Chapter Overview:

- After 1870, Europe exercised unprecedented influence and control over the rest of the world.
- European dominance brought every part of the globe into a single world economy.
- The new global economy increased hostility and led to intense nationalism.

Section One: Expansion of European Power and the New Imperialism

- Section Overview
  - Explosive developments in nineteenth-century science, technology, industry, agriculture, transportation, communication, and military weapons.
  - Europeans used these developments to impose their will upon others as they considered their civilization and way of life to be superior to all others.
  - Although the early nineteenth century was generally hostile toward colonization, in the last decade of the century European states swiftly spread their control over perhaps ten million square miles and about 150 million people.

- The New Imperialism
  - Imperialism (definition): the policy of extending a nation’s authority by territorial acquisition or by establishing economic and political hegemony over other nations.
  - Characteristics of the “new imperialism”
    - European nations “invested” capital in less industrialized countries to develop mines and agriculture, to build railroads, bridges, harbors, and telegraph systems and to employ many natives in the process.
    - To protect their investments, European states withered loaned the local governments money or intimidated them with force in order to create a favorable balance of trade.
    - Sometimes direct rule or annexation took place
    - In some areas, European powers created “spheres of influence” in which they received special commercial and legal privileges without direct political involvement.

- Motives for the New Imperialism
  - Economic motivations
    - Lenin on imperialism
      - Competition in a capitalist economy inevitably eliminates inefficient capitalists and therefore leads to monopoly
      - Capitalists run out of profitable areas in their countries’ and persuade their governments to gain colonies in “less developed” countries.
    - The case of Britain proves Lenin’s theory wrong
      - Britain made heavier investments abroad before 1875 than during the next two decades it declined.
    - European imperial powers did not rely heavily on their colonies for raw materials.
  - Non-economic motivations
    - Social Darwinism and Imperialism
      - Some argued that advanced European nations had a duty to bring the benefits of their higher culture and superior civilization to more backward peoples.
    - Religious groups insisted that their governments support their missionary efforts.
    - Colonies would attract a European country’s surplus population.

- The Scramble for Africa (late 1870s to about 1900)
  - Motivation and control of Africa
    - Motivated by intense economic and political competition, they rationalized their expansionary policies on both religious and cultural grounds.
    - European control forcefully entered Africa into the global economy.
For centuries, European slave-trading bases had dotted the African coastline, but few Europeans had penetrated the interior but when the Congress of Vienna ended the Atlantic slave trade—and Africa was no longer a source of slave labor—Europeans began to explore the interior for raw materials.

- Ivory, rubber, minerals, and, notably, diamonds and gold to the West
- British, French, Belgians, Germans, Italians, and Portuguese sought to maximize their access to resources.

**Berlin Conference**
- German chancellor Otto von Bismarck called for a conference in Berlin in 1884-1885 to map out European-controlled Africa.

**Forms of European control in Africa**
- Diplomacy, superior force, direct, and indirect control was exercised over Africa by European powers.

**Justification for control of Africa**
- Europeans were bringing civilization to “savage” and “backward” natives.

- **North Africa**
  - Since Ottoman rule still existed in North Africa, European powers secured their interests primarily in two ways
    - Economic penetration through investment and loans
    - Application of diplomatic pressure
  - By 1914, European powers controlled all of North Africa
    - France in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco.
    - Italy seized Libya from Turkey
    - Egypt fell under British control

