UNIT 9 – The First World War
(The Great War)

- The great powers in Europe 1900
- The powers made plans for war
- Two crises over Morocco
  - The Moroccan crisis (1905–06)
  - The Agadir crisis (1911)
- Trouble in the Balkans
- What European powers wanted
- The wars created more tensions
  - The first Balkan war.
  - The second Balkan war
- Events moved quickly towards war
- Western Front
- Eastern Front
- The war at sea
- The war in the air
- The end of fighting
- The Paris Peace and the Treaty of Versailles
- The Treaty of Versailles
- The consequences of the Treaty
- The League of Nations

The road to war (1900-1914)

The Great powers in Europe 1900

1. **Britain**: ruled an Empire over one quarter of the world’s people and owned profitable industries. Britain was an island so it needed a strong navy to protect itself and its colonies from invasion.

2. **France**: also had an overseas Empire. The French resented losing Alsace and Lorraine to Germany in the Franco–Prussian war (1871).

3. **Russia**: Russia was poor but it was the biggest country in Europe; it was ruled by Tsar Nicolas II. It had no lands overseas, but it wanted land in Europe and Asia with access to the sea.
4. Austria–Hungary was a Central European Empire, made up of two different nationalities, many of whom wanted independence. It was ruled by the Emperor Franz Joseph II.

5. Germany had a small Empire ruled by Kaiser Wilhelm II. He was jealous of Britain’s superior sea power and rich colonies. He wanted to increase German influence and wealth abroad.

These powers made secret alliances to get an advantage over their enemies.

1. 1882 – **Triple Alliance** when Italy joined the Dual Alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.

2. 1907 – **Triple Entente** between Russia, Britain and France.

Britain and Germany competed to build the best navy in the world (*Dreadnought*).

The powers made plans for war:

- Germany came up with the Schlieffen Plan to defeat France quickly before Russia mobilised, and then to fight Russia on its own.
- France prepared Plan 17 to recapture Alsace and Lorraine from Germany.
- Britain created an Expeditionary Force of 150,000 men, ready to travel immediately to Europe in case of war.
- Russia and Austria started to mobilise their armies in 1909 in case of war.
There were two crises over Morocco:

1. The Moroccan crisis (1905–06):
   a) Morocco was an uncolonised African country, but France wanted to add it to its Empire.
   b) Germany objected and demanded an international conference on Morocco’s future.
   c) At the Algeciras Conference (1906) Germany was forced to back down and France took control of Morocco’s police and banks.

2. The Agadir crisis (1911):
   a) The French sent troops to Fez to fight Moroccan rebels.
   b) Germany accused France of trying to take complete control over Morocco.
   c) Germany sent a warship called the Panther to Agadir, hoping to force France to give them the French Congo.
   d) Britain objected to the German action and also sent warships (Gibraltar).
   e) Germany backed down and recognised French influence in Morocco.
   f) The Germans felt increasingly anti–British.

Trouble in the Balkans

The Balkans were controlled by the Turkish Empire.

- The Balkans were a very poor area of Europe.
- The Turkish Empire was very weak and other European powers wanted influence in the area, especially Russia.
- Many Balkan states wanted independence (Bulgaria, Crete).

European powers wanted...

- Germany wanted to build a railway to the East through the Balkans.
- Austria–Hungary wanted to stop Serbia from stirring up the Slavic people inside its own lands.
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The First World War

- The Slavs wanted independence and hoped Serbia (a Slavic country) would help them.
- **Russia** was also a Slavic country, but it really wanted **sea access** from the Black sea to the Mediterranean, controlled by the Turkish Empire.
- **Italy** wanted to control the other side of the Adriatic sea. It took Tripoli in 1911.

All this gave way to the war in the Balkans.

**The wars created more tensions:**

**Tension suddenly exploded into World War I:**

- In 1914 the Austrian heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, went to Bosnia to help strengthen the loyalty of the Bosnian people to Austria – Hungary.
- The Black Hand (a Serbian nationalist group) planned his assassination.
- The Archduke was killed by a Serb student called Princip while he visited Sarajevo in June 1914.

