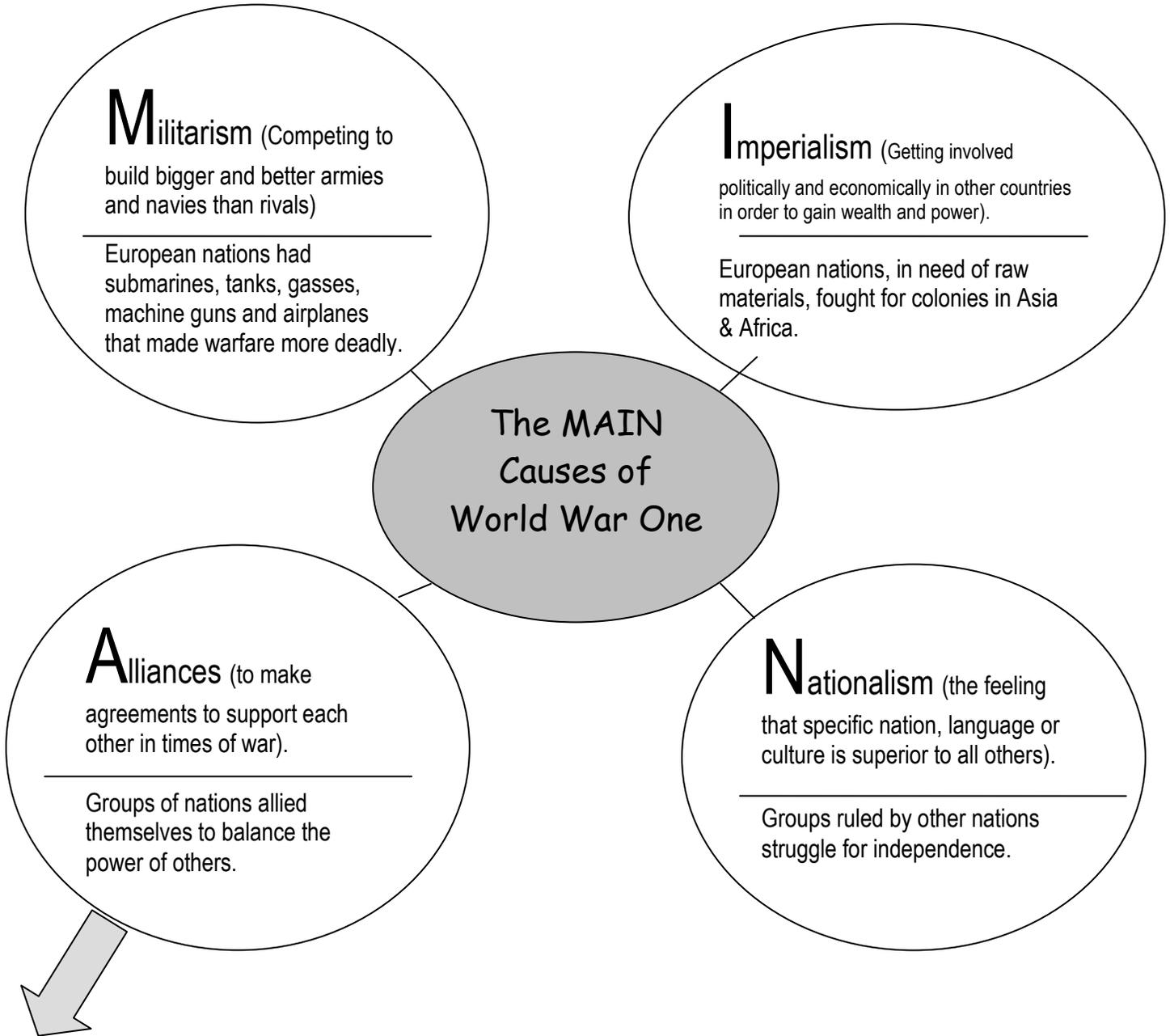


World War One (1914 - 1919)

"The Great War"



Pre-War Alliances

Triple Alliance { Austria-Hungary
Germany
Italy

Triple Entente { Britain
France
Russia

The Spark that Started the War

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by a Serbian nationalist.

Why did this start a war? Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Because of an earlier alliance, Russia agreed to defend Serbia. They mobilized (prepared military) for war. So...

Germany declared war on Russia and France, which led...

Britain to declare war on Germany, which led...

