WWI: Crisis of European Global Order

What caused the "Great War," and how did it usher in the modern era?

0. Make-up midterm?; film tomorrow 1-4pm MCC; academic dishonesty & clickers; paper assignment; online survey
1. The "Great War": What & why important?
2. Causes
3. Consequences (int'l; social: women)

Music: Old Gallipoli; Only Boche in the Trench; Who Bashed Bill Kaiser? mp3

Family History Essay

• Handout published on website later today
• Prospectus due next Tuesday
  – Who will you interview? (brief bio/background)
  – When/where/how will you conduct the interview?
  – A move and 2 "world-historical" events
  – 5-8 questions you think you'll ask
  – One page only (5% of grade)

Clicker Q1: Essay feelings
How do you feel about the family history essay assignment?
A. Sounds pretty easy/straightforward [31%]
B. Not sure, but I don’t see any big problem [51%]
C. Sounds challenging [11%]
D. I feel clueless, I’m worried [7%]

Clicker Q2: Age of Interviewee
The person I’m thinking of interviewing is how old?
A. 65 or older (born before 1944; grandparents’ generation) [41%]
B. 45-64 (born 1945-64; parents’ gen.) [44%]
C. Younger than 45 (born 1965 or later) [8%]
D. I have no idea who I’m going to interview [7%]

What was the “Great War”??

• Your associations: [done on overhead proj.]
  – countries involved / sides?
  – name? dates?
  – causes?
  – consequences?
• Why is it important?

Indian troops at the Somme, 1916
Arab Delegates at Versailles, 1919

Chapter 31 Outline

• Path to War & Revolution
  – Bismarck’s system -> William II’s blunders
  – Crises 1908-1913 (Bosnia, Morocco)
• Deadlock & Devastation, 1914-1916
  – Stalemate on western front: Trench warfare
  – Trying to break stalemate: offensives, sea war
  – Germany’s colonies: taken by Japan; Africa
  – Civilian life: Economic & social change; malnuty., disease
• Year of Revolution, 1917
**Chap. 31 Outline cont’d**

- US enters war, April 1917
  - Neutrality, Lusitania (1915), sub warfare, Zimmermann
- Russian Revolutions
  - Strains & fall of monarchy (women’s day, March 1917)
  - Dual Power: Provisional govt & Petrograd Soviet
  - Bolsheviks (“majority”): Peace, Land, Bread
  - Kerensky vs. Komilov: enlists Trotsky & Lenin
  - Legal & political equality for women
  - Withdrawal from war (Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, March 1918)
- German March 1918 offensive & pandemic
  - Collapse of Ottoman empire; Armenian genocide
  - Armistice & Wilson’s 14 Points

**Deeper Causes**

- Decline of Ottoman Empire:
  - Power vacuum in Balkans
  - 1908: Austria takes Bosnia
  - 1912: Italy takes Libya
  - 1912-13: Balkan Wars
- Germany’s “Place in the Sun”

**2 leaders, 2 paradigms**

Otto v Bismarck (1815-1898)  
William II (1859-1941)  
“Dropping the Pilot” (1890)

**Balkan troubles:**

European powers try to manage the “cauldron”

**“Little” events: trigger vs. cause**

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his grandfather, Emperor Franz Josef

Assassin Gavril Princip, 1914  
World Trade Center, 2001
A Structural Factor

• 1914: Schlieffen Plan for 2 front war
  – First defeat France, then by train to Russian front
  – Not "home by Christmas," but stagnation: Trench warfare
  – Hindenburg’s victories in East: (Sept. 2, 1914 in Tannenberg)

Germany's "Schlieffen Plan"

• take France quickly through neutral Belgium
• use railroads to move against slow-mobilizing Russia

Never Forget! (1915)

German Atrocities revealed in photographs
-> discredited European superiority
-> use of propaganda for first time

American Progress by John Gast, ca. 1872

Canadians in trench warfare
Ypres, May 8, 1915.
Of 1,500 at the end of the day only 150 men remained.

"Over the top" US troops in 1918
Corpses in a trench

Paul Nash, Menil Road, Nov. 1917
British surrealist painter (1889-1946), recruited as a war artist.

Devastated landscape in northern France

ANZAC troops at Gallipoli, trying to take the Dardanelles from Turkey, 25 April 1915 to Jan. 1916
Mustafa Kemal ( Atatürk)

Mustafa Kemal, 1919
Gallipoli hero; modernized Turkey on the western model

Ammunition factory in India
Indian troops, preparing for the Battle of the Somme in 1916
50,000 of 850,000 died

Harlem Hellfighters
France awarded 150 of them the coveted Croix de Guerre. They couldn't be served in any restaurant south of Philadelphia.

Lusitania, torpedoed May 1915
1198/1959 people killed

New types of warfare
- Supply system (railroads) – “total mobilization”
- Machine guns
  500 → 1000 rounds/minute
- Tanks (Sept. 1916)
- Artillery & trenches
- Poison gas (Jan/Apr/Sept 1915)
- Submarines (Lusitania, May 1915)
- Aircraft (reconnaissance)

Austro-Hungarian Soldiers with gas masks

Armenian genocide
1915 Turkish expulsions of Christians (they welcomed Russian armies as liberators)