

**Unit 2: World War I**

**Lesson 7: The Outcome and Impact of WWI**

*Why did Germany lose the War?*

Don't blame me!



The USA

Collapse of Germany's allies

British Blockade of Germany

Failure of the Ludendorff Offensive

Attitude of Germany's leaders

Revolution in Germany

Failure of the U-Boat campaign

*Why did Germany lose the War?*

A. The USA

- i. The US supported the Allies with loans, weapons, and food supplies.
- ii. U-boat attacks on American ships trading with the Allies, and the loss of 128 US lives on the British passenger liner, Lusitania (1915) upset the Americans.
- iii. The resumption of German naval attacks in 1917 caused the US to declare war in April, 1917
- iv. therefore, Germany now faced the world's richest nation forcing Germany to go on a "do or die" offensive before US troops could arrive in Europe.

B. Collapse of Germany's allies

- i. The allied defeat of Bulgaria (Sept. 1918), Turkey (Oct. 1918), and Austria (Nov. 1918) left Germany without support.

### C. Failure of the Ludendorff Offensive

- i. The defeat of Russia (March, 1918) allowed the Germans to transfer one million soldiers to the Western Front.
  1. Germans now outnumbered the Allies but had only six months to win before US soldiers arrived.
- ii. The allied appointment of French General Foch as overall commander improved the coordination among the Allied armies.
- iii. The Ludendorff Offensive, which began in March, 1918, was stopped by June, 1918 with the help of the US.
- iv. The Allied counter-attack drove the Germans into retreat from July to November, 1918.

D. Failure of the U-Boat campaign

i. A successful campaign may have tipped the balance into Germany's favour

1. Britain had only six weeks food supply in 1917.

ii. the convoy system saved Britain

iii. The German attempt to increase the U-boat campaign back fired, bringing the US into the war.

E. British Blockade of Germany

i. caused serious food shortages in Germany

ii. reduced the will of the German people to fight.

iii. caused anger against the Kaiser.

F. Attitude of Germany's leaders

- i. Germans had earlier rejected President Wilson's Fourteen Points as a basis for peace (in January, 1918 when they were first proposed.)
- ii. by November, with conditions were much harsher, German leaders agreed to peace.
- iii. German generals wanted to avoid:
  1. humiliation of their troops
  2. blame for a defeat on German soil
  3. further civilian casualties
  4. the possibility of a Bolshevik revolution in Germany.

Weimar

G. Revolution in Germany

- i. mutiny by sailors in Germany's High Seas Fleet at Kiel and the take over by city governments by Socialists (Oct. 1918) meant civil war threatened Germany
  1. forced the Kaiser to resign
  2. proclaimed Germany a Republic
  3. Agreed to discuss peace with the Allies

*What was the Impact of WWI?*

A. Social Consequences:

i. 9-10 million people were killed and about 20 million wounded

ii. war left 3 million widows and 10 million orphans

iii. Britain

1. loss of almost 10 percent of male population altered the population balance so that younger females outnumbered males

a) declining birthrate accelerated

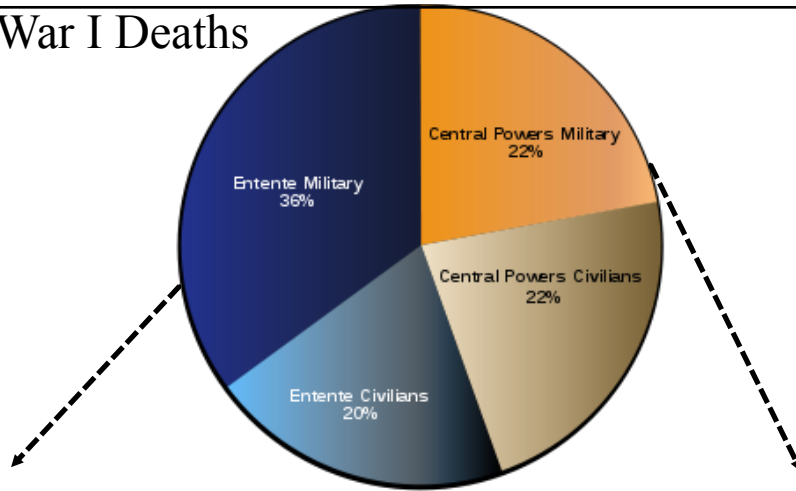
2. saw an increase in standard of living for the working class

3. women got the vote and moved closer to equality.