After this, events moved quickly towards war:

The sequence of events is important, remember the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente, because they determined how the two sides shaped up for World War I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK:</th>
<th>23rd JULY:</th>
<th>Austria – Hungary blames the Serbian government for the assassination, demanding compensation and the right to send troops into Serbia.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28th JULY:</td>
<td>Serbia refuses to let these troops in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29th JULY:</td>
<td>Austria – Hungary declares war on Serbia.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30th JULY:</td>
<td>Russia begins mobilising troops ready to help Serbia.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st AUGUST:</td>
<td>Russia refuses. Germany declares war on Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd AUGUST:</td>
<td>France begins mobilising to help Russia.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4th AUGUST:</td>
<td>Germany declares war on France and sends troops through Belgium to attack, following the Schlieffen Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6th AUGUST:</td>
<td>Belgium is neutral, and Britain has agreed to protect Belgium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Britain orders Germany to withdraw. Germany refuses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Britain declares war on Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Austria–Hungary declares war on Russia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now count the number of days in which all this happened - not much time for sensible thinking, and it was not easy to contact people quickly in those days.
Western Front

The Schlieffen Plan aimed to attack and defeat France through Belgium before the Russians were ready, then turn back to fight the Russian Army.

The plan did not work for 3 reasons:

1. **Belgium** refused to let the German army through to attack France, so Germany entered Belgium by force.
2. **Britain** had signed a treaty with Belgium (1839) to protect it as a neutral country.

3. **Russia** was ready for war quicker than the Germans had expected. There were several battles like Nons, Marne, Ypres; but neither side could push the other back, so they dug Trenches to stop the enemy from advancing further (by the end of 1914, from the Belgian coast to Switzerland).

- This war was different for several reasons:
  - trenches
  - new weapons
  - Both sides were well supplied
  - Both sides sent thousands of men across *No man´s land*

- Other important battles were:
  - **Verdun** (1916): This was a victory for France, it became a symbol of French freedom and demoralised the Germans.
  - **The Somme** (July – October 1916): The British began a major attack at the Somme. At this battle they used a new invention: the **tank**. After thousands of deaths (more than 57,000 English soldiers died the first day), they only gained about 15 km of land.
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Eastern Front:
The allied plan was for Britain and France to hold the German army up in the West, while the Russian army advanced from the East. This would trap the Germans between their enemies.

But the Russian advance was a failure, due to several reasons. First, they didn’t have enough weapons; secondly the officers were inexperienced and discipline was poor. The Allies tried to attack other parts of Europe or the world to break the German front:

. **Britain** tried to take the Dardanelles (the entrance to the Black sea) and then go on to take Constantinople, the capital of Turkey, but they were defeated at Gallipoli (1915).

. **Far East: Japan** attacked some of Germany’s colonies in the East.

. **African colonies** were taken by Britain (except Tanganika) from Germany.

. **Middle East:** British forces controlled Palestine (Jerusalem, Damascus).

. The **British** troops pushed the Turks out of Mesopotamia (Irak, 1917).

. **Arabia:** The British helped the Arabs to attack the Turks (Lawrence of Arabia)
The war at sea was very important

The navy's job was not only fighting. The navy **had four other important tasks:**

1. To **protect trade ships** so that the Allies could remain supplied.
2. To **blockade ports**, preventing the enemy from being supplied.
3. To **carry troops** to wherever they were needed.
4. To **protect British Colonies** overseas.

The U-Boat was a type of German submarine. It could attack ships without being detected.

At first the Germans did not attack ships from neutral countries or passenger lines.

In May 1915 a U–Boat sank the liner *Lusitania*, and 1000 passengers died, including 100 American citizens. It was one factor in the USA joining the war in 1917.

The war in the air

➔ Both sides used planes and balloons to look for weak spots in the enemy trenches and for watching enemy troop movements.

