

World War I

- Review – Europe uses technological advances and industrial power to seize colonies which in turn increase technological advances and industrial power
- European countries engage in fierce competition with each other over colonial possessions and markets

On the road to War

- Five primary factors combined to make it almost inevitable that the great powers of Europe would go to war
- MANIA
 - Militarism
 - Alliances
 - Nationalism
 - Imperialism
 - Assassination

MANIA – Imperialism

- Building empires to increase national wealth and power brought European nations into conflict around the globe
- It also increased the technological power of these nations
- It would ensure this war would not be like any before
 - Technology
 - Scale
 - Brutality

MANIA - Nationalism

- Nationalism – Overreaching pride in one's own nation
- Europeans came to identify themselves by ethnic/national groups
- What made you Spanish, for example, was not that you were ruled by the King of Spain, but a shared language, ethnicity, culture, heritage & religion.

Mania - Nationalism

- Countries like Germany, Italy and Belgium had not existed until a few years before
- Central Europe had been made up of fractured kingdoms throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance
- Rulers there had witnessed the phenomenal rise to power of the industrial powers like Britain and France and saw nation building as their way to join the race

Mania - Nationalism

- Italy was united by 1870 by Victor Emmanuel and Giuseppe Garibaldi



MANIA - Nationalism

- The Austro-Hungarian Empire was born in 1867 when the empires of Austria and Hungary merged



MANIA - Nationalism

- Both Germany and Austria-Hungary were comprised of German speaking people and had a “Pan-Germanic” philosophy that united the people culturally.
- This also led both nations to claim territory from other nations which had an ethnic majority of German speaking people.

MANIA - Nationalism

- National pride surged in all European nations as their empires, industry and wealth expanded.
- This national pride led to intense international competition and animosity with an “Us vs. Them” approach to international relations.

MANIA - Militarism

- The securing and controlling of foreign colonies created a need to strong, well trained, well equipped armies
- Combined with nationalism, this created Militarism: a glorification of military deeds and a focus on military might to achieve national goals and project national importance and power.

MANIA - Militarism

- European countries expanded their military forces to unprecedented sizes
- This came at great expense, which increased the imperial competition for wealth creation

	1910-1914 Increase in Defense Expenditures
France	10%
Britain	13%
Russia	39%
Germany	73%

MANIA - Alliances

- The growing climate of conflict and the very real threat of territorial wars led European nations to try to increase their national security through networks of Alliances
- Most of these ties with other nations were created by secret treaties binding nations to fight alongside each other in case of attack or invasion

MANIA - Alliances

- The Alliance system reached a critical point when the Pan-Germanic movement led Austria-Hungary and Germany to unite in protection treaties in 1879
- They were joined in 1882 by the other “New kid on the block” Italy, creating the Triple Alliance

