

# *World War I*

Notes #4

## *Tensions in the U.S.*

- The war eventually led to some tensions in the U.S. – in particular, between “blacks” and “whites”.
- During the war, many blacks began to move from the South into the North for higher paying jobs and better living conditions.
- As a result, in the North, blacks ran into a lot of prejudice and racial violence.

## *Racial Violence*

- In 1917, 39 African Americans were killed during a riot in East St. Louis, Illinois.
- Nearly 100,000 Mexicans entered the U.S. to work on farms while the war was being fought. After the war, Americans tried to force them to return to Mexico!
- Attacks on German-Americans took place during the war as well.

# *Pacifists*

- Not all Americans were in favor of the U.S. fighting in the war – **Pacifists** were people who refused to fight in any war.
- To encourage unity, Congress passed laws making it a crime to criticize the government or interfere with the war.
- Some questioned whether or not these laws violated the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech.

# *American Troops Arrive in France*

- In June 1917, the first American troops arrived in Europe.
- They saw for themselves the desperate situation the Allied Forces were in!
- The Allies had lost millions of soldiers, and the trenches were filled with exhausted and ill troops who were near starvation.

# *Bolshevik Revolution (Russia)*

- To make matters in Europe worse, Russia withdrew from the war in November 1917.
- In Russia, the **Bolsheviks**, led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, seized control of the government. The Bolsheviks wanted to bring a communist government to Russia.
- Lenin embraced the ideas of Karl Marx, a German thinker of the 1800s.

# *The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk*

- Once in power, Lenin opened peace talks with Germany.
- In March 1918, Russia and Germany signed the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.**
- The Allies saw the treaty as an act of betrayal!

## *Germans Close in on France*

- As a result of the treaty with Russia, the Germans could now move their armies from the Russian front into France.
- In March 1918, Germany began an “all out” attack on the Allies.



# *Battle of Amiens*

- By March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Germans had closed in on the French town of Amiens.
- For two weeks, 6,000 Germans blasted the city with cannons.
- The Germans also continued with offensives elsewhere.
- By late May, the Germans were within 50 miles of Paris, the capital city of France.