



WW1

# MAIN Causes of WWI

- **M**ilitarism
- **A**lliances
- **I**mperialism
- **N**ationalism



# Militarism

- **Militarism** = glorification and expansion of the military
- Countries began to build up their militaries and spend money on military training
- Many countries began **conscription** = draft of civilians into the military
- Domino effect → when one country enhanced its military, other countries would do the same



**Alliance systems** = defense agreements among nations



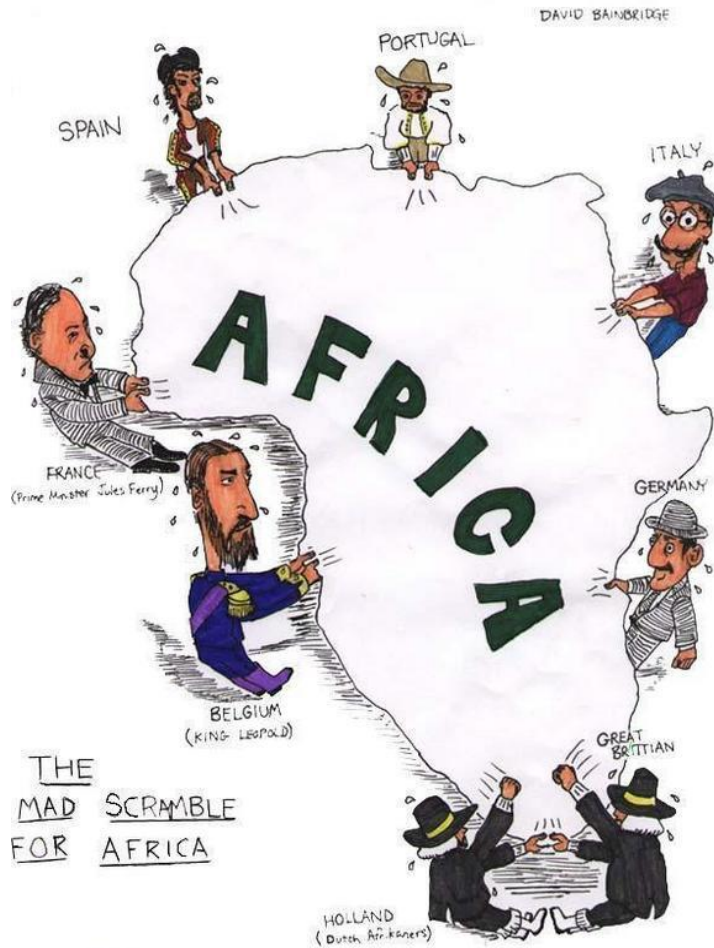
Triple Alliance  
(red) & Triple  
Entente (grey)



