

World War I

1914-1918

Focus

- **What caused WWI and what effect did it have on world events?**

Terms

- **Militarism-** national policy based on military strength and glorification of war
- **Conscription-** compulsory call to military service: the draft
- **Alliance System-** series of defense agreements involving two or more nations
- **Entente-** an agreement, but not a formal alliance, between nations

European Rivalries

- **Building since mid 1800' s**
- **Intense competition between nations based on desire for economic growth and industrialization**
- **Great Britain**
 - **Wanted to maintain keep sea lines it needed for trade open**
 - **Maintain lifelines to its empire**

European Rivalries cont.

- **France**
 - **Wanted to add Morocco (mineral rich)**
- **Germany**
 - **Hoped to gain economic control of Ottoman Empire (Turkey)**
- **Austria-Hungary**
 - **Wanted access to the Aegean Sea via the Balkans**
- **Russia**
 - **Wanted to control the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles and extend influence into East Asia**

Nationalism

- **France- nationalism becoming popular**
 - **Nationalists sought revenge against Germany for the area known as Alsace-Lorraine lost during the Franco-Prussian War**

Austria-Hungary (A-H)

- **Pan-Slavism- the idea that the Slavs had a historic mission to develop their culture and unite into an empire**
- **Serbia supported Slavs in A-H**
 - **Wanted to create a Slav nation- Yugoslov**
- **A-H annexed Bosnia-Heregovina, a Slavic territory**

Balkan Wars

- **First Balkan War in 1912**
 - **Serbia tries to acquire Albania, a water outlet to the Mediterranean Sea- Serbia lost**
- **Second Balkan War in 1913**
 - **Serbia again tries to gain Albania**
- **Russia was a Serbian ally, but was unable to help after war with Japan**

Militarism

- **European countries began assessing each others military strength and readiness**
- **After 1870, all nations except Great Britain adopted conscription**
- **Every action made by a country caused a reaction from another country**

Alliances

- **Three Emperors' League**
 - Created by Otto von Bismarck
 - Between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia
 - Didn't last long
- **Triple Alliance**
 - Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- **Triple Entente**
 - Loose alliance between Great Britain, France, and Russia
- **Alliances made countries feel less secure**

Terms

- **Ultimatum**-a final demand or statement of terms, implying a threat of serious penalties
- **Mobilization**-act of assembling and preparing troops and equipment for war

Trouble in the Balkans

- **Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Austria-Hungarian Empire**
 - **Visits Sarajevo (Capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina) on June 28, 1914**
- **The Black Hand, or Union of Death, positioned assassins along the route**
- **Both Ferdinand and his wife were killed by Gavrilo Princip**

Reactions

- **Germany**
 - Encouraged Austria to the conclusion that the Serbia was responsible (even though it didn't happen in Serbia)
 - Pledged its support to Austria in whatever it decided to do with Serbia

Declarations of War

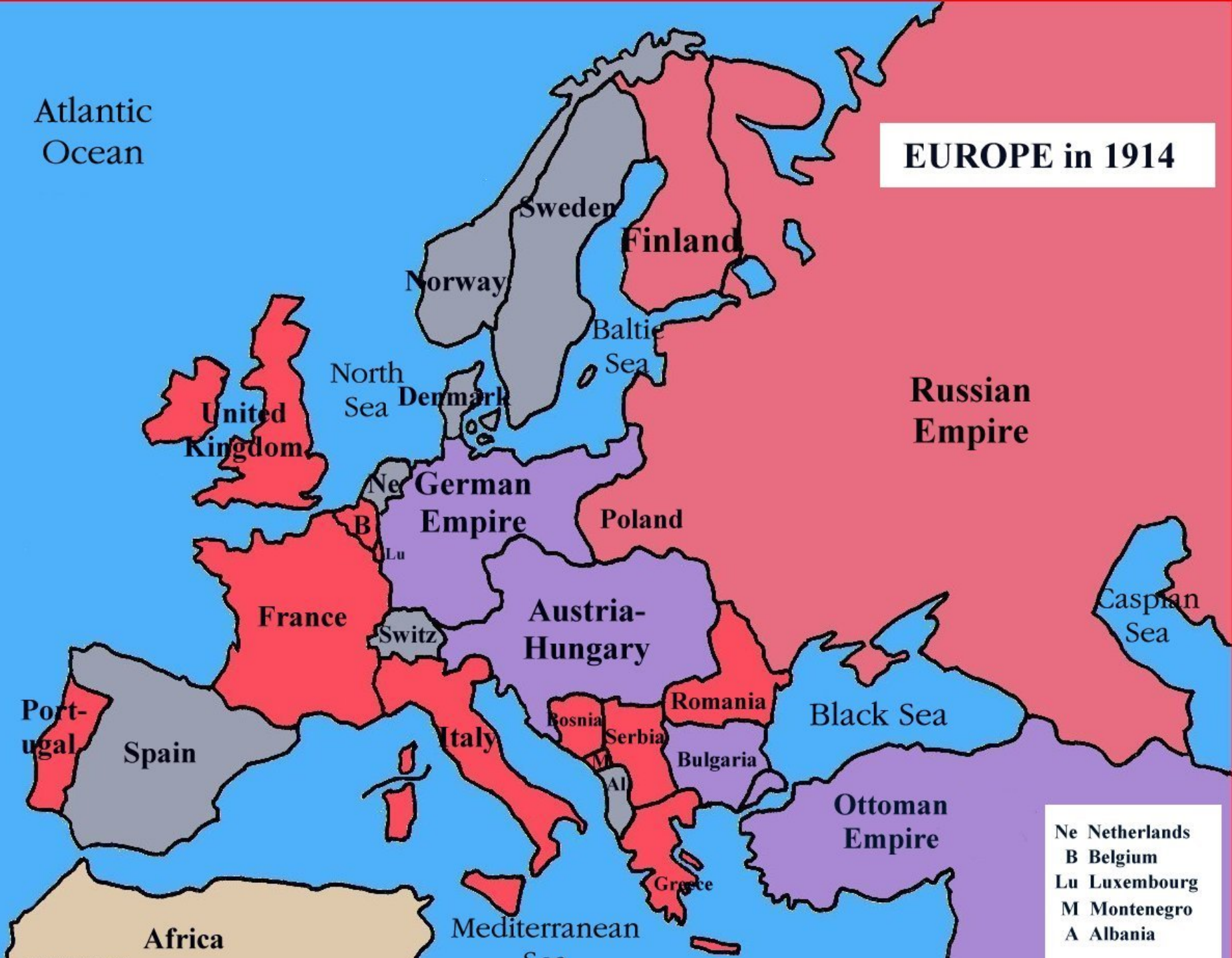
- **July 23, 1914- Ultimatum from Austria to Serbia**
 - **Austria demanded 15 things, including the leaders of the Black Hand be arrested and tried in Vienna**
 - **Gave Serbia 48 hours to agree**
- **Serbia rejected most of the Ultimatum**
- **July 28, 1914 Austria declares war on Serbia both countries began mobilization**

