A Global Conflict

Key Terms and People

unrestricted submarine warfare using submarines to sink any ship without warning

total war war in which countries use all their resources for the war

rationing control of the amounts and kinds of goods people can have

propaganda one-sided information designed to persuade

armistice agreement to stop fighting

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read how World War I was fought in Europe. In this lesson, you will learn how the war affected the world.

As You Read

Use a timeline to answer questions about the effects of World War I.

WAR AFFECTS THE WORLD

What other areas of the world were involved?

As the war dragged on, it spread beyond Europe. In Southwest Asia, the Allies hoped to take a part of the Ottoman Empire called the Dardanelles. The attack failed with great loss of life. Farther south, Arab nationalists fought the Ottoman Turks with the help of the British. Elsewhere in Asia, Japan took German colonies in China and the Pacific Ocean. India, a British colony, sent over a million soldiers to fight. European colonies in Africa also saw action. The Allies captured three of the four German colonies in Africa.

On the seas, the British used their strong navy to block all supplies from reaching Germany. The Germans responded by increasing their submarine attacks on ships bringing food and supplies to the Allies. They used unrestricted submarine warfare, sinking any ship without warning.

When American ships were sunk and lives were lost, Americans grew angry. Then the British intercepted a secret message from Germany to Mexico. This message asked Mexico to ally itself with Germany. In return, Germany offered to help Mexico regain land lost to the United States. Finally, in April 1917, Congress declared war on Germany.

1. What areas outside of Europe were affected by the war?

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WAR AFFECTS THE HOME FRONT

**What happened on the home fronts?**

By 1917, the war had already killed millions. It had drastically changed the lives of millions more—people at home as well as soldiers fighting on the fronts. It had become a **total war**, demanding all resources of the opposing countries.

Governments took control of factories. It told them what and how much to produce. Governments also used **rationing**. This limited how much food and goods people could buy so armies in the field would have needed supplies. Governments used **propaganda** to get support. They also took steps to stop dissent, or opposition to the war.

With so many men in the military, women played a growing role in the economies of the countries at war. They worked in factories, offices, and shops. They built planes and tanks, grew food, and made clothing. These changes had an impact on people’s attitudes toward what kind of work women could do.

2. What were three ways that the war affected people’s day-to-day lives?

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THE ALLIES WIN THE WAR

**Why did the Allies win?**

In 1917, the United States entered the war. And Russia left it. Suffering during the war chipped away at the Russian people’s support for the czar. In March, he stepped down. Russian armies refused to fight. Just months later, a new revolution broke out. Communists seized control of Russia and made a treaty with Germany.

In March 1918, Germany tried one final attack. Once again, the German army nearly reached Paris. But the soldiers were tired, and supplies were short. The Allies, with fresh American troops, drove the Germans back.

Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire surrendered. In October, a revolution overthrew the emperor of Austria-Hungary. In November, Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to step down in Germany. The new government signed an **armistice**, an agreement to stop fighting. On November 11, 1918, Europe was finally at peace.

3. What were the final problems that Germany and Austria-Hungary faced?

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THE LEGACY OF THE WAR

**What was the cost of the war?**

World War I had a devastating effect on the world. As far as human costs, about 8.5 million soldiers had died. Another 21 million had been wounded. Countless civilians had suffered as well. The economies of the warring nations had suffered serious damage, too. Farms were destroyed, and factories were ruined. One estimate said the war had caused $338 billion in damage. The war also had an emotional cost. People felt all the suffering did not seem to have a purpose. The art and literature of the years after the war reflected a new sense of hopelessness.

4. Name one human, one economic, and one emotional cost of the war.

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As you read about the effects of the war on countries throughout the world, make notes to answer questions related to the timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1915</td>
<td>Gallipoli campaign begins.</td>
<td>1. What was the purpose of the Gallipoli campaign?</td>
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<td>Jan. 1917</td>
<td>Germany announces a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.</td>
<td>2. Why did the United States enter the war?</td>
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<td>Feb. 1917</td>
<td>British intercept the Zimmermann note.</td>
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<td>April 1917</td>
<td>The United States enters the war.</td>
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<td>Nov. 1917</td>
<td>Lenin seizes power in Russia.</td>
<td>3. Why did the czar's government collapse?</td>
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<td>March 1918</td>
<td>Germany and Russia sign Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.</td>
<td>4. What did this treaty accomplish?</td>
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<td>July 1918</td>
<td>Allies and Germans fight Second Battle of the Marne.</td>
<td>5. What was the significance of this battle?</td>
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<td>Nov. 1918</td>
<td>World War I ends.</td>
<td>6. What events signaled the final defeat of the Central Powers?</td>
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