

First World War (1914-1915)



Introduction



- Nobody thought of a long war when it broke out in summer 1914
- Drafted soldiers went apparently happy to fight (and, of course, win) a short war...

Introduction



- Reality was very much crueler
- Soldiers and civil population went through a terrible and long war over more than four years

Introduction

Text: The warmongering atmosphere in Germany before the war

"France is not yet ready for combat. Britain faces interior and colonial difficulties. Russia rejects war, because she fears the revolution within. Are we going to wait for our opponents to be prepared or, rather, should we take advantage of the favourable moment to cause the decision? This is a serious issue to be settled.

*The Austrian army is still faithful and useful. Italia is still strongly linked to the Triple Alliance and even if it prefers (...) keep the peace to heal the wounds of the last war, she knows (...) that if Germany is defeated, it will remain hopelessly at the mercy of France and England's violence and it will lose its independent position in the Mediterranean (...) We can also, in case of war, count on Turkey and Romania (...)
We could lead the direction of the European policy through a resolute offensive, and we secure our future.*

This does not mean that we should provoke war, but wherever a conflict of interest turns out(...) we should not go back, but solve it by means of war and start it with a resolute offensive, no matter the excuse, because it is not that conflict, but our future what is at stake. "

Text analysis

- Read carefully the text and look up every word or term you do not fully understand
- What countries are the possible enemies and allies of Germany in a future war?
- What was the enemies' situation like?
- What was the allies' situation like?
- According to this article, what should Germany do in 1914 to lead the European policy? Explain it in detail.



Causes of WW1



- The new international expansionist policy (*Weltpolitik*) undertaken by the German Emperor **Wilhelm II** in 1890.
- It **destabilized** the international situation.

Causes of WW1



- Changes in the balance of economic and military might between the powers
- German economy caught up with UK's and Berlin started an ambitious naval rearmament program

Causes of WW1

GERMAN ACTION IN MOROCCO.

WARSHIP AT AGADIR.

A STRAINED SITUATION.

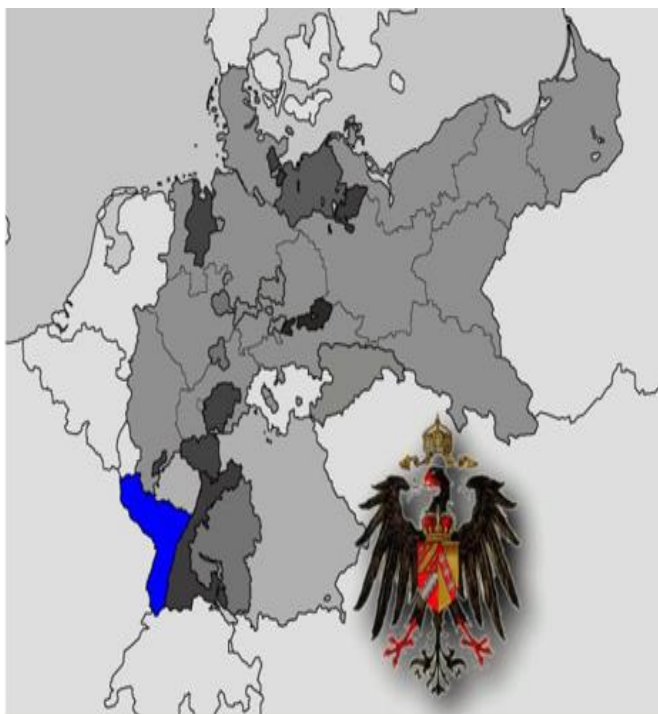
The Morocco situation has now been complicated by the intervention of Germany. Following the action of Spain in occupying Alcazar, Germany has sent a gunboat to Agadir, a southern port on the Atlantic, in order to safeguard the persons and property of German subjects and *protégés*. The Chauvinist Press greets the news with exultation, but the greater part of the Press is taken by surprise.

Surprise, mingled with uneasiness, is also the chief emotion in Paris, and the new Foreign Minister, M. de Selves, on being informed of Germany's intention by the Ambassador expressed misgivings that the diplomatic situation had been rendered more difficult by the step taken by the Government of Berlin. There is a disposition to believe that Germany is disappointed by the quiet course of affairs in the Shereefian Empire and is making a "demonstration" with the express purpose of reopening the whole Moroccan question.

Reports from Madrid that German troops have been landed at Agadir and at Arzila are not as yet confirmed.

- Conflicts between powers in Asia and Africa
- Some of these conflicts were sorted out (France – GB, Russia – GB)
- Some were not and increased tensions (France – Germany)

Causes of WW1



- Germany annexed the French regions of Alsace and Lorraine after the Franco-Prussian war in 1870
- France strongly desired to recover those regions

Causes of WW1



- The rivalry between Russia and Austria-Hungary for the hegemony in the Balkans
- The Turkish Ottoman Empire was not able to control that region anymore

Causes of WW1



- Psychological rivalry between peoples, encouraged by nationalist propaganda campaigns
- Hatred of the neighbour was more the norm than the exception

Causes of WW1



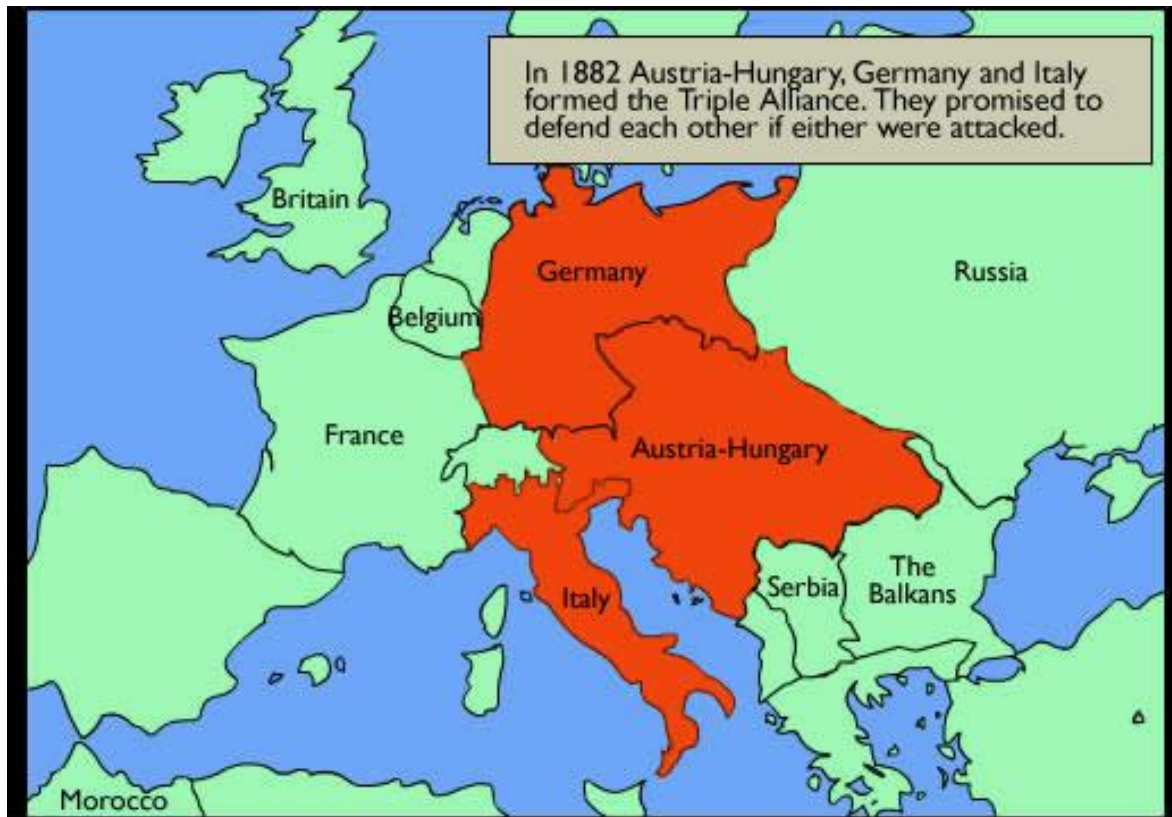
- Two new non European powers: United States and Japan
- Conflict took a global dimension, further away from Europe