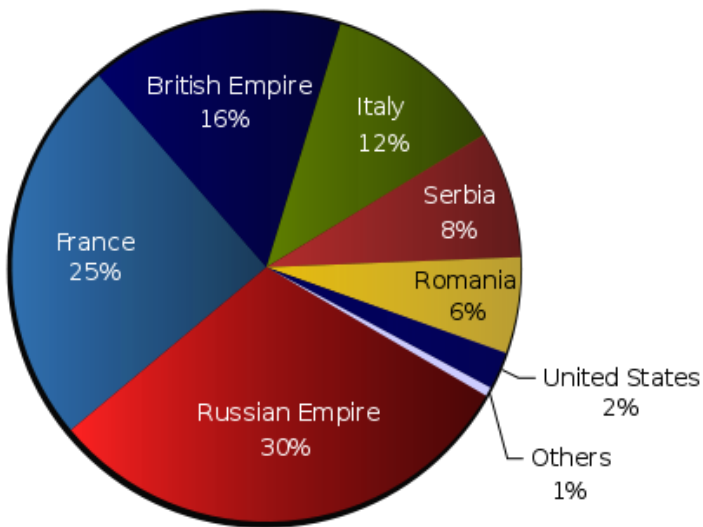
4. many questioned role of religion

5. many lost confidence in the stability and progress of government.

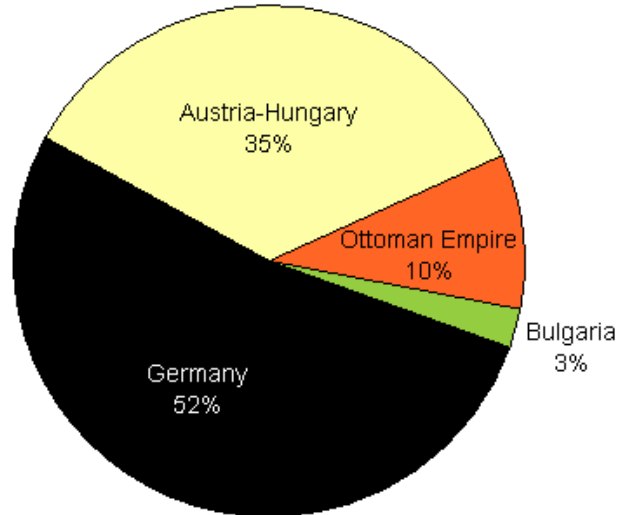
### World War I Deaths



### World War I Military Deaths (Entente Powers)



### World War I Military Deaths (Central Powers)



A. Social Consequences:

iv. role of women changed

1. some see women gaining confidence from filling the labour shortages during the war
2. some see women filling jobs for lower pay and gladly leaving the workforce when the men returned.
3. women got the vote in 1918 in Britain, 1920 in the USA with the 19th Amendment to the constitution.



AT LAST!



B. Economic Consequences:

i. Europe lost its status as the world's lender of money to the USA

1. paying off these loans would lead to resentment among the former allies during the 1920s

2. New York became the financial capital of the world instead of London

3. British debt rose from 650 million pounds to 7 billion pounds during the war



## B. Economic Consequences

ii. Government involvement in the economy/society increased throughout the war

1. taxation increased/rationing, etc.

2. in the USA, gov't involved in the home front:

a) August, 1916, Council of National Defense created to coordinate resources and industry for national security.

b) January, 1917 US Shipping Board created to increase shipbuilding

c) May, 1917 Selective Service Act introduced conscription

i) April, 1917, US Army = 120 000 men

ii) November, 1918, US Army = 4 000 000 men with about 24 million registered to join.

d) July, 1917 War Industries Board created to organize the purchase of war materials.

## B. Economic Consequences

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2. in the USA, gov't involved in the home front:

e) August, 1917 US Food Administration under Hoover allowed for food to be produced for Americans and the British.

f) April, 1917 Committee on Public Information created under George Creel with the purpose of vilifying Germany  
- helped the prohibition movement as Germans dominated the US brewing industry.



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2. in the USA, gov't involved in the home front:

g) June, 1917 created the Espionage Act; May, 1918 Sedition Act

i) both outlawed criticism of the war effort. Eugene Debs and left leaning trade union organizations were targeted. About 1500 people were imprisoned under these Acts.

ii) US Supreme Court in 1919, after the war, upheld the conviction of a man distributing anti-call-up pamphlets during the war. (Schenck versus the United States)

h) US involvement in the war had cost 35.5 billion (11.2 billion went to loans to allied countries.)

