

CENTRAL AT
THE END OF 19TH
CENTURY
WORLD WAR 1

Jana Skerlova

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE THE WW1

Great powers at the end of the 19th century:

- ◉ **USA** - the strongest country of the world
- ◉ **Germany** (2nd greatest world industrial area), the most powerful state in Europe, strong army, developed economy and culture
- ◉ **France** – the bank of the world, 2nd strongest European state, succesful colonial politicis – colonies in Africa and in Asia
- ◉ **Great Britain** – the greatest colonial power – its domain included the geatest colony – India, also colonies in Asia
- ◉ **Japan** – constitutional monarchy, development of industry, expansive politics
- ◉ **Austria-Hungary** – cooperation with Germany, its foreign politics focused on the Balkan Peninsula
- ◉ **Russia** – economicaly and politicaly the weakest state among the great powers, military-political system, absolute power of the Tsar, no political rights for citizens, social movement, expansion to Asia – conflicts with Japan and Great Britain
- ◉ **Ottoman Empire** – „the sick man of Europe“ – weakening of its political and economical power during 18th and 19th century

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



BALKAN PENINSULA

- ◉ Ottoman Empire – large but weak – the local national movements and wanted to use it and tried to liberate themselves
- ◉ Two uprisings in Serbia during the first half of 19th century
- ◉ 1830 – internal **autonomy of Serbia** was recognized by the Ottoman Empire
- ◉ 1821–1830 – Greek war for independence
- ◉ 1828–1829 – Russo-Turkish war – Ottoman Empire was defeated, Russia supported Greek demands
- ◉ 1832 – the independent **Greek Kingdom** was established
- ◉ 1858 – after the Crimean war the Great powers supported the demands of **Danubian Principalities** (Walachia and Moldavia) – these two principalities gained authonomy and in 1861 were unified into the autonomous Romanian state, after that in 1881 the independent **Romanian Kingdom** was established

- ◉ 1875–1878 – **Great Eastern Crisis**
- ◉ Started in 1875 with the uprising of ethnic Serbs against Ottoman Empire in Herzegovina
- ◉ April 1876 – the uprising in Bulgaria against Ottoman Empire
- ◉ Serbia and Montenegro supported this uprising → Serbo-Turkish War (1876–1878)
- ◉ 1877–1878 – Russo-Turkish war - Russia was more successful but under the pressure of Great Britain and France had to accept the truce offered by the Ottoman Empire
- ◉ Peace Treaty of San Stefano from March 3rd – the Ottoman Empire recognized full independence of Serbia, Romania and Montenegro and the autonomy of Bulgaria
- ◉ Alarmed by the extension of Russian power into the Balkans the Great Powers (Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy) claimed **the Berlin Congress**, held from June to July 1878 in German capital city.
- ◉ **Otto von Bismarck** was the host of the Congress.
- ◉ Its aim was to reorganize the countries of the Balkans and to stabilize the territory.
- ◉ The great powers had their own interests in the Balkans.
- ◉ Ottoman holdings in Europe declined sharply.
- ◉ **Bulgaria** was established as an autonomous principality inside the Ottoman Empire, then after the Serbo-Bulgarian war in 1878 (Bulgaria won) the independent Bulgarian Principality was established
- ◉ **Romania, Serbia and Montenegro** achieved the full independence – it was recognized by the Great powers
- ◉ **Macedonia** – was returned outright to the Turks, who promised reforms
- ◉ **Bosnia and Herzegovina** was taken over by Austria-Hungary
- ◉ **Cyprus** was taken over by Great Britain
- ◉ Many countries were dissatisfied with the results of the Berlin Congress.

FORMATION OF TWO ENEMY BLOCKS IN EUROPE AT THE END OF 19TH CENTURY

- ◉ The great powers were afraid of each other so they tried to find the allies
- ◉ They also wanted territorial gains
- ◉ 1879 – the secret agreement was concluded between *Germany* and *Austria-Hungary* – against France and Russia
- ◉ 1882 – *Italy* joined this pact → **Triple Alliance (later the Central Powers)**
- ◉ 1893 – *Russia* and *France* made an agreement – they both were isolated and were afraid of strong and aggressive Germany
- ◉ 1904 – so called *Entente Cordiale* between *France* and *Great Britain* was concluded (both countries were afraid of strong Germany)
- ◉ 1907 – *Russia* + *Britain* → **Triple Entente**



