**The Balkan “Powder Keg”**

***Serbia*** became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1878.

* + Serbian Nationalists there wanted to add the states of ***Bosnia*** and Herzegovina to their country. However, these 2 states were protectorates of ***Austria-Hungary***.
  + Terrorist groups, such as the ***Black Hand***, became active in the Balkan states against Austria-Hungary.

***Russia*** supported the movement of **Pan-Slavism**, which tried to unify all Slavic nations to achieve cultural and political unity.

**Why were the Balkan states called a “powder keg”?**

* + A powder keg refers to **a barrel of gunpowder.**Will explode if there’s a spark!

How is this metaphor true?

* + With all of the **tension** in the region, **one small conflict** could ignite war.

**The spark that ignites WWI**

The prince of Austria-Hungary, Archduke **Francis Ferdinand**, was visiting Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* + Riding in an open car in a parade when a Serbian nationalist, **Gavrilo Princip**, assassinated he and his wife—ran up to the car and shot them.

**SYSTEM OF ALLIANCES KICKS IN**

* After the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, none of the leaders of the major European powers showed a willingness to avoid war
* Millions of Europeans saw war as a way to gain **honor** for themselves and **glory** for their country

**Mobilization in Europe**

* **Belligerents =** Warring nations
  + July 28 1914: A/H 🡪 Serbia
  + Aug. 1 1914:Germany 🡪 Russia
  + Aug. 3 1914: Germany 🡪 France
  + Aug. 4 1914: G.B. 🡪 Germany
* **Japan** joined Allies in August
* Ottoman Empire joined Central Powers in October 1914
* **Italy** joined Allies in May 1915
* Two Sides

Central Powers

* German Empire
* Austria-Hungary
* Ottoman Empire
* Bulgaria

Allied Powers

* Great Britain
* France
* Russia (until 1917)
* Japan
* Italy (1915)
* US (1917)

**1914: War and Stalemate**

**Beginnings of Trench Warfare**

* When the British & French stopped the German invasion at the Battle of the **Marne** (Sept. 1914), the stalemate began.
* A line of trenches eventually stretched along the Western Front from the Alps to the English Channel.
* [http://www.history.com/videos/trench-warfare#trench-warfare](http://www.history.com/videos/trench-warfare)

**Trench Facts**

* Each battalion had its own supply of rum that it distributed to its soldiers. Each division of 20,000 men received 300 gallons.
* Every soldier carried iron rations -- emergency food that consisted of a can of bully bee, biscuits and a tin of tea and sugar.
* A single pair of rats could produce up to 880 offspring in a year.
* A total of 3,894 men in the British Army were convicted of self-inflicted wounds. A firing-squad offense -- none were executed, but all served prison terms.
* The British Army treated 20,000 soldiers for trench foot during the winter of 1914-15.
* One-third of all casualties on the Western Front occurred in a trench.
* A lit candle was fairly effective in removing lice, but the skill of burning the lice without setting yourself on fire was difficult to learn.
* Soldiers in the trenches often depended on impure water collected from puddles in the trench, causing dysentery.

**Advances in Technology**

* German **U-Boats** (*Unterseebooten* )—early submarine
  + Two Hulls 🡪
    - Inner hull protected from pressure of sea
    - Outer hull fit around it, leaving space between the two so it can rise or sink
* Advances in Technology

**Machine Guns**

* + Fired rapidly, without interruption
  + First ones were heavy 🡪 Had to have a team of several men to operate them
  + Caused huge causalities

**Chemical Warfare**

* + Germans introduced poison gas as a weapon
  + Gas masks & chemical suits invented in response
* In 1916, Britain introduced the **tank**—helped end trench warfare

**Airplanes as Weapons**

* In the first year of WWI, planes were mainly used for **observation**
  + Gave valuable bird’s-eye view of battlefield
  + Planes would shoot at each other using rifles & pistols
* Invention of the “interrupter”—French mount **machine gun** to nose of airplane in 1915
* Manfred von Richthofen (“The **Red Baron**”) of Germany 🡪 Shot down around 80 enemy planes

**A New Army**

* Types of soldiers changed
  + No longer “**professional**” soldiers
  + Drafted civilians or used inexperienced volunteers
* Men and women at home supported war effort by working in factories to produce weapons

***“*Total War*”***  🡪 When a nation turns all of their resources to the war effort

**1915**

* The war spreads to other continents & becomes global with the Allied invasion of **Gallipoli**
* Invasion was unsuccessful; 46,000 Allied soldiers dead
* Turkish massacre/genocide against **Armenians** kills more than 1 million civilians.

