

THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE GREAT WAR

THE WAR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
FOREVER

BACKGROUND



EUROPE AFTER CONGRESS OF VIENNA - 1815

- There is no Germany – Brandenburg-Prussia and the German Confederation.
- There is no Italy – a conglomeration of independent states.
- Other states we are used to seeing don't exist.
- The Ottoman Empire controls most of Southern Europe – the “Sick man of Europe.”
- Metternich System designed to keep the crowned heads on the royal bodies.



EUROPE 1848

- Year of Revolutions – Germany, France, Austria.
- Franz Josef becomes Emperor of Austria.
- Note that the problem of the Ottoman Empire is beginning to be solved.
- Greece appears, as does Serbia and Montenegro
- Prussian King(Kaiser) refuses the Frankfurt offer to become ruler of Germany.



EUROPE 1900

- Due to revolutions Bulgaria and Romania are now independent countries.
- The problem of the Ottoman Empire's dissolution is being solved by nationalism.
- No major conflicts between the major powers over the European possessions of the Ottoman Empire.
- Franco-Prussian War in 1871 gives Germany control of Alsace and Lorraine.



EUROPE AFTER THE BALKAN WARS 1912- 1913

- Bulgaria expands.
- Serbia expands – loses Albania.
- Greece expands into Macedonia.
- Ottoman Empire's area is reduced to a small portion.
- We still have to worry about the lands in the Near East – colonialism.
- Serbia and Austria-Hungary are bitter enemies.

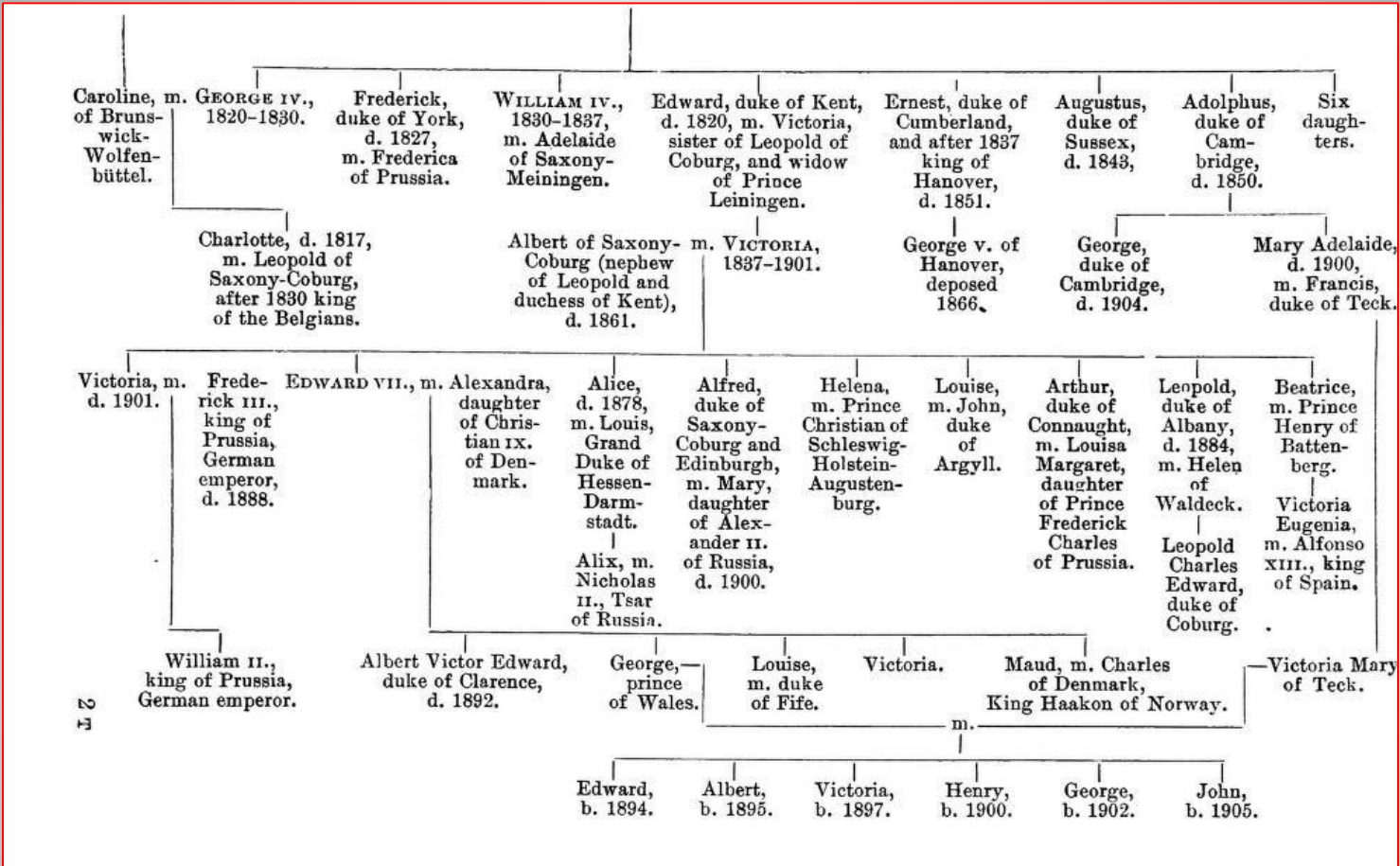


EUROPE IN 1914

- Germany now is a country.
 - Efforts of Bismarck
 - Short war with Austria.
 - Alsace and Lorraine added by the Franco-Prussian war of 1871.
- Italy is now a country. The newest one in Europe.
- Austrian Empire is now the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary.
- Belgium has its neutrality guaranteed by ALL of the major powers.

THE CAUSES

**UNSTABLE
LEADERS/GOVERNMENTS**



THE LONG REACH OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S PROGENY

- We should note the interrelationships of three of the leaders.
 - George V and Nicholas II are cousins – their mothers were sisters.
 - Nicholas is then married to Alix(Alexandra) who is related to **BOTH** George V and Wilhelm II.
- It is important in that both Nicholas and Wilhelm are, in theory, absolute rulers.
- Their relationship can affect the relationship of their two countries.

Close family ties



KING GEORGE V GREAT BRITAIN

- United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.
- Ireland is a HUGE problem
 - Centuries of repression and exploitation- Cromwell(1650)
 - Issue of Home Rule.
 - Protestant 7 Countries in the North vs the Catholic South.
 - Concern in 1914 about a civil war over the issue of Home Rule.

- Other internal problems:
 - Industrial wages
 - Working conditions
 - Women's suffrage
- Xenophobia
 - Enemies with French for hundreds of years.
 - Conflict with Russia
 - Germany – Largest trading partner; greatest economic rival.
- Protecting the Raj – India – and the Empire.



