



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **10th Grade | Unit 8**

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1008

Two World Wars

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Two World Wars

Introduction

Conditions in Europe became increasingly unsettled in the early 1900s as nations grew more suspicious of one another. Attempts at peaceful negotiations failed. European nations grew further apart, producing a climate that led to war following the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. World War I was a time of unprecedented devastation and suffering.

This LIFEPAC® deals with the tensions that led to World War I. It examines the strategies and tactics of the Allied nations and the Central powers in the Great War and the Allied drive that brought the Central powers to surrender.

After studying the terms of the Peace of Paris, you will explore postwar attitudes in the 1920s and 30s, the military rearming of Germany and Italy, and their aggressive policies that led to the Second World War. You will study World War II, the Allied victory, and the formation of the United Nations. Finally, you will study the growth of communism and its struggle with the free world.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Identify the causes of the mounting tension among European nations in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
2. Describe the developments that caused European nations to form the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.
3. Outline the hostilities on the European front in World War I.
4. Explain the negotiations, the terms, and the effects of the Peace of Paris.
5. Describe the attitudes that prevailed among nations following World War I.
6. List the factors leading to World War II.
7. Outline the major battle strategies of the Allied and Axis powers in World War II.
8. List the terms of the peace settlements for both Germany and Japan after World War II.
9. Describe the organizations and efforts of nations to preserve peace after World War II.

1. WORLD WAR I

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, conditions in Europe became increasingly tense as national leaders grew more impatient and more uncertain of each other. Tensions arose that eventually led to war.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify the causes of the mounting tensions among European nations in the late 1800s and the early 1900s.
2. Describe the developments that caused European nations to form the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.
3. Outline the hostilities on the European front in World War I:
 - 3.1 List the strategies and victories of the Germans in the first years of the conflict.
 - 3.2 Describe the Allied drive across France and Belgium resulting in German surrender.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

armament

conscription

imperialism

nationalism

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

MOUNTING TENSIONS

During the late nineteenth century, there was a rising spirit of **nationalism**, a sense of unity and loyalty of a people toward their country. Although national pride can work in a positive way, when carried to extremes, it leaves no room for compromise. Jealousies and suspicions between nations remain unresolved.

Nationalism. As nationalism grew in Europe, an earlier concept of self-sufficiency was revived. Nations sought through territorial expansion and colonization to fulfill material needs and to eliminate their dependency on rival nations for goods. This movement was known as **imperialism**. European nations began to look beyond their own borders for lands rich in raw materials for industry. These lands were either absorbed as colonies by political or military pressures, or were forced to trade their raw materials.

In such a setting, frictions between nations naturally arose, especially when several countries attempted to colonize in the same area. Africa, in particular, became a source of conflict between imperialistic European powers. In the Far East, a bitter war ensued between Japan and Russia as they clashed over Manchuria, a region in northeastern China.

Nationalism and imperialism were accompanied by the rise of powerful military establishments. Nations backed by strong armies and navies had an international advantage over weaker ones.

The German state of Prussia led Europe in military might. Its principles were adopted by nations throughout the world. Through **conscription** it drafted young men into military service. Prussian soldiers served a period of active duty after which they were assigned to a military reserve where they were subject to recall at any time. Prussia also distributed supplies and equipment throughout the country for use on short notice.

In addition to the military draft, Prussia introduced the concept of the general staff. Composed of highly trained and skilled officers, its task was to improve military equipment and training. It often conducted mock battles to test strategies and war plans.

As tensions increased in Europe, an armaments race began. National boundaries were fortified and guarded as nations increased their military preparedness.

A build-up also occurred at sea. Europe's traditional great naval powers, England and France, were challenged by Germany for superiority.

The **armaments** race strained the budgets of every nation involved. Taxes rose, but most citizens regarded the expense as part of their patriotic duty.

The race for military superiority created a dangerous situation on an unstable continent. Europe was headed for war.