- **Egypt**
  - Background
    - Throughout the nineteenth-century, Egypt functioned as a semi-independent province of the Ottoman Empire.
    - Egypt was controlled by hereditary Muslim rulers, the Khedives
      - Khedives tried to modernize Egypt
      - Built new harbors, roads, and a European-style military
      - Borrowed money from European powers to finance the project
    - Egyptian government became dependent on European creditors.
  - **Suez Canal and its implications**
    - Significance of the canal
      - Opened in 1869 and was built by French engineers
      - Connected the Mediterranean and Red seas which meant European ships no longer had to sail around the tip of Africa to reach Asia
    - Revolt in Egypt
      - Egyptian government went bankrupt and Egypt revolted against foreign exploitation
      - Britain sent a fleet and army that easily defeated the Egyptian army and established 70 years of dominance
      - The British established a naval base at Alexandria and installed a large garrison in Egypt.
    - British dominance over Egypt
      - Established municipal government that collected taxes and performed public services
      - Expanded cotton cultivation
      - Prevented Egyptians from establishing a textile industry
      - Per capita income in Egypt declined which led to increase in Egyptian nationalism

- **Belgian Congo**
  - In the 1880s, the lands drained by the Congo River and its tributaries became the personal property of King Leopold II of Belgium (1865-1909).
    - Leopold gained this land under the guise of a humanitarian mission
      - He gathered geographers, explorers, and anti-slavery advocates in Brussels and formed the International Africa Association
He hired the English explorer Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904) to undertake a major expedition into the Congo.

- Stanley ventured through the Congo and made treaties with local rulers—who had no idea what they were signing—on Leopold’s behalf.
- Leopold exploited the Congo and his administration used slave labor, torture, intimidation, mutilation, and mass murder to extract rubber and ivory from what became known as the Congo Free State.
- An African-American reporter, George Washington Williams, led a group of advocates, including the English journalist E.D. Morel and the diplomat Roger Casement, to expose Leopold’s crimes against the Congolese.
  - Historians estimate that half the population of the Congo was wiped out by Leopold’s cruel policies.
  - These cruelties in the Congo became the basis for Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*.
  - Leopold was forced to hand formal control over to the state of Belgium.

**Southern Africa**

- South Africa’s fertile pastures and farm land and its vast deposits of coal, iron ore, gold, diamonds, and copper made it appealing to a host of people.
- Settlement in the Cape of Good Hope
  - The Afrikanners or Boers, descendants of the seventeenth and eighteenth-century Dutch settlers, had long inhabited this region.
  - The British started to settle there after it took control from the Dutch during the Napoleonic Wars.
- Zulu, Shona, and Ndebele peoples resisted British authority, but the powerful western military of Britain dominated much of South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- Oppressive imperialist policies
  - Africans and people of mixed race were forbidden to own land, denied the right to vote, and were excluded from positions of power.
  - To enforce their power, the elite white leaders implemented a system of segregation known as apartheid, or “separateness.”

**Asia**

- International tensions
  - Rise of Japan as a powerful nation frightened other powers—like Russia and the US—who, with Japan, shared an interest in China.
    - Russia, France, and Germany pressured Japan to withdraw from the Liaotung Peninsula in northern China, and its harbor Port Arthur.
    - The United States proposed an Open Door Policy in 1899 in China that allowed entrepreneurs of all nations to trade in China on equal terms.
  - Rise of the US on the International Scene
    - Spanish-American War
      - Spain was forced from Cuba and the US established it as an informal protectorate along with Puerto Rico.
      - The US forced Spain to sell the Philippine Islands and Guam, and Germany bought the other Spanish islands in the Pacific.
    - US had dominated Hawaii for some time and annexed it in 1898, five years after an American-backed coup had overthrown the native Hawaiian monarchy.
    - Due to these acquisitions, the US became a major imperialist power in the Pacific.
Section Two: Emergence of the German Empire and the Alliance System (1873-1890)

