INTRODUCTION: WORLD WAR I
1. Causes of World War I
2. World War I Timeline

CLIP: The Battle of the Somme

CLIP: The Tank
INTRODUCTION: WORLD WAR I
1. Causes of World War I

- World War I was the result of leaders' aggression towards other countries which was supported by the rising nationalism of the European nations. Economic and imperial competition and fear of war prompted military alliances and an arms race, which further escalated the tension contributing to the outbreak of war.

- At the settlement of the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the principle of nationalism was ignored in favor of preserving the peace. Germany and Italy were left as divided states, but strong nationalist movements and revolutions led to the unification of Italy in 1861 and that of Germany in 1871. Another result of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 was that France was left seething over the loss of Alsace-Lorraine to Germany, and Revanche was a major goal of the French. Nationalism posed a problem for Austria-Hungary and the Balkans, areas comprised of many conflicting national groups. The ardent Panslavism of Serbia and Russia's willingness to support its Slavic brother conflicted with Austria-Hungary's Pan-Germanism.

- World War I was caused in part by the two opposing alliances developed by Bismarckian diplomacy after the Franco-Prussian War. In order to diplomatically isolate France, Bismarck formed the Three Emperor's League in 1872, an alliance between Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary. When the French occupied Tunisia, Bismarck took advantage of Italian resentment towards France and created the Triple Alliance between Germany, Italy and Austria-Hungary in 1882. In exchange for Italy's agreement to stay neutral if war broke out between Austria-Hungary and Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary would protect Italy from France. Russia and Austria-Hungary grew suspicious of each other over conflicts in the Balkans in 1887, but Bismarck repaired the damage to his alliances with a Reinsurance Treaty with Russia, allowing both powers to stay neutral if the other was at war. However, after Bismarck was fired by Kaiser William II in 1890, the traditional dislike of Slavs kept Bismarck's successors from renewing the understanding with Russia. France took advantage of this opportunity to get an ally, and the Franco-Russian Entente was formed in 1891, which became a formal alliance in 1894. The Kruger telegram William II sent to congratulate the leader of the Boers for defeating the British in 1896, his instructions to the German soldiers to behave like Huns in China during the Boxer Rebellion, and particularly the large-scale navy he was building all contributed to British distrust of Germany.

- As a result, Britain and France overlooked all major imperialistic conflict between them and formed the Entente Cordiale in 1904. Russia formed an Entente with Britain in 1907 after they had reached an understanding with Britain's ally Japan and William II had further alienated Russia by supporting Austrian ambitions in the Balkans. The Triple Entente, an informal coalition between Great Britain, France and Russia, now countered the Triple Alliance. International tension was greatly increased by the division of Europe into two armed camps.
Lecture 20: The Breakdown of the Liberal World Order, 1913-1950 1: World War I

1. Causes of World War I (cont.)

- The menace of the hostile division led to an arms race, another cause of World War I. Acknowledging that Germany was the leader in military organization and efficiency, the great powers of Europe copied the universal conscription, large reserves and detailed planning of the Prussian system. Technological and organizational developments led to the formation of general staffs with precise plans for mobilization and attack that often could not be reversed once they were begun. The German von Schlieffen Plan to attack France before Russia in the event of war with Russia was one such complicated plan that drew more countries into war than necessary.

- Europe had reached its breaking point when on June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne, was assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, by a Serbian nationalist belonging to an organization known as the Black Hand (Narodna Obrana). Immediately following the assassination Germany pledged its full support (blank check) to Austria-Hungary, pressuring them to declare war on Serbia, while France strengthened its backing of Russia. Convinced that the Serbian government had conspired against them, Austria-Hungary issued Serbia an unacceptable ultimatum, to which Serbia consented almost entirely.

- Unsatisfied, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914. On July 29, Russia ordered a partial mobilization only against Austria-Hungary in support of Serbia, which escalated into a general mobilization. The Germans threatened war on July 31 if the Russians did not demobilize. Upon being asked by Germany what it would do in the event of a Russo-German War, France responded that it would act in its own interests and mobilized. On August 1, Germany declared war on Russia, and two days later, on France. The German invasion of Belgium to attack France, which violated Belgium’s official neutrality, prompted Britain to declare war on Germany. World War I had begun.

A lot of variance in the various countries’ military spending patterns, e.g., before WWI! Also, note the impact of wars.
### Lecture 20: The Breakdown of the Liberal World Order, 1913-1950 1: World War I

#### 2. World War 1 Timeline (Selective)

"World War 1 ("The Great War") was fought from 1914-1918. There were 8.6 million casualties during World War 1, with the Allied Powers (the victors) losing 5.1 million and the Central Powers losing 3.5 million. The war was devastating to the countries involved, and was known as the "war to end all wars" until the Second World War began.

