

1914-1918 World War I
"The Great War"

A combination of mistrust and tangled alliances created a Europe on the brink of war in 1914. Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir presumptive to the Austrian throne) was assassinated by a Slavic revolutionary in the Balkans sparking hostilities between the Slavic defenders (Russia and eventually her allies) and Austrian allies. Germany (allied to Austria) rushed to attack Russian Allies France forcing Britain to join against them as they violated Belgian neutrality. The

U.S. remained neutral in the conflict until pressured to enter by German U-Boat attacks (e.g. Lusitania).

U.S. troops join the fighting against the Germans, Austrians, and Turks in 1916.

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An Armistice ending the war was signed on November 11, 1918.

Germany and Austria were assigned blame for the war and forced to pay massive reparations to the victors (i.e. Britain and France).

These conditions facilitated the rise of a nationalist movement (i.e. Nazis)

The Russians suffered a civil war (i.e. Communist revolution) beginning in 1917 and made a separate peace

The World experienced an epidemic called the Spanish Flu in 1918 which killed approximately 50 million people - more than the war