Das europäische Gleichgewicht 1914



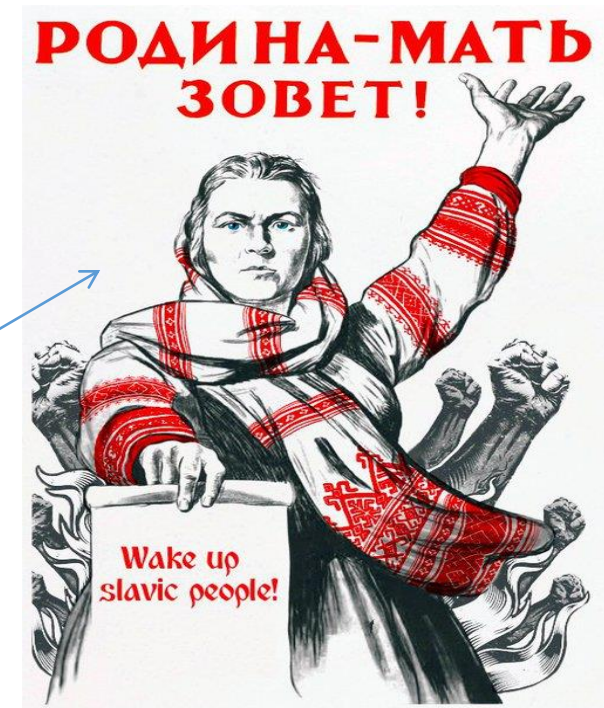
# Imperialism

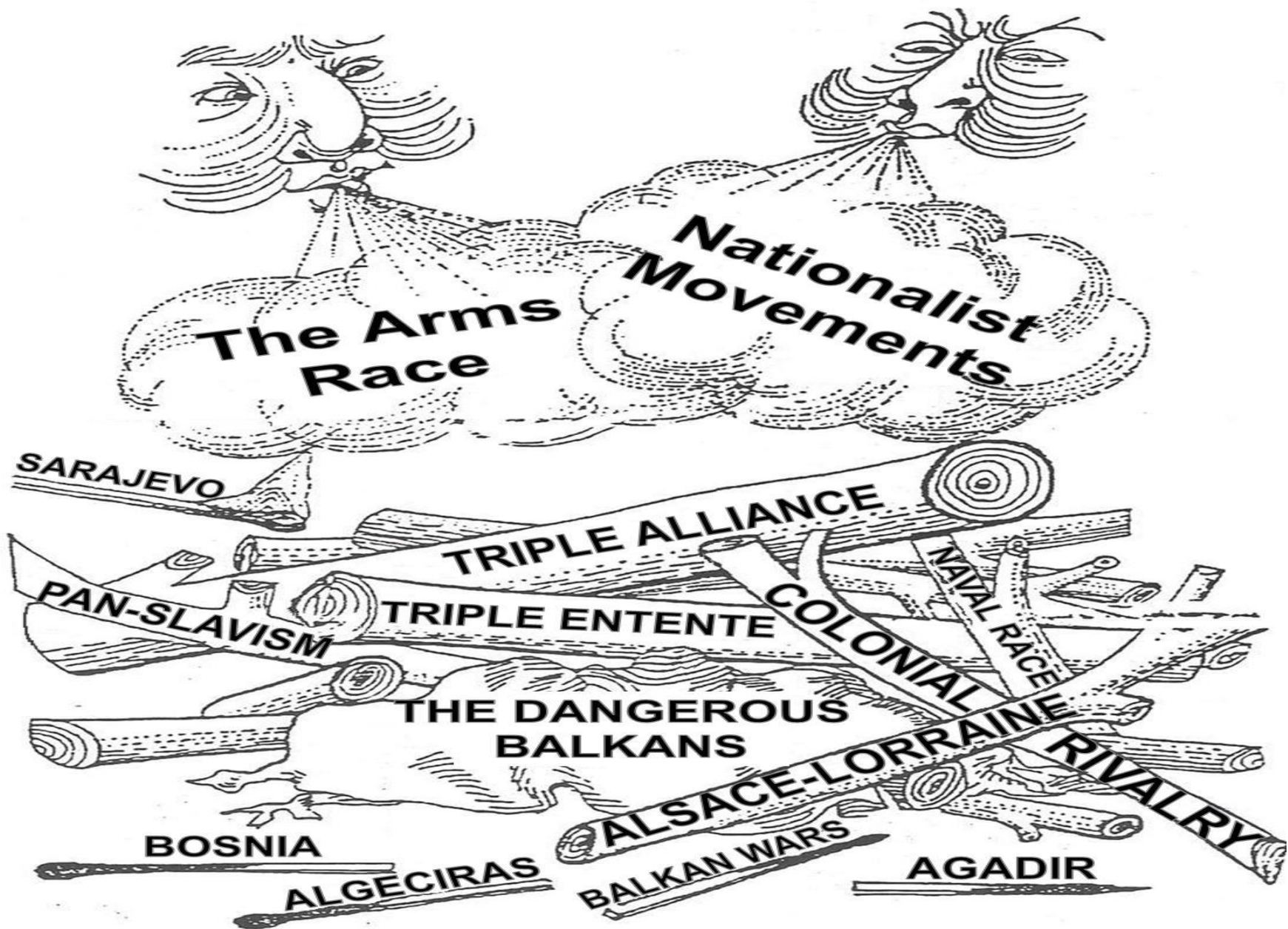


- European = imperialist rivalries since the 1800s
- Competed for territory and economic power all over the world
  - Especially in: Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, China, and the Balkans

# Nationalism

- Nationalism had unified Germany and Italy and was becoming more and more popular
- The French wanted Alsace-Lorraine back from Germany
- In Austrian Empire = nationalism was creating the most violent tensions in Europe
- Pan-Slavism = Slavic nationalism
- Desire to unite all of the Slavic people under one empire





**The Arms Race**

**Nationalist Movements**

**SARAJEVO**

**TRIPLE ALLIANCE**

**PAN-SLAVISM**

**TRIPLE ENTENTE**

**COLONIAL NAVAL RACE**

**THE DANGEROUS BALKANS**

**ALSACE-LORRAINE RIVALRY**

**BOSNIA**

**ALGECIRAS**

**BALKAN WARS**

**AGADIR**



# The “Spark” of WWI



- June 28, 1914 = Archduke Francis Ferdinand (heir to the throne in Austria-Hungary) was assassinated
- His wife Sophie was also killed
- Both were in Sarajevo = capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina
  - A territory controlled by Austria-Hungary with a very big Slavic population
- Murdered by Gavrilo Princip = member of the Black Hand = secret Slavic nationalist group





## German Support

- Austria-Hungary approached Germany and made sure that Germany would support it if it took action against Serbia
- Germany promised a “blank check” of support: Unconditional and full support

## Declaration of War

- Austria-Hungary gave Serbia an ultimatum
  - 1) Serbia must let A-H officials into the country to stop all violent, nationalist movements
  - 2) Serbia must let A-H officials into the country to investigate the assassination
- Serbia said: NO
- July 28, 1914 = A-H declared war on Serbia

# A European War

- Russia began to mobilize
  - Supported Serbia and Pan-Slavism
- France began to mobilize to support Russia
- Germany gave Russia and France an ultimatum = stop mobilizing or face war
  - They didn't stop
  - Germany declared war on Russia and France
- Great Britain tried to stay neutral
- August 1914 = Germany invaded neutral Belgium in order to get to France

# Other Nations Join the War

- For the Central Powers (formerly the Triple Alliance):
  - 1914 = **Ottoman Empire**
  - 1915 = Bulgaria
- For the Allied Powers (formerly the Triple Entente):
  - 1914 = Serbia, Belgium, Montenegro, Romania, Greece, Portugal
  - 1914 = **Japan** → wanted German territories in the Pacific
  - 1915 = **Italy** switched alliances → Allies promised Italy territories in A-H when they won
  - 1917 = **U.S.**

When the war began in August 1914, Europeans were enthusiastic about fighting



French Recruits



German Recruits

Most people anticipated that the war would be over by Christmas 1914...they were wrong



# Europe at War



When the war began, Germany's biggest problem was the potential of fighting on two fronts

- Central Powers
- Allied Powers
- Nations neutral or not yet aligned



Germany's solution was the **Schlieffen Plan** which involved quickly defeating France in the West...