EUROPE BEFORE THE FIRST BALKAN WAR



TRIPLE ENTENTE



TRIPLE ALLIANCE



ASSOCIATED POWERS



ASSOCIATED POWERS

BALKAN WARS

- ◉ the first conflict in Europe after 30 years
- ◉ the Balkan nations were fighting against the Ottoman Empire which was still occupying some parts of the Balkan Peninsula
- ◉ **1912–1913 - 1st Balkan War**
- ◉ so called *Balkan League* (Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro) against the Ottomans
- ◉ the Ottoman Empire was defeated and its European areas were liberated
- ◉ but then the former allies started to fight with each other because of dividing of the liberated areas,
- ◉ Bulgaria had greatest war casualties and invested the most but the deliberated areas (Macedonia, Thrakia) got especially Greece and Serbia → Bulgaria was dissatisfied and declared war on Greece and Serbia → a new war broke out
- ◉ **2nd Balkan War – 1913**
- ◉ Turkey and Rumania joined Greece and Serbia and they were fighting against Bulgaria which was defeated and lost also the areas which obtained after the 1st Balkan War
- ◉ but also Serbia was dissatisfied with the results of the wars (Serbia was expecting enlargement of its territory and wanted to raise Adriatic coast but instead of that Albania was formed by the Great powers in 1913)
- ◉ Serbia started to prepare for the new war – wanted to unify all the southern Slavs – also those who were living in Austria-Hungary

BALKAN WARS



The Balkans before the 1st Balkan War

The Balkans after the 2nd Balkan War

CENTRAL EUROPE BEFORE WWI

- ◉ Since the Crimean War (1853–1856) there was a period without a great war in Europe (only local conflicts)
- ◉ The tensions persisted on the Balkan Peninsula (1908 – the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, 1912–1913 the Balkan Wars etc.)
- ◉ Pacifist movement - peace conferences in Hague (1898 and 1907) - unsuccessful

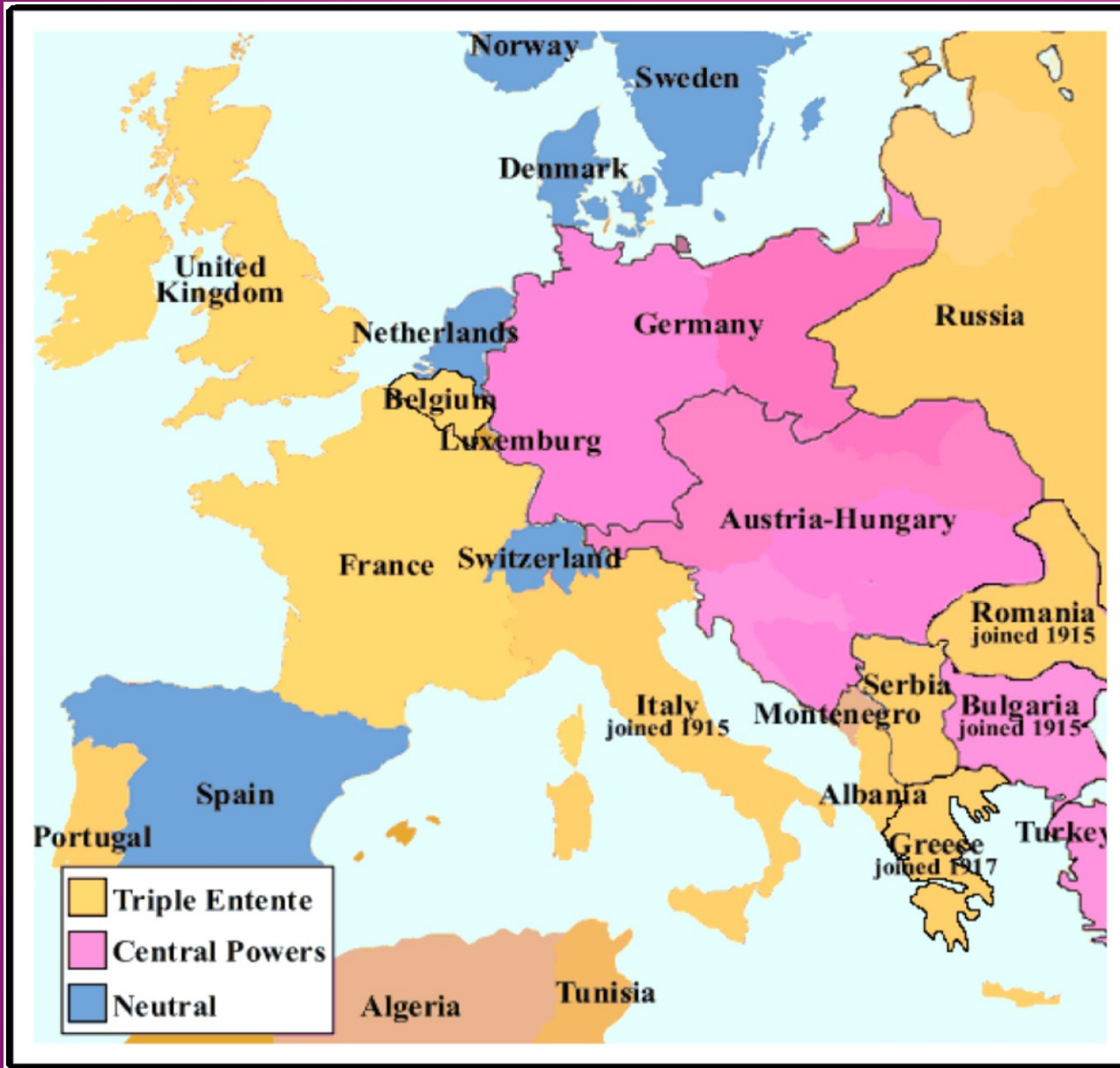
- ◉ two blocks of powers at the beginning of the war:
- ◉ **Entente (Allied Powers):** Great Britain + France + Russia
- ◉ **Central Powers:** Germany + Austria-Hungary + (later) Bulgaria + Turkey

