

Making of the Modern World

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The First World War

What I Want You to Know

- Why war?
 - Has both immediate and longer term origins
 - Assassination and alliances
 - European colonial rivalries
 - Liberal confidence and ignorance
- What was it like?
 - Horrible: mustard gas and trench warfare; stupid waste of life
- Why is it so important?
 - Millions died, obvsly
 - Profound weakening of Europe's place in the world
 - Profound weakening of Europe's confidence in itself
 - Liberal ideals
 - Art and culture
 - Totally new map and the unlocking of nationalisms around the world

Europe in 1914



Immediate Origins of World War I

- June 28, 1914 Assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand (1863-1914)
- Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
 - occupied by Austro-Hungarian Empire 1878, annexed 1908
- Ferdinand in favor of greater Serbian autonomy
 - Not enough for Serbian extremists

Gavrilo Princip

- Bosnian Serb (1894-1918)
- One of seven assassins
 - First balked, second bungled, attempted suicide
- Princip shot Ferdinand, expectant wife Sophie as couple went to hospital to visit victims
- Princip swallows ineffective cyanide, captured by mob and tortured
- Too young to be executed, sentenced to 20 years in prison, dies of TB

Gavrilo Princip



Franz Ferdinand



Franz Ferdinand



Outcome of Princip's Bullet

- First conflict of global proportions
- Conservative estimates of 15 million dead (5 million non-combatants), 20 million injured
- End of three empires, rise of nine new countries
- Massive global economic dislocations
- End of Europe's domination of globe

Why World War I

- Culmination of competing nationalisms
 - Especially in South, Eastern Europe
- Rivalry among Empires
 - Especially between Britain and Germany
- Inflexible diplomatic alliances
 - Germany, France, England, Russia

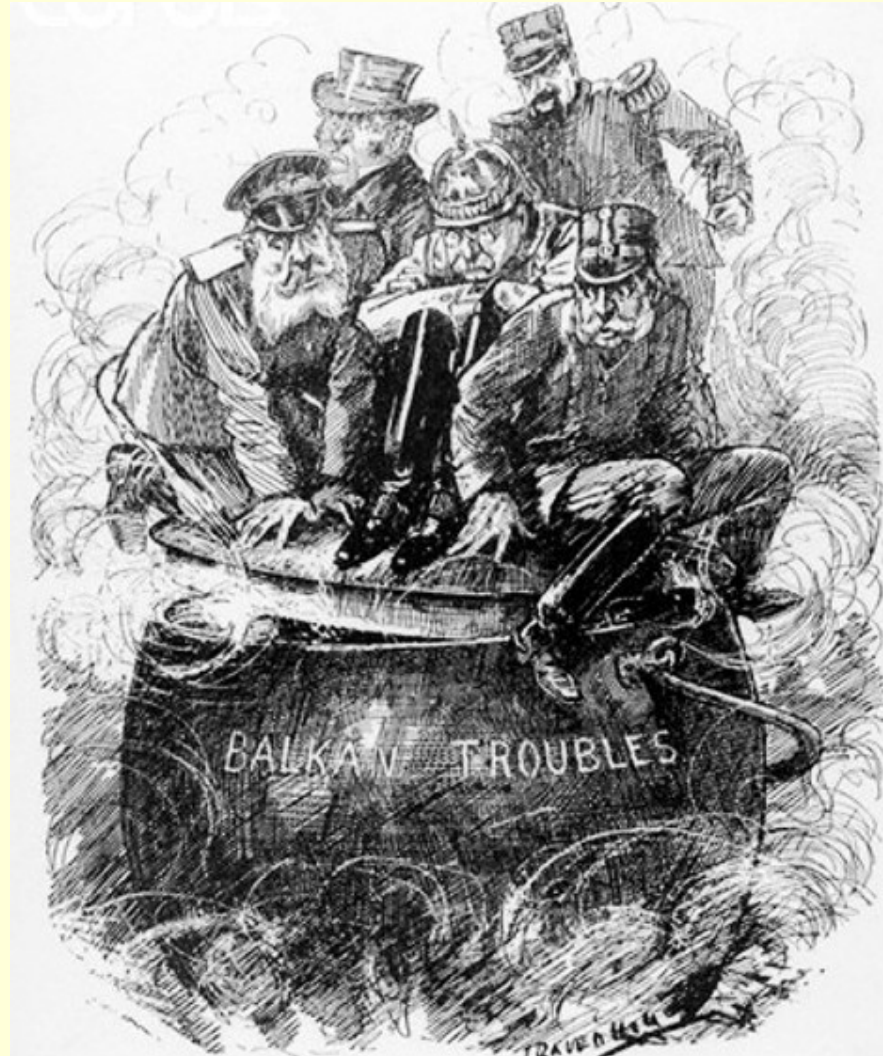
Competing Nationalisms

- Inevitable outcome of French Revolution
- Self-determination and independence movements
 - Belgium, 1830
 - Unification of Italy, 1861
 - Unification of Germany, 1871

Nationalism in Multi-National Empires

- Austro-Hungarian Empire
 - South Slavs
- Russian Empire
 - Poles, Ukrainians, Balts
- Ottoman Empire
 - Greeks, Serbians, Romanians, and Bulgarians

