

Americans in World War I

1. What shape were the Allies in when US forces started to arrive in 1917?
2. What is the American Expeditionary Force?
3. Who was in charge of the US troops?
4. Why did Pershing refuse to send US troops to the front lines immediately?
5. Why did Russia back out of the war?
6. What is a communist?
7. Who led the Bolshevik Revolution?
8. How did Russia back out of the war?
9. How were the Allies affected when Russia stopped fighting?
10. How close did Germany get to Paris before US troops arrived?
11. List places where US forces helped to achieve victory.
12. Who is Alvin York?
13. Describe the significance of the "Harlem Hellfighters."
14. Discuss several factors that led to Germany calling for an armistice.
15. When is Armistice Day?

Establishing Peace

1. What was the total estimated death count at the end of the war?
2. What was the total estimated wounded count at the end of the war?
3. What percentage of France's healthy working class was decimated by the war?
4. What were the American casualties of this war?
5. Describe the economic cost of World War I on both sides in Europe.
6. Describe the devastation of the Influenza Epidemic in 1918.
7. What was Wilson's Fourteen Points?
8. What was the League of Nations?
9. Who were the Big Four at Versailles?
10. What are reparations? What did Germany have to pay the allies?
11. What seven nations were created/restored after World War I from the Treaty of Versailles?
12. Why did the US Senate not accept the Treaty of Versailles?
13. Copy down the Cause and Effects of World War I chart. (p. 739)

Americans in World War I

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. American soldiers started to arrive in Europe in 1917.
2. The Americans helped the Allies win the war.
3. Germany agreed to an armistice after suffering heavy losses.

The Big Idea

American troops helped the Allies achieve victory in World War I.

Key Terms and People

American Expeditionary Force, p. 730

Communists, p. 731

armistice, p. 734



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the achievements and victories of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF).

If YOU were there...

It is April 1918. You are marching into Paris with your army unit on your way to the front lines. Women and children throw flowers from windows and balconies as you pass through the city. You want to do whatever it takes to defend this city and its residents. You know that defeating Germany will be difficult and very dangerous.

Do you think American forces can help the Allies win the war?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Preparations for war helped make the United States a strong military power. By 1918 nearly 5 million Americans were serving in the army, navy, and marine corps. While this huge armed force was being trained, however, the fighting in Europe was going badly for the Allies. French and British leaders were eager for help from America.

American Soldiers Arrive

By the time U.S. troops started to arrive in Europe in 1917, the Allies were dangerously near defeat. German forces were advancing in France, once again driving toward Paris. The German navy was destroying Allied ships at sea. And on the eastern front, the Russians were desperately struggling to hold back the Germans.

Joining the Fight

French and British generals called for immediate help on the front lines. They wanted the U.S. troops, known as the **American Expeditionary Force (AEF)**, to join French and British units. But General John J. Pershing, leader of the American troops, insisted that the Americans join the fight as a separate force. He refused to have the AEF "scattered among the Allied forces where it will not be an American army at all."

Pershing also demanded that his troops be thoroughly trained for combat before rushing to the front lines. The AEF included

many well-trained regular army and National Guard troops. But it also included a large number of inexperienced volunteers and draftees. Pershing gave the men three months of intense training in army discipline and trench warfare. He believed that taking the time to train his soldiers would help the Allies achieve victory.