Match the following items.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1.1 _____ nationalism</p> <p>1.2 _____ imperialism</p> <p>1.3 _____ Prussia</p> <p>1.4 _____ conscription</p> <p>1.5 _____ general staff</p> <p>1.6 _____ Manchuria</p> <p>1.7 _____ armaments race</p> | <p>a. led Europe in military readiness</p> <p>b. improved military organization</p> <p>c. loyalty of people for their country</p> <p>d. cause of war between Russia and Japan</p> <p>e. build-up of war equipment</p> <p>f. hostilities between Germany and Prussia</p> <p>g. colonization for gain</p> <p>h. military draft</p> |
|---|--|

Complete the following activity.

- 1.8** List the advantages and disadvantages of the following:

ADVANTAGES		DISADVANTAGES	
a. nationalism	a.	a.	
b. imperialism	b.	b.	
c. military build-up	c.	c.	

Alliances. In the late 1800s the separate German states merged to form the German Empire. While building its military strength, Germany maintained peace with its neighbors, with the exception of its long-time rival, France. Friction between Germany and France had been growing for years over the rich territory of Alsace–Lorraine, then under German control.

Under the leadership of Otto Von Bismarck, known as the *Iron Chancellor*, Germany sought to strengthen its position against France. Bismarck hoped to isolate France from its neighbors. He thus joined in the Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary. It guaranteed that if one nation was attacked, the other would come to its aid. By forming the Dual Alliance, Bismarck increased Germany's strength. When Italy joined the Alliance in 1882, he had achieved his first goal of isolating France from its neighbors.

Bismarck then focused his attention on securing friendly political relations with Russia and England, nations likely to come to France's aid in time of war. England was intensely involved in colonial expansion, and Bismarck was careful not to challenge it.

Fear of a possible two-front war with France on the west and Russia on the east led Bismarck to maintain cordial relations also with Russia.

Bismarck was successful in his foreign policy against France until Kaiser Wilhelm II came to the German throne in 1888. He claimed his divine right to rule and to make foreign policy decisions himself. He interfered with Bismarck's policies to the extent that Bismarck finally resigned.

Wilhelm proceeded to destroy all that Bismarck had worked to achieve. Abrasively and with little sensitivity in foreign relations, Wilhelm



| The Major Alliances

proceeded to drive other nations to act in exactly the manner Bismarck had feared.

France had long sought allies to balance the power in Europe that had been upset by the formation of the Triple Alliance. When Russia needed a loan and requested aid from Germany, the Kaiser refused. France readily agreed to loan Russia the money, and this loan led to friendly relations between the two nations that resulted in an alliance in 1894. Bismarck's fear was then realized—Germany was flanked on either side by hostile nations.

Wilhelm actively entered the competition for colonies with England, which Bismarck had carefully avoided. Challenging England's naval superiority, he boasted of his plan to develop the German navy into the best in the world. England tried to come to an agreement with Germany to limit the naval build-up on both sides, but the ambitious Wilhelm rejected the offer. England then sought allies against Germany. After working out their differences, England and France formed an entente. Then, with the assistance of the French, Russia and England settled their rivalries in the Near East, and the Triple Entente, or Allied Powers, was complete.

The formation of the Triple Entente restored the balance of power in Europe. The Alliance was centrally located and joined by common boundaries. The Entente, however, controlled the seas.

Both sides had internal differences, and disputes had to be resolved for them to remain allies. Nevertheless, the sides were chosen, and nations prepared for a conflict they had wanted to avoid.

Under Wilhelm, Germany continued to seek power beyond its borders. It began negotiations with Turkey to gain control over the Balkans to the south. It proposed the construction of a railroad from the German capital of Berlin through the Balkan states to Constantinople.

Wilhelm's objective was to extend the railroad through the Near East to the Persian Gulf.

Russia and England were alarmed over Wilhelm's proposal. Construction of a railroad to Constantinople would interfere with English trade with the Near East and India. The alliance between Turkey and Germany, furthermore, would destroy Russia's hope of gaining control of Constantinople. The German plan accelerated mounting tensions among European nations.