- Otto von Bismarck Establishes the Three Emperors’ League (1873) which brought Germany, Austria, and Russia into a non-binding agreement of cooperation
  - The league collapsed soon after when a feud broke out between Austria and Russia in the Balkans
    - War in the Balkans
      - The Ottoman Empire had controlled much of a region in Eastern Europe known as the Balkan states. Ottoman weakness caused two independent nations in the Balkans, Serbia and Montenegro, to come to the aid of fellow Slavs in Bosnia and Herzegovina when they revolted against Turkish rule
      - Russia entered the war for the purpose of expanding its power at Ottoman expense and to achieve two goals: control of Constantinople and Pan-Slavism
        - Pan Slavism was the movement to unite all Slavic-speaking peoples, even those under the control of Austrian and Ottoman rule, under the protection of Russia
    - Treaty of San Stefano
      - This treaty was a Russian victory as Russia was given control of all Ottoman Slavic speaking territories in the Balkans
      - Austria feared the Russian influence in the Balkans would threaten its own Balkan provinces
      - Russian influence in the Balkans and Mediterranean area concerned Great Britain because they controlled the Suez Canal; therefore, the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli—with strong support from the people of Great Britain—took a firm stance against Russian influence in the Balkans

- The Congress of Berlin (1878)
  - Britain and Austria forced Russia to agree to an international conference at which the other great powers in Europe would review the provisions of San Stefano
  - The meeting was held in Berlin and Bismarck led the conference; this symbolized Germany’s new importance. It was also decided to be held in Berlin due to Bismarck’s insistence that Germany desired no further territorial acquisitions and only wanted to avoid being drawn into a war between Austria and Russia if the two didn’t settle their differences. Bismarck referred to himself as “the honest broker” at the conference.
  - Provisions of the conference
    - Russia’s territory in Bulgaria was reduced by two-thirds and this territory was deprived access to the Aegean Sea
    - Austria-Hungary was given Bosnia and Herzegovina to “occupy and administer” although it was still formally under Ottoman rule
    - Britain received Cyprus
    - France was encouraged to occupy Tunisia
  - Reactions to the provisions
    - Russia resented German influence at the conference and believed that Germany owed Russia since Russia had defended Prussia against Napoleon and the French army in 1807
    - The southern Slavic states of Serbia and Montenegro resented Austrian control of Bosnia-Herzegovina as did many of the natives of those provinces

- The Dual Alliance of 1879
  - Germany brokered an alliance with Austria. It was agreed that Germany and Austria would come to each other’s aid if Russia attacked either of them. If another country attacked either one of them, each promised at least to maintain neutrality
  - Bismarck ensured the German people that this alliance was strictly a defensive alliance and that Germany would not assist Austria in an invasion of Russia. In fact, Bismarck hoped the Dual Alliance would scare czarist Russia into establishing closer ties with monarchical Germany and Austria-Hungary in opposition to revolutionary republican France and increasingly democratic Britain
  - Bismarck was right and in 1881 he renewed the Three Emperors’ League
    - The Three Emperors’ League dissolved again in 1885 when a war erupted in the Balkans between Serbia and Bulgaria that again estranged Austria and Russia
• Italy, ambitious for colonial expansion and angered by French occupation of Tunisia, asked to join the Dual Alliance.
• Bismarck had achieved cooperation between three European powers. Britain, for the time, refused to enter any alliances and France was isolated and no threat
• In 1888, William II came to the German throne and this upset the Bismarck’s alliance system. William II was just 29 years old, imperious in temper, and believed he ruled by divine right. He wanted recognition of at least equality with Britain, the land of his mother and grandmother, Queen Victoria. In order to amass an empire like that of Britain, William II would have to neglect Bismarck’s policy of no territorial expansion on the continent of Europe
  ▪ In 1890, William II used a disagreement over a domestic policy to dismiss Bismarck from his position as chancellor

• Franco-Russian Alliance
  o In 1893, Russia proposed to Germany that they renegotiate closer ties. Bismarck’s successor, General Leo von Caprivi, refused. Caprivi wanted to establish closer ties with Britain and feared cooperation with Russia may damage that possibility
  o Russia, in need of capital and investors to help stimulate its economy, asked for economic support from France. French investors poured capital into Russia’s economy in exchange for a promise from Russia to secure France from a German aggression; and thus in 1894 France and Russia signed a defensive alliance against Germany