...then sending troops to the East before Russia was fully mobilized for war



# The Schlieffen Plan

## The Plan: Germany Wins



## The Reality: A Stalemate



The Schlieffen Plan seemed to be working when the German army marched through Belgium & France, within miles of Paris

- Central Powers
- Allied Powers
- Nations neutral or not yet aligned



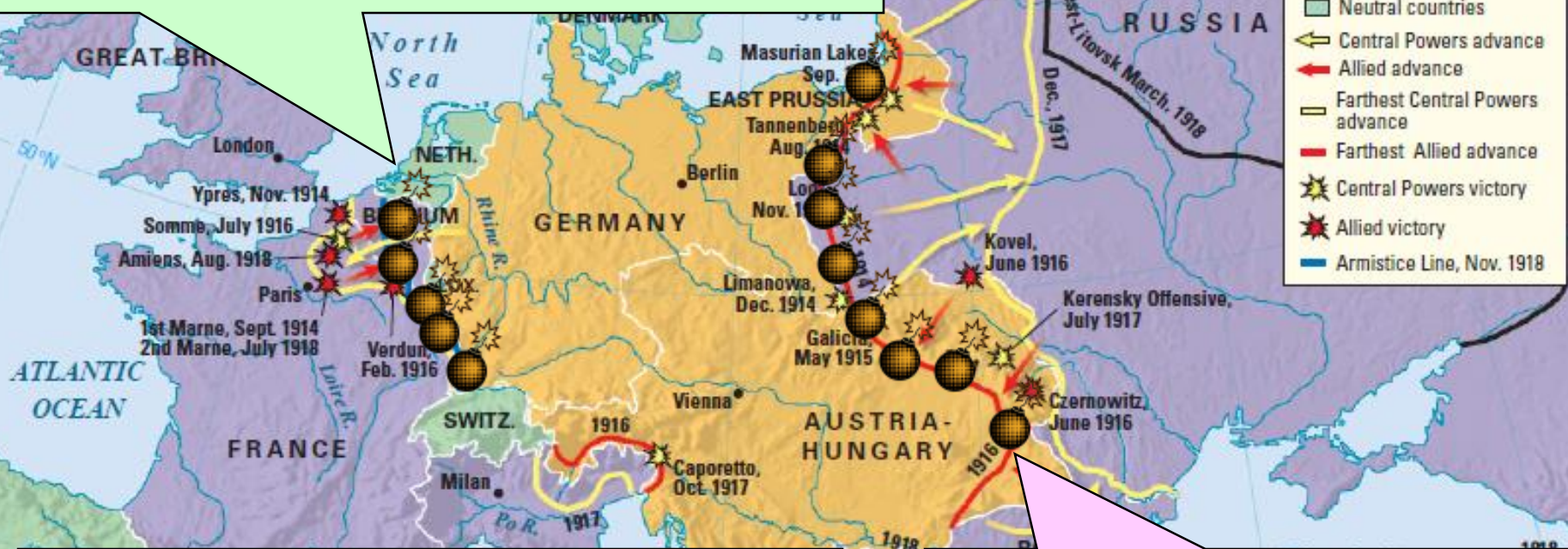
But, English & French troops saved Paris at the Battle of the Marne...

...Meanwhile, Russia mobilized faster than expected, so Germany had to divert troops from France



Because the Schlieffen Plan failed, the Central Powers were forced to fight a two-front war

The fighting between Germany & France was known as the Western Front



By 1915, the war settled into a stalemate as each side fortified their positions with trenches

The fighting between Germany & Russia was known as the Eastern Front



# Trench Warfare

- A** Front line trench
- B** Support trench
- C** Reserve trench
- D** Enemy trench

Artillery fire "softened up" resistance before an infantry attack.

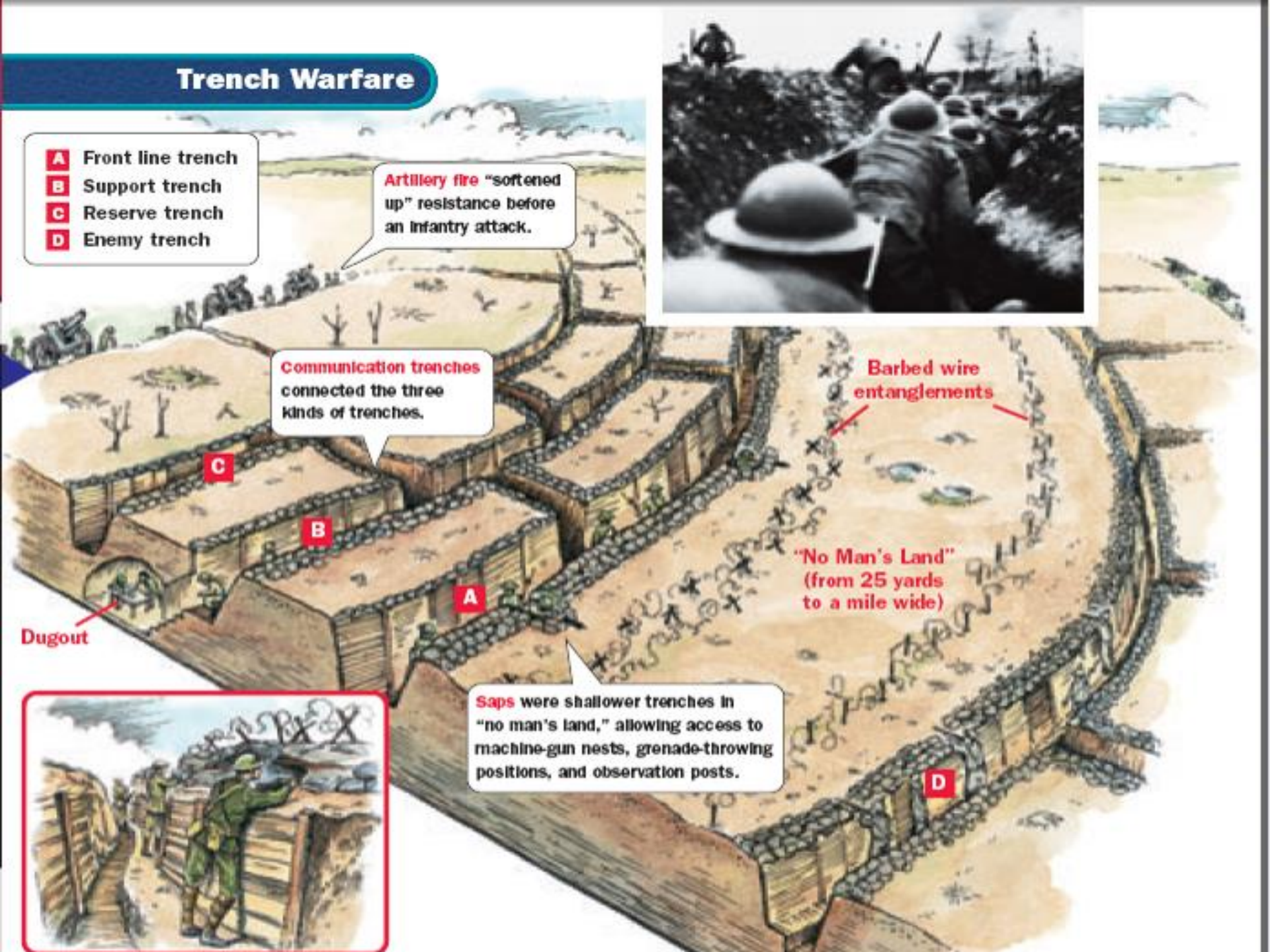
Communication trenches connected the three kinds of trenches.