ERUPTING CONFLICTS

Germany was not alone in its interest in the Balkan states. Turkey, Austria, and Russia all openly pursued interests in the area. Although Britain opposed any attempt by another country to control the Balkans and Constantinople, it nevertheless supported Russia in its opposition to Germany's bid for the disputed territory.

Fierce fighting erupted between the Balkan states of Serbia and Austria in the early 1900s. Serbia lost and was forced to give up valuable holdings to Austria.

Germany's interference in the Balkans further intensified these explosive conditions. Germany supported Austria's claim to the disputed area. Opposing Germany and Austria, however, were Russia and England. Germany and France continued to contest the sensitive Alsace-Lorraine and colonies in North Africa. Italy wanted to free Italians who were living in Austrian-controlled territories, but seemed uncertain whether to remain in the Triple Alliance. In the midst of this instability, relations between Austria and Serbia came to a head.

Aggression. Serbian hatred of Austria resulted in the formation of many secret anti-Austrian societies in Serbia. On June 28, 1914, a member of a Serbian secret party shot and killed Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne. Infuriated by the action, Austria determined to punish the Serbs.

Austria issued the Serbian government an ultimatum and insisted on an answer within twenty-four hours. Austria demanded, among other things, the right to suppress the anti-Austrian movement in Serbia and punish offenders as it saw fit. When Serbia only partially agreed to the Austrian demands, Austria declared war on the Balkan state.

The Austrian declaration of war set off a chain reaction among European nations according to their previously arranged alliances and agreements. With assurance of French support in case of war, Russia began to mobilize its troops near the Austrian border in defense of Serbia. When the German demand that Russia cease mobilization was ignored, Germany declared war on Russia. Within days fighting began. When France, a Russian ally, refused to remain neutral, Germany also declared war on France.

To avoid a long war on two fronts, Germany determined to defeat France quickly and attack Russia before the Russians were totally prepared to fight. Arousing the fury of the world, Germany marched across Belgium en route to France, in direct violation of Belgian neutrality. Germany's action brought about England's decision to join forces with France and Russia and to declare war on Germany. England immediately prepared to send troops to Belgium's defense.

Nearly a year later, Italy, realizing the only gains it could receive would be by Austrian rule, switched sides and joined forces with the Allies. This action was a shock to her former Alliance partners.

Japan, in accordance with its treaty of 1902, joined the war on the side of Great Britain. Turkey was later linked with the Central European powers. Few countries in Europe were able to avoid involvement; only Switzerland, Spain, Holland and the Scandinavian countries maintained their neutrality.

Germany's drive through Belgium to attack France succeeded. Although not altogether



| A soldier from World War I

surprised at the German violation of Belgium's neutrality, France was alarmed at the size and effectiveness of the offensive. Invading troops approached the capital of Paris before a desperate French effort by soldiers, driven to the front line in taxi cabs from Paris, could halt the surprised Germans. A French counterattack followed along the entire front and the Germans were forced to retreat. The offensive not only saved the French capital but thwarted German hopes for a quick victory as well.

Russian resistance to the well-trained and disciplined Germans was not as effective. Poor equipment, over-extended supply lines, and weak leadership resulted in a steady retreat as the Germans broke through the center of the Russian front. Allied efforts to aid the battered Russians also met with defeat, giving Germany new confidence in its military capability.

With the hope of a quick German victory on the Western front shattered, the war had settled into a stalemate by 1916. On land it was fought largely in trenches with few gains and immense loss of life as generals hurled huge offensives at the enemy in attempts to overwhelm the enemy. At sea the situation was similar; the British navy blockaded Germany's North Sea

supply routes while German U-boats attempted to cut off British shipping and trade to the island. As a result, neither side broke through to gain an advantage.

Because of the stand-off, both sides were eager to secure American support. Propaganda flooded the United States to convince Americans to rally to their cause.



