

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 16, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 499–502

THE ROAD TO WORLD WAR I

KEY TERMS

conscription a military draft (page 500)

mobilization the process of assembling troops and supplies and making them ready for war (page 502)

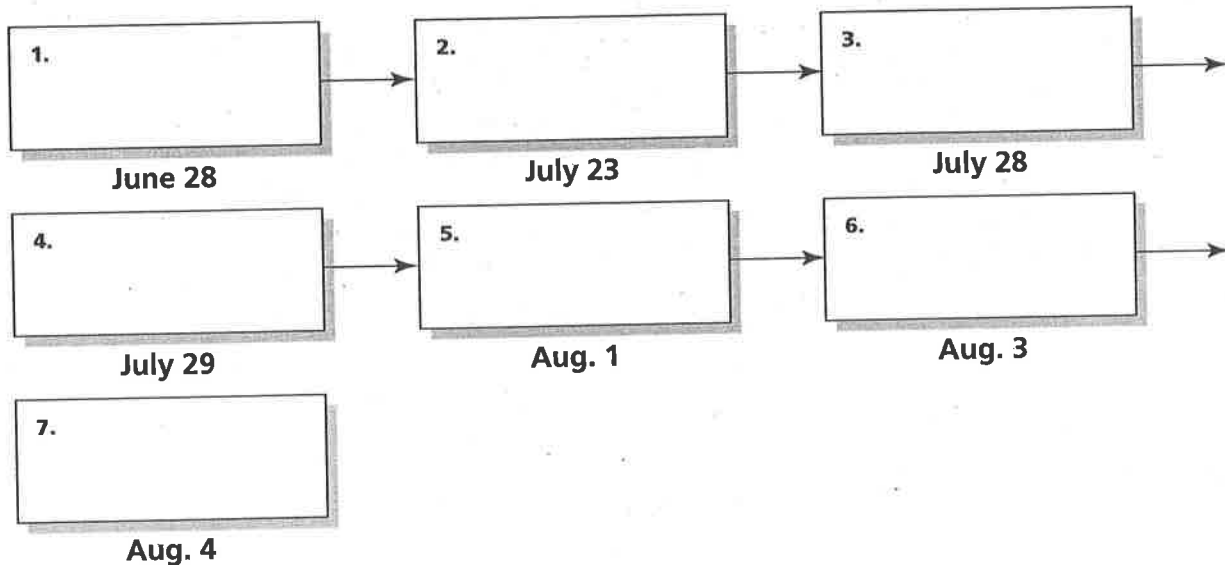
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever been given an ultimatum? How did you react to the ultimatum?

In this section, you will learn about the events that led to the start of World War I. Ultimatums played an important role in starting World War I.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the time line below to help you take notes. Identify seven key events during the summer of 1914 that led to World War I.



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READ TO LEARN

• Nationalism and the System of Alliances (page 499)

The growth of nationalism in the nineteenth century had many serious results. Competition for colonies and trade increased. Europe's great powers were soon divided into two alliances, the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. Crises in the Balkans between 1908 and 1913 made many European nations angry with each other. They were willing to go to war to preserve the power of their national states. Not all ethnic groups had become nations. But the growth of nationalism made the Irish, the Poles, and the Slavic peoples dream of creating their own national states.

8. What were some of the results of the growth of nationalism in the nineteenth century?

• Internal Dissent (page 500)

National desires were not the only reason for internal conflicts in the early 1900s. Socialist labor movements had become more powerful. These movements were more and more willing to use strikes to reach their goals, even if this led to violence. Some conservative leaders were afraid that their nations were on the verge of revolution. Some historians believe that the fear of revolution and the desire to suppress internal conflicts encouraged the leaders of some nations to go to war in 1914.

