

World War I

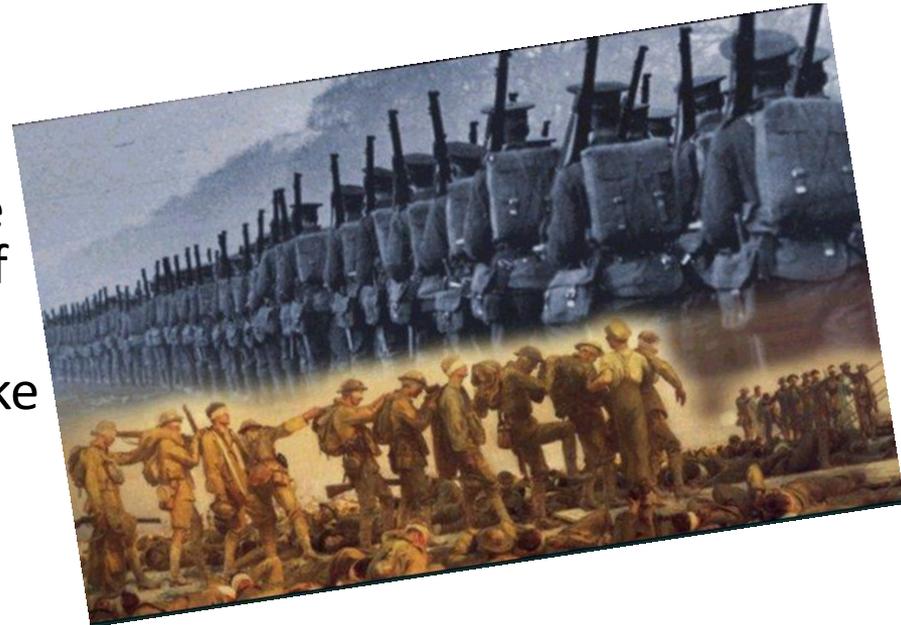
Causes and Effects

Background

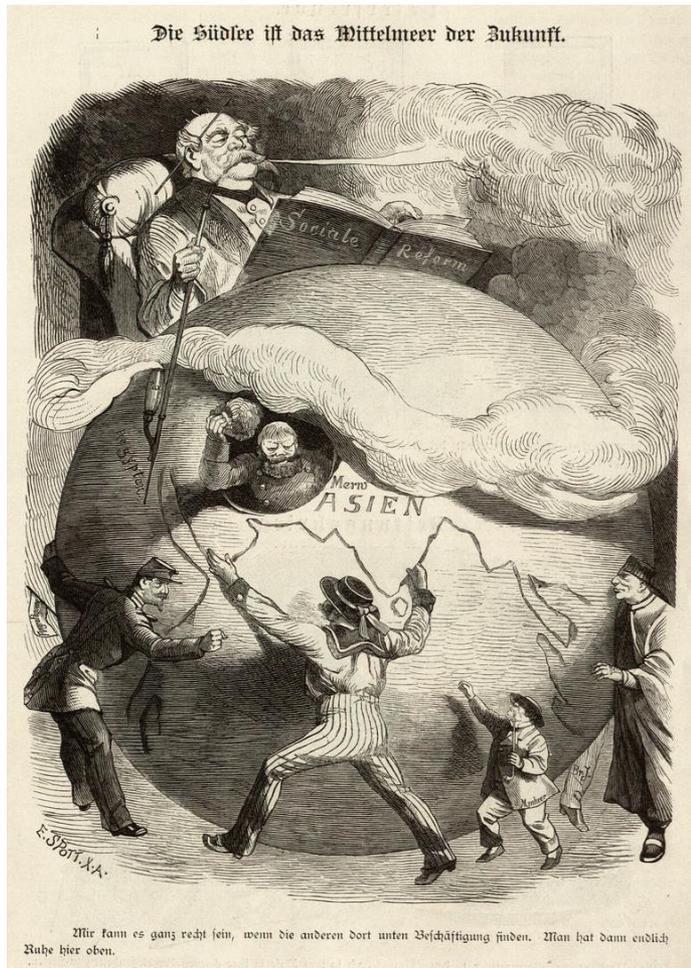
- Early 20th C world order based on imperialism and the ability of the West to dominate
 - Provocation led to WWI which didn't resolve underlying issues
- By the end of WWII, the countries of western Europe were seriously weakened and the foundation of European imperialism had crumbled
- Most colonies were not lost until after 1945 but the impact of the wars and the Great Depression to Europe was so devastating that the US and the Soviets emerged as the world's superpowers