Russia Leaves the War

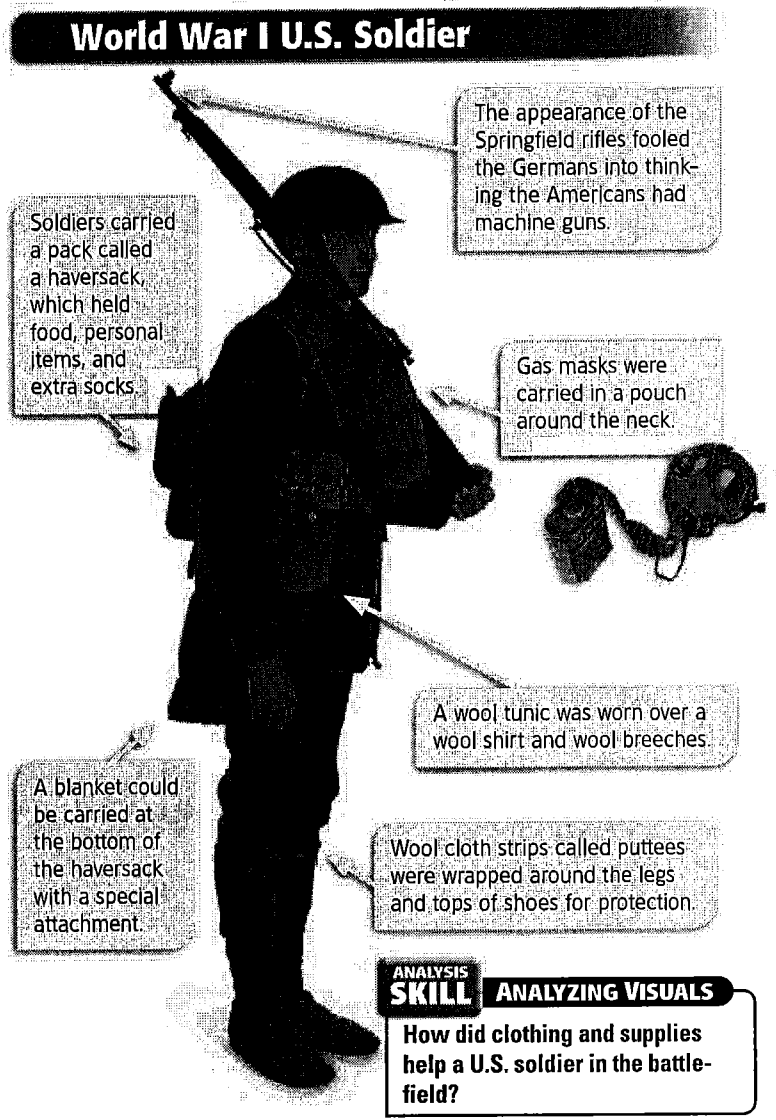
While Pershing trained his troops, the Allies' position became even more dangerous. In November 1917 a group of Russians called the Bolsheviks overthrew the Russian government and seized power. The Bolsheviks were **Communists**—people who favor the equal distribution of wealth and the end of all forms of private property.

Led by Vladimir Lenin, the new Russian government faced a desperate situation. Around 8 million Russians had been killed or wounded during the war. Soldiers were deserting from the eastern front, and sailors were leaving naval bases. Food riots raged in the cities. The Russians could not keep fighting under these conditions. In March 1918 Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, a peace agreement with the Central Powers. A civil war then broke out in Russia between the Communists and forces loyal to the czar (ZAR), Russia's emperor. The United States and other Allied countries sent aid to the czarist forces. Russia, however, one of the main Allied Powers, was out of World War I.

READING CHECK Drawing Inferences Why do you think General Pershing refused to put American troops in foreign units?

Winning the War

With Russia out of the fighting, German generals saw a chance to win the war. In the spring of 1918 Germany transferred many of its divisions of troops from the eastern front to the western front. Germany planned to smash the stalemate.



The Final Battles

At the same time, American soldiers arrived. Even training had not prepared them for the realities of war. The troops lived on dried beef, hard biscuits, and canned emergency rations. The men shared the trenches with rats, lice, and sometimes the bodies of dead soldiers. A soldiers' song of the time described the situation:

“Sing me to sleep where bullets fall,
Let me forget the war and all;
Damp is my dug-out [trench], cold my feet,
Nothing but bully [canned meat] and biscuits
to eat.”

