

Section 10

Causes of World War I

STANDARD VI: The student will understand the causes and effects of World War I.

OBJECTIVE 1: Evaluate the causes of World War I.

- Socioeconomic climate of the United States
- European economy
- Nationalism, Imperialism, Militarism

ELIGIBLE CONTENT QUESTIONS (THIS IS THE STUFF YOU MUST KNOW!)

What is meant by American imperialism and territorial expansion that took place prior to World War I.

How can territorial expansion be seen as a search for raw materials? How can territorial expansion be viewed as a global balance of power between the countries in Europe and the United States? How did the United States acquire the Hawaiian Islands? What are the events of the Spanish American War? How did the Yellow Press, Rough Riders, Cuban intervention and the Philippines lead to imperialistic elements in U.S. Policy?

What was the Open Door Policy? How did the United States get involved with the building of the Panama Canal? Who was William C. Gorgas and how did he influence the building of the Panama Canal? What is Roosevelt's Corollary?

What were the events of America's involvement in World War I? What are the major causes of the war, both long term and immediate? How did the United States get involved in the war? How did the United States Mobilize itself for war? In general, what role did the American military play? What was life like on the homefront? What technological innovations were developed as a result of the war? What is and who signed the Treaty of Versailles

How did European nationalism and Western imperialism change as a result of the war? What are the economic roots of imperialism? What is the imperialist ideology? What is nationalism and militarism? How did Italy, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and other countries act as imperialists before, during and after the war? What is Social Darwinism and how did it have an effect on the world during this time? How did Racism play into all of this?

## Terms and Conspts for

### Chapter 10: Causes of World War I

Nationalism	This is the belief of peoples of similar language and culture that they have a right to be one nation.
Ku Klux Klan	Members of this secret organization worked hard to attack Jews, Catholics, and blacks. During the 1920's, leaders in white communities in the South and in the North joined the KKK in massive numbers. Usually, they worked by intimidation and fear, burning crosses outside people's homes and sending hate letters. They put pressure on employers to fire black or immigrant workers.
Isolationism	This policy meant that people felt it best to stay out of international conflicts and events Involvement in the Pacific/Latin America (mid 1800s-1914).
Annex	This means to incorporate (add) territory to an existing state. (For example, the U.S. annexed the Hawaiian Islands in 1898.)
Boxer Rebellion (1900)	This was an anti-imperialist uprising by a society of Chinese, called the Boxers, who wanted to drive all foreigners out of China.
Diplomacy	This is the conducting (management) of relations between nations.
Dollar Diplomacy	This is a policy begun by President Taft whereby the U.S. attempted to increase its influence in Latin America by encouraging Americans to make investments in Latin American nations.
Drago Doctrine (1902)	This was a statement by the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luis Drago, claiming that foreign nations did not have the right to use military force to collect debts from Latin Americans.
ethnocentrism	the belief that one's own race, nation, or culture is superior to all others.
Foreign Policy	This is a nation's plan for dealing with other nations. (For example, when war broke out between Great Britain and France, President Washington adopted, in 1793, a foreign policy of neutrality.)
Imperialism	This is a policy by which one nation seeks to acquire or control another land or country.
Insular Cases (1901)	These were cases in which the Supreme Court decided that people in certain U.S. possessions were not entitled to all constitutional rights and guarantees.
Insurrection	This is an uprising or revolt against authority (e.g.,