9. How might Socialist labor movements have contributed indirectly to the start of World War I?

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• Militarism (page 500)

After 1900, the size of armies throughout Europe grew at an alarming rate. **Conscription**, a military draft, was used by most Western nations before 1914. It caused the size of European armies to double between 1890 and 1914. Militarism (preparation for war) was growing. Military leaders became more powerful. They began to draw up plans that could be used if their countries went to war. They insisted that any changes to these plans would cause chaos in the military. In the 1914 crises, this forced European political leaders to make decisions for military rather than political reasons.

10. How did the plans of military leaders affect the decisions of political leaders in 1914?

• The Outbreak of War: Summer 1914 (page 501)

Nationalism, internal conflicts, and militarism all played a role in the start-
ing of World War I. But it was a crisis in the Balkans in the summer of 1914
that led directly to war. States in southeastern Europe had struggled for years
to free themselves from Ottoman rule. Austria-Hungary and Russia both
wanted to control these new nations. By 1914, Serbia, supported by Russia,
was determined to create a large Slavic state in the Balkans. Austria-Hungary
was determined that this would not happen.

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of
Austria-Hungary, visited the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. Members of the Black
Hand made plans to kill him. The Black Hand was a Serbian terrorist organi-
zation that wanted Bosnia to be free of Austria-Hungary. An attempt to kill
the archduke with a bomb was unsuccessful. Later in the day, however,
Gavrilo Princep, a 19-year-old Bosnian Serb, shot and killed both the arch-
duke and his wife.

The Austro-Hungarian government did not know whether the Serbian gov-
ernment was involved in the assassination of the archduke, but it did not care.
It saw this as an opportunity to crush Serbia. Austrian leaders wanted to
attack Serbia, but they feared that Russia would intervene to help Serbia. The
Austrians asked their German allies for help. Emperor William II of Germany
agreed to give Austria-Hungary his full support. Austrian leaders sent an ul-
timum to Serbia on July 23. Many of the demands were so extreme that Serbia
had no choice but to reject some of them. On July 28, Austria-Hungary
declared war on Serbia.

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Russia was determined to support Serbia. Czar Nicholas II ordered partial mobilization of the Russian army. **Mobilization** is the process of assembling troops and supplies and making them ready for war. In 1914, mobilization was seen as an act of war. Russian military leaders told the czar that they could not partially mobilize. Their mobilization plans were based on a war against both Germany and Austria-Hungary. They claimed that mobilization against only Austria-Hungary would create chaos. Based on this claim, the czar ordered full mobilization of the Russian army on July 29. The German government warned Russia that it must stop its mobilization. When Russia refused, Germany declared war on Russia on August 1.

Germany also had a military plan. One of its generals, Alfred von Schlieffen, had drawn up a plan that called for war against both Russia and France. Under the Schlieffen Plan, Germany could not go to war against Russia only. As a result, Germany declared war on France on August 3. It also issued an ultimatum to Belgium, in which it demanded the right of German troops to pass through Belgium, even though Belgium was a neutral nation.

On August 4, Great Britain declared war on Germany, officially for violating Belgian neutrality. In fact, Britain was allied with France and Russia and was concerned about maintaining its own world power. Now all of the great European powers were at war.

11. What warnings and ultimatums did European countries issue in the summer of 1914? What were the results of these ultimatums?

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Chapter 16, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 503–509

THE WAR

KEY TERMS

- propaganda** ideas spread to influence public opinion for or against a cause (page 503)
- trench warfare** warfare fought in trenches (ditches protected by barbed wire) (page 504)
- war of attrition** a war based on wearing the other side down by constant attacks and heavy losses (page 506)
- total war** a war involving a complete mobilization of resources and people in the warring countries (page 508)
- planned economies** economic systems directed by government agencies (page 508)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever read the book *All Quiet on the Western Front*? How does the book describe the fighting on the Western Front during World War I?

In the last section, you learned about the events that led to the start of World War I. In this section, you will learn about the war itself and its impact on civilians at home.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. World War I was a new kind of war because of new strategies and technology. Indicate how each of the following strategies or technologies was used during the war.

