

Test Date:

Test Format: 30 True/ False.

Define the following terms:

Militarism

Archduke Ferdinand

Central Powers (members)

New War Technology (ex.)

Morgan Loans

The Food Administration

American Expeditionary Force

Battle of St. Mihiel

Woodrow Wilson

Tsar (or Czar) Nicholas 2nd

Jeannette Rankin

Bernard Baruch

Eugene Debs

Espionage Act

Sedition Act

John Pershing

Communism

Alvin York

Battle of Chateau-Thierry

Battle of the Marne

Armistice

Self-Determination

Henry Cabot Lodge

David Lloyd George

The Big Four

Reparations

Nationalism

Allied Powers (members)

The Lusitania

Zimmerman Note

War Industries Board

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Warren G. Harding

General Ferdinand Foch

Kaiser Wilhelm

Selective Service Act

Herbert Hoover

Liberty Bonds

Palmer Raids

Trading with the Enemy Act

U.S. v. Schenck

Vladimir Lenin

Karl Marx

Spanish Flu Pandemic

Battle of Belleau Wood

Battle of the Argonne Forest

The Fourteen Points

League of Nations

Georges Clemenceau

Vittorio Orlando

Treaty of Versailles

The Red Scare

Lesson 26

A U.S. Role in Global Politics

IT'S IMPORTANT:

- To understand how American relations with other nations developed between the end of the Civil War and the end of World War I
- To understand the relative importance of U.S. domestic and foreign policies over time
- To analyze the role played by the United States in international politics, past and present
- To describe the relationships between people and environments, and the connections between people and places

When the **Great War** (later known as **World War I**) began in Europe in the summer of 1914, Americans had to weigh the costs and benefits of joining the war or staying out of it altogether. This lesson will look at reasons for World War I, and the events that led the United States to enter the war and take a role in global politics.

Causes of World War I

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a young Bosnian nationalist. Bosnia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and the Archduke's assassin wanted Bosnia to unite with the independent nation of Serbia. The assassination of the Archduke triggered the start of World War I. Several forces, however, had set Europe on the path to war during the 19th century. The main causes of World War I were nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and opposing European alliances.

Nationalism and imperialism

Nationalism is the feeling of loyalty and pride people have for their country or for other people who share a common history, language, or culture. This powerful force swept across Europe during the 1800s. The rise of nationalism led minority groups in many countries to call for independence. Czechs and Slovaks in the Austro-Hungarian empire, for example, wished to form their own nation. The Poles, too, wanted to reclaim their homeland, which had been divided into territories by Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia.

By the early 1900s, much of Asia and nearly all of Africa had been colonized by European nations. The colonies provided raw materials and markets for European manufacturing. The desire for colonies led to competition and power struggles among European nations.

Militarism

The spread of nationalism in Europe led to a dangerous arms race. By the turn of the century, Germany had the largest and best-trained army in Europe, and young men were drafted to increase the size of its peacetime army. The other nations of Europe responded to Germany's military buildup by strengthening their own armed forces. Germany also built up its navy, becoming an enemy of Great Britain, the world's strongest naval power.

