


**Chapter 28**  
**Descent into the Abyss: World War I and the Crisis of the European Global Order**



What events led to the outbreak of World War I?  
 What events led to the involvement of the United States in WWI?

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**M.A.I.N. Causes of WWI (1914-1918)**

- **Militarism:** New industrial technologies; after Germany began building a navy, all nations began creating more weapons.
- **Alliances**
  - Triple Alliance (aka Central Powers): Germany + Austria-Hungary + Italy [initially] + Ottoman Empire + Bulgaria.
  - Triple Entente (aka Allied Powers): Russia + France + Britain + Italy [in 1915] + Japan + US [later].
- **Imperialism:** Tensions are high between alliance systems who are in the midst of imperialist rivalries over the few lands still not yet colonized (First Moroccan Crisis)
  - Colonists acted as resource-providers and combatants; hoped to achieve independence after the war and were often promised this
- **Nationalism** (new Germany; Balkan independence)




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**The Coming of the Great War**

- Tensions are high between alliance systems who are in the midst of imperialist rivalries over the few lands still not yet colonized
- After Germany began building a navy, all nations began creating more and more weapons.
- With growing labor unrest, the arms race provided employment for Europeans working within industrial sectors.




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### Outbreak of war

- Ethnic divisions and interstate rivalries in the Balkans added tension to Europe.
- July 1914- Gavriel Princip, a Serbian nationalist, assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Francis Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo.
- Austria-Hungary demands political and territorial concessions from Serbia; Serbia refuses.
- Russia supported Serbia, while Germany supported Austria-Hungary; alliances fall into place and no more possibility of regional war

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### War in Europe

- Germany was worried of fighting a war on both sides.
  - Devised plan to attack France first through Belgium before turning east to the backward and slower-to-mobilize Russia
- Britain entered the war to protect its ally, Belgium.
- Naval allies soon jumped in the war: Japan supports Britain



A Belgian machine gun crew takes up position in a beet field in the face of the German offensive, World War I

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### War in Europe, cont.

Most European nations thought the war would be quick and decisive.

- Germany did not have a quick victory in France.
- German advance was halted by the French on the Marne River and this became the Western Front.
- Trench warfare and stalemate ensued along Western Front for three years
- In just 1916, Germany lost 850,000 soldiers, and France lost 700,000 soldiers, on the Western Front.




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### The War in the East and in Italy

- Russia focused on Austria-Hungary and eastern Germany but were easily defeated by Germany troops.
- Austria-Hungary crushed Serbia but did not do as well against Russia.
  - Austria-Hungary had inept generals and multiethnic armies whose soldiers' loyalties to Austrian emperor was lukewarm to nonexistent
- Italy switched from the Triple Alliance to the Triple Entente in 1915.
- Most Italian assaults against Austria-Hungary ended in disaster.
- British and French troops had to be deployed to stop Austrian advance.

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### The Home Fronts

- Government developed propaganda to promote citizen support for the war and develop patriotism.
- Soldiers felt unsupported and that citizens lacked commitment for or understanding in the war.
- Many aspects of industrialization were taken over by the governments.
  - People either benefit from industrialization or are excluded; sparks labor protests.
- Women participated greatly on the home front.


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### War Outside Europe

Troops were recruited from colonies, mostly fighting for the Triple Entente.

- Effective British naval blockades ensured Germany would not reach its colonies and they would not have raw materials.
- The British Dominions (Canada, Australia and New Zealand) contributed resources to Great Britain.
  - Gallipoli campaign, 1915
- Germany's main support was the Ottoman Empire, who entered WWI in 1915.
- Young Turk leaders assaulted Armenia, and the Armenian genocide ensued.




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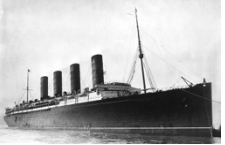
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### War Outside Europe, Cont.

Americans had made money from selling food, weapons and giving loans to the Entente.

- German submarine sank British luxury liner *Lusitania*, in 1915, killing more than 100 Americans. In 1916, Germany attacks U.S. merchant ships en route to Britain.
- Germany also promised Mexico a gain in territory in exchange for joining Germany, which was intercepted in the Zimmermann Telegram.
- The United States entered WWI in 1917; policy previously was isolationism.




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### Return of offensive warfare

- After Russia was knocked out of the war, Germany transferred more soldiers to the Western Front; victory seemed near.
- American soldiers stalled German advance in northern France.
- Austria-Hungarian empire abdicated and became separate republics: Austria and Hungary.
- German commanders agreed to an armistice on November 11, 1918.
- WWI claimed 10 million lives and wounded 20 million.