Barbed wire entanglements

"No Man's Land"  
(from 25 yards to a mile wide)

Saps were shallower trenches in "no man's land," allowing access to machine-gun nests, grenade-throwing positions, and observation posts.

Dugout





Soldiers going “over the top”

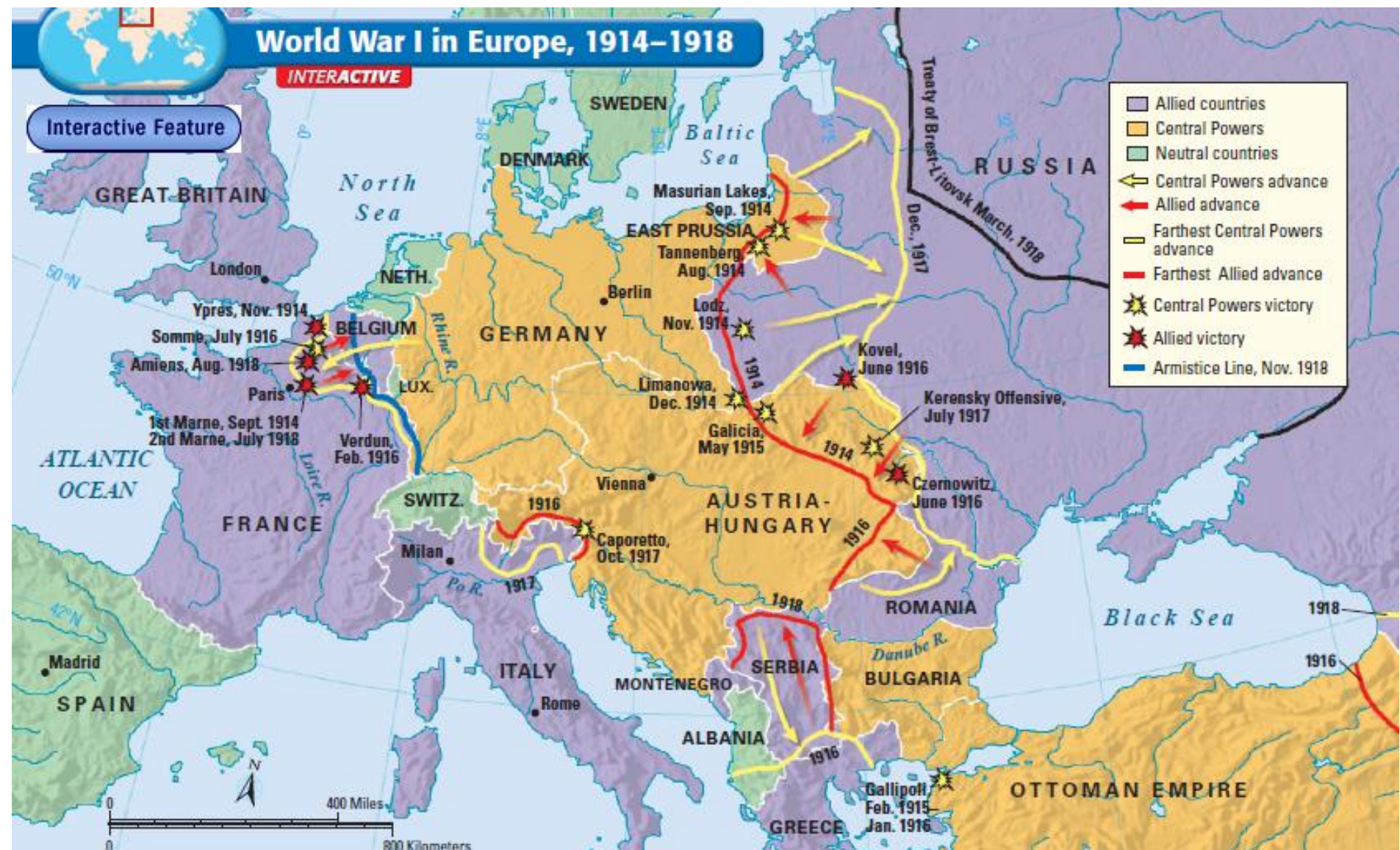


# Trench Foot





The stalemate on the Western & Eastern Fronts turned World War I into a **war of attrition** where each side tried to out-produce & outlast the enemy



