

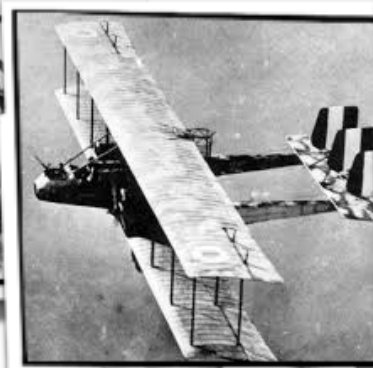
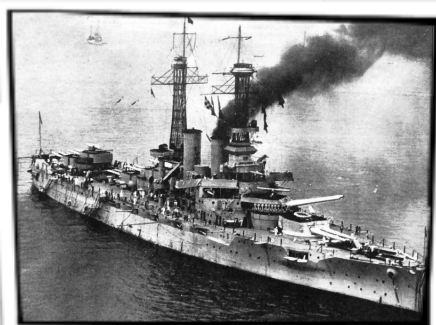


Europe & The Great War

In 1914, the world was primed for a global conflict. Politicians and military leaders had been predicting one would take place since 1880. The question was not IF a global war would happen, but WHEN it would happen. The Great War (WWI) had four MAIN causes:

- **Militarism:** Europeans had been using their industrial power to advance technology and rapidly produce a tremendous amount of weapons.
- **Alliances:** Empires across Europe promised their support to one another - if one was attacked, all would join into the fight. France-Britain-Russia formed the Triple Entente alliance, while Germany, Austria, Italy and the Ottoman Empire formed the Central Powers Alliance
- **Imperialism:** The Europeans had conquered/colonized territories on every continent on the earth.
- **Nationalism:** The Europeans had great pride and patriotism in their nation, fueled by Social Darwin's survival of the fittest.

In 1914, a small scuffle in Eastern Europe sparked all the alliances and pulled all of Europe into a global war. The USA was unsure which side to join, as they had a large number of immigrants on each side of the war. For four years, the Europeans fought, killed each other to a near stalemate. During the middle of the war, the



Russian peasants led the Russian Revolution, overthrowing Tsar Nicholas II, and removing Russia from the war. In 1918, the USA (and the Japanese) decided it wanted to have a greater role in shaping the post-war world, so the Americans joined the British and French. The fresh troops defeated the Germans, bringing an end to the war. The Great War saw the death of 18 million people around the world. People said that the war was so awful, no one would ever want to fight a war again.

At the palace of Versailles in Paris, the Treaty of Versailles was negotiated to end the war. The French demanded that Germany take the blame for the war and pay \$33 Billion in reparations for the damages done to France. This crushed Germany's economy and humiliated its people. Italy, who had switched sides in the war, wanted land given to them in Africa, but were denied their request. The Japanese had wanted language added to the treaty stating that all people were equal and should be seen as equals. The Japanese wanted to gain a level of standing and equality in the world amongst its new peers. However, the language was rejected because the Europeans did not view the other races they ruled over as being equal, nor did they want to give them the hope of rebellion.

In November of 1918: Japan returns home upset and insulted, bitter towards the Europeans and Americas - determined to show themselves as equals. The Russians form a new Communist government around the radical Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin - who promises to spread Communism around the world through violent revolution. A young Adolf Hitler returns home to Munich, Germany with other angry and humiliated soldiers - outraged by shame, guilt, and despair created by the Treaty of Versailles...Assignment

1) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

Region	Strengths	Weaknesses
Europe		

- 2) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.
- Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1800 AD (■) and at 1918 AD (▲).
 - Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
 - If there is change, ask yourself "What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?" and make note of it on your chart

Example