European alliances

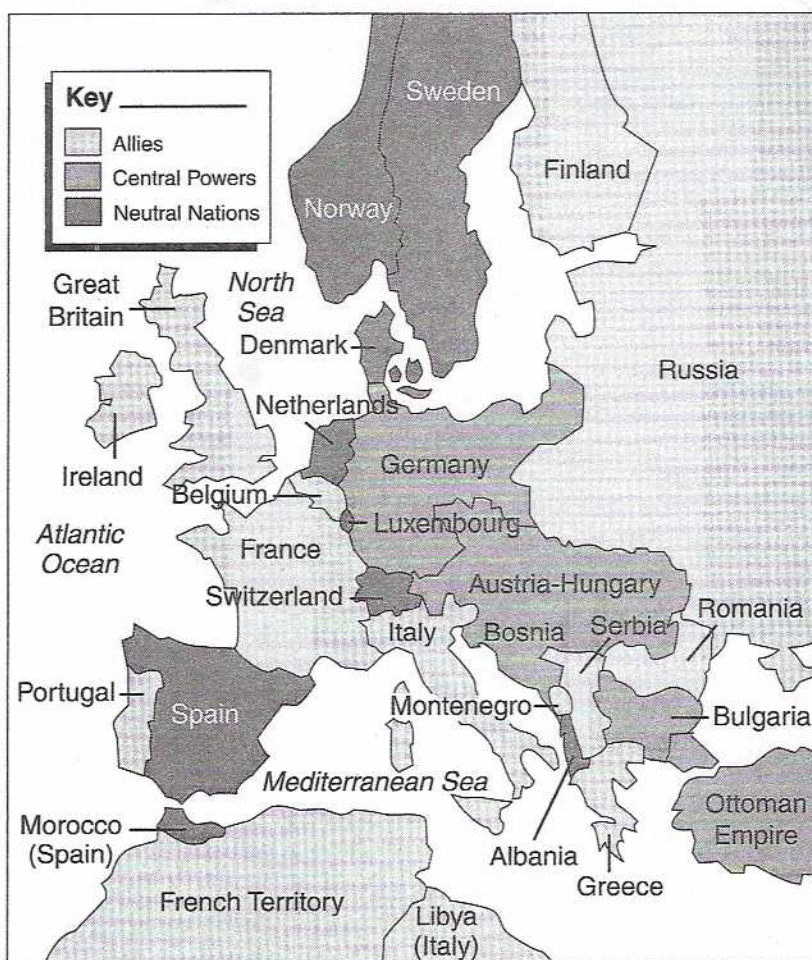
Prior to the war, European nations had entered into a network of **alliances** (military agreements) to further increase their

power. Such agreements provided that, in case of attack, the other members of the alliance would either remain neutral or come to the aid of the country under attack. If war erupted, these alliances meant that several countries would be drawn into the conflict. Many agreements were also kept secret, which meant that a country might not be able to guess the consequences of its actions. Germany and Austria-Hungary were the chief members of one alliance, known as the **Central Powers**. They were later joined by Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire. On the other side were several nations called the **Allies**, which included Great Britain, France, and Russia.

Austria-Hungary and Serbia belonged to opposing alliances. Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for the

assassination of the Archduke and declared war on Serbia. Russia shared a Slavic heritage with the Serbs and prepared for war against Austria-Hungary. Germany, Austria-Hungary's ally, declared war on Russia. When Germany invaded Belgium, a neutral nation, Britain entered the war against Germany. Allies on both sides quickly became involved, and by August 1914, the majority of Europe had been drawn into the war.

Europe During World War I



Source: World Book

Quick Review 1: Which of the following terms is defined by feelings of intense patriotism?

- A. neutrality
- B. militarism
- C. nationalism
- D. imperialism

Explain how the system of alliances that was formed in Europe before the war caused most European nations to be drawn into the conflict.

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The Great War: The Beginning

Early in 1914, few European nations were expecting a large scale war. Since the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, no war had included all the major powers of Europe. The peace of the continent had held, even though there had been trouble since the 1890s. Nations were challenging one another for foreign markets and for colonies. Several major powers had been building stockpiles of arms and weapons. As the 20th century approached, tensions between countries had grown around three power goals, or "isms": nationalism, militarism, and imperialism.

