World War I
The War to End All Wars  1914 - 1918
Causes of Impending War

Web of Alliances
- Triple Alliance
  - Germany – Austria / Hungary – Italy
- Triple Entente
  - France – England – Russia
- Problem – Borders not aligned geographically

Militarism
- Arms Race
- Large Standing Armies
- Inferior view of opposing Countries
- Detailed Battle Plans
  - Schlieffen Plan (Germany)
  - Plan 17 (France)

Imperialism
- Competition for resources

Rise of Nationalism
- Intense Rivalries
- Competition for Resources
- Territorial Disputes
The Spark!

- The Balkans
  - Austro/Hungarian Empire holds Bosnia-Herzegovina
  - Ethnically Slavic (As are Russians and Serbs)

- Assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand of Austro-Hung
  - Black Hand Society (Serbs)
  - Austria gives Serbia an Ultimatum
A Disastrous Chain of Events

- June 28th – August 4th 1914
  - Assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand
  - Austro-Hung declares war on Serbia
  - Russia vows to Protect Serbia
  - Germany vows to protect Austro-Hung
  - Russia mobilizes to German/Polish Boarder
  - Germany fears attack and attacks Russia
  - France allies with Russia based on old treaty
  - Germany invades France through Belgium and Luxemburg
  - Britain declares war on Germany for invasion
“A Jolly Little War”

Millions rush off to war expecting to be home for Christmas.

- Nations Take Sides
  - Allies
    - France-Great Britain-Russia-Italy-U.S.-Japan
  - Central Powers
    - Germany-Austria/Hungary-Ottoman Empire
Map of World War I Alliances
The Battle Plans for Victory?

- Schlieffen Plan
  - Germany’s problem was a war on two fronts
  - Invade France by way of Luxemburg/Belgium defeat France quickly
  - Turn to the Eastern Front and defeat Russia

- Plan 17
  - Frances plan to invade Germany across the open plain of Alsace-Lorraine with bicycles and horses.
When Battle Plans Fail: Stalemate

- Plans Fail
  - Plans are based on false assumptions of enemy strength
  - Plan 17 fails, German defenses are much too strong
  - Schlieffen invasion starts well, ends bad

- Belgium and France do not have the infrastructure to support German advance
  - Battle of the Marne
    - 600 taxi cabs rush French & British forces to the battle
    - Hold line 40 miles from Paris
    - Stalemate on the Western Front
Western Front

- Trench Warfare on French-German Boarder
  - 500 miles of Trench from North Sea to the Alps
  - 1 – 10 miles across
  - Battles
    - Verdun, Marne, Somme Valley
    - German Hindenburg Line
Trench Warfare

- Forced by new weapons into the ground
- 3ft to 10 ft trenches 100 – 1000yds. apart
- Land in Middle is called “No Mans Land”
- System of attack – counter attack
- Fortified by machine guns, gas, artillery and cement
World War I Weapons

- **Tank**
  - Armor protection, mobile gun, unreliable in WWI

- **Submarine**
  - German U-Boat, Torpedoes, Shipping Blockades

- **Poison Gas**
  - Mustard Gas & Chlorine, Choked-Blinded & Killed

- **Machine Gun**
  - Caused Trench warfare, Two men could operate

- **Air Plane**
Weapons Pictures

Gas
Weapons Pictures Continued

Tanks & Machine Guns
Weapons Pictures Continued 2

War in the Sky
Truly Global War

- Imperial Interest
  - Countries need to protect Imperial Territory
  - Used subjects to fight to a European War
  - Establish new world dominance
Battle of Gallipoli

- Gallipoli Peninsula
  - April 25, 1915

- Casualties
  - Turkish 250,000
  - Allied Forces
    - British – 205,000
    - French – 43,000
    - ANZAC – 36,000

- Territory Gained
  - ZERO!!!!!
Asian Conflicts

- **Japan**
  - Take German land in China
  - Take German South Pacific Is.

- **India**
  - 1.3 Million Indians Fight for Great Britain, their Imperial Rulers.
Armistice! November 11th 1918

European Tragedy

- The Lost Generation
  - 37% of European Males between 18-24 Died
  - Deaths
    - Germany 2.1 Million
    - France 2 Million
    - Russia 1.7 Million
    - Austro-Hung. 1.5 Million
    - Italy 500,000

- 38 Billion in Economic Losses
A Flawed Peace

Treaty of Versailles
- France and Britain impose harsh penalties on Germany
  - Must take full responsibility for war
  - Pay 33 Billion to allies
  - Restrictions on German Army and Navy - 100,000 Soldiers
  - Took traditional German Lands

Wilson’s Fourteen Point Plan
- Rejected as to forgiving to Germans
- Point 14 a League of Nations accepted by Europe
  - US Congress refuses to accept the League of Nations
Europe after WWI
World War I Legacy
“The War to End All Wars”?

- 10 Million Killed
- 338 Billion in Economic Lose
- Europe
  - War torn economies and Cities
  - Lost generation
  - German hostilities to European Powers
  - German Economic Depression
    - Leads to Hitler’s Rise and WWII
  - Italians feel slighted by concessions
  - Russian Collapses Leads to Revolution
    - Rise of Communism – Lenin - Stalin
- World
  - U.S. Industrial Boom
    - Europe lost many industrial centers
    - Red Scare / Fear of Socialism
  - Changing borders in Asia and Africa
  - Japan feels slighted as Europe takes territory