WW I Review

Was the war inevitable? (Bound to happen) Yes! Why?

1. Arms race /militarism – Germany and Britain rivals so they competed to build navy and weapons.

(e.g.: Dreadnought, Howitzer, machine guns)

1. Alliances – triple alliance (Germany, A/H and Italy) V Triple Entente (GB, Fr and Russia)
2. Nationalism – everyone thought their country was better than everyone else’s

All that was needed was an excuse to fight…

EXCUSE – Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Bosnia.

Bosnia was full of Slavs/Serbs who wanted to be part of Serbia not A/H. One of their number killed the heir to the A/H throne…

A/H blames Serbia so it can gain more territory. Issues ultimatum to Serbia.

Serbia like Russia is Slavic and relies on Russian support. Russia starts to get ready for war by sending “stuff” to German border because Germany was allied to Austria…

1. Austria declares war on Serbia.

2. Germany declares war on Russia and France because of the Schlieffen Plan – war on 2 fronts (attack France and defeat them then turn on Russia)

3. Germany invades Belgium to get by French defenses

4. GB declares war on Germany

Everyone expected the war to be quick – home by Christmas…

Germany on verge of victory starts to move troops east. GB and Fr hold at Battel of Marne – leads to stalemate on Western front.

Germany drives Russia back out of Germany and continues to make progress east.

War Of Attrition – who will run out of stuff first?

US supplying and Germany using U-boats to sink ships going to GB and Fr. Lusitania incident forces Germany to give up unrestricted sub warfare.

War drags on and on! Look at new weapons, inventions things that made the war so bad and stopped any one side from winning.

1917 year that everything changes.

Germany running out of stuff – desperate to end the war, figures if they can force Russia to make peace, they can send troops back to west and win there.

Get Lenin (revolutionary into Russia to overthrow the govt. Which he does and then Russia agrees to peace. (Brest Litovsk)

Need to cut West off from supplies – unrestricted sub war back again. (Win before US gets going). Zimmerman telegram.

US into the war…

Numbers, morale and supplies made the difference.

Germany on the verge of defeat agrees to Armistice - 11hour 11 day 11 month 1918.

Peace agreement at Versailles – Losers not invited! 3 countries decide everything. GB, Fr and US (Italy leaves and USSR not included other than to tell them they get their land back from treaty of Brest Litovsk)

Wilson 14 Points…

France really angry ready to crush Germany forever

GB in the middle

VERSAILLES

1. Article 231 Germany is to blame
2. Self-determination not applied to losers Poland and Czech and Italy and France and Yugoslavia
3. German military crippled
4. Rhineland region
5. Reparations

Germany resents the treaty too harsh!

League of Nations – idea is good but is a complete failure – WHY?

1. Too many countries not a part especially US, Germany, USSR
2. No way to enforce decisions – sanctions (stop trade) but other nonmembers just stepped in to sell their goods!
3. Who was going to make the decisions/lead with so many countries trying to get their say? European countries were destroyed after spending so much effort in the war. US and other powerful countries were not a part!

Russian Revolution

Russia still under absolute ruler – Czar Nicholas II

BAC! Lost war with Japan, which proved it.

Led to revolution in 1905, which the Czar put down but it made him realize the situation.

WW I shows Russia up again!

Runs out of “stuff” literally.

Russia I chaos through desertion and strikes and food shortages.

Czar blamed for everything because he is absolute.

When he goes to the front lines to boost morale, wife in charge. She is German princess (not good in a war against the Germans!)

Failures continue.

Czar abdicates. New Government led by Kerensky (a Menshevik not an all-out communist)

Kerensky’s big mistake was continuing the war.

Germans send Lenin in. He overthrows Kerensky and Bolsheviks take charge... Lenin promised Peace, Land, Bread!

Makes peace – treaty Brest Litovsk. Gives up huge chunk of land but gets peace.

Mensheviks fight back to regain control – CIVIL WAR! Reds (Bolsheviks) V Whites (Mensheviks). Red army led by Trotsky.

Reds win and Lenin tries to get Russian economy going again by introducing NEP (New Economic Policy)

This allowed people to sell whatever they could produce over the Government’s production quota.

True communists opposed and shot Lenin.