WWI (1914 – 1918)

- Great War- first total war; govt's mobilized virtually every person and natural resource available
 - Nationalism bound civilians to the war – winning became a source of pride
 - Technology allowed the war to take place on a vast scale
 - 9 Million died; 21 million injured
 - Damaged national economies on both sides with huge debts and rising inflation
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- Opened the way for the Soviets and the US to emerge as world powers

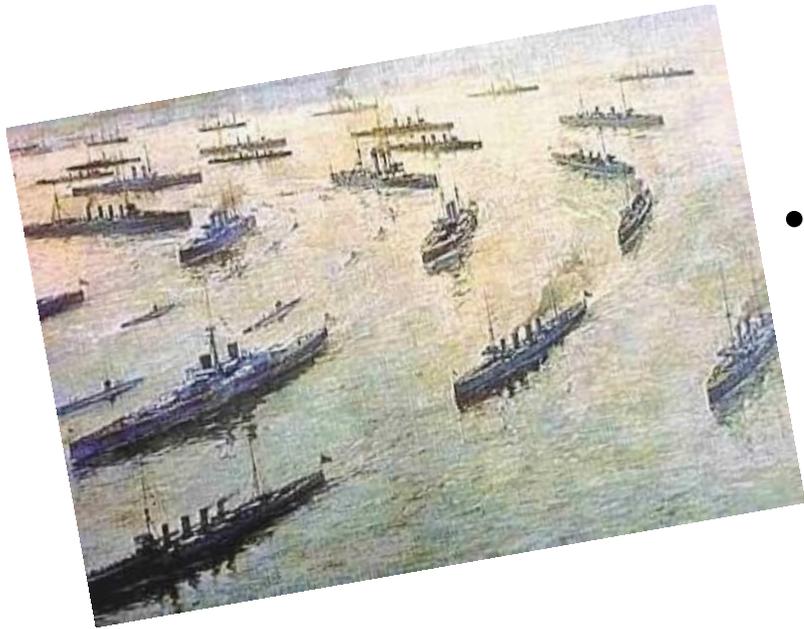


Underlying Causes of the War



- Long history of conflict in Europe
- Feelings of nationalism arose during Napoleonic Wars
- Congress of Vienna struck a balance, it was upset by the creation of new empires – specifically Germany
 - Bismarck humiliated older powers
 - Economic competition extended to the world stage as Germany joined the quest for new colonies in Africa and Asia