Causes of WW1



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Formation of alliances: The Triple Alliance



Map of Europe 1839-1914

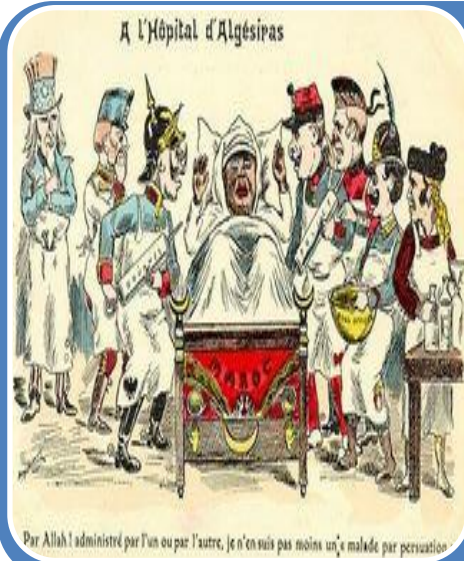
- The Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.
- It was signed in 1882 (Bismarck)
- The German Reich and the Austro-Hungarian Empire constituted the core of this alliance.

Formation of alliances: The Triple Entente



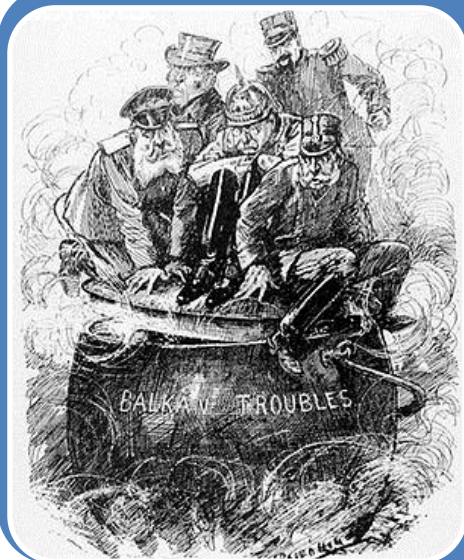
- The Triple Entente made up of Britain, France, and Russia
- It was concluded by 1907.
- German expansionism led to Britain and France to end their colonial differences.
- The rivalry between Austria-Hungary and Russia in the Balkans pushed Russia into the alliance.

International crisis which led to the war



1905 Morocco

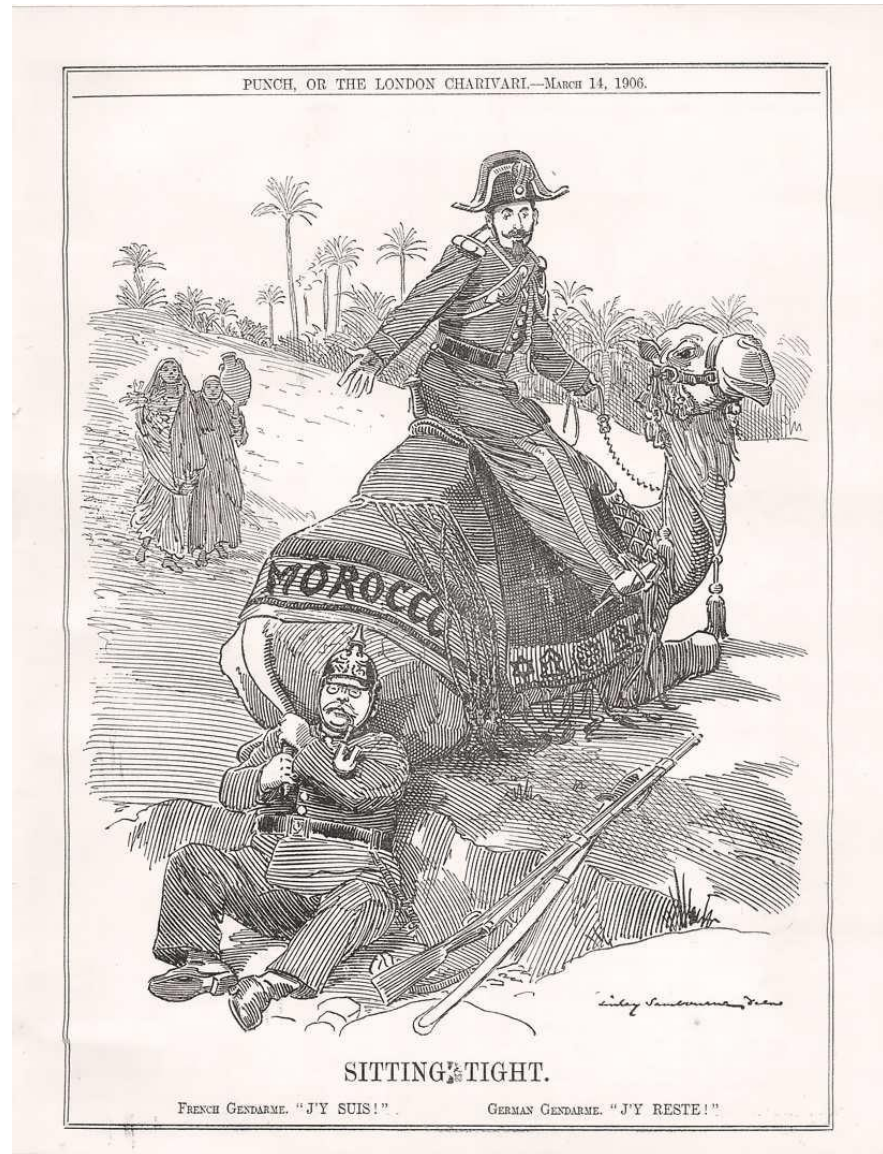
- Germany wanted to end French supremacy over Morocco
- 1906 Algeciras Conference: France & Great Britain stuck together against German claims



1908: 1st Balkan Crisis

- Austria-Hungary took control over Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Russia & Serbia protested but are not ready for a war
- Germany backed up Austria-Hungary against Russia and Serbia

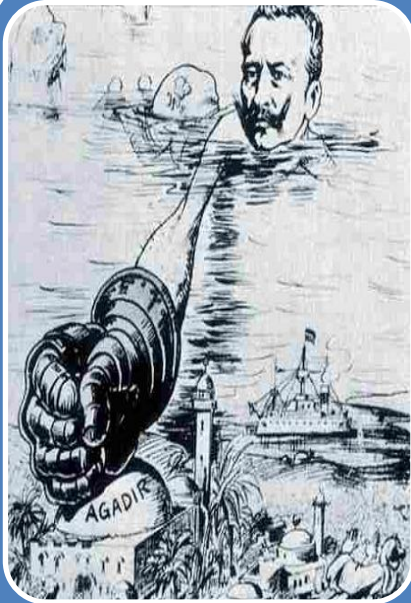
International crisis which led to the war



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International crisis which led to the war



1911: Morocco

- Crisis of Agadir: Germany claimed Morocco against French control
- France kept its control over Morocco and in exchange Germany received territories in Central Africa
- Secret agreement: France would patrol the Mediterranean Sea while Great Britain would patrol the French coasts in the Atlantic and the North Sea
- Tension between France and Germany increased



1912-13: 2nd Balkan Crisis

- After several local wars, Serbia enlarged its territories with Russia's support
- Austria-Hungary was worried and annoyed as it was losing its supremacy over the Balkan area.

