

Expansion of European Power and the New Imperialism

- The growth of national states permitted Western nations to deploy their resources more effectively than ever before.
- Europeans considered their civilization and way of life superior to all others.
- The dominant doctrine of free trade opposed political interference in foreign lands as economically unprofitable.
- **New Imperialism**
 - ◆ During the last third of the nineteenth century, European nations rapidly extended their control over the rest of the globe.

The New Imperialism

- **Imperialism**
 - ◆ Establishing authority over another nation by exercising economic and political force or by territorial acquisition.
- European nations would arrange with other countries to invest capital in undeveloped regions.
- European nations could also exert more direct political control.

Motives for the New Imperialism

- Economic motives cannot account for the entire impetus behind New Imperialism.
- Social Darwinist groups claimed Europeans had an obligation to civilize “backward” peoples.
- Religious groups agitated for the spread of Christianity.
- Some suggested imperialism be used to attract attention away from social policy.

The Scramble for Africa

- Between the late 1870s and 1900 European powers divided the entire continent among themselves, motivated by economic and political competition.
- The nations used a variety of rationalizations to justify their actions.
- Important African raw materials include ivory, rubber, minerals, diamonds, and gold.
- **Berlin Conference**
 - ◆ Mapped out which European nation had access to certain parts of Africa.
- European nations appointed administrators to supervise their African possessions.

North Africa

- Technically part of Ottoman Empire.
- Pressure applied diplomatically and through investments and loans to exert influence on the area.

Egypt

- Sold cotton as a cash crop on the international market.
- Financed the **Suez Canal** through foreign loans.
- The bankrupt government was overthrown by the army in 1881
- Britain defeated the army and installed administrators to ensure repayment of their loans for the Suez Canal and access to the path to India.

Belgian Congo

- King Leopold financed Stanley's African explorations on his behalf.
- Berlin Conference codified his "treaties" with local tribes.
- Leopold cultivated the image of a humanitarian ruler while imposing brutal conditions on residents of the Congo.
- In thirty years as ruler, approximately one-half of the residents of the Congo were victims of murder, exploitation, starvation, and disease.

Southern Africa

- Important resources include fertile pastures and farm land, deposits of coal, iron ore, gold, diamonds, and copper.
- Partially inhabited by the Afrikaners, or Boers, descendants of Dutch settlers
- After a series of bloody wars, the British arranged with the Boers for a white-only ruling class.
- **Apartheid**
 - ◆ “Separateness” – the policy that segregated non-whites and granted virtually no civil rights in South Africa.

Asia

- **Open Door Policy**

- ◆ Proposed by the US, opposed foreign annexations in China and equal opportunity to all nations to trade there.
- The emergence of Japan as a great power frightened the other powers interested in China.
- The United States exerted great influence in the Western Hemisphere by virtue of the Monroe Doctrine.
- After the Spanish American War, the United States had influence over Cuba, Puerto Rico, part of the Philippines, Samoa, and would soon control Hawaii.
- The Ottoman Empire remained vulnerable and had been in decline since the late seventeenth century.

Emergence of the German Empire and the Alliance Systems (1873-1890)

- The appearance of a German Empire upset the balance of power in Europe.
- The German Empire was a nation of great wealth, industrial capacity, military power, and population.
- The forces of nationalism threatened Austria with disintegration.
- After its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War the French were no longer a dominant Western European power and were concerned about Prussia.

Bismarck's Leadership

- Bismarck wanted to avoid war and preserve Germany's territorial integrity and established the Three Emperors' League with Austria and Russia.
- After the League collapsed, The Treaty of San Stefano freed the Balkan Slavic states from Ottoman rule and the Russians gained some territory.
- The 1878 Congress of Berlin settled the Eastern Question unsatisfactorily, and the south Slavic question remained a threat to European peace.
- Germany and Austria agreed to a mutual defense treaty from Russia known as the Dual Alliance, which was later joined by Italy. By Bismarck's retirement he was allied with Austria, Russia, and Italy while on good terms with Britain.
- The ascension of the pugilistic and nationalistic William II threatened future European stability.

Forging the Triple Entente (1890-1907)

- France, concerned with security against Germany, invested in Russia which in turn proffered a mutual defense treaty against Germany.
- William II instigated a naval build-up in an attempt to emulate Britain, which simply produced more ships.
- The 1904 **Entente Cordiale** represented a major step in aligning Britain with France.
- After Germany attempted to pressure France and the international community into colonial concessions in Germany, Britain and France arranged an alliance that made their military forces mutually dependent by 1914.
- In 1907, Britain concluded an agreement much like the Entente Cordiale, this time with Russia.
- The **Triple Entente** of Britain, Russia, and France were aligned against the **Triple Alliance** of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the unreliable Italy.