War Strategy or Technology	Use During the War
Propaganda	1.
Trench warfare	2.
War of attrition	3.
Airplanes	4.
Submarines	5.
Planned economies	6.

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READ TO LEARN

• 1914 to 1915: Illusions and Stalemate (page 503)

Before 1914, many leaders believed that war was so full of risks that it would not be worth fighting. Others believed that diplomats could control any situation and avoid war. In August 1914, these ideas were shown to be wrong.

Prior to the war, government **propaganda** (ideas spread to influence public opinion for or against a cause) had been used to stir up hatred towards other nations. When the war broke out, European governments had no trouble getting their citizens' support for the war effort. Most people were truly convinced that their nation's cause was just. Most people also believed that the war would end in a few weeks.

The German hopes for a quick end to the war rested on a military gamble. The Schlieffen Plan called for German troops to make a wide arc through Belgium into northern France. The German army would then sweep around Paris and surround most of the French army. However, the German advance was halted a short distance from Paris at the First Battle of the Marne (September 6-10). To stop the Germans, the French military leaders loaded 2,000 Parisian taxicabs with fresh troops and sent them to the front.

On this Western Front, the war turned into a stalemate, with both sides taking shelter in their trenches. Trenches were ditches protected by barbed wire. These trenches soon stretched from the English Channel to the border of Switzerland. This **trench warfare** kept both sides in virtually the same positions for four years.

The war on the Eastern Front was fought much differently. There was a great deal of movement by the various armies on this front. As the war began, Russia moved into eastern Germany but was defeated at the Battle of Tannenberg on August 30 and at the Battle of Masurian Lakes on September 15. These defeats ended the Russian threat to Germany. Germany's ally, Austria-Hungary, fared less well at first. The Austrians were defeated by the Russians in Galicia and were thrown out of Serbia. Then Italy, their other ally, betrayed them by attacking Austria in May 1915. Italy joined France, Great Britain, and Russia, who were now called the Allied Powers or Allies.

Germany came to the aid of their Austrian friends. A German-Austrian army defeated the Russians in Galicia and pushed them back into their own territory. The Russians had been almost knocked out of the war. Bulgaria joined Germany and Austria-Hungary in September 1915. They attacked and eliminated Serbia from the war. Their success in the east allowed them to focus their attention back on the Western Front.

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7. How did the war on the Western Front turn into a stalemate?

• 1916 to 1917: The Great Slaughter (page 505)

By 1916, the trenches on the Western Front had become elaborate systems of defense. Barbed wire, machine-gun nests, and heavy artillery protected the trenches on both sides. The troops lived in holes in the ground. A strip of land, known as no-man's-land, separated the opposing forces. Trench warfare baffled the military leaders of both sides. Never before in the history of war had armies fought each other in this way. The leaders believed that if they could break through enemy lines, they could return to the type of fighting that they understood. These attempts to break through the lines would begin with a heavy artillery barrage that was intended to flatten the other side's barbed wire and leave them in a state of shock. Troops would then be ordered to leave their trenches and attack the other side with fixed bayonets. These attacks seldom worked, however, because the troops were fired at by the enemy's machine guns. In 1916 and 1917, millions of young men were killed in their attempts to achieve these breakthroughs. World War I had turned into a **war of attrition**, a war based on wearing the other side down by constant attacks and heavy losses.

For the first time in history, warfare was waged in the sky. Airplanes appeared over battlefields for the first time in 1915. At first, planes were only used to spot the enemy's position, but they soon began to attack ground targets. Battles began to be waged between the opposing pilots. At first, they used pistols. Later, machine guns were added to the noses of the planes.

The Germans also used their giant airships, the zeppelins, to bomb London and eastern England. The zeppelins were filled with hydrogen gas, and Germany's enemies soon found that these airships could be turned into raging infernos when hit by anti-aircraft guns.