Austria-Hungary to declare war on Russia!

Who's is on which side now?

Central Powers { **Austria-Hungary**
Germany

Allied Powers { **Britain**
France
Russia
Italy**

** Note: Italy switched sides in 1915!



The War in Europe

Unlike previous wars, European militarism provided new technologies to help each side, especially:

Machine Guns



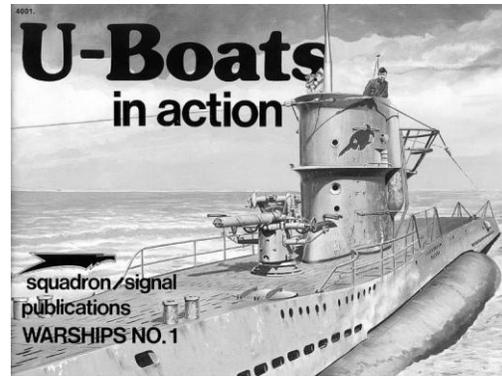
Poisonous Gases



Airplanes



U-Boats (submarines)



They also used new strategies, especially **trench warfare**: defending a position by fighting from the protection of deep ditches.

The area between opposing trenches was called **no-man's-land**. Much of the fighting took place here.



What should the US do? Stay Neutral or Go To War?

Reasons for Neutrality

- Who wants to be at war?!
- Many thought the War dealt with European matters, not American ones.
- Although most sided with the Allies, many Americans had immigrated from the nations of the Central Powers.
- American businesses were making lots of money off of the war, especially selling supplies to the Allies.

By the end of 1914, the war had already become a stalemate (neither side could win a decisive victory)

So how do we get involved?

1) **The Sinking of the *Lusitania*:** German U-boat warfare sinks the Lusitania, a British boat with 128 Americans on board. Americans become increasingly upset over German submarines sinking non-military ships.



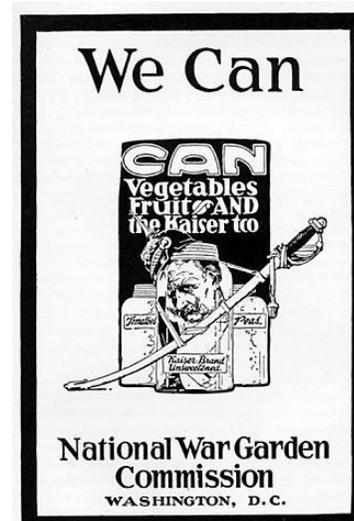
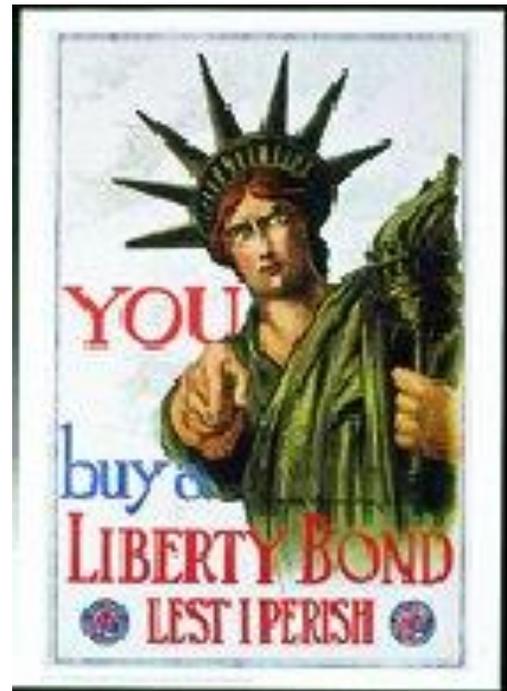
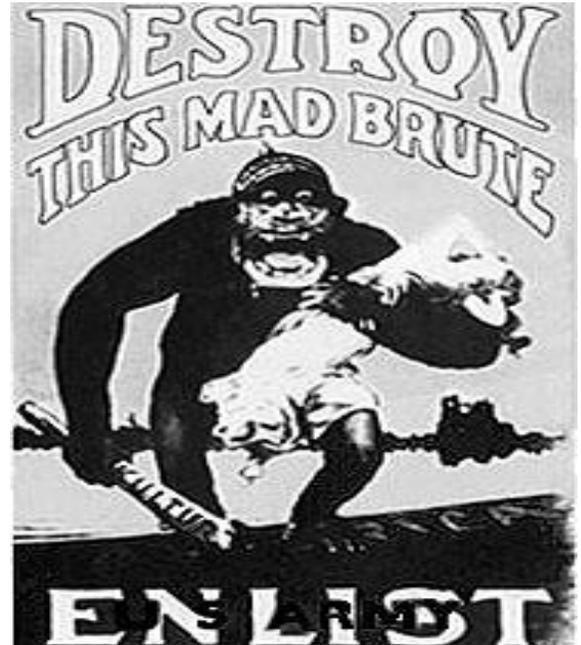
2) **The Zimmerman Note:** German ambassador to Mexico proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the US. For their effort, Mexico would receive the lands of New Mexico, Arizona and Texas. Americans found out about this and become outraged.