International crisis which led to the war



International crisis which led to the war

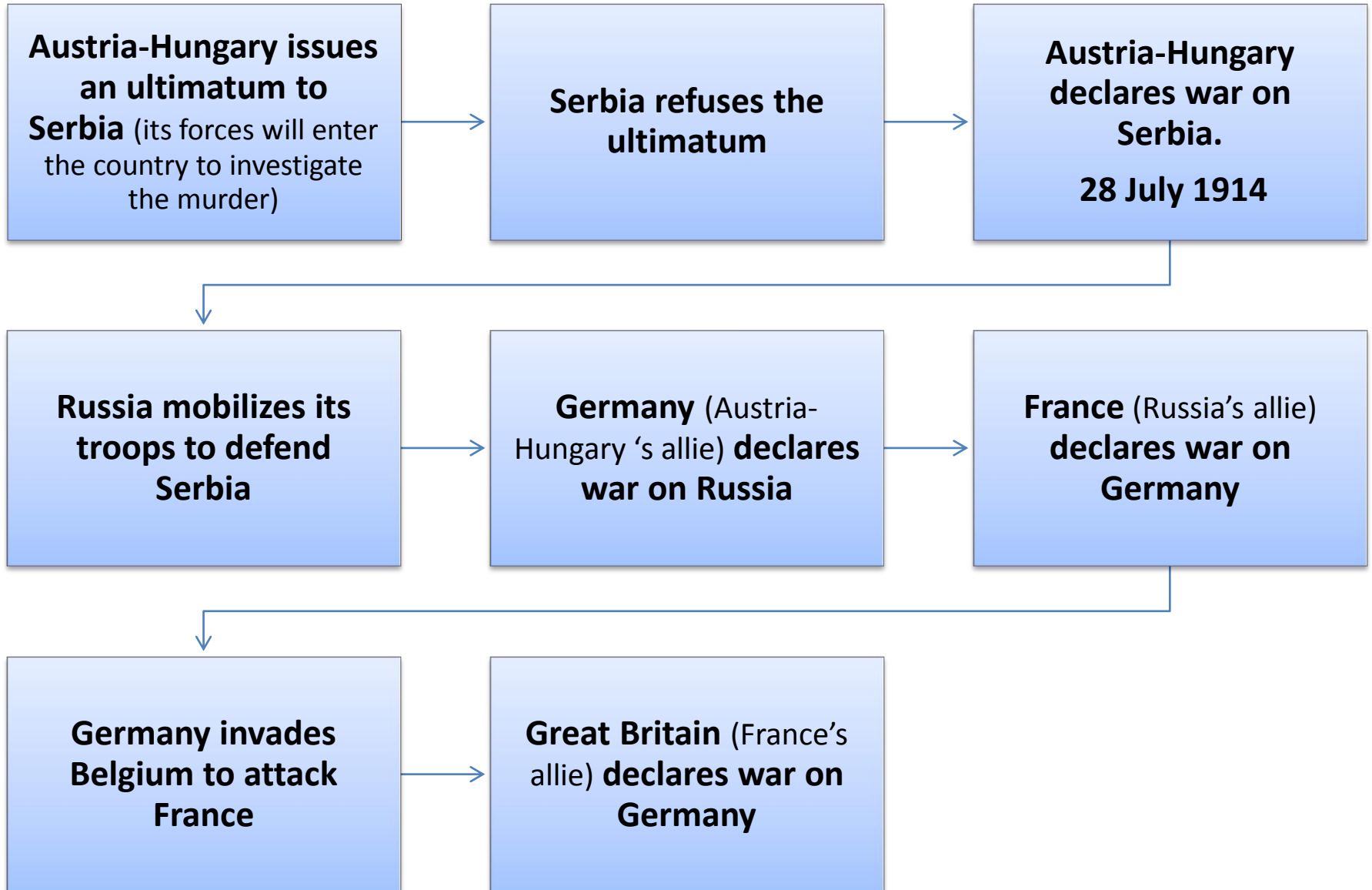


The spark that lit the fire: Sarajevo murder



- Archduke Franz Ferdinand (successor to the Austria-Hungarian throne) was assassinated in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 by Gavrilo Princip, a member of a Serb terrorist nationalist organisation
- Austria blamed Serbia and issued an ultimatum to allow Austrian forces to investigate the murder in Serbia

Summer 1914: the final crisis





Source: Chicago Tribune Company, John T. McCutcheon

The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?