# Point of Emphasis: World War I was a high-tech war

- New technology changes nature of warfare

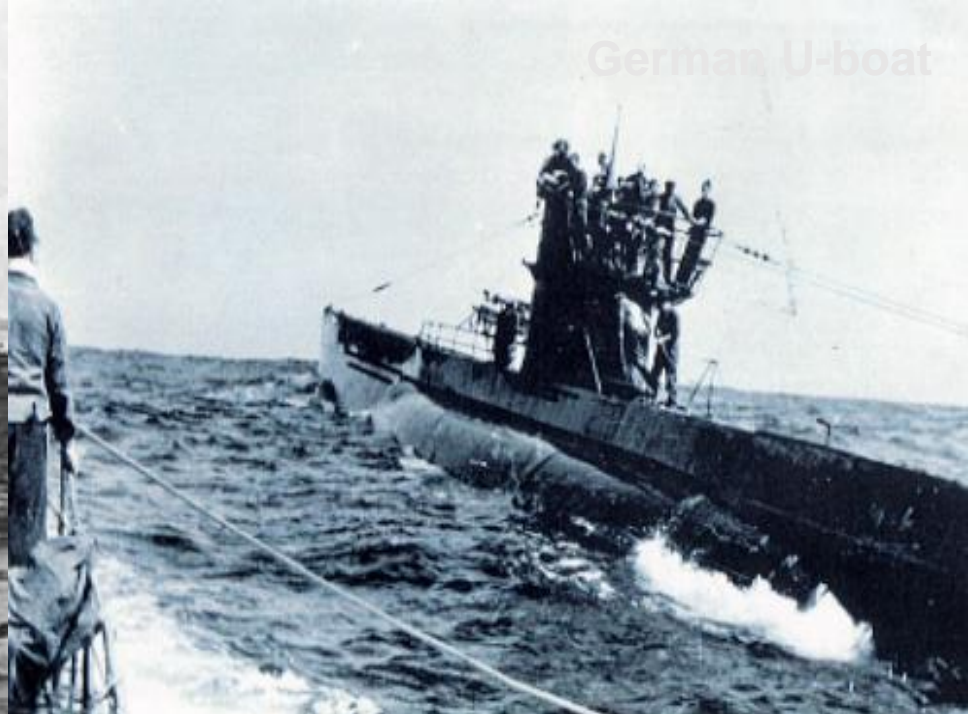




World War I biplane

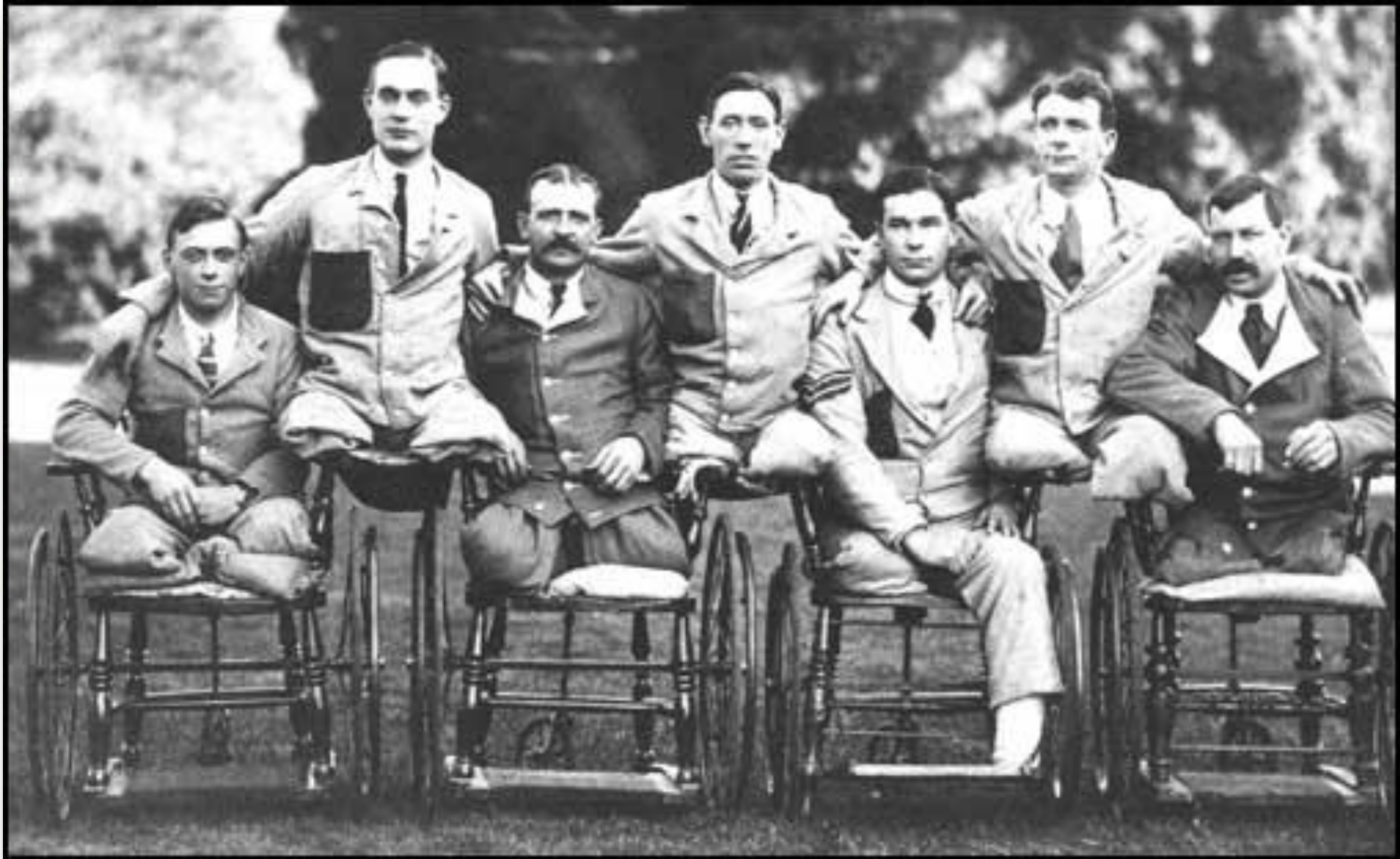


German U-boat



Both sides used poison gases that burned eyes, skin, and lungs, and killed thousands of troops. After the war, most countries agreed to ban chemical warfare.

