

# World War I

# Alliance Re-cap

- Austria-Hungary vs. Serbia
- Russia vs. Austria-Hungary
- Germany vs. Russia
- France vs. Germany
- Britain vs. Germany

# *“The Great War”*

- Thus, what began as a local crisis in Sarajevo exploded into a major world war!
- Most Europeans thought the war would not last long
  - They were mistaken and realized as the war dragged on for 4 years.
    - Sound familiar?
- Originally, this historical event was called “The Great War” – later becoming known as World War I.

# *Alliances of WWI*

## **Central Powers**

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy
- Ottoman Empire

## **Allied Powers**

- France
- Britain
- Russia
- \*In time, 21 other nations joined the Allied Powers.

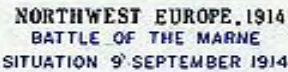
# *Germany's Plan for Winning the War*

- Germany's plan for winning the war involved **two** steps:
  - 1.A quick attack to defeat France in the West.
  - 2.Then, turn all of their attention to “The Giant”, Russia in the East.

# *Battle of the Marne*

- September 1914
  - German forces had moved into France
  - At the **Marne River** French and British troops slowed the German advance.
- The **Battle of the Marne** ended German hopes for a speedy victory in France!

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# *Stalemate*

- November 1914
  - The war had reached a stalemate (neither side could gain an advantage to defeat the other).
- During the next 3 years, huge battles were fought, however, neither side gained much territory.
  - Battles resulted in the gaining or losing of feet rather than miles.

# *Trench Warfare*

- Both sides dug trenches that were protected by mines and barbed wire.
- Some trenches were shallow, others were elaborate tunnels that served as headquarters and first aid stations.
- Between the front-line trenches of each side lay *“no man’s land”*.
  - This area was a wasteland of barbed wire and deadly land mines.

# Trench Warfare

- In trench warfare, soldiers spent day after day firing at the enemy.
- Then, officers would order troops “Over the Top”. Soldiers crawled out of their trenches and raced across the field to attack the enemy.
- Most offenses, however, resulted in many casualties, but gained little territory.

“Over the Top”



GO OVER THE TOP WITH



U.S. MARINES

# *Battle of Verdun (1916)*

- In the **Battle of Verdun**, which lasted 10 months, the Germans lost about 400,000 men trying to overcome French lines.
- The French lost even more men in trying to defend their positions.



# *The Eastern Front*

- Stalemate and trench warfare did not help the events that were taking place on the Eastern Front (Russia).
- There, the armies of Germany and Austria-Hungary faced off against the Russians and Serbians.
- By mid-1916, the Russians had lost over 1,000,000 soldiers!
  - Yet neither side could win a decisive victory.

# *American Neutrality*

- When World War I began, President Woodrow Wilson was determined to keep the United States neutral.
- Public opinion, as to whether or not to get involved in the war was split.

# *Split American Opinion*

Pro



Con



# *Affects of the War on the U.S.*

- The war had several immediate effects on the U.S.
- The biggest was our economy boomed!
  - Both the Allies and the Central Powers needed supplies (food, weapons, etc.)
  - American farmers and manufacturers rushed to fill orders.

# *United States No Longer Neutral*

- By 1917, the U.S. was sending larger amounts of supplies to the Allies.
  - 7x more than to the Central Powers.
- To many, this meant that the U.S. was no longer neutral in the war!