➔ The Germans used hydrogen – filled airships called Zeppelins to carry bombs.

➔ The first planes were not used for fighting. In 1915 planes started to carry fixed machine guns, and by the end of the war they could travel hundreds of km without refuelling.

The end of the fighting:

1. **Russia left the war in 1917:**
   a) There was widespread starvation in the winter of 1916 and Tsar Nicholas II was forced out of power in 1917. The new Provisional Government continued the war but the Bolshevik Revolution (1917) brought new leaders to power who decided to end the fighting.
   b) Russia signed the Treaty of Brest–Litovsk with Germany in 1918 giving Germany control of a large amount of Eastern territory in return for peace (see picture)
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c) There were two important results:
   • The Allies were left to fight without Russian help on an Eastern Front.
   • Germany was now able to pull back one million men to the Western Front.

2. In April 1917 the USA joined the Allies for two main reasons:
   a) The effects of the U-Boat attack:
   b) A German attempt to encourage Mexico to attack the USA.
   c) Thirdly, American banks had made many loans to the Allies. Had the Allies lost, these banks would likely be ruined. Thus America entered the war to protect its economic interests as well.
      • Germany had to attack before all the Americans arrived.
      • The Ludendorff offensive tried to capture Paris in March of 1918.
      • The Germans advanced too far too fast so the Allies attacked them from the flanks (sides).
      • Thousand of American troops soon joined the Allies, and the Germans were pushed back.
      • Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated and the new government agreed a ceasefire or armistice on November 11th 1918.

TASKS:

24. List three reasons why the Schlieffen Plan did not work.
25. Give at least four reasons why the Russian offensive failed in 1914.
26. What are trenches?
27. Name the new type of battleship built by Britain and Germany before the war.
28. Give at least two reasons why air – warfare became important during the War.
29. Give two reasons why USA joined the War in 1917?
30. Explain why the role of women changed because of the War.
The Paris peace and the Treaty of Versailles

Three men were responsible for the treaties imposed on the defeated nations after the First World War: President Wilson of the USA, President Clemenceau of France and Prime Minister Lloyd George of Britain. Each of these men had a different view in the discussions. The final treaties were a compromise that did not satisfy the victors and shocked the losers.

The Germans never forgot that the Allies imposed the Treaty of Versailles as a “Diktat”, or dictated peace.

Lloyd George’s aims were:
- Hang the Kaiser and punish Germany for starting the war.
- Disarm Germany, especially its navy.
- Make Germany pay compensation for the costs of war.

Clemenceau’s aims were:
- Punish Germany for starting the war.
- Take back Alsace – Lorraine from Germany.
- Divide Germany and disarm its military.
- Take Germany’s colonies.

Wilson’s aims were:
- He put all his ideas into a declaration of Fourteen Points.
- Create a League of Nations to prevent another major war.
- Reduce armaments in every country and make the seas free for all ships.
- Redraw the map of Europe so that every nation had its own state.

Wilson said that everyone in Europe belonged to a nation, defined by the language they spoke and their ethnic background. → national self-determination: every nation should have its own state and one nation should not rule over members of another.
practice, it was almost impossible to draw the borders of a country without including the borders of another one.

**Defeated countries and Treaties**
- **GERMANY** Treaty of Versailles, 1919
- **AUSTRIA** Treaty of St. Germain, 1919
- **HUNGARY** Treaty of Trianon, 1920
- **BULGARIA** Treaty of Nevyilly, 1920
- **TURKEY** Treaty of Sevres, 1920
- **RUSSIA** Treaty of Brest-Litousk, 1918

**New countries**
- Czechoslovakia
- Estonia
- Finland
- Latvia
- Poland
- Yugoslavia

**The treaty of Versailles:**

**Territorial losses:**
- Alsace – Lorraine was given to France.
- The Saar was run by the League of Nations for France.
- Eupen – Malmedy was given to Belgium.
- North Schleswig was given to Denmark.
- West Prussia was given to Poland as the “Polish Corridor”.
- Danzig was run by the league of Nations for Poland.
- Posen and Silesia were given to Poland.
- Austria was forbidden to unite with Germany.
- All Germany’s colonies were taken away.