Nationalism in Multi-National Empires



The Austro-Hungarian Empire



Rivalry among Empires

- Dominance of British Empire declining
 - 1870, 32% of world industrial output (Germany 13%)
 - drops to 14% by 1914
- Imperial competition
 - Germany latecomer, but aggressive
 - Small-scale disputes around the globe, esp. in Balkans

Naval Competition

- Arms race between UK and Germany to control seas
- Decisive for control of trade routes in case of war
- Construction of dreadnoughts

Role of Public Opinion

- Beginning of media age
- Availability of cheap newspapers
- Little accountability
- Awkward pressure on politicians
 - Sacrifice diplomatic expediency for public support
- Liberalism and the public

Inflexible Diplomatic Alliances

- Agreements of mutual defense
- Chain reaction for Global War
- Dual Alliance
 - Germany and Austro-Hungarians
- Triple Entente
 - Russia, France, and the UK

Concerns of the Alliance

- Cultural similarities of Germany, Austro-Hungary
- Worries over two-front war
- Worries over English domination of the sea
- Worries over possibility of French attack, Russian interference over Austrian Balkan policies

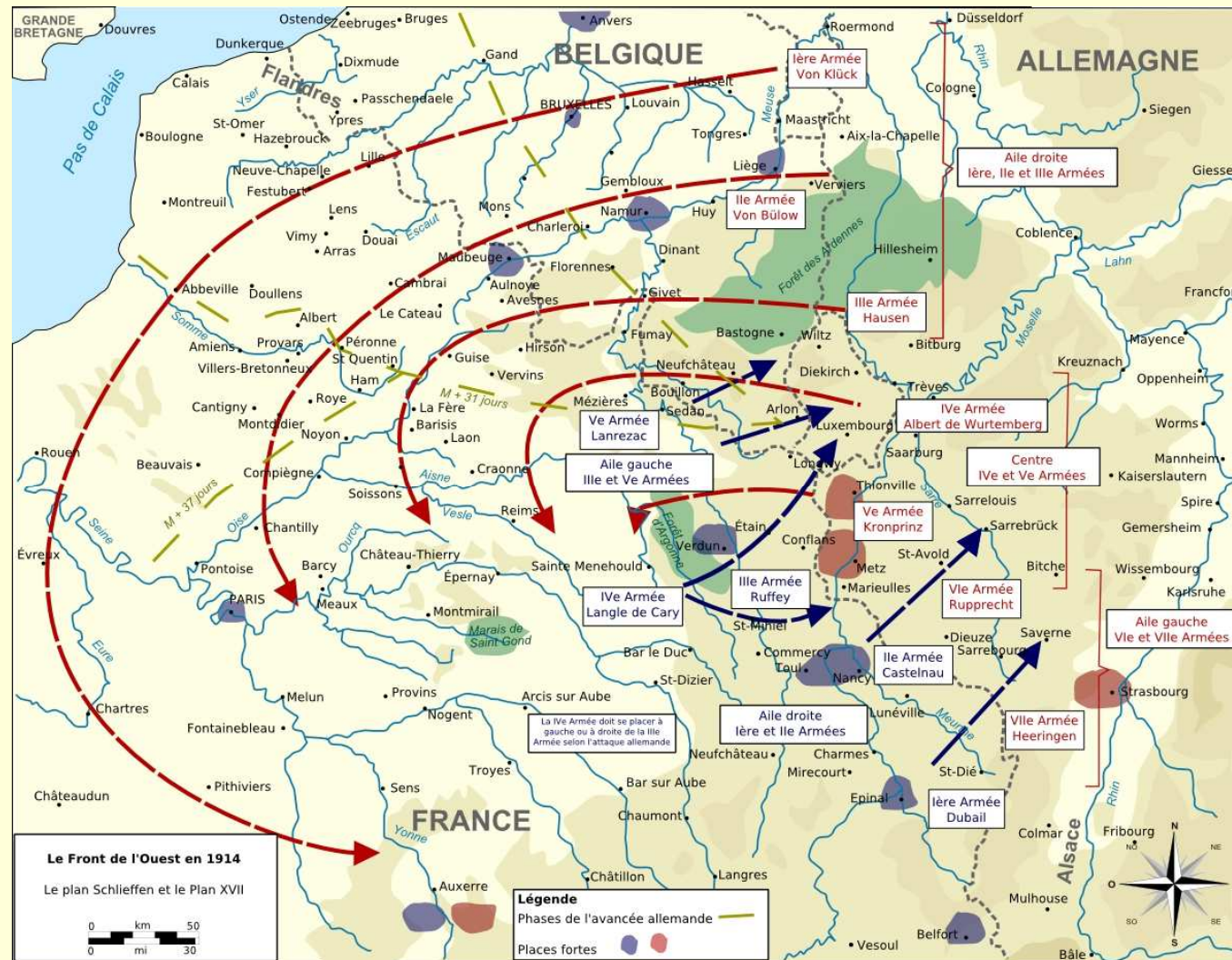
Concerns of the Entente

- Russia worried about strong German-Austro-Hungarian alliance
- UK concerned with maintaining balance of power
- France worried about hostilities with Germany
- Military pact signed summer 1914
 - Reciprocal treaty obligations

Mutually Threatening War Plans

- French “Plan XVII”
 - Heavy emphasis on rapid offensives
- German Schlieffen plan
 - Fear of encirclement
 - France to be defeated swiftly, then attention turned to Russia
- Conditional on mobilization of enemy forces