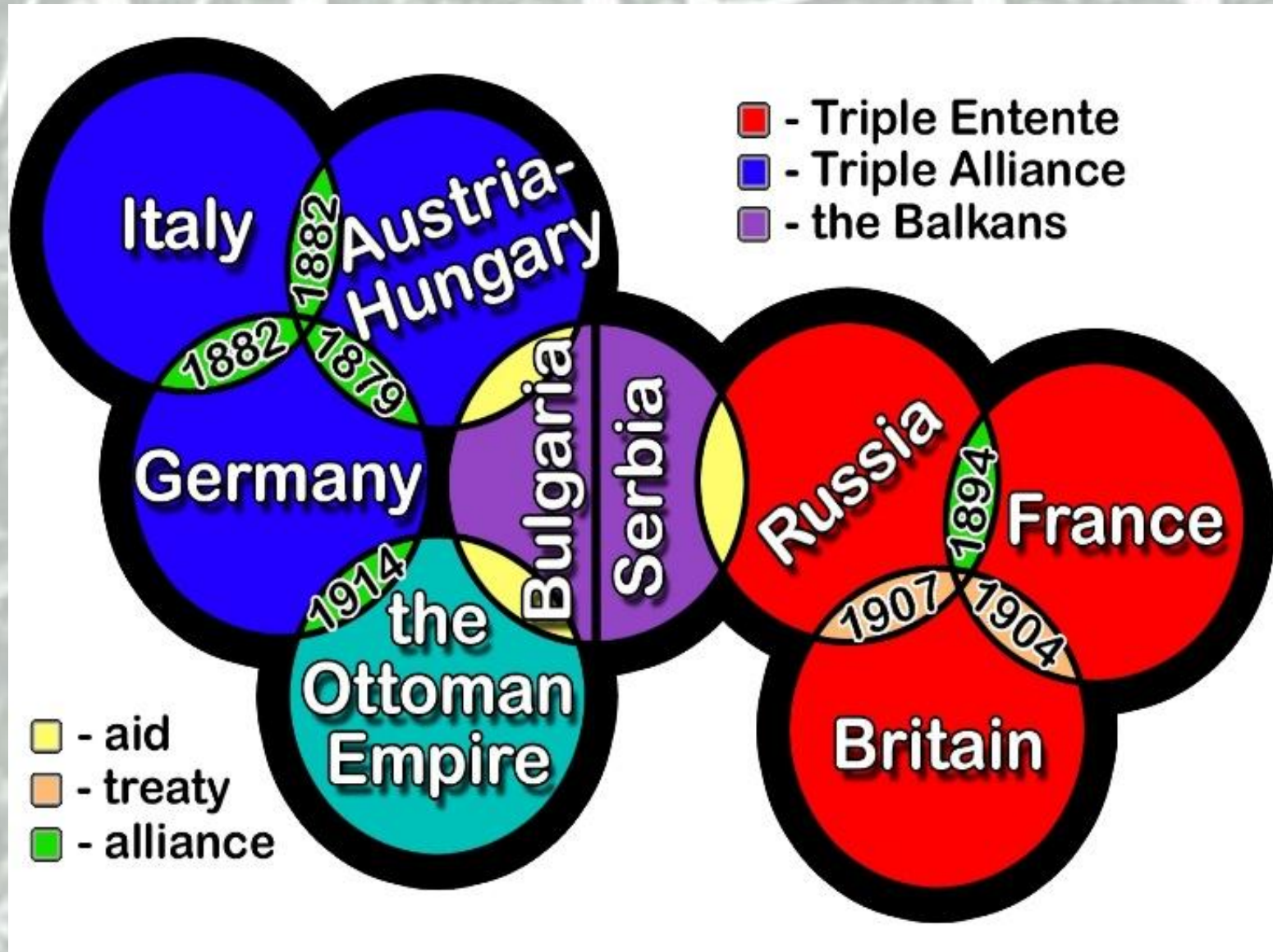
MANIA – Alliances

- In response, Russia and France joined in a treaty in 1884, hemming in the Triple Alliance east and west.
- Britain joined Russia and France in the early part of the 1900's bringing its "Number One in the World" naval forces to the table and creating the Triple Entente

MANIA - Alliances



MANIA - Alliances



MANIA - Assassination

- The lynchpin region in this network of alliances and nationalist movements was the Balkans
- Ethnically the region was very mixed, mainly comprised of Germans and Slavic peoples.



MANIA - Assassination

- The nationalist movements that had been flowering in Europe blossomed here as well, leading the various ethnic groups to work toward the creation of nations that reflected their ethnic makeup
- Slavs in the region were encouraged and supported by Pan-Slavic movements and nations like Russia
- Germans in the region, however, wanted a nation tied to the other Germanic states of Europe

MANIA - Assassination

- The conflict in the Balkan states became an important conflict in greater Europe then because of the involvement of Russia, Austria-Hungary and Germany
- Tensions rose as Austria-Hungary invaded and annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1887 and formed an alliance of nations in the Balkans protecting against Russian attack