- ◉ Italy – firstly neutral, in May 1915 joined the Entente (the London Treaty in April 1915 promised territorial gains to Italy)
- ◉ neutral countries: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Albania
- ◉ USA – neutral at the beginning of the war, entered the war in April 1917

THE TARGETS

- ◉ **Germany** – the most aggressive, wanted new colonies and wanted to expand to the Middle East (Berlin-Baghdad railroad), also wanted to rule in the Central, Eastern and South-East Europe (with the help of Austria-Hungary), Germany also wanted some areas in France and Belgium
- ◉ **Austria-Hungary** – wanted to expand into the Balkan Peninsula and defeat the Kingdom of Serbia, which was independent, Serbia was the enemy for A-H also because of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ◉ **France** – wanted to get back Alsace and Lorraine from Germany + keep its colonial domains
- ◉ **Russia** – wanted Galicia (which was Austro-Hungarian province in those times), Silesia, and some parts of Balkan Peninsula, especially around the straits between Asia and Europe - Bosphorus and Dardanelles
- ◉ **Serbia** – wanted to keep its independence and to form the Balkan federation – with Croats, Slovenes and Serbs living in Austria and Hungary
- ◉ **Great Britain** – wanted to keep its colonies and exclude Germany from world trade, stop its expansion to the Middle East
- ◉ **USA** – wanted to defend democracy in the world and the principle of self-determination of the nations (Woodrow Wilson)

EUROPE DURING WW I



The blocs of Powers during the WW I

CENTRAL EUROPE AND WW I



- ◉ the pretext for starting the war was **the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria** in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914
- ◉ Franz Ferdinand was shoot by a Serbian nacionalist and terrorist **Gavrilo Princip** – his group „Mlada Bosna“ was probably supported by Serbian government
- ◉ Austria-Hungary to Serbia the July Ultimatum – a series of ten demands that were intentionally made unacceptable to provoke a war with Serbia
- ◉ **July 28, 1918** – Austria-Hungary declared the war on Serbia

The video from Sarajevo: <http://www.firstworldwar.com/video/ferdinand.htm>

FOUR PHASES OF THE WAR:

- ❑ August – December 1914 – offensive operations
- ❑ 1915–1916 – trench warfare
- ❑ 1917–1918 – the era of total exhaustion
- ❑ March 1918 –November 1918 – supremacy of Allied Powers (USA entered the war in April 1917)



German soldiers on the way to the Western front in 1914.