• Britain and Germany’s Fractured Relationship
  o By the turn of the twentieth century, Germany had replaced France as Great Britain perceived enemy. Germany’s quick rise to economic and colonial prosperity caused growing concern from Great Britain
  o William II tried to establish Britain as an ally. However, Britain sought to retain its policy of “splendid isolation.” Due to Britain’s refusal to enter an alliance with Germany, William II—supported by politician and intellectuals—worked to ingrain hostile feelings in Germans toward Britain. William II used schools, universities, and press to distribute this sentiment
  o Germany Causes Problems for the British in Africa
    ▪ Germany blocked Britain’s plan to construct a railway from Capetown to Cairo
    ▪ William II openly sympathized with the Boers of South Africa in their resistance to British expansion in that region
  o Germany publicly announced that their efforts to construct a dominant navy was aimed at Britain

• The Entente Cordiale
  o In 1902, Britain ended its policy of splendid isolation when it established an alliance with Japan to defend Britain’s interests in the Far East against Russia
  o In 1904, Britain worked to negotiate closer ties with France. They did not establish a formal alliance but it settled all outstanding colonial differences between the two nations.
    ▪ In particular, France was given control of Morocco in return for French recognition of British control over Egypt
  o Russia suffered a humiliating defeat to Japan in the Russo-Japanese War. This revealed the previously well-concealed weakness of Russia. Since Russia was weak, it eased British concerns and led Britain to seek closer ties with Russia

• The First Moroccan Crisis
  o In March of 1905, German Emperor William II landed in Tangier, Morocco, made a speech in favor of Moroccan independence, and by implication asserted Germany’s right to participate in Morocco’s destiny.
  o German chancellor Prince Bernhard von Bulow, the mastermind behind this plan, hoped to show French weakness and inability to challenge Germany on this front
  o A conference met in 1906 in Algeciras, Spain and was attended by German, Austrian, British, and French leaders. Here, France, Britain, and Spain challenged Germany’s position by asserting France’s right to Morocco
  o This crisis brought France and Britain closer together and they established a formal military alliance against German aggression

• British Agreement with Russia
Section Three: World War I

- The Road to War (1908-1914)
  - Section Overview
    - Turbulence in the Balkans
      - Colonies, spheres of influence, and independent nations
        - The weak Ottoman Empire still controlled the central strip of the Balkan Peninsula running west from Constantinople to the Adriatic.
        - North and South of the Ottoman-controlled territory were the independent states of Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece, as well as Bulgaria.
        - The Austro-Hungarian Empire included Croatia and Slovenia and had occupied and administered Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1878.
      - Aside from Greece and Romania, most of the people in this region spoke a variation of Slavic languages and felt a cultural and historical kinship with one another.
        - Slavic people looked to the leadership of independent Serbia to lead this nationalist cause.
        - Serbia was looked to by the Slavic peoples of the Balkans as Prussia had been during German unification and Piedmont in Italian unification.
      - A strong nationalist group known as the “Young Turks” emerged in the Ottoman Empire who vowed to prevent western European powers from exploiting the former Ottoman Empire once in formally collapsed.
    - The Bosnian Crisis
      - In 1908, the Austrian and Russian governments decided to act quickly before Turkey became strong enough to resist.
        - They struck a deal in which Russia agreed to support Austrian annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in return for Austrian backing for opening the Dardanelles to Russian warships.
        - Austria, however declared annexation before Russia could react and the British and French refused to allow Russian warships access to the Dardanelles.
        - Austrian annexation of Bosnia enraged Russia’s “little brother,” Serbia.
    - The Second Moroccan Crisis
      - The second Moroccan Crisis in 1911 brought Britain and France closer together as mutual support was needed to thwart Germany’s attempts to extort colonial concessions in the French Congo.
        - Germany sent the Panther, a gunboat, to the Moroccan port of Agadir, in order to “protect” German citizens there.
        - France and Britain pressured Germany to formally acknowledge Morocco as a protectorate of France.
    - War in the Balkans
      - First Balkan War
        - Italy, an emerging power, attacked the Ottoman Empire in 1911 and forced it to concede the territories of Libya and Dodecanese Islands in the Aegean.
        - In 1912, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, and Serbia jointly attacked the Ottoman Empire and won easily.
      - Second Balkan War
        - In 1913, Turkey and Romania joined Serbia and Greece against Bulgaria and stripped away valuable Bulgarian territory.
        - Austria prevented Serbia from gaining a port on the Adriatic and this caused tensions to mount between Austria against a coalition of Serbia and Russia.
• Despite an agreement, Serbia continued to occupy parts of Albania which caused Austria to issue an ultimatum, and Serbia withdrew its forces from Albania.