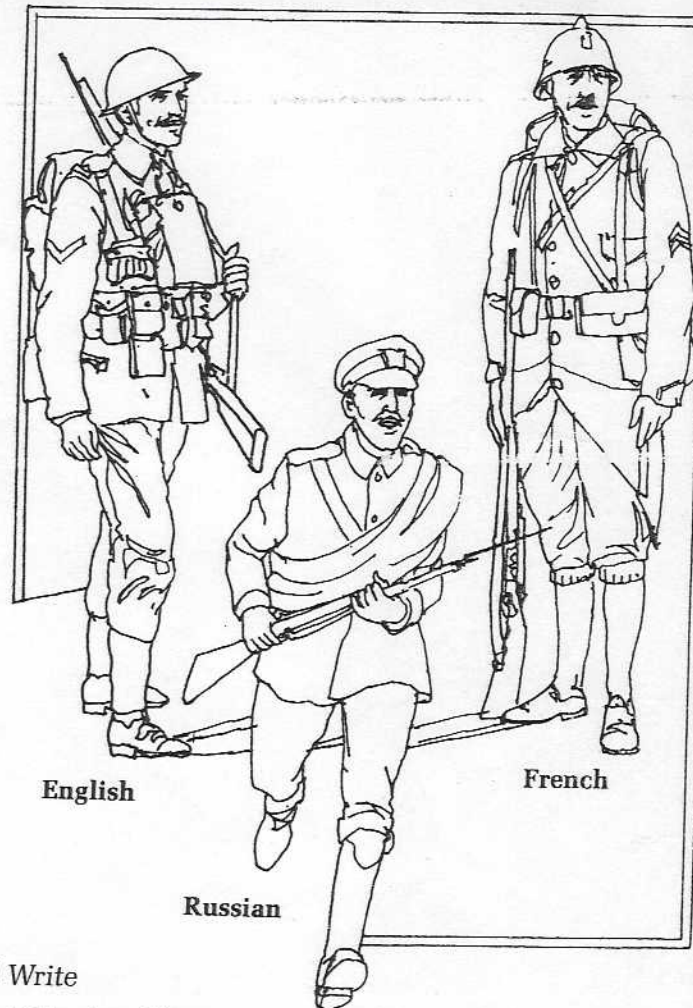
Not only were the major powers competing and challenging one another, but ethnic groups, many of which were controlled by larger powers, had developed strong national feelings. Several groups were demanding their independence as separate people. Such groups included the Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Serbs, Poles, and Bosnians.

In addition, major powers were preparing to protect themselves by banding together. In 1914, two important alliances had been formed. One was the **Triple Alliance**: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. The second was the **Triple Entente**: France, England, and Russia. Both alliances were prepared for war and ready to defend their allies. Later, Italy left the Triple Alliance and joined the Triple Entente; the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey) then joined the Triple Alliance.

The powder keg exploded on June 28, 1914, when Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was murdered by Serbian patriots in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, a city in modern-day Yugoslavia.

The Austro-Hungarian government responded immediately by sending Serbia an ultimatum. The

Serbs did not respond as the Austrians had hoped they would, and the empire declared war on Serbia. Russia, a Serbian ally, declared war on Austria-Hungary, which then requested help from its ally, Germany. Germany responded and declared war not only on Serbia and Russia, but on France as an ally of Russia. When Germany invaded Belgium to move into France, Great Britain, as a Belgian ally, became involved in the war. The Great War had begun.



Review and Write

1. Using a dictionary or other source, define each of the following "isms."
imperialism: _____
nationalism: _____
militarism: _____
2. On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated. Explain how this single event led to the outbreak of war in Europe. _____

3. By using specific examples, show how the military alliances drawn up before the war increased the size of the conflict once the first nation declared war. _____

U.S. Policy of Noninvolvement in European Affairs

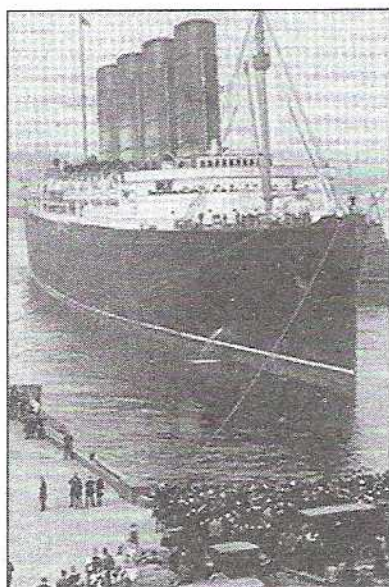
President **Woodrow Wilson** responded to the war in Europe by adopting a policy of **neutrality**, meaning that the United States would not take part in the war. Ever since the days of Washington and Jefferson, a desire to keep out of European affairs had run through U.S. foreign policy. Most Americans were more interested in domestic concerns than in what was happening on the other side of the world.

The majority of Americans in the years immediately following the Civil War were focused on economic growth and westward expansion. Even as the United States began to acquire a colonial empire and assume a role as a world leader, Americans were reluctant to become involved in conflicts with powerful European nations. After all, the Monroe Doctrine promised that the United States would not interfere in European affairs, and the American people largely agreed that World War I was not something in which to get involved. Government leaders also recognized that the United States' military was not prepared for battle.