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### Failed Peace

The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 was a meeting of allied leaders to determine peace terms for Europe and how to deal with defeated empires after the armistice.

- There were disagreements amongst the Entente on how to deal with Germany.
- Germany was given no part in drafting the Treaty of Versailles.
- The Austro-Hungarian Empire was dismembered into Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.



Europe After World War I. The need for security on the Continent led France to support a buffer zone of new nations between Russia and Germany, carved out of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. German territory along the French border was demilitarized out of the same concern for protection.

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### Treaty of Versailles

- Goal: cripple Germany economically so that it could never again rise to power and threaten to invade other sovereign states of Europe
- Outcome for Germany:
  - Accept blame for the entire war.
  - Limit their army to 100,000 soldiers.
  - Lost territory to Poland
  - Pay \$32 billion in reparations to Entente members.
- Wartime promises to Arab leaders in return for their support for Entente in war were forgotten.
- Self-determination: right of people in region to determine whether to be independent or not

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### League of Nations

The League of Nations, proposed by Woodrow Wilson, was established after WWI to ensure to preserve peace and humanitarian goals.

- Many nations refused to join it (England and France were hesitant, Germany and Russia originally said no, and the U.S. openly rejected it)
- The League of Nations was a precursor to the United Nations.




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### Weak European Colonial Order

- To win support of Western-educated elites and new allies in different regions, the French and British made many promises regarding postwar settlement.
  - Created a great deal of postwar strain
- War had cast doubt on claims that Europeans were, by virtue of being white, the fittest of all to rule the globe
- The war gave support to anti-colonial movements in European colonies led by nationalist agitators with key themes.
  - Lead taken by Western-educated elites
  - Importance of charismatic leaders in rallying peasant and urban masses
  - Reliance on nonviolent forms of protest

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### India: Nationalist challenge to the British Raj

The National Congress Party led India to independence and governed India through its postcolonial era.

- The NCP was formed in 1885 and was supported by many British officials.
- The NCP gave Indians a sense of identity.
- Indians became concerned over British racism and the budget, where most monies went to the British army and British administrators.




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### Indian nationalism

India contributed significantly to World War I as a colony of Great Britain and wartime inflation affected all segments of the Indian population.

- The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 provided educated Indians with expanded opportunities to vote for and serve on local and all-Indian legislative councils
- British leaders had promised if Indians supported WWI, they would move to self-government once war was over. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 gave Indian provincial legislators increased control.
- However, the Rowlatt Act of 1919 restricted Indian civil rights, such as freedom of the press, which fueled local protest.


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## Emergence of Gandhi

- Mahandas Gandhi emerged as an Indian leader around 1919.
- He preached non-violent but aggressive protest against colonization.
- Gandhi built up a strong following with the middle-class.
- He also combined Western-educated ideas about law with Hindu values and asceticism.
- Nationalist protest surged in 1920s and 1930s.




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## Egypt and rise for nationalism

- The British had occupied Egypt in 1882, after Orabi's revolt
- Egyptians dissent began in the early 1900's among the middle class, vying to expose the British monopolies and corruption.
- British arrogance and superiority was seen in events like the Dinshawai Incident (1906), leading to inflamed Egyptian nationalism.
- By 1913, British gave in and granted a constitution and representation in parliament




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## War and Nationalism in the middle east

- After WWI, the Ottoman Empire collapsed (1922) and an independent Turkish republic had been established
- Britain and France carved up Arab portions of Ottoman Empire, even after promises for Arab independence after WWI.
- Syria, Iraq and Lebanon were carved out by the League of Nations, and nationalism grew there
- Dreyfus Affair (1894) spurs Jewish Zionists (movement for a Jewish Middle Eastern holy land). But the Balfour Declaration and British takeover of Palestine will strike Palestinian Arabs as a double betrayal.




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## 1919 Revolt in Egypt

- During the war, the British defended the Suez Canal and used critical resources from Egypt in the war.
- After protests, British withdrawal began in 1922 and didn't end until British withdrawal of the Suez Canal zone in 1936.
- Even though Egypt had independence, Egyptian politicians were concerned more with power and wealth than with helping the poor with education, health, or labor.




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## KEY TERMS...

