

# AP European History: Chapter 25 – The Beginnings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Crisis: War & Revolution Overview & Schedule

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After the new German Emperor Wilhelm II dismissed Chancellor Bismarck in 1890, Germany's diplomatic approach altered significantly, leading to a shift in the alliance system and increased tensions in European diplomacy. Imperial antagonisms, growing nationalism, militarism, and other factors resulted in the development of a rigid system of alliances. The Great Powers militarized their societies and built up army and naval forces to unprecedented levels (fed by industrial and technological advances), while at the same time developing elaborate plans for the next war. The long-anticipated war finally came in the summer of 1914. The assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne in Sarajevo forced the political leaders of the Great Powers, locked in the rigid structure of the Triple Entente versus the Triple Alliance, to implement war plans that virtually required the escalation of hostilities. The ensuing Great War revealed the flaws in the diplomatic order established after the unifications of Germany and Italy, but more importantly, it produced an even more challenging diplomatic situation than that faced by the diplomats in 1814–1815.

European politics and diplomacy in the 20th century were defined by total war and its consequences. World War I destroyed the balance of power, and the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the war, created unstable conditions in which extremist ideologies emerged that challenged liberal democracy and the postwar settlement. In Russia, hardships during World War I gave rise to a revolution in 1917.

During World War I, states increased the degree and scope of their authority over their economies, societies, and cultures. The demands of total war required the centralization of power and the regimentation of the lives of citizens. During the war, governments sought to control information and used propaganda to create stronger emotional ties to the nation and its war effort. Ironically, these measures also produced distrust of traditional authorities. At the end of the war, four empires dissolved — the German, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian empires — but the democratic nations that arose in their place lacked a tradition of democratic politics and suffered from weak economies and ethnic tensions. Even before the end of the war, Russia experienced a revolution and civil war that created not only a new state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (also known as the USSR or Soviet Union), but also a new conception of government and socioeconomic order based on communist ideals.

## **CONTENT TOPICS & Focus Questions**

### The Road to World War I

- What were the long-range and immediate causes of World War I?

### The War

- What did the belligerents expect at the beginning of World War I?
- Why did the course of the war turn out to be so different from their expectations?
- How did World War I affect the belligerents' governmental and political institutions, economic affairs, and social life?

### War and Revolution

- What were the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1917?
- Why did the Bolsheviks prevail in the civil war and gain control of Russia?

### The Peace Settlement

- What were the objectives of the chief participants at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919?
- How closely did the final settlement reflect these objectives?

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## **ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Tuesday, February 14**

- Chapter 24 review activity
- MAIN Causes of WWI
- **HOMEWORK: Text 765-770**

### **Wednesday, February 15**

- Western Front
- **HOMEWORK: Study for Chapter 24 Exam**

### **Thursday, February 16**

- Chapter 24 Exam
- **HOMEWORK: Text 770-775**

### **Friday, February 17**

- Trench Warfare
- **HOMEWORK: Text 775-781**

### **Monday, February 20**

- Homefront & WWI propaganda
- **HOMEWORK: Text 781-787**

### **Tuesday, February 21**

- Russian Revolution
- **HOMEWORK: Text 787-791**

### **Wednesday, February 22**

- Russian Revolution Cont.
- **HOMEWORK: Text 791-794**

### **Thursday, February 23**

- WWI/Russian Rev LEQ or DBQ
- **HOMEWORK:**

### **Friday, February 24 & Monday, February 27**

- No School – Midwinter break & PD

### **Tuesday, February 28 & Wednesday, March 1 (ACT Altered Schedule)**

- Treaty of Versailles
- **HOMEWORK: Text 796-802**

**\*\*\* Chapter 25 Exam Monday, March 6; study guide and terms due**