The Road to War (1908-1914)

- Austria annexed Bosnia. The actions strained relations between Russia, who had an agreement with Austria, and France and Britain. At the same time Germany pledged to support Austria, putting Austria in control of German foreign policy.
- After the Second Moroccan Crisis, Britain and France moved closer together creating a de facto alliance.
- After Two Balkan Wars, Austria concluded Serbian territorial expansion by threatening to use force in Albania. The Alliance system was bending under the strain of international pressures.

Sarajevo and the Outbreak of War (June-August 1914)

- The heir to the Austrian throne, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, is assassinated in Sarajevo with the aid of Serbian nationalists.
- The assassination caused outrage in Europe, but Austria was slow to respond to Serbia, which it was determined to invade. Germany pledged to support Austria and Russia, building up its military, was likely to defend Serbia while drawing in France.
- Austria mobilized, Russia mobilized, Germany declared war on Russia and the next day declared war on France. Germany invaded Belgium, drawing Britain into the war, Germany invaded France, and then Britain declared war on Germany.

Strategies and Stalemate: 1914–1917

- All over the Continent people welcomed war, unaware of the horrors of modern warfare.
- After initial German and French failures on the Western front, the war devolved into **trench warfare** over a few hundred yards of land.
- The British introduced the **tank** in 1916 which was the answer to the terrible effectiveness of the machine gun defensively.
- In the East, both sides appealed to nationalistic sentiment in the areas the enemy held. Some of the groups roused included the Irish, the Flemings, the Poles, the Czechs, the Slovaks, the Slavs, and Muslims.
- The Germans introduced submarine warfare, especially around the British Isles, to try and cut off enemy supply lines to the Continent.
- Continued German **submarine warfare**, including sinking the United States liner *Lusitania*, led the United States to declare war on Germany in 1917.

The Russian Revolution

- The incompetent government of Nicholas II led to internal disorder in Russia.
- Peasant discontent plagued the countryside.
- In the absence of Nicholas II, incompetent government officials attempted to keep order as the members of Russia's parliament remained unsatisfied.

The Provisional Government

- After the abdication of the tsar, the provisional government continued to support the war effort.
- After one failed coup attempt, a second coup led by **Lenin** and **Trotsky** was successful in November.

The Communist Dictatorship

- The government nationalized the land and turned it over to peasants.
- Russia was taken out of the war.
- The **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** yielded Poland, Finland, the Baltic states, and Ukraine to Germany.
- After a three year battle between the Red Army, controlled by Lenin, and the White Russians, who opposed the revolution, Lenin's **Bolshevik** forces were in firm control.

The End of World War I

- With Russia out of the war Germany, in control of important European resources like food, could focus on the western front.
- The deadlock continued through 1917 although American involvement would change the tide of the war.

Germany's Last Offensive

- In March, the Germans mounted a final unsuccessful offensive.
- With Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey essentially out of the war, the Germany army was finished.
- Germany set up a new government to be established on democratic principles and asked for peace based on the Fourteen Points that were the American's war aims.
 - ◆ **Fourteen Points** included self-determination for nationalities, open diplomacy, freedom of the seas, and the establishment of a League of Nations to keep the peace.

The Armistice

- Germans felt betrayed by the terms of the treaty
- Casualties on both sides came to ten million dead and over twenty million wounded.
- The financial resources of Europe were badly strained and much of Europe was in debt to Americans.
- The Great War undermined ideals of Enlightenment progress and humanism.
- The aftermath of the Great War paved the way for the Second World War and much of the horrors of the rest of the century.

The End of the Ottoman Empire

- Its new leaders, the Young Turks, saw their nation divided up amongst Britain and France. In its wake was the new republic of Turkey.
- The Arab portions of the old empire were divided into a collection of artificial states with no historical reality governed by foreign administrators.

Obstacles the Peacemakers Faced

- Public opinion was a major force in politics.
- Many of Europe's ethnic groups agitated for attention.
- Wilson's idealism conflicted with the practical war aims of the victorious powers.
- Some nations had competing claims for land.
- The victorious nations feared the spread of Bolshevism.

The Peace

- The Soviet Union and Germany were excluded from the peace conference for the **Treaty of Versailles**.
- League of Nations was established.
- Colonial areas would be encouraged to advance towards independence.
- Germany ceded Alsace-Lorraine to France, part of the Rhine was declared a demilitarized zone, and German military limitations.
- Germany was forced to pay all of the damages to the Allies, known as **reparations** and the **war guilt clause** gave Germany sole responsibility for the war.

Evaluating the Peace

- The peace violated some idealistic principles.
- It left many minorities outside the borders of their national homelands.
- By excluding Germany and Russia, the settlement ignored the reality of their European influence.
- Germany felt cheated.