Wilson and most of his advisors wanted the Allies to win. But Wilson thought that the Allies could win without military support from the United States. Wilson reasoned that the United States had no real enemies, and he did not want to make any by joining one side or the other in the war.

Quick Review 2: How do you think geography, particularly the location of the United States, played a role in U.S. foreign policy around the time of World War I?

Events Leading to U.S. Involvement in World War I



Lusitania

Few Americans could remain neutral for long. Millions of German Americans saw the war as a defense of German territory against France and Russia. Many Irish Americans, bearing an age-old dislike of the British, also sided with the Central Powers. However, most Americans supported the Allies. For one, American companies did more business with Great Britain and France than with the other European nations. In addition, the majority of Americans felt strong ties to Britain because of a shared language, ancestry, and democratic system of government. A traditional friendship with France also drew the United States toward the Allied cause.

During the war, the United States sold large quantities of food and war goods to both sides. The British navy forced U.S. ships into port for inspection and seized cargoes bound for non-Allied nations. Germany, however, used a new weapon—the **submarine**—to attack and sink American ships without

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warning. According to international law, nations that are officially neutral in a war are to be left alone. In 1915, anti-German feelings in the United States flared when a German submarine sank the British passenger ship *Lusitania*, killing 128 Americans on board.

Wilson's resistance to being drawn into the war led him to act as mediator between the warring nations, but he was unsuccessful. An intercepted document known as the **Zimmerman note** helped change Wilson's mind about neutrality. The note revealed Germany's offer to help Mexico take back Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona if the United States should enter the war. This way, the United States would be forced to use troops to defend the Southwest and would not be able to send all of its troops to Europe. Finally, after Germany's repeated violations of American neutrality, Congress, at Wilson's request, declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Quick Review 3: The United States had strong economic ties to the Allies. American oil, steel, and food production increased during the war as a result of Allied demands for goods. Between 1914 and 1917, American trade with the Allies grew from \$500 million to \$3.5 billion. It is also estimated that within three years, the Allies received \$1 billion worth of arms and explosives from the United States. With this in mind, do you think the United States remained neutral in practice as well as policy up until the declaration of war? Explain your answer.

Which did not contribute to Congress's decision to declare war on Germany?

- A. the Zimmerman note
- B. shared German ancestry
- C. the sinking of the *Lusitania*
- D. Germany's submarine warfare

The United States Enters the War

The majority of Americans rallied behind the war. They bought billions of dollars in **liberty bonds**, representing money lent to the government to help pay for the war. Also, young men of fighting age enthusiastically registered for the draft.

American support of the war was so widespread that critics of the war were likened to traitors. During the war, legislation was passed to silence the opposition. The **Espionage Act** of 1917 made it a crime to aid the enemy or to interfere with the recruitment of soldiers. The **Sedition Act**, passed the following year, cracked down on freedom of expression. Anyone who spoke or wrote something critical of the government, the army or navy, or even military uniforms, could be subject to heavy fines or up to twenty years in prison. Unfortunately, the war promoted a wave of intolerance, especially toward German Americans whose loyalties were questioned.

Technology and World War I

The destruction of World War I was greatly increased by advances in technology—the tools and processes of the industrial age. Railroads and steamships sped up the transportation of troops and supplies. New weapons, such as machine guns, submarines, tanks, airplanes, and poisonous gas, led to the death of millions. Technology was making it possible to fight longer wars with more casualties than ever before.

Changes at home

The declaration of war led to several changes on the home front. The United States ran short of military supplies. Wilson created the **War Industries Board (WIB)**, which oversaw the production and distribution of manufactured goods. It established controls over scarce commodities such as steel, decided what was to be made, and sometimes even set prices.

Key to the successful mobilization of industry was the effort of American workers. It was important to prevent worker strikes and keep production moving. Wilson and the federal government made some sizable gains for labor during the war. They insisted in some cases on an eight-hour workday. They also set standards for the working conditions of women and children. Government support for unions resulted in an increase in union membership. The American Federation of Labor grew from about 2 million members in 1916 to almost 3.3 million in 1920.

