

Chapter 14-Day 4

Section 3—A Bloody Conflict

- By spring 1917 WWI had claimed millions of European lives. Many Americans believed we could make the difference and bring a quick end to the war. Trench Warfare Both sides dig networks of trenches, men armed with modern repeating rifles, and the new machine guns. Soldiers race across the open space to attack enemy forces. This tactic rarely worked and caused huge amounts of casualties.
- New technologies—Germany 1915 1st to use poison gas, British 1916 the tank, 1st war to use airplanes (Flying Aces American Eddie Rickenbacker, German “Red Barron”), machine guns, hand grenades, and submarines

The Americans and Victory

- 2 million AEF (American Expeditionary Forces) or American “doughboys” served
- Admiral William Sims proposed idea of ship convoys as a result no troopships were sunk
- March 1917 Czar Nicholas II abdicated the Russian throne
- Provisional gov’t replaced by Communist Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin. Russia then made a separate peace with Germany
- March 1918 with troops from Russian front, Germany launches massive attack on Western Front, they move back to within 40 miles of Paris.
- May 1918 Americans launch 1st major attack, push Germans back to Chateau-Thierry.
- Sept 1918 Battle of Argonne Forest massive push by Allies, Germany inflicted heavy losses but Americans break through German lines.
- The German Kaiser forced by his own people to step down. Armistice ending war signed on 11/11 at 11 o’clock, 1918.

Peace Conference

- The “Big Four” U.S.—Pres. Wilson, Great Britain—Prime Minister David Lloyd George, French Premier Clemenceau, and Italy’s Orlando dominated peace talks. Germany not invited to peace talks.
- Wilson 14 Point Peace Plan, free trade, freedom of seas, open diplomacy, self-determination, everyone belong to League of Nations (most of this discarded).
- Treaty of Versailles—Germany stripped of armed forces, had to pay \$33 billion in reparations, lost territory, and acknowledge the war was their fault. Russia lost territory, Ottoman Empire lost territory and fell in 1922 to revolution, Austria-Hungary split in two.
- 9 new countries were created in Europe, including Yugoslavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia
- Treaty did include Wilson’s League of Nations
- U.S. congress refused to ratify treaty because of League of Nations. We had to negotiate a separate treaty with each Central Power.