**Military terms:**
- The army was limited to 100,000 men. Tanks were banned.
- The navy was limited to 6 battleships with no submarines.
- The air force was to be disbanded.
- No Germans troops were permitted in the Rhineland.

**Reparations:**
- Germany was responsible for the war (article 231).
• A commission was established to decide how much Germany should pay. In 1921 they set the total reparation bill at 6,600 million pounds.

**Consequences of this Treaty**

**Positive:**
- It gave the victorious powers most of what they hoped to gain from the peace treaty.
- Many people in Central and Eastern Europe were free to live in their own countries.
- It limited Germany’s military power.
- It created the *League of Nations*.

**Negative:**
- It was the beginning of resentment in Germany which led to the Second World War.
- It did not reduce Germany’s power and in 1930 it become a threat again.
- It re-drew Europe’s borders so that many people felt they were trapped in the wrong country.

**TASKS:**

31. What did President Wilson of the USA hope to achieve with his Fourteen Points?

*Wilson’s fourteen points. January 1918*

1. No secret treaties
2. Free access to the sea for all
3. Free trade between countries
4. Disarmament by all countries
5. Colonies to have a say in their own future
6. Russia to be free of German troops
7. Belgium to be independent
8. Alsace-Lorraine to go to France
9. New frontier between Austria & Italy
10. Self-determination for people of Eastern Europe
11. Serbia to have access to sea
12. Self-determination for people in the Turkish Empire
13. Poland to be independent with access to the sea
14. League of Nations to settle disputes
TASKS:

32. Do you think that the peace treaties of 1919-23 made another war inevitable? Give at least 3 reasons.
33. France wanted newly created Poland to be given as much German and Austria land as possible? Why?
34. Why did some of the German delegation see the Treaty of Versailles as a “diktac”?
35. Look back at the aims of each of the Big Three. How satisfied would each one have been with the final treaty?
36. Which of Wilson’s “Fourteen Points” actually happened?
37. What does self-determination mean?
38. Name three new countries that had been set up by Versailles.
39. Give at least three reasons why Versailles was not too harsh, and four why it was.

The League of Nations

It was a diplomatic organisation in which international disputes could be discussed and solved peacefully.

The aims of the League

- To protect every nation from the threat of attack.
- To solve disputes between countries peacefully.
- To encourage every country to reduce its armament.
- To encourage international co-operation with problems such as slavery or refugees.

Organisation of the League of Nations
UNIT 9

The assembly met once a year. Each member country (initially 42) had one vote. Decisions had to be unanimous.

The council met 4 times a year. It had 4 permanent members and 4 (later 9) other members. Each permanent member had a veto over all decisions.

International Labour Organisation tried to persuade governments to improve workers' rights.

The Court of International Justice settled legal quarrels between countries.

Special commissions. They were agencies that dealt with different international problems such as refugees, minorities' rights, poor nations, slavery, health, drugs...

The League had its headquarters in neutral Geneva.

The League was a partial success in the 1920s, especially in the smaller states that were intimidated by the League's powerful members. However, disputes involving major countries like France and Italy, or non-members like Russia, were much more difficult to solve.

Some things went wrong

The USA was expected to be a permanent member of the council but it never joined.

Britain and France were more powerful than any other member so, in practice, League decisions depended on their support.

Other important countries like Germany or Japan only joined for brief periods.

It had no army so if a country broke the League's rules, it could not be punished.
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Pictures from:
- Banco Imágenes ITE
- Map of Europe (page 7) by Elena Fernández Román (CPI Tino Grandío)

Find out more at...