FOUR MAIN FRONTS

- ◉ Balkan front (Balkan Peninsula, firstly in Serbia, then in Greece)
 - ◉ Western front (against France)
 - ◉ Eastern front (against Russia)
 - ◉ Italian front
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- ◉ also naval war (in the Pacific Ocean – Japan + Great Britain against Germany, in the Northern Sea – Great Britain against Germany)
 - ◉ warfare in the colonies

WESTERN FRONT

- ◉ the Germans attacked France according to the so called **Schlieffen Plan** - designed to attack France quickly through neutral Belgium
- ◉ Great Britain declared war on Germany because of breaking Belgic neutrality
- ◉ the German troops were stopped at **the First Battle of Marne** in September 1914 – the offensive war changed into the *trench warfare*
- ◉ March 1915 – **the second Battle of Ypres** – the Germans used *chlorine gas* – 15 thousands of men were poisoned
- ◉ from February till September 1916 – bloody **battle of Verdun** – 600 thousands of casualties,
- ◉ from July till November 1916 the great **battle of the Somme** - totally 1 million casualties during the whole battle, the new British invention was used – *the tanks*

Memoirs & Diaries - The German Gas Attack at Ypres, April 1915

„Utterly unprepared for what was to come, the [French] divisions gazed for a short while spellbound at the strange phenomenon they saw coming slowly toward them. Like some liquid the heavy-coloured vapour poured relentlessly into the trenches, filled them, and passed on.

For a few seconds nothing happened; the sweet-smelling stuff merely tickled their nostrils; they failed to realize the danger. Then, with inconceivable rapidity, the gas worked, and blind panic spread.

Hundreds, after a dreadful fight for air, became unconscious and died where they lay - a death of hideous torture, with the frothing bubbles gurgling in their throats and the foul liquid welling up in their lungs. With blackened faces and twisted limbs one by one they drowned - only that which drowned them came from inside and not from out.

Others, staggering, falling, lurching on, and of their ignorance keeping pace with the gas, went back.

A hail of rifle fire and shrapnel mowed them down, and the line was broken. There was nothing on the British left - their flank was up in the air. The northeast corner of the salient around Ypres had been pierced. From in front of St. Julien away up north toward Boesinghe there was no one in front of the Germans.“

- ◉ Source: *Source Records of the Great War, Vol. III*, ed. Charles F. Horne, National Alumni 1923
- ◉ <http://www.firstworldwar.com/diaries/gasattackatypres.htm>

WESTERN FRONT



The Second Battle of Ypres



The Battle of the Somme

BALKAN FRONT

- ◉ Austrian army was not successful in Serbia
- ◉ September 1915 – **Bulgaria** entered the war
- ◉ during October and November 1915 German-Austrian and Bulgarian troops occupied Serbia
- ◉ Serbian army had to be evacuated from Serbian territory – during the winter it crossed the mountains via Albania to Adriatic coast
- ◉ Serbian government in exile – the Isle of Corfu
- ◉ in spring 1915 – the Allied Powers **prepared the operation in Gallipoli** against Turkey,
- ◉ British troops under the command of **Winston Churchill** were participating on this operation but it was not successful
- ◉ January 1916 – Austria attacked the Serbian ally Montenegro
- ◉ then in 1916 the **Macedonian Front** in Greece was opened
- ◉ The Allied Army of the Orient (AAO) – the multi-national allied armed forces (French, Serbian, Italian, Russian, Greek troops) – fighting the Bulgarians and the Turks
- ◉ the Bulgarians were defeated in September 1918
- ◉ In October 1918 – The Ottoman Empire asked for the armistice

BALKAN FRONT



The retreat of the Serbian troops in the winter 1915/16 across a snowy mountain in Albania to Adriatic coast.

The Austrians are executing the captured Serbian soldiers in 1917



EASTERN FRONT

- ◉ In the east, Russia invaded East Prussia but was pushed back by German army at the series of battles collectively known as **the Battle of Tannenberg** in August 1914
- ◉ Already in 1914 – the Czech Company in Russian Army – Legions (originally – the Czechs living in Russia, prisoners of war, volunteers)
- ◉ To eliminate the Russian threat the Central Powers began the campaign season of 1915 with the successful Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive in Galicia in May 1915
- ◉ summer 1916 –the Russians were more successful against Austria-Hungary in Galicia (today – western Ukraine) than against German troops in northern part of the Eastern front
- ◉ 1916 – so called **Brusilov offensive** – it was a large tactical assault carried out by Russian forces against Austro-Hungarian forces in Galicia, it is considered to be the greatest Russian victory of the First World War
- ◉ 1917 – the Czechoslovak Corps in Russia – from 38,000 to 70,000 of men
- ◉ Russia occupied parts of Galicia and Bukovina
- ◉ July 1917 – so called Kerensky offensive – **the Battle of Zborov** (Galicia) – **Czechoslovak Legions** won over the Austria-Hungary, the offensive was unsuccessful for Russians
- ◉ Fall 1916 – **Romania** entered the war but its army was decimated by Austro-Hungarians and Germans in January 1917
- ◉ **1917 – Russian Revolutions**
- ◉ The February Russian Revolution aimed to topple the Russian monarchy and resulted in the creation of the Provisional Government
- ◉ The October Revolution – the Bolsheviks came to power – **Vladimir Iljič Lenin**
- ◉ **The civil war** succeeded in Russia – Russia left the WW I – The Peace Treaty of Brest Litovsk in March 1918
- ◉ After the Russian Revolutions in 1917 the Czechoslovak Legions were fighting against the bolsheviks