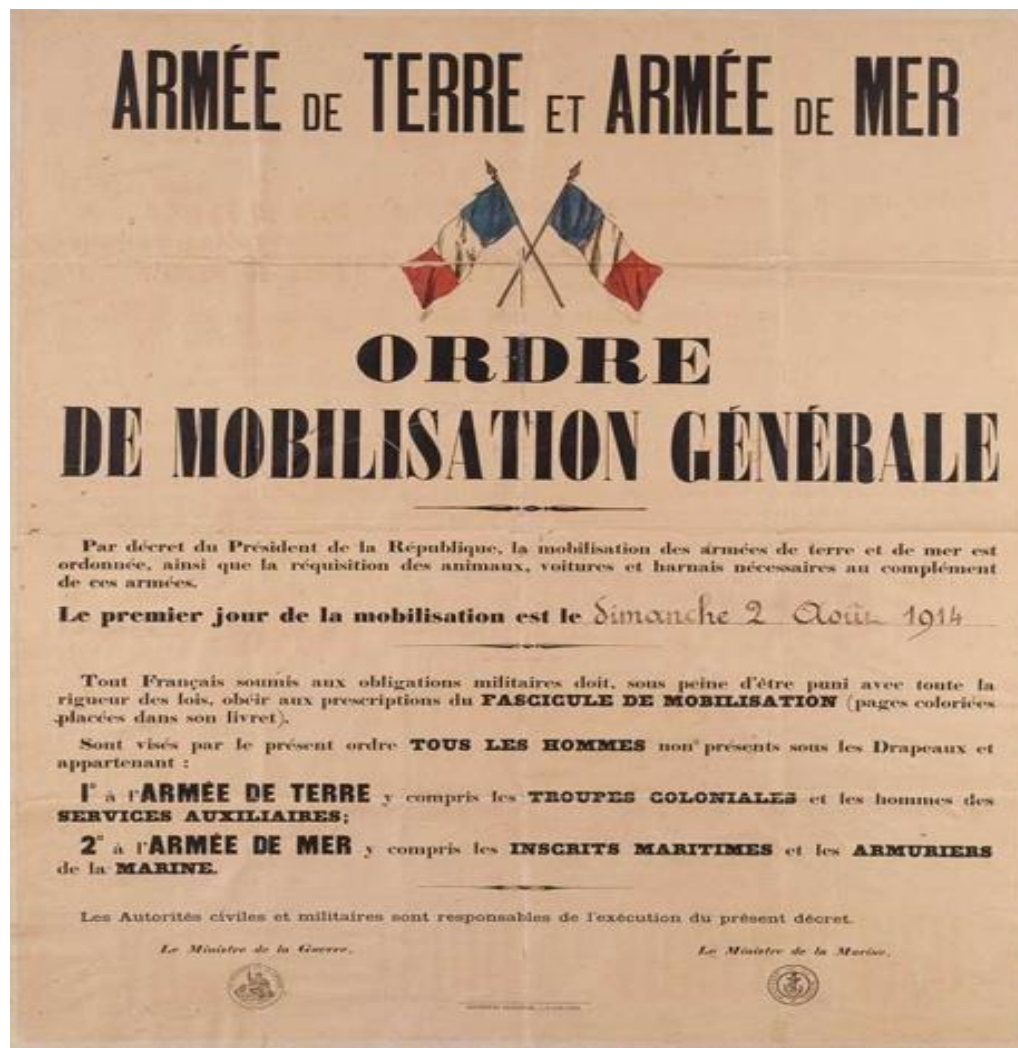
Summer 1914: the final crisis



Summer 1914: the final crisis



Causes of WW1



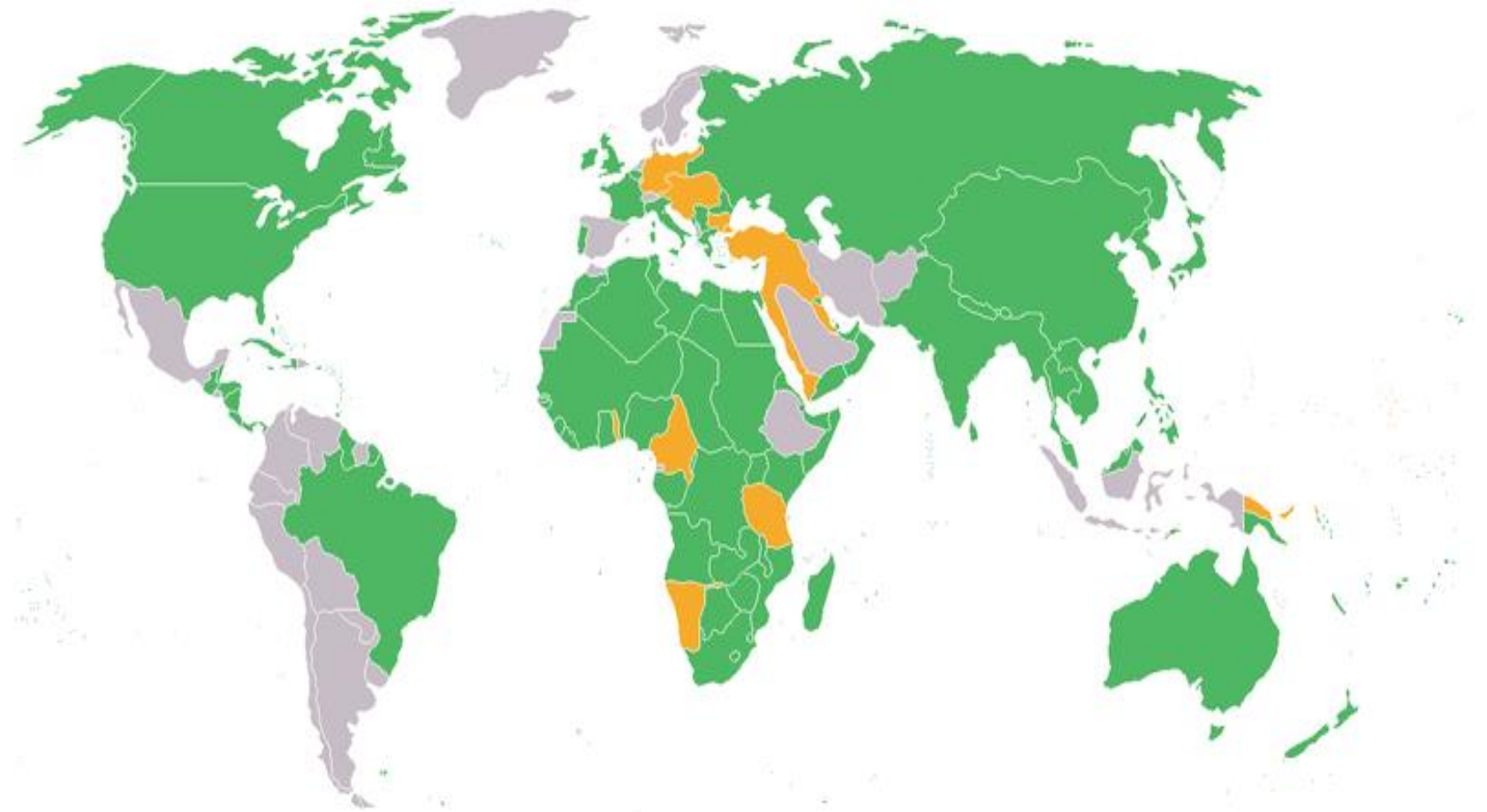
Causes of WW1



Allies and Central Powers in Europe



Allies and Central Powers in the world



WW1 – The main fronts



1914 – War of movements



Schlieffen Plan

- German plan which was based on:
 - Rapid attack on France through neutral Belgium
 - After defeating France, German troops could turn about and attack Russia, backward country that would need a long time to mobilize their troops

1914 – War of movements



Battle of Marne, 1914

- Allied troops managed to halt the German advance
- From that moment, armies dug trenches all along a front which extended from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier
- Stalemate in the western front
- Germans did not achieve a decisive victory in the **eastern front**

1915-1916: The war of attrition



New weapons

- Machine guns
- Grenades
- Gas
- Flame throwers
- Tanks

The **stalemate in the western front** led to a new sort of warfare: **the war of attrition**. A **military strategy** in which a belligerent side attempts to win a war by **wearing down its enemy** to the point of collapse through **continuous losses in personnel and materiel**.

1915-1916: The war of attrition



Battle of Verdun, 1915

1915-1916: The war of attrition



**Battle of Somme,
1916**

1915-1916: The war of attrition



**Battle of Passchendaele,
1917**

1917: The Turning Point of the War

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA
5:30 A. M.

VOL. LXXV., NO. 25891. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1917.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. FIVE CENTS.

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT
Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE
When Reads Them Clearly, but is Silent on the Nation's Course.

SENATE OF CONGRESS CALL
Loss of Lusitania Becomes First Step of Our First Warning to Germany.

CAPITAL FULL OF GRIEFS
Reports That Lister Was to Be Made Mark Before Return Home Same.