- June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated in Sarajevo.
- July 28, 1914 Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.
- August 2, 1914 Germany invades Luxembourg.
- August 3, 1914 Germany declares war on France.
- August 4, 1914 Britain declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- August 4, 1914 German forces invade Belgium in violation of a treaty signed by Prussia to respect Belgian neutrality.
- September 5-10, 1914 First Battle of the Marne.
- October-November, 1914 First Battle of Ypres.
- November, 1914 Battle of Lodz.
- December 25, 1914 Unofficial Christmas Truce on the Western Front.
- August 19, 1914 Wilson appeals for neutrality.

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#### 2. World War 1 Timeline (Selective) (cont.)

- April 23, 1915 Allied assault on Gallipoli.
- May 7, 1915 Lusitania sunk.
- May, 1915 Battle of Gorlice-Tarnow.
- May 13, 1915 First Lusitania note.
- August 30, 1915 Responding to American demands, Germany stops sinking ships without warning.
- September 5, 1915 Tsar Nicholas becomes commander of Russian armies.
- December 7, 1915 David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister of Britain.
- December 28, 1915 Allied withdrawal from Gallipoli.
- May-June, 1916 Trentino Offensive.
- July 1-November 18, 1916 Battle of the Somme.
- November 7, 1916 Woodrow Wilson re-elected.
- January 22, 1917 "Peace without Victory." speech by President Wilson.
- February 1, 1917 Unrestricted submarine warfare declared by Germany. again.
- March 15, 1917 Tsar Nicholas abdicates.
- March-September, 1917 Russia collapses.
- April 2, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson asks the House of Representatives to declare war on Germany.
- April 6, 1917 United States declares war on Germany entering the First World War.
- April, 1917 Battle of Arras & Vimy Ridge.
- April, 1917 Nivelle Offensive.
- June, 1917 Battle of Messines.
- July 6, 1917 Aquaba captured by Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence.
- July 16-November 10, 1917 Third Battle of Ypres.
2. World War I Timeline (Selective) (cont.)

-August 6, 1917 Aleksander Fyodorovich Kerensky appointed Prime Minister of Russia.
-October, 1917 Battle of Caporetto.
-November 7, 1917 Kerensky’s government overthrown by Bolsheviks.
-December 3, 1917 German-Russian armistice.
-January 8, 1918 President Wilson delivers his fourteen points speech to the Congress.
-March 3, 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed by Soviet Russia and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey).
-March 15, 1918 Soviets ratify the Brest-Litovsk Treaty.
-March-June, 1918 Ludendorff Offensive.
-July 16-17, 1918 Bolsheviks murder Tsar Nicholas and his family.
-September 29, 1918 Allies break through the Hindenberg Line.
-September-October, 1918 Battle of Megiddo.
-September, 1918 St. Mihiel Offensive.
-September-November, 1918 Battle of Meuse-Argonne.
-October 28, 1918 German sailors mutiny.
-November 9, 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm abdicates.
-November 10, 1918 German republic founded.
-November 5, 1918 Allies accept the fourteen points.
-November 11, 1918 World War I ends. Central Powers are forced to annul the Brest-Litovsk Treaty.

Propaganda played an important role before, during and after the war!
Lecture 20: The Breakdown of the Liberal World Order, 1913-1950 1: World War I

Europe 1914

Poison Gas Deaths: 1914-1918

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Non-Fatal</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>British Empire</td>
<td>180,597</td>
<td>8,109</td>
<td>188,706</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>182,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>71,345</td>
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<td>55,373</td>
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<td>419,340</td>
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<td>191,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,205,655</td>
<td>91,198</td>
<td>1,296,853</td>
</tr>
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German Battle Plan

(1) Sergeant A. Vine, diary entry (8th August, 1915)
The stench of the dead bodies now is awful as they have been exposed to the sun for several days, many have swollen and burst. The trench is full of other occupants, things with lots of legs, also swarms of rats.

(2) James Lovegrave, interviewed in 1993.
Life in the trenches was hell on earth. Lice, rats, trench foot, trench mouth, where the gums rot and you lose your teeth. And of course dead bodies everywhere.

Trenches were a miserable place to be…

Availability of water was a problem
Comprising the main Allied attack on the Western Front during 1916, the **Battle of the Somme** is famous chiefly on account of the loss of 58,000 British troops (one third of them killed) on the first day of the battle, 1 July 1916, which to this day remains a one-day record. The attack was launched upon a 30 kilometre front, from north of the Somme river between Arras and Albert, and ran from 1 July until 18 November, at which point it was called off.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjRMbf0pCg&feature=related
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http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1791484221453931528#

(from the 1979 version)

QUESTIONS, in writing:

1) What were the main causes of World War I?

2) What types of new weapons were introduced before, during or right after the war?
ANY QUESTIONS ON TODAY’S LECTURE?
ANYTHING ELSE?