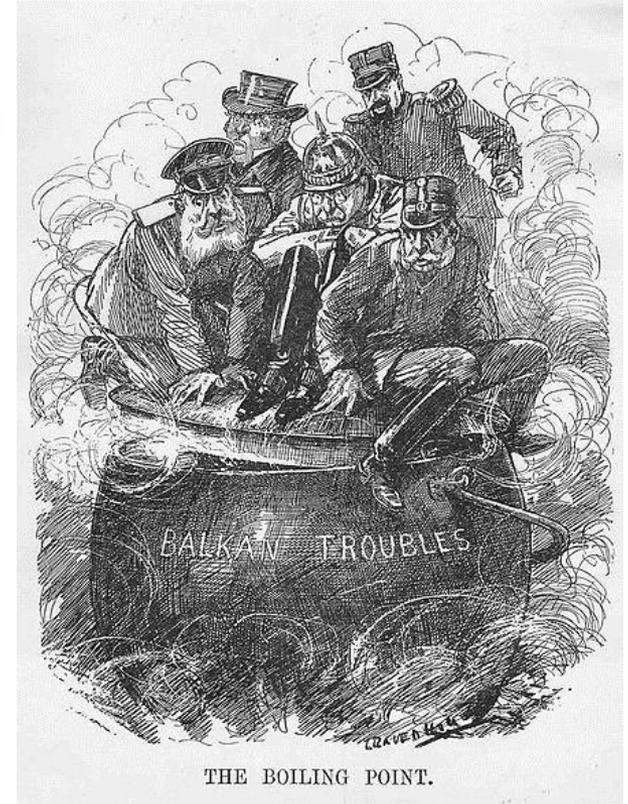
1. Rivalries Intensified by Nationalism



- Industrialized nations competing for markets
 - Rivalry between Britain and Germany extremely intense
- Germany's rapid industrialization brought its share of the world market way up and Britain's dropped (the US largely responsible for Britain's drop)
 - Overall British production began to slow making Germany a larger threat
- An expensive naval race heightened tensions; both developed huge navies

2. Colonial Disputes

- Nationalism inspired the scramble for empire
 - Spread to virtually every corner of the globe coming into conflict with each other
 - Britain and Russia disputed land claims in Persia and Afghanistan
 - Britain and Germany over east and southwest Africa
- Germany had a late start due to later unification but aggressively challenged the French and English
- England and France argued so intensely in SE Asia that they created a buffer state, Siam, between Burma and French Indochina
- France and Germany almost went to war over Morocco
- Wars among the Balkan states created hostilities among Europeans

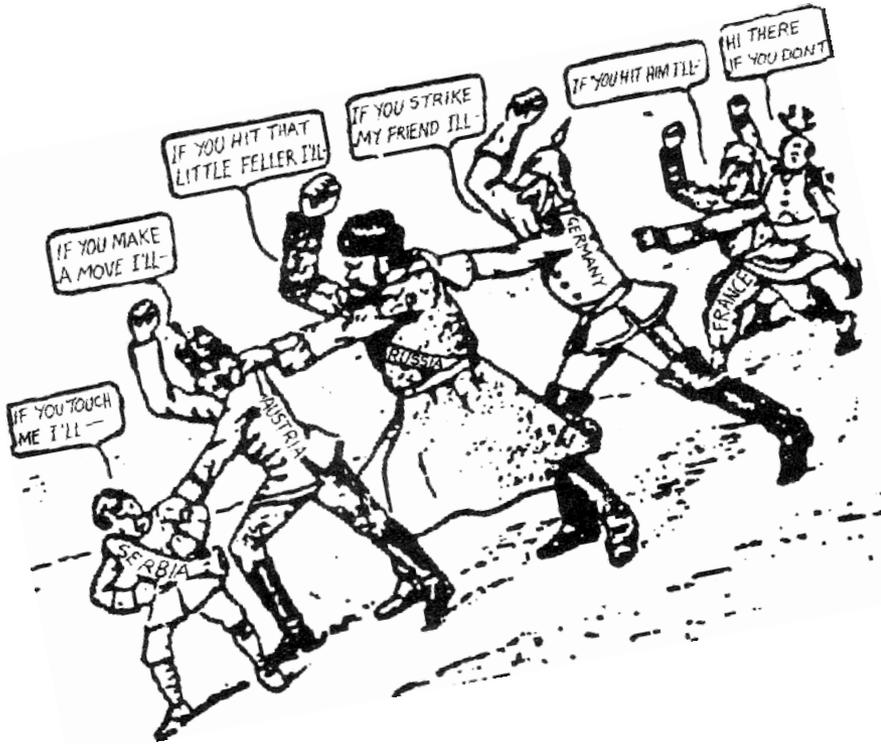


3. Self-Determination

- Principle that people of w/common national identities have the right to form their own states
 - Inspired many in Eastern Europe to fight for independence
- Ottomans were a multinational empire and many hoped to follow the example of Greece, Romania and Bulgaria and achieve independence
 - In Austria Hungary many peoples had nationalist aspirations- created resistance to the Hapsburg rule
- Russia encouraged Pan-Slavism (cultural and ethnic kinship)



4. Entangling Alliances



- Great War sparked by assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary by a Serb nationalist
 - Alliances, combined with a military build up, divided Europe into two hostile camps poised for war.
- Serb nationalist group, The Black Hand, claimed responsibility for assassination.
 - Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia touching off agreements.
 - Germany supported Austria-Hungary and Russia supported Serbia; one by one the countries took sides.