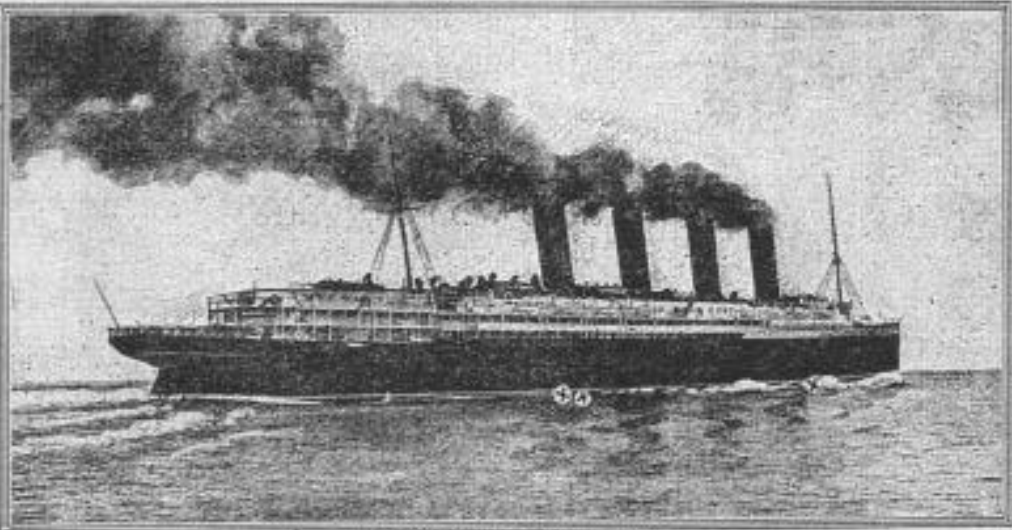
Some Dead Taken Home
Several Hundred Survivors of Queenstown and Kinsale, and Kinsale, and Kinsale.

STEWARDTELLS OF DISASTER
One Torpedo Causes Hole in Decked Lister's Bow, Another into the Empty Room.

SHIP LISTS GIVEN TO PUBLIC
Wishes It Impossible to Learn Many Names, So Hundreds Must Have Gone Down.

ATTACKED IN BROAD DAY
Passenger at Londonderry-Warrior Had Been Given by Germans to See the Ship Left New York.

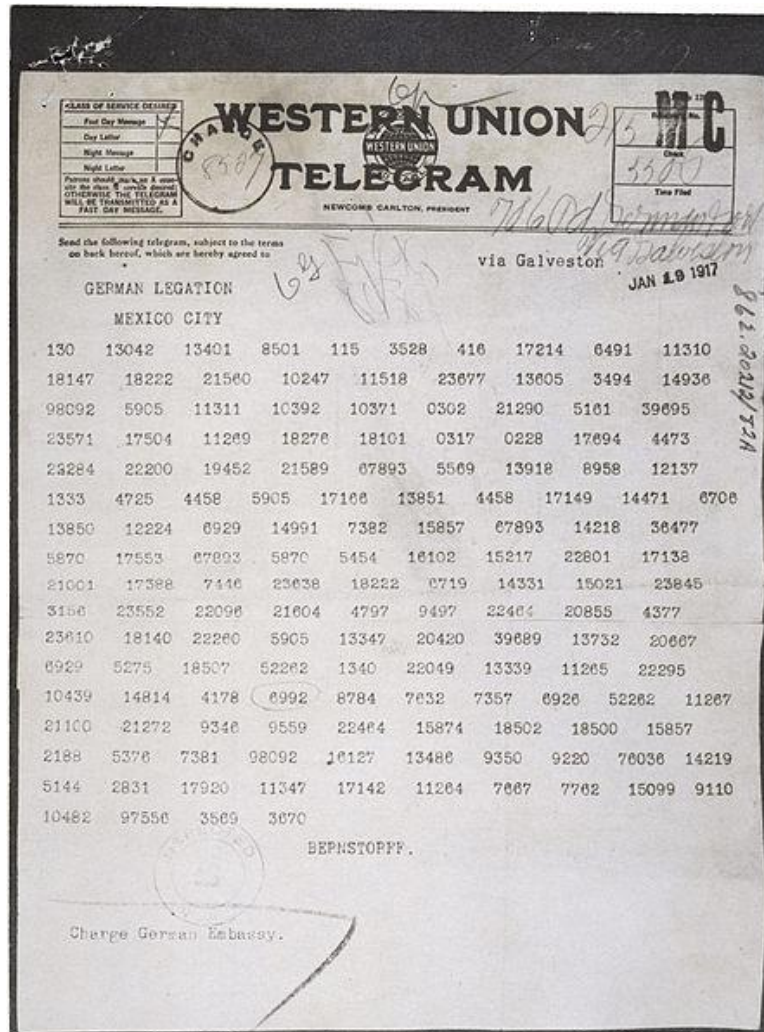
Only 650 Were Saved, Few Cabin Passengers
QUEENSTOWN, Sept. 4th, May 5, 4:20 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have arrived here are more than 600, and about 650 of them, reports the British war office, were saved, and our only...



The Lost Great Steamship Lusitania
X Where the First Torpedo Struck. — XX Where the Second Torpedo Struck.

Sinking of the US ship Lusitania, 1915

1917: The Turning Point of the War



Zimmerman telegram was a 1917 diplomatic proposal from the German Empire to Mexico to make war against the United States.

The proposal was intercepted and decoded by British intelligence.

Revelation of the contents outraged American public opinion and helped generate support for the United States declaration of war on Germany in April 1917

1917: The Turning Point of the War



1917: The Turning Point of the War



February 1917 – The Tsar Nicholas II is dethroned

1917: The Turning Point of the War



November 1917 – The Communists took over power

1917: The Turning Point of the War



March 1918 – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Russia left the war

1917: The Turning Point of the War



Germany acquired provisionally huge territories in the East

1918: The End of the War



Germany could move troops from east to west → Spring offensive

1918: The End of the War



Massive arrival of American troops in Europe

1918: The End of the War



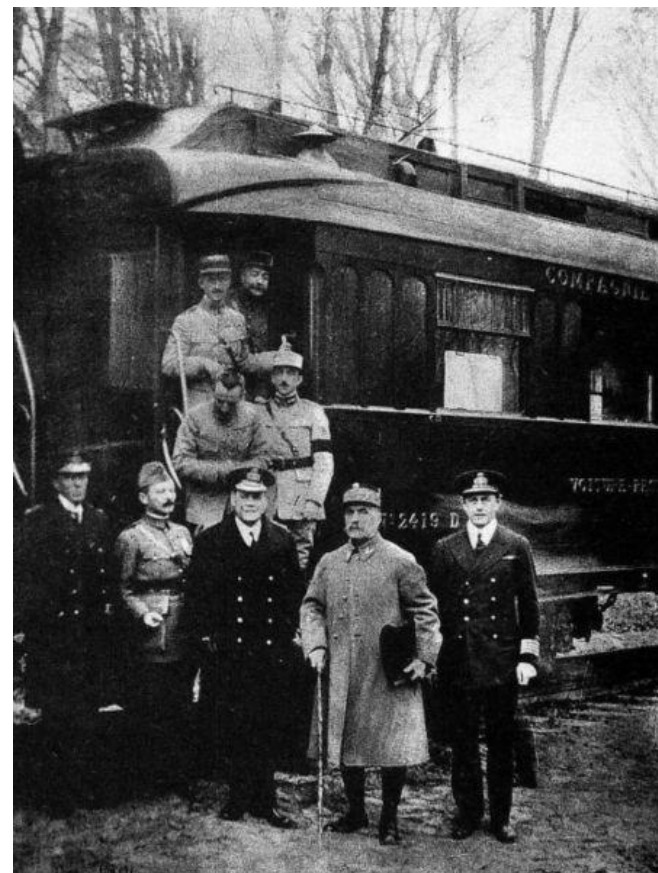
Germans started retreating

1918: The End of the War



Revolution in Germany – Kaiser abdicated

1918: The End of the War



German representatives signing the armistice – 11 november 1918

The Peace Treaties



The victors: Lloyd George (GB), Orlando (It), Clemenceau (Fr) and Wilson (USA)

The Peace Treaties



No negotiations with the defeated: the *diktat* of Versailles

The Peace Treaties



Different treaties signed by the winners with the defeated:

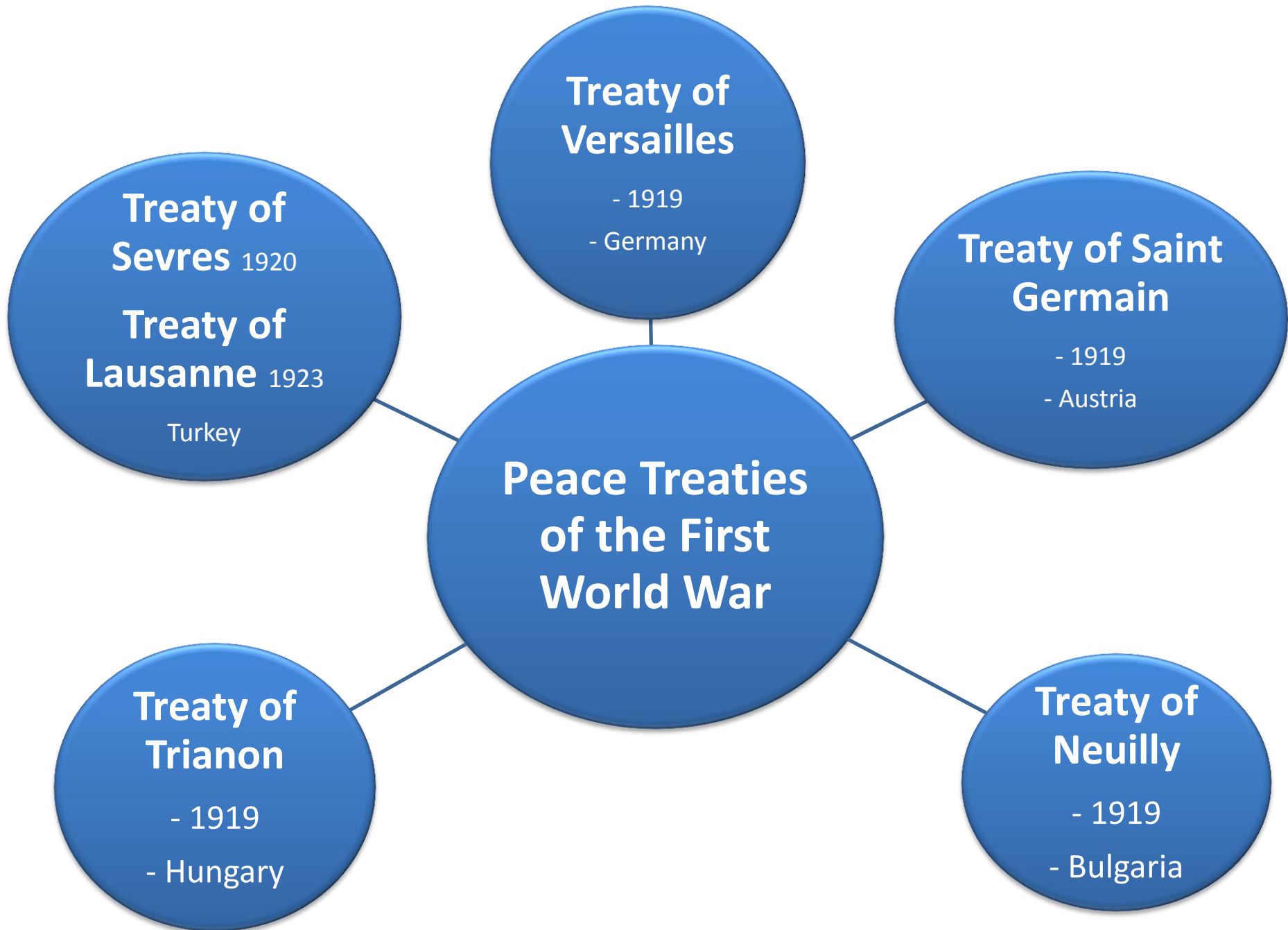
- **Treaty of Versailles with Germany**
- **Treaty of Saint-Germain with Austria**
- **Treaty of Trianon with Hungary**
- **Treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria**
- **Treaty of Sevres and later Treaty of Lausanne with Turkey**

The Peace Treaties



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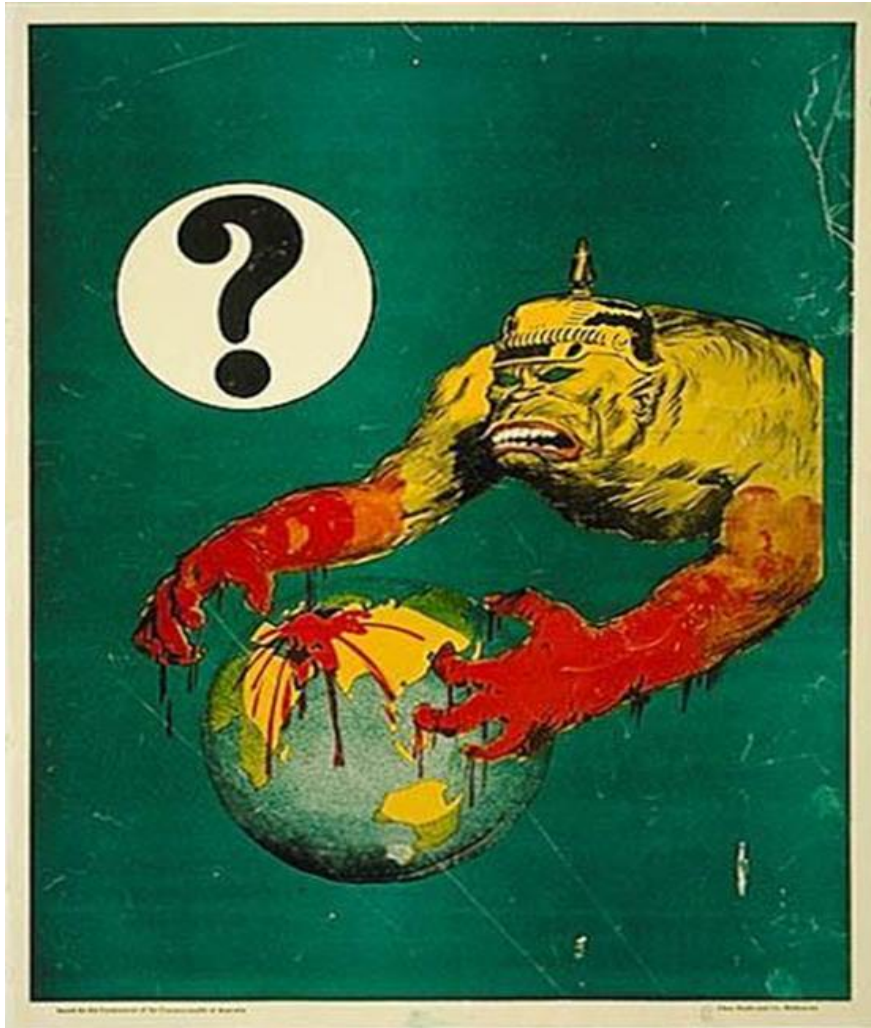
The Treaty of Versailles



Different attitudes of the the winners towards Germany:

- **Clemenceau:** the hardest stance (*"Germany will pay"*)
- **Lloyd George and Wilson,** although willing to punish Germany, a **more conciliatory attitude**
- **Italy was the weakest winner:** Orlando tried to obtain territorial gains in Austria-Hungary but **failed and felt dissapointed** (*"We have won the war, but he have lost the peace"*)