	the Philippine Insurrection of 1899-1902).
International Police Power	This is the right claimed by a nation (or group of nations) to send its forces into another nation to maintain order.
Internationalism	This is a foreign policy of cooperation with other nations for the good of all.
Intervention	This is the act of interfering, often with military force, in the internal affairs of another country with the intent of changing conditions in that country.
Isolationism	This is a policy of avoiding relations, such as diplomatic involvement, with other nations.
Jingoist	This is a person who is extremely nationalistic and is quick to advocate using military force to achieve national goals.
Latin America	These are the countries in South America, Central America, and most of the West Indies where Latin-based languages such as Spanish and Portuguese are spoken.
Open Door Policy (1899)	This was a policy set forth by the U.S. urging nations with spheres of influence in China to allow all nations to trade freely with China.
Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902)	This was a rebellion by Filipinos who opposed the U.S. annexation of the Philippines and instead wanted independence for their country.
Platt Amendment (1901)	This was the act which granted Cuba its independence, but with the condition that Cuba agreed to give the U.S. the right to intervene in Cuba when necessary to protect life, property, or the rights of individuals.
Propaganda	This is one-sided or intentionally false information which is designed to influence people's thoughts or actions.
Protectorate	This is a country which is protected and strongly influenced by another, stronger country.
Roosevelt Corollary	This was an expansion of the Monroe Doctrine in which, in 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt claimed for the U.S. the right to intervene in Latin America when necessary to preserve order.
Rough Riders (1898)	This was a volunteer regiment of cavalry which fought in the Spanish-American War under the command of Theodore Roosevelt.
Sensationalist Press	These were newspapers or magazines which print emotionally-arousing stories of questionable accuracy in order to arouse the interest of readers. (Also called the "yellow press".)

Social Darwinism	This is the idea that strong businesses and cultures should replace weaker ones.
Sovereign	This is the condition of being highest in authority and totally independent-not having to obey any other authority.
Sphere of Influence	This is a geographic area which is under the control or influence of a strong foreign power.
Teller Amendment (1898)	This was an act of Congress stating that when the Spanish-American War was over, the U.S. would grant Cuba its full independence.
Territorial Possession	This is an area of land owned by another country.
Xenophobia	This is fear and hatred of foreigners or anything foreign.
Yellow Journalism	This is the sensationalist, and sometimes inaccurate, reporting by newspapers or magazines.
Yokohama, Treaty of (1854)	This was a treaty signed by the Japanese emperor, while being pressured by Commodore Perry, agreeing to open up Japanese ports to American trade.
Arbitration	This is the judging of a dispute by an unbiased person who then suggests a fair settlement.
Child Labor Laws	These are laws which prohibit the employment of children under certain conditions.
Civil Service	These are government jobs, except those in the armed services, judiciary or those filled by elected officials.
Clayton Antitrust Act (1914)	This was a law which strengthened the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 by outlawing interlocking directorates and by prohibiting corporations from buying stocks in other corporations if such purchases created a monopoly.
Conservative	This is a person who wants to preserve the status quo and is opposed to changes in traditional customs or practices.
Direct Democracy	This is a political system where people directly vote on laws.
Federal Reserve Act (1913)	This was a law that created a Federal Reserve Board which would have some controls over America's national banks and have the power to expand or contract the nation's money supply.
General Election	This is an election (usually held on the first Tuesday in November) where all registered voters are allowed

to vote for candidates. (Note: See primary election for a comparison.)

Gilded Age

This was the period of post-Civil War America (1865-1900) characterized by growing wealth, materialism, and social change associated with American industrialization.

Graduated Income Tax

This is a tax on each individual's income based on a rate which increases as the person's income increases.

Grangers

These people were members of an association (formed in 1867) whose purpose was to promote the interests of agriculture.

Impeach

This means to accuse or charge. For example, the House of Representatives has the power to impeach (charge) the president with crimes. The Senate has the power to judge whether or not the president is guilty of the crimes he has been impeached with.

Initiative

This is a method by which citizens may initiate (start) a state law by collecting a certain number of signatures on a petition after which the state legislature must either pass the law or put it up to the voters in a referendum.

Interstate Commerce Act (1887)

This was a law passed which granted the federal government the power to regulate railroads that passed through more than one state.

Jim Crow Laws

These were laws passed in some states and localities, especially in the South, which required racial segregation (separation).

Laissez-Faire

This is a French term which means to "leave alone."

Merit System

This is a system built into the Civil Service system which requires that government jobs be given to those who merit (deserve) the job on the basis of performance on a competitive civil service examination.

Muckraker

This is a person who investigates and reports corruption in government and other problems of society.

Northern Securities Case (1902)

This was an antitrust case prosecuted by President Theodore Roosevelt's Attorney General and ruled on by the Supreme Court which decided that a railroad trust violated the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Pendleton Act (1883)

This was an act, also called the Civil Service Reform Act, which created the Civil Service Commission which in turn administered civil service tests and hired people for government jobs according to their test scores.