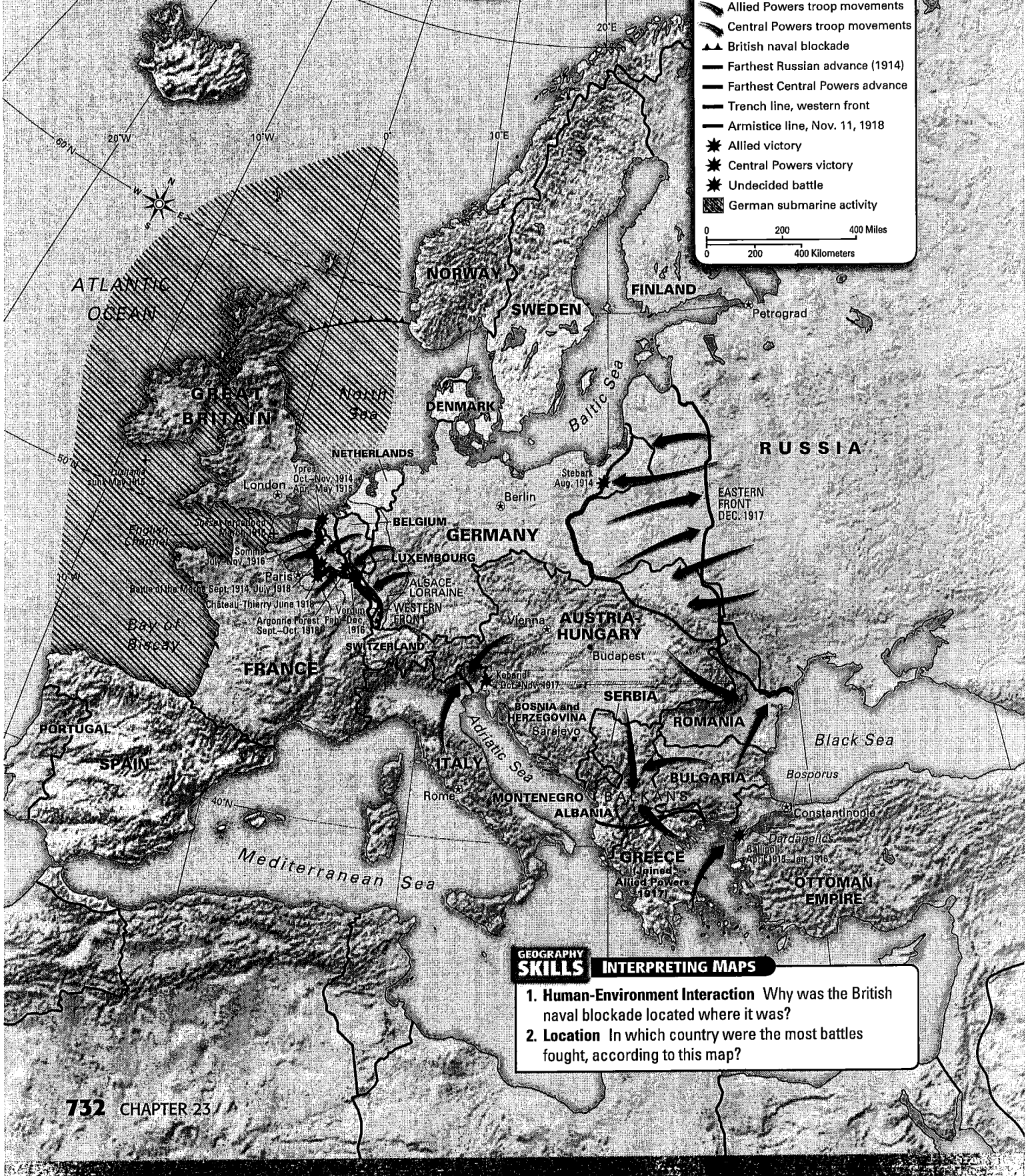
—Quoted in *Great Push: An Episode of the Great War*, by Patrick MacGill

World War I, 1914-1918



- Allied Powers, 1916
- Central Powers, 1916
- Neutral Countries
- Allied Powers troop movements
- Central Powers troop movements
- British naval blockade
- Farthest Russian advance (1914)
- Farthest Central Powers advance
- Trench line, western front
- Armistice line, Nov. 11, 1918
- Allied victory
- Central Powers victory
- Undecided battle
- German submarine activity

0 200 400 Miles
0 200 400 Kilometers



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

1. **Human-Environment Interaction** Why was the British naval blockade located where it was?
2. **Location** In which country were the most battles fought, according to this map?

On March 21, 1918, the Germans began blasting more than 6,000 heavy guns at Allied troops along the Somme River in northern France. German forces drove 40 miles into Allied lines before the advance stalled. Some 250,000 Germans had been killed or wounded. British and French casualties totaled 133,000.