Bundesarchiv, Bild 103-121-018
Foto: o. Ang. | 1915/1917 ca.

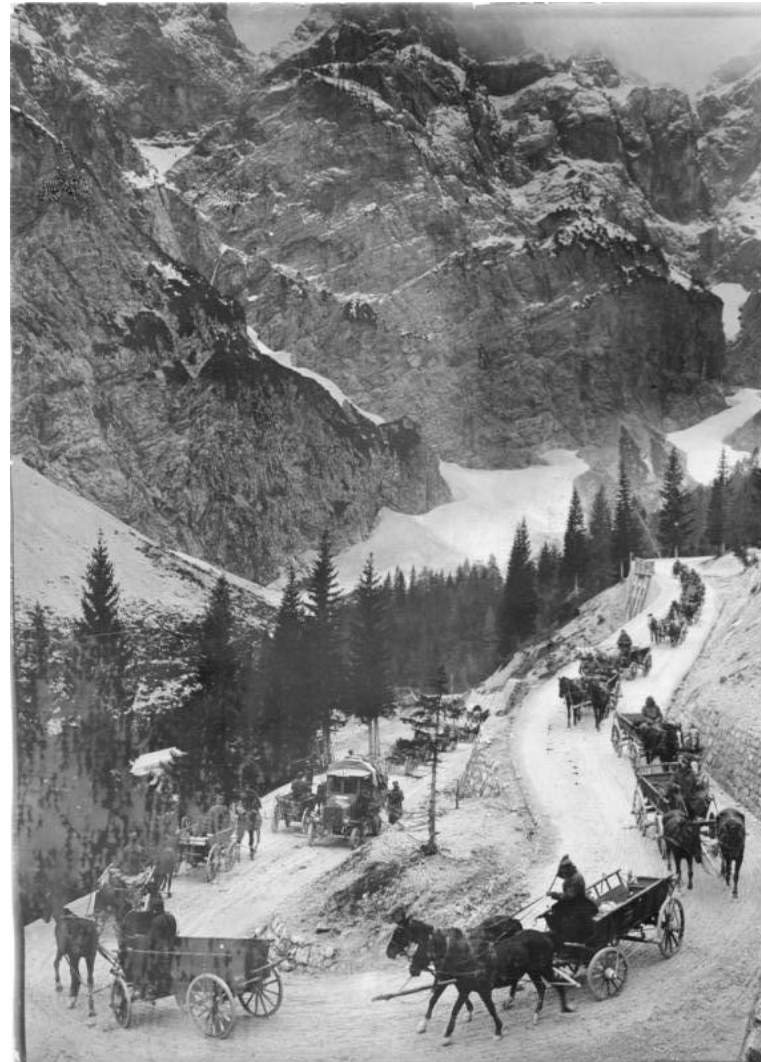
The German General Paul von Hindenburg at the Battle of Tannenberg.

ITALIAN FRONT

- ◉ Italy entered the war in April 1915 – the Allied Powers promised to Italy Istria with Trieste, Dalmacia and Trentino (Austro-Hungarian provinces), so Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary and later also on Germany
- ◉ but the Italians were not very successful, their offensives along **the Isonzo River** were repelled by the Austro-Hungarians
- ◉ 1917 – the Battle of Caporetto – Italian troops were defeated by Austro-Hungarian army and the front line was broken through, usage of poison gas
- ◉ during 1916 the front stabilized at the Piave River till 1918 – June 1918 – **the Battle of the Piave River** – participation of Czechoslovak Legions
- ◉ the Austro-Hungarians were defeated in October – **the Battle of Vittorio Veneto** – participation of Czechoslovak Legions again