Political Boss	This was the leader of a political machine. (For example, William Marcy "Boss" Tweed was the corrupt, political boss of New York City's Democratic political machine, Tammany Hall, during the 1860s and 1870s.)
Political Corruption	This is dishonesty on the part of government officials such as rigging elections or accepting bribes in exchange for governmental favors.
Political Machine	This is an organization controlled by political party leaders which would sometimes use illegal methods, such as ballot-box stuffing, to ensure victory for candidates chosen by the party leaders.
Primary Election	This is an election held several weeks or months before the general election in which members of a political party pick the party's nominees for the general election.
Progressive Movement	This was a reform movement of the early 1900s aimed at correcting America's political, social, and economic problems.
Racial Segregation	This is the separating of one race from another.
Recall	This is a process by which citizens can remove from office unwanted state and local governmental officials before their terms of office have expired.
Referendum	This is a process by which citizens vote "yes" or "no" to certain bills submitted to the citizens by the state legislature.
Representative Government	This is a government made up of officials who are elected by the citizens. These officials speak for, or represent, the citizens who elected them to office.
Seventeenth Amendment (1913)	This is the change to Constitution which gives citizens in each state the right to directly elect their state's two senators. Prior to this amendment, the senators were chosen by the state legislators.
Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)	This was a law which attempted to end monopolistic business methods by making "combinations in restraint of trade" illegal.
Spoils System	This is the practice by winners in an election of awarding government jobs to their political supporters.
Tammany Hall	This was the headquarters and name of the Democratic Party organization (founded in 1789) in New York City.
Temperance Movement	This was a movement of the 1800s and early 1900s to end the consumption of alcoholic beverages by outlawing their manufacture and sale.

Triangle Shirt Waist Company fire	This was the New York City fire killing 147 people in 1911 which prompted demands for safer building codes.
Tweed Ring	This was a ring (group of people who cooperate with each other for illegal purposes) of corrupt officials in New York City during the 1860s and 1870s who were lead by ringleader William Marcy "Boss" Tweed.
Wisconsin Idea	This was a progressive program led by Wisconsin's Governor La Follette (Governor from 1901-1906) which became a model for other states to follow.
Wobblies	This was the nickname given to a radical labor union, the International Workers of the World, which favored the destruction of capitalism.
Workmen's Compensation Laws	These were laws requiring employers to buy insurance policies which will pay medical costs and other benefits for workers injured on the job.
American Federation of Labor (AFL)	This is a union or association of craft unions founded by Samuel Gompers in 1886.
Arbitration	This is a hearing at which a neutral judge attempts to settle a dispute between two parties (e.g., labor and management).
Capitalism	This is an economic system based on private ownership of property.
Child Labor	This is the practice, common during the 1800s, of employing children to work in such places as factories and mines.
Collective Bargaining	This is the process whereby a union, which represents its members, bargains with company management for changes in wages and working conditions.
Command Economy	This is an economic system in which government, instead of private individuals, makes basic economic decisions regarding production and prices.
Contract Labor Law (1864)	This was a law passed in 1864 and later repealed in 1885, allowing American employers to hire foreign laborers to work in American businesses for a set wage and period of time.
Corporation	This is a business chartered by the state. It is legally separate from the individuals who own it. The owners are called stockholders in that business.
Dividend	This is a stockholder's share of a sum (usually money) that the corporation decides to distribute.
Entrepreneur	This is one who is willing to take risks to start and direct a new business.