MANIA - Assassination

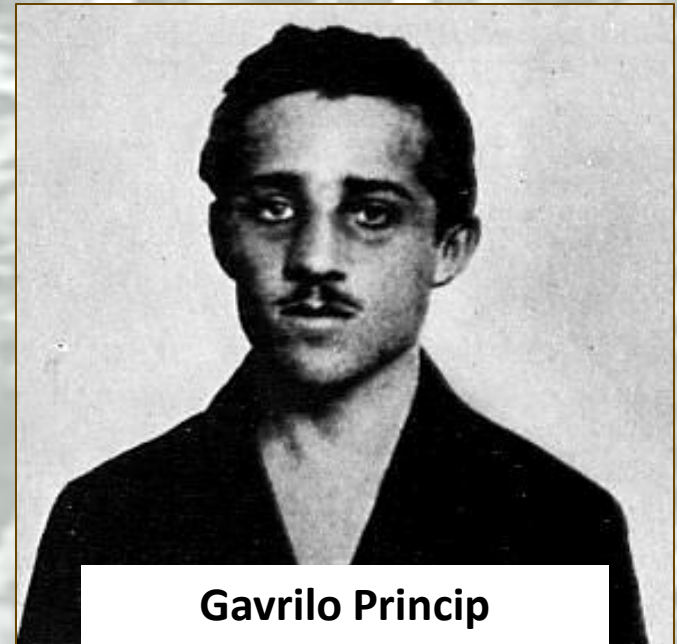
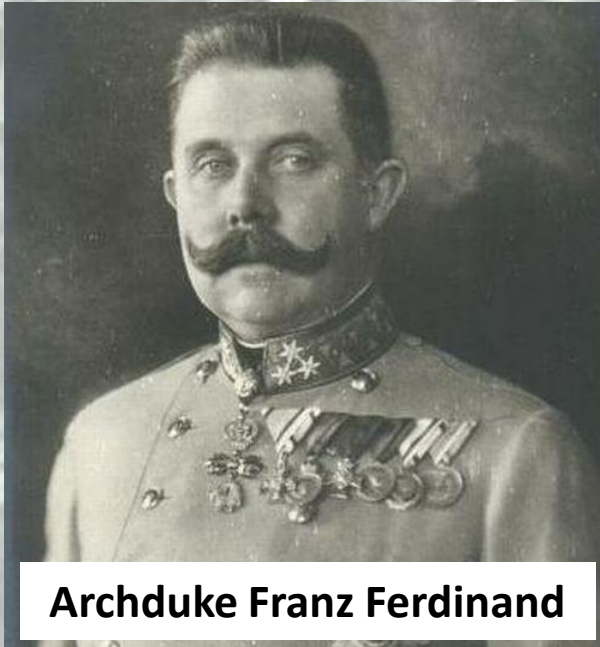
- Russia countered by creating their own alliance headed by Bulgaria
- Austria-Hungary cracked down on Slavic ethnic groups like the Serbians, limiting freedoms and removing their languages from school curricula
- This fueled Slavic nationalism in the region
- The fire was stoked when Austria-Hungary began to make moves toward Serbia since it had an ethnically German population there as well

MANIA - Assassination

- All of this conflict and tension would make the Balkans region a political powder keg.
- The fuse would be lit in 1914

World War I: How it all started

- WWI started because of two guys who couldn't follow directions and got lost...



Alliances pull the world into the war

- Russia mobilizes its army to defend Serbia, July 30
- Germany declares war on Russia, Aug. 1
- Because of Russia's alliance with France, Germany also declares war on France, Aug. 3
 - Germany's war plan, the Schlieffen Plan, calls for a rapid invasion and defeat of France before turning attention on Russia. To invade France, Germany must cross Belgium
- When Belgium refuses Germany, Germany declares war on Belgium and invades, Aug. 4
- Britain is forced into action then to defend Belgium and declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary, Aug 4

Other Players

- Each side had sought to beef up their “team” in the days leading up to the declarations of war
- Germany had forged an alliance with the Ottoman Empire
- Britain had signed treaties with Japan
- Both Japan and the Ottomans joined the war
- Italy decides its alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary puts it in a bad position and instead joins forces with Britain, France and Russia, but not until late April, 1915.