War Plans on the Western Front



The Chain Reaction

- 23 July Austrians issue ultimatum to Serbs
- 28 July Austrians declare war
- 29 July Russia mobilizes to defend Serbia
- 31 July Germany issues ultimatums to Russia, France
- 1 August Germany declares war on Russia, France mobilizes
- 3 August Germans declare war on France, invade Belgium
- 4 August Britain comes to defense of Belgium

War of Attrition

- West: three years of stalemate
 - Trenches from English channel to Switzerland
- East: more movement, treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918 places much in Entente control

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk



Brutality of New Warfare

- Unprecedented casualties
- Verdun, 1916
 - 315,000 French killed
 - 280,000 German casualties
 - Less than 160,000 bodies recovered
- The Somme, British gain few thousand yards
 - 420,000 casualties
 - No significant strategic advantage

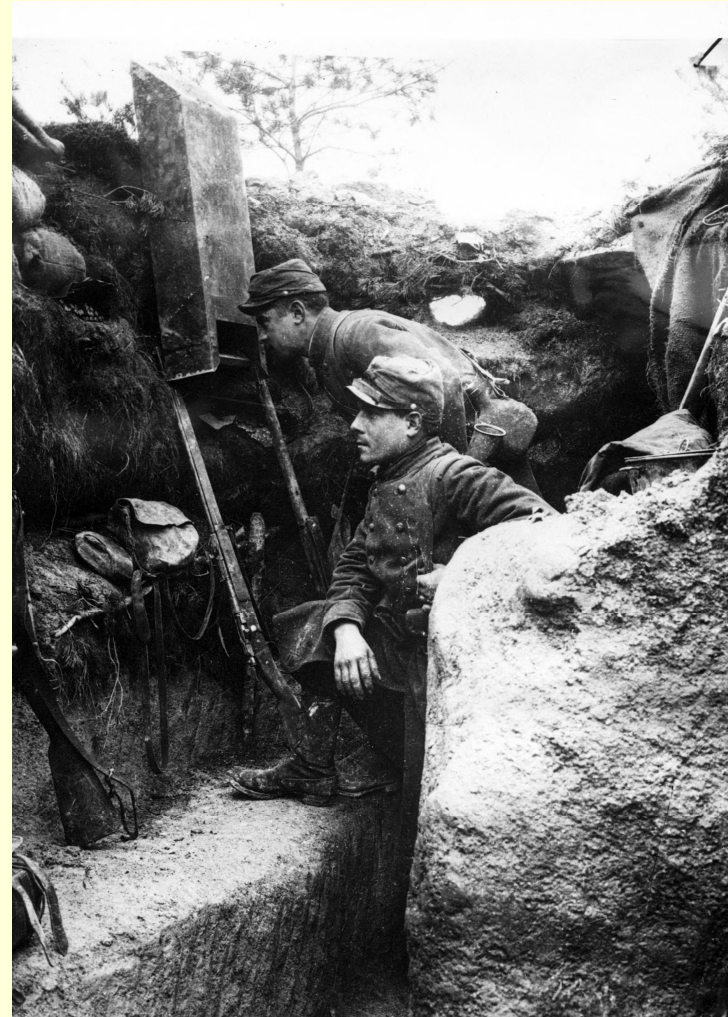
River Somme



New Military Technology

- Barbed wire, Gatling Gun
- Gas
 - First used by German troops, 1915
 - Mustard gas, 800,000 casualties
- Tanks
 - Initially effective but ground quickly lost to counterattacks
- Airplanes
 - limited bombing, strafing, used primarily for reconnaissance
 - Dirigibles
- Submarines