- **The Great War:** Another name for World War I, used by Europeans until the advent of World War II.
- **Kaiser Wilhelm II:** German emperor in World War I; his aggressive foreign policy is often blamed for starting the war.
- **Triple Alliance:** Military and political alliance formed before World War I to counter moves by potential rivals England, France, and Russia; consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.
- **Triple Entente:** Military and political alliance formed before World War I by England, France, and Russia; created to challenge moves made by the Triple Alliance.
- **The Great Powers:** The industrialized, colonizing nations of Europe before World War I; includes England, France, Germany, Russia, and Italy; their rivalries led to the war.
- **Allied Forces:** Name used by countries fighting the Central Powers; major members were Britain, France, Russia, and Italy; later in the war, the United States and Japan joined their cause.
- **Central Powers:** Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire were the chief powers at war with the Allies.
- **Jingoism:** Warlike nationalist sentiment spread to and among the middle and working classes in Europe before the war.
- **Dreadnought:** Class of modern battleship launched by Britain before the war; triggered naval rivalry, especially with Germany.
- **Gavrilo Princip:** Serbian nationalist, assassin of Archduke Ferdinand.
- **Archduke Ferdinand:** Heir to Austro-Hungarian throne; his assassination precipitated the events that developed into World War I.

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## KEY TERMS...

- **Sarajevo:** Capital of the Bosnian province in Austria-Hungary; site of Ferdinand's assassination.
- **Blank check:** Promise of support from Germany to Austria-Hungary after Ferdinand's assassination; Austria-Hungary sought reprisals against Serbia; one of many events that cascaded into global war.
- **White dominions:** Britain's territories consisting of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand who sent soldiers into World War I.
- **Western Front:** War zone that ran from Belgium to Switzerland during World War I; featured trench warfare and massive casualties among the combatants, including Britain, France, Russia, and Belgium; later included the United States.
- **Marne River:** Site near Paris, France, where Germany's early offensive was halted and thrown back; set the stage for four years of trench warfare on the Western Front.
- **Eastern Front:** War zone that ran from the Baltic to the Balkans where Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and the Balkan nations fought.
- **Tsar Nicholas II:** Last emperor of Russia whose poor military and political decisions led to his downfall and Russia's loss in the war; he and Kaiser Wilhelm II made many moves that led to the start of the war.
- **Propaganda:** Government-sponsored media coverage of the war designed to disseminate one-sided versions of "friendly" and enemy conduct; used to gin up support for the war among its citizenry.

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### KEY TERMS...

- **Bolsheviks**: Socialists in Russia who promoted overthrow of the tsar and the establishment of a socialist state; means "majority" in Russian.
- **New women**: Term used to describe career-oriented women in western Europe and the United States in the 1920s; they sought increased social and political rights.
- **Jutland**: Site of the war's major sea battle between Germany and Britain off Denmark's coast; German sea prowess was tested after this encounter.
- **Gallipoli**: Australian soldiers in support of the British were decimated by Turkish and German soldiers at this battle near the Dardanelles.
- **German East Africa**: Fighting occurred in Africa between British-led Indian and South African troops on one side, and German-trained east African troops on the other; today's Tanzania.
- **Treaty of Versailles**: Wide-ranging postwar conference that promoted much of Wilson's idealistic plan for peace but at the same time blamed and punished Germany for starting the war; included creation of a League of Nations, an international organization designed to prevent further war.
- **Woodrow Wilson**: American president who initially claimed neutrality in the war but later joined the Allied cause; his Fourteen Points and American fighting forces hastened an Allied victory; one of the Big Four at Versailles.
- **Georges Clemenceau**: French premier at Versailles peace conference who insisted on punishing Germany after the war; one of the Big Four.
- **David Lloyd George**: British prime minister at Versailles who attempted to mediate between Wilson's "peace without victory" stand and Clemenceau's, but with only partial success.

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### KEY TERMS...

- **Armistice**: All sides agreed to lay down their weapons without declaring victory; promoted by Woodrow Wilson to end fighting; concept later rejected by France and Britain.
- **Stab in the back**: Myth promoted in Germany after the war that, on the brink of victory, socialists and Jewish politicians conspired to surrender to the Allies; used by Nazis as part of their drive to power in the 1920s.
- **Self-determination**: Wilson called for national independence from colonial rule before Versailles; this encouraged colonial subjects in Asia and Africa until they discovered Wilson intended his rhetoric only for Europe.
- **Ho Chi Minh**: Young nationalist from Vietnam seeking self-determination for his country at Versailles; was ignored, like many representatives from Asian and African colonies who were there.
- **Indian Congress Party**: Nationalist group in India that called for independence from Britain; led by Western-educated Indians; led India in the early postcolonial era.
- **B. G. Tilak**: Nationalist leader who promoted a reactionary sort of Hinduism to gain independence for India; influence faded after Britain exiled him.
- **Montagu-Chelmsford reforms**: In 1909, British colonial authorities expanded political opportunities for educated Indians.
- **Mohandas Gandhi**: Successful leader of the Indian nationalist movement who combined religious, social, and political know-how into a massive nonviolent campaign.
- **Satyagraha**: "Truth force," a term used by Gandhi to describe peaceful boycotts, strikes, noncooperation, and mass demonstrations to promote Indian independence.
- **Lord Cromer**: British High Commissioner of Egypt at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries; implemented many, but apparently not enough, social and economic reforms.