The Germans then attacked farther south, advancing to the Marne River and pushing the French line back toward Paris. At this critical moment, General Pershing promised Allied commander Ferdinand Foch: "Infantry, artillery, aviation—all that we have . . . The American people would be proud to be engaged in the greatest battle of history." Two divisions of the AEF joined French forces.

The Germans were unprepared for the fresh energy and fighting skills of the Americans. The U.S. soldiers succeeded in stopping the German advance less than 50 miles from Paris. Then, at Belleau Wood, the Allies attacked and gradually drove the Germans back.

German generals became desperate. In July 1918 they launched their final offensive—one last attempt to cross the Marne River. Terrible losses on the German side stopped the German offensive and protected Paris from invasion. Although they suffered about 12,000 casualties, American troops had helped force a major turning point in the war.

Driving the Germans Back

Now the Allies drove toward victory. There were more than 1 million U.S. troops in France, and they played a key role in the later battles of the war. In September 1918 Allied forces attacked and defeated the Germans at the town of Saint-Mihiel on the border of France and Germany. Along the Meuse River and in the Argonne Forest, near the French-Belgian border, American and Allied troops again attacked German forces.

Among the many heroes of these battles was a young man from Tennessee named Alvin York. In October 1918 York killed 25 German gunners and captured 132 prisoners. His heroism earned him fame and many

awards, including the Congressional Medal of Honor. His life story even became the basis for a popular movie in 1941.

Also among the brave American troops were the African American soldiers of the 369th Infantry. Known as the Harlem Hellfighters, the 369th spent more time in combat than any other American unit. Its members were the first to reach the Rhine River on the German border. France awarded them the prized Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) medal for their bravery.

The Allies were also winning the war at sea. Allied war planners used a new **strategy** called the convoy system to protect their ships. This meant that destroyers capable of sinking U-boats escorted and protected groups of Allied merchant ships.

By November 1918, American soldiers were making rapid advances toward Germany. "For the first time the enemy lines were completely broken through," reported General Pershing.

READING CHECK Sequencing Identify significant events leading to the turning of the tide in the war.

Armistice

At home and on the battlefield, Germans were tired of war. Food was so scarce in Germany that more than 800 German civilians were dying of starvation every day. In Germany and other nations of the Central Powers, food riots and strikes occurred. Germany was also running out of soldiers. In addition to those killed or wounded in 1918, one quarter of Germany's fighting men had been captured by the Allies.

Germany's allies were also eager to end the war. Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire quit the war in the fall of 1918. Austria-Hungary reached a peace agreement with the Allies on November 3. Seeing that his country was beaten, the German leader, Kaiser Wilhelm II, gave up his throne and fled to the Netherlands.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
strategy a plan for fighting a battle or war

The 369th Infantry

The 369th Infantry spent 191 days in combat longer than any other unit in World War I. The unit was made up of African American soldiers who fought bravely in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The 369th Infantry was the first African American unit to be awarded the Croix de Guerre for its actions in World War I.

The Croix de Guerre was created by France in 1915 to reward bravery by members of the Allied armed forces—French citizens and foreigners alike.



The Germans then agreed to a cease-fire. The Allies demanded that Germany pull back from all its conquered territory. They insisted that Germany destroy its aircraft, tanks, and big guns, and surrender its U-boats. The Germans had no choice but to accept these demands to disarm. The **armistice**, or truce, went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. "At eleven o'clock everything got so quiet that the silence was nearly unbearable," remembered an American soldier. Then the silence was broken with shouts like "I've lived through the war!"

READING CHECK Analyzing How did Allied troops break the stalemate with Germany?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW America's entry into World War I helped the Allies achieve victory. In the next section, you will learn about the effort to work out a permanent peace agreement.

Section 3 Assessment

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Define** What was the **American Expeditionary Force**?
 - b. Analyze** How did the Russian Revolution change the course of the war?
 - c. Evaluate** Why did Russia leave the war?
2. **a. Analyze** How did U.S. troops make a difference in the final battles of the war?
 - b. Recall** How was the Second Battle of the Marne a turning point in the war?
3. **a. Describe** What was Germany required to surrender in the **armistice**?
 - b. Interpret** Were the terms of the armistice fair? Explain your answer.