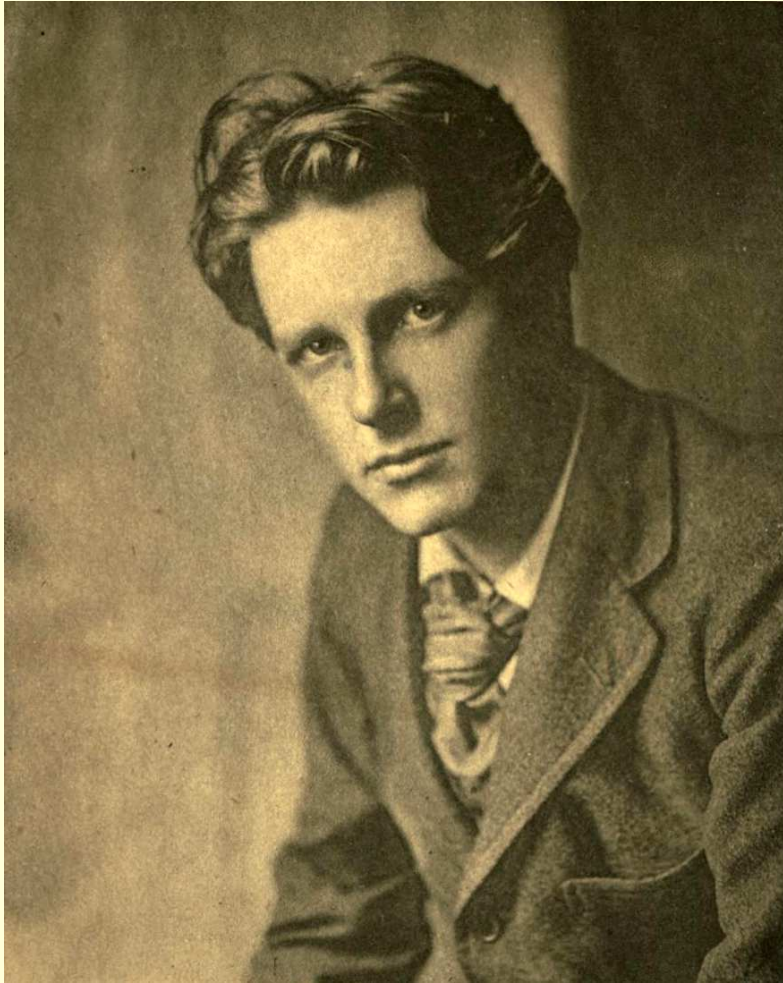
Trench Warfare



Poison Gas



Rupert Brooke



“The Soldier”, 1914

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England
given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Wilfred Owen



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Dulce et Decorum est.
~~To Jessie Pope etc.~~ To a certain Poetess

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
 Knock-knees, ^{haunting} coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
 Till on the ~~glaring~~ ^{haunting} flares we turned our backs,
 And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
 Dead slow we moved. Many had lost their boots,
 But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
 Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
 Of ~~disappointed shells~~ ^{that dropped behind.}
 Of ~~tired-voices~~ ^{five-nines} that dropped behind.

Then somewhere near in front: Whew... fop... fop... fop...
 Gas-shells or duds? We loosened masks, in case -
 And listened... Nothing... Far rumouring of Krupp...
 Then ^{stinging} ~~smarter~~, poison hit us in the face.
 Gas! GAS! - ~~An ecstasy of~~ An ecstasy of fumbling. ?
 Quick, boys!

Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time.
 But someone still was yelling out, and stumbling,
 And floundering like a man in fire or lime. -
 Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,
 As under a dark sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
 He ~~plunges~~ ^{gargling} at me, ~~gargling~~ ^{gargling}, choking, drowning.
~~gargling~~
~~guttering~~

“Dulce et Decorum est” (1917)

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

“Dulce et Decorum est” (1917)

In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*
Pro patria mori.

Total War: The Home Front

- Implications of modern industrial war: concept of a “home front”
- Government takes command of economies
 - Propaganda
 - repression
- Women in the workforce
 - Voting rights
- Bombing of civilian areas by Zeppelins

Zeppelin Raids



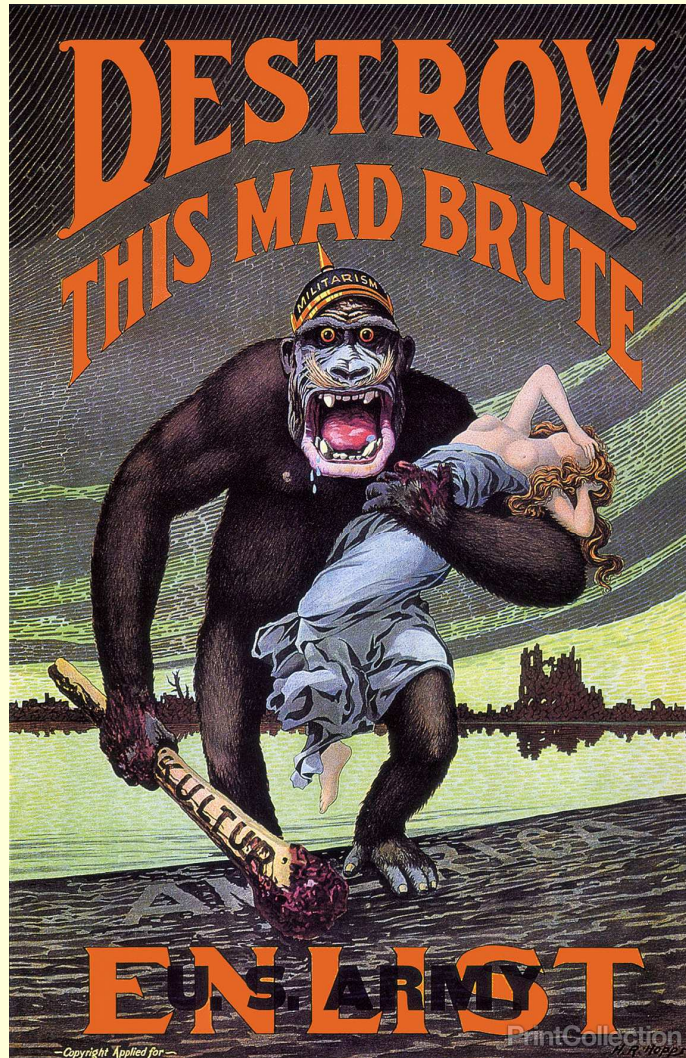
War Propaganda

- Maintenance of public support for war
- Untruths
- Irony: disbelief of WWI propaganda makes belief in WWII atrocities more difficult

