background: World War 1

**BACKGROUND: THE 1ST WORLD WAR ORIGINS OF WWI Long Term Causes: 1)the rise of Germany -Prussia(most important German state) united Germany -Industrial Revolution→overcame Britainâ€™s industry -France=sworn enemy⎯Bismark(German Chancellor) kept France isolated -Bismark ensured no wars against Russia & Britain *BUT new Germany got a new kaiser Wilhelm II →Bismark no longer Chancellor   2)The new Kaiser & World Power -Germany=Britain in wealth & industry   →some Germans wanted worldwide empire <like Britain> ➢ex.Kaiser Wilhelm II   →Wilhelm= more aggressive, ended friendship w/ Russia **other countries began seeing Germany as a threat   3)The Arms Race -German began enlarging/updating navy (could challenge British Navy) →British enlarged/updated their navy →French increased their soldiers →Russia built military railways (spent $$$$$$$) **People in Germany feared Russia would defeat them   4)The 2 Alliances -Germany allied w/Austria-Hungary -The Triple Entente:France,Russia,Britain(anti-Germany) Short-term Causes: 1)The Killing in Sarajevo -A Serbian killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to Austrian-Hungarian throne) &   wife →Austria-Hungary looking for excuse to fight Serbia -A-H blamed Serbia for the murder & got ready to attack *Serbia=Russian help   Russia=France& British help *A-H=German help **Wide war w/all powerful countries in Europe   2)German decision for war -another argument btwn Hungary, Serbia, & Russia about land division (taken   from Turkey) *No huge war because Germany wouldnâ€™t back A-H *After 1 year, Germany gave full support   3)Confusion about British Position -Grey (foreign secretary) tried to negotiate & avoid war *If Britain made their decision to fight clearer, Germany may have been   intimidated →Germany attacked France→Britain went to war THE 1ST WORLD WAR   Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia   →Austria Hungary & Germany(The Central Powers)   vs.   Russia, France, & Britain(The Allies)   **Rapid mobilization towards frontier w/enemy=little discussion & negotiation Stalemate In The West   -in France: River Marne -Germany army stopped by France *Front-line established---didnâ€™t change(next 3 yrs.)   -Britain tried to break stalemate *Huge casualties, little result (British gained only 4 miles)   *Stalemate⎯countries didnâ€™t know how to end war w/o losing face   →Both sides looked for allies The Allies→Italy & Romania Central Powers→Bulgaria   **This made the war worse -New players wanted profits of war, would fight until they did The Naval War & the Americans Stalemate at sea   *German U-Boats(subs) attacking ships trading w/Britain(cut off vital supplies) **including USA   *USA declared war on Germany (strengthened The Allies)   ~Revolution in Russia→withdrawal from the war   →signed Treaty of Brest-Litovsk →Germany took huge areas of Russia German Defeat & the Armistice   -Germany attacked France (USA reinforcements not there yet)   *USA reinforcements arrive   ↓   The Allies ATTACK!!   *Germany asked Pres. Wilson(USA) for peace ↓the Armistice: Agreement to peace THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION Russia Before Communism   -Russia ruled by Tsar Nicholas II (Austocrat)   *Russians wanted change in gov: -Gap between rich & poor= HUGE (poor wanted a fairer deal) -People had no political poower   (Tsar had all power)   (the Duma had no real power<Parliament>) -Russia did badly in WWI -war put strain on economy   (prices↑, food scarce) The 2 Revolutions Of 1917   *Revolution in St.Petersburg (shortage of bread) -no law & order   -Army mutinied, refused to help   *Tsar Nicholas abdicated The Soviets & The Bolsheviks   -The duma set up a â€˜provisional governmentâ€™   -The people set up soviets   *Both claimed to be in charge   ~Group of communists(Bolsheviks)---led by Lenin wanted to overthrow the provisional gov.   *The Bolshevik took over St.Petersburg   *→Soviets took over their local area   **AND the Bolshevik revolution began!! The Treaty Of Brest-Litovsk   -Lenin believed communist world revolution would spread --non-communist   states=doomed →believed didnâ€™t need foreign policy   →belief encouraged to make peace w/Germany (treaty of Brest-Litovsk) -OK to lose lots of territory because the settlement would soon be swept aside by   a world revolution The Civil War   Many Russians opposed The Bolshevik   →civil war between the Whites(anti-communists) & the Red Guards(the Bolsheviks) (independent White governments set up in ex.Ukraine, Georgia, & Siberia   →British, French, & Americans sent forces to fight the Bolsheviks   *Whites=divided among themselves & foreign armies withdrew (1919)   **Civil was was over & Bolsheviks won (by 1920) World Revolution? -Lenin encouraged other countries to follow Russian Revolution   (thought revolutionary Russia needed communist revolutions in other countries) -Comintern(the Communist International) set up by Bolsheviks in other countries to   encourage communism *many communist followers in Germany   >communists briefly took power in Hungary but overthrown(July 1919) - - - - - - -Lenin dies (1924)→Stalin takes over. Trotsky exiled -Stalin did little to encourage revolution abroad *concentrated on industrialization in Soviet Union **BUT governments over the world still afraid of communist ideas spreading

About the Author

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