[http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/videos#allies-launch-disastrous-attack-at-gallipoli](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/videos)

**Sinking of the *Lusitania***

* [http://www.history.com/videos/causes-of-world-war-i#u-boats-sink-the-lusitania-in-1915](http://www.history.com/videos/causes-of-world-war-i)
* **Propaganda** 🡪 Use of selected information
  + Both true and false
  + Governments sent up agencies to control news about the war
* **1916—1917: Many Deaths, Few Gains**
* The battles on the Western Front in 1916 were some of the deadliest of the war.
* **Verdun** (Feb.-Dec. 1916) resulted in over 300,000 deaths. The French turned back Germany’s attempted invasion.
* The **Somme** (July-Nov 1916) resulted in over 1 million deaths, in a failed British attempt to attack the German trenches.
* [http://www.history.com/topics/battle-of-the-somme/media#1916-battle-of-the-somme](http://www.history.com/topics/battle-of-the-somme/media)
* The 3rd Battle of **Ypres** (Aug-Nov 1917) fought in pouring rain, results in 700,000 combined casualties & no territory gained.

**1917—Mutiny, Rebellion, and the Fight for Democracy**

* The **United States** declares war on Germany April 6, 1917.

- “Zimmerman Telegram”, proposing alliance between Germany & **Mexico**, intercepted by US spies

- Germany continues “unrestricted submarine warfare”, sinking US cargo ships bound for Britain

* Czar **Nicholas II** of Russia abdicates in March. New democratic government stays in war, however; loses support of the Russian people.
* Communists, led by Vladimir **Lenin**, revolt in November. Russia **withdraws** from WWI in December.
* In April, after another failed attack resulted in 250,000 French casualties, French soldiers **mutiny** (“go on strike”), demanding that their commanders conduct the war differently.

**1918: Collapse of the Central Powers**

* In 1918, both sides were running out of **soldiers**, drafting old men and young boys.
* Germany launches offensive in March to try to end war before US troops arrive. Germans get near Paris, but **US** soldiers arrive to help turn back attack at Chateau-Thierry in June.
* Counter-offensive leads to German retreat. German soldiers begin refusing to fight; German civilians **revolt** in October as Allied army crosses into Germany
* Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates German throne; **armistice** (agreement to stop fighting) is signed Nov. 11, 1918.

**War Without End**

* Allies kept **blockade** in place until June 1919 to pressure Germany into agreeing to terms of treaty; thousands more German civilians die from starvation
* Allies (including US) send some troops to fight in Russian Civil War against Communists.
* **Flu** pandemic kills millions worldwide 1918-19; more died from flu than from WWI battles.
* Fourteen Points
* President Wilson outlined a set of ideas for improving world relations
  + 14 Points 🡪 6 were generalized, 8 dealt with specific countries
    1. No secret treaties
    2. Freedom of the seas for all nations
    3. Removal of all economic barriers, such as tariffs
    4. Reduction of national armaments
    5. Adjustment of colonial claims so they were fair to both imperialist powers and colonial people
    6. Establishment of “a general association of nations” to guarantee political independence and protection to small and large states alike

**The Cost of War**

* Which Allied Power suffered the most casualties?
* Which Central Power suffered the most casualties?
* What was the total number of soldiers killed in WWI?
* <http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/resources/casdeath_pop.html>
* Paris Peace Conference
* The Big 4
  + U.S. President Woodrow Wilson
  + British Prime Minister David Lloyd George
  + French Premier Georges Clemenceau
  + Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando
    - * + Met at Versailles
* Treaty of Versailles
* May of 1919 🡪 Dealt harsh punishments to Germany
* Forced to pay reparations
  + **Reparations 🡪** Payments for war damages
* Divided up large parts of Germany
  + Alsace-Lorraine returned to France
  + Belgium gained territory
  + Poland was restored to a independent nation
* Military
  + No Draft
  + Army of just 100,000
  + Navy hurt
    1. **Could not be enforced**
* Treaty of Versailles
* [http://www.history.com/videos/treaty-of-versailles-end-world-war-i#treaty-of-versailles-end-world-war-i](http://www.history.com/videos/treaty-of-versailles-end-world-war-i)
* League of Nations
* Had two main goals:
  + Promote international cooperation
  + Keep peace among nations, settled disputes and reducing armaments

**World Court**

* + Determine cases involving international law
  + 5 permanent members 🡪 G.B., France, Italy, Japan, & U.S.

League of Nations

* Agreed not to go to war
  + If there was a disagreement 🡪 submit a dispute to the World Court
  + **Economic Sanctions 🡪** Would be placed on a country found breaking diplomatic relations
    1. Military force was a last resort
* **Mandates 🡪** Colonies of defeated countries would be ruled by “advanced” nations
  + Ruling countries would promise to prepare colonial people for independence
* U.S. never joined
  + Citizens feared being dragged into another war