Critical Thinking

4. **Categorizing** Review your notes on the victories of the American Expeditionary Force. Then copy

the graphic organizer below and use it to list challenges the Allies faced from 1917 to 1918. List the Allies' achievements during the same time period.

Allied Challenges	
Allied Achievements	

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

5. **Analyzing the War's Effects on Soldiers** What examples from this section could you add to your list of how World War I events affected the United States? How did American soldiers contribute to the Allied war effort? What were conditions like for American soldiers? Do you think U.S. involvement was justified?

Establishing Peace

SECTION 4

If YOU were there...

Your older brother was drafted in 1917 and sent to fight on the western front in Europe. He has written home about the terrible conditions in the trenches and the horror of seeing men killed in battle. Now the war is over. You read in the newspaper that a peace treaty is being negotiated in Paris, France.

What do you hope the peace treaty will say?

BUILDING BACKGROUND After World War I, many questions about the future remained. Who would pay for the huge costs of the war? How should defeated powers' territories be divided? How could countries work together to avoid another world war? Leaders began discussing and debating these questions.

The Costs of War

While soldiers and civilians around the world celebrated the end of World War I in November 1918, the tragedy of war was never far from people's minds. When asked what the armistice meant, one British soldier simply said, "Time to bury the dead."

War Dead

The number of soldiers killed in World War I was beyond anything the world had ever experienced. About 5 million Allied soldiers and 3.5 million soldiers from the Central Powers died in combat. More than 20 million soldiers on both sides were wounded. The war devastated an entire generation of young men in many European nations. In France, for example, 90 percent of the healthy young men had served in World War I. More than 7 out of 10 of these men were killed or wounded. While the United States escaped this extreme level of devastation, American forces did suffer heavy losses. Some 116,000 U.S. troops died, and about 200,000 were wounded.

Financial Losses

Along with the shocking human losses, the war brought financial disaster to many parts of Europe. Factories and farms were left in ruins. "For mile after mile nothing was left," said one British visitor

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The costs of war included millions of human lives as well as financial burdens.
2. President Woodrow Wilson and European leaders met to work out a peace agreement.
3. The U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles.

The Big Idea

The United States and the victorious Allied Powers clashed over postwar plans.

Key Terms and People

League of Nations, p. 737

reparations, p. 737

Treaty of Versailles, p. 738

Henry Cabot Lodge, p. 738

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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.

THE IMPACT TODAY

Today, vaccinations help prevent major outbreaks of the flu and other contagious diseases.

about the French countryside. “No building was habitable [livable] and no field fit for the plow.” With farmers unable to raise crops, severe food shortages occurred.

The overall economic cost of the war was huge. Property worth \$30 billion had been destroyed. The Allies had spent \$145 billion on the war effort, and the Central Powers had spent \$63 billion. France and Britain had borrowed large amounts of money to fight the war, and now they were deeply in debt to American banks. Germany was also in debt, and its people faced starvation.

The Influenza Epidemic

The world was in for another shock in 1918 when a worldwide epidemic of influenza, or flu, broke out. The virus was extremely contagious and deadly. Over the next two years, it spread around the world, killing

approximately 30 million people—even more than the war itself.

The epidemic started in an army training camp in Kansas. Because the flu is transmitted through the air, it spread rapidly. American soldiers unknowingly spread the disease to other army camps, to American civilians, and eventually to soldiers and civilians in Europe. One American doctor said that seeing stacks of bodies at an army camp in Massachusetts “beats any sight they ever had in France after a battle.” Half of the Americans who died during this period died from influenza.

