

# Unit 9: World War One



# Notes: World War One

- ▶ WWI lasted from 1914-1918
- ▶ Involved all the major powers of the world

Central Powers	Entente (or Allies)
Germany	France
Austro-Hungary	Russia
Ottoman Empire	Britain
	Serbia
	Italy (in 1915)
	America (in 1917)
	Japan and China
	Others



# Notes: World War One

- ▶ The Entente wins (spoilers)
- ▶ But no one really gained anything
- ▶ Millions died for nothing
- ▶ Cynicism became one of the dominant ways to view the world
- ▶ And World War 2 comes just 20 years later



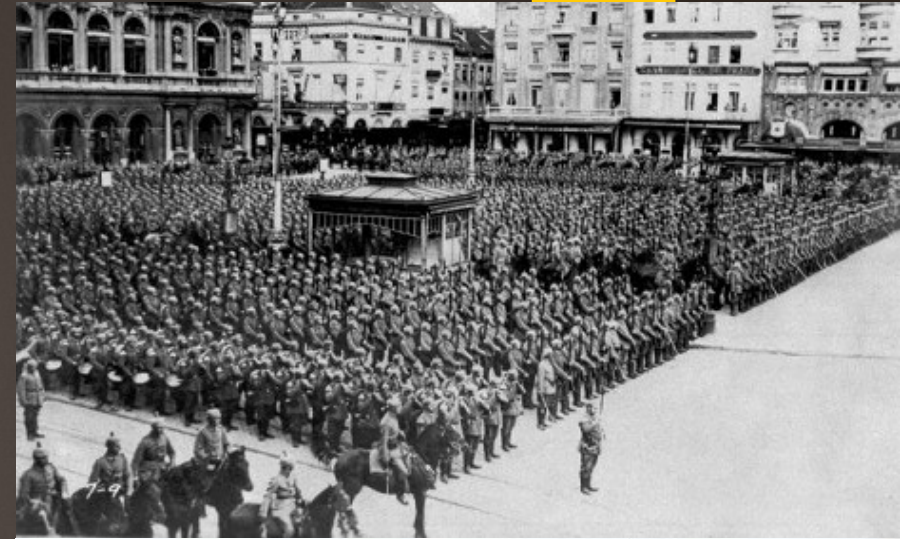
# Background: Modern Europe

- ▶ By 1914, most of Europe had industrialized, though the east lagged behind.
- ▶ Europe had not had a major war since 1871, even while their empires carved up the rest of the world.
- ▶ Nationalism had been building since 1815 and now the people of each nation deeply hated and feared their rival nations.



# Growing Armies

- ▶ While wars were infrequent, militaries were growing.
- ▶ New weapons like machine guns, heavy artillery, battle ships, cars, barbed wire had all been invented since the last war.
- ▶ Armies now numbered millions of soldiers. Most had grown 10x in the last century



# Alliances

- ▶ Europe's peace was built on a delicate balance of power.
- ▶ That balance had been broken by the unification of Germany in 1871
- ▶ Fear of Germany drove France, Russia, and Britain to join together in an alliance against it.
- ▶ Germany had allied to Austro-Hungary in response.



# Notes: Meet the Gang



# Meet the Gang: Germany

- ▶ Germany was 39 different states before 1871.
- ▶ Now it was the most powerful state in Europe.
- ▶ Germany was ruled by the Kaiser Wilhelm II, who was loud and militaristic.
- ▶ Germany felt that it should be recognized as the great state of Europe.





# Meet the Gang: France

- ▶ France had been defeated by Germany in 1870 and two of its provinces, Alsace-Lorraine, were taken by Germany.
- ▶ France was obsessed with gaining them back.
- ▶ So even while France was a democracy, there was an enormous amount of French militarism.



# Meet the Gang: Britain

- ▶ Britain ruled the largest empire to EVER exist.
- ▶ Britain is an island and liked to pretend it wasn't part of Europe.
- ▶ It could do this because it had the largest fleet in the world.
- ▶ Germany's stated goal to build the greatest fleet on Earth deeply troubled Britain



# Meet the Gang: Austro-Hungary

- ▶ Austro-Hungary was an old empire. It was not nationalistic and in fact contained over a dozen nations, all ruled by the German Austrians.
- ▶ Austro-Hungary was being ripped apart by nationalism amongst its Slavic population.
- ▶ Only the brutal repression of its imperial government kept it from falling apart.



# Meet the Gang: Russia

- ▶ Russia was a gigantic country.
- ▶ Barely industrial, mostly agricultural.
- ▶ Ruled by a brutal, autocratic government.
- ▶ Had an enormous population. Not even its own government knew how many but over 100 million.
- ▶ Wanted to gain more European territory.



# Meet the Gang: Balkans

- ▶ The Balkans were new countries.
- ▶ They had been freed from the Ottoman Empire by war.
- ▶ Unlike the rest of Europe, the Balkans were dominated by wars, terrorism, and other political violence.
- ▶ Austro-Hungary and Russia both thought they should be in charge of the Balkans.
- ▶ Many Balkan people envisioned a world where they were free of the Empires for good.