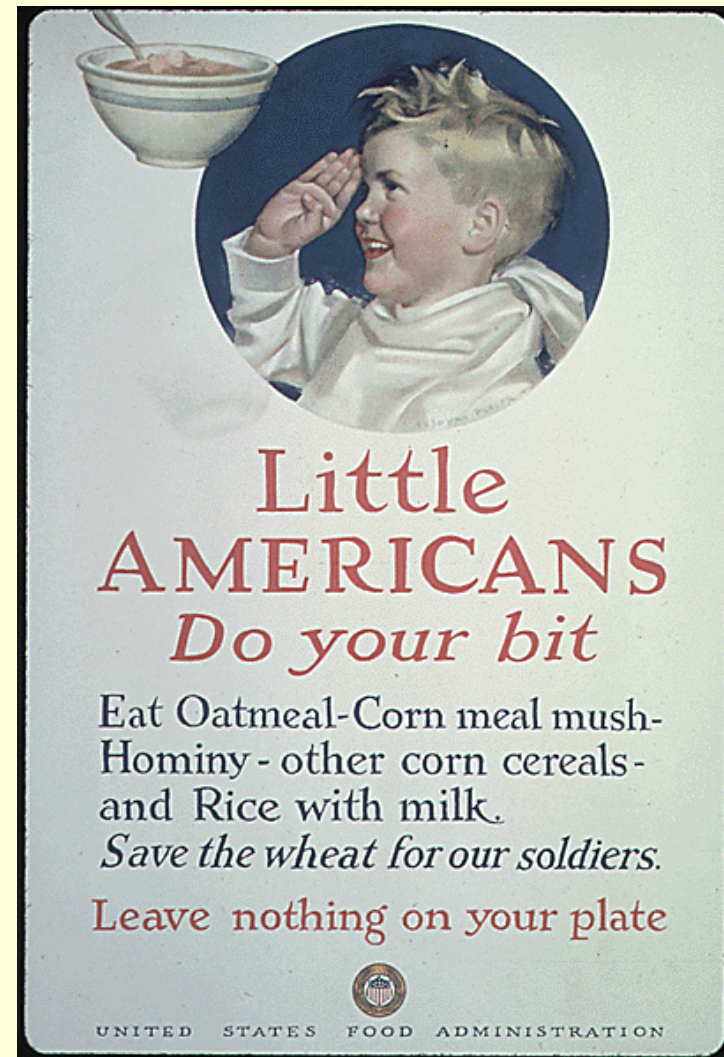
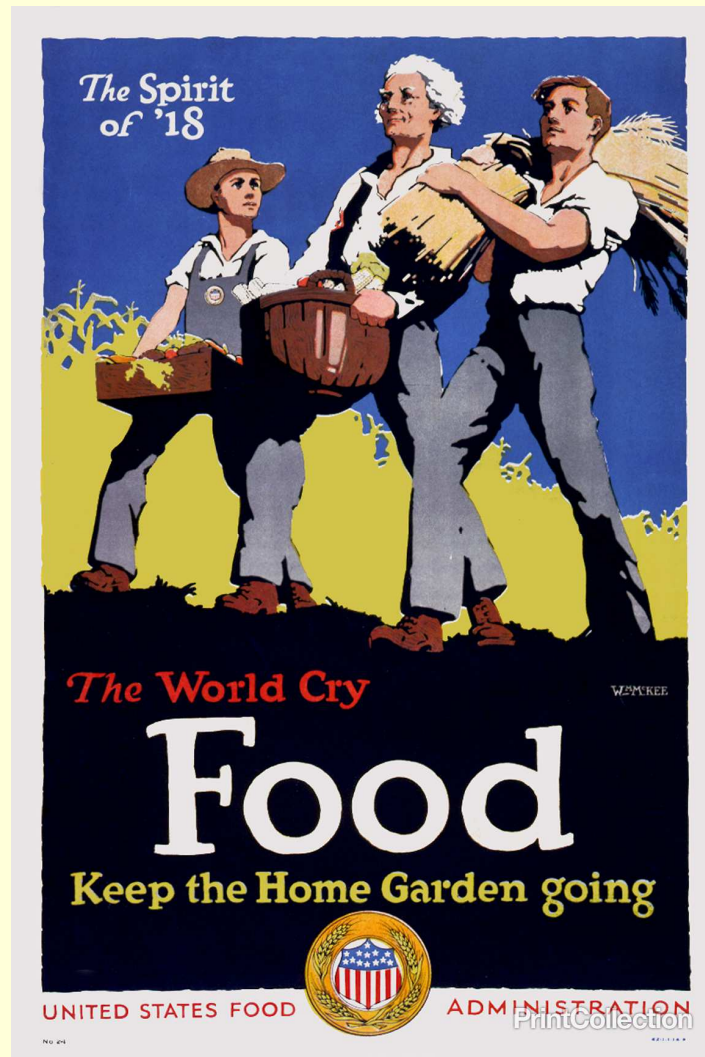
War Propaganda



War Propaganda



War Propaganda



Global Involvement

- Importation of troops from colonies
 - UK: Australia, New Zealand, Canada
 - Gallipoli
- Japanese designs on China with distraction of European powers

Collapse of the Russian Empire

- Russia: February Revolution, 1917
- Germany smuggles Lenin into Provisional Government Russia
- October Revolution, creation of the USSR
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk cedes Poland, Baltic countries, Ukraine to central Powers

USA Enters the War

- US and the war economy
 - Sale of goods to the Allies
 - Debts to American banks
 - US neutrality a mirage
- German blockade of British overseas trade
- Submarine patrols
- Sinking of Lusitania, May 7, 1915
 - 1,198 lives lost (128 US)
 - Carried munitions
- US declares war April 1917

