

Objectives

- Discover the factors that led to the outbreak of war in Europe.
- Find out why World War I was deadlier than any earlier conflict.
- Learn how the United States moved from neutrality to involvement in the war.



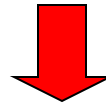
Terms and People

- **militarism**– the glorification of the military
- **nationalism**– pride in one's nation or ethnic group
- **stalemate**– deadlock
- **trench warfare**– type of warfare in which soldiers fire at one another from opposing lines of dugout trenches
- **propaganda**– the spread of information designed to win support for a cause



What were the causes of World War I?


In the early 1900s, several factors led to rising tensions among European nations.



In 1914, these tensions erupted into the largest war the world had yet seen.



The following factors caused tension in Europe.



Imperialism
Nations competed for trade and territory.



Militarism
Nations built up their armed forces.



Alliances
Nations promised to aid one another in conflict.

The spark that set off the war occurred in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

June 28, 1914

A Serbian nationalist assassinated **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary.

July 29, 1914

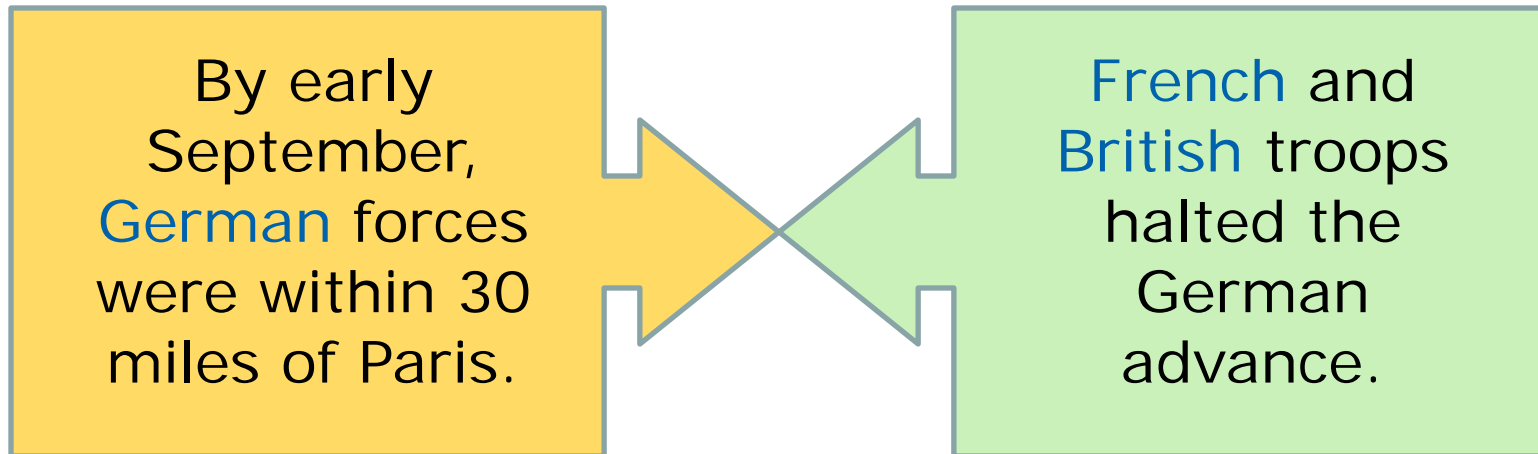
Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

The alliance system drew more than 20 countries into war.

Two sides formed: the Allies and the Central Powers.



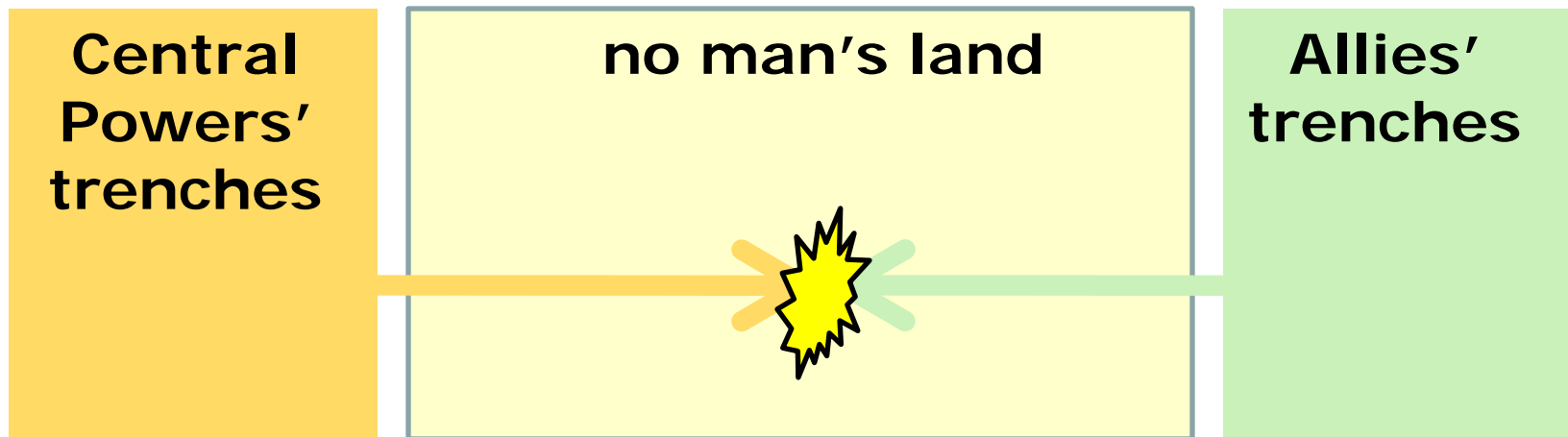
Fighting began in France. Both sides hoped for a quick victory, but **neither could gain an advantage.**



