

STUDY PACK 18

WORLD WAR I

“The right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest to our hearts – for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal domination of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensations for the sacrifices we shall freely make...America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.”

~~Woodrow Wilson, to the American Congress on April 2, 1917~~

I. THE PAX VIENNA

Following the balance of power in Europe created by the Congress of Vienna, _____ . The victorious powers of the Napoleonic Wars primarily turned to Africa, India, and China to extend their power and influence. The temptation to try and expand spheres of influence in Central and Latin America was blocked by the Monroe Doctrine.

President Monroe of the United States formulated the doctrine that the U.S. would not interfere in affairs in Europe but would not allow any European expansion in Latin America. European nations loudly proclaimed their anger but largely respected the claims of the growing North American power.

Many European countries went through major transitions in their form of government. Public representation and strong legislatures limited the power of European monarchs. It was now significantly harder for one man or one woman to start a war.

Two wars were fought in the Balkan (Eastern European) nations over national boundaries. Three primary groups battled with each other for territory. Although all three groups had a similar ethnic background (the Slavic peoples), religious differences had caused three distinct cultures to develop. Roman Catholicism, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Moslems had all adopted different principles for living. The Balkan Wars confirmed deep levels of resentment among the three groups.

II. BISMARCK AND GERMAN UNIFICATION

Historian Carroll Quigley, describes the influence of Otto Von Bismarck upon Germany and Europe:

“The unification of Germany in the decade before 1871 ended a balance of power in Europe which had existed for 250 or even 300 years. During this long period, covering almost ten generations, Britain had been a relatively secure and growing power. She had found this power challenged only by the states of western Europe. Such a challenge had come from Spain under Philip II, from France under Louis XIV and under Napoleon, and, in an economic sense, from the Netherlands during

much of the seventeenth century. Such a challenge could arise because these states were as rich and almost as unified as Britain herself, but, above all, it could arise because the nations of the West could face seaward and challenge England so long as central Europe was disunited and economically backward.

The unification of Germany by Bismarck destroyed this situation politically, while _____ of that country after 1871 modified the situation economically. For a long time, Britain did not see this change, but rather tended to welcome the rise of Germany because it relieved her, to a great extent, from the pressure of France in the political and colonial fields. This failure to see the changed situation continued until after 1890 because of Bismarck's diplomatic genius, and because of the general failure of non-Germans to appreciate the marvelous organizing ability of the Germans in industrial activities. After 1890, Bismarck's masterful grip on the tiller was replaced by the vacillating hands of Kaiser William II and a succession of puppet chancellors. These incompetents alarmed and alienated Britain by challenging her in commercial, colonial, and especially naval affairs. In commercial matters the British found German salesmen and their agents offering better service, better terms, and lower prices on goods of at least equal quality, _____. In the colonial field after 1884, Germany acquired African colonies which threatened to cut across the continent from east to west and thus checkmate the British ambitions to build a railway from the Cape of Good Hope to Cairo. These colonies included East Africa (Tanganyika), South-West Africa, Cameroons, and Togo. The German threat became greater as a result of German intrigues in the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique, and above all by the German encouragement of the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State before their war with Britain in 1899-1902. In the Pacific area, Germany acquired by 1902, the Caroline, Marshall, and Marianas Islands, parts of New Guinea and Samoa, and a base of naval and commercial importance at Kiaochow on the Shantung Peninsula of China. In naval affairs, Germany presented her greatest threat as a result of the German Naval bills of 1898, 1900, and 1902, which were designed to be an instrument of coercion against Britain. Fourteen German battleships were launched between 1900 and 1905. As a consequence of these activities, Britain joined the anti-German coalition by 1907, the Powers of Europe became divided into two antagonistic coalitions, and a series of crises began which led, step by step, to the catastrophe of 1914.”

The twenty years from 1871 to 1891 were remembered as the era of Bismarck.