Vacancies left by men who had been called for military service, as well as an increased need for workers to produce war goods, led to new opportunities for women and African Americans. Around 100,000 women found jobs in munitions

factories and many others worked in steel mills. The chance to find jobs in war industries prompted the migration of about 500,000 African Americans to northern cities. These new opportunities, however, did not last beyond the war. After the war was over, most women and many African Americans lost their jobs or had to take lower-paying work.

Quick Review 4: Why did the government sell liberty bonds?

- A. to prevent worker strikes
- B. to raise money for the war
- C. to encourage draft registration
- D. to mobilize support for the war

How did the United States' entry into the war affect women and African Americans?

What was one effect of the Sedition Act?

- A. The government took steps to limit citizens' freedom of speech.
- B. The number of young men drafted for military service increased.
- C. The president encouraged industry to improve working conditions.
- D. The government established controls over the means of production.

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America Goes to War

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson stood before Congress and asked that it recognize the state of war existing between Germany and the United States. The request was met with enthusiasm and war was declared.

In his speech, Wilson said, "The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion."

In early summer of 1917, the first American troops reached France. Their leader, General John J. Pershing, insisted on keeping his men in American units instead of having them used as replacements for Allied units. American battalions were soon involved in the fighting.

By the fall of 1917, the Russians, having experienced a revolution at home, were out of the war. The German army, therefore, no longer had to fight a two-front conflict. They began to concentrate their efforts in France by mounting a major offensive. The Germans had reached the Marne River before they were pushed back.

The first important action in which the Americans were involved came in May of 1918, when U.S. soldiers turned the Germans back at Cantigny and at Château-Thierry. The French, especially, were glad to have help to stop this new German drive to take Paris. Not far from Château-Thierry, the Americans drove the Germans out of an important stronghold in Belleau Wood. This occurred in June of 1918. Although the attack was a success, nearly 8,000 casualties were inflicted on the U.S. marines before they took the German position.

In September of 1918, the Americans fought at St. Mihiel to stem a German advance. Approximately 550,000 soldiers attacked, defeated the Germans, and captured 15,000 soldiers. Later that same month, U.S. troops took part in a large-scale attack in the Argonne Forest. Here, one in every ten men was killed or wounded.

Although costly in lives, the attacks proved successful, and the Germans fell back steadily. On November 11, 1918, the German army requested an armistice, or a cease-fire. The Great War was over.

Review and Write

1. Although Wilson cited "unrestricted submarine warfare" by the Germans as a prime reason for declaring war, was his other goal of making "the world safe for democracy" realistic? Explain your answer. _____

2. Describe the role played by U.S. troops in France in May and June of 1918. _____

3. In the fall of 1918, the Americans were involved in offensive attacks at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne. Considering the heavy casualties in the fighting, how successful were these efforts? _____

4. What would probably have happened had the United States not entered WW I? Explain. _____

5. What might have been the most profound change in the modern world if Germany had won WW I? _____

The United States and Negotiations for Peace

Early in 1918, shortly after American troops began fighting, Wilson announced his **Fourteen Points**, a list of American goals for the world to follow after the war. He wanted European borders and colonial claims to be adjusted fairly. He spoke out against the kind of secret agreements that had helped lead to war in the first place. He also urged the victorious nations to recognize the rights of national groups to govern themselves. Finally, he proposed the formation of a **League of Nations** to handle international disputes.

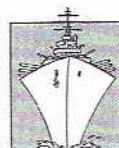
It would take several months for the United States to gear up its war effort and get soldiers to European battlefields. In November 1918, the combined military might of the Americans, British, and French forced the Germans to end the war. The victorious nations held a peace conference at **Versailles**, France, which President Wilson attended.

Wilson's dreams, as expressed in the Fourteen Points, were crushed. The victorious nations were more interested in punishing Germany and carving up enemy territory than they were in fairness. The U.S. Senate refused to permit the United States to join the League of Nations. After the war, most Americans were ready to withdraw once again from European affairs. Many were afraid that the League of Nations would entangle the United States in further world conflicts.

Quick Review 5: At the Versailles peace conference, the victorious nations were eager to

- withdraw from foreign affairs.
- support Wilson's Fourteen Points.
- protect the rights of national groups.
- punish Germany and divide up enemy territory.