KAISER WILHELM II - GERMANY

- Due to difficult birth:
 - his left arm is permanently paralyzed.
 - Questions as to possible oxygen deprivation during birth and resulting personality defects.
- Apparently a disappointment to his father.
- Wants to be a strong, military figure.
- Conflicts with Bismarck and dismisses him in 1890
- Unlike Bismarck he wants colonies.

- Kaiser's mercurial temperament is a problem.
 - Makes sudden war-like decisions and later backs away from them.
 - Behaves much like a child – his ministers tend to ignore his early outbursts and find ways to “manage him”.
- Reinsurance Treaty error.
- Relationship with Nicholas II.



CZAR NICHOLAS II – RUSSIA



CZAR NICHOLAS AND FAMILY

- Becomes Czar when his father is assassinated.
- Married to Alexandra and is thus related by marriage to both George V and Wilhelm II.
- Resents Wilhelm's attempts to give him advice.
- Weak ruler – would have been a good clockmaker, an avocation, not a King.

- Very much in love with his wife – not necessarily true in royal marriages.
- He has four daughters and one son.
- Young Czarevitch is a hemophiliac.
- Alexandra falls under the spell of the Monk Rasputin – a thoroughly despicable character.
- Rasputin's influence is a public disaster.



**EMPEROR FRANZ JOSEF –
AUSTRIA**

- He becomes Emperor in 1848 after the uprisings in Austria.
- One historian described him as “The perfect Hapsburg – he never learned anything and he never forgot anything either”.
- He will outlive all of his sons.
- Autocratic, he sits on a powder keg.
- Austria is a polyglot empire of 10 national groups – all of whom want a country.

NATIONALISM

- Definition: Democratic belief that each nation had the right to become independent and rule itself.
- This is coupled with the illiberal insistence that non-members of the nation should assimilate, be denied civil rights, be expelled, or even be killed.
- Big question – what constitutes a “nationality”? No agreement on that.



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S ETHNIC PROBLEM



BOSNIA HERZOGOVINA

- Since the time of Peter the Great Russia has been facing West.
- As part of this there is an affinity for its fellow Slavs.
- Russia looks on itself as the successor to the Byzantine Empire.
- This is evident in the first part of the 20th Century as well.

PAN-SLAVISM AND RUSSIA

- Austrian control of Bosnia-Herzegovina began in 1878. However, it was not officially a part of Austria.
- Russia and Serbia both objected to Austrian desires to annex Bosnia.
- 1908 Austrians reach an agreement with the Russians on the annexation of Bosnia.
- Austria reneges on its part of the bargain; but the Serbs and Russians are faced with a fait accompli. Accept in 1909.

PAN-SLAVISM AND RUSSIA

- Loss of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany at the end of the Franco-Prussian War.
- Deputies leave French legislature singing the Marseillaise.
- Morocco



FRANCE

- Late comer to the colonial race.
- Wants more colonies – little room.
- Fear of increasing French and Russian strength.
- Concern over a two-front war – wants Austria-Hungary's help.
- Naval rivalry with Great Britain – Alfred Thayer Mahan.
- After 1890 want to expand influence world-wide. Drang nach Osten.

GERMANY

- Problem is all of the national groups. How do you hold the Empire together?
- Serbia and Bosnia.
- Problem of succession.
- Loss of Italy.
- Desire to control the Balkan Peninsula.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

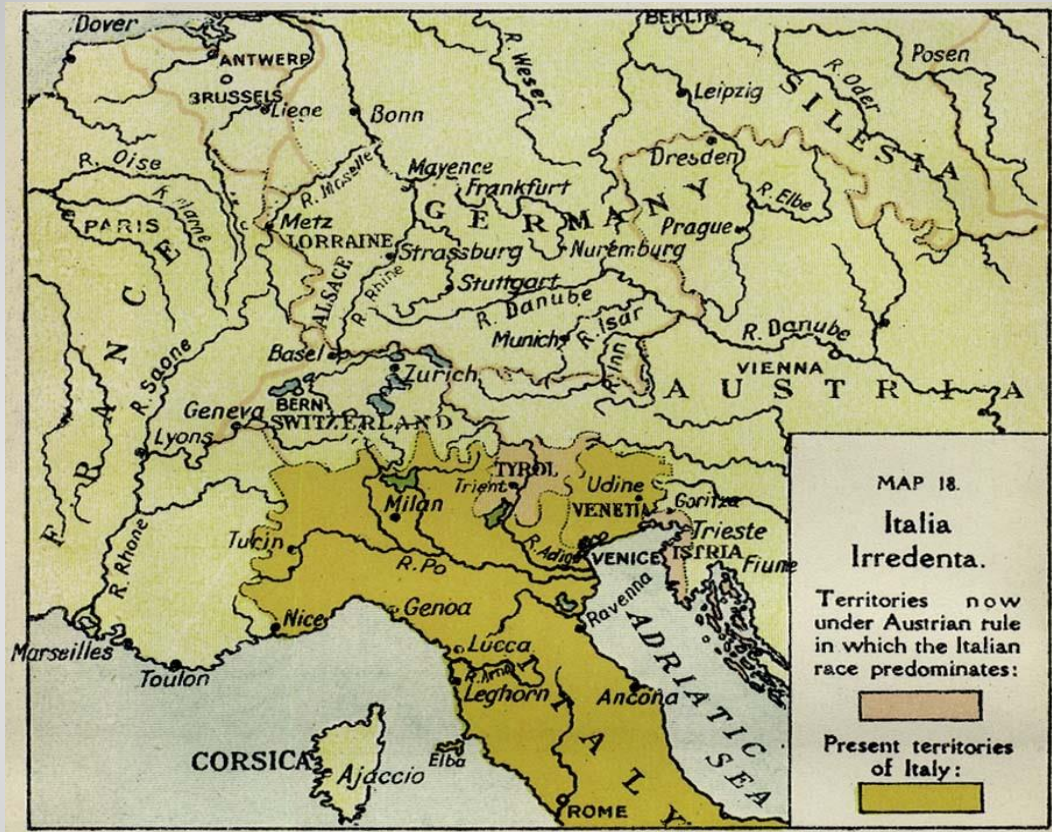


- Controls 1/4th of the world's land.
- Controls 70% of the world's subjects
- Largest and most powerful Navy in the world – Dreadnought.
- Has colonial rivalries with the French before 1890.
- Post-1890 Germany's naval challenge makes Germany primary enemy.
- Berlin-Baghdad Railroad.

GREAT BRITAIN

- Newest country.
- Wants colonies – Libya, Tunis and Tripoli-
Conflict with France.
- Italia Irridenta – Trieste, Trentio and Tyrol- leads to conflict with Austria-Hungary.
- Corrupt government, poor economy, less industrialized.