The epidemic changed life everywhere in the United States. In Chicago, for example, the flu more than doubled the normal death rate in the fall of 1918. Many of those killed were young and strong. State and local governments took measures to prevent the spread of the disease. Kearney, Nebraska, imposed a quarantine, forbidding people who were ill from leaving their homes. Many cities banned public gatherings, including school classes. A man named Dan Tonkel remembered what life was like for children in his hometown of Goldsboro, North Carolina:

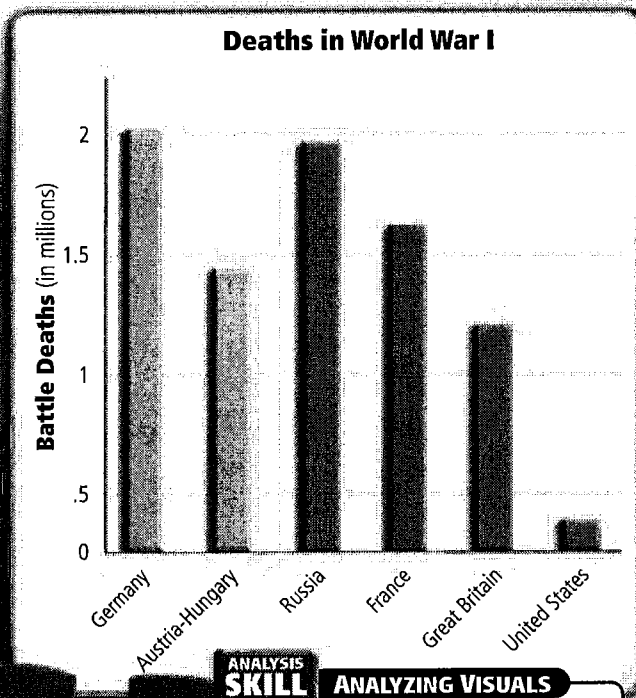
“I felt like I was walking on eggshells. I was afraid to go out, to play with my playmates, my classmates, my neighbors . . . I remember I was actually afraid to breathe. People were afraid to talk to each other. It was like—don’t breathe in my face, don’t even look at me, because you might give me germs that will kill me.”

—Dan Tonkel, quoted in *Influenza 1918: The Worst Epidemic in American History*, by Lynette Lezzoni

Although there was no cure for the flu, people would try anything. One woman surrounded her daughter with raw onions. Another remembered, “We hung bags of . . . garlic about our necks. We smelled awful, but it was okay, because everyone smelled bad.” By the time the influenza epidemic ended in 1919, it had killed 800,000 Americans at home and abroad.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What made the influenza epidemic of 1918 so deadly?

Memorials to soldiers killed in World War I, like this one at Somme, France, are located throughout Europe.



ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

Did the Allied (green) or Central Powers (yellow) have more war deaths?

The Peace Agreement

Even before the United States entered World War I, President Woodrow Wilson began making plans for a peace agreement. He was determined to do everything possible to prevent another world war. On January 8, 1918, Wilson outlined his vision for the postwar world in a plan known as the Fourteen Points.

Wilson's Fourteen Points

Wilson's Fourteen Points were a list of specific proposals for postwar peace. Several of the points would settle national border disputes. Others called for military cutbacks, proposed lower tariffs, and banned secret agreements between nations. Another proposed settlements for colonial peoples who wished to be independent. This reflected Wilson's strong belief in self-determination—the right of people to choose their own political status. The final point called for the creation of an international assembly of nations called the **League of Nations**. The League's mission would be to work to settle international disputes and encourage democracy.

European leaders disagreed with Wilson's vision for the peace settlement, wanting it to clearly punish Germany for its role in the war. They wanted to prevent Germany from ever again becoming a world power.

The Treaty of Versailles

President Wilson traveled to Europe to attend the Paris Peace Conference, which was held at the palace of Versailles (ver-sy), outside of Paris. Wilson felt it was his duty to “play my full part in making good what [our soldiers] offered their lives to obtain.”

The leaders, called the Big Four—President Wilson, British prime minister David Lloyd George, French premier Georges Clemenceau, and Italian prime minister Vittorio Orlando—took control of the conference. No representatives from Russia or the Central Powers attended.

BIOGRAPHY

Woodrow Wilson

1856–1924

Woodrow Wilson was born in Virginia in 1856. The terrible destruction he saw as a child during the Civil War would later influence his response to World War I. As president, he backed reforms such as child-labor restrictions and an eight-hour workday for railroad workers. Although he eventually abandoned American neutrality during World War I, Wilson was committed to world peace after the war. For his role in helping found the League of Nations, Wilson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919.