Write true or false.

- 1.9 _____ Germany and France both wanted to control Alsace-Lorraine.
- 1.10 _____ Russia and Austria disputed the future of the Balkan states.
- 1.11 _____ The assassination of Ferdinand brought German-Serbian hostilities to a head.
- 1.12 _____ Germany hoped to defeat France before the Russians fully prepared for battle.
- 1.13 _____ While Russian resistance to Germany was effective, French resistance was weak and disorganized.
- 1.14 _____ The stalemate of 1916 resulted in trench warfare.

Answer the following question.

1.15 What should the Christian's stand be concerning military involvement? _____

TEACHER CHECK

_____ initials

_____ date



List the alliance of each nation and their reasons for entering the war.

1.16

NATION	ALLIANCE	REASONS FOR ENTRANCE
a. Austria-Hungary	1.	2.
b. Germany	1.	2.
c. Russia	1.	2.
d. England	1.	2.
e. Japan	1.	2.
f. France	1.	2.
g. Italy	1.	2.

Counter-aggression. Americans had claimed neutrality from the beginning of European hostilities. The American people supported President Wilson when he said, “The war is one with which we have nothing to do, whose causes cannot touch us.” Wilson maintained that the United States would remain free in order to “do what is honest...and truly serviceable for the peace of the world.” America’s non-involvement in the European conflict became increasingly difficult, however. Public opinion in the United States had been gradually favoring support of the Allied cause since 1914. The Germans unified this support of the Allies when their submarines attacked United States vessels off Allied coasts. Fear of war supplies being transported to England and France prompted this German naval policy even though it was in direct violation of international law. Germany reasoned that it had no alternative. Without a blockade of supplies to the Allies, Germany would lose the war.

The United States defied German warnings by continuing to ship supplies to the Allies. When a German U-boat torpedoed the British

passengership the *Lusitania*, and killed over one thousand passengers including 124 Americans, German-American relations were severely tested. President Wilson rebuked the action. The Germans apologized and assured the United States that the incident would not be repeated. Germany resumed its attacks on neutral ships, however, causing more American deaths. The American people were ready to fight back.

President Wilson prepared a message to Congress that resulted in an American declaration of war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

The entrance of the United States into the war raised the morale of the weary Allies. Germany tried to end the war before the Allies could be reinforced by fresh American troops. It launched a massive offensive on the western front made possible by the cessation of fighting in the East.

In March, 1917, an upheaval in Russia known as the Bolshevik Revolution overthrew the czar—and replaced the monarchy with a republican form of government. When the new government announced its intention to continue the

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1.01 | _____ Wilson | a. seized control of Russian government |
| 1.02 | _____ Bismarck | b. organized Prussian military |
| 1.03 | _____ Wilhelm | c. led Europe in military readiness |
| 1.04 | _____ Ferdinand | d. fought over by Japan and Russia |
| 1.05 | _____ Bolsheviks | e. settled differences with France |
| 1.06 | _____ Prussia | f. fought over by Russia and Austria |
| 1.07 | _____ Manchuria | g. the United States president during World War I |
| 1.08 | _____ Alsace-Lorraine | h. an aggressive German kaiser, World War I |
| 1.09 | _____ Balkan states | i. the Iron Chancellor of Germany |
| 1.010 | _____ general staff | j. a territory mutually desired by France and Germany |
| | | k. the assassinated Austrian Archduke |

Write the correct answer on each line (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011** Loyalty of a people to their country is called _____ .
- 1.012** Colonization by a larger nation to increase its economic standing is known as _____ .
- 1.013** Bismarck strengthened his position against France by forming the _____ .
- 1.014** The revolution in Russia that led to the takeover of the government and Russia's withdrawal from the war was known as the _____ .
- 1.015** With the help of American soldiers, the Allied stand that halted the German advance in France was at _____ .
- 1.016** Germany and Austria-Hungary were the major _____ powers of World War I.



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