The Treaty of Versailles



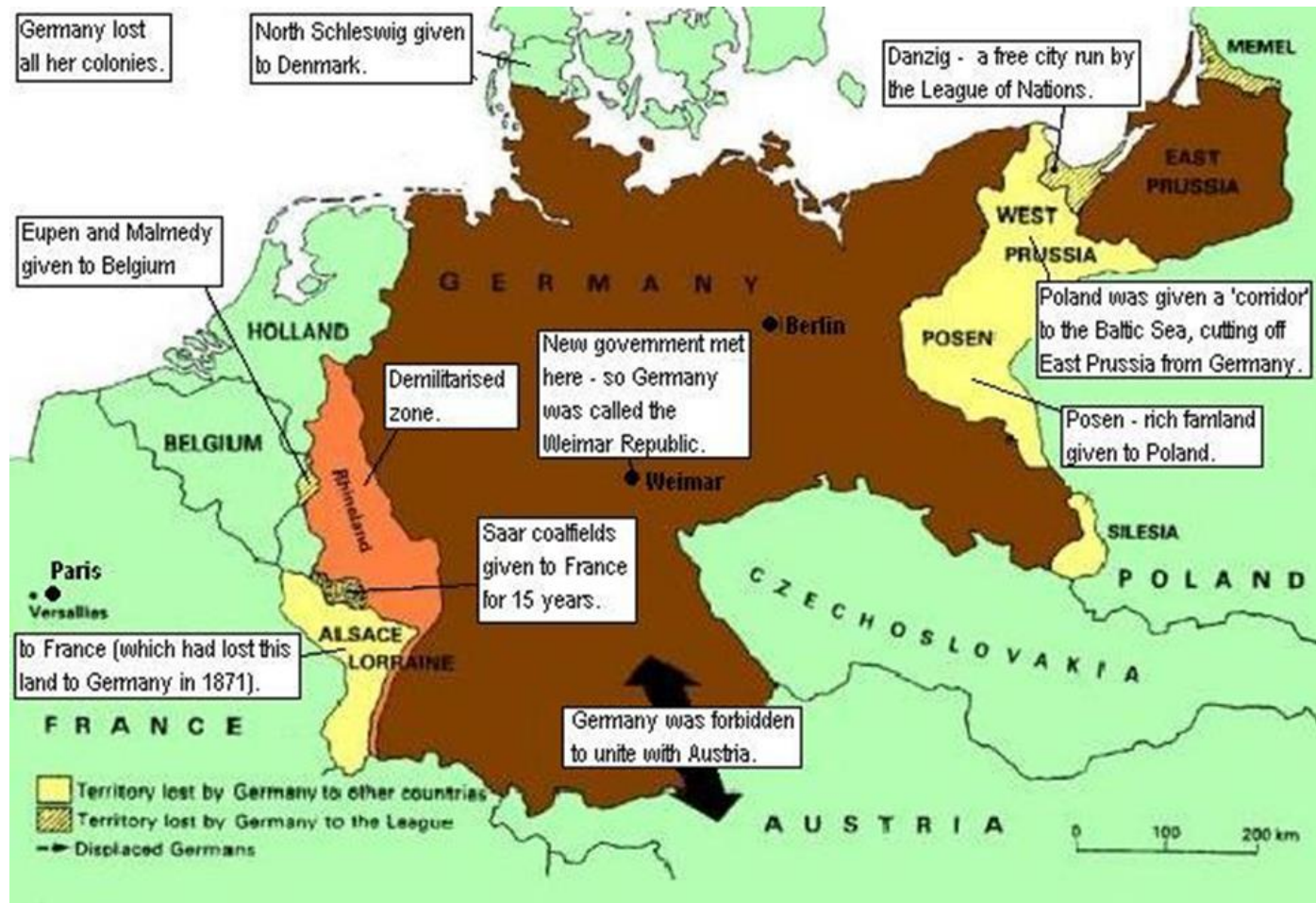
War Guilt:

- Germany had to accept the blame of starting the war
- Germans considered this clause as extremely unfair
- As a consequence....

War reparations

- Germany has to pay for the damage caused to the Allies
- A huge amount of money was fixed without any consultation to Germany

The Treaty of Versailles



Territorial losses

The Treaty of Versailles



Germany as a criminal just arrested

Military Clauses:

- Drastic limitation of the German navy.
- Dramatic reduction of the Army (only 100,000 troops, prohibition of having tanks, aircraft and heavy artillery).
- Demilitarization of the Rhineland region.

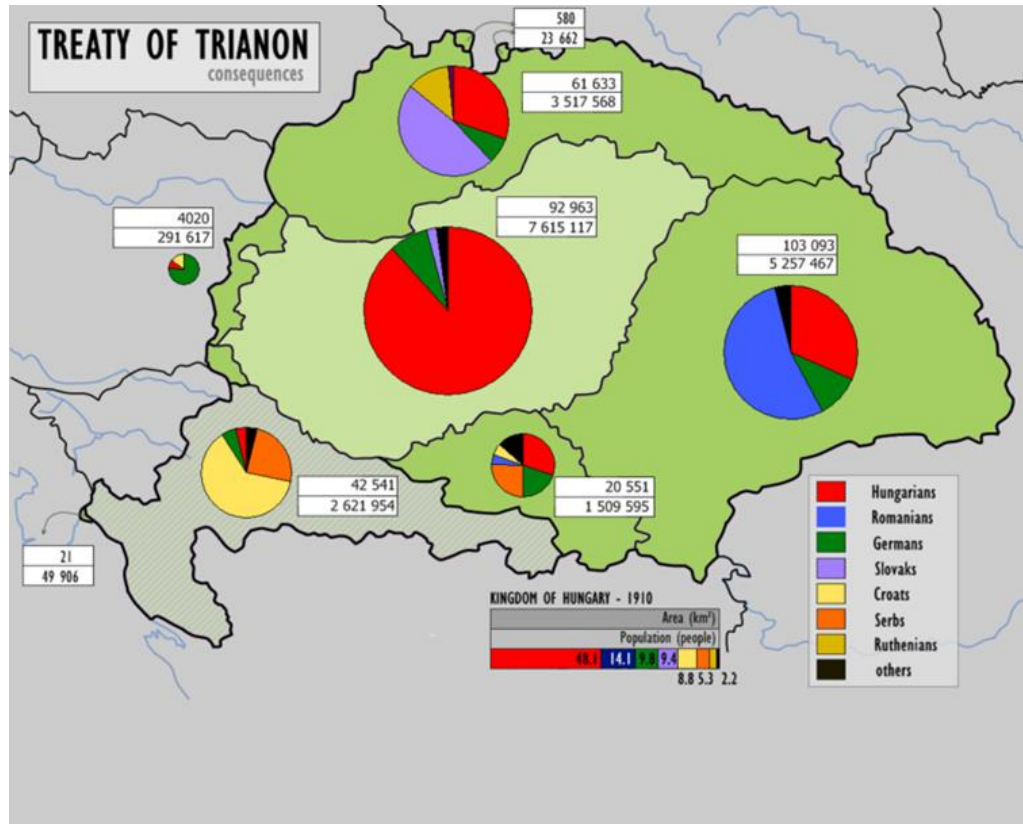
The Treaty of Saint Germain



The Treaty of Saint Germain, signed with Austria.

- Disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- The result of his break up were new states such as Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
- On top of that, several sections of the former empire were annexed by new states such as Poland and Yugoslavia.

The Treaty of Trianon



The Treaty of Trianon, signed with Hungary.

- The worst treated state after the war.
- Large Hungarian minorities (**3 million people**, equivalent to one third of the Hungarian population total) **were left outside of the Hungarian state**, living as minorities in Czechoslovakia, Romania (Transylvania) and Yugoslavia.

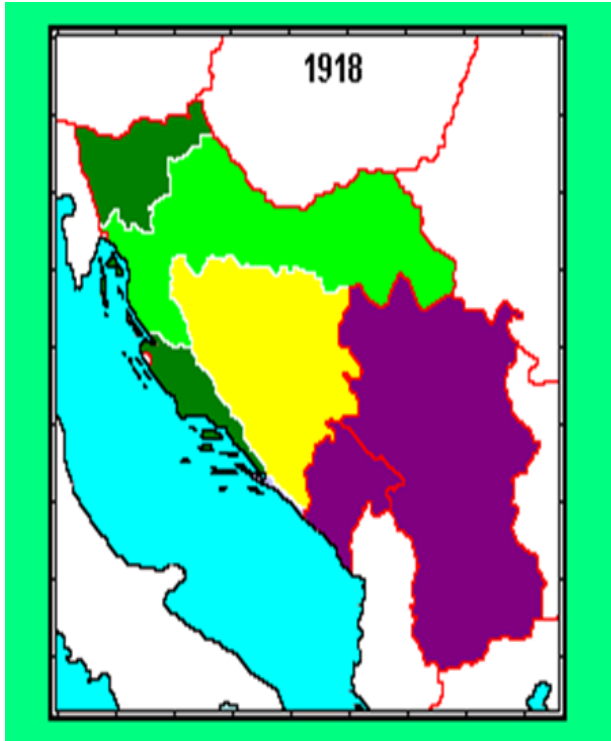
The Treaty of Sèvres and Lausanne



The Treaty of Sèvres (1920), signed with Turkey, and then fixed in the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.

- The Treaty of Sevres was **extremely hard** and led the **Turkish national rebellion led by Kemal Ataturk and the war against Greece** had occupied large areas of Anatolia.
- After the Turkish victory in the Greek-Turkish war, the Treaty of Lausanne was much more benign, but consecrate the distribution of Turkish possessions in the Middle East between France (Syria, Lebanon) and Britain (Palestine, Iraq, Jordan).

The Treaty of Neuilly



The Emergence of SHS

-  Prewar Serbia, Montenegro
-  Austrian Territory included in SHS
-  Hungarian territory included in SHS
-  Bosnia-Herzegovina

SHS = Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918-1929)

The Treaty of Neuilly, signed with Bulgaria.

- The small Balkan country suffered several territorial losses, in the benefit of Romania, Greece and a brand-new country: Yugoslavia.
- All the defeated countries, like Germany, were forced to pay reparations and to limit the strength of their armies.

The result of the Russian Revolution



The outcome of the Russian revolution: new states in central and eastern Europe. As a result of the Soviet revolution and the collapse of Tsarist Russian Empire, new states were born in Central and Eastern Europe:

- **Poland**, reborn from Russian, German and Austro-Hungarian territories.
- **Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**, which were former regions of the Russian Empire.

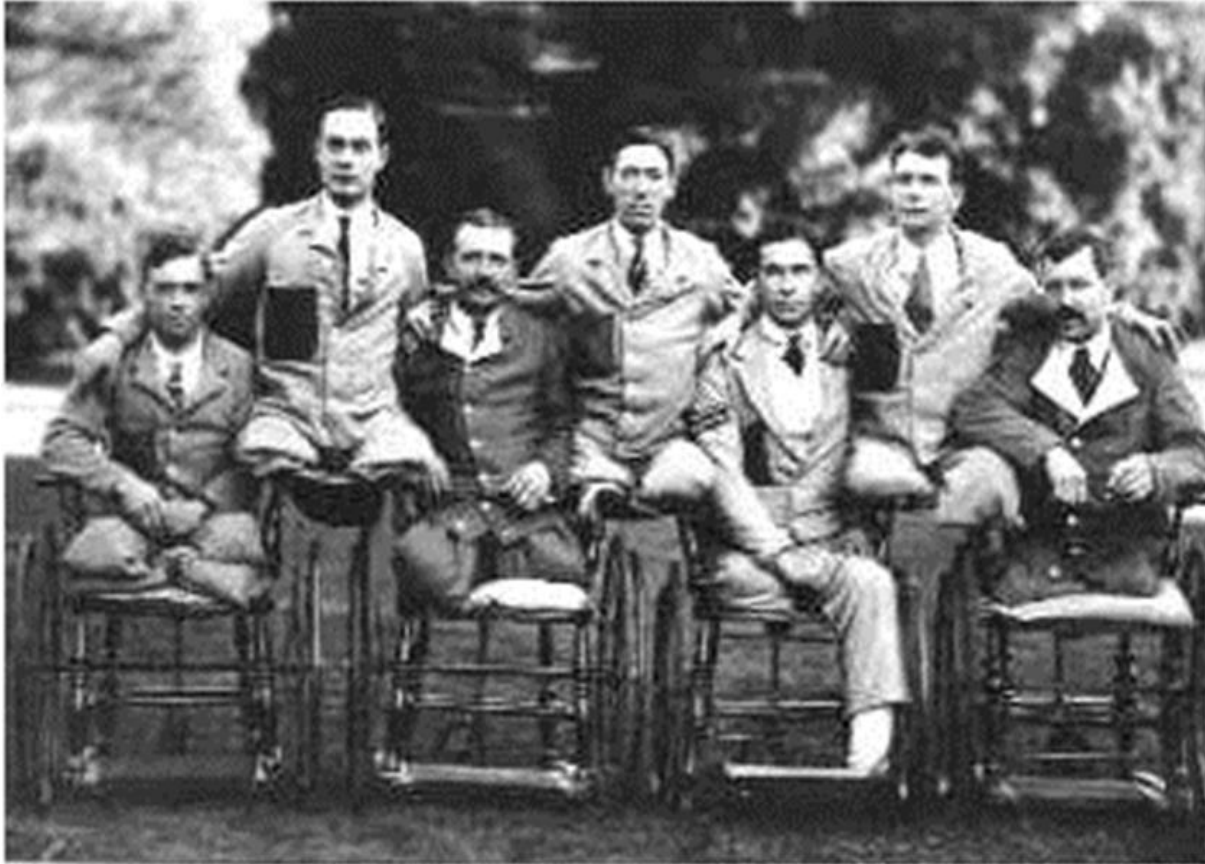
Failed treaties



These treaties rather than solve the problems that had led to the Great War, **increased tensions in Europe.**

The most important was the **German problem.** Many Germans began to bide their time to **get his revenge against the "diktat"**, the "humiliation" of Versailles. (Treaty of Versailles)

Consequences of the war



WWI «changed» the world.
Nothing was the same
after 1918:

- **Terrible loss of life:** eight million dead, millions wounded people, maimed, widows and orphans, and the **material destruction** suffered especially by **Europe**.

Consequences of the war



**WWI «changed» the world.
Nothing was the same
after 1918:**

- **USA** became the first world power. Europe started a long decadence
- The mass mobilization of men led to the **incorporation of women into work**
- **Soviet revolution** and the spread of a prerevolutionary climate in Europe
- The exacerbated nationalism + fear of a communist revolution → **fascist movements**