The Course of the War

Italy had allied w/Germany and Austria-Hungary but joined the Triple Entente (secret agreement)

Triple Entente

- France
- Britain
- Russia
- Becomes known as the Allied Powers
- US and Japan join later (contribute to world-wide nature of war)

Central Powers

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Ottoman Empire

The Course of the War (cont)

- Two major fronts
 - Western Front (German faced Brits and French) and Eastern Front (Germany and Austria-Hungary fought Russians)
- Eventually an Italian front developed
- Trench warfare; Western Front
 - 1916 Germans lost 850,000 men
 - French and English lost 1,100,000
 - No real progress
 - No Man's Land –strewn with shells and body parts



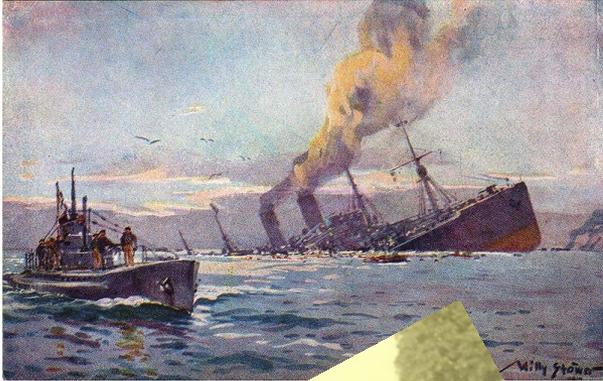
The Course of the War (cont)



HISTORY IN PICTURES IncredibleImages4u.blogspot.com

- Fighting in Eastern Front in Russia and spread to the Balkans
 - Longer front than Western-Germany had to cover both
 - Russians fought badly
 - Heavy casualties and lack of leadership
 - Overthrow of tsar
- US joined in 1917; fresh troops called doughboys

The War Outside Europe



- US saw this as a European war; sold goods to both sides but mainly pro-British.
- German submarine warfare brought the US in on the side of Britain and France
 - US involved for 18 months
 - No fighting in US/didn't suffer nearly as much as European nations
- British dominions in Canada, Australia, New Zealand sent troops
 - Skirmishes in Africa around the colonies
 - African colonial troops sent to Western Front
 - Indian troops fought (hoped their support would promote independence)



The War Outside Europe (cont)

- Britain weakened the Ottomans by sponsoring an internal rebellion against the sultan's forces
 - Britain gained support from Jewish settlers in Palestine with the promise of a homeland (Balfour Declaration)
- Allied actions set in motion the drive for independence among Ottomans bringing about the final collapse when the Central Powers lost the war



The Home Front



- Home front ran parallel to actual war
- War tended to strengthen central governments; coordination of resources
- Conscription
- Civilians had to give up personal needs
- War propaganda to ensure civilian support
 - Inspired nationalism
- Wage and price controls
- Freedom of speech and press curtailed for national security
 - Bad news from the war front was censored



The Home Front (cont)

