The War to End All Wars

THE BACKSTORY
1. Imperialism

“Carving up” of Africa, South America, Polynesia

No war since 1871 (Franco-Prussian War)

Old guard on European mainland is fading

Germany on the rise

2. Nationalism

Belief in cultural superiority

Unites a newly armed Germany

Divides the growing Austro-Hungarian Empire
3. Comrades in arms

Late 1800s: the rise of alliances

Parity vs. “Big Stick”

**Triple Alliance:**
Austria-Hungary, Germany, Italy

**Triple Entente:**
Great Britain, France, Russia
3. Comrades in arms

Late 1800s: the rise of alliances

Parity vs. “Big Stick”

**Triple Alliance:**
Austria-Hungary, Germany, Italy

**Triple Entente:**
Great Britain, France, Russia

Rise of **militarism**

Goal: Balance of power

Result: Escalation of tension
СА ОДНОГ МЈЕСТА
28 ЈУНА 1814 ГОДИНЕ
ГАВРИЛО ПЕТКОВИЋ
СВОЈИМ ПУШЊЕМ
ИЗРАЗИ НАРОДНИ
ПРОТИЈЕ ИМО НЕ
МЕЊАЊЕ ПОЗИЦИЈА
СА ОДНОГ МЈЕСТА
FROM THIS PLACE ON 28 JUNE 1914
GAVRilo PRINcip ASSASSINATED THE HEIR
TO THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN THRONE
FRANZ FERDINAND AND HIS WIFE SOFIA
There is no need to carry me to prison.

My life is already ebbing away. I suggest that you nail me to a cross and burn me alive. My flaming body will be a torch to light my people on their path to freedom.

Gavrilo Princip

June 28, 1914
Austria-Hungary declares war with Serbia on 28 July 1914
Germany declares war with Russia on 1 August 1914
France invaded by Germany on 2 August 1914
Germany declares war with France on 3 August 1914
Belgium is invaded by Germany on 3 August 1914
Germany declares war with Belgium on 4 August 1914
Liberia declares war with Germany on 4 August 1914
Great Britain declares war with Germany on 4 August 1914
  New Zealand enters war together with Britain on 4 August 1914
  Australia enters war together with Britain on 4 August 1914
  Canada enters war together with Britain on 4 August 1914
Montenegro declares war with Austria-Hungary on 5 August 1914…
Serbia declares war with Germany on 6 August 1914
Austria-Hungary declares war with Russia on 6 August 1914
Montenegro declares war with Germany on 8 August 1914
Great Britain declares war with Austria-Hungary on 12 August 1914
France declares war with Austria-Hungary on 12 August 1914
Japan declares war with Germany on 23 August 1914
Japan declares war with Austria-Hungary on 25 August 1914
Austria-Hungary declares war with Belgium on 28 August 1914
Murder in Sarajevo: The Fallout

Cause for caution: Serbia’s powerful ally

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia July 28

The dominoes fall

Triple Alliance: **Central Powers**
- Austria-Hungary, Germany
- Italy drops out, switches sides

Triple Entente: **Allied Powers**
- Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy…
  and just about everyone else.
The Western Front

NORTHWEST EUROPE, 1914
GERMAN WITHDRAWAL TO THE AISNE
AND STABILIZATION OF THE FRONT, 1914
The Western Front

Military border between France, Germany

Fortified with lines of troops

Establishment of *trench warfare*
“A new kind of war”

Trenches and no-man’s-land

Machine guns

400-600 rounds of ammo per minute

Artillery cannons

mustard gas, chlorine gas

birth of biological warfare
BAYER
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

We are now sending to Physicians throughout the United States literature and samples of

ASPIRIN

The substitute for the Salicylates, agreeable of taste, free from unpleasant after-effects.

HEROIN

The Sedative for Coughs,

HEROIN HYDROCHLORIDE

Its water-soluble salt.

You will have call for them. Order a supply from your jobber.

Write for literature to

FARBENFABRIKEN OF ELBERFELD CO.
40 Stone Street, New York,
SELLING AGENTS
“A new kind of war”

Trenches and **no-man’s-land**

Machine guns

- 400-600 rounds of ammo per minute

Artillery cannons

- mustard gas, chlorine gas

  - birth of biological warfare

Psychological advantages of poison gas

*Unterseeboot*

- U-Boats (submarines)
  - mostly for mercantile sabotage

Airplanes first used in combat
“A new kind of war” (cont.)

Not just German militarism…

Early tanks: “water-carriers”
rolled out by France, Britain

very hard to maneuver
equally hard to take down
A bloody stalemate

Question: Why would the U.S. even consider getting involved in this mess?
BRITONS

“WANTS YOU”

JOIN YOUR COUNTRY’S ARMY!

GOD SAVE THE KING

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LEFT BEHIND IN SERBIA

Send Money for the Women and Children to the SERBIAN RELIEF

70 Fifth Avenue
New York
Battle of Verdun

Typical of trench warfare

21 February to 18 December, 1916

among longest, bloodiest battles in history
German dead at Verdun.
Battle of Verdun

Typical of trench warfare

21 February to 18 December, 1916

among longest, bloodiest battles in history

French lost 70% of troops

Germans lost 25%

New technology: Flammenwerfer

934,000 total casualties

symbolic of French resilience
WESTERN FRONT, 1915-1916
BATTLE OF VERDUN
Situation 21 February 1916 and German Gains
Area Regained by French, October – December 1916

French troops east of this position were withdrawn back to the high ground. These acts only made changes in the line throughout the battle.
War and rhetoric

CPI: Committee on Public Information
slow climb out of isolationism
basically a propaganda machine
WAKE UP, AMERICA!

CIVILIZATION CALLS EVERY MAN WOMAN AND CHILD!
He is getting our country's signal
ARE YOU?

JOIN THE NAVY

For information apply at your nearest Recruiting Station or Navy League Headquarters.
The Greatest Mother in the World
War and rhetoric

CPI: Committee on Public Information
slow climb out of isolationism
basically a propaganda machine

Fomentation of patriotism
speeches, posters, pamphlets
wave of U.S. nationalism

Dark side of war rhetoric
Espionage Act of 1917
“Anti-Americanism” costs you $10,000, 20 years
Eugene V. Debs

Sedition Act of 1918
Mobilization

Outset: 750,000 enlisted men
not enough, even with volunteers, to help the Allies
what can you do?

May 1917: Selective Service Act
required all men 21-30 to register
nearly three million draftees
labor shortage?
QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS.

The girl behind the man behind the gun.

ENROL TO-DAY FULL PARTICULARS AND FORMS OF APPLICATION FROM THE NEAREST EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE. ASK AT POST OFFICE FOR ADDRESS.
Changes in Russia

Bolshevik Revolution, February/October 1917

brought first communist society to the world

decapitation of tsarist regime

end of private property

years-long reorganization process begins
Changes in Russia

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ends war for Soviet Union

March, 1918

A world revolution that never came