Austrian Troops in Tyrol Mountains
in Italian Front



The Austro-Hungarian supply line over
the Vršič pass, October 1917

Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1970-073-25
Foto: c.-Ang., 1. Oktober 1917

CZECH LANDS DURING WW I

- ◉ The Czech lands were constituent part of Habsburg monarchy – no effort to destroy the monarchy till 1917/1918
- ◉ Only a small conspiracy group called *The Maffia* wanted to destroy Austria-Hungary and establish the independent Czechoslovak state
- ◉ cooperation with South Slavs from the Habsburg Monarchy

- ◉ Emigrants – **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk**, **Edvard Beneš** and **Milan Rastislav Štefánik** – 1915 – established **The Czechoslovak National Council** in Paris

- ◉ army in abroad – **Legions**
- ◉ The Czechoslovak Legion fought with the Entente;
- ◉ their goal was to win support for the independence of Czechoslovakia.
- ◉ 1917 – The Legion in Russia was established,
- ◉ in December 1917 in France (including volunteers from America)
- ◉ in April 1918 in Italy
- ◉ In Russia, they were heavily involved in the Russian Civil War fighting the Bolsheviks, at times controlling most of the Trans-Siberian railway and conquering all major cities in Siberia.
- ◉ during 1918 the Czechoslovak Legions were de facto recognized as the allied army

- ◉ Masaryk travelled around Europe (Geneve, Paris, London), to Russia (summer 1917) and to the USA – trying to win the support for the idea of independent Czechoslovak state
- ◉ January 1918 – *The Fourteen Points* of the US President **Woodrow Wilson** – the self-determination of the nations
- ◉ 10th Point: The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.

http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points

- ◉ January 1918 – Czech politicians in A-H – a demand of independence
- ◉ July 1918 – **The Czechoslovak National Comitee** in Prague – **Karel Kramář**
- ◉ October 1918 – the Emperor **Charles I** (1916–1918) offered the federalisation of Habsburg Monarchy but its nations refused it
- ◉ October – the Czechoslovak National Council was recognized by the Allied Powers as a provisional government

CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Tomaš Garrigue Masaryk



Edvard Beneš

THE FINAL PERIOD OF THE WAR

- ◉ after the Russian revolutions in 1917 Russia concluded separate peace with Germany in **Brest Litevski** in March 1918
- ◉ General exhaustion – of sources, armies, people in real (lack of labour power – participation of women)
- ◉ April 1917 – USA declared war on Germany – originally USA pursued the politics of non-interventions, but German submarines several times attacked merchant ships and civil ships with American passengers
- ◉ The United States were never formally a member of the Allies but became a self-styled "Associated Power"
- ◉ American troops came to Europe and after the great offensive of Allied Powers in summer 1918 the Central Powers collapsed very quickly
- ◉ On **November 3, 1918** Austria–Hungary sent a flag of truce to ask for an Armistice and the armistice with Austria was signed in Vila Giusti near Padua
- ◉ on **November 11, 1918**– an armistice with Germany signed in railroad carriage near **Compiègne**
- ◉ at 11 a.m. on **November 11, 1918** a ceasefire came into effect

THE RESULTS OF THE WAR

Casualties:

- ❖ 10 million of soldiers died
- ❖ 7 million of civilians died

The map of Europe has changed:

- ❖ **dissolution of four monarchies** (Russia, Austria-Hungary, German Empire and Otoman Empire)
- ❖ after dissolution of Austria-Hungary: **constitution of 5 new states** (Austrian Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes)
- ❖ **Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia** was established, independent and unified **Poland** was renewed
- ❖ <http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php>