Free Enterprise System	This is an economic system in which individuals and corporations are free to conduct their businesses with little or no interference from government.
Gilded Age	This is a name given to the period of U.S. history from the end of the Civil War (1865) to 1900. This name was first used by Mark Twain. He said America had a "gilded" society, as if it was covered by a thin layer of gold. It seemed rich on the surface but there was much poverty underneath.
Haymarket Affair (1886)	This was an episode in which several union leaders and anarchists were blamed for fatally bombing seven police officers in the Haymarket Square of Chicago even though there was no evidence that they were responsible for the officers' deaths.
Homestead Act (1862)	This was a law that granted 160 acres of western land to any citizen who worked the land for at least five years.
Interdependence	This is the condition of two or more entities (individuals, businesses, or countries) being dependent on each other.
Labor Union	This is an association of workers who unite to protect their interests or gain better working conditions.
Laissez-Faire	This is a non-interventionist, "hands-off" approach by government to the economic affairs of a nation -- similar to the concept of free enterprise.
Lockout	This is the temporary closing down of a business by an employer to force employees to accept the employer's demands.
Monopoly	This is the exclusive or total control of a certain industry. (For example, Rockefeller's Standard Oil Trust monopolized the oil refining industry in the U.S.)
Nationalization	This means to bring private property or services under the control or ownership of the national government.
Pardon	This was a person who contracted foreign laborers (especially Italians) for work in America.
Patent	This was an official document declaring that a certain person (or company) has the exclusive right to make, sell, or profit from his or her invention.
Philanthropist	This is a person who donates time or money for the benefit of others.
Protectionism	This is the policy of supporting high tariffs in order to protect a nation's industries from foreign

	competition.
Rural Free Delivery	This is delivery of U.S. mail to addresses in rural areas without extra charge to the receivers.
Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)	This was a law which attempted to end monopolistic business methods by making "combinations in restraint of trade" illegal.
Social Darwinism	This is the belief of the late 1800s and early 1900s that the wealthiest and most powerful citizens had proven themselves to be society's most worthy leaders.
Socialism	This is an economic system based on government ownership and control of major industries.
Strikebreakers	These are people hired to cross picket lines and work jobs being boycotted by striking workers.
Subsidy government	This is a gift or contribution of money given by the government to a group or business because its work is considered important to the nation.
Sweatshop	This is a place where people work under poor conditions and for low wages.
Tariff	This is a tax on imported goods designed to raise revenues for the government (revenue tariff) or to protect businesses from foreign competition (protective tariff).
Trunk Line	This is the main railroad or communication line to which many smaller lines are connected.
Trust	This is a form of business combining several companies into a single business which is often large enough to have monopolistic control over an entire industry.
Wobblies	This is the nickname given to a radical labor union, the International Workers of the World, which favored the destruction of capitalism.
Yellow-Dog-Contract	This was a written promise made to an employer by an employee stating that the employee would not join a labor union.
Age of Homespun	This was the period of pre-industrial America (late 1700s - early 1800s) when people often produced, at home, hand-made cloth, furniture, candles, and other necessities.
Anarchist	This is one who opposes all forms of government in the belief that government excessively interferes with personal liberty.
Assimilation	This is the process of becoming absorbed. (For

example, minority groups sometimes become assimilated into the general population by intermarriage.)

Cash-Crop Farmers

These are farmers who grow crops, such as tobacco, cotton, and wheat with the intent of selling those crops.

Child Labor

This is the practice, common during the 1800s, of employing children to work in such places as factories and mines.

Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

This was a law which barred immigration from China for ten years and denied U.S. citizenship to those who had already immigrated.

Company Store

This was a store, owned by a company, from which employees of that company had to buy their necessities.

Company Town

This was a town whose stores, houses, and other buildings are owned by a company (usually the area's largest employer) and whose police and other officials are hired and controlled by that company.

Contract Labor Law (1864)

This was a law which allowed American businessmen to go to Europe and sign labor contracts with European workers. Europeans who signed the contracts promised to come to America and work for a certain wage and for a certain period of time. It was illegal for these workers to leave their jobs before the end of their contract.

Cultural Mosaic

This is a condition where, instead of ethnic minorities being assimilated, each group keeps its own cultural patterns and lives in its own neighborhood.

Diversity

This is the condition of having variety. (For example, immigrants from different lands and cultures brought diversity to America.)

Ethnic Group

This is a group of people regarded as unique because of their different customs, language, or other characteristics.

Ethnocentrism

This is the belief that one's own race, nation, or culture is superior to all others.

Ghetto

This is a section of a city which is predominantly populated by members of an ethnic or racial group.

Gilded Age

This was the period of post-Civil War America (1865-1900) characterized by growing wealth, materialism, and social change associated with American industrialization.

Internment Camps

These were camps where the U.S. imprisoned Japanese-Americans during World War II. These camps were also

called relocation camps.

Mail-Order House

This is a business, such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, which receives orders for merchandise and delivers that merchandise by mail.

