

Lesson 2: World War I (August 1914 – November 11, 1918)

“The Great War” – unresolved, forced negotiations against Germany; leads to: World War II – the “last battle” of World War I implies this war may be the great event politically of the twentieth century

Review:

Doctors of modernity:

1. Karl Marx – Communism (1858)
2. Charles Darwin – Evolution (1859)
3. Sigmund Freud – Psychoanalysis (early 1900s)

All three are materialists – everything is matter

1910s – the beginning of the modern era (“Ruin”):

Science: Theory of Relativity (Albert Einstein)

Music: Igor Stravinsky, “The Rite of Spring” – no melody; leads to: riot in Paris

Art: Dada – The Armory Show in New York

Politics: World War I brings most of the old dynasties to an end. The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia (October 1917) – first communistic government; Lenin, Trotsky – “Land, Peace, Bread”

Causes of World War I:

Deep cause – James 4:1 – inner lust brings outer war; at the start of Tuchman, *Guns of August*, is this quote: “The human heart is the starting point of all matters pertaining to war”

Ideas Have Consequences, R.A. Torrey showed the connection between German evolution and World War I (see handout – war is necessary logically for evolution)

- (1) James 4:1-2: inner lust leads to outer war
- (2) James 1:4-15: lust leads to temptation leads to sin leads to death

Surface causes: **Better** – “**factors**”

1. Nationalism (a pride):

- (1) Germany unites under German pressure
- (2) Italy unites under Garibaldi’s sword – *Volkgeist* (people spirit)
- (3) France – seen as the political guide. After Napoleon, then second republic (Louis Phillipe – citizen-king).
1871 – France-Prussian War – whomped in seven weeks – pride hurt

[In each country, liberalism (for freedom and equality) fights against conservatives (for nobility – Ecclesiastes 10:7 warns against common man ruling)]

(4) Great Britain liberalizes peacefully

- (5) Russia – 1862 the Czar Alexander II freed serfs (forty-six million)
Czar Alexander III – pogroms against Jews (half of the world’s Jews were in Prussia)
Lost to British and French in Crimean War and to Japan in 1904
Czar Nicholas II massacred two thousand protesters outside his palace

2. Imperialism (a greedy grab for colonies, resources, and wealth):

- (1) Africa: 1880 – ten percent colonized, 1900 – ninety percent
 - (2) British Empire ruled over ten times its own population and over one hundred percent of land (lone winner was Japan)
 - (3) England, France, and Russia were settled – but Germany wants more, but none left
3. International anarchy – no referee to say, “Stop that” (after – League of Nations, United Nations)
 4. Militarism = the supreme function of the state is military efficiency

“How did the Prussians do it?” Imitations – Karl von Clausewitz, *Vom Krieg* (1835) led to these Prussian changes:

- (1) Peace-time conscription (1861) – drafting citizens to fight (before then professional soldiers)
- (2) Preplanned strategies
- (3) General staff (1835)

Big change: technology – smokeless powder, clips for repeating rifles, submarines, torpedoes, airplanes, land mines

German standing army – 820,000 (costly if not used)

5. Entangling alliances = secret agreements with no guarantees that if you are attacked, we will attack:

Triple Alliance (1882) – Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy

Triple Entente (1907) – Britain, France, and Russia

June 28, 1914 – Archduke Ferdinand assassinated in Sarajevo by Serbs (pretending to be Bosnia)

Chain reactions: Austria-Hungary attacks Serbs; Russia helps Serbs; Germany helps Austria-Hungary; French urge Russia to partially mobilize against Germany

Germany: Von Schlieffen plan – to blitz into France through Belgium before Russia invades on Eastern front. Britain tells Germany to get out of Belgium... War!

Death:

- (1) Trench warfare (six hundred miles) – four years, warfront varied only by ten miles – stalemate
- (2) Barbwire, poisonous gas (heavier than air; leads to: into trenches) – ten million died
- (3) War of attrition: to prevent anyone from losing, no one would quit

America entered the war in 1917.

Summer 1918 – Germans have lots of supplies, but no men

Armistice: November 11, 1818

Big Four:

1. Clemenceau – the “French tiger”
2. Lloyd-George – lenient to Germany
3. Orlando – warm-hearted mediator
4. Wilson – “the war to end all wars”; “to make the world safe for democracy”

(Russia is out due to Bolshevik Revolution)

No Germans: no negotiations, but forced terms implies World War II

Mood is illustrated by poems – *In Flanders Field*, John McCrae; leads to: laments (see handout)