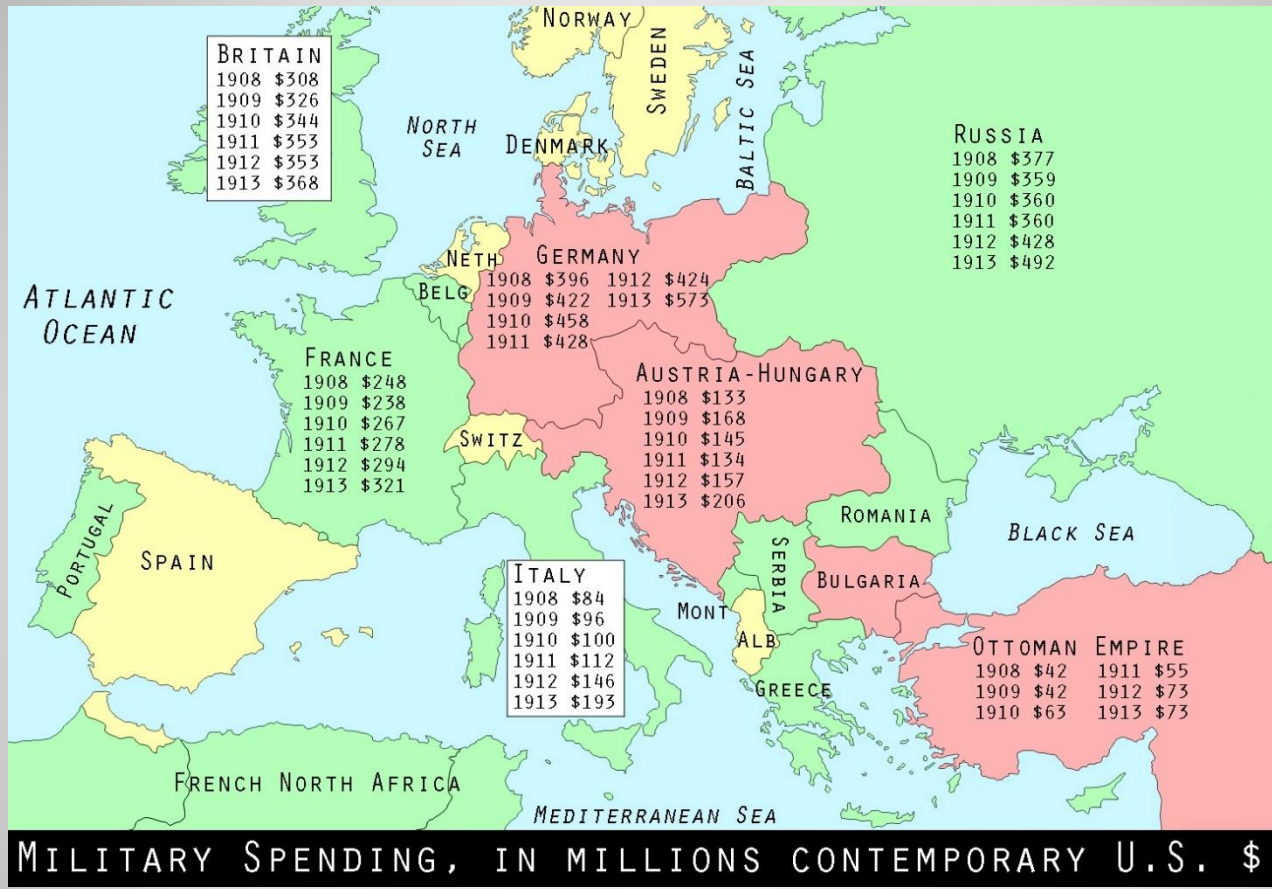
ITALY



ITALIA IRREDENTA

ARMS RACE

COUNTRY	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
GR BRITAIN	374.2	349.9	345.1	330.4	306.2	286.7
FRANCE	363.8	307.8	277.9	248.0	236.4	216.0
GERMA NY	463.6	331.5	303.9	301.5	306.8	286.7
ITALY	142.2	158.4	133.7	124.9	115.8	87.5
RUSSIA	435.0	387.0	334.5	324.0	315.5	291.6
TOTAL GREAT EUR PWRS	1778.51	1534.6	1395.1	1328.8	1280.7	1168.5
REST OF EUR	515.0	455.0	404.6	385.3	371.4	338.9
WORLD	2907.3	2545.7	2318.1	2212.4	2141.5	1969.4



ARMS RACE

ALLIANCE SYSTEM

- League of the Three Emperors(1872) – Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia.
 - Keep the existing territorial arrangements.
 - Resist socialism
 - Mutual consultation
- Congress of Berlin(1878-9) – the Dual Alliance – Germany and Austria-Hungary
 - Treaty of San Stefano.
 - Germany sides with Austria
 - Russia feels betrayed

- Second League of the Three Emperors(1881)
 - Balkans spheres of influence
 - Consultation on any Balkan crisis
 - Neutrality if any power at war with a 4th power.
- Triple Alliance(1882)- Italy, Austria, Germany
 - If Italy or Germany attacked by France
 - If Austria attacked by Russia
 - If one attacked by 2 or more powers
 - What about England?

- Reinsurance Treaty(1887)
 - League of Three Emperors collapses over Balkans.
 - Russia and Germany will remain neutral if involved in a war with a third power.
 - Exception – Germany attacks France OR Russia attacks Austria-Hungary.
 - Bismarck is keeping England as a friend.
 - Lapses by Wilhelm's choice.

- Franco-Russian Alliance(1893)
 - Each defend the other if attacked by Germany and her allies, Italy and Austria-Hungary.
 - If one of members of Triple Alliance mobilized they would mobilize to help ea other – automatically.
 - In effect as long as there is a Triple Alliance.
 - France no longer isolated & Germany faces a two front war.
 - Britain feels isolated – moves to get Allies.

- Britain – no alliance with Germany.
- Anglo-Japanese Alliance(1902).
 - Ends Britain's isolation.
 - Japan to check Russian expansion in Far East.
- Entente Cordiale(1904)
 - Britain turns to France for European ally.
 - Angers Germany.
- Anglo-Russian Entente(1907)
- Now have the Allied Powers and the Central Powers.

- Alliances were made in secret and leads to distrust and suspicion among European powers.
- They were made on a war footing and heightened the war tension – arms race.
- By 1910 the alliances had gone from defense to offense. Germany to aid Austria if Austria invades Serbia and Russia comes to Serbia's aid.
- Small dispute between any two could lead to a major conflict.
- Germany now feels "encircled" – Wilhelm MORE aggressive in foreign policy.