8. Why did attempts to break through enemy lines rarely work under trench warfare?

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• Widening of the War (page 506)

Because of the stalemate on the Western Front, both sides sought new allies. The Ottoman Empire had already joined the war on Germany's side in August 1914. Russia, Great Britain, and France declared war on the Ottoman Empire in November. The Allies tried to open a Balkan front by landing forces at Gallipoli, southwest of Constantinople, in April 1915. But Bulgaria entered the war on the side of the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire). After a disastrous campaign at Gallipoli, the Allies were forced to withdraw.

By 1917, the war had truly become a world war. Italy, now on the side of the Allies, opened up a front against Austria-Hungary. In the Middle East, a British officer known as Lawrence of Arabia encouraged Arab princes to revolt against their Ottoman rulers. In 1918, British forces from Egypt destroyed the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East. The British used forces from India, Australia, and New Zealand in their Middle East campaigns. During the war, the Allies were able to seize German colonies around the world. Japan, a British ally since 1902, seized several German-held islands in the Pacific. Australia seized German New Guinea.

9. In what ways did the Allies try to widen the war from 1915 to 1918?

• Entry of the United States (page 507)

At first, the United States tried to remain neutral. However, as the war dragged on, this became increasingly difficult. The United States finally entered the war as a result of the naval war between Great Britain and Germany. As part of its war strategy, Britain used its navy to block war materials and other goods from reaching Germany by sea. Germany retaliated by setting up its own blockade of Britain. German strategy included the use of submarines. The submarines were allowed to attack not only military ships but also civilian ships, such as passenger liners.

On May 7, 1915, German forces sank the British ship *Lusitania*. 1,100 civilians were killed, including over 100 Americans. As a result of American protests, the German government stopped unrestricted submarine warfare. The German and British navies fought only one direct battle, the Battle of Jutland. This battle took place on May 31, 1916, and neither side won a con-

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clusive victory. By January 1917, the Germans were desperate to win the war. German naval officers convinced Emperor William II that the use of unrestricted submarine warfare would starve the British into submission. They convinced the emperor that the British would starve before the United States could act.

The German naval officers were wrong. The British did not surrender. The return to unrestricted submarine warfare caused the United States to enter the war in 1917. By 1918, large numbers of American troops had arrived in Europe. The entry of the United States in the war boosted the Allies psychologically and gave them a new source of money and supplies.

10. What was the immediate cause of U.S. entry into World War I?

• The Home Front: The Impact of Total War (page 508)

World War I became a **total war**, a war involving a complete mobilization of resources and people. The war affected all of the citizens in the warring countries. As a result of the war effort, there was an increase in government powers and in the use of propaganda. Once it became clear that the war would last far longer than expected, it also became clear that many more men and supplies would be needed. Governments expanded their powers to meet these needs. Countries drafted tens of millions of young men to serve in their militaries. Wartime governments also expanded their power over their economies. Capitalism, with its free market system, was temporarily set aside. In order to mobilize all the resources of their nations for the war effort, European nations set up **planned economies**—systems directed by government agencies. Governments set up price, wage, and rent controls. They also rationed food supplies and materials, regulated imports and exports, and took over transportation systems and industries.

As the war dragged on and the casualties mounted, patriotic enthusiasm decreased. War governments fought back against the growing opposition to the war. Authoritarian governments, like those of Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary, used force to control their people. Soon, even democratic states expanded their police powers in order to stop opposition to the war. In Great Britain, a law was passed that allowed the government to arrest protesters as traitors. Newspapers were censored or even suspended. Governments continued to use propaganda to create enthusiasm for the war.

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Because so many of the world's men were involved in fighting the war, new opportunities were opened up for women. Women were asked to take over jobs that had not been available to them before. But many of the new jobs for women proved to be only temporary when men returned to the job market. There were some lasting results, however. In Great Britain, Germany, Austria, and the United States, women were given the right to vote soon after the war ended.

11. How did World War I affect the lives of women in Western countries?