Section Three: Sarajevo and the Outbreak of War

• The Assassination
  o On June 28, 1914, a young Serbian nationalist shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, and his wife as they were driving in a car through the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo
  o The assassin, Gavrilo Princip, was a member of a Serbian nationalist society called Union or Death, better known as Black Hand
  o It was widely believed throughout Europe that Serbian government officials were involved in the plot and assassination

• Germany and Austria’s Response
  o Conrad von Hotzendorf, chief of the Austrian general staff, urged an attack on Serbia
  o Count Stefan Tisza, speaking for Hungary, advised that Austria-Hungary react cautiously
  o Count Leopold von Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, felt the need for strong and swift action but knew he needed the support of Germany
  o Kaiser William II and Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg promised German support for an attack on Serbia
    ▪ Many historians believe that Germany gave Austria a “blank check” it terms of German support for an attack by Austria on Serbia
    ▪ Germany made it clear to Austria-Hungary that failure to attack Serbia would be perceived as Austria-Hungary’s weakness and uselessness as an ally
  o Austria-Hungary sent an ultimatum to Serbia that demanded the government conduct a full investigation and hand over all those who took part in the plot and assassination of the archduke
  o Serbia failed to comply with the ultimatum
  o On July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia

• The Triple Entente’s Response
  o Russia responded angrily to the ultimatum as nationalists, Pan-Slavs, and most people in general demanded action against Austria
  o France and Britain were not eager for war and made several attempts to resolve issues diplomatically; meanwhile, Russia worked to mobilize for war against Austria-Hungary
  o In response, Germany declared war on Russia on August 1, 1914

The Schlieffen Plan

• Schlieffen, a top German general, devised a plan to help ensure that Germany would avoid a simultaneous invasion from Russia in the east and France in the west
• The Germans believed that Russia, due to its size and limited infrastructure, would take a long time to mobilize and prepare for war. Therefore, Germany planned to invade France quickly—through Belgium—in order to avoid crossing the heavily fortified Maginot Line that protected France from German aggression along its eastern border
• From Belgium, the German army swept into France along the English Channel and then wheeled to the south and east to envelop the French and crush them at the German fortresses in Lorraine
• Germany violated Belgium’s declaration of neutrality and the Belgians resisted as the German army crossed Belgium to invade France from the north
• In response to Germany’s violation of Belgium’s neutrality, Great Britain declared war on Germany
• Meanwhile, a small number of German troops were fighting off Russia on Germany’s eastern border
• Although the Schlieffen Plan is remembered in history as a German failure since they did not execute the invasion of France quickly enough to paralyze France and move all of its troops to face Russia in the east

Strengths and Weaknesses

• Allies (as the Triple Entente became known when war erupted) initially included Great Britain, France, Russia, and Serbia who were later joined by Greece, Romania, Italy, and the United States of
The Role of the Colonies in World War I

- Superiority in numbers
- More financial resources
- Command of the sea

- Central Powers included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria
  - Possessed internal lines of communication
  - Launched their attack first