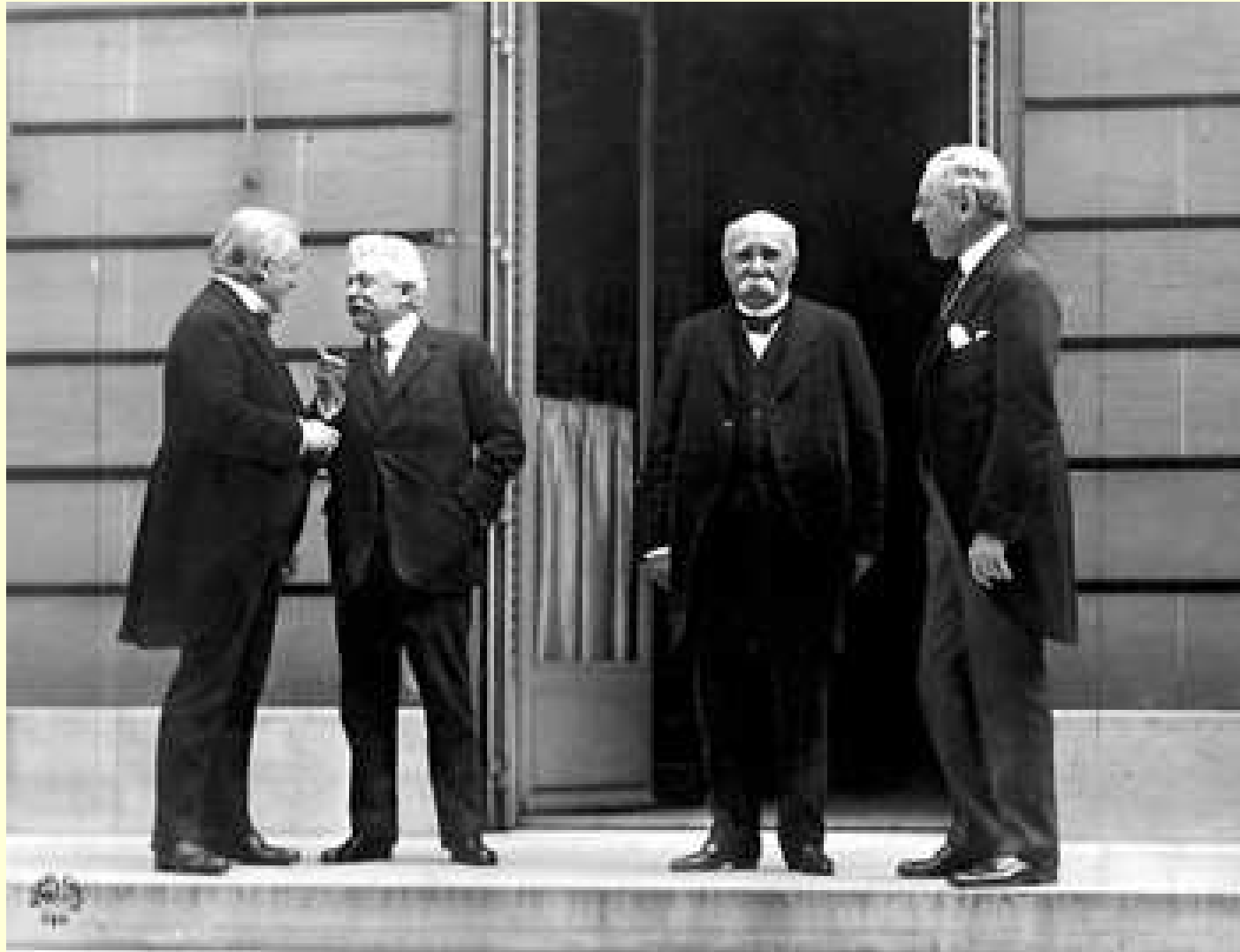
Defeat of the Central Powers

- Fall of 1918, exhaustion of Central Powers troops
- Bulgaria, Ottomans, Austro-Hungarians, Germans surrender
- Armistice: November 11, 1918

The Paris Peace Conference

- Dominated by France, Great Britain, and the United States
 - No Central Powers representation
 - A dictated peace
 - Goals of the winners for the peace
- Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points
- Peace treaties harsh on Central Powers
 - “carthaginian peace”
 - War debt
 - War guilt

The Big Four



Wilson's 14 points

1. There should be an end to all secret diplomacy amongst countries.
2. Freedom of the seas in peace and war
3. The reduction of trade barriers among nations
4. The general reduction of armaments
5. The adjustment of colonial claims in the interest of the inhabitants as well as of the colonial powers
6. The evacuation of Russian territory and a welcome for its government to the society of nations
7. The restoration of Belgium
8. The evacuation of all French territory, including Alsace-Lorraine
9. The readjustment of Italian boundaries along clearly recognizable lines of nationality
10. Independence for various national groups in Austria-Hungary
11. The restoration of the Balkan nations and free access to the sea for Serbia
12. Protection for minorities in Turkey and the free passage of the ships of all nations through the Dardanelles
13. Independence for Poland, including access to the sea
14. A league of nations to protect "mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small nations alike."

