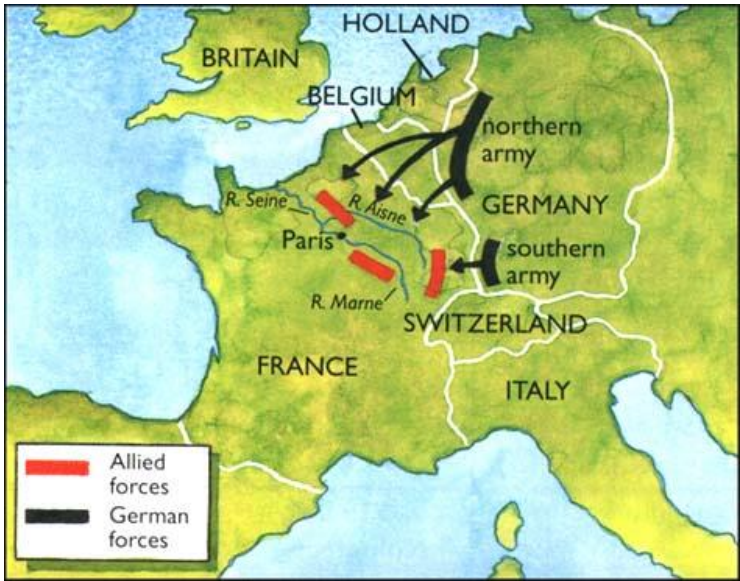
World War One

International Context

- "Balance of Power"
  - Triple Entente (France, Great Britain, Russia)
  - Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy)
- Planning War . . .
  - The Schlieffen Plan
  - Russian Mobilization
  - Plan XVII



War Breaks Out!

- Assassination of Franz Ferdinand (28 July 1914)
- Gavrilo Princip & Young Bosnia
- Austria-Hungary's ultimatum
- Things move quickly . . .
  - 28 July = Austria-Hungary declares war against Serbia
  - 30 July = Russia & France mobilize
  - 1 August = Germany declares war against Russia
  - 3 August = Germany declares war against France
  - 4 August = Great Britain declares war against Germany

War has changed . . .

- Trench warfare
- Machine guns
- Artillery
- Chemical Gas
- Flame-throwers
- Barbed wire
- Tanks
- Airplanes
- U-boats (*Unterseeboote*)
- New injuries from war . . .

The German Offensive

- August 1914 = Germans invade France through Belgium
- Modified Schlieffen Plan
  - Split the fronts
- First Battle of the Marne (6-10 September 1914)
  - Germans and French dug in at Ypres
  - Stuck there for about 3 ½ years

The Eastern Front

- Battle of Tannenberg (27-30 August 1914)
  - The heroics of Paul von Hindenburg
  - Russian Second Army decimated
- The unstoppable Germans?
  - By mid-1915 = Germans control 20% of Russia's population and 15% of its territory
- Russia KOs Austria-Hungary in 1916

The Western Front

- Battle of Verdun (February-December 1916)
  - Germans want to "bleed the French white"
  - 1,000,000 shells fired on the first day
  - 10 months of focusing on Verdun
  - December 1916 = Germans withdraw
- Battle of the Somme (July-November 1916)
  - British offensive – 60,000 casualties in one day (1 July)
  - Insane amount of artillery fire
  - November = Germans are pushed back a whopping 6 miles
  - 1,250,000 soldiers killed for 6 miles . . .