This deadlock, or **stalemate, lasted for over three years.**

The stalemate was made worse by the use of **trench warfare**.

Neither side could successfully **cross no man's land**.

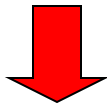


They fought back and forth over the same land.

Technological advances such as airplanes, tanks, and machine guns made the war more lethal.

Poison gas was the most feared weapon.

Gases caused blindness, choking, and blisters.



In 1925, many nations agreed to ban chemical weapons in war.



President Wilson proclaimed U.S. neutrality, but **not all Americans agreed**.

Americans had **ethnic loyalties** to one side or the other.

Britain used **propaganda** to win American support and exaggerated or made up **horrifying tales about the Central Powers**.

Many Americans began to take sides.

Even though the U.S. was neutral, they supported the Allies by trading with them.



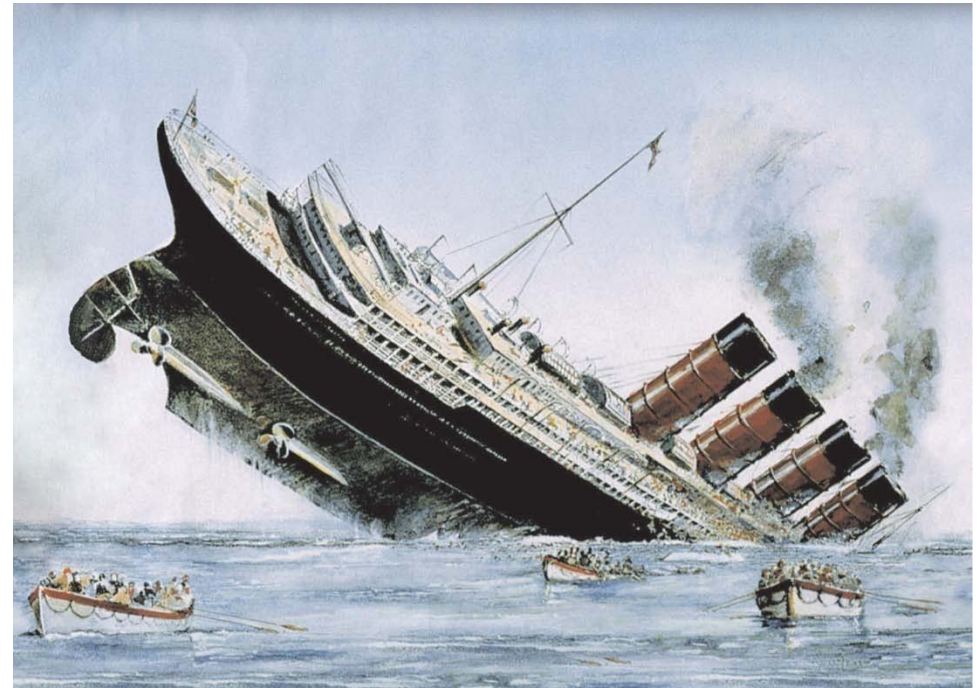
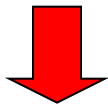
Most American trade was already with the Allies.

Then, Britain set up a [blockade of German ports](#).

Conflict grew between Germany and the United States.

In 1915, Germany sank the *Lusitania*, killing 128 Americans.

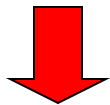
The U.S. was able to convince Germany not to target neutral ships.



In 1917, Germany began targeting U.S. merchant ships again, and the U.S. cut off diplomatic relations.

Events in 1917 finally led America to enter the war.

Britain intercepted the **Zimmerman Telegram**.



The British showed it to President Wilson.

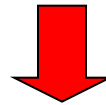
Zimmerman Telegram

Germany asked for **Mexico's help** in the war.

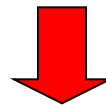
In return, it would **help Mexico take U.S. lands**.

A revolution in Russia removed the final obstacle to America's entry into the war.

Russia's tsar was a tyrant who opposed democracy.



In March 1917, the tsar was overthrown.



The U.S. would not have to side with a tyrant to join the Allies.

On April 2, 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against the Central Powers.

Wilson's goal was to fight
"...for **the rights of nations**
great and small and the
privilege of men
everywhere to **choose their**
way of life and of
obedience. **The world**
must be made safe for
democracy."



Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