British Tank

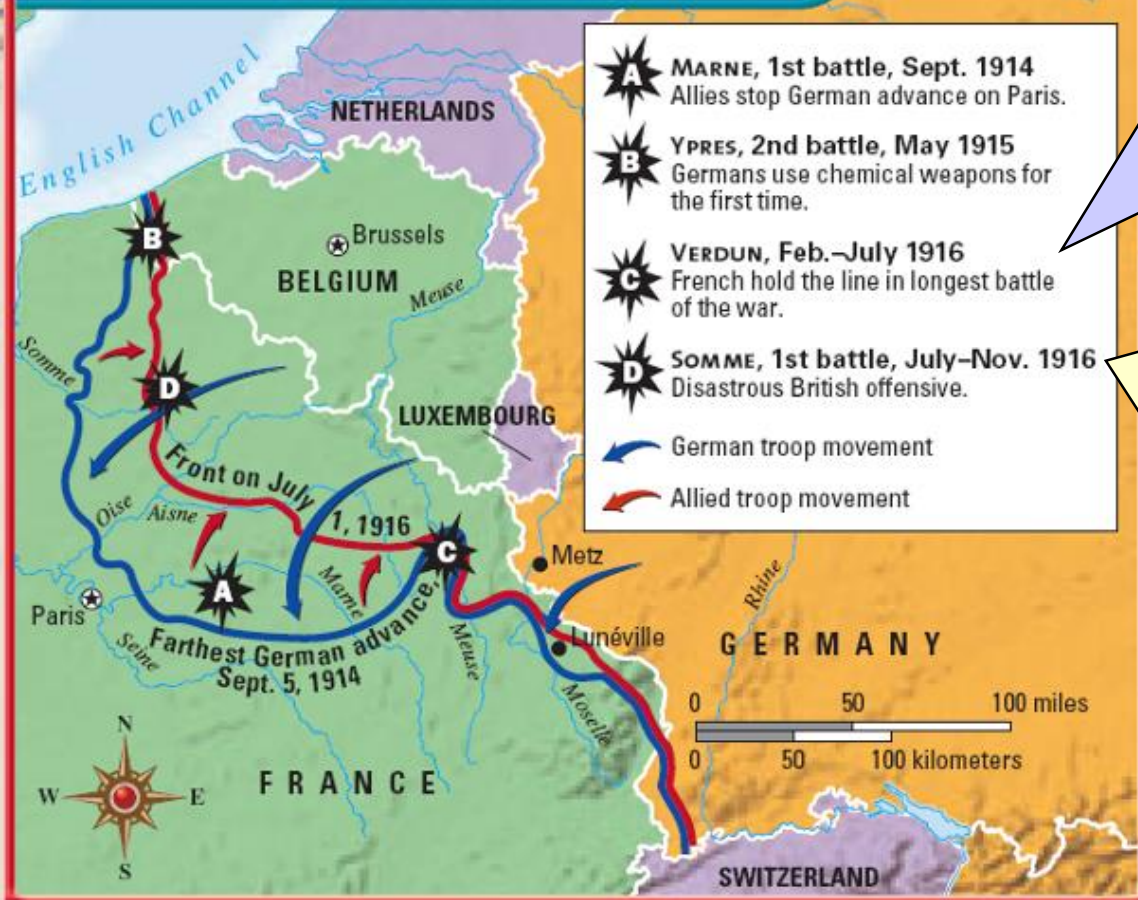


New weapons killed soldiers more effectively;  
During World War I, 8.5 million soldiers died  
& 21 million were wounded



Fighting on the Western Front slowed to a stalemate as neither side could gain an advantage

## The Western Front 1914–1916



During the 10 month Battle of Verdun in 1916, 1 million soldiers were killed or wounded

Another 1 million soldiers were killed or wounded at the Battle of Somme

Despite the deaths, neither the Allies or Central Powers gained an advantage after these battles

is assassinated.

# Point of Emphasis: The Great War was a “global” war





# Colonial Soldiers



Clockwise from top left: Sikh soldiers in India, Chinese troops in Greece, African soldiers in German East Africa, a Bermuda militia in London



# The Middle East

- Ottoman Empire joins Central Powers
  - Attempt to regain territory in Balkan peninsula
- Arab Revolt of 1916
  - Arabs want independence from the Ottoman Empire
  - British promise military aid & independence after the War
- Just Kidding!
  - Sykes-Picot Agreement
  - Balfour Declaration



T.E. Lawrence,  
leader of the Arab  
revolt

# Point of Emphasis: World War I was a Total War

## • Total War:

-Conflict in which the participating countries devote all of their resources to the war effort

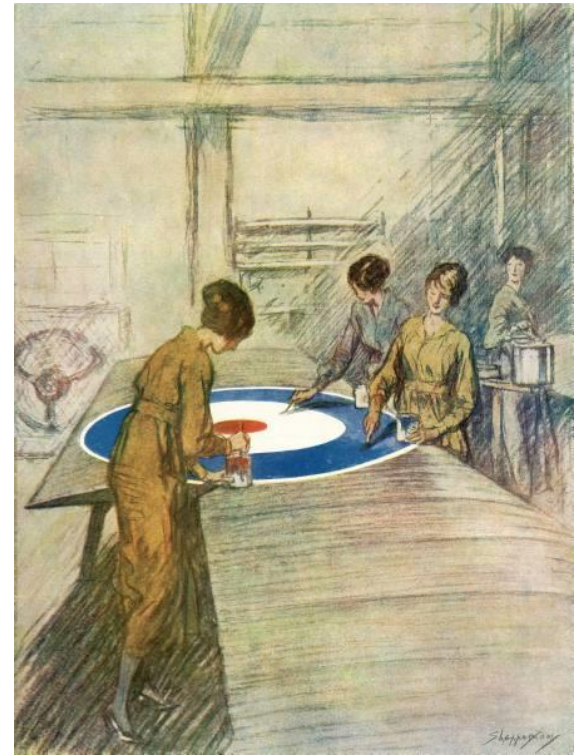
## • Aspects of Total War

- Mandatory military conscription (a.k.a. the draft)
- Control of the economy & nationalization of industry
- Rationing of food and other essentials
- The Home Front
  - Women, children, ethnic minorities, etc. are considered a vital part of the war effort
- Propaganda