ALLIANCE PROBLEM

THE FINAL PIECE TO THE PUZZLE

“If the Europe goes to war it will be over some damn silly thing in the Balkans”- Bismarck

- Black Hand – Serbian secret military society formed by junior Serbian army officers to unite all Serbs.
- Narodna Obrana – founded by Serbian officers and politicians to unite all Serbs and to carry out guerilla attacks in Austrian territory.
- Bosnian version is “Young Bosnia”.

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand is the heir to the Austrian throne.
 - Liked by Wilhelm
 - Not popular in Austria.
 - Marries Sophie, daughter of a minor Austrian noble, despite Franz Josef's objections.
 - Has some sympathies for the Bosnian problem.
- He plans a "goodwill" trip with Sophie to Sarajevo for the end of June 28, 1914.
- Here is where everything gets confusing.

- What is clear
 - With Serbian help Bosnian assassins are smuggled over the border from Serbia to Bosnia.
 - The plan has three people who are assigned to kill the royal couple.
 - The first one fails. Bomb that kills 20 people.
 - The third shoots the royal couple. Both will eventually die.
 - Requests by Austria and Germany to Russia to get an investigation are rebuffed.



**GAVRILO PRINCIP – THE
ASSASSIN**

- Many questions as to how high in the Serbian government was this plot known.
- Problem is the destruction or modification of many contemporary accounts.
- Austria will use the attack as a pretext to go to war with Serbia. Expectations are for a quick Austrian victory.
- Austria, while not terribly grief-stricken by the royal couples death, sends an ultimatum to Serbia.

EUROPE MARCHES TO WAR

- Austria wants to punish Serbia. Need Germany's backing. Debate from June 29th to July 1st.
- July 1, Austria receives an indication that Germany will back them.
- July 5 – Wilhelm II voices support for Austrian action; but wants to consult with Chancellor Bethman Hollweg.
- July 6 Austrians meet with Germans and get the “blank check” commitment.

AUSTRIAN REACTION

- July 7 Austrians meet to draft their course of action. July 8 report to the Emperor.
- Russia's ambassador to Serbia dies of a heart attack.
- All of Germany's General Staff, both Army and Navy, in favor of Austria's attack.
- Hungarian Prime Minister Tisza believes that an Austrian attack will bring about a "world war".
- Ultimatum is finally drafted and sent to Serbia on July 22nd.

AUSTRIAN REACTION

- Serbia should
 - 1. Suppress all publications which incite hatred of Austrian monarchy and against its territorial integrity.
 - 2. Dissolve Norodna Obrana and similar groups.
 - 3. Eliminate from schoolbooks and public docs all propaganda against Austria.
 - 4. Remove from Serbian govt all persons whose names Austria will provide.

THE ULTIMATUM

- 5. Accept in Serbia “representatives of the Austro-Hungarian govt” for suppression of subversive movements.
- 6. Prosecute all accessories to the Archduke’s assassination and allow Austro-Hungarian delegates to participate in the investigation.
- 7. Arrest Major Tankosic and Milan Ciganovic.
- 8. Cease helping smuggling of arms and explosives and punish those who helped in the past.

THE ULTIMATUM

- 9. Provide “explanations” to the Austrians regarding Serbian officials who have expressed themselves in interviews in “terms of hostility to the Austro-Hungarian government”.
- 10. Notify the Austro-Hungarian government “without delay” of the execution of the measures comprised in the ultimatum.
- Response by, at the latest, 5 PM on Saturday evening July 25th.

THE ULTIMATUM

- Serbs ask for Russian support.
- France and Russia believe they are too weak militarily to go to war with Germany.
- Serbia agrees to everything except the part of point 6 that Austrian police be allowed to operate in Serbia.
- Wilhelm II on a cruise on the North Sea.
- Russians pressuring Austria to extend the deadline.
- Russia has a partial mobilization.

SERBIAN RESPONSE

- On July 23rd British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey offers to mediate.
- Wilhelm is outraged that the British should think that Austrian demands are impossible.
- Russia seems willing to join in the effort.
- German ambassador to Britain delays in transmitting mediation offer.
- German officials back to Berlin for discussions.

ATTEMPTS TO MEDIATE

- July 24th Serbia mobilizes and Austria breaks off diplomatic relations.
- July 25th Austria mobilizes eight army corps.
 - Russia says can't be uninterested if Austria attacks Serbia.
- July 26th Austria rejects Britain's offer of mediation.
 - Germany asks for passage thru Belgium if war.

THE DANCE CONTINUES

- July 27th

- Britain warns Germany that if Austria attacks Serbia and Germany supports her Britain will side with France and Russia.
- France tells Germany that she is anxious for a peaceful solution.
- Wilhelm returns from his North Sea cruise.
- Germans modify British proposal.
- Grey tells Cabinet that if war occurs Britain will have to choose either to be involved or be neutral.

- Britain makes a fourth attempt at mediation.
- Wilhelm now begins to change his mind. Rest of German govt works to undermine any attempt to hold Austria back.
- 11AM on July 28th Austria declares war on Serbia. But can't start operations until August 12th .
- July 29th Wilhelm sends telegram to Nicholas. Britain orders a general alert.