The Battle along the Western Front

- Following the failure of the Schlieffen Plan, France attempted to invade, but failed, to invade Germany along the border France and Germany share
- The Battle of the Marne
  - The German army made a strong advance toward Paris in September of 1914
  - A coalition of French and British soldiers met the German army at the Marne River in mid-September and fought a battle for position
  - The British and French were able to push the German army back and prevented Paris from falling to Germany
- A battle for position
  - The western front was the line of defenses set up from the North Sea all the way to Switzerland that was lined with barbed wire and trenches
  - Strategically placed machine gun nests made assaults difficult and dangerous
  - Both sides attempted massive attacks preceded by forceful artillery bombardments
  - Both sides quickly brought in reserves to fill the vacancies on the front line previously occupied by soldiers killed in raids
  - Assaults that cost hundreds of thousands of lives, produced advances of only hundreds of yards
  - Germans used poisonous gases against the allies; this is the first time gas was used in this form in war
  - The British invented a tank that proved to be an effective counter punch to the machine gun

The Battle along the Eastern Front

- Began with Russia invading Austrian lands and inflicting heavy casualties on the Austro-Hungarian army
- Battle of Tannenberg
  - German officer, Erich Ludendorff, under the command of elderly general Paul von Hindenburg, led German troops at this battle
  - The German army destroyed an entire Russian army at this battle
- Central Powers drove quickly into modern-day Poland—that part of Russia at this time—and also into the Baltic states where they inflicted more than 2 million casualties in a single year

Italy Enters the War (1915)

- Italy signed a secret treaty with the Allies in 1915 that agreed that Italy would be awarded South Tyrol, Trieste, some of the Dalmatian Islands, plus colonies in Africa and a share of the Ottoman Empire as compensation for entering the war with the Allies
- The involvement of Italy in World War I moderately weakened Austria Hungary and diverted some German troops, but overall Italy’s involvement in the war is believed to have had only a marginal impact on the war

The Role of the Colonies in World War I

- Japan enters the war
  - Japan honored its alliance with Britain by taking possession of German colonies in China and the Pacific
- The Allies and the Central Powers appealed to nationalistic movements in areas the enemy held as colonies
  - Germans supported nationalists movements of the Irish, the Flemings in Belgium, and the Poles and Ukrainians under Russian rule
Germans tried to persuade the Turks to lead a Muslim uprising against the British rule in Egypt and India and against the French and Italians in North Africa
- Allies sponsored movements of national autonomy for the Czechs, Slovaks, the south Slavs, and against the poles who were under Austrian rule
- Allies supported an Arab independence movement from Turkey

**Winston Churchill’s Plan (1915)**
- Although later a prime minister, during World War I, Winston Churchill was the first lord of the British admiralty
- Churchill proposed a plan to capture Constantinople
  - this policy would supposedly knock Turkey out of the war, bring help from the Balkan front, and ease communications with Russia
  - troops landed on the peninsula of Gallipoli—along the Dardanelles—and the Turkish resistance slaughtered nearly 150,000 Allies soldiers

**The Battle of Verdun (1916)**
- German general planned an attack near the French fort of Verdun with the aim of killing as many French troops as possible
- Many French troops were slaughtered; however, the fort at Verdun proved capable of resisting a massive onslaught and the few surviving French soldiers were able to kill as many German soldiers as French men had died
- Verdun was a huge moral victory for the Allies as the quote “They shall not pass” by Henri Pétain, the commander of Verdun, became a slogan of French national defiance against Germany

**Battle of the Somme (July 1916)**
- the Allies launched a major offensive along the River Somme
- aided by a Russian attack in the east that drew off some German soldiers, the Allies hoped to break through the German line of defense
- Enormous casualties were suffered on both sides without result

**The War at Sea (1916)**
- The British Blockade
  - The British ignored the distinction between war supplies—which were contraband according to international law—and food or other peaceful cargo—which was not subject to seizure—and imposed a strict blockade meant to starve out the enemy
- German Submarine Attacks
  - Germany unleashed its newest weapon, the U-boat submarine, on British ships
  - Germany declared the waters around the British Isles a “war zone”
  - the sinking of neutral ships in the area by German submarines was both more dramatic and offensive than the British Blockade
  - German submarines attacked the British liner *Lusitania*—among the 1200 civilians who drowned were Americans
    - Woodrow Wilson warned Germany to end targeting civilian ships