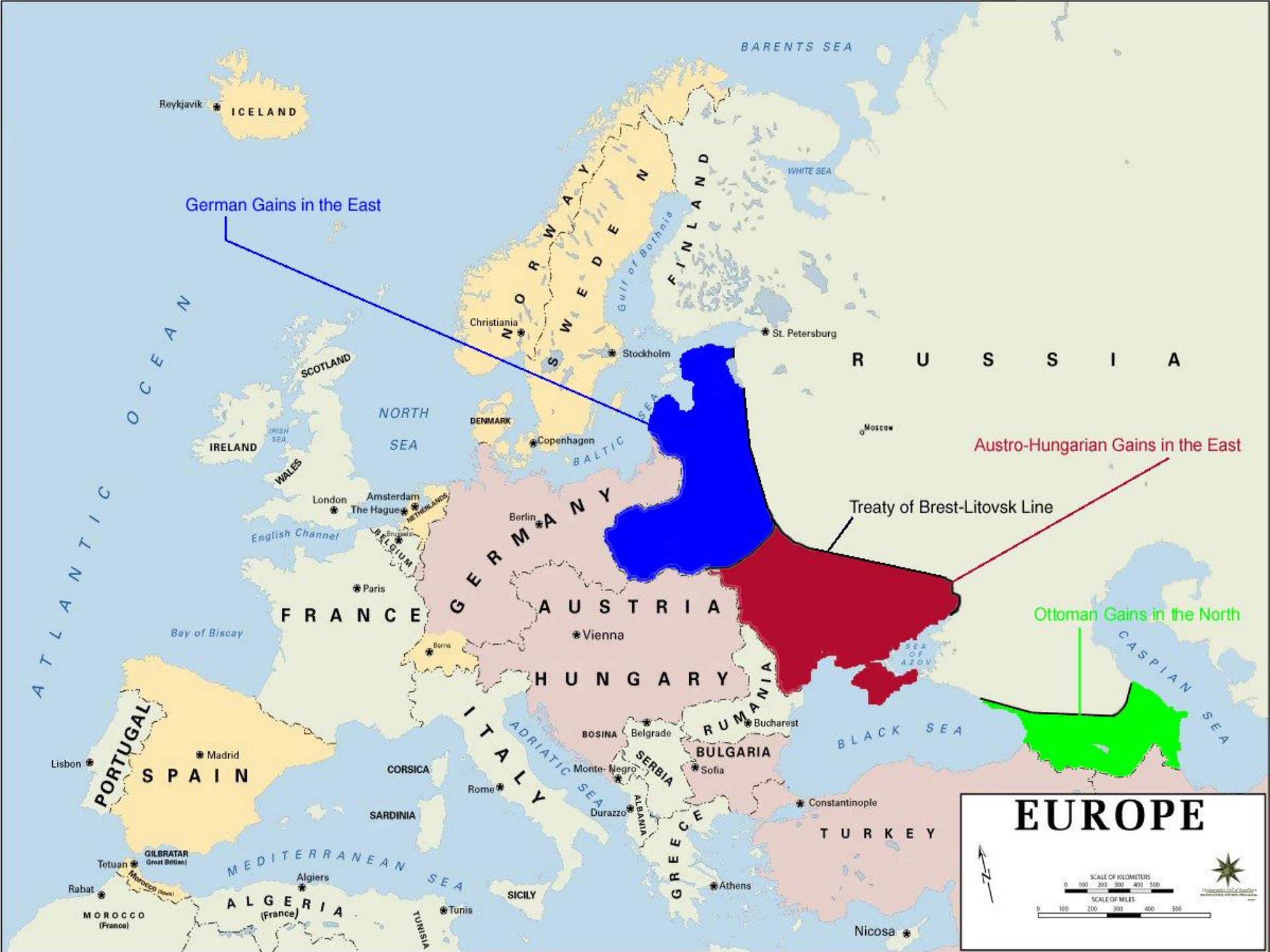
- http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/31/Shrapnel_shell.gif

Russian Revolution

- Nicholas II's problems …
  - Angry workers
  - Supplying a massive army
  - Left Petrograd to command the troops (and consistently did poorly)
- February Revolution (1917)
  - March 15 = Nicholas II abdicates
  - Dual Rule (Provisional Government & Soviets) proves inadequate
- Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924)
  - April Theses

Russian Revolution

- October Revolution (1917)
  - Lenin & Bolsheviks take control of Petrograd soviets
  - November 1917 = Trotsky & Red Guard occupy Petrograd
  - Lenin establishes the Soviet Union
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918)
  - Separate peace between the Soviet Union and Germany
  - Huge territorial losses