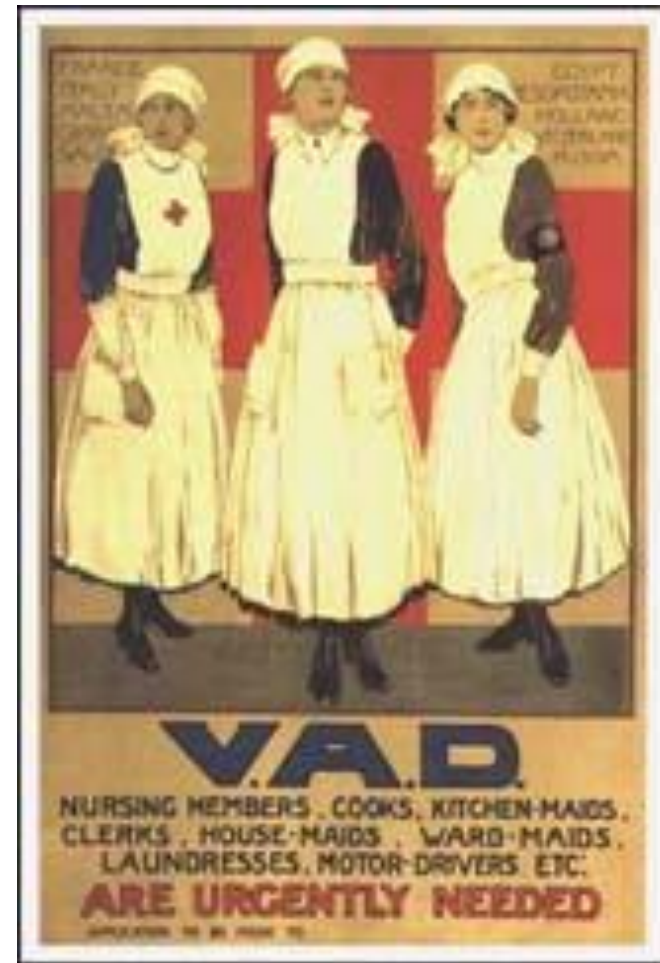
# The Home Front

- Women in the Great War
  - Factory workers, nurses, farmers
  - Strengthens suffrage movements