National Origins Acts

These were acts between 1924 and 1929 that established immigration quotas, for each foreign nation, based on the number of Americans who had originated from that nation as of a given year -- 1890 was the year upon which quotas were calculated by the National Origins Act of 1924 but this base year was later changed to 1920 by the National Origins Act of 1929.

Nativists

These were Americans who wanted to halt immigration so that the U.S. would be populated only by native-born Americans.

New Immigration

This is immigration to the U.S. after 1890 which was different from earlier immigration in that most of the new immigrants came from southern and eastern Europe.

Old Immigration

This is immigration to the U.S. before 1890 which consisted mainly of emigrants from northern and western Europe.

"Plessy v. Ferguson" (1896)

This was a case in which the U.S. Supreme Court decided that state laws which segregated races did not violate the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment as long as separate facilities provided for each race were equal -- a ruling often referred to as the "separate-but-equal" decision.

Pluralism

This is the condition of having or allowing a variety of different groups, beliefs, or different practices.

Quota System (1921-1965)

This was a system of limiting immigration to the U.S. by assigning to each nation an immigration quota (number of people from that country who would be allowed to immigrate to the U.S.).

Settlement House

This was a place where help is provided to the poor and needy. (For example, Jane Addams established a settlement house called Hull House in Chicago in 1889 which provided day-care services for working mothers.)

Sharecropper

This is a tenant farmer who pays rent by giving the landlord a share of the crop the farmer has produced.

Status Quo

This is the existing state of affairs.

Tenement House

This is a building which is divided into apartments, particularly one that provides substandard living conditions and is located in a poorer section of a city.

American Expeditionary Force

This is a name given to U.S. military forces sent to

	fight in Europe after the U.S. declaration of war on Germany in 1917.
Archduke	This was a prince, especially a prince of the ruling royal family of Austria.
Armistice	This is an agreement by two opponents to stop fighting.
Committee of Public Information	This was also called the Creel Committee. It was a committee headed by George Creel which enlisted speakers and writers in a campaign to encourage public support for the war effort during World War I (1917-1918).
Czar	This was the title of the emperor of Russia prior to the communist takeover in the Russian Revolution of 1917 (also spelled tsar).
Dissent	This means to disagree with the opinion of others such as those in the majority or those in power.
Doughboys	These were American infantrymen who fought in World War I.
Eastern Front	This was the battle line east of Germany where Central Power forces led by Germany fought Allied Power forces (especially Russian troops) during World War I.
Espionage	This is the act of spying.
Espionage Act (1917)	This was a law which provided for severe punishment of persons convicted of spying, sabotage, or otherwise obstructing the war effort.
Ethnic Group	This is a group of people regarded as unique because of their different customs, language, or other characteristics.
Genocide	This is the destruction or extermination of an entire group of people. The word was first applied to the attempted extermination of Jews by Nazi Germany.
Idealistic	This means having high ideals or principles and acting on them.
Ideology	This is the way of thinking of an individual or group.
International Law	This is a body of rules guiding the relations between nations that most nations have agreed should be followed by all. (For example, most nations have agreed that all nations should treat their prisoners of war in a humane way.)
International Waters	These are oceans and all other waters (except those claimed as territorial waters of a nation) which are

	open to ships of all nations.
Internationalism	This is a foreign policy of cooperation with other nations for the good of all.
League of Nations (1920-1946)	This is an association of nations designed to promote world peace and international cooperation -- later replaced by the United Nations.
Militarism	This is an attitude characterized by a nation's commitment to military strength and the willingness to use armed forces in achieving national goals.
Neutrality	This is a foreign policy of not taking sides in disputes between other nations.
Pacifist	This is a person who is opposed to war or the use of deadly force.
Red Army	This was the name given to the communist army, such as the force which fought against the anti-communist White Army in the Russian civil war of 1918-1920.
Reparations	These are payments for war losses and damage by a defeated nation. (For example, Germany was obliged to make reparations after World War I.)
Russian Revolution (1917)	This was the revolution in Russia in which the government of the Czar was overthrown and later replaced by a communist government led by Lenin.
"Schenck v. U.S." (1919)	This was a case in which the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the U.S. could legally restrict freedom of speech when such speech presented a "clear and present danger" to the security of the U.S. during time of war.
sedition	This is speech or actions which encourage disobedience to government.
Sedition Act (1918)	This is an amendment to the Espionage Act of 1917 which outlawed disloyal statements about the U.S. government.
Selective Service Act (1917)	This is a law which authorized the U.S. government to draft men between the ages of 21 and 31 into military service. The age limits were later expanded to 18 and 45.
Sussex Pledge (1916)	This was a promise made by Germany, in response to Wilson's angry protests over the sinking of a French passenger ship, the Sussex, that Germany would not sink civilian ships without warning or providing for the passengers' safety.
Treaty of Versailles (1919)	This was the treaty negotiated in Versailles, France which formally ended World War I.

