



Major Battles & Events of WWI

The Great War

- July 1914 - November 1918
- Over 100 battles were fought in Europe, Asia, & Africa
- Majority of battles were fought in Europe on the Western Front

MAJOR PLAYERS

Central Powers

Germany



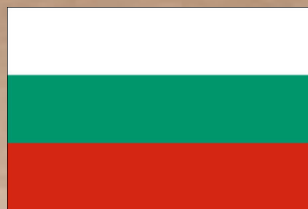
Austria-Hungary



Ottoman Empire

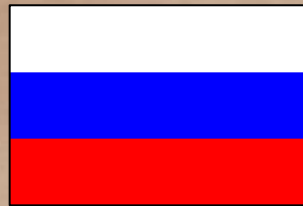


Bulgaria



Allied Powers

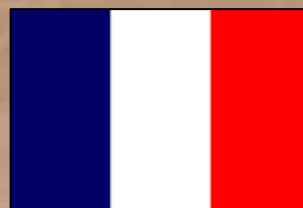
Russia



Great Britain



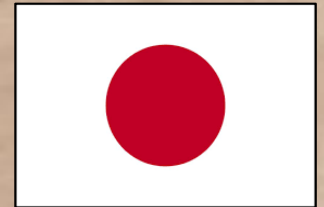
France



Italy



Japan



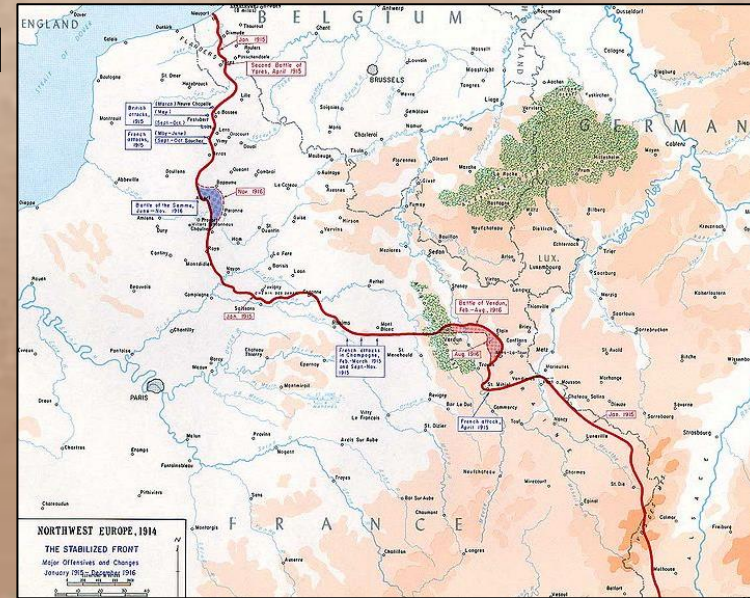
1917-US joined



Two Fronts

WESTERN FRONT

- Bordered France, Belgium and Germany
- Schlieffen Plan → Germany wanted to quickly conquer France before Russia could join the war.
- Germans were stopped before they could take Paris.
- Trench warfare began
- Some of the longest and deadliest WWI battles were fought along the Western Front.



EASTERN FRONT

- Bordered Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary
- Too large for trench warfare
- Russians never broke through the German lines

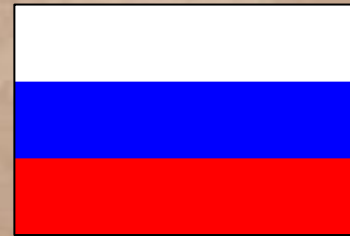


The Battle of Tannenberg

August 23-30, 1914

Near Allenstein → Today it's called Olsztyn in Poland

GERMANY VS. RUSSIA



Russia SHOULD win, right?!

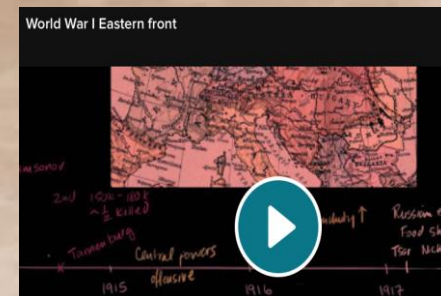
TROOPS
CASUALTIES

166,000
12,000

206,000
150,000

OUTCOMES

- Russian army **never** entered German lands again over the course of the war.
- Germans proved that they were a **strong army** that could defeat larger opponents.