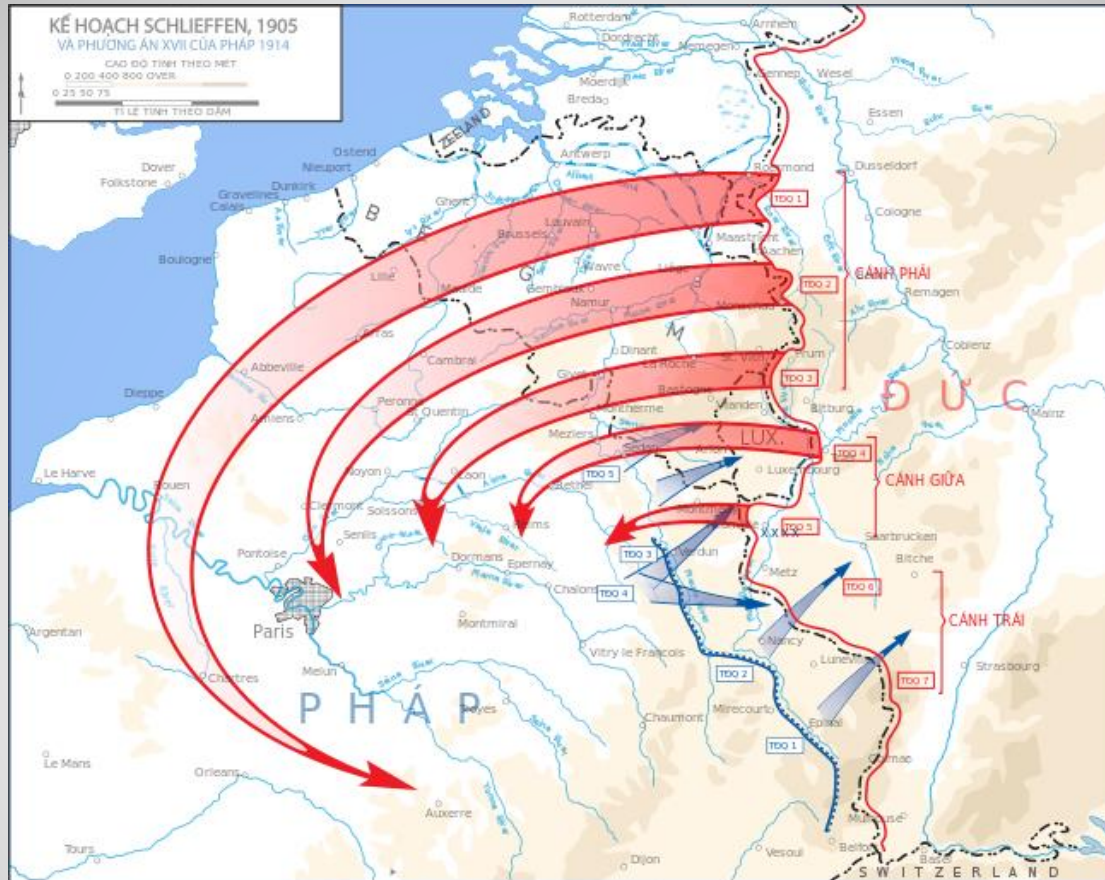
- Nicholas dithers. His military want a general mobilization. Orders that on July 29 and then rescinds.
- On July 30th Russia mobilizes.
- On July 29th German Foreign Minister informs England that war is coming and that Belgium may be invaded.
- This helps to push Britain to France and Russia.

- Serbia now agrees to everything in the ultimatum – Austria refuses to accept.
- Struggle within Germany about Belgium and Luxemburg.
- August 1 France mobilizes after German threat . Germany mobilizes and declares war on Russia.
- August 2 Germany demands free passage through Belgium. Belgium refuses.

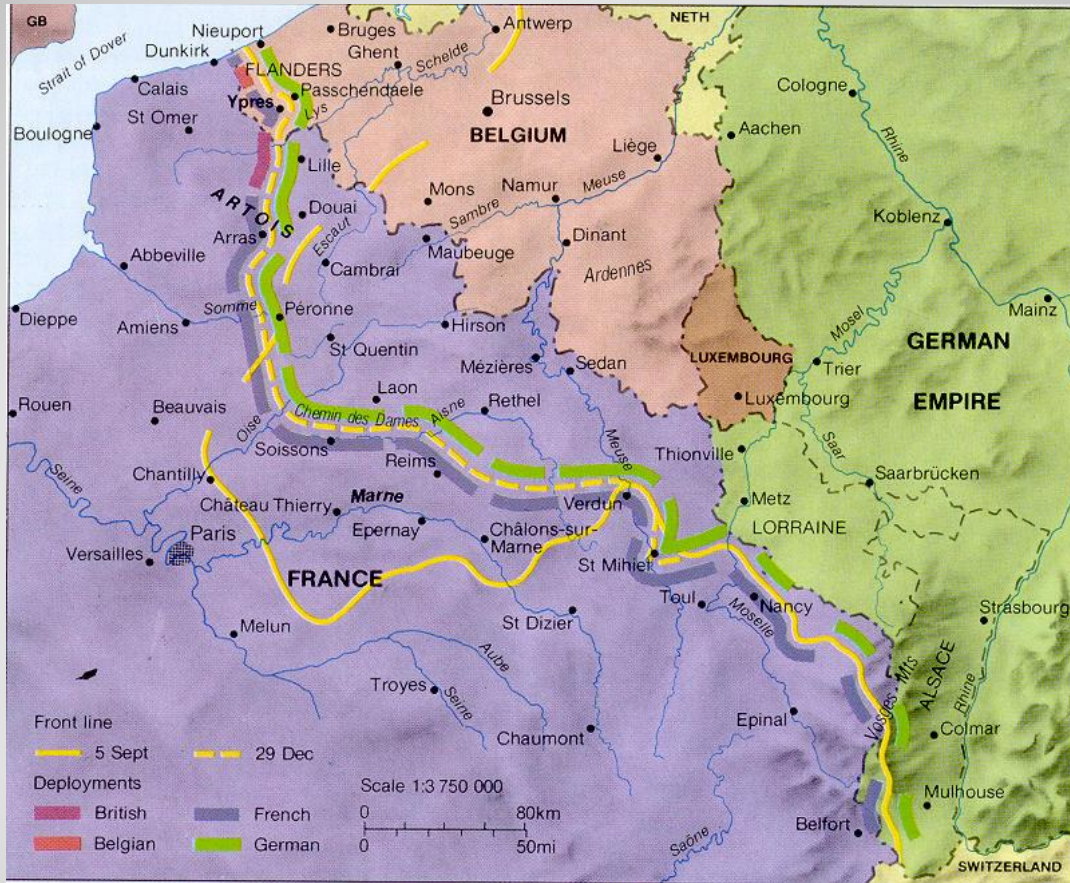
- August 3 Germany declares war on France.
- August 4 Germany declares war on Belgium.
- Britain ultimatum that Germany stop within 5 hours. Germany rejects.
- “Scrap of Paper”.
- Britain declares war on Germany and Austria. Italy later enters on the side of the Allies.



GENERALS VON SCHLIEFFEN AND VON MOLTKE THE YOUNGER



THE VON SCHLIEFFEN-MOLTKE PLAN

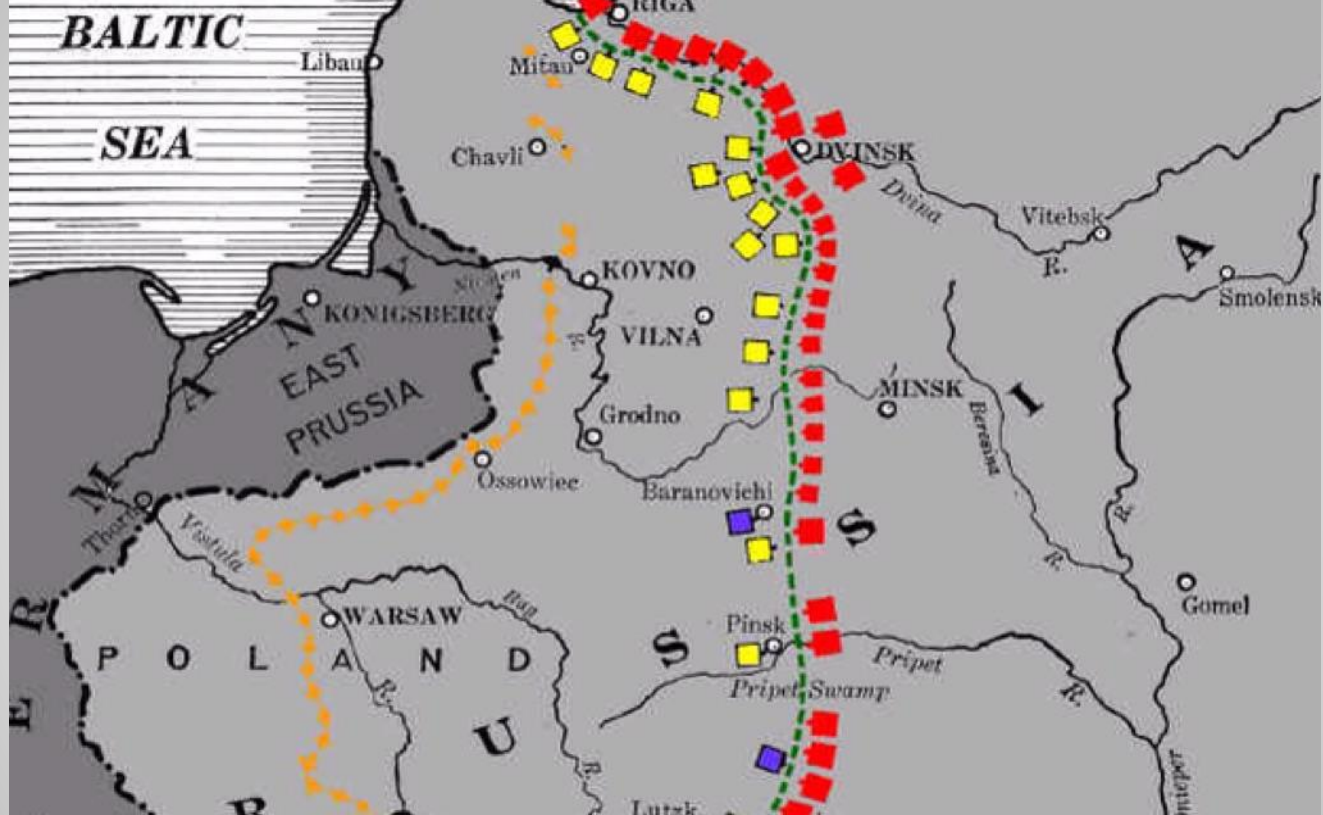


HOW IT ACTUALLY WENT – CHRISTMAS 1914

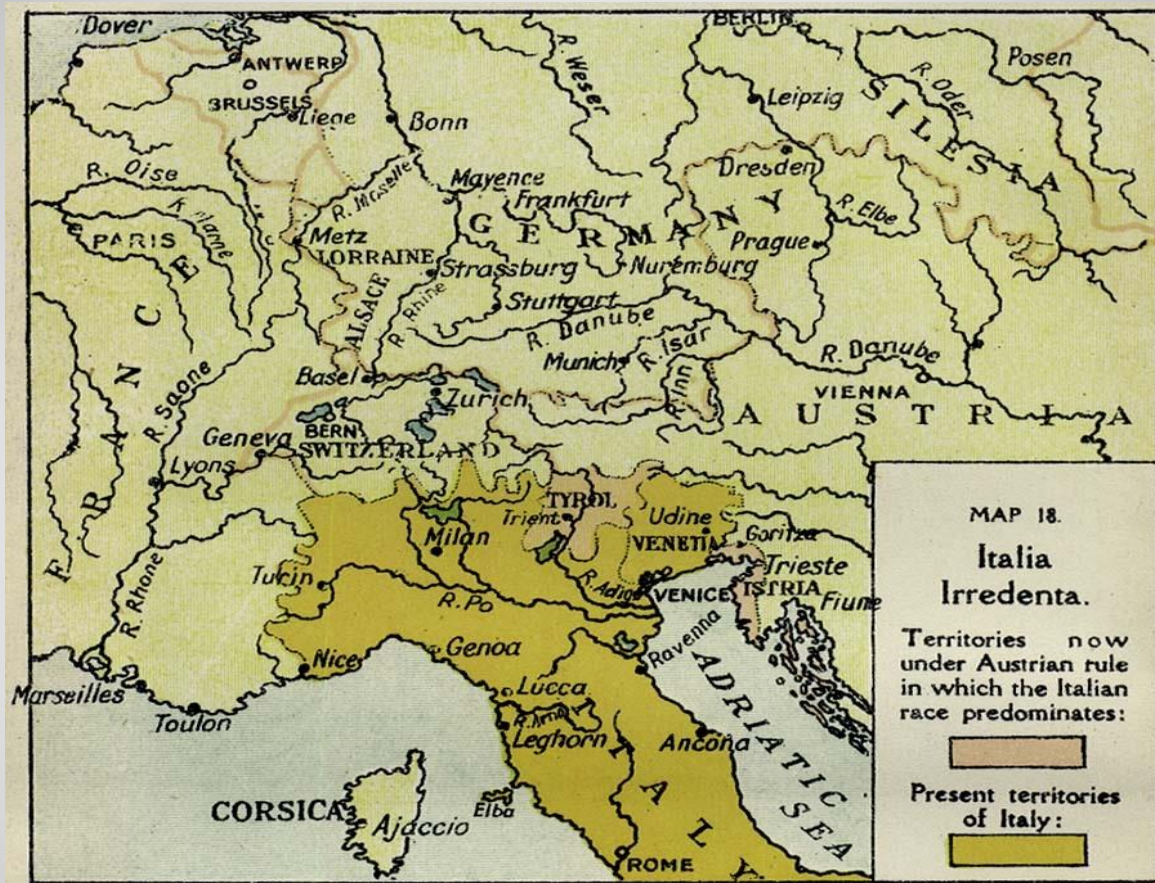


Battle Of Jutland

MAP OF THE EASTERN FRONT



Eastern Front



Italian Front

THE CONSEQUENCES

Countries in WWI	Standing Armies and Reserves in August 1914	Mobilised Forces in 1914-1918
Russia	5,971,000	12,000,000
France	4,017,000	8,410,000
Great Britain	975,000	8,905,000
Italy	1,251,000	5,615,000
United States	200,000	4,355,000
Germany	4,500,000	11,000,000
Austria-Hungary	3,000,000	7,800,000
Turkey	210,000	2,850,000
Japan	800,000	800,000
Romania	290,000	750,000
Serbia	200,000	707,000
Belgium	117,000	267,000
Greece	230,000	230,000
Bulgaria	280,000	1,200,000

- **GERMANY**

- German war guilt
- Reparations of 132 billion gold marks
- Loss of all colonies, part of eastern Germany, and Alsace-Lorraine.
- Saar occupied by France for 15 years
- Demilitarised Zone along Rhine – app 50 km.
- German Army to 100,000 men – no tanks, heavy artillery, poison gas supplies, aircraft, airships, or conscription.

