-Hungary out of the Balkans.
4. Black Hand was considered terrorist group by Austria-Hungary, which demanded the Serbian government end all anti Austrian activities.
5. Serbia refused, Austria-Hungary looked to its ally, Germany, for support and Serbia to its ally, Russia.
6. Germany and Russia enter the conflict, making a small issue a world war
7. Long-Term Causes of the Great War (M.A.I.N.)
8. Militarism – aggressive military preparedness, especially Great Britain and Germany spent money building up armies and navies, recruiting soldiers, and buying ships and guns. War was viewed as a game more than a violent tragedy.
9. Alliances – secret agreements between nations who agreed to protect and help each other when attacked. Members of one side were sworn enemies of members of the other side.
10. Alliance (allies, triple entent) included Great Britain, France, Russia, eventually China, the US and Japan
11. Central Powers (Triple Alliance) – Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Italy. Italy changed sides in 1915
12. Imperialism – the scramble for any available land to colonize further intensified rivalries
13. Nationalism – people in both Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire wanted independence. Militant nationalist Serbs and Arabs fought on side of allies
14. Changes in Warfare
15. Poison gas – chlorine, phosgene, mustard gas; gas masks were used, fatalities were limited but long-term effects were painful lung damage
16. Machine guns firing more than 500 rounds per minute
17. Submarines attacked in Atlantic shipping lanes
18. Airplanes still small, used mostly for reconnaissance
19. Tanks enabled travel over difficult terrain, even trenches
20. Trench warfare meant men lived in trenches for months, in filth and disease with no movement forward
21. A four-year stalemate resulted, with neither ide able to defeat the other.
22. US Entrance in the War
23. US had ties with allied nations
24. US believed allied nations were more democratic
25. US felt growing resentment towards German U-boats that sank ships carrying Americans, including the Lusitania
26. Zimmerman telegram revealed that Germany was offering to help Mexico get land back from US if Mexico allied with Central Powers.
27. Russian Revolution
28. Tsar did not have strong control
29. Millions of Russian soldiers died
30. Food shortages in St. Petersburg led citizens to overthrow Tsar Nicholas II
31. Provisional government was a combination of socialists, liberals and conservatives, sharing power with the Duma.
32. Lenin and the Soviets seized power from provisional government on platform of land redistribution, promising “peace, land, and bread.”
33. Four months into his power, Soviet Russia signed Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, making peace w Germany and giving Germany large part of the Ukraine.
34. Total War
35. Participants committed ALL resourced to the war
36. Civilians, even women, worked producing war materials.
37. Planning boards set up quotas, price and wage controls, rationing, censorship
38. Propaganda meant to influence public opinion demonized the enemy and exaggerated atrocities
39. Global War
40. Europe, Asian, Africa and the Pacific were involved, including in colonies, which extended the war’s boundaries
41. Countries took advantage to expand, like Great Britain taking over Suez Canal and Japan taking over German colonies in Pacific islands.
42. Colonial troops such as from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Algiers, China, Vietnam, Arabs helped out Allies
43. Casualties of War
44. US joins war in 1917 against protest at home
45. Fresh US troops helped allies advance, forcing Germany to surrender on Nov 11, 1918, Armistice Day
46. 8-9 million soldiers died and 21 million were wounded
47. Atrocities – 6-13 million civilian casualties were estimated
48. Over 1.5 million Christian Armenians in Turkey were killed in the world’s first genocide.
49. Turkey accused Armenians of helping the Russian army, so they were forced to move to camps where most died from starvation, disease, exposure
50. Influenza epidemic in 1918, just when soldiers were returning home, making the flu easier to spread. The pandemic killed 20 million in Europe and world
51. The casualties of war, disease and destruction resulted in the “lost generation”, people who had no sense of security and were living in shock.
52. Paris Peace Conference
53. The Big Four – US, Great Britain, France and Italy (later Italy walked out)
54. Russians not included due to Communist Revolution, and fear of spreading
55. President Wilson did NOT want to punish any nation, France felt the opposite. French PM George Clemenceau felt France had suffered most of all allies, and deserved protection from Germany as well as revenge
56. Fourteen points
57. League of Nations – all countries could openly discuss differences
58. US Congress refused to join League of Nations or ratify Treaty of Versailles
59. Many new countries were established from territories of Central Powers
60. Treaty of Versailles – Germany had to pay billions in reparations, give up all colonies, restrict size of armed forces, take entire blame for war
61. German economy suffered from high inflation, Germans were bitter, sets stage for Nazis taking power 15 years later
62. Effects of War – US economy surged, European countries had the greatest damage
63. Effects on colonial lands – African and Asian people saw that European powers were not all powerful. Also, since colonial troops fought for the allies, they hoped they would be rewarded.
64. David Lloyd George of Great Britain, Clemenceau were not interested in independence movements
65. Mandate system – Allied promises of freedom for Ottoman Arabs were forgotten.
66. African and Asian peoples needed “tutelage” from European countries, and German colonies were basically divided amongst the allies under separate mandates.
67. Pan-arabism arose due to the anger of the Arabs that allies did not keep their promises.
68. Balfour Declaration of Great Britain – Palestine should be a permanent home for Jews of Europe (Zionists – supporters of Jewish homeland)
69. Japan took over German colonies in China and these Chinese nationalists became active in the new Chinese Communist Party.