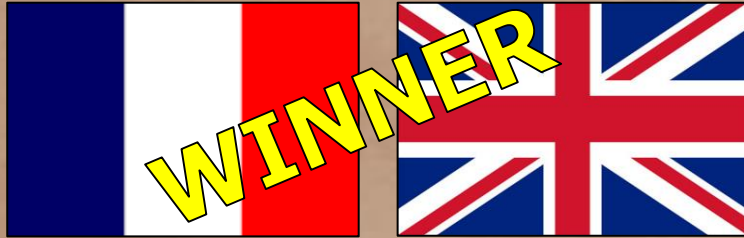


First Battle of the Marne

September 5-12, 1914

About 30 miles northeast of Paris

FRANCE & GREAT BRITAIN VS. GERMANY



TROOPS	1 million
CASUALTIES	263,000

1.4 million
220,000

OUTCOMES

- Paris was **safe** from Germany.
- Germans **retreated** & dug trenches → start of **trench warfare** which would last for four years
- Germany would now have to fight the war on both the **Western & Eastern Fronts.**



Battle of the Somme

July 1 – November 18, 1916

Near the Somme River in northeast France

Bloodiest battle of WWI



FRANCE & GREAT BRITAIN VS. GERMANY



NO REAL WINNER

TROOPS

1 million

1.4 million

CASUALTIES

623,000

500,000

Why do some consider this battle a failure?

- Great Britain bombarded Germany with over 1.6 million shells for 8 straight days....but Germany **KNEW** of this plan. They took shelter.
- British soldiers then marched into No Man's Land. Over 60,000 British soldiers were gunned down → single worst day in casualties in British military history.

OUTCOMES

- The Allies gained **7 MILES** of territory after 2 years of stalemate.
- Did relieve pressure on French troops at Battle of Verdun.

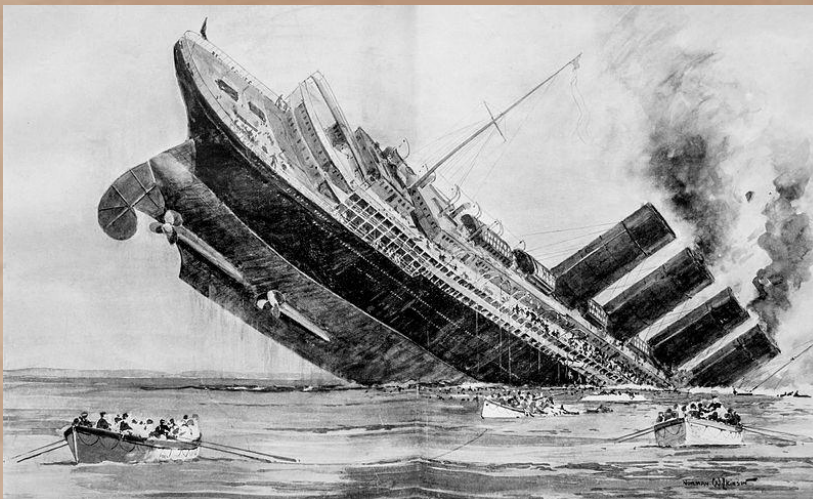
The United States Ends Its Neutrality

Joined the side of the Allies on April 6, 1917

WHY DID THE US JOIN WWI?

Sinking of the Lusitania

- British ocean liner
- 2,000 civilians on board; 159 Americans
- Sank by German U-boat torpedo on May 7, 1915
- About 1,200 people died; 128 Americans
- Germany defended its actions claiming the Lusitania was in a war zone.
- Worldwide support for the Allies grew



The New York Times. EXTRA 8:30 A.M.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915. TWENTY-FIVE PAGES.

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

CHUCKS THE PRESIDENT
Washington deeply shocked by the loss of American lives.

SOME DEAD TAKEN AWAY
Several hundred bodies were at Queenstown and Kinsale.

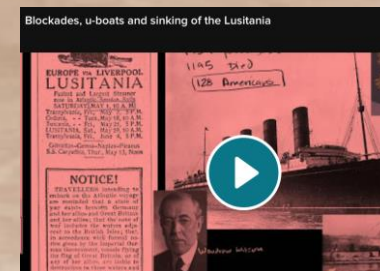
STEARNSPELLS
The papers estimate that some 1,200 people were on the Lusitania.

SHIP SIGHT OVER 100 MILES
The ship was sighted over 100 miles off the coast of Ireland.

ATTACKED IN BRITISH WATERS
The ship was attacked in British waters.

Only 800 Were Saved
Only 800 were saved from the ship.

There is such a thing," the President told one audience, "as a man being too proud to fight. There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight. There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight. American people were relieved. As Lansing put it, they desired only honorable friendship.



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Zimmermann Telegram

US JOINS WWI

- January, 1917: German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a secret telegram to the German ambassador in Mexico
- Asked Mexico to ally with Germany
- Germany would help Mexico recover the territories of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.
- Intercepted and decoded by the British
- US President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany