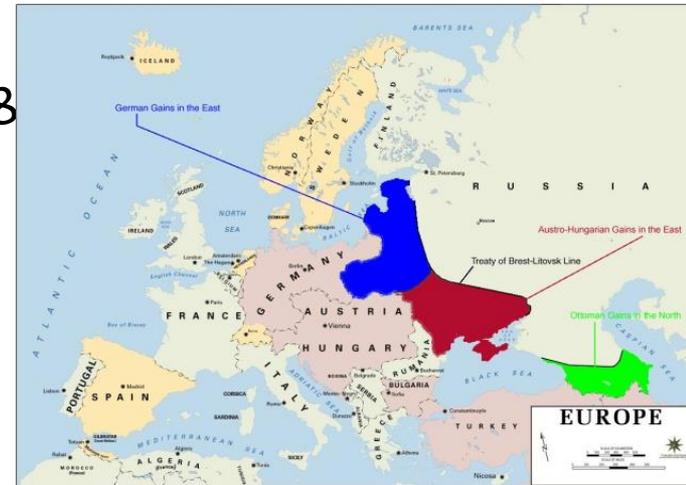


- Women made important contribution filling traditional male jobs
 - Farms
 - Factories
 - Postal employees
 - Police officers
- Upper class women found it liberating to rely on themselves and not husbands/fathers
 - Helped pressure legislatures to pass women's suffrage measures
- Working class women didn't see as much change – they'd always worked outside the home
 - Wages did rise a bit but the gap between men and women never closed
- Voting rights in Britain 1918, Germany 1919, Austria 1919, US 1920



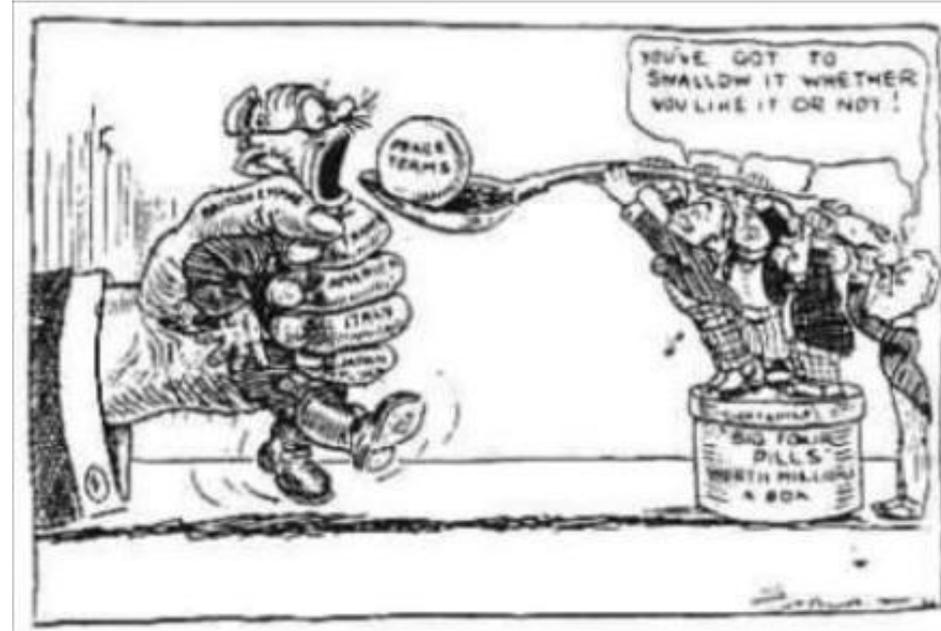
The End of the War

- Russia
 - After the revolution focus was restructuring Russian
 - Signed Brest-Litovsk Treaty w/Germans
 - Gave substantial territories in western Russia to Germany
- German forces occupied the new territory
 - Took away Germany's ability to address issues on the Western Front
 - Entente powers had the advantage with fresh soldiers from the US
- Habsburg forces in Italy and the Balkans failed
- German Kaiser abdicated
- Central Powers surrendered in 1918



Post War Diplomacy

- 1919 diplomats met at Versailles Palace
- None of the Central Powers represented (nor Russia)
- France, Britain, US most influential leaders
 - Wilson wanted to make the “world safe for democracy” and have this be the “war to end all wars”
 - Presented 14 Points
- Britain and France wanted to punish Germany
 - France wanted revenge – huge losses due to much of the fighting in France
 - Both wanted reparations and permanent weakening of German power
- Britain continued to blockade German ports and Allies threatened to renew the war if the Central Powers didn't agree
 - Agreement heavily punished Germany; created resentments and economic hardships that erupted later into a far larger war



The Versailles Treaty

War Guilt

- Placed sole blame on German aggression
- Germany had to pay reparations to compensate Allies (31 billion)
- Expensive and psychologically difficult for Germans

Territorial Losses

- Germany lost 13% of land
- France, Poland, Belgium, and Denmark gained
- Poland once again appears on the map; land from Russia and Germany
- German territories given as mandates to Britain, France, and Japan

The Versailles Treaty

Military Restrictions

- Size of army restricted
- No forces in the Rhineland (btwn Rhine River and French border)
- Forbidden to manufacture war materials/weapons/subs/etc.
- Intent to prevent Germany from ever waging war

League of Nations

- Wilson proposed; saw as a forum to solve problems peacefully
- Was to consist of US, Britain, France, Italy, and Japan with a general assembly representing 42 Allied and neutral nations
- German and Russia not given representation

The Versailles Treaty

- A number of treaties signed
 - Germany and other central powers penalized
 - Bulgaria had to give up land and pay reparations
 - Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire dismantled
 - Russia punished (remember – they had fought on the Allies side), the tsar was overthrown and the Versailles powers did not trust Lenin
 - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was canceled and Russia ended up losing even more land space

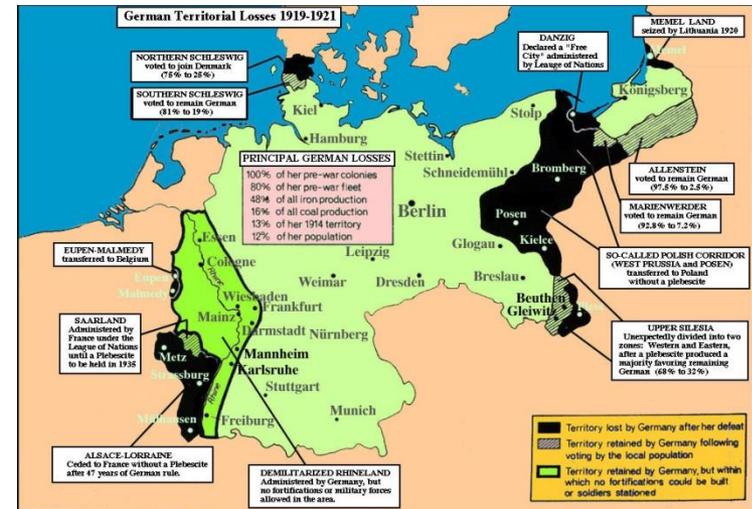


THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

The Versailles Treaty (cont)

- The Allied powers didn't simply seize lands, new nations rose under the principle of self-determination

– Poland, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania



The Mandate System

- Territories set up as trusteeships
- Many of the Arab territories of the Ottoman Empire and Germany's former colonies
 - Violated promises made to Arabs by France and Britain
 - Jewish nationalists saw this as a violation of Balfour Declaration
 - Turkey negotiated a new Turkish republic
 - Rest of Ottoman empire divided up as mandates of League of Nations
 - Iran and Saudi Arabia asserted control over their lands
- Result? A fragmented Middle East and a legacy of resentment toward the West



Problems With the League of Nations

- Acceptance of the League was a 'marker event'; signaled a new type of international organization
- Wilson saw the League as a power to avoid war
- Problems include:
 - No power to enforce decisions
 - Collective security meant that others were bound to supply aid
 - Wilson tried to get support in the US; suffered a stroke and the US didn't sign Versailles Treaty or join League
 - Germany and Japan saw League as serving interests of the Allies and withdrew
- League unable to stop the onset of WWII and collapse but set the precedent for the UN

WWI: A Cultural Marker Event

- Seriously wounded economies of Europe
 - Resulted in decline of imperialist powers
- Social restrictions loosened
 - Pleasure seeking behavior characterized urban life in the 1920's
 - Drinking
 - Racy dancing
 - Looser sexual morality
 - Women had less modest dress styles
 - Unescorted attendance in public places
 - Less deference to fathers and husbands
 - Secular values replace religious vales
- Rift between urban and rural populations widened
- Why these changes? Complex explanations:
 - People looking for escape after the horrors of war
 - War interrupted normal social patterns; role of women changed