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

- Germany cont.
 - Navy limited to vessels under 10,000 T – no submarines.
 - Ban on union of Germany and Austria.
 - Provision for trial of former Kaiser and 885 others for war crimes.
- Austria
 - Loss of territory to Italy – Italia Irredenta
 - Loss of territory to form new nations in Central Europe.

TREATY OF VERSAILLES



EUROPE AFTER WWI



AREAS LOST AFTER WWI



GERMANY

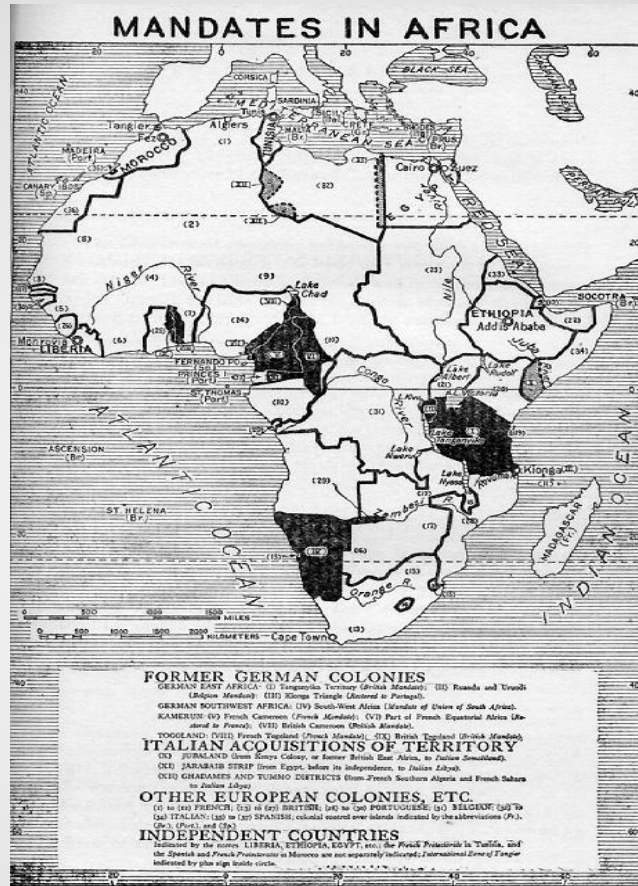


FIGURE 5

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COLONIES



COLONIES

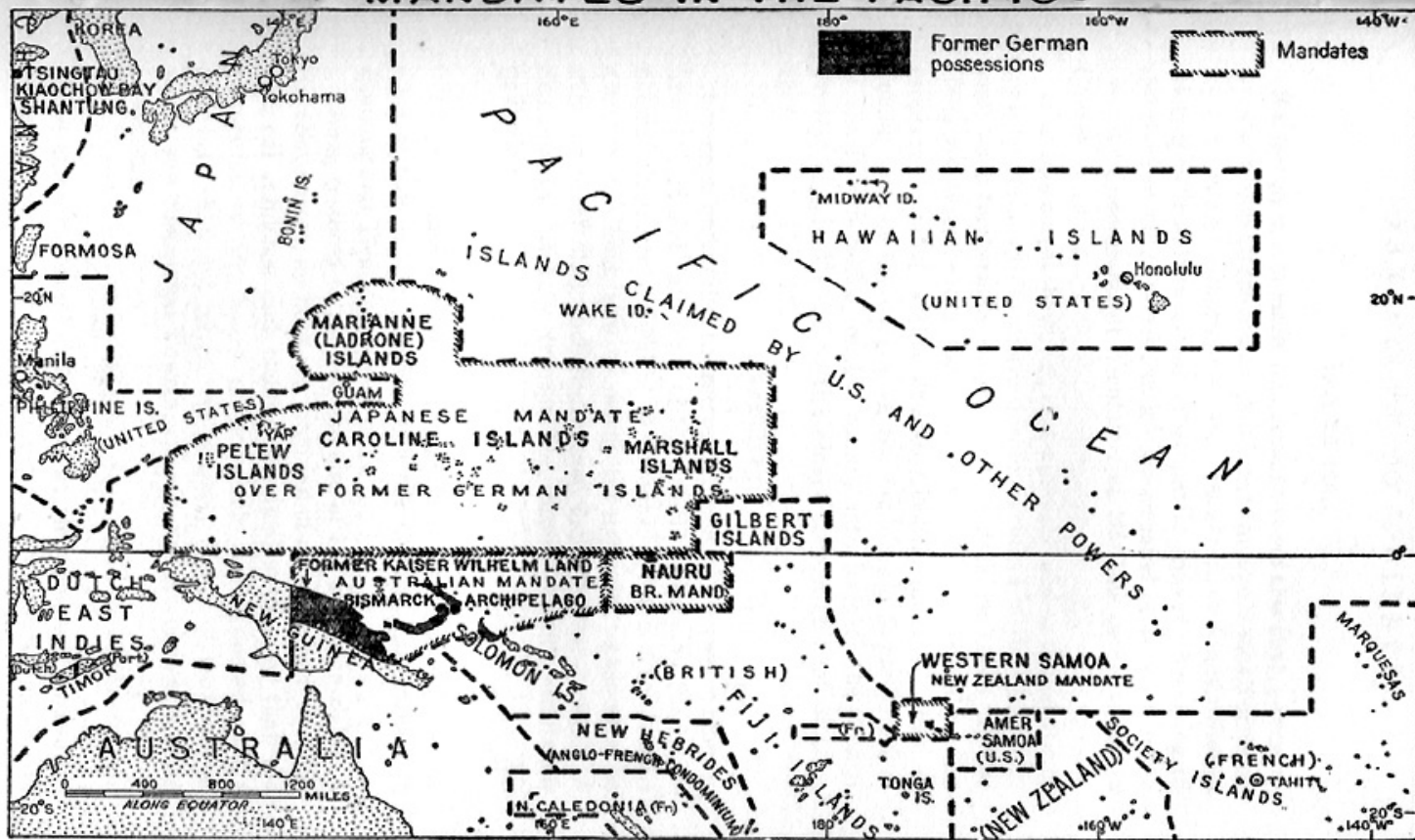


FIGURE 6

Compiled by
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COLONIES



OTTOMAN EMPIRE – TREATY OF SEVRES



OTTOMAN EMPIRE – TREATY OF LUSANNE

RESULTS

COUNTRY	TROOPS DEPLOYED	KILLED	WOUNDED	WAR COST IN BILLIONS DOLLARS
Germany	11,000,000	1,773,700	4,216,058	37.775
Russia	12,000,000	1,700,000	4,950,000	22.294
Great Britain	8,905,000	908,371	2,090,212	35.334
US	4,335,000	126,000	264,000	22.625
France	8,410,000	1,357,800	4,226,000	24.263
Belgium	267,000	13,716	44,486	1.155
Canada	619,000	66,655	172,950	1.666
Allied Powers	42,188,810	5,152,115	12,831,000	125.690
Central Powers	22,850,000	3,386,200	8,388,448	60.643
Sub Total	65,038,810	8,538,315	21,219,448	186.334