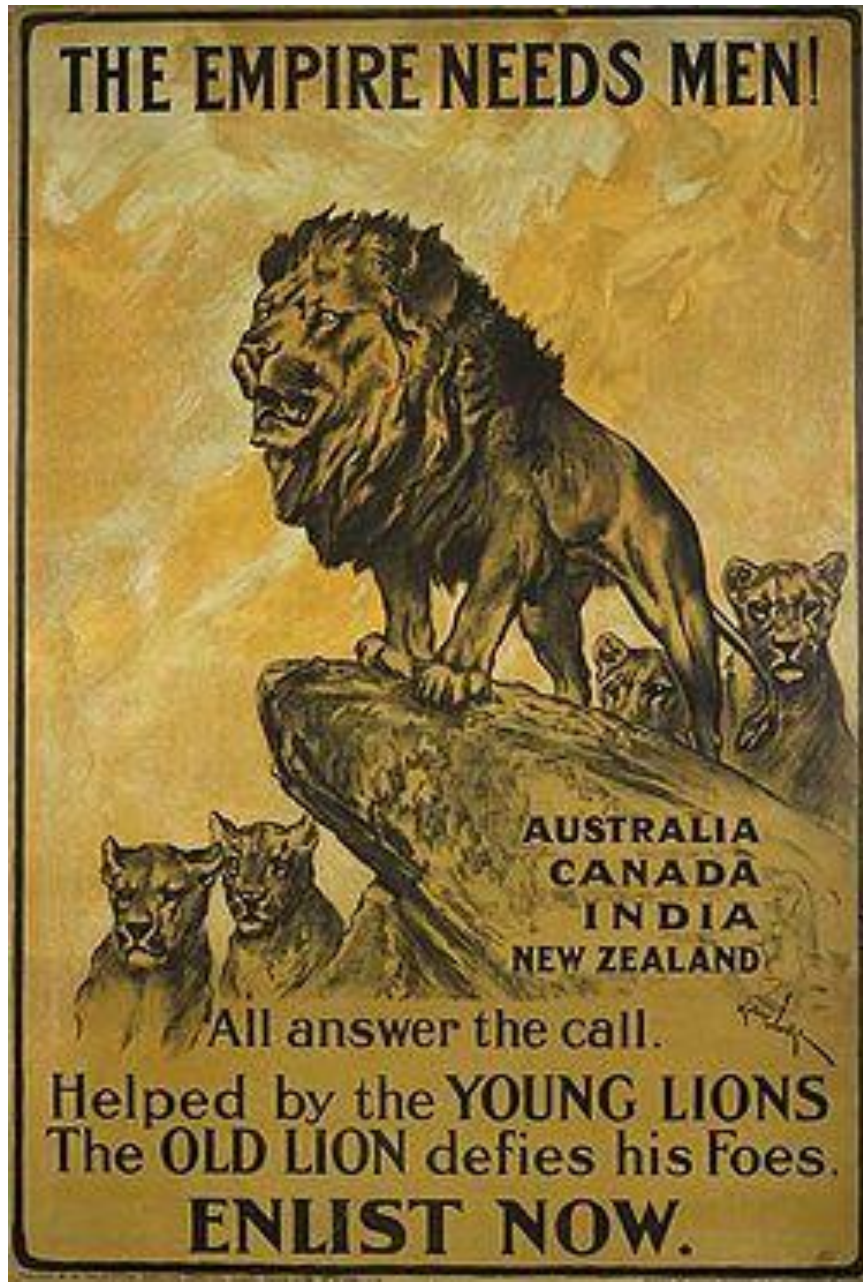


# WWI Propaganda Posters





# War Propaganda



# War Propaganda





# The Home Front

- Rationing
- Food Shortages
- Diets Change



Left: German bread ration card

Above: U.S. Food Administration propaganda posters

When World War I began in 1914, the United States remained neutral...

...But, the USA was pulled into the war by 1917

As a neutral nation, the USA was trading with the Allies during the war

Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare led to attacks on U.S. merchant ships & British passenger ships

Americans were outraged in May 1915 when a German u-boat sank the British ship Lusitania killing 1,200 people including 128 Americans



America's anger with Germany increased in 1917 after the discovery of the Zimmerman Telegram



The arrival of millions of American soldiers in 1918 gave a boost the Allies

But in November 1917, Russia signed a peace & exited the war

## World War I in Europe, 1914-1918

INTERACTIVE

Interactive Fea

- Allied countries
- Central Powers
- Neutral countries
- Central Powers advance
- Allied advance
- Farthest Central Powers advance
- Farthest Allied advance
- Central Powers victory
- Allied victory
- Armistice Line, Nov. 1918





EXTRA The Chicago Daily Tribune. FINAL EDITION

# GREAT WAR ENDS

Washington, D. C., Nov. 11, 3 A. M. (By Associated Press.)—Armistice terms have been signed by Germany, the State department announced at 2:45 o'clock this morning.

The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight.



On November 11, 1918 Germany agreed to an armistice (ceasefire) & World War I finally came to an end

World War I was the largest, most deadly, & most destructive war the world had yet seen

Homes, farms, towns were destroyed; The war cost \$338 billion & most national treasuries were empty





# Legacies of the Great War

1. The war left widespread disillusionment among intellectuals in its wake
  - a. led to questioning of Enlightenment values
  - b. led to questioning of the superiority of the West and its science
2. New states in central Europe
  - a. creation of independent Poland , Czechoslovakia , Yugoslavia
  - b. created new problems of ethnic minorities
  - c. triggered the Russian Revolution (1917)



3. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) made the conditions that caused World War II

## The Treaty of Versailles: Major Provisions

League of Nations	Territorial Losses	Military Restrictions	War Guilt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International peace organization; membership to include Allied war powers and 32 Allied and neutral nations</li> <li>Germany and Russia excluded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany returns Alsace-Lorraine to France; French border extended to the west bank of the Rhine River</li> <li>Germany surrenders all of its overseas colonies in Africa and the Pacific</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limits set on the size of the German army</li> <li>Germany prohibited from importing or manufacturing weapons or war materiel</li> <li>Germany forbidden to build or buy submarines or have an air force</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sole responsibility for the war placed on Germany's shoulders</li> <li>Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 billion in reparations over 30 years</li> </ul>

# Legacies of the Great War

4. Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire
  - a. **the Armenian genocide**
  - b. creation of new Arab states
  - c. British promises to both Arabs and Jews created a new problem in Palestine
5. **In Asia and Africa , many gained military skills and political awareness**
  - a. Britain promised to start the process of creating self-government in India in return for war help
  - b. Japan was strengthened by the war
  - c. Japan 's assumption of German privileges and territory in China inspired some Chinese to adopt Soviet-style communism
6. The United States appeared as a global power
  - a. U.S. manpower had been important in the defeat of Germany
  - b. the United States became Europe 's creditor
  - c. many Europeans were fascinated by Woodrow Wilson's idealistic vision (Fourteen Points, League of Nations ), but it largely failed. No US support.



# President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, 1918

---

Points 1-5: Wilson hoped to eliminate the causes of WWI & called for an end to secret treaties (alliances), freedom of the seas, eliminating imperial colonies, & reducing national militaries

Points 6-13: Wilson suggested changing national boundaries, creating new nations, & allowing self-determination so that the people of each nation could decide their own form of government

Point 14: Wilson wanted a League of Nations...

# The Mandate System

- Territories set up as trusteeships
- Many of the Arab territories of the Ottoman Empire and Germany's former colonies



- Violated promises made to Arabs by France and Britain
- Jewish nationalists saw this as a violation of Balfour Declaration
- Turkey negotiated a new Turkish republic
- Rest of Ottoman empire divided up as mandates of League of Nations
- Iran and Saudi Arabia asserted control over their lands
- Result? A fragmented Middle East and a legacy of resentment toward the West



# Problems With the League of Nations

- Acceptance of the League was a 'marker event'; signaled a new type of international organization
- Wilson saw the League as a power to avoid war
- Problems include:
  - No power to enforce decisions
  - Collective security meant that others were bound to supply aid
  - Wilson tried to get support in the US; suffered a stroke and the US didn't sign Versailles Treaty or join League
  - Germany and Japan saw League as serving interests of the Allies and withdrew
- League unable to stop the onset of WWII and collapse but set the precedent for the UN

# 1918-1919 Influenza Epidemic- The Spanish Flu

- One of the most devastating outbreaks of disease in modern times
- Infected an estimated **500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet’s population at the time.**
- Mass movement during World War I spread the flu around the world
  - Spread to the trenches of the Great War
- “Spanish” flu kills 30 million people worldwide