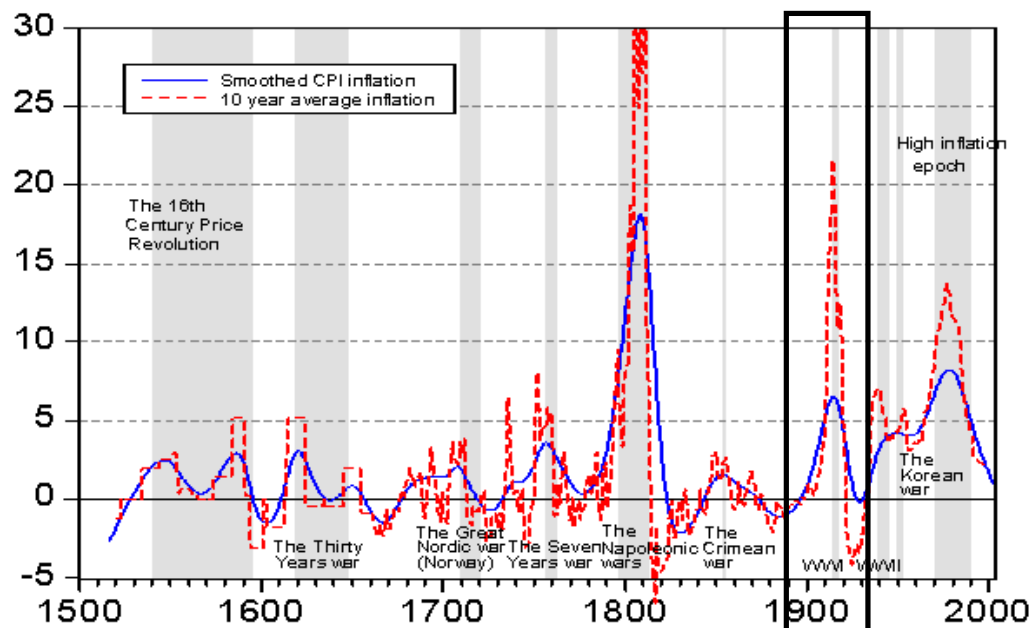
## B. Economic Consequences

iii. inflation increased dramatically throughout the war.

iv. Germany owed reparations to Britain and France, but received loans from the USA, helping to create a financially chaotic situation (pp. 102-103 *Modern Euro History*)

Date:	German Marks needed to buy one ounce of gold
Jan 1919.....	170.00
Sept 1919.....	499.00
Jan 1920.....	1,340.00
Sept 1920.....	1,201.00
Jan 1921.....	1,349.00
Sept 1921.....	2,175.00
Jan 1922.....	3,976.00
Sept 1922.....	30,381.00
Jan 1923.....	372,477.00
Sept 1923.....	269,439,000.00
Oct 2, 1923.....	6,631,749,000.00
Oct 9, 1923.....	24,868,950,000.00
Oct 16, 1923.....	84,969,072,000.00
Oct 23, 1923.....	1,160,552,882,000.00
Oct 30, 1923.....	1,347,070,000,000.00
Nov 5, 1923.....	8,700,000,000,000.00
Nov 30, 1923.....	87,000,000,000,000.00

## CPI inflation 1516-2003



## C. Political Consequences

- i. Russian Revolution led to the first communist country in Europe.
  1. Tsar was overthrown by the Provisional gov't, which was overthrown by the Bolsheviks due to mounting war casualties.
  
- ii. State power increased dramatically
  1. economic control, rationing, propaganda, censorship, control of means for military production and supply, etc.
  
- iii. British historian A. J. P. Taylor argued that Germany was stronger after the war
  1. Before the war, it had been one of five European Great Powers (Germany, France, Great Britain, Austria- Hungary, and Russia).
  2. After the war, it was the strongest of the three remaining European Great Powers (Germany, France, and Great Britain) and likely to economically dominate the continent upon recovery.