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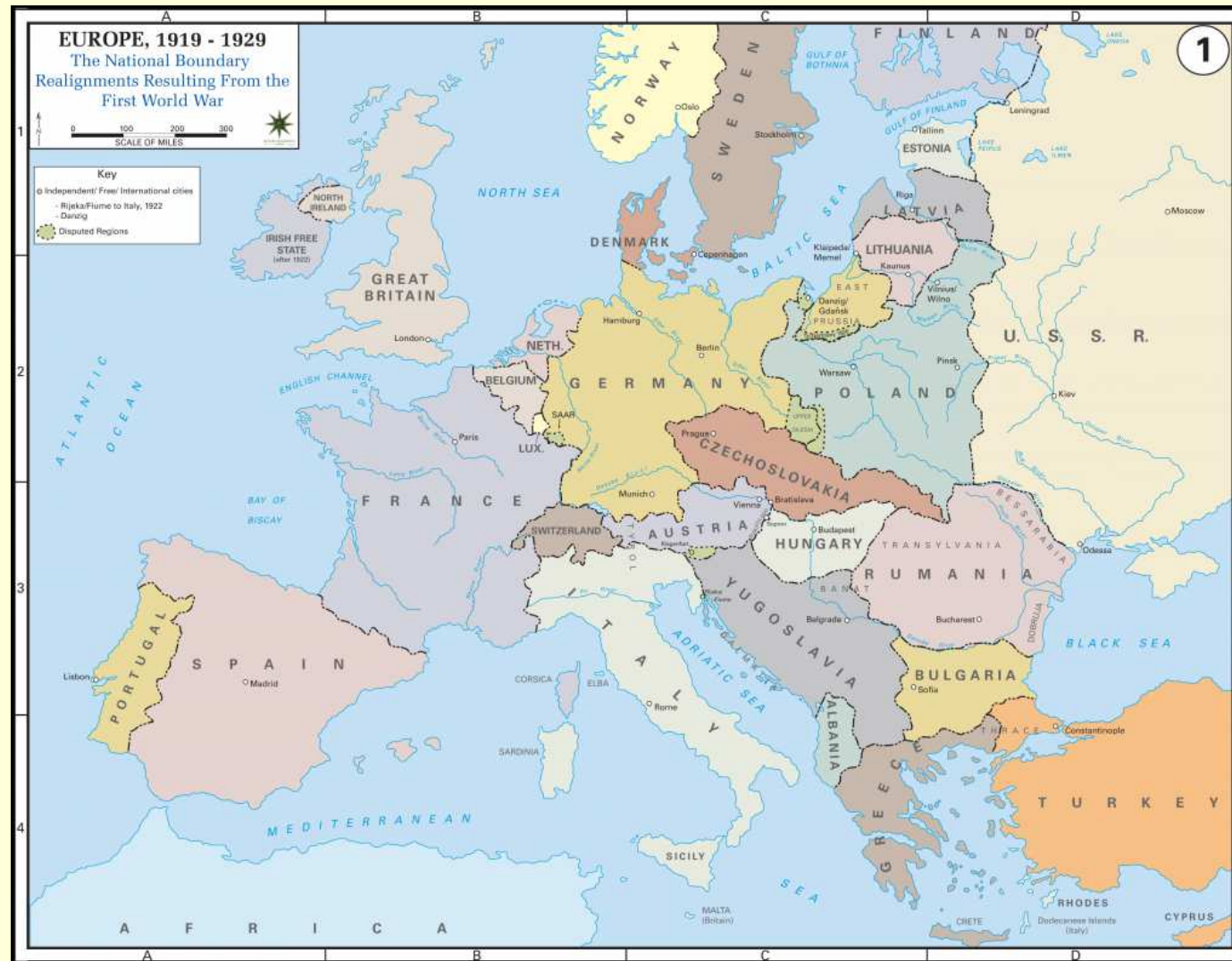
Wilson's 14 points

- Liberal ideals and National self-interest
- Self-determination
 - Call to reorient colonies to the interests of colonized and work towards national self-governments
 - High ideals but also problematic execution
- Ideals live on

