World War I
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WWI

• Started on July 28, 1914
• Ended November 11, 1918
• Almost 8 million died because of the war
  – Russia having the most: 1.7 million
• 22,000,000 wounded

• MAP OF EUROPE GREATLY CHANGED
Causes of WWI – MANIA!

**Militarism** - policy of building up a strong military to prepare for war (ARMS RACE)

**Alliances** – agreements between nations to provide aid and protect on another

- European powers formed rival alliances to protect themselves
  
  **PROBLEM:** One event could drag all countries involved into a conflict

**Nationalism** – extreme pride in one’s country

**Imperialism** – when one country takes over another country economically and politically.

**Assassination** – of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand
MILITARISM

World War I was the first war in which advanced weaponry and tactics were used

• There was a race for creating more weapons of mass destruction among nations
• There was a desire to create a large amount of weapons as well as building up a nation’s army and navy
Triple Alliance vs. Triple Entente

• The Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy was counter-balanced by the Triple Entente of France, Russia, and Great Britain.

• As a result, by 1907 Europe was divided into two armed and rather fearful camps.
In 1882 Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. They promised to defend each other if either were attacked.
In 1907 France, Russia and Britain formed the Triple Entente. They did not promise to help each other but together they encircled Germany and Austria-Hungary.
Alliances

**Triple Alliance**

**Triple Entente**
Nationalism

• The French Revolution had spread nationalism throughout most of Europe

—The idea that people with the same ethnic origins, language, and political ideals had the right to form sovereign states through the process of self-determination

MAIN IDEA OF NATIONALISM
Nationalism

• STRONG IN THE BALKAN AREA
  • Ottoman Empire → ruled the Balkan area for 400 years
  • Balkans
    – Albanians, Greeks, Romanians, and Slav
    – Each group was struggling for their own independence
  • BOSNIA
    – Area of great hostility
• Austria- Hungary annexed Bosnia as one of its territories in 1908
• Serbia was newly independent and thought that Bosnia should be one of their territories
  – THIS BECAME AN AREA OF CONFLICT
Imperialism

• Virtually all the major powers were engaged in a scramble for empire to bolster their economies

• The fiercest competition was between Britain and Germany and between France and Germany
Imperialism

- Great Britain, Germany and France needed foreign markets after the increase in manufacturing caused by the Industrial Revolution.
  - These countries competed for economic expansion in Africa.
  - Clash of France against Germany and Britain in North Africa
- In the Middle East, the crumbling Ottoman Empire was alluring to Austria-Hungary, the Balkans and Russia.
European Conquest of Africa
The

“Spark”
THE BLACK HAND

• Black Hand: Serbian nationalist group

• The main objective of the Black Hand was the creation, by means of violence, of a Greater Serbia.
Assassination

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Duchess Sophie at Sarajevo, Bosnia, on June 28th, 1914.
Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was killed in Bosnia by a Serbian nationalist group called the Black Hand who believed that Bosnia should belong to Serbia.
Domino Effect

Austria Hungary blamed Serbia for Ferdinand’s death and declared war on Serbia.

Germany pledged their support for Austria-Hungary.

Russia pledged their support for Serbia.
Domino Effect

Germany declares war on Russia.

France pledges their support for Russia.

Germany declares war on France.

Germany invades Belgium on the way to France.

Great Britain supports Belgium and declares war on Germany.
Central Powers
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Ottoman Empire
- Bulgaria

Allied Powers
- Russia
- France
- Great Britain
- Italy
- Japan
- United States (1917)
Why was WWI a Stalemate?

• What’s a stalemate?
  – Neither side can make a move to win

• Both sides of the war threw arms and troops in to win but............

• Millions die without gaining ground.
What new weapons were used in WWI?

- Machine gun
- Poison gas (Mustard gas)
  - Carried by the wind
  - Burned out soldier’s lungs
  - Deadly in the trenches
    where it would sit at the bottom
- Submarine
- Airplane
- Tank
- Hand grenades
- Flame Throwers
- Why these weapons? Why now?

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION!! (CH. 6)
Trench Warfare

Trench Warfare – type of fighting during World War I in which both sides dug trenches protected by mines and barbed wire
• Trenches were dug from English Channel to Switzerland
• 6,250 miles
• 6 to 8 feet deep
• Immobilized both sides for 4 years
MYTH
REALITY
THE TRENCH SYSTEM

• Front line
• Communication trench
• Support trenches
• No Mans Land
• Barbed wire
BRITISH TRENCH
LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

• Elaborate systems of defense
  – barbed wire
  – Concrete machine gun nests
  – Mortar batteries
  – Troops lived in holes underground

• Boredom
  – Soldiers read to pass the time
  – Sarah Bernhardt came out to the front to read poetry to the soldiers
“Death is Everywhere”

• “We all had on us the stench of dead bodies.” Death numbed the soldier’s minds.
• Shell shock (mental anguish)
• Psychological devastation
  • “Never such innocence again”
  • Bitterness towards aristocratic officers whose lives were never in danger
OTHER WWI WEAPONRY

Used to stop stalemate
“BIG BERTHA”
German submarines, called **U-boats**, torpedoed enemy ships and neutral ships trading with the enemy.
German U-Boat torpedoes a British ship
In 1915, a German submarine torpedoed the *Lusitania*, a British passenger ship, killing approximately 1,200 people, including 128 Americans.
WWI AIRCRAFT
Curtiss Jenny