Making Inferences How did Wilson's childhood experiences affect his reaction to World War I?



Key Goals of the Fourteen Points

QUICK FACTS

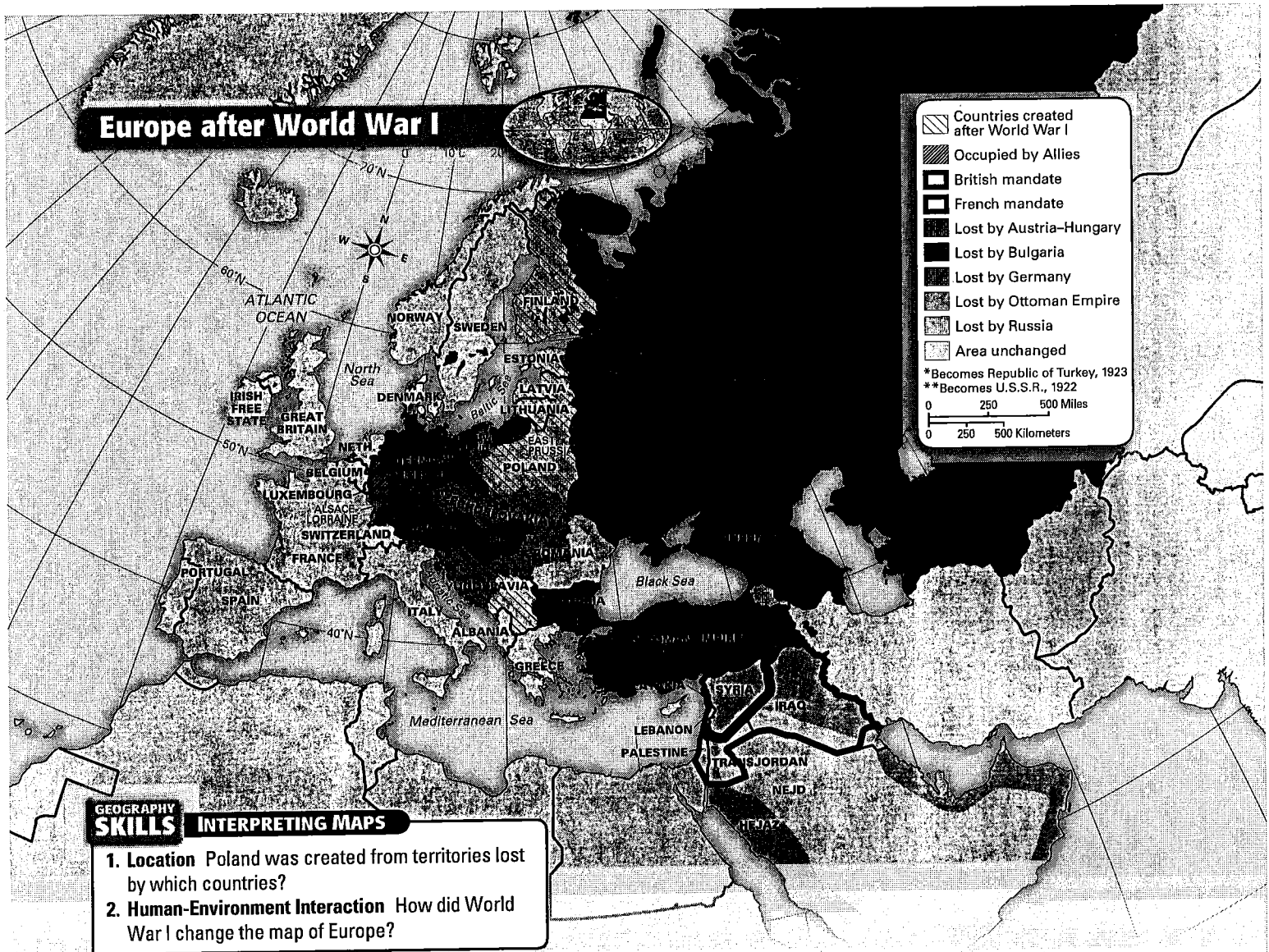
- End secret alliances
- Encourage free shipping
- Remove barriers to trade
- Reduce armies and navies
- Resolve colonial claims
- Support the right of people to choose their own government
- Settle border disputes
- Establish the League of Nations

Many Allied leaders defended their own country's interests and insisted on severe punishment for Germany. They wanted Germany to accept complete blame for the war and pay for the damage it had caused. These **reparations**, or payments for war damages, were set at \$33 billion. France and the other Allies also wanted to take control of large parts of German territory.