Before the Great War



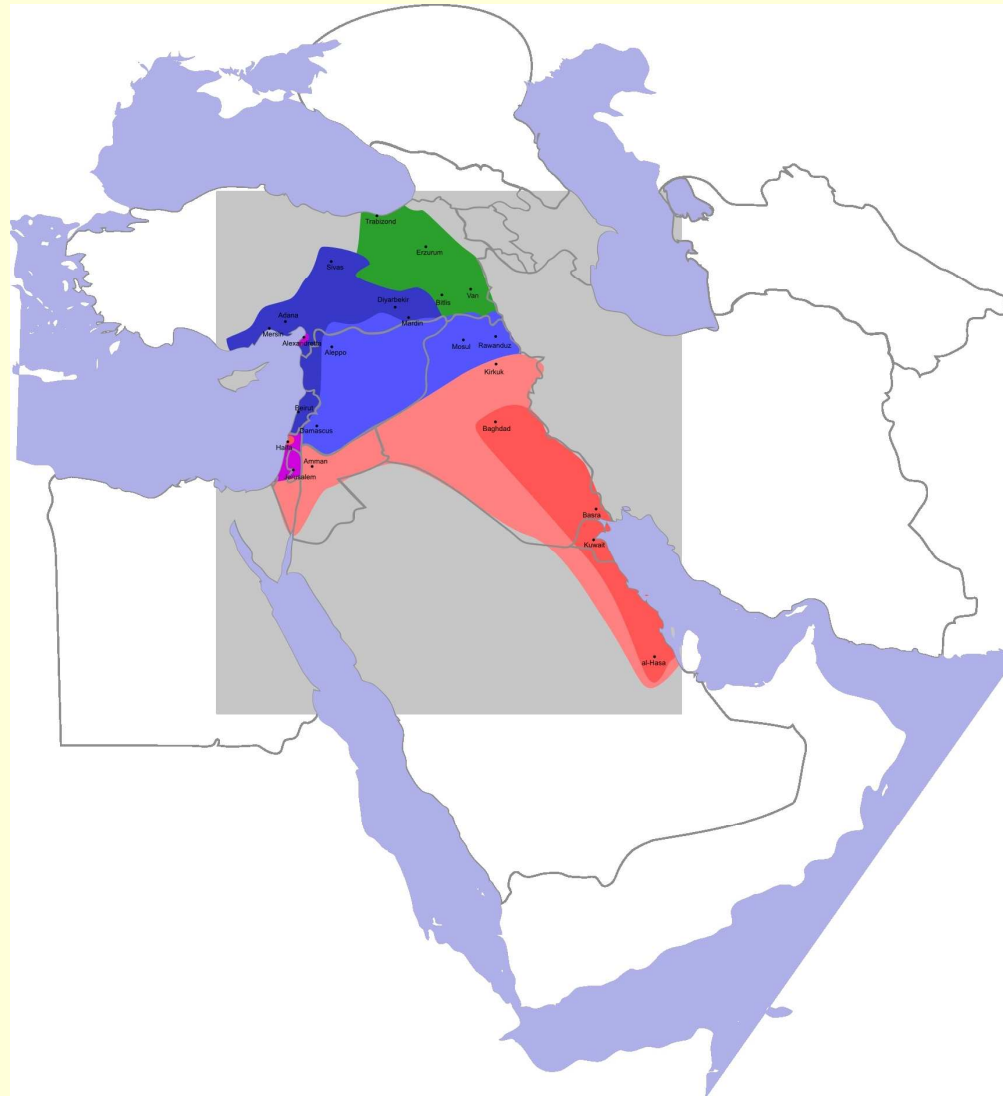
After the Great War



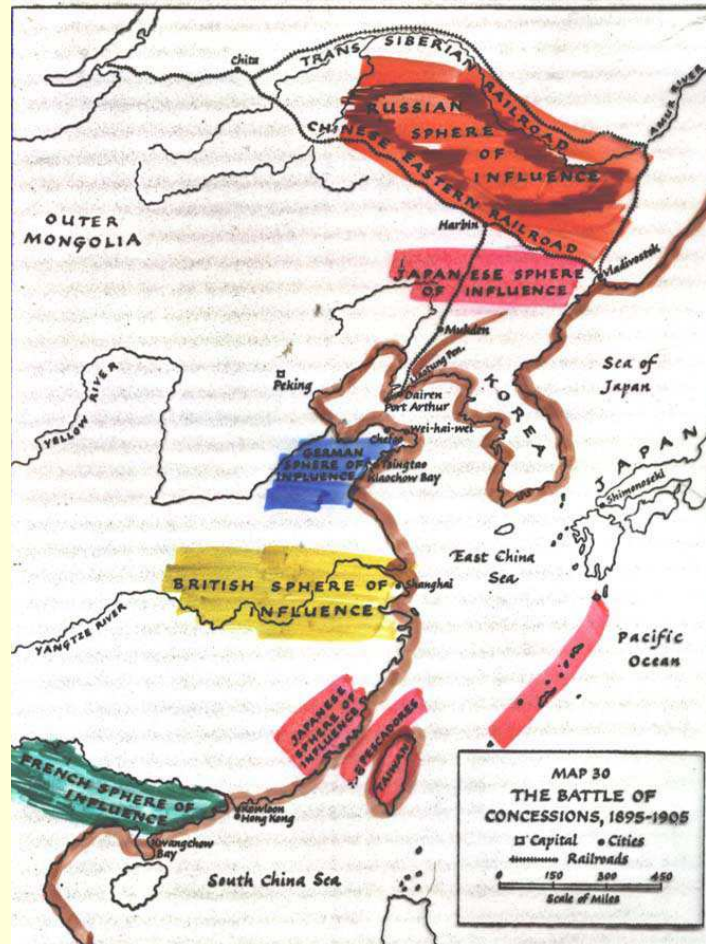
The End of the Ottoman Empire

- Treaty of Sèvres (1920) removes Balkan and Arab provinces, allows for European occupation of south and east Anatolia
- Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) leads uprising against Sultanate, creates Republic of Turkey
- Allies recognize republic in Treaty of Lausanne (1923)
- Intensely secular government, women's rights

Southwest Asia after the Great War



Chinese Concessions and Versailles



The League of Nations

- League of Nations created by diplomats in Paris
- 42 original member-states, 26 non-European
- Application of Wilson's concept of "self-determination"
- Mandate system created to control formerly colonized areas
- United States does not ratify
- League will be created but fail to stop Italians in Ethiopia in 1930s

The Aftermath

- Feeling of despair and disillusionment
 - Reflected in art and literature
- Loss of faith in institutions and people
- Fear for the future
- “And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?”

William Butler Yeats

“The Second Coming” (1919)

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

The End (for now)