## C. Political Consequences

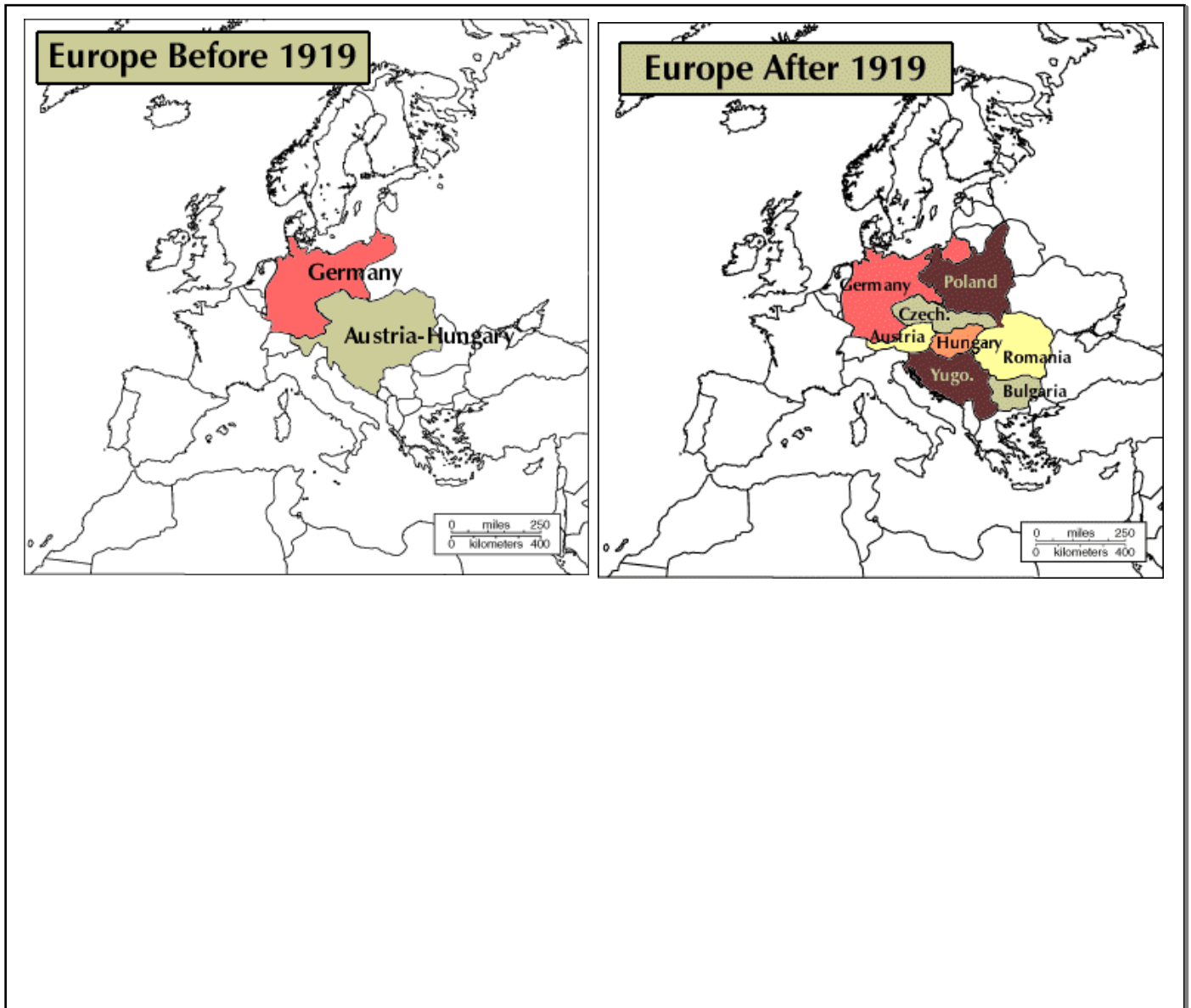
### iv. End of long-standing royal dynasties

1. Hapsburg dynasty removed in Austria (lasted 500 years)
2. Romanov dynasty removed in Russia (lasted 300 years)
3. Hohenzollern dynasty removed in Germany (lasted 300 years)
4. Ottoman Empire destroyed (lasted 500 years)