New Forces of Revolution in Russia and China

- Revolutionary forces overcame traditional monarchies in both Russia and China in the early 20th C
 - 1911: Last emperor in China was deposed
 - 1917: Last tsar abdicated in Russia
- 1914 – 1945 a new authoritarian regime in Russia while the struggle continued in China



The Russian Revolution and the Creation of the Union of Soviet Republics



- Romanov tsars had clung to absolutism
 - Number of dissidents increase
 - Tsar Nicholas II not able to manage the war (WWI) last straw
 - Lack of food and equipment led to mutiny within the troops
 - Chaos descended ; soviets encouraged street riots
- When the tsar abdicated, the govt was up for grabs

The Russian Revolution and the Creation of the Union of Soviet Republics (cont)

- Alexander Kerensky
 - Supported freedom of religion
 - Resisted land reform and redistribution
 - Popular unrest continued
- V.I. Lenin
 - Returned from exile
 - Led the Bolsheviks to a second revolution that toppled provisional govt
 - His interpretation of Marxism “vanguard of the revolution’ force its way to the top by dismantling other parties



The Russian Revolution and the Creation of the Union of Soviet Republics (cont)

- All didn't support Lenin's assertion of power
 - Britain, France, US, Japan sent troops to defeat communist threat
 - Internal resistance
 - Land redistribution plan and nationalization of industry sparked protests; created more opposition
- Civil war waged; Red Army led by Leon Trotsky, regained stability
 - Lenin promoted people from humble backgrounds; the new recruits believed in his vision
- New Economic Policy
 - Small business owners and peasants retention of rights and freedoms
 - State set economic policies
 - Economy responded; food and production improved
 - Lenin's democratic centralism was in place and each soviet socialist republic was set up to recognize the different minorities
- Central govt controlled by Russians; Communist party established an authoritarian system



The Russian Revolution and the Creation of the Union of Soviet Republics (cont)

- Lenin died without leaving a clear path to leadership
- Stalin comes to power
 - Focused on “socialism in one country”
 - Policies emphasizing industrialization
 - Strengthening agriculture
- Russia remained isolated for most of 1930's



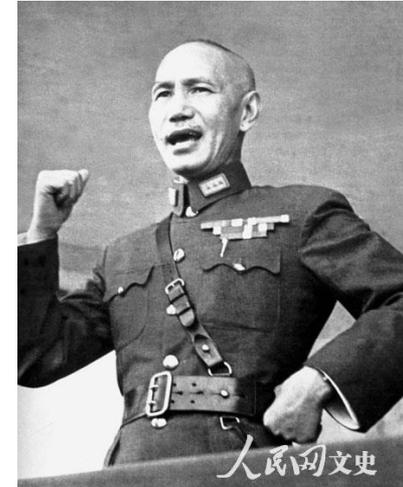
China's Struggle for Stability

- Sun Yat-sen led the Revolution of 1911
 - Hoped to establish republican form of govt
- China's regional generals – the warlords – continued to struggle for power
- Decision at Versailles insulted educated Chinese; German lands given as enclaves to Japan were Chinese lands
 - People looked for other answers
 - Sun's party, Guamindang (Nationalist People's Party) admired Lenin
 - Invited Soviet advisors to organize the country
 - Also welcomed Chinese Community Party members into his party



China's Struggle for Stability (cont)

- After Sun dies the party leadership fell to Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)
 - Less accommodating to the Communists
 - Wanted to crush regional warlords – then turned on Communists
 - Early 1930's established a dictatorship without a lot of strength
- Mao Zedong became more popular, especially after the Long March
 - Chiang had to turn his attention to the invading Japanese and the decision of who would rule China had to wait until after WWII



Economic Problems of the 1920s

- US loaned money to Germany to pay war debts to Britain and France
 - Britain and France needed Germany's money to repay money US loaned them during the war
- US pulled back on investments in mid-1928 – lack of capital caused repayment structure to collapse