Triple Alliance	This was the military alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed before World War I. (Italy dropped out of the Triple Alliance when the war broke out in 1914.) Turkey and Bulgaria joined the alliance in 1914.
Triple Entente	This was the military alliance of Great Britain, France, and Russia formed before World War I.
War Bonds	This was a certificate stating that the government has borrowed a certain amount of money for the war effort and that this money will be repaid, with interest added, to the lender.
Western Front	This was the line of battle west of Germany where the armies of Great Britain, France, and later the U.S. fought against the German army.
White Army	This was the army of anti-communist Russians whom the communists defeated in a civil war (1918-1920).
Zimmerman Note (1914)	This was a diplomatic note sent by the German Foreign Secretary, Arthur Zimmerman, to the German minister in Mexico which authorized the minister to seek a German-Mexican alliance if the U.S. declared war on Germany.
Rough Riders	This was a group of Teddy Roosevelt's volunteers who liberated Cuba from Spanish control.
Lusitania	This was a cruise liner that, without the knowledge of its passengers, shipped military supplies to Great Britain. On May 7, 1915, a German submarine torpedoed the Lusitania off the coast of Ireland. The people of the United States were furious; a wave of anti-German feeling swept over the people of the United States.
Bessie Smith	This woman was known as the Empress of the Blues in the 1920s, Smith was an African American blues singer from Chattanooga, Tennessee, who received national attention.
Atheists	These are people who profess the belief that there is no God.
Comstock Law	This law prohibited the distribution of information related to pornography, birth control, and sexually transmitted diseases.
Social Darwinism	During this time in history, many nations believed their cultures were superior and so deserved the right to conquer other peoples. This was a basic survival of the fittest mentality. Darwin's idea of "survival of the fittest" in the animal kingdom led many to believe that the same held true for humans. The idea that only the strongest people are meant to rule is

known as "Social Darwinism."

Red Scare

This was a time of hysteria in the nation resulting from the following events: (1) When the Communist Bolsheviks came to power in Russia in 1917, they promoted a worldwide movement of revolution; they asked that workers around the world revolt against their governments, and (3) Anarchists (people who do not believe in any form of government) tried to assassinate John D. Rockefeller and Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer.

Trench warfare

This was the military tactic during WWI when each side's army lived in the trenches, usually infested with rats and mud and a host of other nasty things.

Nativists

These were people who were afraid of foreigners entering the United States.

Harlem Renaissance

This was an increase in black racial pride and awareness that led many black intellectuals to write works portraying the daily lives of working class blacks in the United States.

Imperialists

These were people who believed that the United States should acquire overseas colonies to maintain a strong economy.

Yellow journalism

This is sensational writing which disregards the truth. It is typically used as a means of propaganda.

Al Capone

This person was a famous bootlegger and mobster in the 1920's.

Open Door Policy

This policy kept China open to trade for all nations.

U-boats

These were German submarines used to sink British and French merchant ships in the Atlantic.

Triple Alliance

This was an agreement of mutual protection between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.