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### KEY TERMS...

- **Effendi**: Prosperous Egyptian families who made up the middle class; leaders of the Egyptian nationalist movement came largely from this group.
- **Dinshawat**: Egyptian village where British violence came to represent the heavy-handed nature of colonial rule and united nationalists in their cause.
- **Mandates**: The Treaty of Versailles established British or French control over territories formerly held by Germany and the Ottoman Empire; especially important in regard to Arab areas after the war.
- **Ataturk** (aka Mustafa Kemal): Postwar leader of Turkey who launched sweeping reforms, including women's suffrage and a Latin-based alphabet.
- **Hussein**: Sherif of Morocco; Convinced Arab leaders to support the French and British during the war because of their pledges of Arab independence.
- **Zionists**: Supporters of Jewish nationalism, especially a creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.
- **Lord Balfour**: British foreign secretary who pledged in a declaration the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, which encouraged Jewish nationalists and angered Arabs.
- **Pogroms**: Violent assaults against Jewish communities, especially in Russia and Romania in the latter half of the 19th century.
- **Theodor Herzl**: Prominent journalist who led the cause of Zionism in the late 19th century.

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## KEY TERMS...

- **Alfred Dreyfus:** French officer and Jew who was falsely accused of spying for Germany in the late 19th century; his mistreatment spurred Herzl and other Zionists to increase their call for a Jewish homeland.
- **World Zionist Organization:** Formed by Herzl and other prominent European Jewish leaders to promote Jewish migration to Palestine in advance of the creation of a Zionist state in Palestine.
- **Saïd Zaghlul:** Energetic leader of the nationalist-leaning Wafd Party in Egypt.
- **Liberal constitutionalist Party; Labor Party:** Rivals to Egypt's Wafd Party; once in control of their own government, these three parties did little to help the peasantry.
- **Gamal Abdel Nasser:** Led a military coup in Egypt in 1952; ruled until 1970; established himself as a major Arab force in the Middle East.
- **Lord Lugard:** Influential British colonial administrator who predicted the rise of African nationalism.
- **Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. DuBois:** Americans who promoted African nationalism and unity.
- **Pan-Africanism:** Movement begun in the 1920s to promote African nationalism and unity; did much to arouse anti-colonial sentiment.
- **Négritude:** Literary movement in France that argued precolonial African societies were superior in many ways to European colonial societies in Africa; writers included L.S. Senghor, Leon Damas, and Aime Cesaire.

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## KEY TERMS...

- **National Congress of British West Africa:** Regionalized version of the pan-African movement.
- **Armenian genocide:** Assault carried out by mainly Turkish military forces against Armenian population in Anatolia in 1915; over a million Armenians perished and thousands fled to Russia and the Middle East.
- **Adolf Hitler:** Nazi leader of fascist Germany from 1933 to his suicide in 1945; created a strongly centralized state in Germany; eliminated all rivals; launched Germany on aggressive foreign policy leading to World War II; responsible for attempted genocide of European Jews.
- **League of Nations:** International diplomatic and peace organization created with the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I; one of the chief goals of President Woodrow Wilson of the United States in the peace negotiations; the United States was never a member.
- **Montagu-Chelmsford reforms:** Increased the powers of Indian legislators at the all-India level and placed much of the provincial administration of India under local ministers.
- **Rowlatt Act:** Placed restrictions on key Indian civil rights such as freedom of the press; acted to offset the concessions granted under Montagu-Chelmsford reforms of 1919.
- **Hussain bin Ali:** Emir of Mecca from 1908 to 1917; used British promise of independence to convince Arabs to support Britain against the Turks in World War I; angered by Britain's failure to keep promise; died 1931.
- **Leon Pinsker:** (1821 – 1891) European Zionist who believed that Jewish assimilation into Christian European nations was impossible; argued for return to Middle Eastern Holy Land.
- **Wafd party:** Egyptian nationalist party that emerged after an Egyptian delegation was refused a hearing at the Versailles treaty negotiations following World War I; led by Saïd Zaghlul; negotiations eventually led to limited Egyptian independence beginning in 1922.
- **Leopold Sedar Senghor:** (1906 – 2001) One of the post-World War I writers of the negritude literary movement that urged pride in African values; president of Senegal from 1960 to 1980.

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