

## Unit 2 Notes – Europe

### Causes of WWI

**Militarism** – *An arms race to develop bigger, better and deadlier weapons*

le: machine guns, mortars, artillery, chlorine & mustard gas, tanks, aircrafts and submarines

**Alliances** – *defensive agreements bound countries into battle*

- Pre WWI Alliances: Germany and Austria-Hungry  
Russia and Serbia  
France and Russia  
Britain, France and Belgium  
Japan and Britain

**Nationalism** – *a pride in your country or nation in which you identify with*

- Each country tried to show their dominance on the global stage
- Slavic people of Bosnia & Herzegovina didn't want to be part of Austria-Hungry (they had been annexed as provinces in 1908, but they wanted to be part of Serbia)

**Imperialism** – *A country increases its power by taking control over other areas in the world.*

- Western powers sought to increase their power and wealth by taking over smaller countries and areas within Africa and Asia because they had valuable natural resources.
- Imperialism led to an increase in confrontation and tension amongst large powers.

**Assassination** – *The killing of an important, usually political, person.*

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated on July 28, 1914 while visiting the province of Bosnia.
- Assassinated by a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip. He was a member of a group called the Black Hand.
- Austria-Hungary then declared war on Serbia starting a chain reaction of alliances declaring war on other nations to defend their own allies.

## End of WWI

Ends on **November 11, 1918** with an **armistice** (cease fire) signed by Germany and the Allied powers

**Paris Peace Conference** was a meeting of the Allied leaders to set up treaty terms for peace after the war.

- Allied were represented by the 'Big Four': British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando, French Premier George Clemenceau and US President Woodrow Wilson.
- **Wilson's Fourteen Points**: a blueprint for the post-war world that called for self-determination for all European peoples, an end to secret treaties and European disarmament.
- **Treaty of Versailles** was signed on June 28th, 1919. Terms of the treaty were extremely harsh towards Germany.
  - **War Guilt Clause**: forced Germany to accept full responsibility for causing the war and pay reparations of 132 billion German marks (roughly \$350 billion today)
  - Germany lost all of her territories and had to give up land to France.
  - **Disarmament**: The size of the army and navy was cut, and an air force and submarines were forbidden.
- **League of Nations** also came out of the Paris Peace Conference. It was formed in an effort to create world peace and settle disputes between nations.
  - Originally proposed by Wilson in his 14 points
  - It was officially established by the Treaty of Versailles
  - Had 42 original members (not the USA)
  - Had no military power to uphold regulations or warnings it created. (This will aid in leading to WWII)

## Causes of WWII

**Rise of Fascism** - An authoritative government

*Every aspect of life should be controlled by the State*

Italy - Benito Mussolini

Germany - Adolf Hitler

**Mussolini** – argued only a strong leader could unite the people to overcome Italy's postwar mass unemployment, chaotic political conflicts, and strikes by socialist and communist. Becomes first Fascist state.

**Hitler** – build strength of Germany by taking land in the east. 1929 stock market crashes in US and a global depression occurs. Unemployment rises in Germany to 6 million, Hitler steps in with right winged extremist solution. Nazis become largest party represented in parliament. President Hindenburg names Hitler chancellor in 1933, when he dies in 1934, Hitler declares himself President and Fuehrer of Germany.

**Hirohito** – ruled from 1926 to 1989. Invaded Manchuria (1931) and the rest of China in 1937 starting the second Sino- Japanese War. The League of Nations were unable to stop Japan from attacking and invading China. This showed that the League had no real power on the global stage.

### **1938-1939 and the Munich Pact**

- Germany forcibly annexed Austria (the German speaking section) in 1938. Hitler intended on creating a German nation that had been stripped from them in WWI. Other European nations saw it as an attempt of an imperialistic state to seize more land and spread its power.

-Germany then tries to annex part of Czechoslovakia (the Sutherlands)

- The **Munich Pact** was an attempt by Britain to negotiate peace with Germany and stop their expansion. It stated that Germany could annex part of Czechoslovakia. Hitler viewed it as a negotiation ploy and proceeded to occupy all of Czechoslovakia and Hungry.

**Nazis Invade Poland** – September 1, 1939

Britain and France declare war on Germany and WWII begins.