EUROPE
German Gains in the East
Austro-Hungarian Gains in the East
Treaty of Brest-Litovsk Line
Ottoman Gains in the North
BARENTS SEA
WHITE SEA
ICELAND
Reykjavik
NORWAY
SWEDEN
FINLAND
Gulf of Bothnia
Christiania
Stockholm
St. Petersburg
RUSSIA
Moscow
ATLANTIC OCEAN
SCOTLAND
NORTH SEA
DENMARK
Copenhagen
BALTIC SEA
IRELAND
IRISH SEA
WALES
London
Amsterdam
The Hague
NETHERLANDS
Brussels
BELGIUM
English Channel
Berlin
GERMANY
Paris
FRANCE
AUSTRIA
Vienna
Bay of Biscay
Berne
HUNGARY
SEA OF AZOV
CASPIAN SEA
BLACK SEA
ROMANIA
Bucharest
BULGARIA
Sofia
BOSINA
Belgrade
SERBIA
Monte-Negro
ALBANIA
Durazzo
ADRIATIC SEA
ITALY
Rome
CORSICA
SARDINIA
PORTUGAL
Lisbon
Madrid
SPAIN
GILBRATAR (Great Britian)
Tetuan
Morocco (Spain)
Rabat
MOROCCO (France)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Algiers
ALGERIA (France)
Tunis
TUNISIA
SICILY
GREECE
Athens
Constantinople
TURKEY
Nicosa
SCALE OF KILOMETERS
0 100 200 300 400 500
SCALE OF MILES
0 100 200 300 400 500

Russian Revolution

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  - Huge territorial losses
  - Many Russians are angry and humiliated
    - But the Bolsheviks create a state police force to repress dissention

The United States Enters WWI

- Initially a neutral player?
  - Supplying arms, trade goods, and cash to the Entente Powers since 1914
- Sleeping Giant?
  - 1915 = Germans sink the *Lusitania*
  - February 1917 = Zimmermann Telegram
    - Germans try to coax Mexico into war with the U.S., but the Mexicans are not too thrilled . . .
- 2 April 1917 = Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany
- Consequences of U.S. involvement . . .
  - 2,000,000 Americans end up fighting in Europe
  - Boosted French and British morale
  - Showed that Europe could not handle its problems!

The End of World War?

- Germany's final desperate attempt, the Ludendorff Offensive (March 1918)
  - All troops mobilized to attack Western Front
  - By summer 1918, clearly a failure
- 11 November 1918 = Germany signs armistice agreements
- 28 June 1919 = Treaty of Versailles
  - U.S. (Wilson), Italy (Vittorio Orlando), France (Georges Clemenceau), Britain (David Lloyd George)
  - Punitive reparations: huge war debt for Germany, abdication of Kaiser, loss of colonies, loss of European territory
  - Germany is to blame!!!
  - But no real accountability for Allied victors . . .
- Human Cost of War
  - 8,500,000 dead
  - European economy = disaster
- U.S. wins?

EUROPE, 1919 - 1929
The National Boundary Realignments Resulting From the First World War
0 100 200 300
SCALE OF MILES
Key
Independent/ Free/ International cities
- Rijeka/Fiume to Italy, 1922
- Danzig
Disputed Regions
NORTH SEA
BALTIC SEA
GULF OF BOTHNIA
GULF OF FINLAND
LAKE ONEGA
LAKE PEIPUS
LAKE ILMEN
NORWAY
Oslo
SWEDEN
Stockholm
FINLAND
Leningrad
Tallinn
ESTONIA
Riga
LATVIA
Moscow
LITHUANIA
Klaipeda/ Memel
Kaunus
Vilnius/ Wilno
Niemen River
Dvina River
DENMARK
Copenhagen
NORTH IRELAND
IRISH FREE STATE (after 1922)
GREAT BRITAIN
London
ATLANTIC OCEAN
ENGLISH CHANNEL
NETH.
BELGIUM
LUX.
SAAR
Hamburg
Elbe River
Berlin
GERMANY
EAST PRUSSIA
Danzig/ Gdańsk
To Germany 1920
Warsaw
POLAND
Pinsk
Pripet River
U. S. S. R.
Kiev
Dniepr River
Oder River
UPPER SILESIA
Prague
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Paris
Seine River
Loire River
Rhine River
Danube River
Munich
Vienna
Bratislava
Sopron
Budapest
HUNGARY
Bug River
Dniester River
Pruth River
BESSARABIA
Odessa
TRANSYLVANIA
RUMANIA
Bucharest
DOBRUJA
BLACK SEA
BAY OF BISCAY
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA
Klagenfurt
TYROL
BANAT
Belgrade
YUGOSLAVIA
Rijeka/ Fiume
DALMATIA
Rhone River
Po River
ITALY
ADRIATIC SEA
ALBANIA
BULGARIA
Sofia
THRACE
Constantinople
GREECE
TURKEY
PORTUGAL
Lisbon
SPAIN
Madrid
CORSICA
ELBA
Rome
SARDINIA
SICILY
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
MALTA (Britain)
CRETE
RHODES
Dodecanese Islands (Italy)
CYPRUS
AFRICA