**America Enters the War (1917)**
- In December 1916, President Woodrow Wilson attempted to negotiate peace for both sides but was unsuccessful in coming to a compromise that both sides would accept
- On February 1, Germany announced the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare; this caused the United States to break off diplomatic relations with Germany
- Wilson was hesitant to enter the war earlier due to the fact that tsarist Russia was fighting alongside Britain and France
- Wilson expressed that the reason for the U.S entry into the war was “to make the world safe for democracy”
The Russian Revolution (March 1917)

- Background to Revolution
  - Russia’s tsar, Nicholas II was weak, incompetent, and suspected of being under the domination of his German wife and the insidious peasant faith healer Rasputin, whom a group of Russian noblemen assassinated in 1916.
  - The price of war led to increased taxation, starvation, and overall civil disorganization in Russia
  - The tsar took personal leadership of Russian forces on the eastern front and his absence from the capital allowed corrupt ministers to discredit him

- Outbreak of Revolution
  - Worker strikes and demonstrations erupted in Saint Petersburg in early March 1917
  - Tsar’s troops in cities refused to fire on demonstrators
  - Tsar Nicholas abdicated on March 15
  - Government fell to the Duma—Russia’s legislative body

- Bolshevik Revolution
  - Bolsheviks, under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, achieved an alliance with the peasant workers who bought into his speeches that focused on “bread, land, and peace.”
  - The Bolsheviks unsuccessfully attempted a coup of power from the provisional government, but due its failure, Lenin was forced to flee to Finland and his chief collaborator, Leon Trotsky, was imprisoned
  - Trotsky was released from prison and Lenin returned from Finland in October 1917; they planned a coup that Trotsky organized which concluded with an armed assault on the provisional government
  - The provisional government had already established a date for elections to the Constituent Assembly which was scheduled for late November; the Bolsheviks lost a majority of seats to the Social Revolutionaries; when the Assembly gathered to meet in January 1917, it met for only a day when the Bolshevik Red Army dispersed it
  - All other political parties ceased to function as the Bolshevik government nationalized the land and turned it over to its peasant proprietors, factory workers put in charge of plants, and the property of the church was turned over to the state
  - Lenin hoped Russia’s movement would lead to Communist revolutions across Europe

Russia Withdrawn from the War (December 1917)

- Russia signed an armistice with Germany in December 1917 and in March 1918 accepted the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by which Russia forfeited possession of Poland, Finland, the Baltic states, and Ukraine
- Since Russia was no longer in the war, Germany could turn all its attention to the war along the western front

The End of World War I

- Assisted by the United Stated of America, the Allies were able to deter one last German onslaught; the German reached the Marne, again, and were forced to retreat
- Austria lost a series of battles in Italy which caused Turkey and Bulgaria to drop out of the war
- German general, Ludendorff was determined to make peace

Revolution in Germany and Armistice (Fall 1918)

- Due to the disintegration of the German army, Kaiser William II was forced to abdicate on November 9, 1918 and the majority branch of the Social Democratic Party proclaimed a republic and worked to prevent their rivals from setting up a soviet government in Germany
- Two days later, this republican, socialists-led government signed the armistice that ended the war by accepting German defeat

German Reaction to Armistice

- The German people were, in general, unaware that their army had been defeated and was crumbling
Section Four: The Settlement At Paris

- Representatives of the victorious states gathered at Versailles in the first half of 1919 to work out the details of the settlement.
  - The Big Four—representatives from the United States, Great Britain, France, and Italy—carried the most influence at the conference:
    - United States—President Woodrow Wilson
    - Great Britain—David Lloyd George
    - France—Georges Clemenceau
    - Italy—Vittorio Emanuele Orlando
- Goal of the conference was to restore order to the world after a long and costly war.