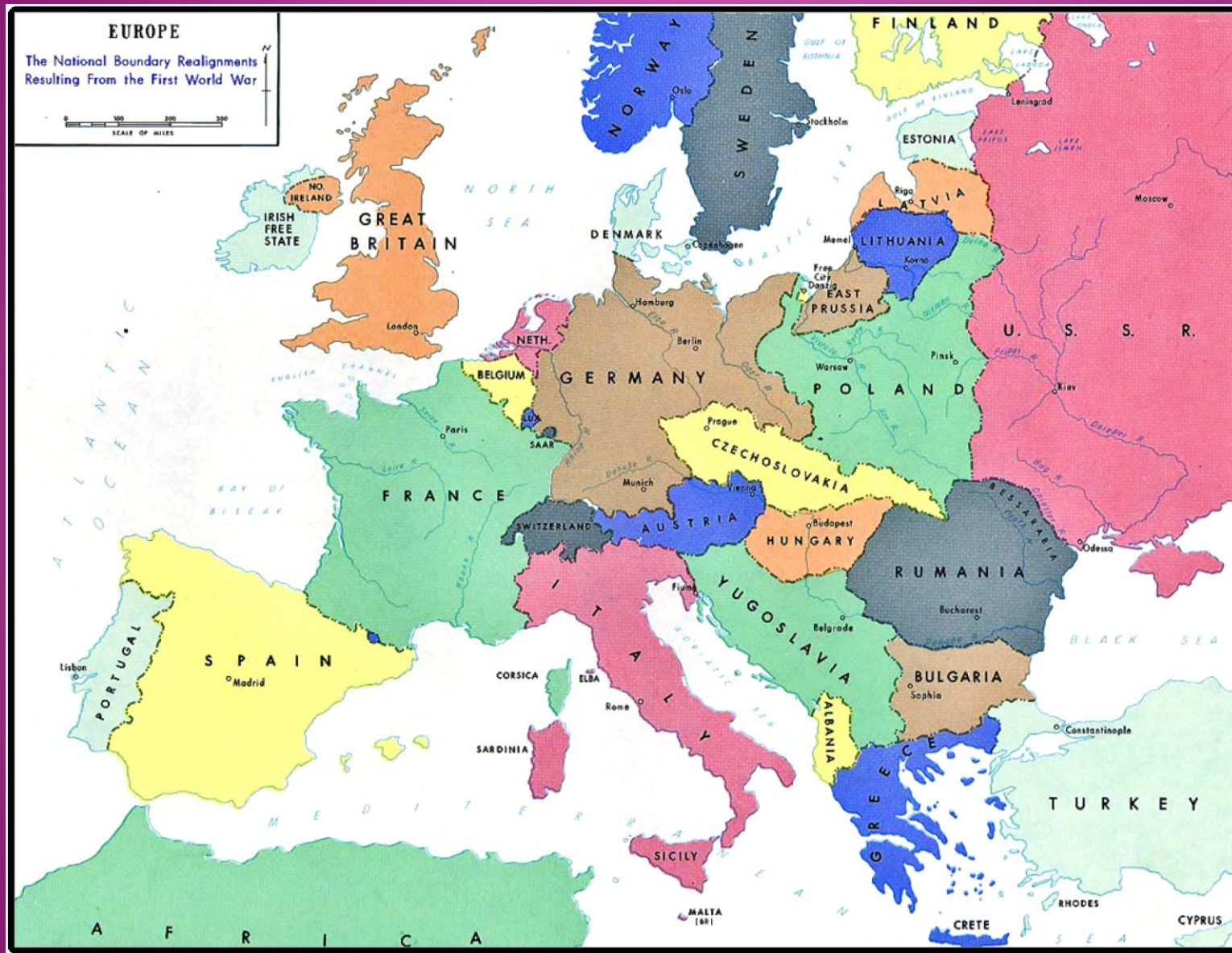
Economic changes:

- ❖ Development of industry (iron and steel, textiles, etc.) and technologies (armament industry, automobiles, aircrafts ...)
- ❖ Firstly the in many countries the war prosperity, later economic deprese

Social changes:

- ❖ Social radicalism – rise of totalitarianism, revaschism etc.
- ❖ Social status of women has changed (suffrage)
- ❖ Many veterans – problems with reintegration

RESULTS OF THE WAR



Europe after WW I

Readings and interesting web sites:

□ WWI:

<http://www.firstworldwar.com>

<http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php>

<http://www.gwpda.org/photos/greatwar.htm> - The photo gallery

□ 14 point of Woodrow Wilson:

http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc_large_image.php?doc=62

□ MacMILLAN, Margareth: Peacemakers Six Months That Changed the World: The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and Its Attempt to End War.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8uWgbRd8So>

□ HENIG, Ruth B. (1995). *Versailles and after, 1919-1933*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

Exhibitions:

The Great War – <http://velkavalka.cz/1914/english>

- ⊙ Moravské zemské muzeum Brno – Moravian Land Museum (Dietrichstein Palace – The Green Market)
- ⊙ Muzeum města Brna – Brno City Museum (Spielberg Castle)