European Reaction

- **Russia- Supporting Serbia**
 - **Czar Nicholas II orders general mobilization against Austria-Hungary and Germany**
- **Germany declares war on Russia and France (b/c France supported Russia)**
- **Britain declared war on Germany b/c Germany invaded Belgium trying to get to France**

Atlantic
Ocean

EUROPE in 1914



**Russian
Empire**

**United
Kingdom**

**Sweden
Norway**

Finland

Denmark

**German
Empire**

Poland

France

**Ne
B
Lu**

**Austria-
Hungary**

**Caspian
Sea**

**Port-
ugal**

Spain

Italy

Rosnia

Serbia

Romania

Bulgaria

Black Sea

**Ottoman
Empire**

- Ne Netherlands
- B Belgium
- Lu Luxembourg
- M Montenegro
- A Albania

Africa

**Mediterranean
Sea**

Greece

Public Reaction

- **People generally greeted war with confidence and rejoicing**
- **Most people thought it was a matter of defending their countries honor**
- **Few people realized how long and devastating the war would be**

Terms

- **Belligerent**- engaging or fighting a war
- **Propaganda**- news and information intended to influence people's feelings about a cause
- **War of attrition**- conflict in which each side tries to win by wearing the other side down

- **Trench**- a ditch dug to protect soldiers
- **Contraband**- goods that may not legally be transported, particularly during war time

Preparedness

- **None of European countries were prepared for war**
 - **Most still used cavalry and horse and wagon**
- **Nations seriously underestimated length of war**
 - **Most had stockpiled supplies and ammunition for 6 months only**

The Sides

- ***Central Powers***

- **Germany**
- **Austria-Hungary**
- **Ottoman Empire**
- **Bulgaria**

- ***Allied Powers***

- **Great Britain**
- **France**
- **Russia**
- **Serbia**
- **Belgium**
- **Japan**
- **Montenegro**

The Schlieffen Plan

- **Plan designed in 1905 by Alfred von Schlieffen**
- **It outline a plan fight a two front (side) war**
 - **to invaded Belgium and capture Paris in 6 weeks**
 - **Then move to eastern front to fight Russia**
 - **Assumed Russia would be slow to mobilize**

Problems with Plan

- **Germans went through a heavily fortified area of Belgium and encountered strong resistance**
- **The Russian army mobilized more quickly than expected**
- **Delayed by attacked by Great Britain and France**

The Battle of the Marne

- **Battle 50 miles outside of Paris**
- **Germany vs. France**
- **Germany retreated**
 - **End of Schlieffen Plan**
 - **Bolstered French morale**
 - **Proved that neither side would have an easy win**

Russian Disaster

- **Battle of Tannenberg**
 - **Russia vs. Germany**
 - **Russians were encircled**
 - **Russia: 30,000 dead, 92,000 prisoners taken**
 - **Germany: 13,000 dead**

Deadlock

- **By November 1914- war had reached a stalemate**
- **Nations used propaganda to portray the enemy as inhuman**
- **Civilians were involved in the war effort to produce the items needed for war**

U.S. PARTICIPATION ON THE WESTERN FRONT, 1918