## Timeline for

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1860's	Otto von Bismarck was a Prussian and German statesman of the 19th century, born to a wealthy family. As Minister-President of Prussia from 1862 to 1890, he engineered the Unification of Germany. From 1867 on, he was Chancellor of the North German Confederation. When the German Empire was declared in 1871, he served as its first Chancellor, gaining the nickname "Iron Chancellor".
January 18, 1871	Bismarck completed efforts to unify Prussia and the German kingdoms into a single nation and had King Wilhelm I proclaimed Kaiser.
May 10, 1871	France was forced to sign a humiliating treaty with Germany that ended the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War.
1888	After his father's untimely death, 29 year-old Wilhelm II became the ruler, Kaiser Wilhelm II, of Germany.
1894	Nicolas was crowned Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, a position he did not want. Germany and Russia did not renew a friendship treaty and began their adversary relationship.
January 25, 1898	The USS Maine was sent to Havana, Cuba.
February 15, 1898	The USS Maine was destroyed by an explosion in Havana's harbor. Two hundred sixty-six people were killed.
February 19, 1898	The United States declined a Spanish request for a joint investigation into the destruction of the Maine.
February 21, 1898	The U.S. Senate ordered an investigation into the loss of the Maine.
March 8-9, 1898	A \$50 million emergency fund at President McKinley's disposal was passed by Congress.
March 16, 1898	Spain objected to the U.S. fleet's presence at Key West and other heightened defense activities.
April	President McKinley recommended armed intervention in Cuba in a message to Congress. The U.S. Army was mobilized. Resolutions demanding Spanish withdrawal from Cuba were passed by Congress. Spain severed diplomatic relations with the United States. President McKinley cabled Spain with an ultimatum to leave Cuba, demanding a reply by April 23. The Spanish Minister left Washington. An American squadron blockaded Cuban ports. A Proclamation calling for 125,000 volunteers was issued by President McKinley. Spain declared war on United States. Congress declared war on Spain.

April - April Commodore Dewey's fleet sails for Manila from Hong Kong. Spanish squadron sailed for the West Indies from Cape Verde. Commodore Dewey's fleet arrived at Manila. The Spanish fleet at Manila was destroyed by Dewey's fleet.

June - July The Spanish and the American Navies battled for Cuba and eventually the United States destroys the Spanish fleet at Santiago.

July 25 U.S. troops landed at Guanica, Puerto Rico which surrendered after being fired upon by the USS Gloucester.

July 26 The Spanish government, through France, asked the U.S. for terms for peace.

July 28 Ponce, Puerto Rico surrendered and welcomes the U.S. troops.

July President McKinley provided terms for peace to Spanish through France. The U.S. troops encountered Spanish troops at Malate, Philippines. Spain accepted McKinley's terms for peace. The U.S. forces captured Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

August 12, 1898 The Spanish American War ended, blockades of Cuba, Puerto Rico and Manila were lifted.

1901 Great Britain's Queen Victoria, whose bloodline ran through most of the ruling houses of Europe, died.

1904-1905 The Russo-Japanese War resulted in a disastrous defeat for Russia and major civil unrest at home in Europe.

January 22, 1905 The "Bloody Sunday Massacre" took place in St. Petersburg, Russia. Unarmed, peaceful demonstrators marching to present a petition to Tsar Nicholas II were gunned down by the Tsarist troops in St. Petersburg. This cost Nicholas support among the workers and farmers.

1906 British launch the first "dreadnought" class battleship.

June 28, 1914 Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia by a Serbian National. An unsteady alliance erupted into war as Russia, Serbia's ally, began to mobilize against Germany. Germany declares war on Russia and France.

July 28, 1914 Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.

August 1, 1914 Germany declares war on France. Although guaranteeing Belgian neutrality, Germans marched through Belgium into France. Nations began to align themselves, with

one side or the other, for war.