Obstacles the Peacemakers Faced

- Nationalism had become almost like a secular religion, and Europe’s many ethnic groups were suspicious of the great powers who they feared would draw arbitrary borders that did not consider these ethnic sensibilities.
- Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points set forth the right of nationalities to “self-determination”; that is, ethnic groups had the right to their own sovereignty.
  - However, it would be impossible to accommodate all groups seeking nationhood.
- Secret Treaties and Agreements
  - The British and French people had been told that Germany would be made to pay for the cost of war.
  - Russia had been promised control of Constantinople in return for recognizing France’s claim to Alsace-Lorraine and British control of Egypt.
  - Romania had been promised Transylvania at the expense of Hungary.
  - Some of the agreements contradicted others.
    - Italy and Serbia had competing claims in the Adriatic.
    - The British had encouraged Arab hopes of an independent Arab state carved from the Ottoman Empire; that claim seemed to contradict the Balfour Declaration in which the British seemed to accept Zionist ideology and to promise the Jews a national home in Palestine.
- France was eager to weaken Germany permanently.
- Fear of the spread of communism concerned the diplomats at Versailles as the spread of Bolshevism gripped eastern Europe.

The Peace

- Overview
  - Liberals and idealists expected the conference to work out a new kind of international order in a new and better way.
    - The notion of “a peace without victors” was supposed to be the ideal.
  - It was determined that Russia and Germany would be excluded from negotiating the settlement and that they would be presented with a treaty and compelled to accept it.
  - The ideal of self-determination was violated many times and diplomats from smaller nations became irate because they were excluded from decisions that impacted them directly.
- The League of Nations
  - This was to be a body of sovereign states that agreed to pursue common policies and to consult in the common interest, especially when war threatened.
  - The council promised to submit disputes among themselves to the League of Nations who would act as arbiters.
  - The council consisted of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and Japan.
  - The Covenant of the League promised to “respect and preserve” the territorial integrity of all its members.
- Colonies
It was determined that colonial areas would be put under the “tutelage” of one of the four major powers and would be encouraged to advance toward independence.

To get other countries to agree to the idea of the League of Nations, Wilson approved territorial settlements that violated his own principles.

**Germany**
- France was given the German territory of Alsace-Lorraine and was given the exclusive right to work the coal mine of the Saar for fifteen years.
- Germany, west of the Rhine River and fifty kilometers to the east of it was to be a demilitarized zone.
- Brittany and the United States agreed to help France in the case of a future German attack.
- Disarmament of Germany
  - its army was limited to 100,000 men
  - its fleet was reduced to a coastal defense force
  - it was forbidden to have warplanes, submarines, tanks, heavy artillery, or poison gas

**The East**
- Poland was created out of territory in east Germany and Russia.
- Austria-Hungary disappeared entirely giving way to the creation of five states.
- The Magyars were left with a much reduced kingdom of Hungary.
- Czechoslovakia was created and included several million unhappy Germans, Poles, Magyars, and Ukranians.
- Bulgaria lost territory to Greece and Yugoslavia.
- Yugoslavia was created as a state for southern Slavs.
- Russia lost vast territory including Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

**Reparations**
- Initially, the Germans promised to pay compensation for all damages “done to civilian populations of the Allies and their property”
  - The Americans determined this would be roughly between $15 and $25 billion
  - France and Britain, worried about the debt they owed to the United States, were eager to have Germany pay for the full cost of the war including pensions to survivors and dependents.
- There was general agreement that Germany would not be able to pay for the cost; therefore, Germany was to pay $5 billion annually until 1921 when a final figure would be set and Germany would have 30 years to pay it.
  - This fell under the notorious “war guilt clause” of the treaty.
- Germany bitterly resented paying reparations.
- The Social Democrats and the Catholic Center Party formed a new government and their representatives signed the treaty.
  - These parties formed the backbone of the new Weimar government that ruled Germany until 1933.
  - The Weimar government never overcame the stigma of having signed the Treaty of Versailles.