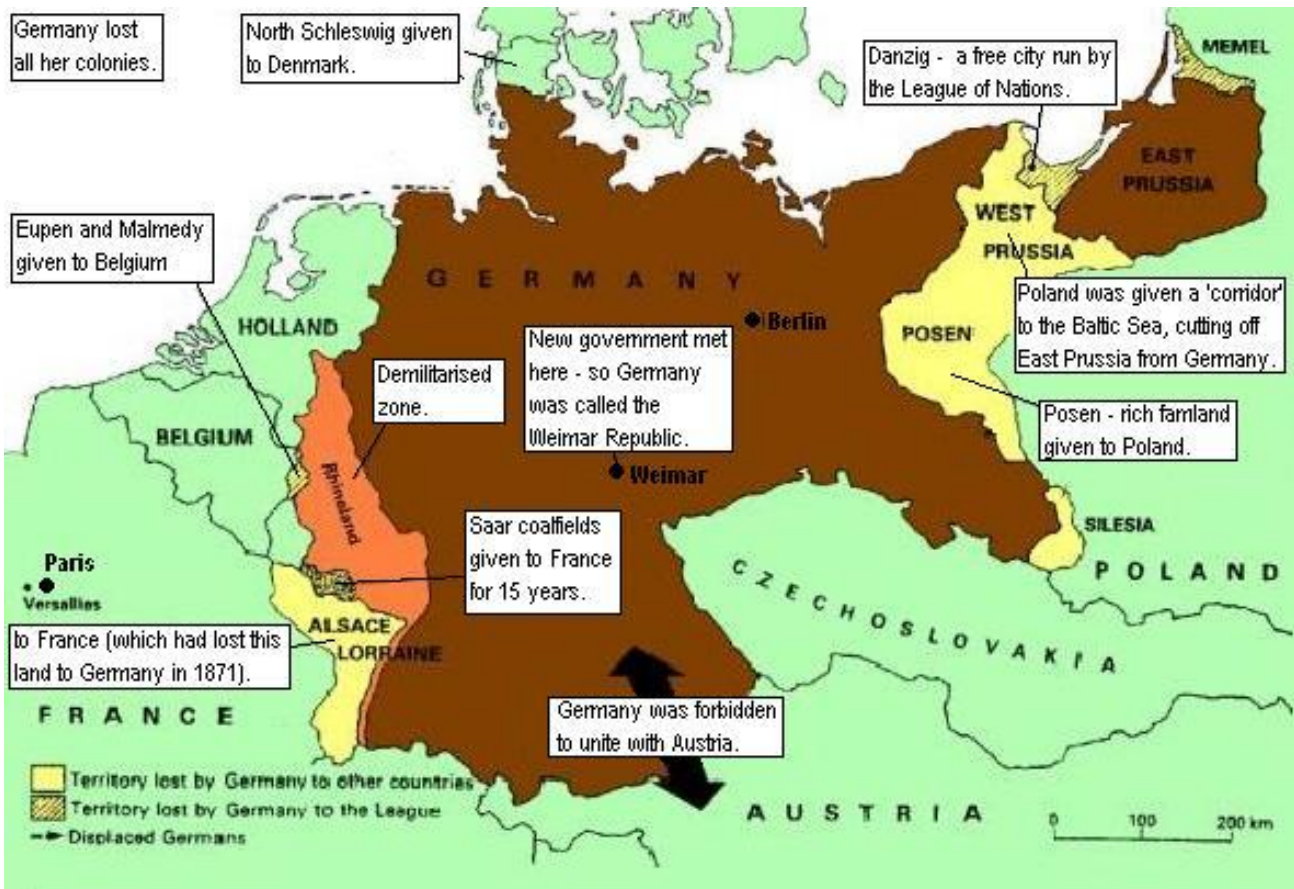
### v. Political Map of Europe was redrawn

1. Creation of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia
2. Germany split in two by the Polish Corridor (East Prussia separated from the rest of Germany)





## The Treaty of Versailles and the territorial changes to Germany



## C. Political Consequences

### vi. German resentment

1. German people seemed unaware that their army had been defeated in the field

a) no foreign soldiers on German soil and their leadership had not explained how dire their circumstances had become

b) They expected a mild, negotiated settlement, similar to the ones Europe normally prepared after wars

i) Total war conditions made this impossible.

1) unlike 18th century conflicts that had been fought with professional armies

2) unlike the Congress of Vienna that saw landed aristocrats of Europe rearrange the map of Europe to their pleasure.

3) WWI was fought with a draft system and many people, civilian and soldier, had been affected and sought revenge.

## C. Political Consequences

### vi. German resentment

1. German people seemed unaware that their army had been defeated in the field

c) Thus, the Treaty of Versailles, the Paris Peace treaty, was written after the war

i) The Germans regarded it as a betrayal, and their sense of outrage helped lead to Adolf Hitler.

2. John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919): argued that the harsh terms of the treaty would hurt Germany's economy and thus the economy of the rest of Europe and lead to significant future political unrest.