

Study Guide

Chapter 19, Section 3 (continued)



READ TO LEARN

- **Combat in World War I** (page 592)

The ways used to fight wars changed during World War I. Troops began using the rapid-fire machine gun. They dug trenches to defend their lines against enemy attacks. On the Western Front, troops dug a network of trenches that stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss border. The space between the opposing trenches became known as **"no man's land."** Soldiers from either side would race across no man's land and throw grenades into the opposing trenches. As they ran across, many were shot. In major battles, both sides sometimes lost hundreds of thousands of men.

Both sides developed new technologies. The Germans began using poison gas. The fumes caused vomiting, blindness, and suffocation. The Allies also began using poison gas, and gas masks became necessary equipment. The British introduced the tank, which could roll over barbed wire and trenches. Airplanes were first used in World War I. They were used at first to observe enemy activities. Then they were used to drop bombs. Later, machine guns were attached to airplanes, which took part in air battles.

8. What technology did the British introduce in World War I?

- **The Americans and Victory** (page 594)

About 2 million American soldiers fought in World War I. Although they were mostly inexperienced, they boosted the morale of the Allied forces. The commander of the U.S. army was General John J. Pershing.

To avoid having troop ships sunk on their way to Europe, the admiral of the U.S. navy suggested that merchant ships and troop transports be gathered in groups, called **convoys**. Warships escorted the convoys. This system reduced the number of ships that were lost and made sure that American troops reached Europe safely.

In February 1917, riots broke out in Russia over the government's involvement in the war. Food and fuel was scarce. Russia's leader, Czar Nicholas II,

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stepped down from the throne. A temporary government took over. The government, however, was unable to deal with the major problems, such as a lack of food, that the country faced.

The Bolsheviks, a group of Communists, soon wanted power in Russia. In November 1917, **Vladimir Lenin**, the leader of the Bolshevik Party, overthrew the Russian government and set up a Communist one. Lenin immediately pulled Russia out of the war. He signed the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** with Germany in March 1918. Under the treaty, Russia lost a great deal of land. The treaty also removed the German army from the remaining Russian lands. This helped Germany, which now was free to concentrate its troops on the Western Front.

German troops now launched a massive attack and pushed deeply into Allied lines and almost reached Paris. American troops helped to stop the offensive by launching their own attack. American and French troops blocked the German drive on Paris. Germans tried to launch one last attack to take Paris, but American and French troops once again blocked the drive.

On September 16, 1918, American troops under General Pershing started a huge offensive against the Germans. By November, the Americans had destroyed the German defenses and pushed a hole in the German lines. Finally, on November 11, 1918, Germany signed an **armistice**, or cease-fire, that ended the war.

9. How did the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk affect Germany?

- **A Flawed Peace** (page 596)

The peace conference started in January 1919, in Paris, France. The main people involved were known as the Big Four, made up of the leaders of the Allied nations. They included President Wilson of the United States, Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Britain, Premier Georges Clemenceau of France, and Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando of Italy. Germany was not included.

President Wilson's plan for peace was known as the **Fourteen Points**. The fourteenth point called for the formation of an association of nations known

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as the **League of Nations**. The purpose of the League would be to help keep peace and prevent future wars. The other Allied governments did not support Wilson’s plan. They believed that it was too easy on the Germans. The **Treaty of Versailles** weakened many of Wilson’s proposals. Under the treaty, Germany had to disband its armed forces. It was forced to pay **reparations**, or war damages to the Allies, that amounted to \$33 billion. That amount was more than Germany could afford to pay. Germany also had to accept blame for the outbreak of World War I and the destruction it caused.

The war led to the end of four empires: the Russian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the German Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Austria-Hungary was split into separate countries. In addition, nine new countries were established in Europe. The treaty did include Wilson’s plan for the League of Nations.

Many members of Congress opposed the Treaty of Versailles, particularly the League of Nations. They believed that it would force the United States to fight in many conflicts. Some senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, supported the League of Nations. However, they agreed to ratify the treaty only if some amendments were added to ensure that the United States could always act independently. Wilson wanted the Senate to ratify the treaty without any changes. So he took his case directly to the American people. The 8,000 miles of travel cost Wilson his health. He suffered a stroke, was bedridden, and isolated from his closest advisers.

The U.S. Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Instead, it signed treaties with each of the Central Powers. The League of Nations started without the United States.

10. Why did many Allied powers oppose President Wilson’s plan for peace?