Myths about the war

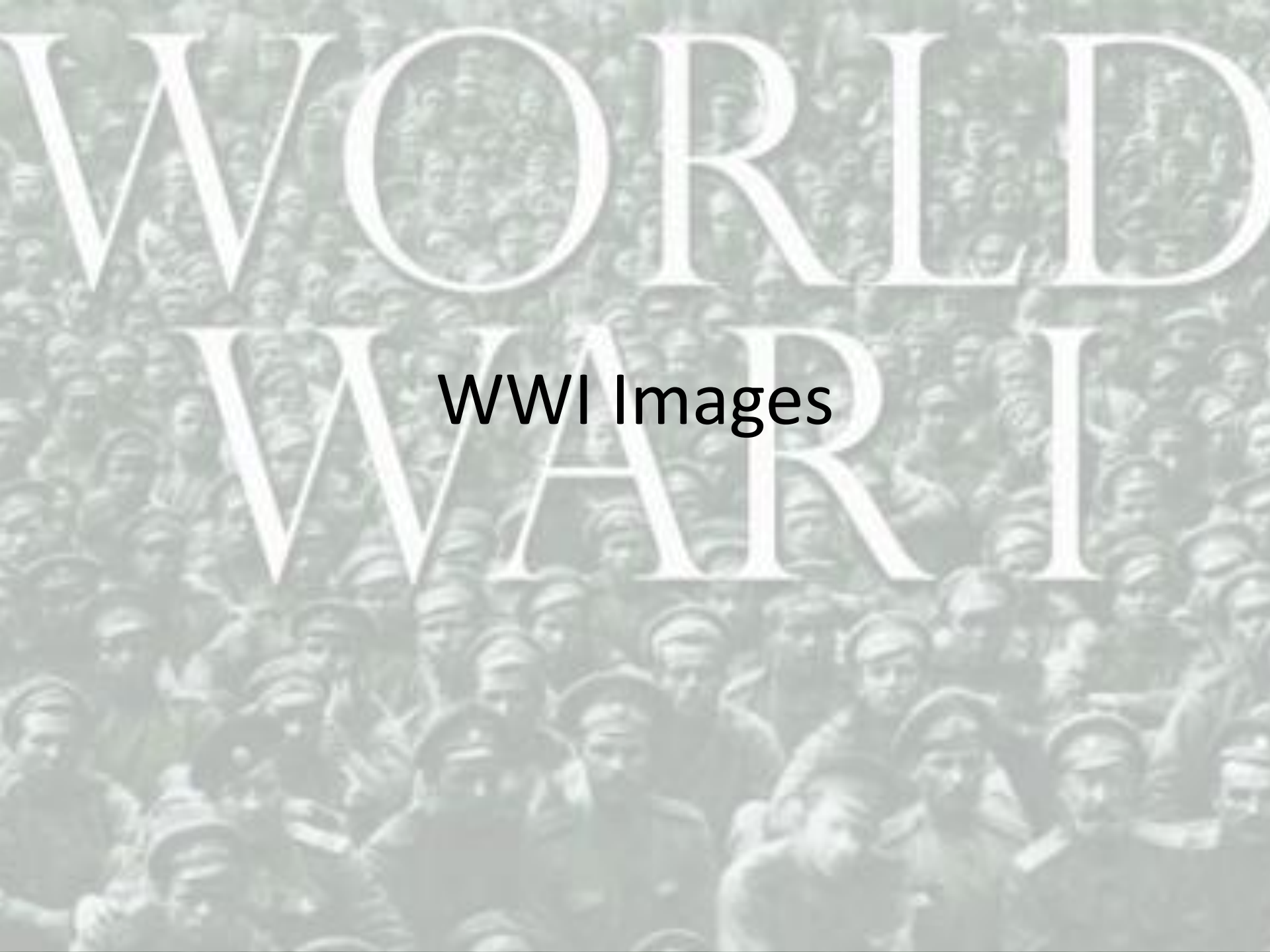
- Guts and Glory!
- Honor to die for your country!
- Obey the orders of command without question!
- Most people felt the war would be over before Christmas 1914
- Their experiences in wars of Imperialism had given them the impression that modern industrialized war could only last a short while before the victor was evident