- these websites:
  - [www.schoolhistory.co.uk](http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk) (general information for students- simple language)
  - [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) (general information)

- these books (from the school library):

- this novel:

- and these films:
  - *Doctor Zhivago* (1965), World War I and the Russian Revolution
  - *Paths of Glory* (1957)
UNIT 11 – The Booming Twenties

Causes of the Depression
The boom years of the 1920s ended suddenly in 1929. US companies were producing lots of goods and selling them so people borrowed money to buy shares in them.

European countries couldn’t afford goods from the USA. Many US producers had overproduced. There was too much supply and not enough demand.

The Wall Street Crash in 1929
People wanted to sell shares because they realised the companies were doing badly. Wall Street is the trade centre for the USA. By October 1929 prices dropped because people didn’t want to buy shares at high prices. Businesses collapsed and thousands of people were unemployed. By the end of the month they were selling shares for whatever they could get.
• People hoped the banks would keep the value of shares up artificially, but they couldn’t because they were short of money (it had been loaned and not repaid).

• The Republican government didn’t believe the State should interfere in the free market economy to help private businesses, the poor, the unemployed ...

The effects of the Depression

In the USA

• The USA stopped lending money abroad and wanted its loans back.
By 1930 nearly 2,000 banks had collapsed as people wanted to get their savings.

Three years later there were over 12 million people unemployed in the USA.

The Republicans lost the presidency in 1932.

In Europe
The consequences of the Depression affected all the countries in Europe. The least affected country was the USSR, which had a communist system.

In Germany people turned to groups like Hitler’s Nazis who promised a strong government and a better life.

In Italy Mussolini wanted to increase the power of Italy abroad.

In Japan Goods like silk wouldn’t sell and Japan’s economy was very affected so they decided to take over other countries.

In England, France, etc. they also suffered the crisis.

The New Deal in the USA
In 1932 the democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt became president. He had a New Deal with three main aims:

- To spend money to help people get back to work.
- To rebuild American trade and industry.
- To improve the lives of ordinary people.
To achieve this he introduced many new ideas:

- He closed all the weak banks and loaned money to the stronger ones.
- He tried to control the Stock Market.
- He started schemes to feed the poor and help them back to work. A civil works administration was set up to build roads, bridges, hospitals ...
- To give jobs to young people he started a civilian Conservation Corps, where people were paid to carry out projects to help others.
- To help farmers he introduced the Agricultural Adjustment Acts: farmers were paid to produce less food and modernise their businesses.
- He developed the Tennessee Valley: an area of 40,000 square miles and 7 states.

He passed two important acts:

- **The Wagner Act**: Trade unions were legal to help workers campaign for better pay and conditions.
- **The Social Security Act**: workers could pay into a fund and receive benefits when they are out of work and pensions when they retired.
- Roosevelt kept altering his plans. On the one hand, his plans were very expensive, unemployment stayed high and the New Deal didn’t help everyone. On the other hand, the New Deal stopped the depression from getting worse, helped people to keep their homes and brought on things like unemployment insurance.

**TASKS:**

1. What is Wall Street? Why did it become so important in 1929?
2. Give three reasons why the Depression began.
3. Why couldn't most Americans buy the goods which were produced?
4. Write a paragraph about the effects of the Depression on other countries.
5. Explain in a diagram the good or bad parts of the New Deal.
6. Explain the graphs about the crash (page 2).
Find out more at...

- these websites:
  - www.schoolhistory.co.uk (general information for students- simple language)
  - www.wikipedia.com (general information)

- these books from our school library:

- and these films:
  - The Great Gatsby
  - Cabaret
  - Big Business

Pictures from:
- Banco Imágenes ITE
- Wall Street Stock Market by Esperanza Rodríguez (Banco Imágenes ITE)
- Map of Europe 1919-1929 by Ana Arias Castro
- Charts by Alejandro Cana (Banco Imágenes ITE)
Los Estados Unidos de Entreguerras

1913-21  
Woodrow Wilson

1923-29  
Calvin Coolidge

1929-33  
Herbert Hoover

1933-1945  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Prohibición o "Ley Seca" 1919-33