On April 6, 1917, we declare war on Germany!

The United States at Home during the Great War

- ✦ The **War Industries Board** was created to oversee the production and distribution of goods manufactured by the nation's war industries (steel, copper, rubber, etc).
- ✦ The **Committee of Public Information** was formed to increase public support for the war effort. They attempted to show the importance of the US being in the War.
- ✦ Congress passed the **Selective Service Act**, which made all males age 21-30 register for a draft. Numbers were drawn at random for the draft.
- ✦ **Liberty Bonds** were sold to raise money for supplies for the allies.
- ✦ The **Food Administration** increased food production in the US to feed allies, while the **Fuel Administration** increased production of coal, gas and oil.
- ✦ Workers realized the labor shortage allowed them the advantage to strike for higher wages and better working conditions. The **National War Labor Board** settled disputes between workers and management to prevent strikes.

Role of Women: Took over jobs at home, volunteered as nurses and ambulance drivers in the army.



SERVICE FLAG OF THE HOME CANNER
Window hangers like this were broadcast throughout the United States and Canada. Displayed in front windows they carried to all passers-by the message of eating activities within the home. The eager demand for these hangers showed the pride of the home canners in their work.

Establishing Peace

In 1917, Russia had left the War and the US had joined it. In Nov 1918, an **armistice** (truce) went into effect, bringing an end to the war.

Europe After the War

- More than 8 million soldiers had been killed, more than 20 million had been wounded.
 - The economies of the nations involved were ruined.
 - The land and buildings all over Europe were destroyed. More than \$30 billion in property had been destroyed.
- France, Britain and Germany all were in debt.

Wilson's Fourteen Points

- President Wilson came up with a plan for peace terms that would not be too hard on the Central Powers and would not lead to another war. These were called the **Fourteen Points**.
- Most of the Points dealt with specific nations or regions, some called for freedom of ships on the seas and smaller armies and navies, and an end to secret agreements between nations.
- Emphasized **Self-Determination**: The right of people to decide their own political status. In other words, rather than have an outside empire decide the political situation, the people could do it themselves.
- The last point called for the creation of a **League of Nations**: an international congress designed to settle disputes and protect democracy.

Many Americans and Europeans did not like Wilson's Fourteen Points. They wanted to punish the Germans.

Paris Peace Conference

- The Big Four (Wilson, British PM Lloyd George, French Premier Clemenceau, Italian PM Orlando) and others meet at Paris Peace Conference figure out terms of peace.
 - They argue about what to do, each having different interests. Wilson is unable to convince them to accept all of the Fourteen Points.
 - Other leaders all insist that Germany pay **reparations**, payment for damages and expenses brought on by the War. Total cost: \$33 Billion. They also split up some of the land that Germany had gained during the War.
- Finally, the **Treaty of Versailles** was proposed. It included some of the Fourteen Points, especially the right of self-determination. New nations were created, while the Allies took over the former colonies of the Central Powers.



Problems with the League of Nations

- President Wilson felt the most important part of the Treaty was the creation of the League of Nations. It would include representatives from democratic nations and promote peace by working cooperatively to settle disputes.
- **The Senate, however, did not agree with the Treaty of Versailles and refused to ratify it.** They were concerned that if the US joined the League of Nations, the US would be too closely involved with Europe. The US had gained little from fighting, but had lost tens of thousands of young Americans in the War. In the end, the US signed a separate peace treaty with the Central Powers.

Effects of WWI

US entry into the War in 1917
Millions of deaths and widespread destructions in Europe
Treaty of Versailles
Breakup of German and Austro-Hungarian Empires
Creation of several new nations
League of Nations