H
HISTORY

VIDEO
The Treaty of Versailles

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GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Location** Poland was created from territories lost by which countries?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** How did World War I change the map of Europe?

Wilson reluctantly agreed to the **Treaty of Versailles**, the peace settlement of World War I. In it, the League of Nations was established. Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia became independent countries. Poland was restored as a nation. The Central Powers turned over their colonies to the League of Nations, which assigned other European powers to rule. Though the Treaty of Versailles did not give Wilson everything he wanted, he hoped the League of Nations would solve remaining problems.

READING CHECK Identifying Points of View

Why did Allied leaders object to Wilson's plan?

Versailles Treaty Rejected

The U.S. Constitution states that treaties must be ratified by at least two-thirds of the members of the Senate. Wilson knew he was going to have a hard time convincing some senators to vote to ratify the Versailles Treaty. Republican senator **Henry Cabot Lodge** declared: "No peace that satisfied Germany in any degree can ever satisfy us." Lodge wanted the winners to set the terms of the peace.

Republicans insisted on changes to the treaty before they would ratify it. Their main objection was the League of Nations' power to use military force. They were worried that as a member of the League, the United States

could be forced to send troops to war based on decisions made by the League of Nations. This, they argued, conflicted with Congress's constitutional power to declare war.

Wilson refused to compromise. He insisted that the treaty be ratified exactly as it was written. He traveled around the country, trying to convince the public to pressure Republican senators to vote for the treaty. Before he completed his tour, however, Wilson was weakened by a stroke.

Lodge announced that he was prepared to accept most of the treaty, though he still wanted to limit U.S. military commitment to the League of Nations. Wilson demanded that Democrats in the Senate refuse to change the treaty. When the vote was taken on November 19, 1919, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans would compromise. The Treaty of Versailles was defeated in the Senate.

It was a bitter disappointment for President Wilson. The United States signed separate peace treaties with Austria, Hungary, and Germany and never joined the League of Nations.

Causes and Effects of World War I

QUICK FACTS

Causes

- Nationalism
- Militarism
- Competition for territory
- Alliance system in Europe

Effects

- U.S. entry into the war in 1917
- Millions of deaths and widespread destruction in Europe
- Treaty of Versailles
- Creation of several new nations
- League of Nations

READING CHECK Supporting a Point of View

Do you think Wilson should have compromised with Republicans in the Senate on the Treaty of Versailles? Why or why not?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW World War I changed the world map and affected the lives of millions. In the next chapter you will learn about American social, political, and economic conditions after the war.

Section 4 Assessment

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Recall** Approximately how many soldiers were killed or wounded in World War I?

b. Draw Conclusions How did the war affect the European economy?

c. Summarize How did Americans try to fight the influenza epidemic of 1918?
- a. Define** What was the **League of Nations**?

b. Explain How did the **Treaty of Versailles** change the map of Europe?

c. Elaborate Which countries did not attend the Paris Peace Conference? How do you think this affected the outcome?
- a. Identify** Who was **Henry Cabot Lodge**?

b. Predict How might Wilson have ensured that the U.S. Senate would ratify the Treaty of Versailles?

Critical Thinking

- Identifying Points of View** Review your notes on the Treaty of Versailles. Then copy the graphic

organizer below and use it to compare the positions of Woodrow Wilson, Allied leaders, and Senate Republicans. Fill in the results of each person's or group's goals.

	Goals	Results
Woodrow Wilson		
Allied Leaders		
Senate Republicans		

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Analyzing the Peace** Add to your list ways the United States was affected by World War I. How many American lives were lost? What were the results of the war? Do you think U.S. involvement in the war could have been avoided? Should the United States have joined the League of Nations?