Boom de los felices años 20

La Gran Depresión 1929-41

USA IGM 1941-45

Truman

Bombardeos atómicos de Hiroshima y Nagasaki Ag 1945

Abril 1945 Roosevelt muere, VP Truman toma el cargo

Conferencia de Potsdam Ag 45

Conferencia de Yalta Feb 1945

1918 Gripe Española

Boom de los felices años 20

Crack de Wall Street Oct 1929

La Gran Depresión 29-41

The New Deal 1938

Ataque japonés a Pearl Harbor 7 Dic 1941

1938  
La Gran Depresión 29-41

1935  
The New Deal 1938

1938  
Ataque japonés a Pearl Harbor 7 Dic 1941

1938  
USA II GM 1941-1945

1934-36  
Segundo New Deal

1933  
New Deal

1936  
Recesion de 1937

1941  
Ley de Préstamo y Arriendo 1941

1944  
Ley de Salarrio y Horarios establece salarios mínimos e horarios de trabajo máximos 1938

1945  
Roosevelt reelegido para un 4° mandato

1941  
Ataque japonés a Pearl Harbor 7 Dic 1941

1940  
Segundo New Deal 1934-36

1935  
Ley de Préstamo y Arriendo 1941

1933  
New Deal

1932  
Recesion de 1937

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1939  
Roosevelt reelegido para un 4° mandato

1932  
Recesion de 1937

1938  
Ley de Salarrio y Horarios establece salarios mínimos e horarios de trabajo máximos 1938

1939  
Roosevelt reelegido para un 4° mandato

1930  
Aranceles

1930  
Aranceles

1929  
Crack de Wall Street Oct 1929

1929  
Crack de Wall Street Oct 1929

1928  
Pacto Rieland-Kellogg por renuncia a la guerra 1928

1928  
Pacto Rieland-Kellogg por renuncia a la guerra 1928

1925  
El Gran Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald

1925  
El Gran Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald

1920  
Ley de Inmigración

1920  
Ley de Inmigración

1915  
Wilson envía tropas en el México tras Pachuca 1916

1915  
Wilson envía tropas en el México tras Pachuca 1916

1913  
Reserva Federal "FED" 1913

1913  
Reserva Federal "FED" 1913

1918  
Gripe Española

1918  
Gripe Española
The United States in the Interwar Period

1913-21
Woodrow Wilson

1923-29
Calvin Coolidge

1929-33
Herbert Hoover

1933-1945
Franklin D. Roosevelt

USA

1919-1923
The Federal Reserve is created by Wilson 1913

1922 Spanish flu pandemic

1923-1929
Depression of 1920-21

1923 Immigration Act of 1924

1924-1929
Wall Street Crash October 1929

1925-1929
The Great Gatsby
F. Scott Fitzgerald

1926-1929
Kendall-Brazil Pact for the Recession of War Act 1928

1927-1929
The Scoop and the Vansen Affair
Racial prejudice

1928-1929
Saint Valentine's Day massacre 1929

1929-1932
Lindbergh Flight 1927

1929-1933
Prohibition or Dry Law 1919-33

1930-1933
The Great Depression 1929-41

1933-1942
Recession of 1937

1934-1936
Second New Deal 1935-36
First New Deal 1933

1935-1938
Roosevelt is re-elected for an unprecedented third term 1940

1937-1942
Fair Labor Standards Act, established minimum wages and maximum hours 1938

1941-1945
Roosevelt re-elected for fourth term 1944

Democratic
Re
Republican
Democratic

1917
1920
1923
1926
1929
1932
1935
1938
1941
1944

1918 Spanish flu pandemic
Boom of the Roaring Twenties
Wall Street Crash October 1929
The Great Depression 1929-41
The New Deal 1933
The attack on Pearl Harbor Dec 7 1941
The attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 1945

April 1945 Roosevelt dies. VP Truman takes over
Potsdam Conference July 1945

1944

1945