Realities of the war

- Wars of Imperialism were no good way to gauge what would happen in a war between two industrial nations
- Both sides having equal and deadly efficient weapons meant the war turned quickly into a bloodbath.
- With neither side able to overcome the other (stalemate) both dug in.

Trench warfare

- The result of stalemate in France was the horror of Trench Warfare
- Let's look at some primary sources to get an idea about how the fighting effected soldiers on the battlefield



WWI Images

WORLD

Trenches

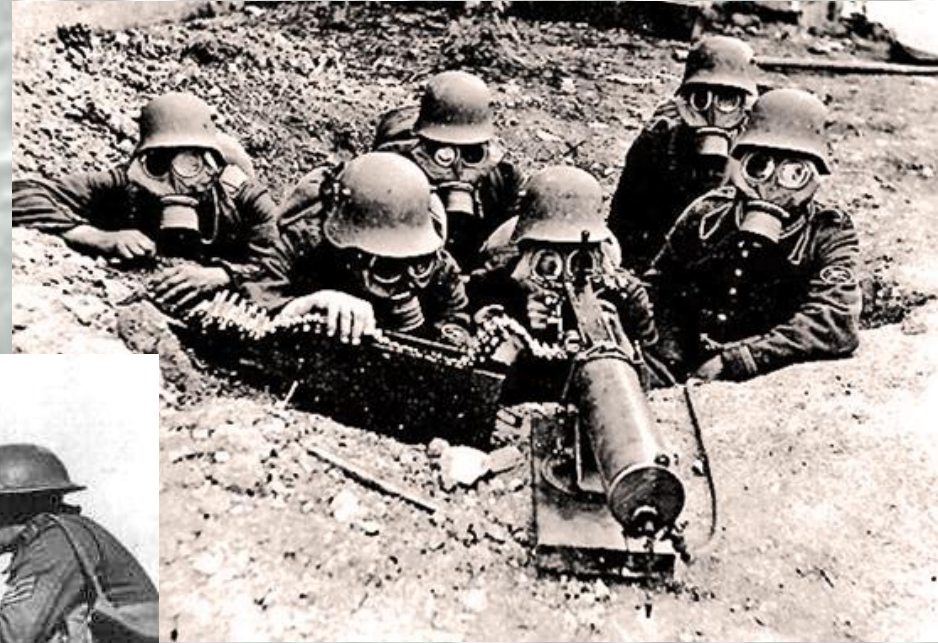
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Trenches



Machine Guns



Machine Guns



WORLD WAR

Tanks



Tanks



WWI – So...How did America get involved?!?

- Neutrality comes with an economic price
 - Fears over lost markets
 - Closer ties with France and Great Britain
 - Opportunity to make \$\$ (honestly)
- Latin American entanglements
 - Tied up with Mexico so we didn't want to commit forces elsewhere
 - However, we are competing with Germany in South and Central America

The Yanks Join In

- Lusitania, May 7, 1915
 - U Boats and “Unrestricted submarine warfare”
 - “Sabre Rattling” by the US causes Germany to cut back U Boat attacks
- Zimmermann Telegram
 - Germany’s plan to win the war
 - Secret message for Mexican government intercepted
 - “Last Straw” for many Americans
 - Declaration of War, April 6, 1917
- US Impact on the war

WORLD WAR I

End of the War

- Russian Revolution
- Russia's "Separate Peace" with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- Armistice at 11:11 11/11/1918
- Treaty of Versailles
 - Blame and repayment put on Germany
 - Austria-Hungary chopped up
 - Maps redrawn
 - Powerless League of Nations formed