III. THE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE FRANCIS FERDINAND

In 1914, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand (heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) was shot and killed by people who were campaigning _____. The Austro-Hungarian Empire blamed the Serbs and attacked Serbia. Germany supported Austria. Fearing a change in _____, England and France entered the conflict on the side of the Serbs. Turkey and Bulgaria entered the war on the side of Austria and Germany. Russia sided with France and England. The conflict drew in more and more nations, eventually spreading around the world (especially European colonies). Eventually, twenty-seven countries declared war and _____ soldiers fought in the conflict.

IV. WARFARE AND NEW TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE

Germany invaded France but soon fighting there stalemated. Millions of soldiers lived in muddy, unsanitary trenches. They were routinely bombed. They engaged in endless attacks and charges on

enemy positions. Hundreds of thousands of men died but little changed in the military situation. Nations rushed to develop and introduce new military equipment into European land battles. Crude _____ were used in attacks on trenches. Attempts were made to turn the recently developed _____ into military weapons. Early attempts were so crude that enemy pilots literally shot at each other with pistols. Soon machine guns that could be used on airplanes were invented and pilots were shooting each other down. A pilot who had shot down five enemy planes was referred to as an ace. One German pilot, remembered as the Red Baron, shot down 80 allied planes. Helium blimps were also used to drop bombs on enemy lines.

Other technology was greatly advanced. _____ and quickly moved from one location to another. _____ were developed enough to roam the oceans looking for enemy shipping. German subs were especially effective, sinking millions of tons of allied shipping.

One of the most significant military developments was the use _____. This could be released in an area killing everyone around. At first, soldiers had no defense against poison gas but soon gas masks were being developed and were in mass production. Eventually, most nations of the world would agree to refrain from using poison gas.

New methods of mass destruction, combined with the large number of nations involved and huge number of soldiers participating led to numbers of casualties that the world had never seen before. Single battles saw hundreds of thousands of casualties.

Germany invaded Russia and soon conquered large areas of Russia. However, the Russian winter soon halted the German advance as it had Napoleon's. Millions of opposing soldiers were soon stalemated in Russia.

Eventually, the government of the Russian Czar was overthrown and a new democratic government ruled for six months. This government was overthrown by a group of communist revolutionaries. Soon, competing groups were in control of different sections of Russia, but the communists controlled the major cities. An armistice was signed with Germany which allowed the Germans to move millions of troops east.

Massive battles like Gallipoli (in Turkey) and the campaign for Poland continued to lead to millions of casualties but neither side could gain strategic advantage.

V. THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR I

The United States was a major trading partner with France and England. The American President Woodrow Wilson was reelected to a second term with the slogan “_____.”

The Germans repeatedly warned American citizens not to sail on British ships. Americans continued to travel to Britain. As German submarines sank more and more British ships, the number of American casualties rose and the American people got angrier. Germany attempted to enforce _____. American ships continued to try and run the blockades. The Germans sank several of them. American anger grew.

The Germans attempted to arrange an alliance with Mexico in case of war with the U.S. They promised to return California, Arizona, and New Mexico to Mexico. When the American people became aware of this, they were furious.

British and French propaganda became very effective in the U.S. The American people were ready to support war with Germany and on April 6, 1917, the U.S. declared war on Germany. Eventually, an expeditionary force of over _____ was sent to Europe. The first American troops arrived in France to the chant of “_____.”

President Wilson and European leaders guaranteed the world that an allied victory would end all future wars. “The war to make the world safe for Democracy” and “The War to End all Wars” were popular World War I slogans.

The American troops broke the stalemate in Europe. The Allies, with their American reinforcements, moved from battle to battle in France defeating the German army. Eventually an armistice was reached.

VI. THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR I

The allies began to redraw the map of Europe. Smaller Balkan countries were united into the nations of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. The Austro-Hungarian empire was broken up. German territory was given to France. Germany and the defeated powers were forced to pay heavy reparations. Turmoil, ethnic conflict, and a future financial collapse in Germany were all created by these settlements. The groundwork _____ . By grouping disparate groups together, modern turmoil like that in Bosnia was created.

The Ottoman Empire was broken up into many smaller nations. Boundaries were often artificially drawn. The goal was to prevent any Islamic power from being strong enough to carry out the _____ .