Why did the U.S. Senate refuse to allow the United States to join the League of Nations?



WORLD WAR I TIMELINE

1914

June: Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated

July: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, other European nations followed suit

1915

May: German submarine sinks British passenger ship *Lusitania*

1917

March: News of Zimmerman note reaches Americans

April: United States Congress declares war on Germany

June: American troops begin reaching France

October: The Bolsheviks stage a revolution and take over Russian government

December: Russia signs an armistice (truce) with Germany

1918

January: Wilson proposes the Fourteen Points

November: Germany accepts the terms of armistice demanded by the Allies

June: Germany signs the Treaty of Versailles



Versailles and the League of Nations

At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the armistice ending the Great War went into effect. The nations involved then began to assess their losses: a staggering 8.5 million soldiers dead (including 112,000 Americans) and nearly as many civilian casualties.

Even before the war was ended, Wilson had begun to prepare for the peace conference to follow. In December of 1918, Wilson, the first American President to travel outside the western hemisphere during his presidency, sailed to Paris, carrying in hand a plan for worldwide peace. His plan was

called The Fourteen Points. Earlier, on January 8, 1918, Wilson had proposed this same plan to the Congress. Many believed the proposal to be a sound one, but as time would tell, his vision of peace would face obstacles.

Representatives from twenty-seven nations met at Versailles (near Paris) to negotiate the peace treaty. However, it was the nations of France, England, Italy, and the United States, the so-called "Big Four," who largely determined the nature of the peace agreements ending World War I.

Research and Write

1. Read the following abbreviated version of The Fourteen Points. Then check the boxes in which you feel the leaders of the three nations other than the U.S. would have agreed with the stated proposals. Also check boxes where the German leaders, had they been given a choice, might have agreed.

The Fourteen Points

1. Open covenants of peace_____
2. Freedom of navigation upon the seas_____
3. Removal of economic barriers and equality of trade conditions_____
4. Guarantees that national armaments will be reduced_____
5. Impartial adjustment of colonial claims_____
6. Evacuation of all Russian territory_____
7. Belgium evacuated and restored_____
8. French territory freed and invaded portions restored_____
9. Readjustment of frontiers of Italy_____
10. Peoples of Austria-Hungary be accorded opportunity of autonomous development_____
11. Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro evacuated_____
12. Turkish portions of Ottoman Empire assured sovereignty_____
13. An independent Polish state erected_____
14. General association of nations must be formed_____

France Clemenceau	England Lloyd George	Italy Orlando	Germany

2. Wilson's fourteenth point proposed the organization of "a general association of nations for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence." The League of Nations developed out of this proposal. Although most European nations became League members, the U.S. did not. Why not? Also, why did some people at home oppose the U.S. joining the League? _____

The Bolshevik Revolution

World War I brought much suffering to the people of Russia. By 1917, many had decided that they were tired of the growing number of war casualties and the terrible shortages of fuel, food, and housing. Many Russian workers were also dissatisfied with government policies. For nearly 400 years, Russia had been ruled by a series of **tsars** (or **czars**), kings and queens who worked to centralize power in their own positions.

In 1917, workers and soldiers decided that they'd had enough. They blamed **Tsar Nicholas II** for Russia's problems, and early that year, the Russian people rebelled against the government. Nicholas was forced out of office, imprisoned, and later shot to death along with his family. A new government took control. It attempted to bring order to society and improve conditions for workers, but its policies were both unpopular and unsuccessful. In October 1917, the **Bolsheviks** (meaning "majority"), later called Communists, staged a second revolution.

Bolshevik leader **Vladimir Ilyich Lenin**, who had been active in the revolutionary movement since the 1880s, became the country's leader. He withdrew Russia from the war almost immediately. For the next two years, Russia was torn by civil war. Several countries, including the United States, Britain, and France, gave support to the anti-Bolsheviks. However, the Bolsheviks defeated their opponents in 1920 and went on to create the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)** in 1922.

Quick Review 6: What were some of the reasons behind the Russian revolutions of 1917?

What was the outcome of the Bolshevik Revolution?

- A. the formation of the Soviet Union
- B. the strengthening of the czar's power
- C. the control of Russian government by the anti-Communists
- D. the growth of U.S. government support for the Communists

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