Casualties

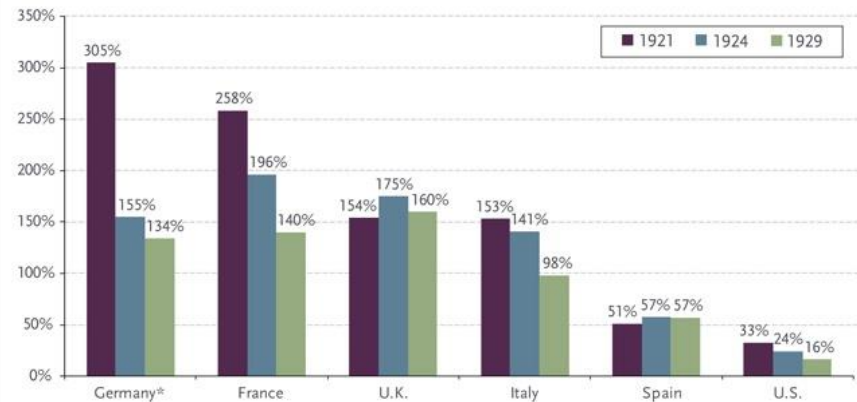


Casualties

- Tremendous amount of debt.
- US has the least of the major belligerent powers.
- Look at this as a percent of GDP.
- Germany paid last of reparations on Oct. 3, 2010.
- Britain still paying.

EUROPEAN DEBT AFTER THE GREAT WAR

In the years following World War I, European nations were buried in debt. Germany, slapped with punitive war reparations, routinely defaulted on its payments even after several restructuring efforts were attempted in 1920s.

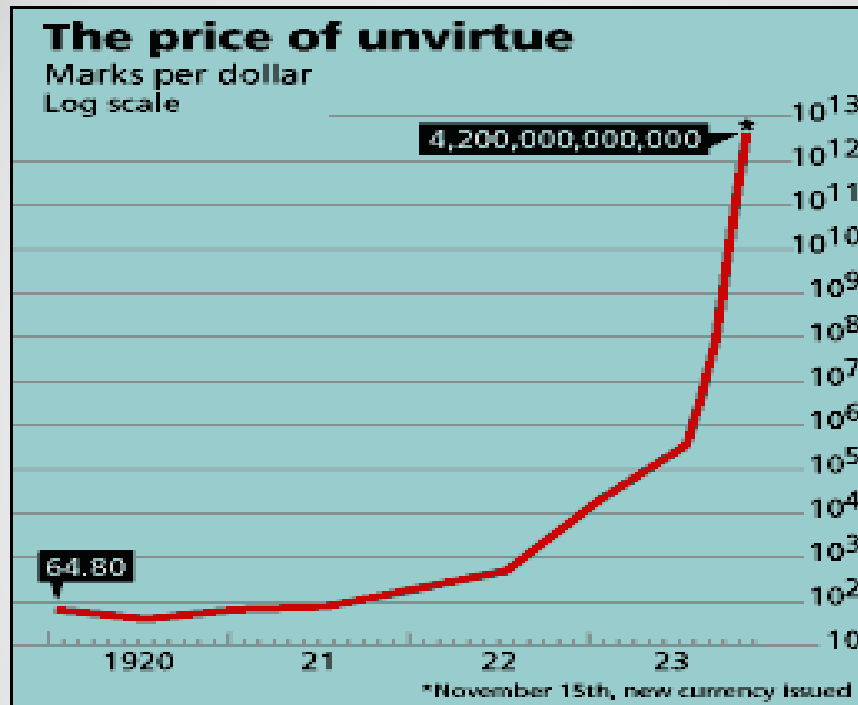


Source: Reinhart and Rogoff, Guggenheim Investments. *Note: German debt to GDP ratio includes reparation obligations.

ECONOMIC

- New countries created in Central Europe.
- Eliminates a free trade zone
 - Austria-Hungary had no internal trade boundaries.
 - Now each of these countries has a tariff on imported goods.
- German inflation in 1920's and the rise of National Socialism.

ECONOMIC



ECONOMIC

- Newly created countries are unstable.
- Colonial realignment leaves hurt national pride.
 - Italy – felt should have gotten more land in Europe.
 - Italy felt that she should have gotten more African colonies – Ethiopia.
 - Japan believes she should have gotten the German concessions in China.

POLITICAL

- The problem of national minorities.
 - Large German minorities in the Polish Corridor.
 - Large German minorities in Czechoslovakia.
 - Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary all have significant national minorities within their borders.
- Russia
 - 1917 – Russian Revolution
 - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk – gives up the farm; but abrogated by the Treaty of Versailles

POLITICAL

- Russia cont.
 - November revolution brings Bolsheviks to power.
 - Death of Czar Nicholas and his family.
 - Lenin becomes leader.
 - Rise of Joseph Stalin.
- The problems of the peace and Hitler and Mussolini.
- United States most powerful nation in world – doesn't want the crown.

POLITICAL

- Death of Optimism
 - Karl Barth
 - Germany in 1920's – *Cabaret*
 - Angst leads to Existentialism.
- United States
 - Lost Generation – F. Scott Fitzgerald, Hemingway.
 - Deep seated distrust of the outside world.
 - 1920's Flappers, etc.

SOCIAL

- Rise of the Social Democrats in Europe.
 - Distrust of the existing power structure.
 - Move towards more rights for the worker.
Inevitable social unrest and conflict.
 - Pacifism – Nothing could be worse than another war.

SOCIAL

SUMMARY

- The war is a slaughter house.
- The social and political changes that it brings change the course of human history.
- Some historians believe that there was only ONE World War and that it started in 1914, had a brief interregnum and then started up, based on the old rivalries, in 1939 and finally ended in 1945.