- August 1914  
Bulgaria and Turkey joined Germany and Austria-Hungary in the Central Powers. France, England, Russia (later Japan and Italy) joined the Allied Powers. Wilson declared U.S. neutrality.
- August 4, 1914  
Great Britain declares war on Germany. Reflecting strong public opinion, Wilson states in a speech that U.S. will not join the war. Germany declares waters around British Isles a war zone.
- August 26 - 30, 1914  
The Battle of Tannenberg was a decisive engagement between the Russian Empire and the German Empire in the first days of War. The battle resulted in the almost complete destruction of the Russian Second Army. A series of follow-up battles kept the Russians off-balance until the spring of 1915.
- February 15, 1915  
Neutral vessels were warned of potential u-boat attacks. Wilson warned Germany that it would be accountable for any loss of American life.
- May 7, 1915  
The German U-20 (submarine) sank the British ocean liner Lusitania. It was torpedoed without warning off the coast of Ireland. It sank in 18 minutes, killing 1198. 128 of them were Americans.
- September 1, 1915  
In a speech from Berlin, Germany promised not to sink unarmed liners following the sinking of the British ship Arabic.
- May 31, 1916  
Germany sank the French ship Sussex, but agreed to international laws called "visit and search" rules. Germany insisted that Great Britain also agree to obey international laws regarding freedom of the seas.
- November 1916  
Wilson won the 1916 U.S. presidential election, declaring "he kept us out of war." Wilson and Democrats barely defeat Hughes and Republicans (277 to 254 in electoral college).
- January 22, 1917  
Wilson called for "peace without victory". Frustrated with his efforts to mediate a peace, Wilson became convinced that both sides needed to cease hostilities.
- January 31, 1917  
Germany resumed unlimited submarine warfare to blockade England. Germany was confident that U.S. help would be too late if ever offered. Germany sought to starve England into submission.
- February 1917  
The Zimmermann was note discovered. In a telegraph, foreign minister Zimmermann asked Mexico to join Germany in exchange for return of southwest. The U.S. and British intercepted the message.
- February 1917  
Wilson asked Congress for greater powers. The Senate,

led by Robert Marion La Follette, of Wisconsin, a proponent of Progressivism and a vocal opponent of railroad trusts, bossism, World War I, and the League of Nations refuses to grant Wilson power to wage an undeclared naval war

March 15, 1917

The Russian Revolution deposed Czar Nicholas of Russia. Instability in Europe encouraged Wilson to act.

April 2, 1917

Wilson asked Congress for a formal declaration of war. "The world must be made safe for democracy," Wilson insisted.

May 1917

The Food Administration was formed. Herbert Hoover headed the effort to conserve food and boost agricultural output for the war effort.

May 1917

The Creel Committee was created. It was intended to influence U.S. public opinion regarding American intervention in World War I. It was established as an independent agency by Executive order 2594. The committee made "Official Bulletins" to convince Americans of the crusade for freedom and democracy and the bestial nature of the "Huns".

May 1917

The War Industries Board was created. It was led by Bernard Baruch, the WIB set prices and determined what goods should be produced by private industry to help the war effort.

May 28, 1917

The Selective Service Act was passed. Nearly 10 million men were listed and a lottery choose the first 687,000 to serve. Eventually 3,000,000 men served as draftees in the war.

January 1918

Wilson's 14 Points were declared. Wilson listed his goals for a war-free world, including a League of Nations.

May 28, 1918

The Battle of Cantigny was the first sustained American offensive of the war. Although it was a minor action in itself, it was the first victory for American troops.

May 1918

The Battle of Chateau-Thierry took place. In this battle, French and American troops blocked German advances. It was a decisive victory for the allies.

June 1918

American forces suffer heavy losses in Belleau Wood, France, but still managed to defeat the Germans in this Second Battle of the Marne.

July 1918

France Allied forces defeated the Germans who began to retreat east to the Meuse-Argonne

September to November 1918

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive, also called the Battle of

the Argonne Forest, was the final allied offensive of World War I. It was the biggest operation and victory of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in that war. The offensive took place in the Verdun Sector, immediately north and northwest of the town of Verdun, between September 26 - November 11, 1918. It was launched as part of Maréchal Ferdinand Foch's Grand Offensive, comprising attacks by the AEF and French Fourth Army on September 26, the British Fourth Army from September 27 and the British and Belgians at Ypres from September 28. These operations led to a general advance along most of the Western Front, resulting in the German Army's final defeat and the signing of an armistice on November 11 to bring hostilities between the Allies and Central Powers to an end.

Eastern France Gen. Pershing loses 120,000 men (10%) of his troops in heavy fighting Sedan

October 1918

American troops cut through German supply lines 50 miles behind the German front. Germany surrendered, expecting a peace drawn up under Wilson's generous 14 Points.

November 11, 1918

WWI Ended. The worst war in world history was over. 10 million soldiers were killed, 10 million civilians died from disease and starvation.

June 28, 1919

The Treaty of Versailles was signed in Versailles, France. Germany signed the treaty drafted by "Big Four" which included huge war reparation demands. The Big Four were France, Italy, England, and the U.S.