

Remembering World War I

by
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World War I was “the war to end all wars”...except it didn't.

World War I was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war (including the victims of a number of genocides), a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and the tactical stalemate caused by grueling trench warfare. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, and paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.

The war drew in all the world's economic great powers, assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the Russian Empire, the French Third Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) versus the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Although Italy was a member of the Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, it did not join the Central Powers, as Austria-Hungary had taken the offensive, against the terms of the alliance. These alliances were reorganized and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers.

By the end of the war or soon after, the German Empire, Russian Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. National borders were redrawn, with several independent nations restored or created, and Germany's colonies were parceled out among the victors. During the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, the Big Four (Britain, France, the United States and Italy) imposed their terms in a series of treaties. The League of Nations was formed with the aim of preventing any repetition of such a conflict. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I [chart on next page from <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I>]



THE GREAT WAR

THE ONSET OF WAR

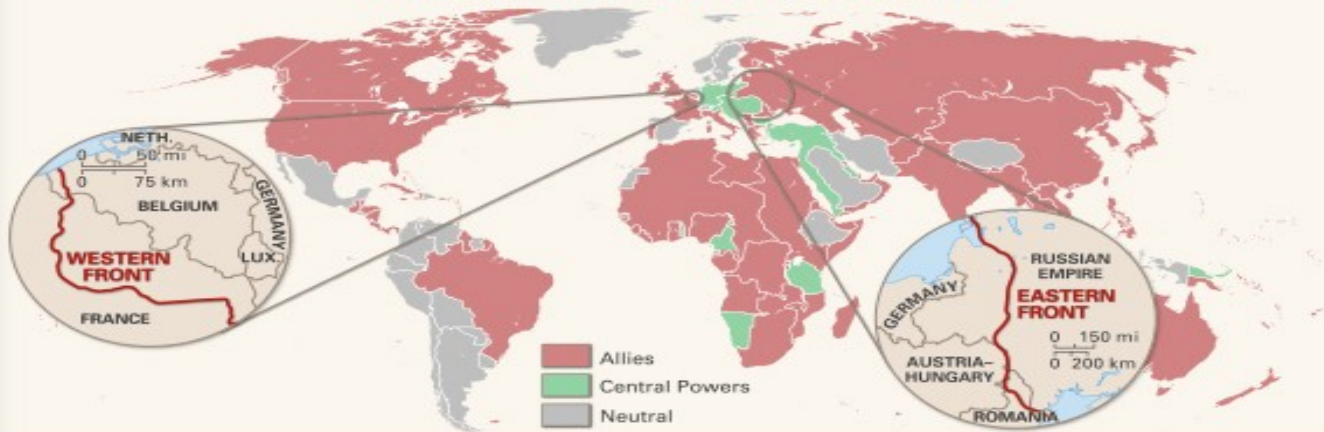
On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb nationalist.



WAR FIRSTS

- chemical warfare
- gas masks
- flamethrowers
- steel helmets
- tank battles
- aerial warfare
- aircraft carrier
- IQ tests
- guide dogs
- a blood bank
- women enlisted
- filmed propaganda
- military use of X-rays
- wireless communication

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS



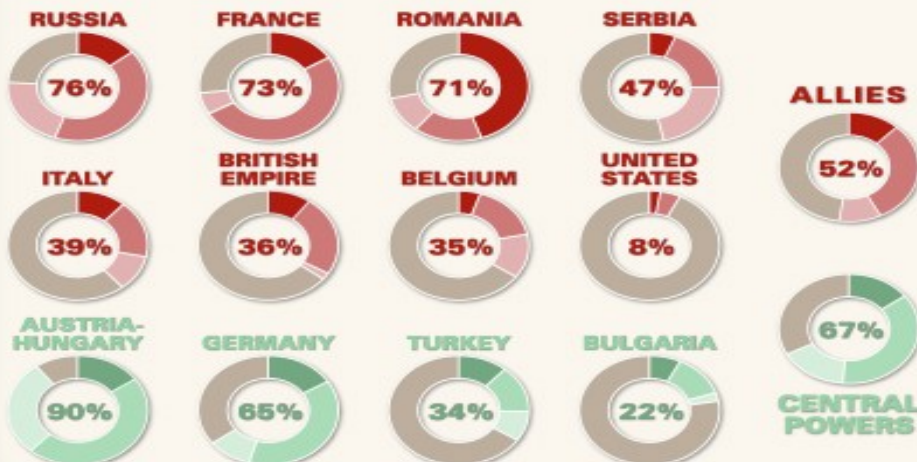
TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS



CASUALTIES OF MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Legend:
■ Killed/died
■ Wounded
■ Prisoners/missing
■ Mobilized forces

76%/90% Percentage of mobilized forces that became casualties*



EUROPE BEFORE/AFTER



Sources: War Firsts, History Channel; casualty data, U.S. War Department.

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*Total casualties = killed/died + wounded + prisoners/missing.